



## Interoffice Memorandum

August 23, 2023

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings  
-AND-  
County Commissioners

~~FROM:~~ Carrie Mathes, CFM, NIGP-CPP, CPPO, C.P.M., Manager II,  
Procurement Division

CONTACT: Donna Wyche, Manager, Mental Health and Homelessness Division  
407-836-7608

SUBJECT: Approval of Federal Subrecipient Agreement Y23-2406, Providing  
Funding for Homelessness Outreach, Prevention, and Diversion

### ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval of Federal Subrecipient Agreement Y23-2406, Providing Funding for Homelessness Outreach, Prevention and Diversion, between Orange County and Matthews Hope Ministries, Inc., for a federal subaward in an amount not-to-exceed \$929,952.

Request delegation of authority to the Procurement Division Manager or designee to execute such Federal Subrecipient Agreement on a form approved by the Orange County Attorney's Office and the Risk Management Division.

### PURPOSE:

This subaward is issued from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (the "Recovery Fund") allocation received by the County on May 18, 2021.

This agreement will define the working relationship between Orange County, Florida and Matthews Hope Ministries, Inc., the Federal Subrecipient for the subaward period of performance of August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024.

Additionally, this contract will expand access to behavioral health services and increase access to supportive housing, both recommendations of the Orange County Mental and Behavioral System of Care Community Analysis.

### DISCUSSION:

In accordance with the Code of Ordinances, Part I, Chapter 17, Article III, Section 17-286 – Application and Exclusions, agreements between the Board and nonprofit organizations are excluded from competitive procurement requirements.

The funding will allow for the expansion of homeless outreach to the more underserved outer regions of Orange County. This will be accomplished within established guidelines and add internal and external health services coordination to the County's provision of care to unsheltered and housing insecure populations. The Federal Subrecipient will expand the area to which such services are typically provided while increasing its current service level, creating

additional capacity to serve the homeless and housing insecure and increasing health and safety awareness. The Federal Subrecipient will provide Bridge Housing, Flexible Financial Assistance, and Street Outreach Health Services to COVID-19 impacted Orange County residents.

The overall objective of the project is bridging the gap in the homeless system for COVID-19 impacted residents of Orange County, Florida, who are currently living in remote East Orange County encampments and are in need rental, bridge, and/or rapid rehousing assistance as well as connection to other needed resources.

The COVID-19 emergency had caused a substantial increase in families and individuals to lose employment, housing, and suffer from other detrimental impacts including social, emotional, mental, and physical health distress. Research demonstrates an increase in the number of families and individuals affected by COVID-19. As one of the many consequences of COVID-19, housing insecurity has increased, resulting in an increase in the number of individuals seeking shelter and housing assistance.

The impacted class are residents of Orange County who are low-income, defined as having a household income of 185% or less of the most current federal poverty guidelines, or who have otherwise suffered due to:

1. A financial COVID-19 related impact and
2. Homelessness or
3. Imminent risk of homelessness

The COVID-19 pandemic created a negative impact and increased need for housing assistance despite little to no affordable housing availability. The Subrecipient plays a significant role in the community as a provider of support program services, amongst a variety of other services focused on Prevention, Diversion, Rapid Rehousing, and non-clinical Healthcare Coordination. Services include case management, connection to medical and housing resources.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness recommends diversion as the initial stage of the crisis response system. Safe and appropriate diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness by helping people experiencing a housing crisis to preserve their current housing situation or make immediate alternative arrangements.

1. Diversion prevents homelessness for people seeking emergency services by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements or helps them stay where they are if safe and appropriate.
2. Diversion is problem-solving and solutions-focused.
3. Diversion is not a separate "program" but rather part of the entire crisis response system.

4. Diversion should always be safe and appropriate for the person or household seeking help.
5. Diversion should feel like a service, not like being turned away with no assistance.
6. Diversion happens through a coordinated entry process and at the shelter front door.

Matthews Hope Ministries, Inc. is a fully independent, faith-based, 501(c)3 non-profit homeless outreach ministry organization completely funded and supported by the local community, and exclusively serving west Orange County. The subrecipient will be providing outreach, housing, and medical resources to the underserved in the western outer areas of Orange County. These services will be available to unhoused and precariously housed residents.