

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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550 SOUTH VERMONT AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90020

Reply To: (213) xxx-xxxx
Fax: (213) xxx-xxxx

401.11 Attachment I

January xx, 20xx

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AGREEMENTS FOR NINE-MONTH
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA) CRISIS COUNSELING
REGULAR PROGRAM GRANT FOR THE PERIOD OF NOVEMBER xx, 20xx THROUGH
AUGUST xx, 20xx
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)**

The Department of Mental Health is requesting your Board to approve the attached Nine-Month FEMA Crisis Counseling Regular Program Grant Agreement format and to authorize the Department to complete the Agreements as described in Attachment A.

The Department also requests your Board to delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health to sign these Agreements and to execute amendments of these Agreements as described.

BACKGROUND

On April xx, 19xx, four Los Angeles Police Department officers won acquittals in their trial for the beating of black motorist, Rodney G. King. Public response to the verdict was intense, swift and often violent. Hours after the verdicts were announced, the violence radiated through the city and county as rioters of all ethnic groups torched buildings, looted neighborhood stores and randomly assaulted individuals.

Following the first two days of unrest, it became apparent that the magnitude of the civil unrest required the Department to ask for Federal assistance. It was also clear that the interventions needed to assist the victims, their families, and disaster workers would require non-traditional and community based approaches. Through the State Department of Mental Health, the Department requested assistance from FEMA, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), and the State Office of Emergency Services (OES).

The award of the Sixty Day Immediate Crisis Counseling Project Grant allowed the Department to provide outreach counseling services to victims of the April xx, 19xx, fires and civil unrest.

Because of the continuing need for disaster-related services beyond those addressed under the Sixty Day Immediate Crisis Counseling Project Grant, the Department designed Project REBOUND to create a

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comprehensive community-based intervention for reducing the negative effects on the emotional well-being of victims of the recent civil disturbance in Los Angeles County. The Department firmly believes that disaster mental health services should be provided in community settings (e.g., neighborhoods, churches, community centers, free clinics, senior citizens centers, etc.). These services are intended to be culturally relevant, linguistically appropriate, and designed to enable the community to continue services beyond the nine-month period. Therefore, the proposed services will: (1) respond to needs of persons in distress as a result of the disaster, (2) be culturally and linguistically relevant to the community that is being serviced, and (3) remain viable beyond the funding period.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

The services and the Maximum Contract Amounts for these Agreements are shown on Attachment A. The total amount is \$4,017,304 for Fiscal Year 19xx-xx and \$502,163 for Fiscal Year 19xx-xx. These Agreements will be effective November xx, 19xx through August xx, 19xx, with a maximum ninety day extension, which may be exercised by the Director of Mental Health if sufficient funds are available from FEMA.

PLAN OF SERVICES

The plan is to provide comprehensive community-based, crisis counseling services, outreach services, community organizing services, and school-based services in the affected geographic areas.

The target population for crisis counseling services includes:

1. Children, youth, adults and older adults who are having difficulties coping in their daily lives as a result of the civil unrest.
2. Children, youth, adults, older adults and the dislocated who had tangible losses as a result of the civil unrests.
3. Mental health workers, emergency workers, community workers, teachers, and other helping professionals and para-professionals who provide disaster related services to individual and community groups in the impacted areas.
4. Natural leaders (including the clergy) in the community who provide disaster-related services to individuals and community groups in the impacted areas.

The attached Nine-Month FEMA Mental Health Services Crisis Counseling Regular Program Agreement format has been reviewed and approved by the Auditor-Controller, County Counsel, Chief Administrative Office Risk Manager, and this Department's Financial and Program staff.

In accordance with County policy Attachment B summarizes information regarding Minority/Women-Owned Firms.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

The Department asked community agencies for input to determine the crisis counseling and training needs of the areas affected by the civil unrest. A forum was convened to discuss the Department's application

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to FEMA for a Nine Month Regular Program Grant. The Department asked agencies to submit service plans based on the needs of their communities and congruent to the Department's overall service plan and FEMA funding criteria.

The Department reviewed proposals based on the following criteria (not in priority order): (1) Proposed services that fit the Department's program principles, its plan of service, and FEMA funding criteria; (2) Service providers with a positive track record of providing services in the targeted communities; (3) Providers that have cultural and linguistic capabilities to serve the community; and (4) Providers that show an understanding of the disaster related mental health needs of their community.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Approve the attached format (Attachment C) for these Nine Month FEMA Crisis Counseling Regular Program Services Agreements.
2. Instruct the Department of Mental Health to prepare these Agreements as described in Attachment A and to obtain the signatures of these Contractors.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health to sign these Agreements between the County and these Contractors.
4. Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health to execute amendments to these Agreements, provided that the County's total payment to a Contractor under each Agreement shall not exceed a change of twenty percent from the applicable Maximum Contract Amount, and provided further that the Board of Supervisors has appropriated sufficient funds in the Department of Mental Health's budget for all changes described in each of the amendments to these agreements. The Director of Mental Health shall obtain the approval of County Counsel and the Chief Administrative Officer or his designee prior to the amendment of each Agreement. The Director of Mental Health shall notify the Board of Supervisors and Chief Administrative Officer of Agreement changes in writing within fifteen days after execution of each amendment.
5. Delegate authority to the Director of Mental Health to extend for a maximum period of ninety days, Agreements, provided that Director determines that additional FEMA funds are available to augment any Maximum Contract Amount to purchase additional crisis counseling and or outreach services, or to continue to provide services for the extension period without augmenting the Maximum Contract Amount, and provided further that the Board of Supervisors has appropriated sufficient funds in the Department of Mental Health's budget for all changes described in each of the amendments to theses Agreements. The Director of Mental Health shall obtain the approval of County Counsel and the Chief Administrative Officer or his designee prior to the amendment of each Agreement. The Director of Mental Health shall notify the Board of Supervisors and Chief Administrative Officer of each Agreement which has been extended within fifteen days after the Director's written notice extension is sent to the particular Contractor.

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The Department will need five copies of the Board's action. It is requested that the Executive Officer-Board of Supervisors notify the Contracts Development and Administration Division of the Department of Mental Health at (213) xxx-xxxx, when the documents are available.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin J. Southard, DSW
Director of Mental Health

MJS:MAR:BMcT:eo

Attachments

c: Executive Officer-Board of Supervisors
 Chief Administrative Officer
 County Counsel
 Auditor-Controller
 Chairman, Mental Health Advisory Board

BoardApprovalRequest