# THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

DEPT: Planning and Community Development

BOARD AGENDA:6.D.3 AGENDA DATE: July 14, 2020

#### SUBJECT:

Authorization to Submit an Administrative Entity Award Recommendation Package for the State of California Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus, Relief, and Economic Security Act Stimulus Program to the California Department of Housing and Community Development

#### **BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2020-0359**

On motion of Superv	isor <u>Chiesa</u>	Seconded by Supervisor	Withrow					
and approved by the following vote,								
Ayes: Supervisors:	Chiesa, Withrow	w, Berryhill, DeMartini and Chairwoman Olsen						
		None						
Excused or Absent: \$	Supervisors:	None						
Abstaining: Supervis	or:	None						

- 1) X Approved as recommended
- 2) Denied
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

MOTION:

ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors ATTEST:

# THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS AGENDA ITEM

DEPT: Planning and Community Development

BOARD AGENDA:6.D.3 AGENDA DATE: July 14, 2020

CONSENT: 📈

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

# SUBJECT:

Authorization to Submit an Administrative Entity Award Recommendation Package for the State of California Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus, Relief, and Economic Security Act Stimulus Program to the California Department of Housing and Community Development

# **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. Adopt a Resolution to authorize the Director of Planning and Community Development to participate in the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) State Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (ESG-CV) Stimulus Program.
- 2. Authorize the Director of Planning and Community Development to submit an Administrative Entity (AE) Award Recommendation Package to HCD for the State ESG-CV Stimulus Program.
- 3. Authorize the County to accept, if awarded, the State ESG-CV Stimulus Program funding and authorize the Director of Planning and Community Development to execute an Administrative Entity Standard Agreement with HCD.
- 4. Authorize the Director of Planning and Community Development to execute any related program agreements, contracts, certifications or other documentation required for implementation of the State ESG-CV Stimulus Program funding awarded to Stanislaus County by HCD. This authorization includes the use of any program income in accordance with applicable program guidelines.

# **DISCUSSION:**

On March 27, 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The CARES Act identified additional funding for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to support efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the community impacts of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The distribution plan of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the CARES Act funding includes multiple phases: an initial phase that would allow for quick access to funding necessary to address the immediate crisis resulting from the rising pandemic, as well as later phases that would support post- pandemic community recovery.

In response to the CARES Act, Stanislaus County has received a phase one ESG (ESG-CV1) allocation from both HUD and HCD. This item addresses only the HCD State CARES Act ESG-CV1 allocation. A separate item addressing the HUD ESG and CDBG CARES Act phase one allocations will be presented to the Board of Supervisors as a separate item on July 28, 2020. Stanislaus County has also received a phase two ESG (ESG-CV2) allocation from HUD, which will also be presented to the Board of Supervisors on July 28, 2020.

HCD administers the ESG program with funding received from the HUD ESG program funding allocation. The ESG program provides funding to: (1) engage homeless individuals and families living on the street; (2) improve the number and quality of emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families; (3) help operate these shelters; (4) provide essential services to shelter residents; (5) rapidly re-house homeless individuals and families; and (6) prevent families/individuals from becoming homeless. The County's Planning and Community Development Department serves as the Administrative Entity (AE) for Stanislaus Community System of Care (CSoC), federally recognized as the local Turlock/Modesto/Stanislaus County Continuum of Care (CoC).

HCD released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the State's ESG-CV1 funding on June 1, 2020 and identified Stanislaus County to receive an estimated \$857,100 in ESG-CV1 funding as the AE for the CoC service area. Unlike regular State ESG funds, the ESG-CV funds will have no match requirement, and no maximum or minimum requirement for eligible activities. The County will be allowed to utilize approximately 10% of the allocation for administration of the program. Currently approved AEs will be allowed to submit a plan to quickly distribute the funding in the community, while still following local procurement and protocol rules.

The ESG-CV1 CARES funds are to be utilized to address homelessness and may be used for the current ESG eligible activities related to crisis response including:

- 1. Emergency Shelter (ES),
- 2. Homeless Prevention (HP),
- 3. Street Outreach (SO),
- 4. Rapid Re-Housing (RR), and
- 5. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

In anticipation of the receipt of State and Federal ESG-CV1 funding, along with Federal CDBG-CV1 funding, the Planning & Community Development Department developed a NOFA aimed at awarding funding to local non-profits. The NOFA was developed in collaboration with the Stanislaus Community Foundation and the United Way of Stanislaus to assess the impact COVID-19 has had on the community and on local non-profit organizations. Also participating in the collaborative effort is the County's Community Services Agency and the City of Modesto. The goal of this collaborative effort is to improve the distribution of funding available to assist with COVID-19 impacts to a broader range of non-profits. Staff from all funding entities have committed to working together to share application criteria and funding award information in an effort

to inform the overall collective process of providing funding to non-profits aimed at meeting community needs. County staff also worked with the CSoC, the Stanislaus Homeless Alliance (SHA) and service providers, to identify gaps in services and community needs and to establish funding prioritization.

On May 13, 2020, the SHA accepted the following funding prioritization recommendations for the programing and awarding of the State's ESG-CV1 CARES funding:

- ✓ Support the needs of existing shelter operations
- Address unexpected operations and supply costs not covered by other available funding sources
- Support the development of housing units aimed at transitional and permanent supportive housing
- ✓ Support rapid re-housing
- $\lor$  Support homeless prevention

On May 21, 2020, the Stanislaus Community System of Care (CSoC) approved use of the funding prioritization recommendations for the programing and awarding of State ESG-CV1 CARES funding. The Planning Department will continue to work with the County's Community Services Agency and other local homeless services funders to identify the best use for any future phases of CARES Act ESG and CDBG funding.

The County's CDBG-CV1 and ESG-CV1 NOFA was released on June 1, 2020 and a Grant Technical Workshop that was required for all potential applicants was held via a Skype video conference call on June 3, 2020, with a 10-day period to submit applications provided. The NOFA was distributed to all agencies that participate in the CSoC, previous and present Stanislaus County CDBG and ESG Program applicants, and participating agencies and individuals in the County's Focus on Prevention Initiative.

Five grant applications requesting a total of \$886,440 in funding were received in response to the NOFA. The NOFA was based on the original estimated State ESG-CV1 funding allocation amount of \$857,100 and included a statement that award recommendations including caps and eligible activities may be increased or decreased based on the actual amount awarded by HCD. All applications have been scored by an eleven-member Grant Review Panel comprised of one representative from each of the following: Stanislaus County, the CSoC, and the cities of Ceres, Hughson, Newman, Patterson, Oakdale, Modesto, Riverbank, Turlock and Waterford.

As reflected in Attachment 1 – Ranking List of State Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG-CV1) CARES Act Stimulus Program Funding Recommendations and Applications Received, the top four grant applicants are recommended to receive the full amount that was requested in their grant applications. The remaining \$39,850 has

been divided equally among the top four grant applicants, as recommended by the Grant Review Panel.

The following is an overview of activities recommended for funding:

# Center for Human Services (CHS)

#### Youth Low Barrier Shelter: \$164,112.50

CHS has over 36 years of experience offering shelter services for youth in the community between the ages of 13-17 through the agency's Pathways and Hutton House programs. In a typical year, the agency shelters approximately 300 youth, conducts a minimum of 100 crisis stabilization sessions and provides the community with a 24-hour crisis line. Grant funds will be used for the operation of a new emergency shelter for youth between the ages of 13 and 24 years of age. The proposed shelter will add 24 shelter beds and provide meals, case management and the opportunity for youth not currently housed to stabilize and begin engaging in supportive services. Funds will also be utilized to prepare and protect clients and staff from COVID-19.

### **Community Housing and Shelter Services (CHSS)**

Rapid Re-Housing Program: \$209,962.50

CHSS has over 35 years in experience administering and providing supportive housing programs in Stanislaus County. The vision of the agency is to transition families/individuals from temporary emergency shelter or motel vouchers programs into permanent rental housing and assist those that are at-risk of becoming homeless. The agency offers the entire spectrum of housing services for residents that includes housing counseling, emergency shelter, rental assistance, and permanent housing supportive services. Grant funds will be used to assist households with minor children by providing rental assistance, intensive on-going case management, and supportive services to transition them from shelters to stable housing. Funds will also be utilized to prepare and protect clients and staff from COVID-19.

### Family Promise of Greater Modesto

#### New Beginnings Shelter to Solutions Program: \$209,962.50

Family Promise has provided shelter and homeless prevention services to homeless families in Stanislaus County for 15 years. The agency provides wrap around services to support families with children from homelessness to stable housing. The emergency shelter program strengthens families by providing a safe place where homeless families can stay together during a housing crisis. The Family Promise Day Center operates as a home base for the families during the day with showers, laundry facilities and resources for jobs, housing search, rental and utility assistance, and case management. Grant funds will allow for the agency to continue to provide shelter, supportive services and expenses that resulted from COVID-19 in order to adhere to safety standards and procedures to prevent and protect from COVID-19.

### The Salvation Army, Citadel

The Berberian Homeless Shelter and Transitional Living Center Program: \$142,252.50 The Salvation Army has been providing services in Stanislaus County for over one hundred and twenty-six years, establishing the Modesto Citadel in March 1890. In 2005, The Salvation Army opened the Berberian Homeless Shelter and Transitional Living Center in Modesto. The shelter facility has the capacity to shelter up to 170 homeless individuals a night along with providing meals and supportive services. The shelter operates seven days a week the entire year. Although the shelter is based in Modesto, the shelter provides services to homeless individuals throughout the County. Grant funds will be used for shelter operations, services, case management and expenses resulting from COVID-19 that were necessary to adhere to health and safety standards.

#### Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

HMIS and CES Support Services: \$85,710

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 requires that all communities have an HMIS with the capacity to collect unduplicated counts of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. A HMIS system assists a community to be able to collect information from projects serving homeless families and individuals to use as part of their needs analyses and to establish funding priorities. It is a federal requirement for any organization that receives ESG or CoC funding to have their client information collected and entered into a HMIS system.

HCD allows the AE to utilize up to 10% of the ESG-CV1 funds, \$85,710, for HMIS activities, including CES activities. In the past, the County has distributed the HMIS funding amongst the recommended grant applicants to cover costs with data entry into the HMIS system. This year, the CSoC, has recommended that the HMIS funding be provided to the CoC's Collaborative Applicant which serves as the HMIS lead agency. As such, this year's funding recommendation is to fund the CoC's HMIS lead agency, the Community Services Agency. The funding will cover administrative costs associated with data management and data entry support impacted by COVID-19. If other funding will be divided amongst the agencies awarded funding. Based on HCD's timing for release of past funding, staff does not anticipate this current funding to be available for use until early 2021.

The funding proposed in Attachment 1 will be adjusted proportionately based on the final State ESG-CV1 funding award. If any of the recommended agencies are determined to be ineligible or unable to perform as proposed, funding will shift to the other agencies, provided the agencies can demonstrate capacity for the timely expenditure of funds.

An AE Award Recommendation Package must be submitted to HCD by July 20, 2020, in order for the AE to remain eligible for final awarding of the State ESG-CV1 funding. The Package consists of the following:

- A Ranking List of State (ESG-CV1) Stimulus Program Funding Recommendations and Applications Received (Attachment 1)
- An Authorizing Resolution (Attachment 2)
- A Selection Process Certification Letter (Attachment 3)

The Selection Process Certification Letter describes the AE's process for awarding funding and serves to certify that the awarding process has met the following HCD requirements:

- A fair and open competition which avoids conflicts of interest;
- Procurement requirements of 24 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 84;
- Evaluation of provider capacity and experience (including the ability to deliver services in non-entitlement areas);
- Evaluation of eligibility and quality of services (including adherence to Core Practices pursuant to Section 8409 of HCD's ESG Program regulations);
- Utilization of data and consideration of community input to identify unmet needs;
- Prioritization of activities that addressed the highest unmet need, consideration of other available funding, and system-wide performance measures;
- Consideration of project-level performance measures when evaluating proposals; and
- Collaboration with the Continuum of Care.

In accordance with HCD's requirements for ESG-CV1 funding, the AE will ensure that all funded activities are available throughout the entire CoC Service Area using the Coordinated Entry System and other means.

In addition, the County will be required to enter into an AE Standard Agreement (SA) with HCD prior to release of funds. As of this date, HCD has not released the AE SA. The AE SA for the administration of the funds will be released after the AE Award Recommendation Package is received and approved by HCD. This item authorizes the Director of Planning and Community Development to execute the AE SA.

# POLICY ISSUE:

The State ESG-CV1 CARES Program funding will serve to provide needed housing and services to homeless individuals and families throughout Stanislaus County, consistent with the County's Focus on Prevention efforts and the individual Housing Element General Plan policies of Stanislaus County and the nine cities within the County.

ESG-CV1 CARES Program funding may be applied across jurisdictional boundaries; however, as the Administrative Entity entering into a Standard Agreement with California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), Stanislaus County will be accountable for the financial and operational administration of these funds in conformance with HCD and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations.

# FISCAL IMPACT:

California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) provides ESG-CV1 CARES Act Stimulus Program funds on a reimbursement basis for claimed eligible costs up to \$857,100 for Fiscal Years 2020-2021. The funds include \$45,100 as an administrative allowance with a balance of \$812,000 to be reimbursed for eligible services. Administrative costs not covered by the administrative allowance will be funded by available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) administrative funds or other department special revenues eligible for use. The ESG-CV1 CARES Act Stimulus Program funding is available for use through June 30, 2022. Appropriations and estimated revenue have been included as part of the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget.

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

Approval of this action supports the Board's priority of *Supporting Strong & Safe Neighborhoods, Supporting Community Health,* and *Delivering Efficient Public Services and Community Infrastructure* through the allocation of funds necessary to implement needed programs and projects.

### STAFFING IMPACT:

Additional administrative duties will be assumed by existing Planning and Community Development staff.

# CONTACT PERSON:

Angela Freitas, Planning & Community Development Director

Telephone (209) 525-6330

# ATTACHMENT(S):

- 1. Ranking List of State ESG CARES Awards and Applications
- 2. ESG-CV1 CARES Authorizing Resolution to HCD
- 3. CA-ESG-CV1 CARES Selection Process Certification Letter

# ATTACHMENT 1

Ranking List of State (ESG-CV1) Stimulus Program Funding Recommendations and Applications Received											
RANKING	SCORE	AGENCY	PROGRAM NAME	PROGRAM TYPE	FOCUS AREA*	GRANT	OTHER FUNDING	OTHER FUNDING AMOUNT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	FUNDING RECOMMENDATION	
N/A	N/A	Stanislaus County	Program Administration	Administration	County-wide	CA-ESG- CV1 CARES	Housing and Urban Development	N/A	N/A	\$ 45,100.00	
N/A	N/A	Stanislaus County	HMIS System	HMIS Data Support and Services	County-wide	CA-ESG- CV1 CARES	Housing and Urban Development	N/A	N/A	\$ 85,710.00	
1	193.45	Family Promise of Greater Modesto	Shelter to Solutions Program	Emergency Shelter, Rapid Re- Housing and Homeless Prevention	County-wide	CA-ESG- CV1 CARES	Housing and Urban Development, Private Donations, Fundraising, Housing and Community Development	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 209,962.50	
2	188.36	Community Housing and Shelter Services (CHSS)	Emergency Shelter and Rental Assistance Solutions	Emergency Shelter, Rapid Re- Housing and Homeless Prevention	County-wide	CA-ESG- CV1 CARES	Housing and Urban Development, Fundraising, Housing and Community Development	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 209,962.50	
3	182.82	The Salvation Army	Salvation Army Haig and Isabel Berberian Homeless Shelter and Transitional Living Center	Emergency Shelter	County-wide	CA-ESG- CV1 CARES	Housing and Urban Development, Housing and Community Development, Private Donation	\$ 730,744.00	\$ 132,290.40	\$ 142,252.50	
4	179.64	Center for Human Services	Low Barrier Youth Shelter	Emergency Shelter	County-wide	CA-ESG- CV1 CARES	Housing and Urban Development, Private Donations, Fundraising, Housing and Community Development	\$ 574,233.00	\$ 154,150.21	\$ 164,112.50	
5	137.64	Turning Point Community Programs	Housing Assessment Team	Street Outreach	County-wide	CA-ESG- CV1 CARES	Private Donations and Fundraising	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	
Total CA-ESG-CV1 CARES Grant Amounts Requested/Recommended for Award						\$ 2,364,977.00	\$ 886,440.61	\$ 857,100.00			

Bold, Italic, and Shaded = Recommended for Funding

#### THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

No. 2020-0359

Date:	July 14, 2020 On motion of Supervisor <u>Chi</u> and approved by the following vot		Seconded by SupervisorWithrow					
	Ayes: Supervisors:		Withrow,	Berryhill,	DeMartir	ni, and Ch	airwoman	Olsen
	Noes: Supervisors:	None						
	Excused or Absent: Supervisors:	None			****			
	Abstaining: Supervisor:	None						

#### THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

Item # 6.D.3

# Resolution Approving the Submittal of an Administrative Entity Award Recommendations Package to the California Department of Housing and Community Development to the State Emergency Solutions Grants Program for the CARES Act Allocation

WHEREAS the State of California (the "State"), Department of Housing and Community Development ("Department") issued a Notice of Funding Availability ("NOFA") dated June 1, 2020 under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocation to the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program (hereinafter referred to as the "Program," or "ESG-CV"); and

WHEREAS County of Stanislaus is an approved State ESG Administrative Entity; and

WHEREAS the Department may approve funding allocations for the ESG-CV Program, subject to the terms and conditions of the NOFA, Program regulations and requirements, and the Standard Agreement and other contracts between Department and ESG-CV grant recipients; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. If County of Stanislaus receives a grant of ESG-CV funds from the Department pursuant to the above referenced ESG-CV NOFA, it represents and certifies that it will use all such funds in a manner consistent and in compliance with all applicable state and federal statutes, rules, regulations, and laws, including without limitation all rules and laws regarding the ESG-CV Program, as well as any and all contracts Applicant may have with the Department.

2. County of Stanislaus is hereby authorized and directed to receive an ESG-CV grant, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 in accordance with all applicable rules and laws.

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3. County of Stanislaus hereby agrees to use the ESG-CV funds for eligible activities as approved by the Department and in accordance with all Program requirements, and other rules and laws, as well as in a manner consistent and in compliance with the Standard Agreement and other contracts between the County of Stanislaus and the Department.

4. Angela Freitas, Director of Planning and Community Development, is authorized to execute the Standard Agreement and any subsequent amendments or modifications thereto, as well as any other documents which are related to the Program or the ESG-CV grant awarded to County of Stanislaus, as the Department may deem appropriate.

ATTEST: ELIZABETH A. KING, Clerk Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, State of California

Elyabeth

File No.



July 14, 2020

Gustavo Velasquez Director - HCD Emergency Solutions Grants Program Community Development Division of Financial Assistance P.O. Box 952054 Sacramento, CA 94252-2054

# Re: State ESG-CV CARES Notice of Funding Availability Selection Process Certification Letter

Dear Mr. Velasquez

Stanislaus County has been working in collaboration with the Stanislaus Community System of Care (CSoC), federally recognized as the local Continuum of Care (CoC), for over 21 years to improve services for the homeless and those at risk of homelessness. As an Administrative Entity (AE) for the California Department of Housing and Community Development's (HCD) Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program we have strengthened this partnership through our commitment of identifying and working together to better serve the residents of the CoC service area which equals all of Stanislaus County.

This letter is to explain the County's grant cycle process and certify that we have met the State's ESG-CV CARES Program requirements in awarding the recommended sub-grantees as per State ESG Program regulation section 8403(g).

On June 1, 2020, Stanislaus County released the County's CDBG and ESG CARES 2019 Allocation Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). The NOFA was distributed to all agencies that participate in the CoC, previous and present County CDBG and ESG applicants, participating agencies and individuals in the County's Focus on Prevention Initiative and its action councils. A Grant Technical Workshop was held on June 3, 2020 via a Skype video conference call to provide potential applicants an overview of the grant application and guidelines.

An invitation was sent to all city managers and their housing staff in the CoC service area to participate in the grant evaluation process. Applications received were reviewed and scored by the Grant Review Panel consisting of representatives from each city of the CoC service area, a representative from

Stanislaus County, and a member of the CoC. All grant applicants were required to make a 15-minute presentation (via video conference call) to the Grant Review Panel regarding their proposed program on June 16, 2020. Panel members were allowed to ask questions related to the grant applications and were provided with scoring criteria and scoring sheets for each grant application. The grant review panel was asked to evaluate the applicant's capacity and experience, including the ability to deliver services in non-entitlement areas. Each applicant was evaluated on their capacity in operating a program, experience in administration of federal funds, preparation and/or impact of Covid-19, the quality of services they provide to the community, and the adherence to the Core Practices pursuant to section 8409 of the State ESG regulations.

Scoring results and comments were collected by program staff at the end of the grant review panel presentations and tallied. Funding recommendations were made based on the ranking scores for each of the individual applications (highest to lowest) and funding availability per eligible program activity. Prioritization of the highest unmet need, consideration of other available funding, and systemwide performance measures were part of the scoring criteria that the Grant Review Panel utilized. On June 1, 2020, County staff received confirmation on ESG-CV allocation estimates and prepared funding recommendations based on the allocation amount of \$875,100. The top four scoring applications were then presented to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors for approval on July 14, 2020.

As the AE for the State ESG-CV Program funds, Stanislaus County can certify that we have complied with the State regulations for the program. Prior to being designated as the AE, the County utilized data from the Stanislaus Urban County/City of Turlock Consolidated Plan, community input from the CoC, and community meetings to identify service gaps and community needs. A fair and open competitive grant application process was conducted for the State ESG-CV Program funds in collaboration with the CoC.

Sincerely,

Angela Freitas Director of Planning and Community Development