



24-3296

DATE: February 27, 2024 (Item No. {{item.number}})
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Consuelo Hernandez, Director, Office of Supportive Housing
SUBJECT: Family Homelessness Challenge Grant (FHC-2) Round 2

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Consider recommendations relating to the Family Homelessness Challenge Grant Round 2.
(Office of Supportive Housing)

Possible action:

- a. Approve delegation of authority to the County Executive, or designee, to submit Grant Application to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness relating to grant funding for Family Homelessness Challenge Grant, Round 2 in the amount of \$5,000,000 for period July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.
- b. Approve delegation of authority to the County Executive, or designee, to negotiate, execute, amend, or terminate grant agreement with California Interagency Council on Homelessness relating to providing homelessness prevention services in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 and a contract term that begins no earlier than July 1, 2024 and ends no later than December 31, 2026, following approval by County Counsel as to form and legality, and approval by the Office of the County Executive. Delegation of authority shall expire on December 31, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no impact to the County General Fund.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION AND BACKGROUND

The recommended actions would allow the Administration to submit an application for the Family Homelessness Challenge Grant, Round 2 (FHC-2) to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) and approve a delegation of authority to execute the new grant agreement if the County is selected to receive the funding.

On December 29, 2023, Cal ICH released the Request for Applications (RFA) for FHC-2. Only eligible FHC-1 grantees are eligible to compete for the second round of FHC funding. The Administration intends to submit an FHC-2 application for up to \$5,000,000 that would allow the County to continue the Homelessness Prevention program that provides financial assistance to prevent homelessness for families and to provide supplemental support for

unhoused families consistent with the Countywide Heading Home campaign to end family homelessness by 2025.

The application would be submitted in partnership with the City of San José, Destination: Home, and other Heading Home campaign partners.

Reason for request of Delegation of Authority

Although delegations of authority are discouraged except under certain circumstances, the delegations of authority included in the possible actions are necessary. Administration needs the flexibility to continue working with Cal ICH as it applies for FHC-2 funding. In the event there are changes to processes or requirements established by Cal ICH, the Administration would need to quickly respond to requests without jeopardizing the County's ability to apply for funds.

The second delegation of authority, relating to the execution of grant agreement, if awarded, would allow the County and Cal-ICH to quickly enter into a grant agreement without any disruption of services. It is impossible for the County to predict when the grant agreement would be ready for execution. This delegation would improve administrative efficiency by making it possible for the Administration to process the grant agreement in a timely fashion.

Family Homelessness Challenge Grant Background

On July 19, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 140 into law. AB 140 authorized the issuance of up to \$40 million to be awarded through two rounds of competitive grants for the Family Homelessness Challenge Grants and technical assistance. Eligible applicants include a local jurisdiction (meaning a city or a county) or a Continuum of Care. The program provides preference to proposals that promote rapid innovation, accelerated nascent programs, and meet new demands and conditions for solutions targeted towards ending family homelessness. Priority will also be given to jurisdictions that can demonstrate cross-system collaboration, multi-funder initiatives, and innovate efforts that coordinate across funding streams and systems.

On March 1, 2022, Cal ICH issued a Request for Applications (RFA) making \$30 million available across a minimum of two rounds of funding to provide competitive grants and technical assistance to local jurisdictions to promote rapid innovation, accelerate nascent programs, and expand promising practices to create scalable solutions that can be shared across the state to address and ultimately end family homelessness.

On April 30, 2022, the County applied to create a targeted shelter diversion program for unhoused pregnant women and households with infants. On June 24, 2022, Cal ICH released its Notice of Intent to Award for the Family Homelessness Challenge Grant, Round 1 (FHC-1), awarding \$2,498,963 to the County of Santa Clara. Subsequently the standard agreement between Cal ICH and the County was executed and the funds were disbursed to the County in December 2022.

In the County's original application, the County proposed to create a targeted shelter diversion program for unhoused pregnant women and households with infants. During the

period between the initial FHC Grant application and the receipt of the grant award funds, the data on inflow of households with a pregnant household member or including an infant showed that the need was broader and included families with children ages 5 and under.

The needs of the local landscape changed, with lesser need for permanent housing for families with pregnant women and/or families with children under 5 years of age and more need for homelessness prevention. Cal ICH allowed the County to expand the target population to include homelessness prevention services to prevent homelessness among pregnant women and families with children ages 5 and under.

By adding prevention services for families with children ages five and under, the FHC-1 helped expand the system to meet the growing need of the target population. The homelessness prevention system worked extensively with families with children five and under to provide case management to stabilize house households and assisted them in not only financial assistance, but also accessing supportive services including landlord mediation, connections to public benefits, employment assistance, financial literacy, and credit counseling. In the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the program served 200 unduplicated families.

CHILD IMPACT

This action will have positive impact on children and youth who are experiencing or at-risk of homelessness.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have no/neutral impact on seniors.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

If the delegation of authority to apply for the FHC-2 funding is not approved, the Administration would need to find other funding opportunities to help fund the service needs for the program.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon approval, please notify Komila Muku, Jimmy Chan, and Jessica Orozco in the Office of Supportive Housing.