



Agenda Item

47

DATE: February 24, 2015
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Delfino E. Neira, Director, Department of Social Services *g/Bueno for*
SUBJECT: Agreement with Fresno Housing Authority for CalWORKs Housing Support Program Services

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Adopt Budget Resolution Increasing FY 2014-15 appropriations and estimated revenues for the Department of Social Services Org 56107001 in the amount of \$854,049 (4/5 vote).
2. Make a finding that it is in the best interest of the County to waive the competitive bidding process consistent with Administrative Policy No. 34 for unusual or extraordinary circumstances for the solicitation of CalWORKs Housing Support Program services.
3. Approve and authorize the Chairman to execute an Agreement with Fresno Housing Authority for CalWORKs Housing Support Program services, effective February 24, 2015, not to exceed two years and five months, which includes a five-month base contract, to align with the remainder of the current budget year, and two optional one-year extensions, total not to exceed \$2,097,609 for Org 56107001.

Approval of the recommended actions will allow the Department to incorporate California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Housing Support funds into the FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget, waive the competitive bid process for the provision of Housing Support Program (HSP) services, and allow the Department to offer rapid re-housing and coordinated assessment services to homeless Fresno County residents receiving CalWORKs, with no net County cost.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

There are no viable alternative actions. Should your Board direct the Department to issue a RFP for services, the Department will be unable to expend the funds timely and would be operating outside of the Department's plan approved by the State for the operation of a CalWORKs Housing Support

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW

Page 1 of 3



Official Action of
Board of Supervisors

APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED

UNANIMOUS ☒ BORGEAS _____ MENDES _____ PACHECO _____ PEREA _____ POOCHIGIAN _____

Program.

SUSPENSION OF COMPETITION CONTRACT:

The recommended action to waive the competitive bid process is consistent with Administrative Policy 34 as Fresno Housing Authority is uniquely able to provide the requested services. A partnership with the Fresno Housing Authority was written into the plan proposal that was approved by the State. The Internal Services Department – Purchasing concurs with the waiver of the competitive bid process.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no increase in net County cost associated with the recommended actions. If approved, the recommended Budget Resolution (\$854,049) will increase Org 56107001 FY 2014-15 services and supplies appropriations, of which \$785,725 will be contracted to Fresno Housing Authority. The remaining portion of \$68,324 will be retained by the Department for administration of the program.

The maximum cost of the recommended Agreement for the period of February 24, 2015 through June 30, 2017 is \$2,097,609 and will be entirely offset with CalWORKs HSP funds. Sufficient appropriations to fund the Agreement will be included in the FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17 Requested Budgets for Organization 5610.

DISCUSSION:

In early 2014, the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) received authority from the California Legislature and the Governor to launch a new housing support program for CalWORKs families. CDSS requested plans from County Welfare Departments interested in implementing or expanding a housing support program in their county. Per Senate Bill (SB) 855 (Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014), housing support in the CalWORKs program is necessary to assist families working towards achieving self-sufficiency. The Department submitted a plan to CDSS on August 15, 2014 and was subsequently allocated \$854,049 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15.

Homelessness in the CalWORKs program is a challenging problem that impacts children's well-being and parents' ability to engage in employment. One longitudinal study found that over a three year period, one in four families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, known as CalWORKs in California, had experienced homelessness, and that nearly half had moved into a shared housing situation in order to manage housing expenses.

The Department's Homeless Assistance (HA) Unit assists eligible CalWORKs families with temporary shelter while seeking permanent housing, and once found, provides assistance in securing permanent housing. Families may receive this assistance once per lifetime, with few exceptions. In 2013, over 400 families were denied HA assistance because they were either ineligible or had already utilized this once in a lifetime assistance. The Department identified this gap in service as an important target population for the Housing Support Program.

The Department will partner with Fresno Housing Authority to provide the Housing Support Program by utilizing a Coordinated Access Housing Match (CAHM) system which includes a common assessment tool and housing matching system. The CAHM system will give the Fresno Housing Authority the ability to tailor assistance based on the family's needs and will determine not only who is eligible for a specific service, but who has the greatest need. Utilization of the CAHM system moves assignment of housing assistance away from a "first come-first served" basis and instead looks at the chronicity, medical vulnerability, acuity, or ability to address the homelessness issue. Use of this process will also allow services to be rendered with minimal interruption to the family's self-sufficiency. Fresno Housing Authority will receive referrals from school districts throughout the County including Fresno Unified School District's Project Access and from the Department's HA unit.

The Department has two other Agreements with Fresno Housing Authority totaling \$277,832. The recommended Agreement is effective February 24, 2015 through June 30, 2015 and may be renewed for two subsequent 12-month periods. The Agreement may be terminated without cause by the contractor, County, or the Department's Director or designee with a 30 day advance written notice. In the event of non-allocation of funding, the services provided may be modified, or this Agreement terminated by County or Department's Director, or designee at any time by giving Contractor thirty (30) days advance written notice.

DEN:sw