



Information and General Services Department

950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959
Phone: 530-265-1238
Fax: 530-265-7112

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: February 28, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Steve Monaghan, Director, Information and General Services Agency**

SUBJECT: Resolution authorizing the Director of Information and General Services, of their designee to submit a grant application to the California Department of Food & Agriculture 2022 Community Resilience Centers Program for a minimum of \$5,000,000 for the improvement of Nevada County Libraries as Community Resilience Centers

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution.

FUNDING: No match is required if the grant is awarded, but funding is per reimbursement. Staff will bring forward a budget amendment for consideration if the grant is awarded along with the approval of acceptance of grant funds. No general fund is required.

BACKGROUND: California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program asserts that "recent and ongoing climate events and public health emergencies impact every part of California. Such events encompass shorter-term events like earthquakes, extreme heat, mudslides, flood, wildfires, power outages, and disruptions; they also include longer-term events like the COVID pandemic, sea level rise, drought, and rising temperatures. Due to historic redlining and cycles of underinvestment, communities across California face differential access to local community resilience opportunities including public health resources, clean energy infrastructure, and emergency response services".

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Community Resilience Centers (CRC) Program described here builds on this foundation, in alignment with California's Statewide Adaptation Strategy and other efforts, to build local resilience across California communities. It is a priority of the CRC program to fund resilience center projects in disadvantaged communities and disadvantaged unincorporated communities, or sites serving these communities.

In the historic 2021-2022 climate budget, Governor Newsom and the Legislature allocated \$150 million from fiscal year (FY) 2021-2022 to CDFA for two resilience-focused infrastructure programs: one focused on fairgrounds (\$94.5 million), the other focused on other neighborhood-level CRC (\$38 million). This program focuses on the latter.



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A secondary goal of the CRC Program is to equip facilities to provide long-term, year-round community services and activities to enhance the community's resilience through civic, social, educational, and economic development programming.

The CRC Program will award \$38 million to neighborhood-level CRCs within California.

- The minimum grant award is \$5,000,000.
- The maximum grant duration is 36 months.
- Awarded projects must be complete and operational no later than 36 months after the start of the grant agreement. The anticipated grant agreement start date is Summer 2023.
- Costs incurred before the beginning of the grant agreement will not be reimbursed.
- CDFA reserves the right to offer an award different than the amount requested.
- Grants are paid out on a reimbursement basis following invoice submission by awardee.

Nevada County libraries provide critical services to their communities, offering year-round resources including computer access, internet, information, news, and classes that are available to all community members. Likewise, they provide physical spaces to gather during emergencies, in addition to acting as warming and cooling spaces during extreme weather events and clean air spaces during periods of heavy smoke. The value of libraries serving dual functions as community resource centers is amplified in rural areas: they are already recognized by the public as essential services, and multiple locations spread across the county means shorter travel distance for residents that live in remote areas. Using multiple, related, preexisting locations such as libraries to double as community resilience centers can serve as a model of resilience for other unincorporated, rural regions, where a single community resilience center cannot meet the needs of a large and dispersed population.

If awarded, we propose to use this funding to both plan and implement updates to our libraries that include but are not limited to improvements on fire-safety, energy efficiency, energy back-up, health safety, ADA-compliance, security, and general accessibility. In addition, we propose to use this funding to procure any necessary new equipment and services that can better serve our community both year-round and in times of emergency.

Staff is requesting the Board to authorize the Director of Information General Services or their designee to apply for a minimum of \$5,000,000 from the CDFA CRC program to fund planning efforts and physical updating of libraries. Funds will cover pre-development planning costs (including any necessary CEQA analysis), construction costs, material acquisition, and retrofitting; up to 25% of the award may be used to cover associated labor costs.

An application will be submitted on February 27, 2023 to meet the deadline. Copies of the budget template, application questions, and guidelines are included in this packet. If passed here, and awarded, planning and acquisition of materials will take place in the first year (summer 2023-summer 2024), and construction will take place during the 2024-2026 fiscal years; the award period is 36 months.

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



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Item Initiated by: Nick Wilczek, County Librarian

Approved by: Steve Monaghan, Director, Information and General Services Agency

Submittal Date: February 13, 2023

Revision Date: