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## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** December 11, 2018

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Jill Blake**

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of a renewal Grant Agreement with the NorCal AIDS Cycle (NCAC) awarding Public Health \$7,000 as a recipient of NCAC's annual AIDS Bicycle Ride to support the HIV Counseling, Testing and Referral Services program for the term of August 15, 2018 through August 15, 2019.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Under this renewal Grant Agreement, \$7,000 is being awarded to the Public Health Department from NCAC, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending the spread of HIV/AIDS in Northern California and to care for those living and affected by disease in the region. Funds received will be used to support the Public Health Department's HIV Counseling, Testing and Referral Services (CTRS) program, including costs related to purchase of rapid test kits. Funding was planned for in the Department's FY 2018/19 budget and there are no county general fund dollars required in this Agreement.

**BACKGROUND:** The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is now advising routine HIV testing for all Americans ages 13 to 64 in an effort to quickly find infected patients, give them life-prolonging drugs, and curtail the spread of AIDS rather than only testing individuals with at-risk lifestyles. The Public Health Department's HIV CTRS Program will provide rapid HIV tests to any resident of Nevada County who requests to be tested. Currently, there are no other service providers in Nevada County that provide rapid HIV testing to the general population. Clients who test negative will receive counseling from a certified HIV Testing Counselor regarding strategies to reduce their risk and those whose test results show a preliminary positive will receive an immediate referral to the County's HIV Client Case Management Program.

One half (50%) of new HIV infections are transmitted by people who are living with HIV but do not know their status (CDC, 2013). Therefore, increasing the number of persons who are aware of their status is a critical strategy for preventing HIV infections. As there is currently no cure or vaccine for HIV, prevention is the key to halting the epidemic from spreading. The purpose of the HIV CTRS Program is to interrupt the spread of HIV by providing accessible, culturally appropriate, free, confidential, HIV testing, counseling and referral services to individuals in Nevada County.

It is recommended that the Board approve this agreement, as it will help to reduce the spread of HIV.

**Item Initiated and Approved by:** Jill Blake, Public Health Director