



COUNTY of VENTURA
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Sevet Johnson, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Kaye Mand
County Chief Financial Officer

Shawn Atin
Assistant County Executive
Officer/
Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

June 27, 2023

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

Subject: Authorization for the County Executive Officer (CEO) or Designee to, Extend Existing Voucher Agreements in Two-Month Increments with Motels Under the Project Roomkey Program

Recommendation:

Authorize the County Executive Officer (CEO) or designee to extend existing voucher agreements with motels under the Project Roomkey Program or modify same upon review and approval by County Counsel until grant resources funding said program are exhausted or program participants are placed in permanent housing or other appropriate placements, whichever occurs first.

FISCAL/MANDATES IMPACT: Division 1220 - CEO

Mandatory: No
Source of Funding: CDSS Funding, CDBG-CV
Funding Match Required: None
Impact on Other Departments: N/A

Summary of Revenues and Costs:

	<u>FY 2023-24</u>	<u>FY 2024-25</u>
Revenues:	\$ 2,520,000	\$ 0
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 2,520,000	\$ 0
Indirect-Dept	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect-County CAP	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total Cost	<u>\$ 2,520,000</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Net County Cost	\$ 0	\$ 0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

BACKGROUND

The County of Ventura launched Project Roomkey (PRK) in March 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing non-congregate shelter, meals, and supportive services to unhoused persons at increased risk of illness and death from the virus at Ventura Vagabond, Ventura Best Western and Thousand Oaks Premier Inn (PRK Motels). More than 800 persons have been sheltered, with nearly half of them exiting to permanent (150) or other temporary (225) housing placements. Approximately one hundred sixty people remain sheltered in PRK Motels with another 41 people in non-congregate shelter at Casa Aliento, pending the former Oxnard Vagabond motel's conversion into permanent supportive housing.

On November 1, 2022, your Board authorized staff to extend, in two-month increments, agreements with PRK Motels and Mercy House for interim operations at Casa Aliento until all participants exited from the program, grant funds were exhausted, or until the end of the fiscal year.

DISCUSSION

While significant progress is being made in the development of new permanent housing units, there remains an unmet need to continue the Project Roomkey Program until those units become available. Homekey projects, including Step Up on Second in Thousand Oaks, and Casa Aliento in Oxnard, are anticipated to be available by year-end or shortly thereafter. The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura awaits notification regarding their Homekey application to convert La Quinta Inn motel into rental housing, with an announcement anticipated within the next month or two. The renovation timeline for that project, once funds are awarded and grant agreement executed, is anticipated to be approximately 12 months.

Staff continues to explore options and alternatives to reduce the operational costs for the PRK program, with its current cost of about \$535,000 per month for the hotel vouchering program and \$160,000-\$190,000 at Casa Aliento depending upon client census. Sufficient grant funding remains to run the program into early 2024 and thus staff is requesting authorization for the County Executive Officer, or designee, to extend existing PRK agreements in two-month increments to meet programmatic need until grant funds are exhausted.

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This item has been reviewed by the offices of the Auditor-Controller and County Counsel. If you have questions regarding this item, please contact Christy Madden at 654-2679.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christy Madden", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Christy Madden
Sr. Deputy Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sevet Johnson", with a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

Sevet Johnson, PsyD.
County Executive Officer