



COUNTY OF NEVADA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

950 Maidu Ave.
Nevada City, California
95959

Agency Director
Ryan Gruver

Telephone: (530) 265-7226
Fax: (530) 265-2295

Department Directors
Phebe Bell, MSW, Behavioral Health
Jill Blake, Public Health

Mike Dent, MPA, Child Support Services/Collections/Housing & Community Services Division
Tex Ritter, JD, Social Services

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: January 14th, 2019

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Ryan Gruver**

SUBJECT: Approval of one-time funding from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to the Nevada County Health and Human Services Agency in the amount of \$445,868.49 to initiate the Whole Person Care Program.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that this Board approve the attached resolution authorizing a grant revenue agreement with DHCS to support the implementation and operation of a Resource Center for individuals experiencing homelessness in Nevada County.

FUNDING: This is a revenue contract for \$445,868.49 and funds will be deposited to the Housing Services Administration budget. The term of the agreement with DHCS is from March 31, 2020 through June 30, 2025. A budget amendment for expenditures will be brought to the Board as needed as planning for the Resource Center moves forward.

BACKGROUND:
On December 26th, 2019, the DHCS made available \$445,868.49 in one-time funding to Nevada County to develop and implement essential programs and infrastructure to focus on coordinating health, behavioral health and critical social services as part of DHCS's Whole Person Care Program (WPC). Nevada County proposes to utilize this allocation to support the implementation and operation of a Resource Center that will support individuals experiencing homelessness in Western Nevada County.

In 2017, the Board of Supervisors made addressing homelessness a top priority, directing staff to

develop initiatives and incorporate homelessness in fiscal planning and management of County operations. A key challenge in existing programs working to address homelessness is that services provided in a piecemeal fashion, resulting in challenges around both access and comprehensive service provision. In addition, homelessness touches many systems and presents social, political, economic and environmental challenges that can only be addressed through a collaborative approach.

Nevada County counted 410 individuals experiencing homelessness during the 2019 Point-In-Time Count, of which 21% self-reported having a mental illness. Additionally, 34% of those counted in Nevada County were chronically homeless compared to the State average of 28%, demonstrating the urgent need in our community to create programming that is more effective at engaging our most vulnerable and hard-to-reach homeless community members. Nevada County's sole emergency homeless shelter, Hospitality House, has 69 shelter beds and only operates overnight, and guests must leave the shelter in the morning. This creates challenges for service providers as they are unable to locate clients during the day when most services are available.

The Resource Center, envisioned in response to these factors, is planned as a day center meant to address unmet needs of our homeless residents and to address, in part, the decentralized service provision model currently in place. The Resource Center will serve as a single location with centralized services and supports for community members experiencing homelessness.

All use of funds will be in line with the purpose outlined in the provisions of the WPC guidelines. The Health and Human Services Agency shall provide all DHCS-required financial oversight and grant reporting for the WPC program, including all program-specific administrative, monitoring and reporting requirements specified, as specified in the WPC contract executed between HHSA and DHCS.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Ryan Gruver, Agency Director, Health and Human Services Agency