



RESOLUTION No. _____

OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF NEVADA

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT (EECBG) PROGRAM COMPETITIVE GRANT, ISSUED BY THE US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S OFFICE OF STATE AND COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS, IN THE APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$1,164,000.

WHEREAS, in February 2023, Nevada County's Board of Supervisors adopted 2023 Priority Objectives that included the new objective of Climate Resilience to "Safeguard Nevada County's economic durability, environmental integrity, and public health and safety by preparing for, adapting to, and mitigating changing climate conditions in a way that reflects our rural quality of life," and

WHEREAS, the Department of Energy (DOE) is seeking to support communities to make significant progress towards their clean energy goals via their Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) competitive grant; and

WHEREAS, the EECBG grant will allocate \$8.8 million of funding to small-to-medium sized local governments and state-recognized tribes to: (1) reduce fossil fuel emissions in ways that are environmentally sustainable and maximize benefits for local and regional communities; (2) reduce the total energy use of the eligible entities; (3) improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building and other sectors; and (4) build a clean and equitable energy economy that prioritizes disadvantaged communities and promotes equity and inclusion in workforce opportunities and deployment activities, consistent with the Justice40 Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Climate Resilience objective includes three specific initiatives furthered by this grant application and related project: protect and harden critical infrastructure, enhance collaboration to increase community capacity and achieve climate resilience goals, and pursue funding and advocacy opportunities.; and

WHEREAS, the DOE encourages communities to team up on a single application, and thus, the County of Nevada has partnered with the Town of Truckee and included the Cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City to present an application for funding to support the implementation of the Nevada County Home Upgrade Program (NCHUP); and

WHEREAS, NCHUP aims to enhance home energy efficiency and resilience and promote workforce development in Nevada County; and

WHEREAS, the NCHUP has three primary components: 1) enable greater participation in existing low-income weatherization programs by providing supplemental home repair funds; 2) offer no-cost energy audits and weatherization measures, along with associated critical home repairs, for households making up to 80% Area Median Income; and 3) provide scholarships for energy auditor certification trainings which will facilitate local workforce development; and

WHEREAS, the successful deployment of the NCHUP will require consultation and collaboration with community organizations and relevant stakeholders, such as Sierra Community House, Gold Country Senior Services, PARTNERS Family Resource Centers, Placemate, FREED Center for Independent Living, and Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada County Contractors Association (NCCA) and Contractors Association of Truckee Tahoe (CATT) will serve as key program partners for the workforce development components of the program, including recruiting local candidates, advising on appropriate incentive levels, and identifying eligible training opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the four energy utilities that serve Nevada County will also be important ongoing stakeholders in program development and outreach to eligible households; and

WHEREAS, if awarded funding, Nevada County will also receive a DOE-sponsored, full-time fellow, to support the implementation of the work in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the NCHUP is currently intended as a pilot program to assess the success of the proposed approach and gather data to inform future program design. This program provides a model for leveraging existing Federal and State programs while attending to local needs; and

WHEREAS, if selected for an award, the grant will be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for approval to accept the award.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Nevada, State of California, hereby approves and authorizes the submittal of the grant application to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in the approximate amount of \$1,164,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Supervisors approves the following:

1. The Director of the Community Development Agency, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare and file an application for funding with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program and take such other actions necessary or appropriate to obtain grant funding.
2. The Director of the Community Development Agency, or their designee, is hereby authorized and directed to submit any required documents, funding requests, and reports required to obtain grant funding.