
Setting the Standard in Health Care Excellence

September 12, 2023

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Approval of, and Ratification of the Submission of the Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) Application to Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP), Consultants for the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program Funding Available in the Amount of \$13,325,088; Approval and Ratification of the VCBH Director's Acceptance of BHBH Program Grant Funding; Approval of, and Authorization for the VCBH Director to Sign the Subcontract Agreement with AHP, Effective Upon Execution through June 30, 2027; Adoption of a Resolution Establishing Four (4) New Full-Time Equivalent Positions and Deleting Four (4) Regular Full-time Equivalent Positions; Authorization for the VCBH Director to Make Limited Amendments to the Agreements. Authorization for the Auditor-Controller to Process Necessary Budgetary Transactions. Recommendation No. 6 Requires 4/5ths Vote.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approval and Ratification of the submission by Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) of an application to Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP) for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program grant funding available through the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), in the amount of \$13,325,088 (Exhibit 1)
2. Approval and Ratification of the VCBH Director's acceptance of the BHBH Program grant funding on June 23, 2023, in the amount of \$13,325,088.
3. Approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to sign the Subcontract Agreement with AHP for the BHBH Grant Program and legally bind the County to certain certifications on page 57 of that Agreement, effective upon execution through June 30, 2027 (Exhibit 2).
4. Adoption of a Resolution to add four (4) new full-time equivalent (FTE) positions and deleting four (4) regular FTE positions effective September 17, 2023, (Exhibit 3), as follows.

Four (4) positions to add:

Job Code	Classification Title	Dept.	Unit	FTE	Compensation Frequency	Salary Range
00406	Community Services Coordinator	HCA	3273	4	Salaried	\$58,785.18-\$82,408.31

Four (4) positions to delete:

Position Number	Job Code	Classification Title	Dept.	Unit	FTE	Compensation Frequency	Salary Range
25483	1474	Alcohol and Drug Treatment Specialist II	HCA	3225	1	Salaried	\$45,425.42-\$63,607.59
20937	1474	Alcohol and Drug Treatment Specialist II	HCA	3225	1	Salaried	\$45,425.42-\$63,607.59
25477	1474	Alcohol and Drug Treatment Specialist II	HCA	3241	1	Salaried	\$45,425.42-\$63,607.59
10069	1474	Alcohol and Drug Treatment Specialist II	HCA	3241	1	Salaried	\$45,425.42-\$63,607.59

5. Authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to approve future amendments to the Subcontract Agreement with AHP to make corrections, clarifications, technical changes, and other modifications, provided that the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the agreement, do not result in additional costs to the County, and are reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.
6. Authorization for the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary budgetary transactions to revise the following appropriations and revenue (this recommendation requires 4/5ths vote):

MHSA Budget Unit #3260-3273 (CSS Adult Services)

INCREASE	Salaries & Benefits	\$ 2,125,801
INCREASE	Services and Supplies	\$ 11,199,287
INCREASE	Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 13,325,088

REASON FOR RATIFICATION:

DHCS notified VCBH of the availability of the BHBH non-competitive funds in March 2023. The deadline to apply for the non-competitive funding allocation was April 28, 2023. This timeframe did not leave sufficient time for VCBH to obtain approval from your Board to apply for the funding. VCBH notified the County Executive Office (CEO) of the availability of funds and VCBH's intent to apply for the funding. In addition, the timeframe to accept the awarded BHBH non-competitive funds did not leave sufficient time for VCBH to obtain approval from your Board to accept the funding. VCBH is presenting these items for your Board's approval at the earliest opportunity.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT:

MHSA Budget Unit #3260-3273 (CSS Adult Services)

Mandatory: No ☒ Yes ☐ Cite Authority:

Source of Funding: Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program

Funding Match Required: No

Impact on Other Department(s): None

	<u>FY 2023-2024</u>	<u>FY 2024-2025</u>
Summary of Revenue and Total Costs		
Revenue:	\$ 2,611,209	\$ 3,551,980
Costs:		
Direct Cost	\$ 2,611,209	\$ 3,551,980
Indirect – Dept.	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Costs	\$ 2,611,209	\$ 3,551,980
Net County Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

FY 2023-24 Adopted Budget for MHSA CSS Adult Services BU #3260-3273				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$53,846,119	\$53,846,119	\$53,846,119	\$0
Revenue	\$52,705,680	\$52,705,680	\$52,705,680	\$0
Net Cost	\$1,140,439	\$1,140,439	\$1,140,439	\$0

DISCUSSION:

Recommendations #1 through #3:

VCBH was notified in March 2023 about the opportunity to apply for a non-competitive funding allocation from DHCS in the amount of \$13,325,088 to provide a variety of housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions that prevent them from accessing help and moving out of homelessness. VCBH submitted an application for funding in April of 2023 to AHP, DHCS' grant consultant. In June of 2023, VCBH was awarded conditional approval of BHBH Program grant funds by DHCS (Exhibit 4).

The BHBH Program grant funding will be used to: (1) provide a variety of housing solutions for people living with homelessness, including up to twenty (20) new shelter beds throughout the County with operational funding for a term of three (3) years, (2) hire four (4) FTE VCBH staff dedicated to issues of housing, (3) pay for motel stays up to three (3) weeks with intensive housing navigation services for people prioritized for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), and (4) pay for up to three (3) years of rental assistance at the Housing and Urban Development Fair Market Rent (FMR) at locations throughout the County. Lastly, VCBH will seek to increase the number of licensed board and care operators willing to serve the target population by offering incentive funding. All housing options made available under this grant must be available for Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court participants and homeless individuals and families with Serious Mental Illness by June 2024. It should be noted that CARE Court participants will be prioritized for BHBH housing resources once that program is established and that all BHBH referrals for both short term and interim housing opportunities will be made through the County's Coordinated Entry System (CES). BHBH funds are required to be expended by June 30, 2027. The VCBH staff will be funded with Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding once the BHBH grant has ended.

All of the housing options that will be made available through this grant program come with intensive housing navigation and/or case management. Seventy-five (75) percent of the BHBH funding will be spent on creating and operating short-term shelter and interim housing for the target population. Short-term shelter is for a period of up to ninety (90) days. Interim housing is for a period of ninety (90) days up to three (3) years. Those properties and people benefitting from BHBH rental assistance and shelter operating subsidies will have to make other arrangements after three (3) years, however, in most cases, the properties will be coached to establish other funding to help people maintain housing after the BHBH Program grant expires.

VCBH recommends approval and ratification of the VCBH Director's: (1) submission of the BHBH Program grant application to AHP, in the amount of \$13,325,088 and (2) acceptance of the BHBH program grant funding in that same amount on June 23, 2023. VCBH also recommends approval of, and authorization for the VCBH Director or de-

signee to sign the Subcontract Agreement with AHP for BHBH Program grant administration services and legally bind the County to certain certifications on page 57 of that Agreement, in the amount of \$13,325,088, effective upon execution through June 30, 2027.

Recommendation #4:

In order to support the BHBH Program grant project, VCBH will require dedicated staff to carry out the goals of the BHBH Program. VCBH had already identified a need for dedicated housing case managers prior to the BHBH Program, but with the onset of the BHBH Program that need is amplified. In addition to serving the BHBH target population, dedicated housing case managers will also interface with CARE Court participants, clinical treatment teams, property managers, service providers, Continuum of Care (CoC), and a variety of internal and external agencies serving the unhoused. VCBH's dedicated housing case managers will mostly provide field-based services; however, they will also act as subject matter experts in the area of housing supporting the multi-disciplinary teams located VCBH community-based clinics. In support of these positions, we deleted four (4) regular positions due to changes in the operational needs and strategies.

To support the BHBH Program grant funded activities, VCBH is recommending adoption of a resolution authorizing the addition of four (4) new FTE positions, and deletion of four (4) regular FTE positions in VCBH Budget Unit 3225 and 3241, as detailed in Recommendation #4 above. Although the usual procedure for positions related to grant funded positions is to create them as fixed term (See: Policy No. Chapter II-5" Grant, Subvention & Subsidy Terminations or Reductions) VCBH has an alternative source of funding in the MHSA funding and these positions qualify to be supported by those funds in the future.

Recommendation #5:

VCBH also recommends authorization for the VCBH Director or designee to approve modifications to decrease the amount, to approve budget modifications that do not increase the amount, and/or to approve corrections, clarification and technical changes and other modifications to the Subcontract Agreement (Exhibit 2), when the changes are consistent with the original purpose of the agreement and do not result in additional costs to the County, subject to County Counsel review and approval.

Recommendation #6:

To ensure that sufficient appropriations are available for the proposed BHBH Program grant project services, VCBH is also recommending authorization for the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary budgetary transactions to increase appropriations and revenue in VCBH Budget Unit 3273, as discussed above in Recommendation #6.

This Board Letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, County Counsel and Human Resources. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Acting VCBH Director Dr. Loretta Denering, Dr. Ph, MS, at (805) 981-2214 or HCA Assistant Chief Financial Officer Narcisa Egan at (805) 973-5357.



DR. LORETTA DENERING, DR. PH, MS
Acting Behavioral Health Director



BARRY ZIMMERMAN
Health Care Agency Director

Attachments:

- Exhibit 1 – VCBH BHBH Program Grant Application
- Exhibit 2 – DHCS - BHBH Program Subcontract Agreement
- Exhibit 3 – Resolution Adding Four (4) New FTE Positions and Deleting Four (4) Existing FTE Position Allocations
- Exhibit 4 – Notice of Award