



Community Services Department
Connecting People to Opportunities

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January 12, 2021

California Business, Community Services and Housing Agency
Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Round 2 Letter of Support for the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Application

To Whom It May Concern:

The County of Santa Barbara is pleased to partner with the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC) to bring much-needed resources to address homelessness through the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program. The County of Santa Barbara serves as the Administrative Entity (AE) and Lead Agency for the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC). This existing structure provides regional coordination across the County’s geographic area which is contiguous with the CoC service area. The Housing and Community Development (HCD) Division of the Community Services Department will administer the funding for both the County and the Continuum of Care. All parties involved in HHAP implementation will meet monthly to coordinate and evaluate program components. In 2019, the County formed the Homelessness Inter-Agency Policy Council (HIAPC), which consists of County department heads from the CEO, Behavioral Wellness, Public Defender, Community Services, Public Health, Social Services Planning and Development, Sheriff departments. The HIAPC coordinates the County’s response to regional homelessness. Regular HHAP status reports will be provided to both the HIAPC and the Continuum of Care Board.

On January 12, 2021, the County Board of Supervisors approved applying for HHAP Round 2 funds for both the CoC and the County of Santa Barbara allocations. The County agrees with and supports the proposed uses of HHAP funding by the CoC as outlined here:

HHAP Funding Categories	CoC	County	Total
Allocation	\$ 1,004,973.00	\$ 899,512.00	\$ 1,904,485.00
Youth Set-Aside (8%)	\$ 80,397.84	\$ 71,960.96	\$ 152,358.80
Plan & Infrastructure (5%)	\$ 50,248.65	\$ 44,975.60	\$ 95,224.25
Administrative (7%)	\$ 70,348.11	\$ 62,965.84	\$ 133,313.95
Remaining	\$ 803,978.40	\$ 719,609.60	\$ 1,523,588.00

HHAP Funding Recommendations	CoC	County	Total
Available Funds	\$ 803,978.40	\$ 719,609.60	\$ 1,523,588.00
<i>Shelter diversion</i>	\$ 803,978.40		\$ 803,978.40
<i>South County Navigation Center</i>		\$ 719,609.60	\$ 719,609.60
Available Funds - Youth Set-Aside (8%)	\$ 80,397.84	\$ 71,960.96	\$ 152,358.80
<i>Outreach and coordination</i>	\$ 80,397.84		\$ 80,397.84
<i>County Youth Set-Aside</i>		\$ 71,960.96	\$ 71,960.96

Upon release of the FY 2019-20 California State Budget and subsequent enabling statutes, the CoC and County began preparing to apply for HHAP funding. The CoC and County have been in the process of developing a regional plan to address homelessness, which included many of the elements advised in the HHAP program guidance for coordination and identifying the best use of the funding to address critical gaps in the homelessness response system. In 2019, HCD, with support from LeSar Development Consultants, convened multiple meetings with stakeholders and community members to gather information regarding unmet needs and solicited input on funding priorities for HHAP and the Regional Plan to Address Homelessness. Well-attended community meetings were conducted in diverse areas of the region where over 400 residents were presented valuable data on the homeless response system and given the opportunity to share concerns, needs, and comment on the current system. Stakeholder meetings and interviews were also conducted with: elected leaders, healthcare and homeless service providers, persons with lived experience, public officials from all cities within the County; County department and division heads including Behavioral Health, Public Health, Social Services, Planning and Development, Probation, and the District Attorney's office; and the County HIAPC. County HCD presented HHAP information and system data at CoC and HIAPC meetings to inform the decision-making process, provide updates, and to receive feedback.

On January 7, 2021, the CoC Board affirmed use of the County HHAP Round 2 funding to include support of the development of a South County Crisis Respite Navigation Center and outreach and coordination for vulnerable persons to access and retain housing through a multi-disciplinary team lead by the Behavioral Wellness department. In addition to supporting the County's use, the CoC will also dedicate part of the CoC HHAP allocation toward the development of a Crisis Respite Navigation Center. The CoC Board, which is comprised of a broad range of stakeholders, including representatives from homeless service agencies, but also from the fields of behavioral health, health care, public health, law enforcement, education, youth, LGBT+, legal aid, the faith community, public and private housing providers, local government, veterans services, legal and disability services, domestic violence and victims assistance services, and formerly homeless individuals.

Both the County Board of Supervisors and CoC Board affirmed for HHAP funding for administrative costs and support for HMIS/CES in both applications.

Once HHAP funds are awarded by the State, HCD will issue Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA) to solicit applications for HHAP Program funds available for proposed eligible uses. The NOFAs and application will be published on HCD's website and disseminated by e-mail to homeless assistance providers and other stakeholders and community members throughout Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

George Chapjian, Director
Community Services Department
County of Santa Barbara