DEPARTMENT: Human Services / Community Action

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

It is respectfully recommended that your Board:
1. Authorize the Human Services Director to execute the 2008 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Agreement 08B-5473;
2. Accept an advance of $50,000 in anticipated revenue from LIHEAP Agreement 08B-5473;
3. Authorize Human Services to continue to coordinate the weatherization portion of the program with the Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC); and
4. Authorize your Chairperson to sign the Contract for Services with CVOC.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENT

Financial Impact? (X) Yes ( ) No Current FY Cost: $\_
Budgeted In Current FY? (X) Yes ( ) No ( ) Partially Funded
Amount in Budget: $\_
Additional Funding Needed: $\_
Source: Contracts/Grants
Internal Transfer
Unanticipated Revenue 4/5's vote
Transfer Between Funds 4/5's vote
Contingency 4/5's vote
( ) General ( ) Other

Annual Recurring Cost:

Res. No.: 08S-37 Ord. No. __________
Vote: Ayes: __________ Noes: __________

(C) Approved

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.
Date: __________
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California
By: __________
Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:
Requested Action Recommended
No Opinion
Comments:

CAO: __________
February 26, 2008

TO: Members, Board of Supervisors
    Rick Benson, CAO
FROM: James Rydingsword
RE: Community Action Programs / 2008 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

RECOMMENDATION

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2. Accept an advance of $50,000 in anticipated revenue from LIHEAP Agreement 08B-5473;
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BACKGROUND

The purpose of LIHEAP and DOE, under the auspices of the California Department of Community Services and Development (CSD), is to provide energy assistance and weatherization services to low-income county residents. LIHEAP funds have been allocated to Mariposa County for several years and operate on a calendar year. In recent years this program has assisted an average of 500 low-income households each year with energy assistance utility payments and 40 households with weatherization services who are primarily seniors, the disabled and the working poor.

CURRENT SITUATION

The State delayed the release of the 2008 LIHEAP contract by two months to encompass improvements in services. CSD recognizes that California residents have faced extreme energy-related seasonal hardships over the past couple of years. They have incorporated Emergency Contingency Funding (ECF) and Severe Weather Energy Assistance and Transportation Services (SWEATS) program allocations to assist households during energy crises. The addition of these programs has caused the delay in the contract release. During this delay, we have maintained a waitlist for services. We realize that with the rise in heating fuel costs, many of our low-income households are now facing such a crisis. Upon your approval of this agreement, we will begin to serve these families.

The second component to this agreement is the Weatherization program. Your Board had asked the department to identify an individual to train to provide these services. Community Action staff has been working with Welfare-to-Work and Behavioral Health case workers as well as local Contractors to try to identify such a person.
We have encountered some obstacles in meeting this directive. Specifically, finding an individual through our local programs has been difficult due to drug or alcohol related issues, or not being interested in the construction field. If we were to advertise the position for open recruitment, it would be on a part-time or temporary basis. Local contractors have not been interested in providing services at the reimbursable cost schedule provided by the State. So, in the short term, we believe it is still in the best interest of service to low income residents in Mariposa County to stay with the current subcontractor, Central Valley Opportunity Center (CVOC). However, in the long term, we believe we may be able to develop some local resources and, in the next year, would like to work closely with you to explore such alternatives. In order to begin providing services under the current agreement, we are requesting to continue to subcontract with CVOC.

It is also important to note that CVOC has a trained crew that is able to work under the constraints of the State agreement and has avenues to leverage our contract dollars that will not be available through a county staffed program. For example material costs through CVOC are large enough to qualify for substantial volume discounts thus allowing our contract dollars to purchase greater quantities and serve more households. Staff, the State as well as the County residents receiving services have been very pleased with the work from CVOC.

FINANCIAL

We anticipated and budgeted $290,000 in Fund 334 (LIHEAP funding for FY 2007-08). The advance of funds begins to fulfill budget projections and allows for program continuation. There is no local share of cost for this program.