RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-49

MEETING: January 22, 2019

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chevon Kothari, Health and Human Services Director

RE: Public Hearing: Seek Input and Authorization to Submit an Application for 2018/19 CDBG Funds

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
PUBLIC HEARING to Approve Submission of California Department of Housing and Community Development, Community Development Block Grant 2018/19 Funding Application to Construct a Homeless Shelter Facility.

The County of Mariposa Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) is requesting board approval to move forward with the planning and development of a year-round permanent shelter to address the needs of our local homeless population.

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive input from the community regarding the proposed Homeless Shelter Facility Project at the Public Hearing on January 22, 2019.

2. Adopt a Resolution approving and authorizing submission of the 2018 CDBG grant application and authorizing the HHSA Director to accept the grant, if awarded, enter into and execute the grant agreement and any subsequent amendments with the State of California, and execute Funds Requests and other required reporting forms for purposes of administering the grant (subject to approval as to form of County Counsel)

3. Authorize the County Administrative Officer to execute the Assurances pertaining to the grant (subject to approval as to form of County Counsel)

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
A Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness was completed in 2015 and updated in 2017. Both highlighted the need for an emergency shelter solution. The most recent Homeless Point in Time (PIT) census count showed there to be 55 persons who were identified as being chronically homeless. In response to a growing and visible need, the Board passed a Shelter Crisis Declaration in November of 2018 and directed HHSA to provide temporary shelter services, while seeking a more permanent solution. An interim emergency shelter was stood up and has been serving an average of 20 persons per night since November 5th, 2018. In January, 2019 a new homeless
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census count is planned to help inform future efforts.

Public Participation and Public Hearing Process

Mariposa County, as well as the State CDBG Program, desire that the general public and local residents be informed about the proposed Project. Various meetings have been held with local stakeholders, agencies and community members to discuss needs and potential strategies. Studies have been conducted regarding the need to address homelessness and housing shortages in the county over the past several years. Some of these include the Housing Element in the General Plan, the Housing Implementation Strategy, and the Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness.

The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors, in conjunction with HHSA, posted a public notice in the local newspaper and held an initial public hearing on December 18, 2018. At this meeting, general information was provided to make the public aware of State CDBG funds and to seek input from the community and direction from the Board regarding pursuit of these funds. At that meeting the Board of Supervisor directed the HHSA to proceed with the development of a CDBG Proposal/Application. A second public hearing will be held on January 22, 2019 at the Board of Supervisor Chambers to present more specific information on the proposed project and activities related to the County’s application for CDBG funds and to seek additional public input. The County’s application for funding must be authorized for submittal by a vote of the Board of Supervisors and submitted to the State by the deadline of February 26, 2019. The full application will be brought back to the Board of Supervisors prior to this deadline for approval to submit.

Identification of a Suitable Building Site

The County of Mariposa Planning Department, in conjunction with HHSA and the Public Works Department, conducted a county wide search of potential sites which may be suitable for project development purposes. The County staff studied the data and analyzed the feasibility of the best sites. Through this process, the availability of vacant land at the end of St. Andrews Road (near the John C. Fremont Hospital) was selected as the best suitable site. The County has contacted the owner and there is a willingness to sell the site to the County of Mariposa for this purpose. Currently, the County is in negotiations with the property owner to obtain evidence of site control in order to qualify for CDBG funds.

Preliminary Design of the proposed shelter

County staff has been working to analyze the buildable areas of the preferred site at the end of St. Andrews Road. From this analysis, a preliminary design of the shelter facility project was prepared and proposes a 30 bed facility which could be a combination of 20 small units, at 252 square feet each, and a separate building containing ten beds designed in a dormitory style. The project would contain a manager’s office, a community space, a community kitchen, laundry room, storage, a dog kennel/walk area and other features that would be appropriate for housing primarily homeless individuals and some families as well. The presence of a manager was regarded as necessary to provide on-site property management services. In addition, the County intends to create a management and operations plan which will
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serve to guide the day to day activities of the Shelter. Within this plan, there will be a focus on coordinating on-site support services as well as creating links to existing support services from the County Health and Human Services along with relevant community services. Mariposa County intends to not just house the homeless, but also provide direct support services in order to promote their personal recovery and stability. We believe that assisting individuals who are homeless to return to mainstream society will be a positive outcome for this population, as well as for the entire community.

Project Costs and Timeline

The County staff is currently studying the costs to build and administer the proposed shelter which will be in an amount not to exceed $3,000,000, which is the maximum allowed by CDBG for a single facility. It is anticipated that if an award of CDBG funds is made to Mariposa County in May, 2019, then the homeless shelter facility could move into the pre-construction stage by the end of 2019 and complete construction by possibly the summer of 2020.

Financial: Currently, it is estimated that this project will be funded fully through CDBG funds. Services to the homeless population will be provided through HEAP funding, Medi-Cal reimbursement, Whole Person Care funding, Mental Health Services Act, and Realignment dollars. There is no impact on the County General Fund.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
The County can choose not to apply for CDBG Funding, however, the need to develop a permanent homeless solution will still be present and other dollars would need to be obtained to address the need.

ATTACHMENTS:
Notice of Public Hearing (PDF)
MARIPOSA RESOLUTION NO CDBG Homeless Shelter (DOCX)

RESULT: ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey
MARIPOSA COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2019-49

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING AND THE EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO FROM THE 2018 FUNDING YEAR OF THE STATE CDBG PROGRAM

BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa as follows:

SECTION 1:

THE County Board of Supervisors approves an application in the amount of $3 million dollars for the following CDBG activities, pursuant to the October 2018 CDBG NOFA: A public facilities project in the amount of $2,775,000 and for General Administration in the amount of $225,000.

SECTION 2:

The County acknowledges compliance with state and federal public participation requirements in the development of this application.

SECTION 3:

If the application is approved, the County Director of Health & Human Services, or authorized designee, is authorized to sign Funds Requests and other required reporting forms.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa held on the 22nd of January 2019 by the following vote:

AYES: SMALLCOMBE, JONES, LONG, MENETREY
NOES: NONE
ABSENT: NONE

COUNTY OF MARIPOSA:

Miles Menetrey, Chair
County of Mariposa Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Rene LaRoche
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Steven W. Dahlem
County Counsel
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of Mariposa
I, Rene LaRoche, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of Mariposa, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by said County Board of Supervisors on this 22nd day of January, 2019.

Clerk of the County of Mariposa, California

By: _________________________________
    Rene LaRoche, Clerk of the Board
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