

35. Accept and file Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Project Update, and take related actions ()



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Health Services Agency

Subject: Project Update: Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program, and Fund Transfer Approval

Meeting Date: February 25, 2025

Formal Title: Accept and file Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Project Update, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

1. Accept and file an update on the County's Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program;
2. Approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$791,548 to implement various interim agreements to fast-track Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program services; and
3. Direct the Health Services Agency Director to return with a further update on the County's Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program on or before December 9, 2025.

Executive Summary

On June 25, 2024, the Board directed the Health Services Agency Director to return in February 2025 with an update on the County's Behavioral Bridge Housing (BHBH) Program. This program, funded with awards from the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Fund (\$10.2 million), Whole Person Care Housing Pilot funds (\$2.7 million), and Measure K funds (\$500,000), is intended to rapidly deploy services and housing resources for individuals with behavioral health conditions experiencing homelessness.

The State's BHBH award is particularly tailored to fund programs at the local level that assist people with limited access or engagement with mental health and substance use disorder treatment services that experience long or repeated episodes of homelessness. Participants in the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court receive priority access to BHBH funded resources. The BHBH Program plan partners staff from the County Administrative Office, Human Services Department (HSD) Housing 4 Health (H4H) Division, Health Service Agency (HSA) Behavioral Health Division (BHD), and General Services Department (GSD) Community Development and Infrastructure (CDI) Division.

Discussion

The County's rapid deployment plan includes an infrastructure component to develop a 32-bed Low Barrier Navigation Center (LBNC) comprised of LifeArk modular units that offer living spaces and congregate spaces for gathering, food prep, laundry, and bathrooms as well as clinic and office space to deliver supportive behavioral health services. The total cost to open the LBNC, which is sited on the county-owned parcel at 2202 Soquel Avenue, adjacent to the existing County Behavioral Health Facility, including hard and soft costs, is currently estimated at about \$4.5 million. These costs are fully funded with the complement of available revenues detailed above.

The program component, with an allocation of about \$7.6 million of the BHBH grant funds, operates through June 30, 2027 and funds a contract with Housing Matters to manage and operate the LBNC campus, a contract with Community Action Board to manage a Participant Assistance Fund for direct housing-related financial assistance to those eligible for BHBH services, and a contract with Pathways Housing First Training Institute to support the creation of Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Intensive Case Management (ICM) Housing First teams within the County that are linked with specific permanent housing resources. The BHBH grant also funds a county position to coordinate services and to collect and report data on Program outcomes, and funds administrative and management support.

The Board took several actions in 2024 to advance the Bridge Housing program, including appropriating BHBH grant and other funds, approving design and modular construction contracts with LifeArk, and approving a preliminary site plan for the LBNC. The report that follows will outline the challenges GSD staff encountered related to rapid deployment of the LBNC at the proposed site and the various approaches that H4H and BHD staff will pursue until the navigation center is operational.

The fast-tracked LBNC project experienced an approximately 6-month delay when the design team identified the need for additional geotechnical investigations at the proposed project site. The geotechnical field work and analysis ran from November 2024 through January 2025. The resulting recommendations will be incorporated into the project design plans being completed for permit review now. Additional work to prepare the site for the installation of the modular system not originally contemplated will add time to the construction schedule, but the project team is working to reduce any further impacts. The current goal is to complete the LBNC, so it is ready for move-in by late summer/early fall of this year.

BHBH partner staff are working closely with Planning staff to expedite the permit review and inspection processes at the site. The contract with LifeArk already includes work to secure the necessary approvals of the modular components and design through the State Department of Housing and Community Development.

To move forward with the non-infrastructure program elements and to fast-track services to the very vulnerable unhoused population eligible under the BHBH Program and to retain and fully utilize the \$7.6 million in BHBH grant funds allocated to programs, H4H staff, in partnership with Behavioral Health, will execute several interim agreements. These include an interim housing services agreement with Housing Matters, the vendor selected to ultimately operate the LBNC. This interim agreement will allow Housing Matters to retain program management, care management, housing navigation and necessary administrative support staff to offer housing and related supportive services to CARE Act and other prioritized Behavioral Health clients in need of temporary housing and long-term housing supports. The interim agreement also includes funding for emergency hotel/motel stays, determined on a case-by-case basis, for up to 20 individuals at any one time. Housing Matters will manage the agreements with hospitality providers and coordinate supportive services with County Behavioral Health staff.

In addition to the interim agreement with Housing Matters, H4H will expedite the planned contract with Community Action Board (CAB) to provide one-time housing related financial assistance to BHBH-eligible clients through the BHBH Program's

Participant Assistance Fund (PAF). These funds are a crucial element to securing permanent housing by providing security deposits, rent, residential room and board payments, furnishings, or other housing needs. Request for draws from the PAF come from County Behavioral Health service providers through CAB for evaluation and disbursement.

H4H is also utilizing BHBH funds to jump-start the contract with the Pathways to Housing Training Institute to provide local training and staff support to implement the Pathways to Housing – Housing First model as part of the new collection of system resources that have proven to be successful to address the housing and service needs of individuals with behavioral health conditions experiencing or at-risk of homelessness within the County.

Financial Impact

The attached AUD 74 forms request approval for the transfers of \$791,548 from Professional Services to Intra Fund Transfer. These actions will permit the transfer of funds from HSA to HSD to implement the interim agreements that will advance the BHBH Program now, considering the temporary delay to complete the LBNC due to conditions at the site. Currently, there is no requirement nor request for County General Fund resources to finance the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Program.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety, Attainable Housing, Operational Excellence

Submitted By:

Monica Morales, Director of Health 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.

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OR REVISION
OF BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AND / OR FUNDS

Department: Health Services Agency Date: 01/27/2025
Fund Number: 10300
To: Board of Supervisors
Requires 4/5 vote: No

I hereby request your approval of the following transfer of budget appropriations and/or funds in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER USE ONLY		
Document #:		
Description:		
	Board Name	Agenda Date (mm/dd/yy)
Entered by:	Date:	

		GL Key	GL Object	JL Key	JL Object	Amount	Account Description
TRANSFER	To	363174	95206			791,548	INTRA-FUND TRF-HSA
	From	363174	62381			791,548	PROF & SPECIAL SERV-OTHER

Explanation:
Approve transfer of funds in the amount of \$791,548 of Behavioral Health Bridge Housing grant funding received by H.S.A. from Professional & Special Services to Intra Fund Transfer-HSA.

Name: Christine M. Williams Title: Chief of Fiscal Svcs. Date: 01/27/2025

Auditor-Controller's Action: I hereby certify that the unencumbered balance(s) is/are available in the appropriations/funds and in the amounts indicated Human Services Department on behalf of Christine M. Williams, Deputy Auditor-Controller, by Christine M. Williams Date: 2/13/2025

Administrative Officer's Action: ☒ Recommended to Board ☐ Approved ☐ Not Recommended or Approved

Administrative Officer: David Brown Date: 2/14/2025

State of California }
County of Santa Cruz ss. As the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, I do hereby certify that the foregoing transfer was approved by said Board of Supervisors as recommended by the County Administrative Officer by an order duly entered in the minutes of said Board on _____ 20____, by _____, Deputy Clerk

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: BE112C28-AD87-4B78-83B3-9E07ED48BDF4

Status: Completed

Subject: AUD74-HSA (25-1187) 02/25/2025 BOS

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 1

Signatures: 2

Envelope Originator:

Certificate Pages: 5

Initials: 0

HSA Admin Processing

AutoNav: Enabled

701 Ocean Street

Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

hsa.adminprocessing@santacruzcountycal.gov

IP Address: 73.158.132.136

Record Tracking

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hsa.adminprocessing@santacruzcountycal.gov

Security Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: FedRamp

Storage Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: County of Santa Cruz

Location: Docusign

Signer Events

Signature

Timestamp

Christine M. Williams

Christine.Williams@santacruzcountycal.gov

Chief of Fiscal Services

County of Santa Cruz

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
(None)

DocuSigned by:

Christine M. Williams

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Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style

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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Accepted: 3/1/2022 10:56:19 AM

ID: fda0ff81-98fe-47aa-8ea1-a48d9f8d6af3

David Brown

David.Brown@santacruzcountycal.gov

Sr. Admin. Analyst

County of Santa Cruz

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
(None)

DocuSigned by:

David Brown

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In Person Signer Events

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Editor Delivery Events

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Agent Delivery Events

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Intermediary Delivery Events

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Certified Delivery Events

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Carbon Copy Events

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Witness Events

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Notary Events

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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Completed	Security Checked	2/14/2025 9:06:07 AM
Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure		

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OR REVISION
OF BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AND / OR FUNDS

Department: Human Services Department
Fund Number: 10110
To: Board of Supervisors
Requires 4/5 vote: No

Date: 01/27/2025

I hereby request your approval of the following transfer of budget appropriations and/or funds in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER USE ONLY		
Document #:		
Description:	/ /	#
	Board Name	Agenda Date (mm/dd/yy)
Entered by:		Date:

		GL Key	GL Object	JL Key	JL Object	Amount	Account Description
TRANSFER	To	391200	62381			791,548	PROF & SPECIAL SERV-OTHER
	From	391200	95205			(791,548)	INTRA-FUND TRF-HSD OVERHEAD

Explanation:

Approve transfer of funds in the amount of \$791,548 of Behavioral Health Bridge Housing grant funding received by H.S.A. from the incoming intra-fund transfers in to Professional and Special Services.

Name: Sarah Heffernan Title: Adm Svcs Mgr Date: 01/27/2025

Auditor-Controller's Action: I hereby certify that the unencumbered balance(s) is/are available in the appropriations/funds and in the amounts indicated

Human Services Department on behalf of Sarah Heffernan, Deputy Auditor-Controller, by Sarah Heffernan Date: 2/13/2025

Administrative Officer's Action: ☒ Recommended to Board ☐ Approved ☐ Not Recommended or Approved

Administrative Officer Sven Stafford Date: _____

State of California }
ss. transfer was approved by said Board of Supervisors as recommended by the County Administrative Officer
County of Santa Cruz by an order duly entered in the minutes of said Board on

_____, 20____, by _____, Deputy Clerk

Certificate Of Completion

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Status: Completed

Subject: AUD74-HSD (25-1187) 02/25/2025 BOS

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 1

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Pool: FedRamp

Storage Appliance Status: Connected

Pool: County of Santa Cruz

Location: Docusign

Signer Events

Signature

Timestamp

Sarah Heffernan

Sarah.Heffernan@santacruzcountycal.gov

Sr. Dept. Admin. Analyst

County of Santa Cruz

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
(None)

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Sarah Heffernan
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Signature Adoption: Pre-selected Style

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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

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Sven Stafford

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Principal Administrative Analyst

County of Santa Cruz

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
(None)

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Sven Stafford
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Intermediary Delivery Events

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Certified Delivery Events

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Carbon Copy Events

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Rajiv Prasad

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County of Santa Cruz

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
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Notary Events	Signature	Timestamp
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Envelope Summary Events	Status	Timestamps
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Signing Complete	Security Checked	2/13/2025 10:14:36 PM
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Payment Events	Status	Timestamps
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Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure