RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2018-552

MEETING: November 13, 2018
TO: The Board of Supervisors
FROM: Chevon Kothari, Health and Human Services Director
RE: Approve Submission of Homeless Emergency Aid Program Funding Application

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve Submission of the Homeless Emergency Aid Program grant funding through the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to support the creation of an Emergency Shelter Solution.

SB 580 established the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) for the purposes of providing localities with one-time, flexible block grant funds to address immediate homeless challenges. Eleven cities and 43 Continuum of Cares (CoC) are being given an allocation upon submission of a thorough and compliant application. Mariposa County is a member of the Central Sierra CoC, which includes Tuolumne, Amador, Calaveras and Mariposa Counties. The total allocation for the 4 county CoC is $1,237,313. After administrative fees for the CoC, Mariposa County will be able to access approximately $300,000 to support local efforts.

In 2015, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness. One objective of the Plan was to develop an emergency shelter solution. This Plan was updated again in 2017 with the same goal.

Mariposa County has worked with our consultants from HomeBase, as well as our Homeless Task Force, to develop a plan for the emergency sheltering of homeless populations. Our Homeless Task Force includes County Departments, non-profit service providers, faith based organizations, members of the homeless community, interested community members, business owners, and elected officials. Like in most rural communities, in Mariposa County, there is not a one size fits all model to address homelessness.

The current proposal will be to use HEAP funding, braided with other existing realignment and MHSA funding, to acquire land and erect an emergency shelter solution. Although the plans for this are currently under development in collaboration with County Department and community partners, the goal will be to acquire property
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in the town of Mariposa, close to services and within the Mariposa Public Utility District. Multiple models are being explored and will be finalized by the time the grant application is submitted in the end of December.

Board approval will be sought before accepting funds and moving forward with the HEAP Project.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
On June 9th 2015, the Board of Supervisors adopted the County’s Homeless Strategic Plan, which supported the strategy of developing an emergency shelter solution.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
The County can choose not to support this effort to address an emergency solution to homelessness and not to apply for the HEAP Funding. This will likely result in higher costs over time by way of increased emergency police/fire/medical response, increased healthcare costs and impact on Emergency Departments, increased need for behavioral healthcare including substance use disorder treatment, and potential public health and environmental health impacts for the community.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
There will be no financial impact to the County General Fund.
Currently, it is estimated that this project will be funded through a combination of HEAP funding and Realignment dollars (Social Services, Behavioral Health, AB 109). There is no impact on the County General Fund.

ATTACHMENTS:
Mariposa County HEAP Proposal  (PDF)

RESULT:  ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:  Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor
SECONDER:  Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
AYES:  Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey