



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY**

Department of Social Services

**Michael Heggarty, MFT
Agency Director**

**Mike Dent, MPA
Department of Social Services
Director**

950 Maidu Ave., PO Box 1210 Nevada City, CA 95959
Ave., Ste 202 Truckee, CA 96161

Telephone (530) 265-1340
Telephone (530) 582-7803

FAX (530) 265-9860 10075 Levon
FAX (530) 582-7729

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo**

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2015

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Mike Dent**

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting funding in the amount of \$263,750 for the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Housing Support Program (HSP) for Fiscal Year 2015-16.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Effective as of July 1, 2014, and as approved by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and as set forth in Senate Bill (SB) 855 (Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014) the Housing Support Program (HSP) became a new component of the CalWORKs program with the stated goals of providing housing support, services and financial assistance to families that meet the program criteria. Nevada County was allocated \$263,750 of HSP funding for fiscal year 2015/16, and receipt of program funding and associated expenditures for the department's program are included in the First County Wide Consolidated Budget Amendment for 2015-16. There are no county general fund dollars required.

BACKGROUND: Senate Bill (SB) 855 allocated \$35 million of state-wide funding for fiscal year 15/16 for a new Housing Support Program (HSP) for eligible CalWORKs recipients. Low income families in Nevada County are at high risk of experiencing homelessness. In an effort to assess the needs of CalWORKs families in Nevada County, Social Services sent an independent survey to all current CalWORKs recipients, and received 84 responses. Results showed that 27% of current CalWORKs families in Nevada County have experienced homelessness in the last year. The duration of the periods of homelessness averaged four (4) months. 72% identified the lack of local available, affordable rentals as a barrier to obtaining or keeping appropriate housing for their families; 42% reported that they have been in their current housing for less than 12 months, contrasting to the overall Nevada County population, where

only 14% have been in their homes less than 12 months, according to the 2012 Census. From this information, we concluded that many families who are able to obtain housing often are only able to find short term solutions resulting in a cycle of instability in the housing situation, including episodes of homelessness.

Counties were given the flexibility to design their own county specific HSP proposals to best serve the needs of their community. The target population for Nevada County's CalWORKs Housing Support Program will be CalWORKs families who are literally homeless, as defined by CDSS as follows:

1. Lacking a fixed or regular nighttime residence; and either
 - a. Having a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publically or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations; or
 - b. Residing in a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; or
2. In receipt of a judgment for evictions, as ordered by the court.

Nevada County CalWORKs has been able to limitedly address some of the housing barriers described above through the Family Stabilization program. Our family stabilization budget, however, is not adequate to serve all the needs of families. With the Housing Support Program integrated into our Family Support Program, we anticipate being able to meet the needs of approximately 40 of these families by making them more competitive in the housing market through rental subsidies.

Nevada County will administer the Housing Support Program following best practices, coordinating with existing housing and family stabilization efforts to meet immediate needs first, and then will provide case management and follow-up to assist in stabilization of each family's housing situation. Strategies for leveraging existing resources include expanding existing partnerships such as those with:

- ❖ The Nevada County Superintendent of Schools who operates three (3) Family Resource Centers located in Grass Valley, Penn Valley and North San Juan;
- ❖ Nevada County Housing Development Corporation which provides emergency assistance to CalWORKs families in the form of hotel/motel vouchers. The clients who apply for this assistance will be also be referred for an assessment for the Housing Support Program;
- ❖ Salvation Army- the Housing Support Program will target CalWORKs families that are residents of their Booth Center transitional housing facility;
- ❖ In addition, the Nevada County Housing and Community Services Division (HCS) of the Health and Human Services Agency was recently awarded funding to support Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA). This program funds security deposits for low income renters who cannot otherwise afford a deposit. The Housing Support Program will partner with HCS to leverage these funds for CalWORKs clients as well as share in the home inspection of both programs.

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve the attached Resolution accepting this HSP funding as it will benefit CalWORKs families experiencing homelessness by helping to stabilize their housing situation and allow the parent(s) to participate in Welfare to Work activities, by ensuring families receive all possible stabilization and barrier removal services, including security deposit assistance, legal services, debt counseling and criminal record clean up.

Item Initiated by: Mike Dent
Approved by: Mike Dent