



## Legislation Text

**File #:** 19-718, **Version:** 1

Adopt a resolution to authorize the County to submit an application to the Department of Health Care Services for one-time funds for the Whole Person Care Pilot program to invest in long-term or short-term housing for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are mentally ill and are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness; and Delegate authority to the County Administrator to approve an Appropriation Transfer Request (ATR) for \$1,603,828 once the California Department of Healthcare Services approves the Whole Person Care application (4/5 vote required)

Published Notice Required? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X  
Public Hearing Required? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

### **DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:**

The Department of Health and Social Services (H&SS) recommends the Board adopt the resolution to authorize the County to submit an application to Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to invest in long-term or short-term housing for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are mentally ill and are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness; and delegate authority to the County Administrator to approve a FY2019/20 Appropriation Transfer Request (ATR) for \$1,603,828 once DHCS approves the Whole Person Care application (4/5 vote required).

### **SUMMARY/DISCUSSION**

The Solano County Whole Person Care Pilot program coordinates health, behavioral health and social services in a patient-centered manner for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are mentally ill or have a substance use disorder, have a chronic disease and are high utilizers of the emergency room. Finding adequate housing for Solano County's WPC clients has been the biggest challenge to accomplishing WPC Pilot program goals. The WPC Pilot program ends on December 30, 2020.

California recognizes the growing need to allocate significant investment in housing for the mentally ill. The State FY2019/20 Budget invests \$100 million of State General Funds (one-time with multiple year spending authority through June 30, 2025) for Whole Person Care (WPC) Pilot programs that provide housing services.

On July 22, 2019, DHCS notified WPC Pilot programs about how these new funds can be used, the funding allocation methodology, and the process to apply for these funds. Solano County's WPC Pilot program was allocated \$1,603,828 in one-time funding available for the cost of long-term or short-term housing, such as capital investment for housing projects or rental subsidies for Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are mentally-ill and are experiencing homeless, or at-risk of homelessness.

To receive the funding a Board resolution supporting a letter of intent is due to DHCS by October 7, 2019. The letter of intent needs to include that the funds will comply with all applicable "Housing First" principles, will complement existing housing services provided by the WPC Pilot, will not supplant existing funding, and will serve the mentally ill that experience homelessness or are at-risk of homelessness. The letter of intent does not require specific details on what project(s) the funds will be used. The WPC Pilot has the flexibility to determine the scope of the project.

Counties will be notified of the formal acceptance on October 7, 2019, and funding will be released by

December 30, 2019. Funds must be fully expended by June 30, 2025.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

This action brings \$1,603,828 in new funds to address a significant community need. As the funding can be spent over the next 5½ fiscal years and planning for investment of these funds to create additional housing is beginning, H&SS recommends that the County Administrator be delegated authority to approve a FY2019/20 ATR for \$1,603,828 once DHCS approves the WPC application to invest in long-term or short-term housing by June 30, 2025. There is no local match requirement.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The Board may choose not to adopt this resolution. This is not recommended as the County would not receive the funding and the funding provides an opportunity to serve a high need population.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

There are no other agencies involved at this time.

**CAO RECOMMENDATION:**

APPROVE DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION