



COUNTY OF NEVADA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: November 10, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Mike Dent**

SUBJECT: Resolution approving execution of a Contract with Sierra Roots pertaining to the provision of a temporary non-congregant interim shelter for medically vulnerable homeless households and overflow emergency shelter during extreme weather events in the maximum amount of \$362,875 for Fiscal Year 2020/21 and Authorizing and Directing the Auditor-Controller to amend the Health and Human Services Agency Housing and Community Services Division's Budget for Fiscal Year 2020/21. (4/5 vote required)

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RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: This contract funded by previously allocated County General Fund dollars pursuant to the County Homeless Plan, County allocated CARES Act Funding, Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) grant funds, and California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) grant funds. A budget amendment for the 2020-2021 Housing and Community Services budget is included in this resolution. There are no additional County General Fund dollars required in the Contract.

BACKGROUND: Nevada County continues to support and improve shelter operations in Western County. The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic requires measures to safely operate shelters for vulnerable homeless Western County residents. Previous contracts for these services have centered on congregant sheltering operations. COVID-19 requires adapting shelter operations to meet social distancing guidelines that would be impossible in the previous congregant location used by the contractor.

County staff, in partnership with Sierra Roots, have developed a new approach that utilizes a non-congregant model located in hotel rooms. These rooms will be operated for the winter season,

beginning November 1, 2020, and through June 30, 2020, and will be offered to individuals identified by the Contractor, in coordination with partner agencies, who are deemed medically vulnerable. Proactively identifying those most at risk to both extreme weather and COVID-19 and placing them throughout the winter months in a non-congregant setting will reduce COVID-19 exposure and transmission risk while also providing a safe and warm location during the winter weather months.

Additionally, the Contractor will work with Public Health to access capacity at the Nevada City Veterans Building for a limited extreme weather triggered shelter operation. The Contractor, working with County Public Health, will assess the new location to determine a safe capacity to operate an emergency “overflow” shelter during extreme weather events. The location will be outfitted to accommodate a Public Health approved number of guests during these weather events. The shelter will open on days that weather threshold criteria, as determined by County management, have been met. The shelter will operate between the hours of 4:30pm and 8:00am during these designated severe weather events. The shelter will provide clean, socially distanced space for guests and a safe and a sanitary environment for western county residents experiencing homelessness.

It is recommended that the Board approve this Agreement as it will support implementation of non-congregant shelter and a limited capacity extreme weather shelter for vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness in the Nevada City area.

Item Initiated and Approved by: Mike Dent, Director, Child Support, Collections,
Housing and Community Services