

**MEETING DATE:** September 10, 2020

**AGENDA ITEM:** D

**TO:** BSCC Chair and Members

**FROM:** Ricardo Goodridge, Deputy Director, [ricardo.goodridge@bscc.ca.gov](mailto:ricardo.goodridge@bscc.ca.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program Funding Recommendations: **Requesting Approval**

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### **Summary**

This agenda item requests Board approval to award \$41.7 million in federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) through a formula grant to counties through a request for application process (RFA). This RFA process will require counties to collaborate with cities within those counties; Indian tribes; and community-based organizations on the development of local CESF priorities. As part of the planning, counties will be required to allocate a minimum of 20 percent of the CESF award to nongovernmental, community-based organizations impacted by coronavirus and providing services in the county. The recommendation authorizes staff to develop a CESF Request for Application (RFA) for purposes of approval at the November board meeting.

### **Background**

The Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) program is administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). CESF provides funding to states, local units of government, and tribes to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (Attachment D-1). Allowable projects and purchases include, but are not limited to, overtime, equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment), hiring, supplies (such as gloves, masks, sanitizer), training, travel expenses (particularly related to the distribution of resources to the most impacted areas), and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local, and tribal prisons, jails, and detention centers.

A total of \$93,684,166 is available to California as shown below (Attachment D-2):

- \$58,518,568 to the BSCC as the state administering agency
- \$35,165,598 to local governments through a separate federal application process

On July 16, 2020, the Board held an emergency meeting to allocate \$15 million of the \$58.5 million CESF award to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to help address the emergency temporary housing needs of individuals released from state prison due to COVID-19. This agenda item includes a recommendation to allocate \$41,763,011. The remaining 3% or \$1,755,557 will be retained to administer the CESF program.

### **Public Comment**

On June 12, 2020, the BSCC launched a 30-day public comment period seeking input on how the CESF allocation should be used. A dedicated CESF email address was established and 70 public comments were received from community-based organizations (CBOs), local

governments (both city and county), concerned citizens, public and private organizations, law enforcement, the faith-based community, and the Legislature. Public comments can be found here: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1C-LS6dRZiL-FQPMR8coU-Cyuy0dU-pDv?usp=sharing>

Common themes include, but are not limited to, requests to fund:

- COVID-19 testing
- Community-based organizations
- Community-based alternatives to policing
- Increased Staffing
- Food and Housing
- Hygiene and Cleaning Supplies
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Pre-Trial
- Technology Enhancements (laptops, smart phones, hotspots, etc.)

The broad range of public input underscores the need for a flexible approach that supports and funds locally identified priorities. To ensure the diverse needs of locals are addressed, staff recommends allocating funds directly to counties, with a specific focus on meeting CESF re-entry related needs. Counties may designate a fiscal agent such as the county administrative office or to a specific department to administer the funds. Counties will be required to establish an advisory group, which must include representatives from the county, cities within the county, CBOs, and tribal governments to develop recommendations for local CESF priorities and the allocation of the CESF award. Counties will be required to pass through a minimum of 20% of the CESF award to nongovernmental CBOs.

### **Formula Allocation**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance made \$35,165,598 available to California's cities and counties through a separate non-competitive application process (Attachment D-3).<sup>1</sup> All local awards have been allocated based on BJA's publicly available data. These local allocations were considered as the BSCC developed a formula to allocate the remaining state award. In short, the \$41.7 CESF award is divided by the county's population and the resulting number is the amount per person that should be allocated (approximately \$1.93). This approach allows for a minimum award of \$2,207, maximum of \$7,998,604, and an average award of \$732,684. Funding would be provided to 57 counties. Lassen County would not receive a BSCC allocation based on the funds that were already available to Lassen County through the local allocation (Attachment D-3).

### **CESF Application**

Pending approval of this item, staff will develop a noncompetitive Request for Application (RFA) for Board approval at the November Meeting. Applicants will apply for a pre-determined amount of funding as outlined in the Formula Allocation section.

### **Recommendation/Action Needed**

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<sup>1</sup> BJA calculated the local CESF formula by proportionally increasing the allocations available under the FY 2019 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program to align with the CESF appropriation amount.

Staff recommends that the Board:

- Award \$41.7 million in federal Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding to a designated fiscal agent in each county to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus.
- As part of the RFA process, require counties to establish advisory bodies consisting of cities, tribes, and CBOs to collaborate on the development of local CESF priorities and a plan for allocating funding with a specific focus on meeting the CESF re-entry needs of people in the county.
- Require the designated fiscal agent in each county to pass through a minimum of 20% of the CESF award to community-based organizations.
- Authorizes staff to develop a CESF Request for Application (RFA).

### **Attachments**

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D-1: CESF Formula Allocation

D-2: CESF Local and State Allocations

D-3: California CESF Allocation by City and County

D-4: CESF Program Solicitation