RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2020-655

MEETING: November 10, 2020

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Eric Sergienko, County Health Officer/APCD Officer

RE: Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program (DLT)

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:
Approve a Three Year Agreement with United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Services (RUS) for funding of Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program in an amount not to exceed $920,083; and authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to sign the agreement.

The total grant agreement $920,083 is comprised of $799,083 in new United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) RUS funds plus $121,000 (15%) in matching funding ($94,303 from HHSA, and $26,697 from John C. Fremont Hospital for their equipment). The HHSA match ($94,303) will be paid out of the Behavioral Health Budgets using realignment funding that would normally have been used for equipment.

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program helps rural communities in acquiring distance learning and telemedical technologies so that county government professionals who service rural residents can link to peers in other communities and leverage respective expertise. This program provides valuable tools in improving the quality of life for thousands of residents in rural communities across the United States.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:
Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) was awarded a previous grant for $252,647 that was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 22, 2019 by Resolution 2019-42.

On March 24, 2020, the Board of Supervisors authorized HHSA to apply for technology infrastructure grant with RUS for amount not to exceed $1,000,000 by Resolution 2020-149.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:
If this agreement is not approved, HHSA will not have the appropriate teleconferencing infrastructure to provide optimal remote services for our clients, and we will forego $799,083 in new federal funding.
FINANCIAL IMPACT:
If the Board approves and the County is awarded these funds, a budget action will be submitted at a later date when funds are scheduled to be received. There is no impact to the County General Fund.

ATTACHMENTS:
Grant Agreement - CA0748-B17 (PDF)
DLT-2020-114 (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor
SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Menetrey