



COUNTY OF NEVADA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: October 27, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Mike Dent**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of the Renewal Contract with United Methodist Church of Truckee dba Emergency Warming Center related to providing non-congregant emergency shelter for medically vulnerable homeless households at-risk of contracting COVID-19 and winter overflow shelter to homeless individuals and families during extremely cold winter nights for the term of October 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and Authorizing and Directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Health and Human Services Agency Housing and Community Services Division's Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/21 (requires 4/5 vote of Board of Supervisors).

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Funding is from previously allocated County General Fund dollars pursuant to the County Homeless Plan, County allocated CARES Act funding, and Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) grant funds. Funds are included in the FY 2020/21 Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Housing and Community Services budget. A budget amendment for the 2020-2021 Housing and Community Services budget is included in this resolution. There are no county general fund dollars required in the Contract.

BACKGROUND: Nevada County continues to support and improve shelter operations in the Eastern County. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic requires new measures to safely operate shelters for vulnerable homeless eastern county residents. Previous contracts for these services have centered on congregant sheltering operations. COVID-19 requires adapting shelter operations to meet social distancing guidelines that would be impossible in the previous congregant location used by the contractor.

County Staff, in partnership with the Truckee Emergency Warming Center, have developed a new approach that utilizes a non-congregant model located in hotel rooms. These rooms will be operated for the duration of the winter season (October 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) and will be offered to individuals identified by the Contractor, in coordination with partner agencies, who are deemed medically vulnerable. Proactively identifying those most at risk to both extreme weather and COVID-19 and placing them throughout the winter months in a non-congregant setting will reduce the pressure of emergency weather triggered operations.

Additionally, the Contractor has secured a new larger location for extreme weather triggered shelter operations. The Contractor, working with County Public Health, will assess the new location to certify a safe capacity to operate an emergency “overflow” shelter during extreme weather events. The new location includes multiple rooms and will be outfitted to accommodate a Public Health approved number of guests during these weather events. The shelter will open on days that weather criteria, as determined by County management, have been met. The shelter will operate between the hours of 6:00pm and 8:00am during these designated severe weather events. The shelter will provide clean, socially distanced space for guests and a safe and sanitary environment for eastern county residents experiencing homelessness.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Agreement as it will support implementation of non-congregant shelter and limited capacity overflow emergency shelter during extremely cold winter nights for individuals experiencing homelessness in eastern Nevada County.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Mike Dent, Director, Child Support, Collections,
Housing and Community Services