



**NEVADA COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
AGENCY**

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**Department of Social Services**

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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** March 24, 2020

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Mali Dyck

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of an Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement with FREED Independent Living Center, d/b/a FREED for funding to administer the SOARWorks program to eligible clients to revise Exhibit "B" Schedule of Charges and Payments to reflect an increase in Housing Financial Assistance due to savings in Personnel costs for Fiscal Year 2019/20 for the term of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020. (RES 18-424)

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Under this agreement, up to \$282,083 is being committed to FREED over two years. Funds will be used to serve 24 eligible participants per year. The program will be funded by the State Department of Social Services Housing and Disability Advocacy program funds and County matching funds from Mental Health Services Act, AB109, and IAR General Assistance funds already allocated to the program. A budget amendment is not necessary at this time.

**BACKGROUND:** According to the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, people with disabilities constitute 40% of the homeless population. Approximately half of the people experiencing homelessness suffers from a mental health issue, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Mental and physical health problems are exacerbated by the ongoing stress and associated trauma from living on the streets and / or in homeless shelters.

FREED has been providing services to persons with disabilities in Nevada County since 1985. FREED's mission is to promote independence and self-determination for people with disabilities through person- driven services, collaborative community partnerships

and education, and leadership that advocates for fully inclusive communities.

FREED serves over 100 un-duplicated individuals annually who have a disability and who are experiencing homelessness. In addition, FREED provides over 300 housing services annually to support individuals who are homeless in locating appropriate housing, assisting individuals who are housed with services to prevent eviction or retain housing, and with services and supports to improve home accessibility and safety. All FREED direct service staff are trained in person-centered counseling and two SOAR trained staff.

**SOARWorks Housing and Disability Advocacy Program:**

The SOARWorks Program will provide specialized case management, direct housing support (including rental subsidies and supportive services) and disability advocacy to individuals with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness and who may be eligible for social security or disability benefits. FREED has used Board approved CSBG funds to hire a Housing Coordinator and will leverage SOARWorks funds to bring the position to full-time. The Housing Coordinator will administer the SOARWorks program. The Housing Coordinator will coordinate outreach, case management, housing assistance and disability advocacy to eligible participants.

Consistent with the core components of Housing First, Contractor will work in collaboration with the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to ensure populations with the highest needs are given the highest priority and are able to access SOARWorks services.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Amendment No. 1 as it will allow FREED to provide additional housing assistance to keep highly vulnerable residents of Nevada County housed while they work with SOARWorks program staff to secure disability benefits. This is a reallocation of funds between line items. There is no change to the contract amount.

**Item Initiated and Approved by:**           Mali Dyck, Interim Director of Social Services