



COUNTY OF NEVADA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: March 13, 2018

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Michael Heggarty**

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting funds from the California Department of Social Services, Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) to be used for the Nevada County SOARWorks Program in the total amount of \$81,897 over three (3) years, upon acceptance and available through June 30, 2020.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The SOAR Works program is funded with monies appropriated through the State of California 2017 Budget Act, and the monies will be available through June 30, 2020. The 3-year State allocation is \$81,897 (ACWDL dated June 27, 2017) and requires a 100% county match contribution, for a total base grant amount of \$163,794. The match contributions will come from the following sources: Mental Health Services Act Funding (MHSA), AB109 Funding, 1991 DSS Sales Tax Realignment funding, and SSI Interim Assistance Reimbursements (IAR). There are no County General Funds required. A budget amendment is not needed at this time.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Social Services has secured funding made available through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). This is a new funding opportunity offered by CDSS that supports the Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program (HDAP). Funding will be used to support implementation and integration of SOARWorks. SSI/SSDI Outreach, and Recovery (SOAR) is a program designed to increase access to SSI/SSDI for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. The program will provide specialized case management and advocacy to individuals experiencing homelessness who may be eligible for social security or disability benefits but who do not currently receive such funds. Nevada County currently has SOAR-trained case managers in a number of departments who have successfully used the model to gain benefits for homeless individuals; however, no current structured program exists.

With this funding we will implement a more structured and coordinated approach that utilizes the County's Coordinated Entry System to fully integrate SOARWorks into the county's Continuum of Care (CoC). Funds will be used to implement greater program oversight and coordination, offset costs accrued by SOARWorks caseworkers, and develop tools to increase the team's capacity to initiate applications for SSI/SSDI benefits and assist these individuals through the entire application process including potential appeals. Additionally, funding will be provided to place participants into temporary or permanent housing while they await award determination.

These funds will support a program that addresses housing and resource needs for eligible individuals who are homeless. This program was designed to leverage increased county-wide coordination of services, the coordinated entry system, and housing first strategies, all part of the the overall Nevada County Homeless Plan.

Item Initiated by: Brendan Phillips, Health and Human Services Agency Program Manager

Approved by: Michael Heggarty, Health and Human Services Agency Director