



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: September 14, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Rachel Roos**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving acceptance of \$285,446 in allocated Project Room Key (“PRK”) funding from the California Department Of Social Services for the purpose of providing non-congregate shelter and rehousing assistance for individuals who are affected by COVID-19 and lack the means to isolate themselves due to homelessness or needing alternative housing to isolate themselves from a vulnerable household member with whom they reside and Authorizing and Directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Social Services Budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22. (4/5 vote required)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Funds are authorized through CA Senate Bill 129 Budget Act of 2021. 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 Letter Agreement.

BACKGROUND:

On March 18, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom signed executive order N-32-20 providing local governments with emergency homelessness funds to expand immediate shelter opportunities and isolation capacity and provide COVID-19 preventions to the homeless population. Since March of 2020, communities across California have been operating locally driven and state supported PRK programs to provide emergency non-congregate shelter protective placements (e.g., hotel/motels) for people experiencing homelessness for public health-related reasons associated with COVID-19. In Nevada County, the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) along with an array of community partners have provided over 200 unduplicated homeless households with interim housing at local hotels. HHS staff have also developed a rehousing strategy to assist local PRK participants in finding permanent housing.

The initial PRK funding to communities came from \$50 million State general fund (“GF”)

appropriation to provide funds to counties and tribes to secure trailers, motels, and hotels to initiate and operate PRK. An additional \$59 million in one-time state GF in December 2020 to support continued PRK operations while increasing the focus and resources to transition participants to permanent housing. The need for PRK and rehousing remains critical to continue to keep people experiencing homelessness and their communities safe during the COVID-19 pandemic while providing housing assistance to ensure that participants do not return to homelessness.

The Budget Act of 2021 appropriated an additional \$150 million in one-time state GF for continuation of the PRK with a focus on implementing a rehousing strategy. \$285,446 has been allocated to Nevada County to continue to operate PRK sites and to support rehousing activities that can support clients moving into permanent housing. The continued goal of the PRK and rehousing strategy is to ensure the safety of people vulnerable to COVID-19 and those who test positive for or are exposed to COVID-19 while ensuring that all participants have access to permanent housing assistance.

It is recommended that the Board accept this funding to support critical needs for homeless service providers and provide non-congregate accommodations in line with Governor Newsom's order to "shelter in place" and/or quarantine as advised by emergency responders of medical personnel in Nevada County.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Rachel Roos, LCSW, Director of Social Services