



**Contra
Costa
County**

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Kathy Gallagher, Employment & Human Services Director

Date: October 13, 2020

Subject: New American Economy, Gateways for Growth Program Technical Assistance Grant

RECOMMENDATION(S):

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Employment and Human Services Department Director, or designee, to accept a non-financial grant from New American Economy, Gateways for Growth Program, to provide technical assistance for strategic planning services to support immigrant inclusion for the period of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Non-financial grant for technical assistance from the New American Economy, Gateways for Growth Program to support preparation of tailored economic research and a community-wide strategic planning process. There is a suggested \$20,000 in-kind match by applicants to be leveraged from Contra Costa Regional Health Foundation.

BACKGROUND:

In early 2019, Contra Costa County Thrives (CCC Thrives), which included support from the Zellerbach Family Foundation, came together to conduct a community assessment of immigrant and refugee assets and needs, and identify public and private opportunities to support effective immigrant inclusion in Contra Costa County. In June 2019, CCC Thrives

☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **10/13/2020** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

VOTE OF SUPERVISORS

AYE: John Gioia, District I Supervisor
Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor
Diane Burgis, District III Supervisor
Karen Mitchoff, District IV Supervisor
Federal D. Glover, District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: October 13, 2020

David Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Laura Cassell, Deputy

Contact: Elaine burren
608-4960

cc:

members partnered with Contra Costa Community Colleges District and First 5 Contra Costa County to launch a research brief entitled, *New Americans in Contra Costa*:

BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

Contributions of Immigrants in the County. This launch event included a presentation of research findings and stories of impacted community members and multi-sector leaders at the event made action suggestions. Applying for the Gateways for Growth (G4G) Program was identified as the ideal next step. In December 2019 an additional presentation on CC Thrives and the anticipated opportunity to apply for the G4G opportunity was made to the Public Protection committee of the Board of Supervisors. In addition, the Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE) cohort included a focus on immigrant inclusion in the Racial Equity Action Plan (REAP) submitted in a report to the FHS committee.

The goal of the Gateways for Growth grant is to receive technical assistance on economic research and a community engagement process, resulting in a strategic plan for immigrant inclusion. EHSD will embed and link this effort in a community planning process being considered around racial equity as well as existing task forces that contribute toward the County's efforts on racial equity.

This technical assistance grant will be used to:

1. Update the research brief with new information about the COVID-19 impact on immigrant communities
2. Provide consultation on a community planning process, help troubleshoot challenges, and connect communities to resources as appropriate.
3. Receive one site visit from New American Economy (NAE) and Welcoming America (WA) representatives as part of the consulting engagement.
4. Facilitate community engagement in the planning process – sharing best practices and models for developing an integration strategy or recommendations or consultation on public messaging campaigns for immigrant inclusion.

EHSD's Policy & Planning Division will partner with Contra Costa Health Services and community-based partners to deliver the research, planning and activities outlined in the proposal application to Gateways for Growth. Additional partners may be identified and added as needed.

Pros and cons of request:

Pros:

- Engages immigrant communities and community-based organizations who serve them in a community planning process to understand experiences and needs of diverse immigrant communities in our county
- Contributes to understanding the COVID-19 impacts on immigrant communities
- Leverages existing County services and community partners to address gaps in services to immigrant communities.

- Builds upon existing partnerships between local agencies including County partners, health services, philanthropy, community and faith-based organizations.

Cons:

- Uncertainty about the sustainability of activities to be identified in the strategic plan.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Without additional technical assistance, the experiences and voices of immigrants may not be heard, and an increasing number of immigrants from historically marginalized communities may not have access to vital health and human services especially under the COVID pandemic.