



Health and Human Services Agency

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: November 12, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Phebe Bell**

SUBJECT: Resolution of the Board of Directors of Nevada County Behavioral Health Authorizing Application to and Participation in the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (“BHCIP”).

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: If the application is successful, the Behavioral Health Department will receive funds from the Department of Health Care Services Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program up to \$30 million to support the design and building of a behavioral health treatment facility in Nevada County.

BACKGROUND: The California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) launched the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) to address historic gaps in the behavioral health care continuum and meet the growing demand for services and support across the life span of vulnerable individuals in need.

The State priorities for BHCIP are:

- Address urgent needs in the care continuum for people with mental health or substance use conditions, including unhoused people, veterans, older adults, adults with disabilities, and children and youth.
- Invest in behavioral health and community care options that advance health equity of behavioral health care and community options.
- Increase options across the life span that serve as an alternative to incarceration, hospitalization, homelessness, and institutionalization.
- Meet the needs of vulnerable populations with the greatest barriers to access, including people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and justice involvement.
- Ensure care can be provided in the least restrictive settings to support community integration, choice, and autonomy.

- Leverage county and Medi-Cal investments to support ongoing sustainability.
- Leverage the historic state investments in housing and homelessness.

In addition, DHCS is prioritizing regional models or collaborative partnerships, including public-private partnerships, aimed at constructing, renovating, and/or expanding community-based services, as well as projects using a campus-type model that collocate multiple levels of care on the continuum, with a focus on residential treatment facilities.

Nevada County Behavioral Health is pursuing an application for an inpatient facility, a critical missing piece in our local continuum of care. If successful Nevada County community members will no longer need to travel out of county for these essential services. This will allow for more robust local support and connection with family and loved ones, more integrated care with better connections to post-discharge services, and ensure Behavioral Health dollars are spent in our local economy rather than in more developed and urbanized areas of the state. In addition, such a facility can reduce demands on ambulance services, hospital emergency departments and the jail by reducing travel times and alleviating long wait times for available beds.

If Nevada County is awarded funding, the Department will return to the Board to accept grant funds, along with a more detailed project plan, estimated budget, and contract(s) for the design and construction of the facility. Construction costs for this type of facility are high, and as such there is no project limit in the grant. To allow for maximum flexibility and to ensure we can achieve grant deadlines without returning to the Board for additional authority, we are requesting authority to apply for an amount that is significantly higher than the estimated project costs. If successful, the grant will fund 90% of project costs, with a 10% local match (land value counts towards local match). If the proposal is not funded, the project will not move forward unless other grant funds are identified. The deadline for application submission is December 13, 2024 with award announcement anticipated in May 2025. Blank copies of the grant application are included as an attachment.

It is recommended that the Board approve this resolution authorizing the Behavioral Health Director to apply for BHCIP funding so that Nevada County residents can have access to a fuller array of critical treatment services in our community. The language used in the resolution is required for the application.

Approved by: Phebe Bell, MSW, Behavioral Health Director