



June 30, 2021 totals \$124,900 and will be funded with the FY2020/21 CalWORKs HSP in Solano County upon approval by CDSS. Contract language specifies that the County's obligation under the contract is subject to the availability of authorized funds. The costs associated with preparing the agenda item are nominal and absorbed by the department's FY2019/20 Adopted Budget.

**DISCUSSION:**

Solano County has an estimated 1,286 homeless families that are eligible for the Housing Support Program. For FY2019/20, H&SS has committed to housing 75 new homeless families through HSP. Shelter, Inc. will be responsible for finding available housing units for at least 35 of the 75 families for the first five (5) months (February 2020 - June 2020) of the contract. For the remaining 12 months of the contract Shelter, Inc. will be responsible for finding available housing units for at least 80% of the families that are referred by social workers.

The housing identification responsibilities of Shelter, Inc. include, but are not limited to, (1) facilitating and negotiating the housing application and approval process, (2) verifying unit habitability, (3) verifying affordability, and (4) verifying safety. HSP staff will provide case management services to families, identify and refer eligible families to Shelter, Inc. for house matching, provide clients rent and move-in assistance, and provide other supportive services.

Solano County has a housing vacancy rate of approximately at 2% and when coupled with the lack of a dedicated housing navigators, families face a significant barrier to securing permanent housing. Shelter, Inc. has experience providing housing navigation services in the East Bay Area and this contract can provide substantial assistance to HSP in locating affordable and appropriate housing to eligible families.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Board could choose not to approve this contract with Shelter, Inc., but this is not recommended because Solano County has an existing FY2019/20 allocation of \$125,000 for administration and case management, including costs for housing navigation services. Without the housing navigator support, Solano County will not be able to fully spend the allocation which will impact the County's success in placing families in permanent housing.

**CAO RECOMMENDATION:**

**APPROVE DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION**