



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 1/12/2021
Agenda Placement: 10M

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Helene Franchi for Minh Tran - County Executive Officer
Housing and Homeless Services
REPORT BY: Molly Rattigan, Deputy County Executive Officer - 253-4112
SUBJECT: Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Grant Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Housing and Homeless Services requests authorization for the Director of Housing and Homeless Services or the County Executive Officer to submit the following grant applications and sign subsequent documents as follows:

1. A grant application in the amount of \$160,645 on behalf of Napa County for rental assistance and housing support services;
2. A grant application in the amount of \$250,000 on behalf of the Napa City & County Continuum of Care for rental assistance and housing support services; and
3. To sign subsequent loan documents and agreements with the State of California and the Continuum of Care regarding these two grant applications.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) has made available grant funding for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) program. HHAP is a \$300 million block grant program designed to provide local jurisdictions with one-time funds to support regional coordination and to expand or develop local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges throughout the state. The \$300 million in one-time funding is available on a formula basis to large cities, counties, and continuums of care. HHAP is authorized by AB 83 (Committee on Budget, Chapter 15, Statutes of 2020), which was signed into law by Governor Gavin Newsom on June 29, 2020.

Today's action authorizes two HHAP applications on behalf of Napa County. County staff have worked with members of the Napa City & County Continuum of Care (CoC) and its leadership to jointly identify eligible projects and activities for the HHAP funding. Further, the Napa City & County CoC authorized the CoC Chair to file its intent

to Redirect Program Allocation to Napa County. The combined allocations of CoC and County HHAP funds requested in this application will meet urgent and continuing needs by providing rental assistance and case management support.

FISCAL & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	State Funds
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary
Discretionary Justification:	This item is discretionary in that there is no mandate to accept HHAP funds. Napa County has been allocated these flexible funds to assist the community with addressing needs of the homeless population. Staff has identified eligible expenditures to help meet the need to provide flexible rental assistance and tenancy care support.
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	Funds will likely be expended through Fiscal Year 2022-2023.
Consequences if not approved:	If this item is not approved, Napa County will not receive state allocated funding for homeless services.
County Strategic Plan pillar addressed:	Healthy, Safe, and Welcoming Place to Live, Work, and Visit
Additional Information:	

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The HHAP program was signed into law on June 29, 2020 by Governor Gavin Newsom. HHAP is a \$300 million block grant that provides local jurisdictions with funds to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges.

The HHAP program requires grantees to expend funds on evidence-based solutions that address and prevent homelessness among eligible populations. As stated in HSC § 50219(c)(1-8), funds shall be expended on any of the following:

1. Rental assistance and rapid rehousing.
2. Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers. Operating subsidies may include operating reserves.
3. Landlord Incentives (including, but not limited to, security deposits and holding fees).

4. Outreach and coordination (which may include access to jobs programs) to assist vulnerable populations in accessing permanent housing and to promote housing stability in supportive housing.
5. Systems support for activities necessary to create regional partnership and maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system particularly for vulnerable populations including families and homeless youth.
6. Delivery of permanent housing and innovative housing solutions (such as hotel and motel conversion).
7. Prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing.
8. New navigation centers and emergency shelters based on demonstrated need.

Demonstrated need for new navigation centers and emergency shelters shall be based on the following:

1. The number of available shelter beds in a jurisdiction;
2. The shelter vacancy rate in the summer and winter months;
3. The percentage of exits from emergency shelter to permanent housing solutions; and
4. A plan to connect residents to permanent housing.

In addition, grantees shall not use HHAP grant program funding to supplant existing local funds for homeless housing, assistance, or prevention.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for HHAP funding include the 44 Continuums of Care (CoC's), 58 Counties, and 13 largest cities with populations greater than 300,000 (as of January 1, 2020) in the state. Individuals, cities not identified as one of the 13 largest cities, and nonprofit organizations are not eligible to apply directly.

In designing the program, HCFC acknowledged there are jurisdictions that want to redirect their HHAP program allocations to their partnering CoC, large City or County. Therefore, in lieu of directly applying for their program allocation, eligible applicants may redirect their HHAP program allocation to another eligible applicant in their same region. The Napa City and County CoC has opted to redirect their allocation to the County of Napa.

Local HHAP Grant Allocations

Napa City & County CoC Allocation: \$250,000

Napa County Allocation: \$160,645

Proposed Grant Applications

Rental assistance and case management services continues to be the greatest need in the homeless services system to ensure access to safe and stable housing. The County's application will include the option for both rental assistant and supportive case management services, including mental health support, for clients seeking housing or in need of tenancy care to maintain housing.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Samuel Ross