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## Friday Memo for 1/20/2017

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### Nevada County Team Leadership Participating in the Stepping Up Initiative



Nevada County is participating in a National initiative called *Stepping Up*, aimed at addressing the issue of mental illness in jail. To combat the problem, Nevada County recently joined with other counties to attend the *California Stepping Up Summit* in Sacramento. Additionally, the County has passed a resolution to support the initiative and help advance efforts to reduce the number of adults with mental and co-occurring substance use disorders in jails.

Nevada County Team Leadership pictured above: Public Defender Keri Klein, Health and Human Services Director Michael Heggarty, Behavioral Health Program Manager Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, District Attorney Cliff Newell, Sheriff's Captain Shannan Moon, Probation Chief Michael Ertola.

As stated on their website, *Stepping Up* is a National initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jail. Each year, there are an estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses admitted to jails across the nation. That's equivalent to the populations of Vermont and New Hampshire—combined. Almost three-quarters of these adults also have drug and alcohol use problems. Once incarcerated, individuals with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of returning to incarceration than those without these illnesses.

The human toll of this problem—and its cost to taxpayers—is staggering. Jails spend two to three times more money on adults with mental illnesses that require intervention than on those without those needs, yet often do not see improvements to public safety or these individuals' health. Although counties have made tremendous efforts to address this problem, they are often thwarted by significant obstacles, including operating with minimal resources and needing better coordination between criminal justice, mental health, substance use treatment, and other agencies. Without change, large numbers of people with mental illnesses will continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families, missed opportunities for connections to treatment, inefficient use of funding, and a failure to improve public safety.

Despite important efforts already underway in many counties, there is an urgent need to address this national crisis using a common, data-driven process that encourages innovation and brings good work

to scale. The time is now to launch a nationwide initiative to provide coordinated support to counties to help people living with mental illnesses stay out of jail and on a path to recovery.

More information can be found on the [Stepping Up Website](#).

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## Eastern County Warming Center Open

In Truckee, harsh winter weather and extremely cold temperatures make it a bitter place to be outdoors on a cold, windy night. Even people who have lived in Truckee for a relatively short time can recall accounts of people stranded without shelter during a winter storm who have lost their life trying to survive in a car or a vacant structure. The Truckee Tahoe Emergency Warming Center (EWC) will provide a warming space in Truckee where people can go when weather conditions are life threatening. *United For Action* has made it their mission to address the needs of communities in the Tahoe region, and in this case, the needs of the homeless, under sheltered and people stranded and unable to secure lodging.

*United For Action* has worked long and hard to find a location and develop a program to provide a safe shelter on nights with extreme weather. Last season was a success and this program was awarded the competitive Nevada County Health and Human Services Community Partner Award last July. This project has been a tremendous undertaking supported not only by Truckee residents and churches, but also by churches and concerned citizens in the surrounding Tahoe area. The center is located in the *Church Of The Mountains*, in downtown Truckee, at 10079 Church St. The Truckee Tahoe Emergency Warming Shelter will be able to open whenever sufficient volunteers are available and the following weather triggers are met:

- When temperatures are 15 degrees or below for at least four hours and/or forecasted over night wind chill temperatures are below 15 degrees for four hours.
- When snowfall of 12 or more inches is forecasted overnight.
- When there are extreme weather conditions such as blizzards, severe rain storms, or very high wind, as defined by the National Weather Service.

For more information on the program and other ways to volunteer and donate please email Cathie Foley at: [truckeeEWC@gmail.com](mailto:truckeeEWC@gmail.com)

*United for Action* (UFA) is a coalition of faith based groups, nonprofits and the counties.

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## Funding Opportunity - Nevada County Community Initiative Funding

The Nevada County Adult & Family Services Commission announces a Request for Funding (RFF) for Nevada County Community Initiative Funding (CIF). These funds will allow local non-profit agencies an opportunity to provide services that will enhance the priorities set forth by the Community Services Block Grant- Community Action Plan (CSBG- CAP).

A total of approximately \$15,000 of Community Initiative Funding has been allocated to support a single, one-time only funded project subject to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors' approval and fiscal resources.

Non-Profit organizations may submit an application for CIF funds.

Funding requests are for fiscal year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018. The maximum funds available will be \$15,000. These funds have been allocated to support a single, one-time-only funded project subject to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors' approval and fiscal resources. These funds are NOT intended to provide long-term support of a program and are not to be used to pay for administrative overhead costs. Funding priorities are aligned with the CSBG funding.

CIF funding must be targeted to very low-income residents. Proposals must meet the priority objectives outlined in the CSBG CAP. The CSBG CAP priorities are listed below and found in [Resolution 15-276](#).

Awards will be prioritized for funding proposals that provide services in one of the following areas as identified in the County of Nevada's CSBG CAP and CIF aligned priorities.

- Nutrition
- Rural Area Transportation
- Mental Health Assistance
- Affordable Housing
- Educational Attainment
- Service Connectivity

A downloadable copy of the proposal application will be available January 20, 2017 on [the Adult and Family Services website](#).

For questions or additional information, contact Mike Dent at: Nevada County Department of Social Services, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959. Phone: (530) 265-1645 or email [mike.dent@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:mike.dent@co.nevada.ca.us).

The Application Deadline is February 17, 2017, no later than 3:00 p.m.

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## Storm Update



Nevada County, Truckee, Grass Valley, Nevada City and the Washington Water District received substantial damages from last week's wave of storms. Preliminary estimates of storm damages and emergency response costs are around \$4 million dollars at this time. Disaster damage costs will most likely increase due to several damaged sites are covered with snow. The Grass Valley sinkhole repair will likely be the most expensive repair cost at \$2.5 million dollars. All impacted jurisdictions are continuing to gather documentation and photos to submit to the California Office of Emergency Services which will be used to determine if a Statewide

Declaration is warranted.

Over 30,000 sand bags have been issued to the community from Nevada County and local governments since the end of December. We want to thank the community members for all the efforts they have done to prepare for the storms which has helped the community mitigate against the impacts from the storms.

Current weather reports are forecasting additional rain and snow over the weekend and into early next week. Wind gusts are forecasted to be 45 to 50 mph which is a concern with our saturated soils and falling trees. Time to recheck previous preparedness efforts to ensure they are still functional and shore up if needed.

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## Storm Damage Affects Nevada County Roads

The recent deluge of heavy rain events have caused significant damage for the County's 560 miles of maintained roads. Initial damage assessments completed by the Nevada County Department of Public Works have estimated necessary repairs at more than \$1.2 million dollars and may take upwards of 8 weeks to complete.

Maybert Road, located east of the town of Washington, continues to remain closed. Portions of the road adjacent to the south fork of the Yuba River were washed away with the recent storm. Public Works crews expect to be onsite to begin repairs and road reconstruction sometime early next week.

Barring additional storms and other events that could affect construction, the county hopes to have road open to traffic by February 3rd or sooner. In addition to providing access to local residents, the road also provides access to the water supply for Washington and is the only access for the Maybert Road at Canyon Creek Bridge Replacement Project currently under construction. This work is currently suspended until the road can be repaired.

The storm has also affected portions of Brunswick Road south of East Bennet Road. The road, which has a history of settling due to poor soils and saturated conditions, has seen a portion of the southbound lane slip away from the remaining road. County road crews have placed a temporary patch and speed advisory signage to warn motorists of the damage and will reassess the situation next week for additional repairs. While addition road patching and repair work is likely in the coming weeks, more comprehensive repair work is not likely until later this summer.

Countywide, road crews removed 16 trees that fell on county roads and blocked local traffic. The county has begun repair on more than a half dozen slides affecting local roads and continues to repair and unclog culverts and drainage ditches, clean road shoulders, fill and repair potholes, and remove tree limbs and other vegetation that could affect road safety and drainage.

In addition to this repair work, Public Works continues to receive numerous resident customer service requests from local residents. Public Works has seen 76 resident requests since January 1st and is on pace to receive and respond to 131 requests in January, more than triple what the Department typically receives in an average month. Public Works staff continues to respond to these requests and prioritizes these repairs based on their severity and impacts to public safety.

For additional information and storm repair updates, please visit the [Nevada County Department of Public Works Facebook Page](#). or contact us at (530) 265-1411.

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## **We Count Because You Count!**

The Nevada County Continuum of Care (CoC) is conducting the 2017 Point-in-Time (PIT) count to identify the housing and service needs of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population in our community. This large scale effort will assist in the national goal of ending chronic, youth and Veteran homelessness.

For the first time ever, Federal and State funding for all programs that serve homeless persons, including Veterans, youth, seniors are using the Point in Time Count data as a baseline for determining future funding levels in our community. That means, mental health services, subsidized housing, affordable housing, energy assistance, development projects, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and many more programs may be positively affected financially if we make great strides in reaching every homeless person during the Point In Time Count!

Hospitality House will host a Homeless Connect Event on January 24, 2017, to provide homeless persons with a free meal, cold weather supplies, free hair cuts, veteran's services, and a free gift for completing a brief survey. There will be free transportation to the event from 9:45 am-2:30 pm for homeless persons wanting to participate in the event. Additionally, there will be groups of volunteers that will go out into the community to those homeless persons that did not make it to the Connect Event to have their input counted too!

Each of our Nevada County communities will need to recruit volunteers to participate in the biggest and most influential Point in Time Count ever. We have varied activities going on throughout the County to ensure the most successful count, so we need your help! [A registration form can be found here.](#)

To volunteer, please contact Sue Knappen, (530) 615-0805, (530) 575-1541 (mobile) or via email: [sue@hhshelter.org](mailto:sue@hhshelter.org)

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