



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Human Services Department

**Subject:** Administrative Actions for Vendor Pool Agreements and Ratification of Vendor Pool Agreement

**Meeting Date:** March 25, 2025

**Formal Title:** Accept and file administrative actions for Housing for Health Vendor Pool Agreements, and ratify agreement with Housing Matters in the amount of \$641,838 for navigation center operational support

### **Recommended Actions**

1. Accept and file list of additional vendors qualified to participate in the Housing for Health (H4H) Vendor Pool as listed in Attachment A; and
2. Ratify H4H Vendor Pool agreement (Contract No. 25M0002) with Housing Matters in the amount of \$641,838 to provide navigation center operational support from February 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, in cooperation with the Housing for Health Partnership (H4HP).

### **Executive Summary**

As outlined in the Purchasing Policy Manual Section 4.9 and in the County Policy and Procedures, Title 1.300.J, the Human Services Department (HSD) Housing for Health (H4H) Division recommends the Board accept and file the additional list of vendors that qualified during the review cycle ending December 31, 2024 and ratify the vendor pool agreement with Housing Matters.

### **Discussion**

On June 27, 2023, the Board approved the creation of the H4H Vendor Pool, to provide supportive services, operations, leasing/rental assistance and/or consulting and project management services for people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, homelessness (DOC-2023-592). At that time, the Board delegated authority to HSD to execute contracts for vendors qualified under the Vendor Pool in the not-to-exceed amount of \$3,000,000 annually for operations or leasing/rental assistance categories, and in the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,000,000 annually for supportive services or consulting/project management categories. Not all qualified vendors will be awarded a contract, nor is there a guaranteed minimum or maximum contract dollar amount.

As per guidelines outlined in the County Purchasing Manual, Section 4.9, an ongoing RFQ for vendors was released on May 1, 2024, with responses due and reviewed quarterly. Responses were received during the final review cycle of calendar year 2024 and reviewed by an evaluation committee. The resulting qualified vendors as listed in Attachment A were added to the Vendor Pool.

Additionally, H4H has awarded and executed the agreement listed in Attachment A through the Vendor Pool Supportive Services category, following review and approval by Risk Management and County Counsel and in accordance with the Purchasing Policy Manual Section 4.9 and in the County Policy and Procedures, Title 1.300.J.

Approval is requested to accept and file the additional list of qualified Vendor Pool

vendors as listed in Attachment as listed in Attachment A.

HSD also seeks Board approval to ratify the H4H Vendor Pool agreement 25M0002 with Housing Matters for \$641,838 to provide expanded housing-focused, low-barrier navigation center shelter and rehousing services for unsheltered Santa Cruz County individuals over age 18 who are experiencing homelessness and have serious behavioral health conditions. Eligible individuals shall receive services, including shelter, hygiene services, nutrition services, housing-focused case management, and access to behavioral health services and housing problem solving assistance. The performance of the agreement will be measured by the number of unsheltered individuals receiving shelter, Housing Assistance and Behavioral Health services during the contract year.

### **Financial Impact**

Ratification of Contract No. 25M0002 does not require a new General Fund contribution. The contract is funded through Behavioral Health Bridge (BHBH) Program Funds dedicated to addressing the immediate housing and treatment needs of people experiencing homelessness and serious behavioral health conditions, including mental illness and substance use disorders.

Contract No. 25M0002, Housing Matters BHBH

- 391200 – 62381 – WHBHBH – WH026

### **Strategic Initiatives**

Operational Plan - Attainable Housing

### **Submitted By:**

Randy Morris, Director of Human Services

### **Recommended By:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Administrative Officer

### **Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.