



COUNTY OF NEVADA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: June 26, 2018

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Michael Heggarty**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a Contract with Nevada County Housing Development Corporation related to Health and Human Services Agency's Bridges 2 Housing Program (B2H) in order to reduce homelessness, and help obtain and maintain housing for residents of Nevada County who are chronically homeless with a mental health and/or substance use disability, in the maximum amount of \$595,000 for the term of May 16, 2018 through June 30, 2020 and authorize and direct the Auditor-Controller to amend Health and Human Services Agency's Budget for Fiscal Year 2017/18 and Fiscal Year 2018/19. (4/5 Vote Required)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: This contract is supported by Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) funds and County General Fund dollars pursuant to the County Homeless Plan. This item includes expenditure of the remainder of the \$250,000 FY 17/18 general fund dollars (\$37,206 was authorized in Resolution 18-020 for overflow beds at Hospitality House, leaving a remainder of \$212,794).

A budget amendment is required for FY 17/18 and FY 18/19 and is included with this item which requires a 4/5 vote by the Board Members.

BACKGROUND: 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 living on the streets and / or in homeless shelters. In 2010, the Nevada County Homeless Coordinating Council and the Placer Consortium on Homelessness agreed to merge. This organization is now a non-profit, Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras (HRCS). HRCS works to achieve improved coordination of services, more efficient resource

allocation and regional planning to address homelessness. Nevada County Housing Development Corporation is a charter member of HRCS.

Over the last eight years, Nevada County, in partnership with HRCS has been able to expand housing services for the chronically homeless through grants awarded by Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These grants support three Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs (Winters Haven, Summers Haven, and Home Anew) by, providing 30 individuals with supportive housing services. Supportive housing enables this special needs population to live as independently as possible in permanent housing.

B2H will build on the success of the PSH programs and the experience of the Contractor's delivery of similar services which implement the Housing First concept to expand housing opportunities for eligible individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in Nevada County. B2H will provide housing to homeless persons utilizing the Coordinated Entry System to identify the most vulnerable individuals in the community and offer them housing without precondition. In coordination with the Contractor, supportive services, as determined necessary in conjunction with a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT), will leverage the stability provided by housing to rapidly assess individuals for PSH and other housing programs and homeless services and work to harness internal participant motivation for life changes. B2H implements a first-in-the-county harm reduction and trauma informed strategy for working with the most vulnerable. B2H will bring Nevada County in-line with HUD identified best practices that will expand opportunities for state and federal grant programs that can support and expand the program.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Agreement as it will expand housing opportunities for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in Nevada County.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Michael Heggarty, Director of Health and Human Services Agency