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NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Alice Hughey for Randy Snowden - Director
Health & Human Services
REPORT BY: Shelli Brobst, Contracts Analyst, 253-4720
SUBJECT: Transitional Housing Program for Emancipated Foster/Probation Youth

RECOMMENDATION

Director of Health and Human Services requests approval of a two-year pilot project to implement a THP-Plus Transitional Housing Program plan for emancipated foster youth, subject to the condition that the provider is held fully responsible for obtaining the 60 percent required local match from sources other than the County.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State funding is available to assist counties in their efforts to provide housing for emancipated foster youth through the THP-Plus transitional housing program. This action approves the submission of Napa County's two-year pilot project plan to the State to obtain THP-Plus funding. The County is submitting this plan as an accommodation to Progress Foundation in order to provide access to THP-Plus state funds to supplement other funding raised by Progress Foundation for this purpose.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	The total projected budget for the plan in Fiscal Year 2006-2007 is \$174,800, of which \$104,880 is the 60 percent County share and \$69,920 is the 40 percent State share.

The State will reimburse the County for 40 percent of the costs incurred under the THP-Plus program from the State Transitional Housing for Foster Youth Fund. The remaining 60 percent County share of costs will be reimbursed from sources other than the County. The Board's approval is being

requested on the condition that the provider is held fully responsible for obtaining the 60 percent local match from sources other than the County.

Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? Discretionary

Discretionary Justification: In June 2002, the California Department of Social Services released a report indicating that 65 percent of the youth who emancipated from foster care during Fiscal Year 2000-2001 were in need of safe, affordable housing. The THP-Plus housing program will enable the community to bring State housing resources to Napa. Without the implementation of the THP-Plus program, emancipated foster youth will be unable to access safe, affordable housing.

Is the general fund affected? No

Future fiscal impact: This is a two-year pilot project. Progress Foundation has represented in writing that the matching funds required in Fiscal Years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 are available through a partnership of local funders. In the second year, utilization will either be the same total client months as served in the first year (achieved by monitoring the admission of new clients as vacancies occur) or will be based upon a higher utilization figure set by the amount of matching funds available. Therefore, there is no county cost to this proposal in Fiscal Years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. At the end of the two-year pilot, if it is agreed to continue the project, Progress Foundation has stated that the project will be scaled to reflect the resources available for the county match portion of the funding.

Consequences if not approved: Emancipated foster youth will be unable to obtain safe, affordable housing.

Additional Information: The State requires that the County's plan include a maximum rate that can be paid for housing services for emancipated youth. The rate cannot exceed 70 percent of the average monthly foster care payment made for 16- to 18-year-olds in Napa County. Under this requirement, the monthly rate paid per youth cannot exceed \$3,841.

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

In June 2002, the California Department of Social Services released a report indicating that 65 percent of the youth who emancipated from foster care during Fiscal Year 2000-2001 were in need of safe, affordable housing. Napa County currently has a community-wide initiative to improve services for "emancipating foster youth," those youth from ages 16-24 who age out of the foster care system to adulthood. This initiative is part of a three-year plan and involves Health and Human Services, Probation, the County Office of Education, Progress Foundation, Aldea, On-The-Verge and a number of local private funders, including the Gasser Foundation, the Vintners Association and the Community Foundation.

The first phase of this initiative was to create a youth-friendly center that would become a hub of services for this

population. The VOICES center, located at 1830 Soscol Avenue in Napa, opened in November 2005 and continues to provide services to the community. The second phase of the initiative focuses on housing for emancipated foster youth. The Transitional Housing Placement-Plus (THP-Plus) housing program will enable the community to bring housing resources to Napa.

The THP-Plus plan describes the proposed implementation of the THP-Plus program for emancipated foster youth (youth aged 18-21) in Napa County. As required, this plan is compliant with Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16522 through 16522.6. If approved by the Board, the plan will be submitted to the California Department of Social Services.

Napa County Health and Human Services Agency is submitting this plan as an accommodation to Progress Foundation in order to provide access to THP-Plus state funds to supplement other funding raised by Progress Foundation for this purpose. Progress Foundation specializes in providing safe, affordable housing and has worked closely with the Napa County Independent Living Skills Program and other community-based organizations in the development of the program. Progress Foundation has vast experience providing safe, affordable housing to high-risk individuals and has secured the required matching funds for implementation. Through the THP-Plus program, Progress Foundation will be able to provide safe, affordable housing and comprehensive supportive services to house up to 12 former foster youth from Napa County at one time.

THP-Plus requires that the County provide 60 percent of the funding (a 60 percent county "match"). The Board's approval is sought on the condition that the provider is responsible for obtaining the 60 percent local match from sources other than the County. This is a two-year pilot project. Progress Foundation has represented in writing that the matching funds required in Fiscal Years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 are available through a partnership of local funders. In the second year, utilization will either be the same total client months as served in the first year (achieved by monitoring the admission of new clients as vacancies occur) or will be based upon a higher utilization figure set by the amount of matching funds available. Therefore, there is no county cost to this proposal in Fiscal Years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008. At the end of the two-year pilot, if it is agreed to continue the project, Progress Foundation has stated that the project will be scaled to reflect the resources available for the county match portion of the funding.

Napa County Health and Human Services Agency will closely monitor evaluation data provided by the provider to ensure the delivery of high-quality services that are compliant with Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 16522 through 16522.6. Prior to implementation of THP-Plus in Napa County, Progress Foundation will provide a full plan to the Napa County Health and Human Services Agency documenting its compliance with all requirements for County certification.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Lorenzo Zialcita