



**NEVADA COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
AGENCY**

**Health & Human Services  
Agency Director  
Ryan Gruver**

**Behavioral Health Director:  
Phebe Bell, MSW**

**Behavioral Health Medical Director:  
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**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
(Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Program)**

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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** April 13, 2021

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Phebe Bell

**SUBJECT:** Resolution accepting funds in the amount of \$189,613.89 for the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2020/21 and authorizing and directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Behavioral Health Department's Budget for Fiscal Year 20/21 (4/5 Affirmative Vote Required).

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** The funding is from the California Board of State and Community Corrections. Nevada County Behavioral Health Department has been approved to receive \$189,613.89 to augment Operation HEARTH by adding additional short-term housing for justice involved individuals, Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment services, and a behavioral health nurse who will administer the COVID-19 vaccine, among other health related services. There is a budget amendment needed however there are no county general fund dollars required.

**BACKGROUND:** While Nevada County is proactively taking an aggressive approach to supporting its nearly 100,000 residents through the Coronavirus pandemic, it is evident that the County's justice involved, homeless population, many of whom are experiencing mental illness and substance use disorders, are at risk of falling through the cracks. This group is more vulnerable to numerous bad outcomes including becoming infected with the virus, not having access to adequate medical care if sick, and missing out on opportunities to be vaccinated. Many of these individuals have frequent, brief stays in the county jail due to low level misdemeanor crimes and cycle between homelessness and incarceration. This project aims to interrupt this cycle and instead connect these individuals to needed treatment and services including housing, thereby reducing their vulnerability to pandemic impacts.

This multifaceted Program includes the following components; 1) targeted outreach efforts to locate and identify justice involved, homeless individuals to participate in Operation HEARTH for 60 days of intensive case management services to identify and facilitate a path towards permanent housing; 2) providing a needs and vulnerability assessment to identify specific re-entry challenges that individuals face and how to appropriately deliver services to this cohort; 3) provide substance use disorder (SUD) services and residential recovery housing as needed; and 4) support enhanced and targeted identification of justice involved individuals for vaccination against the COVID-19 virus. This funding will add considerable value and efficacy to Operation HEARTH, as the justice involved individuals with mental health conditions have posed tremendous challenges over the years to treat and house.

The grant requires a local advisory committee review grant activities and performance. The existing Justice and Mental Health Collaborative group, established in 2017 as part of the Stepping Up Initiative meets the criteria and can serve this purpose. The \$189,613.89 must be expended by January 31, 2022.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Resolution, as the services provided will serve justice involved, homeless individuals at risk of COVID-19 in our community.

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