



**NEVADA COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

Department of Social Services

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: December 15, 2020

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rachel Roos

SUBJECT: Resolution accepting funding award from the California Department of Social Services, Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) in the amount of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year 20/21 to be used for the Nevada County SOARWorks Program, upon acceptance and available through June 30, 2021.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The SOAR Works program is funded with monies appropriated through the State of California 2020 Budget Act. The State allocation is \$150,000 (County Fiscal Letter CFL 20/21-36) and the monies are available through June 30, 2021. Additionally, the remaining balance from FY 17/18 and 18/19 of a combined \$150,981, previously accepted per Resolutions 20-164, 18-167 and 18-093, will also be used, bringing the total FY 20/21 amount available to \$300,981. The program requires a 100% County match contribution which will come from the following sources: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration – Grants to Benefit Homeless Individuals (GBHI), Regional Housing Authority Allocated Housing Choice Vouchers, already contracted County General Funds that are allowable match sources and Mental Health Services Act Funding (MHSA). A budget amendment is not needed at this time.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Social Services has secured funding made available through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). This renewed funding offered by CDSS that supports the Housing and Disability Income Advocacy Program (HDAP). Funding will be used to support continued operations and integration of SOARWorks. SSI/SSDI Outreach, and Recovery (SOAR) is a program designed to increase access to SSI/SSDI for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a serious mental illness, medical impairment, and/or a co-occurring substance use disorder. The program provides specialized case management and advocacy to individuals experiencing homelessness who may be eligible for social security or disability benefits but who do not currently receive such funds. Nevada County currently contracts with FREED Center for Independent Living who utilizes SOAR-trained case managers who have successfully used the model to gain benefits for homeless individuals.

With this funding we will further implement the county's Coordinated Entry System to fully integrate SOARWorks into the county's Continuum of Care (CoC). Funds will be used to implement program oversight and coordination, offset costs accrued by SOARWorks caseworkers, and develop tools to increase the team's capacity to initiate applications for SSI/SSDI benefits and assist these individuals through the entire application process including potential appeals. Additionally, funding will be provided to place participants into temporary or permanent housing while they await award determination.

These funds will support a program that addresses housing and resource needs for eligible individuals who are homeless. This program was designed to leverage increased county-wide coordination of services, the coordinated entry system, and housing first strategies, all part of the the overall Nevada County Strategic Plan to address Homelessness.

Item Initiated by: Brendan Phillips, Health and Human Services Agency Program Manager