



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

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

MEETING DATE: July 9, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rachel Peña

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a contract with Freed For Independent Living (FREED) for funding to administer the SOARWorks program to eligible clients in the total maximum amount of \$100,000 for the term of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: Under this contract, up to \$100,000 is being committed to FREED for FY 2024/25. Funds will be used to serve Housing and Disability Advocacy eligible participants. The program will be funded by State Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) funds.

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 suffer 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.

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 2018, FREED has provided contracted services to Nevada County residents through the SOARWorks program. In that time FREED has established itself as one of the state's best HDAP programs. The Program provides specialized case management aimed at assisting households experiencing homelessness in gaining income as well as post housing supports to ensure that

households can retain their housing and that the housing is suitable for persons living with disabilities. Consistent with the core components of Housing First, Contractor will work in collaboration with the Continuum of Care and the Coordinated Entry System to ensure populations with the highest needs are given the highest priority and are able to access SOARWorks services.

Item Initiated by: Tamaran Cook, Program Manager
Item Approved by: Rachel Peña, LCSW, Director of Social Services