



No Place Like Home Program

Summary of County Plan Requirements

Background

The purpose of the No Place Like Home (NPLH) Program is to provide financing for the development of permanent supportive housing for individuals living with serious mental illness who are homeless, chronically homeless, or at-risk of chronic homelessness.

One of the threshold requirements counties must meet to access funding under the No Place Like Home (NPLH) program is to submit a plan specifying goals, strategies and activities both in process or to be initiated to reduce homelessness and make it non-recurring. Projects counties propose under NPLH must be connected to the goals and strategies counties identify in these plans. For the purpose of this program, the definition of County includes the City of Berkeley and the Tri Cities (Claremont, Pomona, and La Verne), per the Bronzan McCorquodale Act.

Crafting the Plan

A County plan or the latest update to the plan cannot be more than five (5) years old at the time of the County's application for NPLH funds, it must be easily accessible to the public, and it must have been developed in a collaborative process with community input that includes the following:

- i. County representatives with expertise from behavioral health, public health, probation/criminal justice, social services, and housing departments;
- ii. The local homeless Continuum(s) of Care within the County;
- iii. Jurisdictions within the County including cities, and unincorporated areas;
- iv. Housing and Homeless services providers, especially those with experience providing housing or services to those who are Chronically Homeless;
- v. County health plans, community clinics and health centers, and other health care providers, especially those implementing pilots or other programs that allow the County to use Medi-Cal or other non-MHSA funding to provide or enhance services provided to NPLH tenants, or to improve tracking of health outcomes in housing;
- vi. Public housing authorities; and
- vii. Representatives of family caregivers of persons living with serious mental illness.

Plan Content

The following checklist and template outline key elements required in a County plan. A County may use the checklist as a roadmap to create a new plan or to assess whether an existing plan satisfies the NPLH Program Guidelines, hereafter referred to as "the Guidelines". If a county is re-purposing an existing document, such as a homeless Continuum of Care plan, Mental Health Services Act fund expenditure plan or another plan to reduce homelessness that the County or County department has drafted, it must include a section specifically focused on homelessness. The attached template may be used by a county to help frame the structure of a plan and ensure all required content is included.



No Place Like Home

County Homelessness Plan Checklist

This checklist outlines the key elements needed to meet the No Place Like Home (NPLH) program threshold requirements outlined in Section 201 of the Guidelines. See Section 101 of the Guidelines for defined terms.

Step 1: Plan Development:

- The County developed the plan through a collaborative process that included community input from **all** of the following groups:
 - County representatives with relevant expertise from:
 - Behavioral Health
 - Public Health
 - Probation/Criminal Justice
 - Social Services
 - Housing Departments
 - Local homeless Continuums of Care within the County
 - Housing and Homeless services providers, especially those with experience providing housing or services to those who are Chronically Homeless
 - Health care providers, including:
 - County health plans
 - Community clinics and health centers
 - Other relevant providers, especially those implementing pilots or other programs that allow the County to use Medi-Cal or other non-MHSA funding to provide or enhance services provided to NPLH tenants or to improve tracking of health outcomes in housing
 - Public housing authorities, and
 - Representatives of family caregivers of persons living with serious mental illness

Step 2: Plan Elements: The County plan includes **all** of the following:

- An overall description of the County's goals, strategies, and activities, both in process and to be initiated, to reduce homelessness and to make it non-recurring
- A description of homelessness County-wide, including a discussion of the estimated number of residents experiencing Homelessness or Chronic Homelessness among single adults, families, and unaccompanied youth. To the extent possible, the estimated number of residents experiencing Homelessness or Chronic Homelessness who are also:
 - Experiencing serious mental illness
 - Experiencing co-occurring disabilities or disorders, or



- Children with a Serious Emotional Disturbance
- A description of special challenges or barriers to serving people who are members of the NPLH Target Population: adults or older adults with a Serious Mental Disorder or Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Children or Adolescents, who are Homeless, Chronically Homeless, or At-Risk of Chronic Homelessness as defined under the Guidelines
- County resources applied to address homelessness, including efforts undertaken to prevent the criminalization of activities associated with homelessness
- An outline of partners in ending homelessness
- Proposed solutions the County plans to undertake to reduce and end homelessness
- Systems in place to collect the data, but not limited to fulfill the audit required under Section 214 of the NPLH Program Guidelines, including:
 - Submittal of annual compliance reports, similar to reports required in 25 CCR Section 7300, et. seq.
 - Gathering data from property managers, lead service providers, and (if the County desires) the Homeless Management Information Systems for each of the County's homeless Continuums of Care, and report that data on factors listed in Section 214(e) of the Guidelines, and
 - Description of efforts and barriers to collecting the data in Section 214(g) of the Guidelines regarding changes to health care outcomes and utilization, and incarceration outcomes and utilization.
- Specific efforts to ensure the homeless are being referred to NPLH-funded units based on a Coordinated Entry System (CES) process, or an alternate referral system for people meeting the "At Risk of Chronic Homelessness" definition in the Guidelines, and that all referrals to NPLH-funded units are made on a nondiscriminatory basis.
 - If persons of any particular race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity are unlikely to access or receive communications publicizing the CES referral process, the plan must discuss the County's process to ensure that these persons are made aware of the assessment and referral process.

Step 3: Post and update:

- The plan, or the latest update to the plan, is less than five years old at the time of the County's application for NPLH funds.
- The plan is easily accessible to the public.



No Place Like Home Program – Sample Template County Plan Addressing Homelessness

Summary

[Overview of the planning efforts to address homelessness in the County, including specific goals, strategies and activities and the specific period in which these goals, strategies, and activities will be implemented. Include current efforts and initiatives, particularly efforts to end homelessness and make it non-recurring. Please include efforts of local partner jurisdictions, including cities and unincorporated areas.]

Homelessness in [County]

[Describe homelessness in the County. Please include jurisdictions within the county including cities and unincorporated areas. It is recommended, though not required, that this be based on the homeless Continuum(s) of Care most recent point-in-time count, to the extent the count covers or approximates the County's boundaries. Include in the description the overall number of people experiencing homelessness, as well as the number of single adults, families and unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, and the number of people experiencing chronic homelessness.]

[Where possible, describe the number of people experiencing homelessness who also have serious mental illness, have co-occurring disabilities, or who are children or adolescents with a Serious Emotional Disturbance.]

Service and Outreach Challenges

[Describe any challenges or barriers the County anticipates in providing service to No Place Like Home eligible individuals/families. This could include barriers such as transportation barriers, lack of partner agencies, inadequate housing and services resources, need for increased coordination among services providers, need for increased data collection and analysis capacity, emerging implementation of a Coordinated Entry System, implementing a referral process and services plan for people At-Risk of Chronic Homelessness, etc.]

County and Community Resources Addressing Homelessness

[Describe the County and city resources that are being used to address homelessness, including resources for homeless services.]

County Efforts to Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness (required)

[For example: Outline any efforts to prevent criminalization of homelessness, such as a homeless court or other alternative court programs, homeless outreach teams that divert people experiencing homelessness to community resources, psychiatric emergency response teams, efforts to link people experiencing homelessness with supports and services rather than jail, etc.].

Community-Based Resources

[Describe the range of current community-based services available to people experiencing homelessness.]



Partners in Ending Homelessness

[Describe the County's partners, including cities within the County who are working to end homelessness. This description could include local homeless Continuums of Care, housing and homeless services providers, health plans, community clinics and health centers, and other health care providers, public housing authorities, and people with lived experience of homelessness. If there are barriers, such as lack of key stakeholder entities, please explain.]

Solutions to Homelessness in [County]

[Describe the solutions and models the County intends to pursue during the period identified in the plan. Describe partnerships with jurisdictions within the County]

No Place Like Home Data Collection in [County]

[Describe systems in place to collect the data required under NPLH, including systems to ensure--

- The NPLH project sponsors submit an independent audit for projects funded, prepared by a certified public accountant,
- The NPLH project sponsors submit annual compliance reports,
- The NPLH project sponsors submit NPLH project-specific data outlined in Section 214 of the NPLH Guidelines]

[In addition, if the information is readily available, describe planning efforts to provide aggregated data on the following:

- Emergency room visits for NPLH tenants before and after move-in
- Average number of hospital and psychiatric facility admissions and in-patient days before and after move-in
- Number of arrests and returns to jail or prison before and after move-in.

Include a description of barriers to collecting these data, and how the County intends to work through the challenges.]

Coordinated Entry System

[Describe the Coordinated Entry System the homeless Continuum(s) of Care are operating in the County, with a brief description of how it is being implemented.]

[Describe plans to refer eligible people to NPLH-funded units, including plans to refer people meeting the definition of "At-Risk of Chronic Homelessness" through the existing or separate Coordinated Entry System. Include a description of any additional procedures the County or the homeless Continuum(s) of Care developed to make all persons experiencing homelessness aware of the assessment and referral process to access available housing, including outreach to persons who may experience barriers to accessing the assessment and referral system related to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, familial status, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity.]