



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

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

MEETING DATE: December 15, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Rachel Roos**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of an Amendment No. 1 to the renewal contract with FREED Independent Living Center, d/b/a FREED for funding to administer the SOARWorks program to eligible clients to increase the Maximum Contract Price from \$100,000 to \$239,764 (an increase of \$139,764) and revise Exhibit "B" Schedule of Charges and Payments to reflect the increase in the maximum contract price for the term of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and Authorizing and Directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Social Services Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/21 (4/5 vote required). (RES 20-293)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Under this Amendment, \$139,764 is being added to an existing contract with FREED for FY20-21. Funds will be used to serve eighteen new eligible participants and continued support to twelve existing participants. The program will be funded by the State Department of Social Services Housing and Disability Advocacy program funds and County in-kind matching funds from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Federal PATH funds, and allocated Federal Housing Choice Vouchers and cash match from already allocated General Funds for homeless housing services. A budget amendment is included and requires a 4/5 vote by the Board Members. There are no county general fund dollars required in the Agreement.

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.

On July 14, 2020, per Resolution 20-293, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors authorized the execution of the renewal Professional Services Agreement between the County of Nevada and FREED Independent Living Center, D/B/A FREED. 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.

Since 2017, FREED has provided contracted services to Nevada County residents under through the SOARWorks program. In that time FREED has established itself as one of the state's best HDAP program.

- Served 45 total individuals
- 34 of those individuals received permanent housing financial assistance
- 19 of those received temporary housing financial assistance
- 44 individuals were assisted with completion of their initial benefits applications
- 13 individuals were assisted with a reconsideration of their benefits application
- 9 individuals were assisted with an appeal of their benefits application
- 18 individuals received a benefit award
- 5 individuals received a final denial of their benefit application
- 21 individuals have exited the program
- 17 of those who exited, did so into permanent housing

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. 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.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Amendment No. 1 as the additional funding will allow FREED SOARWorks program staff to secure disability benefits income and provide housing for eligible participants.

Item Initiated and Approved by:

Rachel Roos, Director of Social Services