

**Solano County – CARES Act Expenditure Plan
Project Roomkey Overview
August 25, 2020**

Attachment C

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide some context for the importance of financially supporting Project Roomkey operating costs in Solano County through December 2020 from the Solano County State CARES allocation.

CAP Solano Project Roomkey Timeline:

Named “Project Roomkey” by State officials, Governor Newsom and the State of California have worked with County regions to secure approximately 15,000 hotel or motel units statewide, targeting the highest COVID-19 homeless capacity needs in communities. In Solano County, the funding for the Project Roomkey program is coordinated through the efforts of CAP Solano and implemented by several of the member cities, the county and nonprofits. The initial funding for Project Roomkey was through a combination of several existing CAP Solano homeless grants that were repurposed for the program as well as new revenue streams including CARES funding braided together to run the program initially through June 2020, then extended through July 2020, and more recently through August 2020. At the August 4th Board Meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved in concept a County commitment to support County CARES contribution to Project Roomkey through December 2020. At the August 11th Board Meeting, the Board received an item to review and approve the expenditure plan associated with the Solano County CARES allocation where staff recommended to fully cover the Project Roomkey operations costs through December 2020.

CARES Funding Containment Capacity Requirement

The State of California recently allocated its remaining portion of the CARES funding to counties and cities as the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) for COVID-19 related costs and response, including Solano County’s allocation. In order to have access to and utilize the funds, the State CRF requires local jurisdictions to maintain compliance with all Gubernatorial and Public Health orders since March 2020, including a requirement to maintain an ability to temporarily house at least 15% of county residents experiencing homelessness due to the pandemic health crisis. This percentage is based upon the 2019 Point in Time Count and is specifically required in case of an outbreak among this population requiring isolation and quarantine. In January 2019, there were 1,151 homeless individuals identified in the Solano Point in Time Count, reflecting a need to maintain an ability to shelter approximately 172 individuals through December 2020.

As of August 17th, there are approximately 150 individuals being temporarily housed in Project Roomkey, covering roughly 87% of the Containment Capacity Requirement alone. CAP Solano has also set aside \$190,000 to pay for the scaling of additional Project Roomkey beds as needed specifically for homeless individuals that test positive for COVID-19 or who are under investigation and are awaiting test results. As the 150 individuals currently housed in the project are vulnerable to COVID-19 due to age and/or preexisting health condition, these additional special quarantine rooms would be scaled at an alternate site. Upcoming CAP Solano grants may also be utilized beyond the \$190,000 for this need if and when a surge is to occur in the homeless population that would produce a higher financial cost.

Compliance Overview and Recommendation

By the Board of Supervisors approving the utilization of CARES funding to pay for Project Roomkey costs through December, the project has an assured source of funding which allows the Containment Capacity Requirement to largely be met by this alone. As extension funding for

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beyond September was recently uncertain, this action would free up the City of Vallejo Project Roomkey site to fill its remaining 12 vacant rooms with eligible households in the coming 21 days as the extension of the program would be assured. Depending on household size, this would allow Project Roomkey to support no less than 162 individuals through December, leaving a need of only 10 individuals remaining. These 162+ individuals coupled with the CAP Solano set aside of funds to support quarantine rooms for individuals that test positive or are under investigation allows for the 15% Containment Capacity Requirement to be met. Lastly, this action allows CAP Solano to utilize its upcoming grants for the development of permanent housing solutions beyond December, allowing partner agencies who were working on revenues for an extension of the program to focus on permanently housing those participants that remain in the project.