

**COUNTY OF SONOMA
AGENDA ITEM
SUMMARY REPORT**

Clerk of the Board Use Only
Meeting Date / / **Held Until** / /
Agenda Item No: _____ **Agenda Item No:** _____

Department: Community Development Commission

() **4/5 Vote Required**

Contact:
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Board Date:
August 25, 2009

Deadline for Board Action:
August 25, 2009

AGENDA SHORT TITLE:

Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) - Application to State HCD with the City of Santa Rosa

REQUESTED BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION:

Concurrent Resolution of the Board of Supervisors and the Sonoma County Community Development Commission, making required certifications and authorizing application for and acceptance of Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funds from the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT

EXPENDITURES

ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD

Estimated Cost

Contingencies \$
(Fund Name:)

Amount Budgeted

Unanticipated Revenue \$
(Source:)

Other Avail Approp.
(Explain below)

Other Transfer(s) \$
(Source:)

Additional Requested:

Add'l Funds Requested: \$

Explanation (if required):

Prior Board Action(s):

- 4/26/05: Board approved Sonoma County Consolidated Plan 2005
- 5/6/08: Board approved the Action Plan: One Year Use of Funds FY 2008-2009
- 5/12/09: Board approved Substantial Amendment to the Action Plan: One Year Use of Funds FY 2008-2009 to receive ARRA – HPRP funds

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval:

Non-approval would result in the full or partial disqualification of the City/County application to State HCD for HPRP funds.

Background: [Multi-Agency Application to State HCD and draft MOU with Santa Rosa on file with Clerk]

As part of the federal government's "stimulus" legislation, a new nationwide program was developed called the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP). Administered by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the program's goal is to lessen the impact of the current economic downturn on the incidence of homelessness. The program approach is two-fold, to prevent homelessness for individuals and households imminently at risk through direct financial assistance and other measures and for those that are already homeless, to provide assistance in being re-housed as quickly as possible.

The federal funding was allocated to local "Entitlement Jurisdictions" and state governments using existing formulas. Locally, the Sonoma County "Urban County" (the unincorporated county plus the incorporated jurisdictions of Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Rohnert Park, Sebastopol, Sonoma, and Windsor in a Joint Powers Agreement) and the City of Santa Rosa are the two Entitlement Jurisdictions eligible for this direct federal funding.

While it is normally the case that Entitlement Jurisdictions are precluded from seeking the same funding type through the secondary competitive allocation staged by state government, in the case of HPRP, Entitlement Jurisdictions can, under specified conditions, also pursue additional HPRP funding controlled by the State's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD).

The focus of this agenda item is the State HCD-controlled funding. The HPRP funding available from the State is allocated on a competitive basis and thus, local funding applications may or may not be awarded State-controlled HPRP funding. If the State funding application described more fully below is funded, the ensuing HPRP program implementation would be in addition to, and supplementary to, the HPRP program slated to begin approximately September 1, 2009 and made possible from the direct Entitlement Jurisdiction funding to the County and the City of Santa Rosa, also described more fully below.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) authorized HUD to allocate Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funds to municipal, county, and state jurisdictions utilizing HUD's Emergency Shelter Grants allocation formula. Sonoma County will receive \$817,572, and the City of Santa Rosa will receive \$516,527, in HPRP funding directly from HUD. On May 12, 2009, the Board authorized and directed the Community Development Commission (CDC) staff to work in conjunction with City staff to develop and hire a contractor to implement a local program using these HPRP funds from HUD to provide services and housing assistance to individuals and families in all areas of the County who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless.

Continued on next page

Attachments: Concurrent Resolution

On File With Clerk: 1. Multi-Agency Application to State HCD
2. Draft MOU with the City of Santa Rosa

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

Continued from Page 1:

HUD also allocated \$44,466,877 in HPRP funds to the State of California, to be administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). HCD issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) inviting applications for Homelessness Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing, Data Collection and Evaluation, and Grant Administration. HCD published the NOFA for these funds on July 8, 2009 with the application due date of August 4, 2009. Previous allocations of HUD funding to the State have always been distributed through competitive application processes directly to local nonprofit agencies; entitlement jurisdictions such as the County and City have not previously been eligible applicants for such funds. The HCD HPRP NOFA is quite different in that it actually requires local governmental jurisdictions to act as lead applicant in partnership with non-profit agencies. Because several local nonprofit agencies were interested in obtaining HPRP funds from HCD and were not eligible to apply on their own, they expressed a desire to submit a multi-agency application in conjunction with the City and County.

Due to the very short application period allowed under the NOFA, HCD allowed jurisdictions to submit applications in advance of receiving formal authority from their governing bodies with the condition that such authorizing resolutions must be submitted to HCD by August 27, 2009. With the City of Santa Rosa acting as lead applicant, a multi-agency HPRP application requesting \$1.6 million was submitted to HCD by the City, CDC, Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County, Catholic Charities, COTS, InterFaith Shelter Network, and The Living Room. The NOFA stipulates that a total of \$300,000 is the maximum amount allowed for each agency to provide one or more of the eligible activities listed above. The proposed local HPRP is planned as a three-year program, from 10/1/09 through 9/30/12. The role of the CDC in this eight-member partnership is Housing Authority administration of medium-term rental assistance for approximately 10-15 households who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, and the administration of the required Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), functions already regularly provided by the CDC. The City will provide administration and coordination with partners, case management and medium-term rental assistance. All other partners will provide eligibility determination, short-term financial assistance and data collection. In addition, IFSN will provide housing search and placement, COTS will provide outreach and Catholic Charities will provide housing counseling.

The attached Concurrent Resolution provides the required authorization for CDC to accept and administer HPRP funds from HCD on behalf of the County, makes required certifications to HCD, and authorizes the Executive Director of CDC to execute required documents to obtain and implement a local HPRP program utilizing HCD HPRP funds.