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MEMORANDUM

TO: DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES COMMISSION

THROUGH: KELLY DEARMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FROM: CINDY KAUFFMAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

DATE: NOVEMBER 2, 2022

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING’S SENIOR NUTRITION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT, CONTRACT NUMBER NI-2223-06, ASSOCIATED BUDGET, AND ALL SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS

Introduction

The Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) requests approval to enter into a new contract (NI-2223-06) with the California Department of Aging (CDA). The contract amount is \$1,052,073 and is for capacity building and infrastructure improvement for congregate and home delivered meal nutrition programs.

CDA requires DAS to present this new standard contract document before the Disability and Aging Services Commission for approval prior to its certification by the State.

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the much greater need for community nutrition providers to meet the demand for food and nutrition support for at risk populations. The pandemic also shed light on the aging equipment and infrastructure that hinders many community nutrition providers to best meet the needs of their consumers who rely on them of nutrition support. In spring 2021, Meals on Wheels of America submitted an advocacy proposal to the Legislature, requesting \$40 million to support capacity and infrastructure improvement grants for



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senior nutrition programs. The infrastructure funding received by DAS from CDA is the result of that advocacy proposal.

On March 15, 2022, CDA released a program memo (No. PM 22-04) advising Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) of the infrastructure funding opportunity. The memo included instructions on how to submit a request for grant funding, allowable expenditures through the infrastructure grant, the allocation of funding for each AAA, and the methodology used for the allocation.

Examples of allowable expenditures through the infrastructure grant included:

- Equipment for production-scale commercial kitchens
- Warming, refrigeration, or freezer capacity and equipment
- Food delivery vehicles
- Energy efficient light fixtures in kitchens or congregate meal service areas
- Furniture for congregate meal service areas

CDA instructed AAAs to offer their congregate and home delivered meal partners an opportunity to submit a request for infrastructure funding. CDA advised AAAs to collect and review requests accordingly and then submit one consolidated proposal to CDA by June 30, 2022. CDA stipulated that the funding available to each AAA was limited to the amounts defined in their PM 22-04.

Shortly after the release of PM 22-04, DAS as an AAA asked nutrition partners to submit itemized infrastructure requests by May 31, 2022. DAS also asked nutrition partners to prioritize their itemized requests in anticipation of the collective funding request to exceed DAS's allocation of infrastructure funding from CDA.

DAS submitted its consolidated proposal on June 30, 2022. The infrastructure grant, Contract No. NI-2223-06 is the result of the consolidated proposal submitted by DAS.



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Allocation Methodology

DAS allocated infrastructure grant funding to all nutrition partners who submitted a request. Similar to the methodology employed by the state, each nutrition partners received an equal base amount of infrastructure funding (\$10,000). DAS then allocated the remaining funding equitably based on priorities set forth in CDA's PM 22-04, DAS's Area Plan, and the recent Dignity Fund Community Needs Assessment 2021-2022.

Planned Use Funding

DAS nutrition partners will use funds to enhance their ability to meet the needs of consumers and to provide safe and healthful nutrition support and in some cases, increase their capacity to serve more consumers.

The infrastructure funding will reduce the financial burden and program barriers enabling our nutrition partners to meet consumer demand more fully for food and nutrition support in the community.

DAS will meet CDA requirements related to reporting on expenditures including demonstration that the department and our nutrition partners used the funds appropriately and in accordance with all applicable guidelines. These funds are one-time only funds.

DAS will distribute infrastructure funding to nutrition partners through their existing nutrition grant agreements with DAS and as approved by CDA.

Next Steps

DAS staff will coordinate with HSA Contracts staff to distribute infrastructure funding through the grant modifications process. Grant modifications to add infrastructure funding that require Commission approval are scheduled to be brought before the Commission in December 2022.