

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 10/7/2014	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Lee Collins 781-1834	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve acceptance of a State Grant for CalWORKS Homeless Assistance in the amount of \$1,046,065 and adopt a resolution to amend the FC 180-Department of Social Services Position Allocation List by adding 2.0 FTE Employment Resource Specialist IV's. All Districts			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board approve a Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$1,046,065 from unanticipated revenue to FC 180- Department of Social Services and adopt a resolution to amend the FC 180- Department of Social Services Position Allocation List by adding 2.0 FTE Employment Resource Specialist IV's.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) State Funds	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$1,046,065	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT N/A	(9) BUDGETED? No
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. <u>15 min</u> )			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: 1415037 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? N/A	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A    Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Emily Jackson			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services / Lee Collins 781-1834

DATE: 10/7/2014

SUBJECT: Request to approve acceptance of a State Grant for CalWORKS Homeless Assistance in the amount of \$1,046,065 and adopt a resolution to amend the FC 180-Department of Social Services Position Allocation List by adding 2.0 FTE Employment Resource Specialist IV's. All Districts

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board approve a Budget Adjustment in the amount of \$1,046,065 from unanticipated revenue to FC 180- Department of Social Services and adopt a resolution to amend the FC 180- Department of Social Services Position Allocation List by adding 2.0 FTE Employment Resource Specialist IV's.

## **DISCUSSION**

According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness's 2013 Report entitled "Opening Doors," children in families experiencing homelessness have increased incidences of illness and are more likely to have emotional and behavioral problems than children with stable housing. San Luis Obispo County's 2013 Homeless Point-in-Time Census and Survey (also known simply as the "Enumeration") identified 199 homeless families including 438 family members in the county who met the Housing and Urban Development definition of homelessness. That definition excludes those families who are doubled-up with other families or whose housing is insecure, and includes only those who met the strictest definition of homelessness.

In the past there has been limited funding available to help the poorest families—those eligible for public assistance—to secure and retain housing. More recently, however, the California State Legislature approved and the Governor signed Senate Bill 855 (Chapter 29, Statutes of 2014), authorizing \$20M in funding to be made available to counties in a competitive process. This bill and its appropriation established the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKS) Housing Support Program (HSP), intended to reduce homelessness among low-income families in those counties that submitted successful applications.

The San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services (DSS) submitted a proposal on August 15, 2014, requesting \$1,046,065. Forty-one other counties submitted proposals as well, requesting more than \$50M from a program that had only \$20M in total appropriations. On September 5, 2014, San Luis Obispo County was informed that it was one of only 20 counties to be awarded funding, and one of the very few counties to be awarded its entire request. Proposals were evaluated based on the strength of their content as well as the perceived capacity of the Department and community to deliver the funded services.

San Luis Obispo County's proposal seeks to provide Rapid Rehousing assistance to 160 low-income, homeless families under the CalWORKS program. Families will be assessed for housing barriers by DSS staff, utilizing a Housing Barriers Assessment tool, and those with minimal barriers will be served by DSS through referrals, support, and short term rental assistance. For families participating in the CalWORKS Welfare-to-Work programs, the parent will be placed into subsidized employment. Families with more challenging barriers to housing will be referred to a nonprofit contractor for intensive and ongoing case management services, including housing locator services.

Families where parents are disabled and unable to work will receive "bridge" housing subsidies for up to one year and will

be assisted to secure a place on the waiting list for project-based subsidized housing. Bridge housing subsidies are intended to provide a time-limited period in which a family's circumstances can be stabilized to the extent that subsidies no longer are required, enabling the family to transition to self-sufficiency.

The County will be required to gather and report statistical data in order to inform the State of its success in meeting the program's goals. Funding in subsequent years is not guaranteed, as it will be contingent upon future appropriations from the State. The State has indicated that those counties that demonstrate success will be well positioned to receive funding in the out years.

DSS proposes to add 2.0 Full Time Equivalent Employment and Resource Specialist IV positions to implement the plan. These individuals will be assigned the cases of CalWORKS families who are homeless, and will conduct the initial assessments described above. Additionally, they will serve as the primary case managers for those families whose barriers to housing and self-sufficiency are minimal, and will serve as liaisons to the non-profit agency with which the County contracts for more intensive services. An existing Administrative Assistant I/II/III within DSS will be reassigned to this program on a half-time basis, and will assist in the record-keeping, data entry and statistical reporting required by the State.

The Board of Supervisors previously approved a contract for homeless services for the 50 most vulnerable individuals in the community, identified through a survey. That contract with Transitions-Mental Health Association, known as the 50Now program, was approved on August 26, 2014 amid concerns that homeless families were unlikely to benefit from the program. With the acceptance of this grant funding, the County is able to expand our Rapid Rehousing capacity to fill a significant part of that gap.

Upon approval of this item by the Board, DSS will pursue a contract with a non-profit entity either through a Request for Proposal or by amending existing contracts for similar services. Based on the nature of the agreement and the funding level, it is likely that DSS will return to the Board for approval of that implementing contract.

#### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

The Department has consulted with the Administrative Office, County Counsel, the Human Resources Department and the Homeless Services Oversight Council in preparing this report.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The approved grant proposal provides funding for County staff as well as for direct services and contracted services. There are no County General Fund costs associated with this activity. Two new DSS staff are proposed to be added to the Position Allocation List, while two existing staff will have their salaries partially offset by grant funding. Funds are allocated as follows:

##### ***DSS Staff:***

2.0 Full-Time Equivalent Employment (FTE) Resource Specialist IV	\$ 167,704
0.5 FTE Administrative Assistant I/II/III (Existing staff offset)	\$ 28,328
0.006 FTE Departmental Administrator (Existing staff offset)	\$ 638

**SUBTOTAL: \$196,670**

##### ***Contract:***

It is contemplated that the nonprofit agency with which the County will contract will need 3.0 Case Managers, a part-time supervisor for the Homeless Management Information System and associated operating costs that include both direct and indirect costs. As noted, a contract is forthcoming, but the department anticipates costs based upon these expected staffing levels.

**SUBTOTAL: \$179,942**

##### ***Direct Rental Assistance:***

For families with disabled parents who are unable to work: \$262,809  
For families with no disabled parents: \$406,644

**SUBTOTAL: \$669,453**

**GRAND TOTAL: \$1,046,065**

<i>ADD</i>				
<b>Classification</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Annual S&amp;B</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Total</b>
01547	ERS IV	\$83,852	2.0	\$167,704
<i>NET</i>			2.0	\$167,704

**RESULTS**

Approval of these requests will result in the following:

- 160 low-income homeless families in San Luis Obispo County will be assessed for services utilizing a Housing Barriers Assessment instrument
- By June 30, 2015, at least 80% of those assessed will secure housing
- At least 80% of parents eligible for the CalWORKS Welfare-to-Work program will be placed in subsidized employment, unsubsidized employment or other work-related activities

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution Amending The Position Allocation List for Fiscal Year 2014-15