



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: April 28, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Mali Dyck**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving acceptance of \$50,000 in “Project Room Key” funding from the California Department Of Social Services for the purpose of securing hotel rooms for temporary housing of individuals who are affected by COVID-19 and lack the means to isolate themselves due to homelessness or needing alternative housing to isolate themselves from a vulnerable household member with whom they reside and Authorizing and Directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Social Services Budget for Fiscal Year 2019/20. (4/5 vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Funds are authorized through CA Senate Bill 89 (Chapter 2, Statutes of 2020) and by the Federal Emergency Management Administration award letter FEMA-4482-DR-CA (COVID 19). A budget amendment is included and requires a 4/5 vote by the Board Members. There are no county general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

BACKGROUND:

On March 17, 2020, Senate Bill 89 was signed by Governor Gavin Newsom, authorizing \$50 million in immediately available funding to help combat COVID-19, including the protection of the health and safety of homeless populations by reducing the spread of COVID-19 in homeless populations, and providing safety beds from people experiencing homelessness (“Project Room Key” funding). This \$50 million dollars in funding may be used for the acquisition of hotel/motel rooms and trailers to facilitate isolation, quarantine and social distancing for people with no way to “shelter in place.” On March 18, Governor Gavin Newsom signed executive order N-32-20, which removed strict compliance to certain statutory and regulatory requirements to allow local jurisdictions to expedite funding to assist homeless individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the provision of housing and shelter services. . On March 27, the Federal Emergency Management Administration issued a statewide approval for additional funds for the leasing of hotel rooms for homeless residents of the state.

On March 18, 2020, Nevada County Public Health notified Hospitality House shelter that the shelter would have to reduce capacity to maintain social distancing guidelines necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The County moved quickly to secure hotel rooms for shelter guests to accommodate the Public Health

order. The County used procurement guidelines to secure the rooms utilizing existing funding and applied for state and federal funding to cover costs of hotel room rentals. This award of \$50,000 in state funding will cover the 25% local match required under FEMA guidelines necessary to seek FEMA reimbursement for up to \$200,000 in funding to cover Project Room Key costs associated with Hotel leasing. The County will work with local hotels in both eastern and western County to ensure ongoing support for quarantine and social distancing capacity through the acquisition of hotel accommodations.

To maximize the Project Room Key funding and FEMA reimbursement for the sheltering of individuals affected by COVID-19, Nevada County will seek to partner with homeless services, shelter providers, local hotels, and the Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital to ensure that COVID-19 symptomatic and asymptomatic medically vulnerable homeless residents and others in need alternative temporary housing to isolate themselves have to ability to isolate or shelter in place.

It is recommended that the Board accept this funding to support critical needs for homeless service providers and provide non congregate accommodations in line with Governor Newsom's order to "shelter in place" and/or quarantine as advised by emergency responders of medical personnel in Nevada County.

Item Initiated and Approved by:

Mali Dyck, Interim Director of Social Services