



To: Board of Supervisors
From: Birgitta E. Corsello, County Administrator
Date: January 28, 2021
Subject: Significant Issues Update

Community Investment Fund update

In June 2019, the Board of Supervisors established a Community Investment Fund (CIF) to address the top human service needs in the county. The CIF was the culmination of three-phase assessment process including gathering data, key informant interviews and a community survey, and resulted in a \$2 million dollar CIF with a three-pronged approach to investing in the community, including:

- \$450,000 annually for Legacy Programs
- \$1,300,000 annually for Deep Investment Programming to address the top 3 needs in the County
- \$250,000 in One-Time Program to address the top 6 needs in the County

This FY2020/21 mid-year implementation report provides information on the activities to date and outlines the next steps to continue implementation of the CIF into FY2021/22.

Legacy Programs: The Solano County Board of Supervisors requested staff assess six legacy programs, totaling \$450,000, to determine if they were still relevant given the current County landscape. In February 2020, the Board heard a presentation from the first two Legacy Programs to be assessed, including the Children's Alliance and the Senior Coalition. Subsequently, Applied Survey Research (ASR), a social evaluation firm, conducted assessments of the two programs to look at whether they still fill gaps in the community and whether the County could leverage other funding to continue the relevant portions of the programs. The assessments and resulting recommendations will be coming before the Board in February and March 2021. The next two programs for presentation and assessment will be CASA and the Food Bank. Those assessments will launch in FY2021/22.

Deep Investment Programs: The Board of Supervisors designated the bulk of its \$2 million investment to address the top 3 needs in the county, including:

1. ***Mental Health*** – Two contracts were executed in FY2020/21 through FY2022/23 to address the top need of mental health. A Better Way has begun conducting the evidence-based Mental Health First Aid training. To request a training for a group or an individual, please email MHFA@ABetterWayInc.net.

Additionally, Touro University has conducted over 60 key informant interviews to better understand and map the mental health system of care for all Solano residents. Touro is convening both an advisory committee and implementation work group to guide the project, ensure accurate information, and get diverse input into the process. Between now and June 2021, Touro will develop a media campaign and website to share resources, with a launch of the website and mental health navigators in early FY2021/22.

2. **Housing Affordability** – In October 2020, the Board allocated \$200,000 for the first year of housing funding to Habitat for Humanity to **develop 3-single family homes** for low-income Solano families. \$200,000 per year is still available for FY2021/22 and FY2022/23. There are several projects that are in development that may be an appropriate utilization of these funds. As these plans develop, staff will bring forward recommendations for allocation of housing funding years 2 & 3.
3. **Homelessness** – In June 2020, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was released for homeless services in Solano County. Ultimately, only one contract was fully executed with Volunteers of America (VOA) for a Rapid Re-Housing program. VOA has hired a housing navigator dedicated to Solano County that will begin at the end of January 2021 and intends to begin taking referrals in February 2021.

Additionally, in February 2021, staff will issue another RFP for funding remaining for homeless services. This RFP will target homeless Transition Age Youth (TAY) ages 18-24, as TAY were identified as a priority population for H&SS and represented nearly one-fifth of the homeless population in the 2019 Point in Time Count. This population is often first time homeless and is at-risk of becoming chronically homeless without intervention. It is anticipated the services associated with this RFP will begin no later than July 2021.

One-Time Grants: The one-time grants are designated to address any of the top six needs in the County. In April 2020, the Board award seven one-year grants for FY2020/21 for approximately \$50,000 each. These grants are in process and we look forward to sharing the outcomes in an annual report in the fall of 2021. An RFP will be released February 2021 to solicit for grants for FY2021/22. It is anticipated these will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for approval in April 2021 so providers can begin services in July 2021.

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