November 15, 2022

Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Whole Person Care report regarding Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Round 4 (HHAP-4) draft goals.

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION:
1. Accept report regarding Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Round 4 draft goals.

SUMMARY: Your Board has previously accepted three rounds of Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) funding on behalf of the Department, on January 26, 2021, June 8, 2021, and January 25, 2022. In alignment with the Board’s commitment to the evidence-based Housing First model, those funds were used to provide additional homeless housing in Marin, offset administrative costs, and provide support services for vulnerable high-need individuals experiencing homelessness.

The California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC) announced the availability of $800 million in noncompetitive HHAP Round 4 funding providing block grants to counties, cities, and Continuums of Care to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address their immediate homelessness challenges. Eligible expenses include rental assistance, operating subsidies, permanent housing, outreach and coordination, and prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing.

A requirement of the HHAP-4 funding application due November 29, 2022 is to develop strategic outcome goals based on landscape analysis and to have the draft version of these goals agendized at a regular meeting of the governing body, allowing the public an opportunity to provide input. Staff is reviewing the goals in light of the Governor’s office direction to Counties and Cities on November 3 to re-evaluate HHAP plans. HCFC is not expected to release final HHAP-4 allocation determinations until the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) releases 2022 Point-in-Time data, which may be after the application deadline. Based on the allocations received in the three previous HHAP rounds, the Department estimates its HHAP-4 allocation will be between $2 million and $5 million.
The Department will review and consider the comments received regarding the draft goals from your Board, the Homeless Policy Steering Committee (HSPC) and the public, finalize the goals, and proceed with the HHAP-4 funding application. The Department will return to your Board to accept the award, update your Board on the goals and seek approval of related contracts.

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS:** Presenting the HHAP-4 draft goals, developed in partnership with the HSPC, allows the community to provide input to ensure this application is ambitious and achievable. The HHAP-4 allocation will provide additional funding for homeless housing in Marin. Clients would be prioritized for the funded program(s) through Marin’s Coordinated Entry program, ensuring that the most vulnerable, highest-needs people experiencing homelessness would be prioritized, in alignment with your Board’s commitment to Housing First.

**EQUITY IMPACT:** African Americans and Latinx people face many barriers that ensure they remain on the lowest end of the economic spectrum and are therefore significantly overrepresented in Marin’s homeless population. Providing resources for homeless families directly addresses this inequity by moving homeless families into safe, supported, permanent housing, dramatically reducing the risk of generational homelessness and trauma for the children.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal component associated with this item. All programming will be supported by HHAP-4 funding awarded. Once awarded, the Department will return to your Board to accept the award, appropriate the funds, and to seek approval of contracts supported by these funds.

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Respectfully submitted,

Benita McLarin
Director