

MEETING DATE: July 16, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: B

TO: BSCC Chair and Members

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

SUBJECT: Allocation of Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to provide emergency temporary housing to individuals released from state prison due to COVID-19: **Requesting Approval**

Summary

This agenda item requests Board approval to award \$15 million of its \$58.5 million in federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to help address the emergency temporary housing needs of individuals released from state prison due to COVID-19. CDCR is tasked with releasing 8,000 people from prison by the end of August, and the Administration has requested that the federal emergency funding be used to help CDCR quickly leverage its existing reentry contracts that can assist in housing transitions.

Background

The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) program is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance. 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. In this case, the Administration is asking the Board to approve the funds to help CDCR reduce populations at prisons statewide in an effort to help create physical distance and stem the spread of COVID-19 in facilities.

In May, the BSCC's CESF application for \$58.5 million was approved. In June, the BSCC launched a dedicated CESF email address to seek input on how the funds should be used, established a 30-day public comment period that concluded July 12, and staff committed to sharing those results with the Board at the September Board meeting. In the weeks following the June Board meeting, however, the Administration identified an urgent need to provide housing to individuals being released from CDCR due to COVID-19. As many as 8,000 individuals with less than a year left on their sentences could be eligible for release by the end of August. There is an immediate need for housing to help these people with successful reentry. The Administration has requested a portion of the federal grant to meet those emergency needs.

A CESF award would allow CDCR to immediately leverage existing contracts through the Specialized Treatment for Optimized Programming (STOP) to help with emergency housing needs. The STOP system operates in six regional areas statewide, with offices in LA, San

Diego, Sacramento, Marin, San Bernardino and Fresno. Each provider contracts to provide step-down services ranging from residential treatment to recovery and reentry housing at the local level. The proposed funding would provide emergency housing and could cover costs associated with increasing housing capacity and providing quality assurance of housing to ensure safe housing standards are implemented.

The Board will have the opportunity to consider the public comment received to determine priorities for the remaining \$41.7 million and take further action at the September meeting. Sixty-seven public comments have been received to date from community based organizations, local governments (both city and county), concerned citizens, public and private organizations, law enforcement, and the faith-based community.

Recommendation/Action Needed

Staff recommends that the Board award \$15 million to CDCR to provide emergency housing services and housing to individuals released from state prison.