



## Health and Human Services Agency

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### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

### Board Agenda Memo

**MEETING DATE:** June 24, 2025

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Phebe Bell**

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of a renewal contract with FREED Independent Living Center, DBA FREED for services related to providing a landlord liaison program to expedite housing individuals experiencing homelessness in the total maximum amount of \$973,424 for the term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** This contract will be funded with Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) funds awarded by the California Department of Housing and Community Development and Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Round 3 funds awarded by the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). These services are included in the department's FY 25/26 proposed budget. There are no county general fund dollars required.

**BACKGROUND:** On April 18, 2024, Nevada County Behavioral Health received notice of award of \$2,508,622 in ERF funds. On June 25, 2024 the Board approved acceptance of the award (SR 24-0868) granting authority to the Director of Behavioral Health to sign all necessary documents to complete the award process. Per SR 24-0868, the Department conducted a Request for Information (RFI) process seeking a qualified provider for services outlined by the Department in the ERF proposal. Having completed that process, the Department received Board approval for a services contract with FREED, the selected provider for the ERF project.

On July 24, 2024, the Department received award of BHBH Round 3 funding to further support the efforts of the landlord liaison program specifically targeting Department clients who are participants in the BHBH interim shelter project, currently contracted to Hospitality House. These additional funds provide rental assistance, staffing, and landlord services to expedite BHBH interim project participants into permanent housing.

FREED has established the Landlord Liaison Team (LLT), providing dedicated staffing to assist unsheltered homeless households and BHBH participants in gaining permanent stable housing. The project administers a variety of resources and flexible funding aimed at incentivizing landlords and property managers to work with the LLT to house vulnerable county residents. The program offers one-time signing bonuses, risk mitigation funds, holding fees, and specialized landlord-tenant mediation services to landlords. Participants in the program are offered assistance with applying for housing units, applying for long-term subsidies, and gaining skills related to housing stability. The LLT is a key partner in a coordinated encampment response process that includes street outreach programs, law enforcement, interim housing and emergency shelter providers, and other County Departments.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Contract as it provides a much-needed service to help unsheltered individuals obtain housing and successfully stay housed.

**Approved by:** Phebe Bell, Behavioral Health Director