

**From:** [Nicole McNeely](#)  
**To:** [BOS Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** CRF Letter from the Food Bank of Nevada County  
**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2020 1:00:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [BOS letter of Support.docx](#)

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Please see attached letter for public comment before the meeting.

Thank you,

Nicole McNeely  
Executive Director

**Food Bank of Nevada County**

Mailing: 578 Sutton Way #187, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Physical: 310 Railroad Ave, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Phone: (530) 272-3796 | Fax: (530) 272-7085

<http://foodbankofnc.org>



THE **FOOD** OF NEVADA COUNTY  
**BANK** A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



September 21, 2020

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Food Bank of Nevada County to encourage you to move forward with the recommendations made by The Evaluation Panel for the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) "Economic & Community Resiliency Grants" Program as developed by the scoring committee and County staff.

As our County continues to navigate through the different crises and emergency situations that arise, it is notable to point out that the Food Bank has never stopped facilitating food access to the population. At our most recent distribution on 09/17/2020, we fed almost 2,000 individuals at our Grass Valley location. Many have lost their jobs due to the pandemic, lost their food due to the Public Safety Power Shutdown, or lost their homes due to fires and evacuations. The Food Bank helps our community stay strong and keep going against all odds. The Food Bank completely changed its operations to comply with the COVID-19 hygiene protocols and has never stopped providing nutritional support to help fight hunger.

The funding we requested and were initially allocated under this grant will allow us to continue providing food to community members in need throughout the County through 2020. We hope that you will agree to fund the organizations as recommended to help ensure that our County's primary food safety net continues unimpeded and we continue to meet the growing need.

Best Regards,

*Nicole McNeely*

Nicole McNeely  
Executive Director  
The Food Bank of Nevada County  
310 Railroad Ave. Suite 100  
Grass Valley CA 95945  
(530) 272-3796  
[www.foodbankofnc.org](http://www.foodbankofnc.org)

**From:** [Amber Jo Manuel](#)  
**To:** [BOS Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Betsy Swann Brown](#); [Caleb Dardick](#)  
**Subject:** One More Letter of support for SR 20-3443  
**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2020 1:01:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [Brown.Letter of support ctfa 92220.pdf](#)

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Amber Jo Manuel | Executive Director  
phone: (530) 274-8384 ext. 206 | cell: (917) 703-1741  
[email: amanuel@thecenterforhearts.org](mailto:amanuel@thecenterforhearts.org)  
[www.thecenterforhearts.org](http://www.thecenterforhearts.org)



**GIN & JAZZ**  
**VIRTUAL GALA**  
**09.18.20**

## Betsy Swann Brown

522 Jordan St • Nevada City, CA 95959  
(650) 773-1183 • betsyswann1@gmail.com

Sept 21, 2020

Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
950 Maidu Ave  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Supervisors:

As president of the Board of Directors for the Center for the Arts, I would like to sincerely thank you for your efforts to support our local small businesses and non-profits that have been affected so deeply by the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would also like to thank you for recognizing and supporting The Center, a steadfast icon in our community, who should be joyously celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of cultural and economic development for Nevada County but is instead struggling to survive after suffering the loss of nearly all ticket revenue due solely to this pandemic.

I can assure you that the board is steadfast in The Center's commitment to enhance the lives and livelihood of our community. As you can see with some data below, The Center is integral to the culture and vitality of Nevada County:

- Over the past 20 years, the Center has seen more than 350,000 individuals come through our doors with more than 40% of them coming from outside Western Nevada County
- The Center showcases local artists featuring more than 50 local artists and artisans every year.
- The Center plays a critical role in supporting our youth. Each year more than 7,500 youth participate in our programs and more than 400 families attend each Free Family Fun day.
- As a result of this pandemic, The Center has begun a new "From the Center" broadcast program featuring local musicians who might not normally be able to perform on such a stage.

Your award of \$400,000 from the Economic & Community Resiliency Grants fund will allow the Center to continue serving our community, to continue to drive cultural and economic vitality, and to continue to employ local citizens until we are able to resume "normal" operations and stand on our own two feet again.

I can only imagine the challenge of reviewing and awarding the grants to our local anchor institutions. As is the case with limited funding, the funders are often unable to meet requests of every organization. Your team diligently reviewed our application and I implore to approve The Center's full grant recommendation.

Sincerely,

Betsy Swann Brown  
CFTA Board President  
Nevada City, CA

September 21, 2020  
Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Supervisors,

Thank you for your continued support of The Center for the Arts, most recently by reviewing the resolution to award The Center \$400,000 from the Economic & Community Resiliency Grants fund. When the number of applicants exceeds the capacity of the fund to grant all requests, the evaluation process must incorporate several factors. The evaluation panel is to be commended for recognizing the cultural value of The Center to our community as well as its financial and economic multiplying effect for Nevada County.

In March, The Center reopened following a two-year closure for complete renovation. The renovation costs were more than \$6 million, funded by the generosity of many community donors, private lenders, and a bank loan from River Valley Community Bank. That The Center was able to secure this level of financing attests to its historic and expected contribution to Nevada County. Having been associated with The Center as a member, volunteer, donor, and board member, I can point to several key reasons justifying this confidence. Here are a few:

- The Center is an anchor institution, delivering arts, music, education, and cultural diversity to Nevada County. Our lives are enhanced by its presence.
- The Center differentiates Nevada County from the many other foothill counties, making ours a preferred place to visit, live, and do business in, all of which help expand our tax base.
- The economic multiplying effect of The Center brings financial benefits—more than any other organization—to many small businesses based in Nevada County.
- In a similar way, The Center’s practice of supporting other nonprofit organizations helps to produce awareness and funding for them that they would otherwise not receive.

For COVID-19 to cause The Center’s closure after only two events is a huge, but temporary, setback. With so much at stake financially and culturally it is critical to maintain operations during these trying times such that, when we emerge from “lockdown” The Center will be poised to ramp up quickly and once again become the powerful economic driver it has been for the past 20 years.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to give final approval to the evaluation panel’s recommendation for awarding the grant in full.

Sincerely,  
Roger Stover  
Penn Valley, CA

September 21, 2020



**THE CENTER  
FOR THE ARTS**

Nevada County Board of Supervisors  
950 Maidu Ave, Ste 220  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for your strong commitment to those institutions that are anchors in Nevada County including The Center for the Arts. This year The Center celebrates its 20th Anniversary and by approving the resolution that is before you today, the Board of Supervisors will provide critical support that will allow The Center's work to continue for another impactful 20 years.

The Center provides up to 30 full and part-time jobs, engages more than 800 volunteers, 6000 individual members, 60 business partners and 7,500 youth each year. The Center champions local visual artists by providing exhibition space, and we collaborate with fellow nonprofit organizations to provide support for their special events and fundraisers.

Leaders in our community have invested \$3.1 million in our new state-of-the-art facility. Our events bring out of town visitors to area hotels. Our customers visit local shops and restaurants before and after events. And our sponsorship program promotes the goods and services of local businesses. Prior to the business interruption created by required closures, The Center was planning to host 120 concerts, 48 rentals, and 60,000 visitors per year. Our 2020 expenditures were projected at \$3,037,528. This spending supports jobs, creates household income and generates \$440,985 for local and state governments. In addition, our audiences were expected to spend more than \$1.7 million in local restaurants, shopping at retailers, paying babysitters, or having dessert after the show.

During these economically challenging times, this resolution will allow The Center to keep our doors open and fulfill our promise to the community. With this vital support we maintain jobs, support local artists, educate youth, and provide a necessary outlet for all to express themselves and to experience the full range of human emotions through the arts.

The arts are uniquely able to promote empathy and compassion, teaching us how to treat others with respect, work together to solve problems, and to be a positive part of our community. The arts are excellent for mental health and combat the effects of isolation. All of these qualities will only be more vital in a post COVID-19 world.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Amber Jo Manuel



THE CENTER  
FOR THE ARTS

Thank you for your support of this resolution. It is critical to preserving The Center, maintaining a vibrant sense of community, and the long-term health of our local economy.

Warmly,

Amber Jo Manuel  
Executive Director

**From:** [D.Fleming](#)  
**To:** [BOS Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Please Approve the CRF Resiliency Grants Program Recommendations (Please Read at Mtg)  
**Date:** Monday, September 21, 2020 12:03:12 PM

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(Please read during public comment at mtg.)

To the Esteemed Nevada County Board of Supervisors:

After revising the vision for the County to support our community's Anchor Institutions so that the process was more equitable, a RFP for Economic & Community Resiliency Grants Program was released, scored by the Evaluation Panel and funding recommendations were then made by County staff based on that data. It is our hope that you support these recommendations.

In their infinite wisdom and expertise in these matters, the Scoring Committee and Evaluation Panel recommended that the the Food Bank of Nevada County be awarded the \$100,000 that was requested to help cover and mitigate the additional expenses incurred by our organization due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you may know, the need for food in the County has increased exponentially due to the economic impact of the pandemic.

Whereas we used to feed 300-400 people per **month** at our Grass Valley distribution, we are now feeding between 1700 and 2500 each **week** just in Grass Valley! We are also supplying Truckee, Penn Valley, North San Juan and the little Town of Washington with food for distribution to address the increased hunger insecurity caused by the pandemic, PSPS and fires. We have also started a home delivery program for those who are homebound and cannot make it to a distribution.

As a frontline 501(c)3 providing the critical resource of food to our community for almost three and half decades, the Food Bank of Nevada County is the epidemic of a Nevada County *Anchor Institution* and undoubtedly plays a vital and enduring role supporting the greater Nevada County community. In addition to our primary function of feeding hungry families in need, we work closely with the Nevada County Office of Emergency Services, the Red Cross and other emergency organizations throughout the state. We are one of the first organization activated during an emergency and supply food, toiletries and other resources to disaster victims and emergency personnel during a crisis.

This funding is critical to enable us to continue to meet the ever growing need and will ensure that we can still procure, transport, store, sort, bag and distribute enough food to feed our County's families and children who are struggling to put food on the table through 2020. We hope that the Board agrees and supports the good work that staff and community members did to review, score and fulfill our funding request, as well as the other organizations that were recommended for funding.

The Food Bank and the community truly appreciates the efforts and funding the Board has and continues to provide so that our County can better address and survive the economic ravages



of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Best Regards,

Doug Fleming  
President - Board of Directors  
The Food Bank of Nevada County  
(323) 309-9728 (c)  
<http://foodbankofnc.org>