



COUNTY OF NEVADA COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: September 22, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution Approving the Award of \$1,500,000 in “Economic & Community Resiliency Grants” Funded by the Coronavirus Relief Fund and Authorizing the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to Execute Grant Agreements with Awardees

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the resolution.

FUNDING: The State of California has allocated \$10,004,000 in Federal CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) to Nevada County. Per Resolution 20-319, the Board of Supervisors approved the County’s CRF Expenditure Plan (Expenditure Plan) allocating \$1.5 Million for “Macro Grants for Anchor Institutions/Organizations within the County” to support economic and community resiliency, and offset COVID-19 related economic hardships and disruptions to local businesses and nonprofits.

Resolution 20-319 included a budget amendment to increase CRF revenue and expense in the Fiscal Year 20/21 Housing & Community Services Administration (HCS) budget in the amount of \$1,750,000 to allow for this project, and \$250,000 of Micro Grants to Small Businesses and Non-Profits to be managed through HCS. This resolution does not require a budget amendment. There is no impact to the general fund.

BACKGROUND: On March 10, 2020 the Board of Supervisors approved Resolutions 20-062, ratifying the declaration of a local health emergency in Nevada County, and 20-063, proclaiming a local emergency in Nevada County, due to rapid spread of COVID-19 and its threat to Nevada County. On March 19, 2020, the Governor of California issued a statewide Executive Order, N-33-20, requiring all Californians to remain in their home or place of residence, except as necessary to carry out essential activities, and to heed State Public Health Officer directives. In response to the COVID-19 public health and economic crisis throughout the country, the federal government enacted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES

Act”) on March 27, 2020. The CARES Act included a \$2 trillion-dollar economic relief package with approximately \$150 billion dollars of Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) monies directed at States, local governments, and tribal entities for economic and disaster relief. On June 29, 2020, the Governor of California signed into law the Budget Act of 2020, which allocated an additional \$1.3 billion of State CRF monies, including \$10 million allocated to Nevada County.

On July 14, 2020 the Nevada County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 20-319, approving the County’s CRF Expenditure plan which included \$1.5 million for “Macro Grants for Anchor Institutions/Organizations within the County” to support economic and community resiliency, and offset COVID-19 related economic hardships and disruptions to local businesses and nonprofits. Subsequently, staff consulted with members of the Nevada County Relief Fund and the Sierra Business Council to draft the application criteria, guidelines, and the award process detailed below.

On July 28, 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 20-348 authorizing the Purchasing Division to advertise for applications and form a review committee to review and score each application and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for final approval of awardees.

GRANTS PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The “Economic & Community Resiliency Grants” program was designed to provide critical economic support to eligible entities that have been directly impacted by COVID-19, have a major economic and social impact on the community, and are critical to maintaining the County’s economic and cultural infrastructure. Sometimes referred to as “anchor institutions,” these entities are characterized as playing a vital and enduring role in the local community.

Key elements:

- Proposals must comply with federal and state requirements for distribution of the CARES Act and CRF funds.
- Awards are intended to contribute to a sustainable COVID-19 recovery and encourage collaborative and innovative business solutions during the pandemic.
- Grant amounts will range from \$50,000 to \$500,000, with at least 2-4 grants allocated in the \$300,000 to \$500,000 range.

Eligible applicants:

- Local jurisdictions (Cities, towns, special districts)
- Businesses
- Nonprofits organizations (501c3 and 501c6)

Criteria:

1. Proposals should demonstrate the fiscal impacts of business interruption caused by required closures due to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

2. Proposals should demonstrate a history of, and the potential for, a large and ongoing economic impact and/or measurable multiplier effects such as tax revenue (sales tax, Transfer Occupancy Tax), jobs created or retained, etc.;
3. Proposals should demonstrate a track record of leveraging additional partnerships and resources and/or will leverage additional funding that in part will contribute to COVID-19 recovery;
4. Proposals should demonstrate capacity to manage, oversee, implement and report on the use of the funds;
5. Proposals should demonstrate significant community benefit in the past or in response to COVID-19; and
6. Proposals should include how applicants will measure and report outcomes.

Notification: The RFA was advertised in The Union/Sierra Sun, and published on the County Purchasing webpage, Friday Memo, County social media accounts, Nevada County Covid-19 Business Task Force and other email mailing lists.

Evaluation Panel: Pursuant to the Request for Application (RFA), a 7-member Evaluation Panel was organized, consisting community partners (5) and County staff (2):

- Scott Beesly, Financial Advisor
- Cheryl Dell, Nevada County Grand Jury
- Kathleen Eagan, former Truckee Mayor
- Joan Jones, former Truckee Mayor; owner, Jones Corda Construction
- Alison Jones-Pomatto, Nevada County Relief Fund Community Advisory Committee
- Phebe Bell, Director, Behavioral Health Services, Nevada County
- Mali Dyck, Assistant CEO, Nevada County

Awards Process and Timeline:

- The application process opened July 28th;
- A pre-application conference was held August 6th; applicants’ questions were responded to in writing by August 14th;
- Applications were due on August 20, 2020;
- Evaluation Panel reviewed and scored responses in order to select the top ranked entities based on the weighted evaluation criteria in the RFA (see below).

EVALUATION CRITERIA:	Entity Description	COVID-19 Impacts	Economic Impact	Leveraging Partnerships and Resources	Management Capacity & Measurable Outcomes	Community Benefit	Budget & Financials	TOTAL
Max Points:	5	5	30	20	30	20	20	130

Applications received: The Purchasing Department received twenty-six (26) eligible applications totaling \$4,692,720 in requests including two (2) from local jurisdictions; nine (9)

from businesses; seven (7) from non-profit “safety-net” organization, and eight (8) from other non-profit organizations. Only one application, from the Nevada County Fairgrounds, was deemed ineligible for grant funding since they are a State Agency.

Final Scoring: The Evaluation Panel met three times to review and score the applications. The panel decided to group the applicants into four categories:

- Local Jurisdictions
- Businesses
- Nonprofits
- Nonprofit/Safety-net.

The Evaluation Panel recommends the following awards:

1. Town of Truckee, Local Jurisdiction, \$400,000 to fund an outdoor “Winter Wonderland” space to support downtown Truckee businesses
2. Center for the Arts, Nonprofit, \$400,000 to fund operating expenses necessary to sustain the venue until it can safely produce live events for community audiences in 2021, and produce new broadcast events, education and outreach programs
3. Miners Foundry, Nonprofit, \$290,000 to fund operating expenses necessary to sustain the venue until it can safely produce live cultural and community events, and develop new revenue streams from its new café and patio bar with live outdoor events
4. Sierra Theaters, Business, \$150,000 to fund basic operating expenses (essential staff, leases, and HVAC improvements) needed to retain the Del Oro Theatre and reopen safely
5. Sierra Community House, Nonprofit, \$100,000 to fund staffing, technology, and rental support for vital safety-net services (food and housing) to vulnerable populations
6. The Food Bank of Nevada County, Nonprofit, \$100,000 to fund unanticipated operating costs due to the increased demand for food including staffing, food storage rentals, and supplies
7. South Yuba River Citizens League, Nonprofit, \$60,000 to offset the costs of business interruption caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency and to fund the installation of two vault toilets at Purdon Crossing to address sanitation concerns on the South Yuba River due to increased visitation resulting from limited recreational opportunities caused by COVID-19

Award agreement and reporting requirements: Awardees will enter in to “Grant Award Recipient Agreements” with the County. Grant Recipients will use the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) monies to cover only those eligible costs identified in the RFA and necessary for the COVID-19 public health emergency during the period that begins on March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020, in accordance with federal guidance. Grant Recipient shall be responsible for reimbursement to County of any grant funding provided under this Agreement that are determined by federal or state officials to be unauthorized expenditures.

A “mid-term” report will be due October 31, 2020, and a final report will be due by January 31, 2021.

Therefore, staff recommends the Board (i) adopt the attached resolution awarding the “Economic & Community Resiliency Grants”; (ii) authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the grant agreements.

Item Initiated by: Caleb Dardick, Projects Administrator

Approved by: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer