

MEETING DATE: April 8, 2021

AGENDA ITEM: E

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

FROM: Ricardo Goodridge, Deputy Director, ricardo.goodridge@bscc.ca.gov

SUBJECT: Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF)
Funding Recommendation: **Requesting Approval**

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval to increase the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding award to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) by \$6.9 million and make conforming changes to the grant agreement between the Board and CDCR. This additional funding is made available as a portion of the \$58.5 million that had been earmarked for counties was unencumbered following two solicitation periods and a lack of participation by all counties. By allocating leftover funds to the existing CDCR contract, the BSCC can ensure the CESF funds are encumbered before the Board's federal spending authority expires on June 30, 2021.

This increase in funding for CDCR will make a total of approximately \$21.9 million available through CDCR's Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP) network of community-based providers to address reentry services and the emergency temporary housing needs of individuals released from state prison due to the coronavirus.

Background

The CESF program is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). CESF provides federal funding to states, local governments, and tribes to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. CESF uses include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment), hiring, supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer), training, travel expenses (particularly related to the distribution of resources to the most impacted areas), and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers.

California received a total CESF allocation of \$93,684,166. Of that amount, \$58,518,568 was awarded to the BSCC as the state administering agency, and \$35,165,598 was directed allocated to local governments through a separate application process that did not include the BSCC.

History

- On June 12, 2020, the BSCC launched a 30-day public comment period seeking input on how the CESF allocation should be used.
- At the request of the Administration, on July 16, 2020, the Board held an emergency meeting to allocate \$15 million of the \$58.5 million to CDCR to help address the

emergency temporary housing needs of individuals released from state prison due to the coronavirus.

- On September 10, 2020, the Board considered public comment for allocating \$41.7 million (\$41,763,011) of the \$58.5 million.
- On November 20, 2020, the BSCC released a \$41.7 million Request for Applications to California Counties with a February 1, 2021 due date.
- On February 11, 2021, the Board amended the CDCR grant agreement to allow for additional reentry services not listed in the original agreement (e.g. Substance Use Disorder Treatment, Detoxification Services, Assistance with Enrollment to Health Care Services, etc.).
- On February 11, 2021, the Board extended the Request for Applications due date to March 12, 2021 to allow eligible counties additional time to apply for funding

Request for Application (RFA) Outcome

The BSCC released a non-competitive, formula-based RFA on November 20, 2020 (Attachment E-1). The RFA was open to California counties, and originally 24 applications were received by the February 1, 2021 due date. Thirty-three counties did not respond to the RFA, and Lassen County was not eligible to receive funding because of funds that were already made available to the county through a local BJA allocation.

After extending the deadline an additional month, the BSCC received seven additional applications, bringing the total number of submissions to 31 of a possible 57 eligible counties. In total, 31 counties requested \$34.8 million, leaving approximately \$6.9 million still available for allocation.

To preserve the Board's ability to draw down the entire federal award, the BSCC must encumber the CESF award no later than June 30, 2021. Although the Board could consider repurposing the unencumbered funds through a competitive process, there is insufficient time to create a new RFP, release, receive and score it, and award funding before June 30, 2021. Allocating the \$6.9 million through CDCR's Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP) network would quickly allow funding to reach individuals returning home through an established provider network. A minimum of 90 percent of the \$6.9 million would be passed through to community-based providers in the STOP network to help address reentry services and the emergency temporary housing needs of individuals released from state prison due to the coronavirus.

Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff recommends that the Board:

- Increase the CESF award to CDCR by \$6.9 million and direct staff to amend the grant agreement with CDCR accordingly; and
- Further direct staff to re-allocate any future award relinquishments or reversions from county recipients to CDCR to help address the emergency temporary housing needs

of individuals released from state prison due to the coronavirus and for reentry services.

Attachments

E-1: CESF Request for Applications