



COUNTY OF NEVADA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: July 28, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Resolution approving the Request for Applications (RFA) and award selection procedures for “Economic & Community Resiliency Grants” program and authorizing the Purchasing Division to advertise for qualified applications.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the resolution.

FUNDING: Per Resolution 20-319, the County of Nevada Board of Supervisors approved the County’s Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Expenditure Plan including 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. The approval of the RFA has no dollar impact. Award recommendations will be brought to the Board in September. The grant awards will be funded with Federal CRF dollars and will not impact the general fund.

BACKGROUND:

On March 10, 2020 the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 20-062 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 order requiring all Californians to remain in at their home or place of residence, except as necessary to carry out essential activities.

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.

As a requirement of receiving funds, on June 30, 2020 the County Chief Executive Officer's designee completed the Certification for Receipt of Funds pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3) of subdivision (d) of Control Section 11.90 of the Budget Act of 2020, including that CRF funds would be expended in accordance with State and Federal requirements. The certification requirements include those stated in the Budget Act that CRF monies be used to cover only those costs that (1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020, for the State or local government; and (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020. Also required as condition of receipt of funds are: adherence to federal and state health guidance and orders; use of funds as stated in Control Section 11.90 of the Budget Act of 2020; submission to the State of various reports on expenditures and return of unspent funds; and retention of records to support eligible expenses.

On July 14, 2020 the Nevada County Board of Supervisors approved 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, consistent with the Certification requirements under the Budget Act of 2020, outlined above. Subsequently, staff consulted with various stakeholders to draft the application criteria, guidelines, and the award process detailed below.

Summary of Proposed "Economic & Community Resiliency Grants" Program:

The County proposes to seek grant applications for its new "Economic & Community Resiliency Grants" program from eligible entities that have been directly impacted by COVID-19 and 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.

The "Economic & Community Resiliency Grant Program" seeks qualified proposals designed to sustain impactful entities located throughout the County of Nevada.

- Proposals must comply with federal and state requirements for distribution of the CARES ACT and CRF funds.
- The Economic & Community Resiliency Grants are intended to contribute to a sustainable COVID-19 recovery and encourage collaborative and innovative business solutions during the pandemic.
- The Economic & Community Resiliency Grants 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 include:

- Local jurisdictions (Cities, towns, special districts)
- Businesses (must be in good standing with the Federal Government, State, County and local incorporated jurisdiction where applicable, in full compliance with State and local public health guidelines, and in business for at least 5 years)
- Nonprofits 501c3 and 501c6 organizations (must be in good standing with the Federal Government, State, County and local incorporated jurisdiction where applicable, in full compliance with State and local public health guidelines, and in operation for at least 5 years)

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.

Awards Process and Timeline:

The application process will open in early August and include a pre-application conference with applications due on August 20, 2020. Pursuant to the RFA application and selection procedures, which are attached for the Board's review and approval, an evaluation panel of County staff and community partners will review and score responses in order to select the top ranked entities based on the weighted evaluation criteria in the RFA. Award recommendations will be brought before the Board of Supervisors on September 22, 2020 for approval.

Therefore, staff recommends the Board (i) adopt the attached resolution approving the Request for Applications (RFA) for the "Economic & Community Resiliency Grants" program; (ii) authorize the Purchasing Division to advertise for qualified applications; and (iii) authorize the formation of a review committee as outlined in the RFA to review the responsive applications, score each application per the criteria described in the RFA, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for final approval of awardees at a future board meeting.

Item Initiated by: Caleb Dardick, Projects Administrator

Approved by: Alison Lehman, County Executive Officer