



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**  
County Manager's Office



**DATE:** January 23, 2012  
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** January 31, 2012  
**SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING:** None  
**VOTE REQUIRED:** Majority

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** John L. Maltbie, Acting County Manager

**SUBJECT:** 2012 Food and Shelter Grants with Silicon Valley Community Foundation

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Direct the Acting County Manager or his designee to develop an agreement with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation (SVCF) for lead agency services related to the 2012 Food and Shelter Grants Program.

**BACKGROUND:**

In March 2009, in response to the economic downturn, the County and SVCF jointly awarded \$1,000,000 in one-time grants for food and shelter assistance and other support services to community-based organizations. The grants provided groceries, meals, shelter beds and client visits for support services for 11,664 residents in need.

In December 2011, the unemployment rate in the County was 7.2%. SAMCEDA reported in September 2011 that over 30,000 residents remained unemployed and there are some communities where the unemployment rate remains over 10%. So while more residents are now employed than in 2009, many are still in need of assistance. Annual visits to the core service agencies increased to over 40,000 visits in 2010 compared to an average of 18,000 prior to 2007. Applications for public assistance are also up 37% during the same period, with the largest increases in requests for Food Stamps and Medi-Cal assistance. While levels of demand did not climb as precipitously in 2011, the need for assistance remained steady at significantly higher than normal levels.

Due to this ongoing need, the SVCF has approached the County about offering another joint Food and Shelter grant program. At the January 10 Board meeting, your Board directed the County Manager to develop a joint program with SVCF for food and shelter services.

**DISCUSSION:**

Based on feedback from the Board at the January 10 meeting and preliminary discussions with the Foundation, staff recommends implementing a joint Food and

Shelter grant program with SVCF as the lead agency. As in 2009, the SVCF/County grant program would supplement, not replace, funding for non-profit organizations. The SVCF has offered to contribute \$500,000 for San Mateo County programs and will also provide an equal amount for Santa Clara County programs. The recommendation is that the County contribution match SVCF funding for our County for a total funding pool of \$1,000,000.

Preliminary eligibility criteria for the program as proposed as follows:

- The Foundation will serve as lead agency for the purposes of issuing Request for Proposals and distributing and administering grant funds
- Grants will be made to programs that help low-income and disadvantaged children and adults– as well as newly vulnerable individuals and families who now struggle given the economic downturn – meet basic needs for food and shelter
- Grants will be awarded to organizations that serve San Mateo County communities and populations where the need is greatest
- Organizations assisting re-entry clients (i.e., recently released inmates from correctional institutions) will be one of the targeted populations.
- Organizations that have existing funding relationships with both the County and the Foundation for food and shelter-related services will be eligible to apply
- Foundation and County will develop streamlined performance reporting requirements

The proposed grant program with the SVCF contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 of a Collaborative Community by consolidating County and Foundation resources to help meet the food and shelter needs of County residents.

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**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Funding for the County contribution to the joint grant program of \$500,000 would come from General Fund reserves. An Appropriation Transfer Request will be brought to the Board with the Agreement with SVCF.