



**Contra
Costa
County**

To: Board of Supervisors
From: Kathy Gallagher, Employment & Human Services Director
Date: November 23, 2021

Subject: California Department of Social Services, Housing and Disability Advocacy Program Funding

RECOMMENDATION(S):

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Employment and Human Services Director, or designee, to accept grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$2,649,735 from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to provide Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) services for the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024.

FISCAL IMPACT:

County to receive an amount not to exceed \$2,649,735 from the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Housing Bureau to fund Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) services for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2024. HDAP funds are drawn from 100% State funds. There is no match requirement for this non-competitive allocation.

BACKGROUND:

The goals of the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) are to provide outreach, benefits advocacy, housing subsidies, and case management to house homeless individuals who are assessed as having potential eligibility to any of the SSI/SSDI, veterans, CAPI benefits or youth receiving benefits advocacy through County Child Welfare

☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY ADMINISTRATOR

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **11/23/2021** ☒ 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: November 23, 2021

Monica Nino, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Laura Cassell, Deputy

Contact: V. Kaplan, (925)
608-5052

cc:

Agencies. The housing assistance includes help with housing navigation, housing case management and housing subsidies throughout HDAP participation. Both interim and permanent supportive housing will be sought for program participants.

BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

This grant funding will be used to:

1. Conduct outreach activities that actively seek out potentially eligible HDAP clients.
2. Provide case management services to coordinate multiple HDAP service components including outreach, disability advocacy, and housing assistance as well as regular check-ins and communication, linkages to appropriate supportive services including connections to Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and behavioral health agencies.
3. Provide benefits advocacy services for disability benefits the client may be eligible to receive such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Social Security Retirement or Survivors Benefits, Veterans' Disability Compensation Benefits, and the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI).
4. Assist participants in finding and securing interim and permanent housing, maintaining current housing, and stabilizing new housing by providing direct financial assistance such as rental subsidies, rental arrearages, interim housing, landlord mediation, landlord incentives, landlord outreach and housing identification and search activities.

EHSD's Aging & Adult Services will partner with Contra Costa Health Services, Health, Housing & Homelessness Services (H3) and contracted partners to deliver the housing prevention and interventions outlined in the proposal application to CDSS Housing Bureau. Additional partners may be identified and added as needed.

Pros and Cons of request:

Pros:

- Leverages existing Coordinated Entry services and housing partners to address gaps in services for SSI eligible individuals.
- Expands services to youth, including former foster youth, who may be eligible to receive benefits due to their own eligibility or eligibility of a parent based on a qualifying disability or benefits entitled to them from a parent.
- Youth in receipt of advocacy through Children and Family Services Bureau may also be linked to HDAP housing assistance which will lower the number of youth at risk for homelessness.
- Focuses on providing integrated services to support homeless individuals from the point of outreach and engagement through housing stability and disability benefits determination.
- Builds upon existing partnerships between local agencies including local homelessness Continuum of Care (CoC), housing partners, health services, behavioral health care, and SSI advocacy services.

Cons:

- Sustainability of program funding beyond end of grant term June 30, 2024.

The California Department of Social Services issued the county allocation for HDAP FY 2021-2022 through an ACWDL (All County Welfare Directors Letter) dated September 13, 2021 which falls after the start of the fiscal year and thus retroactive to July 1, 2021.

CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Without funding, 80 at risk of homelessness and homeless clients will not have access to housing subsidies and after care to remain stably housed.