



MEMORANDUM
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CHILDREN'S SYSTEMS OF CARE DIVISION
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors **DATE:** April 5, 2022
FROM: Robert Oldham, Director of Health and Human Services
BY: Joey Wojtowicz, Staff Services Analyst II
SUBJECT: Bringing Families Home Allocation

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Ratify the Children's System of Care Division Director's execution of the Director's Certification for accepting Bringing Families Home allocated funding for FY 2021-2022 in an amount not to exceed \$425,000 for use from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024, any related documentation with County Counsel and Risk Management concurrence, and to accept any rollover funds not used by other counties during this time period.
2. Approve the Children's System of Care Division Director to sign the Director's Certification for accepting an additional allocation of Bringing Families Home funding for FY 2022-2023 in an amount not to exceed \$425,000 for use from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025, any related documentation with County Counsel and Risk Management concurrence, and to accept any rollover funds not used by other counties during this time period.

BACKGROUND

The Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program was established by Assembly Bill 1603 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2016) and updated by Senate Bill (SB) 80 (Chapter 27, Statutes 2019) to reduce the number of families in the child welfare system experiencing or at risk of homelessness, to increase family reunification, and to prevent foster care placement. In 2019, Placer County Children's System of Care (CSOC) was awarded funding to serve this population through a competitive grant process and partnered with Human Services to administer the program as the division already had experience in and the infrastructure in place to assist families finding housing. Additionally, many of these families are served by both CSOC and Human Services, so this partnership allows the two divisions to leverage multiple programs to best serve Placer County families in crisis. Advocates for Mentally Ill Housing, Inc. (AMIH) and Volunteers of America (VOA) have been assisting families in securing and maintaining lease agreements with property owners for the purpose of providing houses or apartments to homeless CSOC court involved families. Families initially enter into an agreement for 12 months of housing assistance. Following standard practices employed by similar Continuum of Care housing programs, AMIH and VOA will pay the families' rent, deposit and utilities for the first month, and require families to pay a percent of their gross income toward rent and utilities for months thereafter. Rental assistance pays the difference up to the fair market value of the housing unit.

Since December 2015, over 235 homeless families have been housed through the Housing

Support Program and BFH programs in Placer County. There are currently 8 families, including 16 children, housed through the BFH program.

In 2021, the BFH program was renewed and the competitive grant was transitioned into a direct allocation awarded to each county. However, some counties have indicated that they may not be able to utilize their funding due to workforce and other challenges. Placer County CSOC has therefore also indicated to the state through an opt in letter, that we would like to accept additional funding for the BFH program should they become available.

Ratification of this allocation and the ability to opt in for additional funding would allow CSOC and Human Services to provide housing support to more homeless families and to help keep them housed as they learn strategies for timely payment of rent, maintaining good rental history, and accessing needed services.

FISCAL IMPACT

The funds attached to this allocation are included in the Department's FY 2021-22 Budget and will be included in the Department's FY 2022-23 Budget.

ATTACHMENT

None

The Bringing Families Home Director's Certification is on file with Clerk of the Board.