



THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Community Services Agency

BOARD AGENDA # *B-2

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE October 20, 2015

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Provision of Refugee Social Services, Targeted Assistance and Employment Services

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Authorize the General Services Agency (GSA) Purchasing Division to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) on behalf of the Community Services Agency for the provision of refugee social services, targeted assistance and employment services for the contract period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total cost of the Refugee Social Services (RSS), Targeted Assistance (TA) and Employment Services contract(s) is estimated to be approximately \$300,000 for the period of July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. As a result, appropriations and corresponding revenues will be included in the Community Services Agency Fiscal Year 2016 - 2017 Proposed Budget submission.

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BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2015-470

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor Chiesa
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Withrow

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

- 1) X Approved as recommended
- 2) _____ Denied
- 3) _____ Approved as amended
- 4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST:


CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

FISCAL IMPACT: (Continued)

RSS, TA and Employment Services appropriations and estimated revenues for the remaining two years of the awarded contract(s) are projected to be sustained at the Fiscal Year 16/17 funding level and will be included in the Agency's budget submission for the subsequent fiscal years.

Funding for Refugee Social Services (RSS) and Targeted Assistance is provided through Federal grants originating with the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement and distributed at the local level via allocations from the California Department of Social Services Refugee Programs Bureau (CFDA # 93.566 and CFDA # 93.584, respectively). Funding for Employment Services is provided through the Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant, which is distributed by the California Department of Social Services via the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CaWORKs) Single Allocation (CFDA # 93.558). These programs are 100% federally funded and as such, no cost to the General Fund is associated with the contract(s).

DISCUSSION:

The Community Services Agency (CSA) contracts with numerous individuals and agencies to provide essential services to Stanislaus County residents. In most cases, individuals and agencies are selected through a competitive process, which takes into account specific expertise, as well as cost efficiency. Agreements are renewed based on a demonstrated ability to deliver required outcomes effectively, along with availability of funding. While a number of agencies have successful, long term partnering relationships with CSA, all major provider agreements continue to be reviewed and, consistent with Board of Supervisors' direction, competitive proposals will be sought periodically.

One of the program services that CSA provides via contract is refugee social services, targeted assistance and employment services. CSA recognizes the unique needs, languages and multiple barriers to employment of the refugees and has contracted these services since 2009 to meet the growing need of specialized services for our community's refugee population.

CSA is seeking services comprising of activities such as job readiness, work experience assessments, skills recertification training, housing assistance, vocational training, case management and vocational English as a second language training that will enable the refugees to reach self-reliance as quickly as possible. RSS funding is to be used primarily for employability services designed to enable refugees to obtain a job within one year of becoming enrolled in services in order to achieve economic self-sufficiency as soon as possible.

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The contracted provider will work with CSA Welfare to Work staff and create detailed family self-sufficiency plans to help refugees identify and overcome barriers to self-sufficiency, pursue employment goals and develop a family budget. The contracted provider is expected to serve approximately 220 refugees in the first year and will continue to serve these enrolled refugees while also serving any new refugees seeking assistance during the remaining two years. The provider will also work with community contacts to establish strong working relationships with landlords to secure refugee housing and with employers to match refugees with job sites. The current contracted provider, International Rescue Committee, Inc. has served 367 refugees since July 1, 2013 through September 29, 2015. Of the 367 refugees served, 46 became full time employed and 112 became part time employed. The current contract is scheduled to end June 30, 2016.

The Community Services Agency is now requesting approval to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the provision of refugee social services, targeted assistance and employment services. The procurement method will be a "best value" approach, which means that the County is prepared to award a single contract or multiple contracts to the Proposer(s) who offer the most cost-effective and comprehensive solutions.

The Department will return to the Board upon completion of the RFP process with a final contract(s) recommendation.

POLICY ISSUES:

Approval of this request to issue an RFP supports the Board's priorities of A Healthy Community, Effective Partnerships and Efficient Delivery of Public Services by meeting a community need for services that improves the well-being and self-sufficiency of refugees in our community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing Community Services Agency and General Services Agency Purchasing staff are available to support this RFP process.

CONTACT:

Kathryn Harwell, Director

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