



NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
AGENCY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: November 7, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Phebe Bell

SUBJECT: Resolution approving acceptance of Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program award and execution of a subcontract agreement with Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. on behalf of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) in the maximum amount of \$3,601,814 for the contract term of June 23, 2023 through June 30, 2027 and authorizing and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Behavioral Health Department's Budget for Fiscal Year 2023/24 (4/5 Affirmative Vote Required).

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The grant award of \$3,601,814 is funded from the California Department of Health Care Services for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) program (AB179) being administered through Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP) to address housing and treatment needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. A budget amendment is included and requires a 4/5 vote by the Board Members. There are not county general fund dollars required.

BACKGROUND:

According to DHCS, Californians account for nearly half (49.6%) of the Americans experiencing homelessness. Additionally, approximately twenty-four percent of those experiencing homelessness in California report having a serious mental illness. In an investment to end homelessness in California, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has made available through the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program (AB 179) a total of \$1.5 billion dollars in funding to county behavioral health agencies and tribal entities to operate bridge housing programs. This program aims to address the immediate and sustainable housing needs of people experiencing homelessness who have behavioral health conditions.

Nevada County Behavioral Health was awarded \$3.6 million in funding through the BHBH Program to expand housing opportunities to those experiencing homelessness who have behavioral health needs within our community. These funds will be utilized to provide secure transitional housing through long term motel stays and master leased housing or other housing approaches as available. Nevada County received the Notice of Award for BHBH funds dated June 23, 2023. The contract was received from AHP on September 28th, 2023.

Through the BHBH Program, NCBH and its primary partner Hospitality House will provide 25 to 30 new beds for individuals who are experiencing homelessness and have serious behavioral health conditions by using a combination of hotels and rental houses. Local Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports will be leveraged to provide case management services for individuals being served through the BHBH program. Case management will focus on promoting mental and physical health, identification and stabilization of a local support network, care coordination, and promoting life skills needed to be successful in maintaining permanent housing. In total, the program aims to provide transitional housing and case management services to approximately 150-200 individuals through the duration of the grant. The goal for this funding is to use it as a steppingstone in the current shelter programs to form a bridge from temporary and interim shelter to permanent, sustainable housing.

This subcontract agreement with AHP for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing provides funds for an additional 25-30 beds for transitional housing for individuals with behavioral health needs who are experiencing homelessness. This agreement will provide the capacity to service approximately 150-200 individuals throughout its duration.

It is recommended that the Board approve acceptance of the BHBH award and approve the subcontract agreement with AHP as it allows for an increased capacity to shelter those who are unsheltered with behavioral health conditions within our community.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Phebe Bell, MSW, Director of Behavioral Health