



# COUNTY OF NEVADA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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## NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** August 14, 2018

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** **Mike Dent**

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of an Agreement with FREED Independent Living Center, d/b/a FREED for funding to administer the SOARWorks program to eligible clients in the total maximum amount of \$282,083 for the term of August 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020, not to exceed \$131,095 for FY 18/19 and \$150,988 for FY 19/20.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** Under this agreement, up to 282,083 is being committed to FREED over two years. Funds will be used to serve 24 eligible participants per year. The program will be funded by the State Department of Social Services Housing and Disability Advocacy program funds and County matching funds from Mental Health Services Act, AB109, and IAR General Assistance funds already allocated to the program. No budget amendment is needed and there is no general fund impact associated with this item.

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the National Health Care for the Homeless Council, people with disabilities constitute 40% of the homeless population. Approximately half of the people experiencing homelessness suffers from a mental health issue, according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness. Mental and physical health problems are exacerbated by the ongoing stress and associated trauma from living on the streets and / or in homeless shelters.

FREED has been providing services to persons with disabilities in Nevada County since 1985. FREED's mission is to promote independence and self-determination for people with disabilities through person-driven services, collaborative community partnerships and education, and leadership that advocates for fully inclusive communities.

FREED serves over 100 un-duplicated individuals annually who have a disability and who are experiencing homelessness. In addition, FREED provides over 300 housing services annually to support

individuals who are homeless in locating appropriate housing, assisting individuals who are housed with services to prevent eviction or retain housing, and with services and supports to improve home accessibility and safety. All FREED direct service staff are trained in person-centered counseling and two SOAR trained staff.

**SOARWorks Housing and Disability Advocacy Program:**

The SOARWorks Program will provide specialized case management, direct housing support (including rental subsidies and supportive services) and disability advocacy to individuals with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness and who may be eligible for social security or disability benefits. FREED has used Board approved CSBG funds to hire a Housing Coordinator and will leverage SOARWorks funds to bring the position to full-time. The Housing Coordinator will administer the SOARWorks program. The Hosing Coordinator will coordinate outreach, case management, housing assistance and disability advocacy to eligible participants.

Consistent with the core components of Housing First, Contractor will work in collaboration with the Continuum of Care (CoC) and the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to ensure populations with the highest needs are given the highest priority and are able to access SOARWorks services.

**Item Initiated and Approved by:**

Mike Dent, Director of Child Support, Housing and  
Community Services