



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

August 11, 2020

Brian C. Crawford
DIRECTOR

Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 308
San Rafael, CA 94903
415 473 6269 T
415 473 7880 F
415 473 2255 TTY

Building and Safety
Environmental Health Services
Planning
Environmental Review
Housing
Sustainability
Code Enforcement
GIS
Federal Grants

www.marincounty.org/cda

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, California 94903

SUBJECT: Homekey Program Grant

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt resolution authorizing and directing the Community Development Agency (CDA) Director or his or her designee, to submit an application to apply for Homekey grant funding from the State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and if funds are approved, authorize and direct CDA to enter into, execute, and deliver a Standard Agreement to HCD.

SUMMARY: The California Department of Housing and Community Development is issuing approximately \$600 million of Homekey Program competitive grant funding. Building on the Project Roomkey initiative, which provided funds to lease motel rooms to house people experiencing homelessness, Homekey is a statewide effort to rapidly expand housing for persons who are currently experiencing or at-risk of homelessness, and who are impacted by COVID-19. Homekey is an opportunity for local public agencies to purchase motels and a broad range of other housing types in order to increase their community's capacity to respond to homelessness and the current COVID-19 pandemic. While Homekey builds off of Project Roomkey, applications are not limited to Project Roomkey sites. Of the \$600 million in Homekey funding, \$550 million is derived from the state's direct allocation of the federal Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF funds must be expended by December 30, 2020) and \$50 million is state General Funds (must be expended by June 30, 2022).

Homekey funds can be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, conversion of nonresidential to residential, master leasing of properties and purchase of affordability covenants and restrictions for units. More information about eligible projects can be found in Attachment 2, Homekey Eligible Uses and Projects.

DISCUSSION: The County is working with partners, including Opening Doors Marin, on how to use funds from the Homekey program as part of our ongoing commitment to Housing First,¹ understanding that housing is essential to a successful response to homelessness. The Homekey program is an opportunity to increase the supply of permanent housing available to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This funding application is a collaboration between County departments, including CDA, Health and Human Services and Department of Public Works Real Estate Division.

¹ 'Housing First' is a recovery-oriented approach to ending homelessness that centers on quickly moving people experiencing homelessness into independent and permanent housing and then providing additional supports and services as needed.

County staff consulted with the Board of Supervisors Subcommittee on Homelessness regarding the submittal of the application.

FISCAL/STAFFING IMPACT: The recommended actions do not impact the General Fund net county costs, as the proposed expenditures would be offset by grant revenue. Consistent with the funding requirements, staff are exploring several options to purchase or master lease local properties. If the County purchased property, it would be temporary, until a nonprofit owner is identified. Any specific purchase must be reviewed and approved by your Board at a future date. The Department of Finance will work with the CAO to adjust the FY 2020-21 budget accordingly if grant funds are received.

REVIEWED BY:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Administrator's Office | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Counsel | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Finance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A |

Respectfully Submitted,

8/5/2020

X 

Signed by: lthomas@marincounty.org