



California Interagency Council on Homelessness

ERF-3-R, Application

Part 1 (A): ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Application Window

- Window #1, 11/3/2023 - 1/31/2024
 Window #2, 2/1/2024 - 4/30/2024
 Window #3, 5/1/2024 - 6/30/2024

*Applications received after 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the application window will be reviewed and evaluated during the following application window. **Note, applications submitted after 5:00 p.m. on 6/30/2024 will not be reviewed.***

Eligible Applicant

Select the eligible applicant's jurisdiction type.

- CoC City County

What is the name of the city or county?

Riverside County

Part 1 (B) Contracting Information

Complete all elements of the below section. This information is required for contracting should this application be chosen for award.

Contractor Information

Contractor Name (the legal entity entering into contract with the State)

County of Riverside

What is the Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN # or tax id number) for the contractor?

95-6000930

Tax ID Form

Governmental entities will need to submit a GovTIN Tax Form, and Non-governmental entities will need to submit a STD 204 Tax Form. Links to each are below:

GovTIN: [Taxpayer ID Form \(ca.gov\)](#)

STD 204: [STD 204 - Payee Data Record \(ca.gov\)](#)

Who is the best contact person for this contract?

Primary Contact

<input type="text" value="Tanya"/>	<input type="text" value="Torno"/>
First	Last

This contact will receive ALL grant related correspondence (inclusive of application, award, contract, office hours, information requests, reporting, etc.)

Job title

<input type="text" value="Deputy Director"/>
job title

Email

<input type="text" value="ttorno@rivco.org"/>

Phone

<input type="text" value="(442) 315-0264"/>

This contact will receive ALL grant related correspondence (inclusive of application, award, contract, office hours, information requests, reporting, etc.)

Secondary Contact

<input type="text" value="Emma"/>	<input type="text" value="Perez-Singh"/>
First	Last

Job title

<input type="text" value="Development Manager"/>
job title

Email

<input type="text" value="emmasingh@rivco.org"/>
--

Phone

<input type="text" value="(951) 907-1646"/>

This contact will receive ALL grant related correspondence (inclusive of application, award, contract, office hours, information requests, reporting, etc.)

Contact Person for Reporting

<input type="text" value="Raushanah"/>	<input type="text" value="Walker"/>
First	Last

Job title

Supervising Development Specialist

job title

Email

rwalker@rivco.org

Phone

(951) 203-4035

This contact will ONLY receive grant reporting correspondence (inclusive of guidance, report releases/reminders, report follow-ups).

Authorized Representative

Tanya

First

Torno

Last

Job title

Deputy Director

job title

Email

ttorno@rivco.org

Phone

(442) 315-0264

The Authorized Representative has authority to contract on behalf of the eligible applicant

If this application is funded, what address should the check be mailed to?

Address

13407 Gold Medal Court

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Riverside

City

California

State

92503

Zip Code

Attention to (if applicable):

Brandon Trahan

 This Application uses character limits 

Reaching these limits is not required, however competitive responses will address all parts of each

question asked.

Part 2: PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Guidance:

In completing this application, applicants must identify the specific encampment that will be prioritized for resolution.

If an applicant proposes to prioritize a large, noncontiguous, or multiple site(s), the encampments may only be addressed through a single application if: (a) the justification for prioritizing the encampments is the same, **and** (b) the demographics and service needs of the residents of the encampments is sufficiently the same that, (c) the same set of services, and service providers, including outreach, interim and permanent housing programs, will be used to resolve the identified people's experience of homelessness in encampments.

Applicant must prepare a separate application for each encampment that does not meet the requirements of (a) – (c).

Proposal Summary

Summarize the proposed Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) project, including an overview of all key components and/or phases of the project that will be funded in whole or in part with ERF-3-R resources. (1500-character limit)

The Murrieta Creek Home Project will employ a Housing-first and person-centered approach to empower individuals residing in the encampment site, leading to successful placements in permanent housing. Building upon established partnerships and infrastructure within the Regional Housing Alliance, which consists of a strong coalition of four southwest cities and Riverside County, the project will seamlessly integrate into the region's comprehensive Homeless System of Services. This integration will enhance capacity, expand opportunities, and extend support to some of the county's most vulnerable residents.

People Served

Number of people currently residing in prioritized encampment site

60

#

Potential inflow of people into the prioritized encampment site during the grant term.

40

Of people currently residing in prioritized

Given the potential for inflow of people into the

encampment site, how many will be served by this proposal?

60

#

prioritized encampment site, how many people are projected to be served across the entire grant period?

100

#

Of people projected to be served across the entire grant period, number of people projected to transition into interim housing.

80

#

Of people projected to be served across the entire grant period, number of people projected to transition into permanent housing

80

#

*This should include both people who transition directly into permanent housing **and** people who may first transition into interim housing.*

Is the prioritized encampment site part of a larger encampment area?

Yes No

Encampment Information

1. Briefly describe the characteristics of the people residing within the prioritized encampment site, including demographics, household compositions, disabilities, and projected service and housing needs. Include how this information was gathered. (1500-character limit)

Data from our Homeless Point-in-Time Count and HMIS was utilized to obtain demographic and other household composition information about residents who consist mainly of adult men and women from diverse backgrounds, many of whom grapple with behavioral health issues, chronic illnesses, involvement in the justice system, and difficulties in daily functioning. Unaccompanied youth and adults with children are usually present in smaller numbers. Data from outreach efforts in the surrounding areas indicate a gender distribution of 1% Questioning, 30% females and 69% males, with males being more prevalent. The majority of individuals are identified as white (71%), Multiple Races (13%), Black (8%), or Native American (2%). This includes a larger population of 37% struggling with substance abuse (34%) and/or mental health disorders (21%), while an additional 23% require physical health care. Overall, addressing the service and housing needs requires a holistic approach that considers their diverse backgrounds and challenges, and strong collaboration between service providers, community organizations, and governmental agencies to ensure residents receive behavioral health, health and medical care, housing assistance, legal and justice system support, family support services, cultural competency and case management and supportive services are key and will be at the heart of our local multijurisdictional response.

If this proposal seeks to serve a particular target population, specify and describe.

2. Briefly describe physical characteristics of the prioritized encampment site in which the people you are proposing to serve are residing. The description must include the specific location, physical size of the area, the types of structures people are residing in at the site, whether vehicles are present, and any other relevant or notable physical characteristics of the site. (1000-character limit)

The Murrieta Creek riverbed spans over twelve miles, linking the unincorporated area of Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore. The area is predominantly dry and its seclusion and distance from local businesses and bustling city life have attracted many residents who are not able to access affordable housing. Notably, individuals struggling with behavioral health issues are drawn to this area due to its tranquil environment, which is less likely to trigger symptoms. Many residents have settled in secluded areas off the trail, living in makeshift shelters such as tents, boxes, and hand-built semi-permanent structures made of wood, salvaged materials, and vehicles. Unfortunately, these living conditions lack access to basic amenities like clean water, showers, and sanitation services, exacerbating health, safety, and wellness concerns. Consequently, the encampment area has become a focal point for surrounding cities and the County and cities.

3. Why is this encampment site being prioritized? Applicant should identify any distinguishing needs and/or vulnerabilities of the people living in this encampment and/or any health, safety, or other concerns that led the applicant to prioritize this site over other encampments. (1000-character limit)

This area is a top priority for both the county and the three cities of Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore. Two significant events have underscored the urgent need for action to address homelessness along the trail. First, residents continue to seek refuge in this region, prompting a regional response to the unincorporated area of the county where larger concentrations lie. Secondly, local efforts by each city have focused on revitalizing the trail, transforming it into a non-motorized, multi-use pathway. This revitalization has attracted more community residents who now access the trail regularly. However, the increased usage has also led to more safety concerns, frequent engagements from law enforcement and other service teams due to the presence of unsheltered individuals near the trail. These calls are better handled by homeless service teams, which, when funded through this project, will coordinate and support connections to housing and services.

ERF authorizing legislation requires funding be used for “prioritized” encampments. Applicants must, therefore, provide a justification for the prioritization of the encampment proposed to be served. Except in very small communities where it may be possible to justify prioritizing all of a small number of encampments for resolution using this fund source, ERF is not intended to be used to fund a community-wide encampment resolution program.

Attachment: Map

The provided map should clearly indicate the area of the prioritized encampment. The map may also indicate the location of other key service, shelter, and housing resources described in this proposal.

4. Is the prioritized site on a state right-of-way?

No Yes - partially Yes - entirely

Proposal’s Outcomes

5. What outcomes does this proposal seek to accomplish by 6/30/2027? Outcomes should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART). (1000-character limit)

The project has established five major goals which it seeks to accomplish by June 30, 2027: GOAL 1) Within the first six to eight months, 100% of the individuals residing in Murrieta Creek will be engaged through outreach efforts, as measured by monthly outreach logs captured in HMIS. GOAL 2) Within 1 year, 30 of the residents will be bridged into interim AND permanent housing, and these efforts will be scaled in year 2 to 70 total placements, with the 3rd year focused on 80 total/final placements; case management services continue to total 80 residents to support stabilization. GOAL 3) 80% of residents will be successfully linked to disability benefits, other cash and medical benefits they qualify for, and/or an employer. GOAL 4) By the 3rd year, the County and Cities will have established core protocols for addressing homelessness at encampments in the region that are replicated to resolve future incidents of homelessness.

6. What are the primary activities the applicant will implement to achieve each of the proposal's outcomes? (1000-character limit)

The project centered on individuals and informed by data, prioritizes the safety and well-being of those in the encampment site while addressing critical community concerns in and around the area. It aims to transition individuals to interim housing and dedicated permanent housing. Through cross-jurisdictional collaboration, multi-disciplinary outreach teams comprising of behavioral health, workforce, housing, and healthcare/medical staff and peer experts will be deployed to partner with contracted street outreach teams to administer/provide 50 bridge housing beds at any given time and provide flexible funding and housing assistance funds to create 80 new permanent stable housing units.

7. How will the applicant measure progress towards the proposal's outcomes? (1000-character limit)

Baseline data for the encampment will be established using information from the Point-in-Time Count (PITC) and outreach data, allowing for monthly comparisons of the overall census. Progress towards goals will be measured and reported on a monthly basis using individual records stored in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), an encampment registry (by name list), and Coordinated Entry System data. This includes tracking contacts, service provision, housing destinations, and project status. Assessment of the flow of individuals in and out of the encampment site will inform adjustments to project services as needed to ensure success. Physical mapping of the encampment, identifying where people are staying and areas that are closed once dwellings are abandoned and debris is removed, will visually highlight areas of need and progress. Additionally, the County is developing a predictive modeling tool based on client data from jail, behavioral health, and healthcare systems.

8. Are there any local ordinances, resources, or other factors that may hinder achieving the proposal's outcomes? If so, how will the applicant navigate these challenges? (1000-character limit)

Currently, there are no local ordinances that would impede our efforts to assist unsheltered residents residing in Murrieta Creek. Collaboration among partners is essential for the success of the project, as is consistency in staffing the multidisciplinary team and employing person-centric engagement approaches. We intend to implement a robust communication strategy with County and City Public Safety Departments to minimize conflicts and avoid miscommunications with residents or perceptions of targeted activities between our teams and law enforcement, which could erode trust being established with residents on site. Additionally, services will address animal control issues. Ongoing discussions, training, and adherence to project guidelines for intervention will help mitigate unexpected challenges. However, there is currently no ongoing resource for flexible funds that can be utilized to address the unique needs faced by individuals.

9. Does this proposal fund a standalone project, or is the proposed project one component of a larger initiative?

Standalone Larger initiative

Centering People

10. Describe how the perspectives of people with lived experience of homelessness meaningfully contributed to the content of this proposal? How will people with lived experience be part of the implementation of this ERF project? If individuals living in the encampment site were included in the development of this proposal, describe how their input was obtained and how that input shaped the proposal. (1000-character limit)

The encampment's residents typically include single adults from various backgrounds, many of whom have chosen this remote location for its seclusion from the public and grapple with behavioral health issues, chronic illnesses, involvement in the justice system, and challenges in daily life. A significant portion of these individuals reside in makeshift structures made from tents and other materials. Seniors are notably becoming a rapidly growing demographic within the community, with the population aging over time. Outreach data from the surrounding areas reveal a gender breakdown of 30% females, 69% males, and 1% identifying as transgender. The majority of residents are identified as white (71%), Black (11%), or of multiple racial backgrounds (12%). About 37% of them face struggles with substance abuse (34%) and/or mental health disorders (21%), highlighting the necessity for specialized housing and behavioral health services, while an additional 23% require physical health care.

11. Briefly describe how the proposal exemplifies Housing First approaches as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code section 8255. (1000-character limit)

The project embraces a Housing-First Approach, aligned with the California Welfare and Institutions Code - WIC 8255, marked by its inclusive, non-punitive, and person-centered approach, aimed at facilitating smoother transitions into housing and services to empower individuals to stabilize and achieve their full potential. Every resident (100%) will be actively engaged through a comprehensive range of services, with "housing" serving as the primary and ultimate objective and irrespective of their current behavioral health challenges, financial situation, rental history, or other obstacles. Service engagements will commence at their current place of residence at Murrieta Creek and extend seamlessly into interim and permanent housing, which are designed to be flexible. This approach ensures that life skills training, coaching, peer support, workforce, therapy, and other behavioral health services are actively encouraged and facilitated at every stage of the program.

12. Describe how each of the following service delivery practices are incorporated into the outreach, interim shelter (if applicable), and permanent housing aspects of the proposed ERF project: (a) individual participant choice and (b) trauma informed care. (1000-character limit)

The multidisciplinary team is focused on building rapport with each resident and using every interaction to build Individual Case Plans that are centered around a person-led approach. This perspective recognizes each resident's autonomy to make decisions around the care and type of housing they receive as they navigate the continuum of services available through outreach, interim and permanent housing. Each resident will have a unique path that is tailored to their individual needs, deployed based on their direction and advice, and empowers them to rebuild a sense of efficacy and personal control over their lives. Each member on the multidisciplinary team receives training on trauma-informed care regardless of their discipline and sector, and incorporates an understanding of trauma into their work, building physical and emotional safety, respect, control and choice, and a strength-based approach.

13. Describe how harm reduction principles will be incorporated into the outreach, interim housing (if applicable), and permanent housing aspects of this ERF project. (1000-character limit)

Harm reduction stands as a fundamental principle deeply integrated across the program's spectrum, with all team members equipped with ongoing training and tools to safeguard the lives of every resident. Employing a "Whole Community Approach Model," teams will deliver mobile medical/healthcare, mental health, and substance use services to residents. Leveraging recovery services within the County's Behavioral Health Continuum of Care, alongside the recently County-contracted Street Medicine Team, Health Care in Action who focuses on servicing this region to provide comprehensive social, medical, and clinical support will be provided to residents both during their time in the riverbed and as they transition into interim and permanent housing.

14. Describe the services that will be provided to improve people's health, dignity, and safety while they continue to reside within the prioritized encampment site. (1000-character limit)

This person-centric approach prioritizes the dignity and rights of individuals, fostering "housing choice" by empowering residents through trauma-informed care and the cultivation of trusting relationships. By adopting a "Whatever it Takes Approach" to services, characterized by flexible and creative engagements, the project aims to build rapport and gather feedback from long-term residents, ensuring their voices shape the ongoing evolution of the program.

15. Identify what controls are or will be in place to ensure that all ERF-3-R funded parties will not penalize homelessness. The term "penalize homelessness" means to impose, by a governmental unit, criminal or civil penalties on persons who are homeless in a manner that is related to those persons' engagement in necessary human activities, including sleeping, resting, and eating. (1000-character limit)

The team acknowledges that unsheltered residents engage in daily activities essential to meet human needs, which at the basic level are physiological and center around breathing, eating, sleeping, finding safety and companionship, and maintaining personal autonomy. To support residents in fulfilling these needs, the multidisciplinary team and established partners are dedicated to developing protocols that provide options and resources, rather than mandating the abandonment of current survival methods. The team will collaborate closely with the resident community and explore and select safer, healthier alternatives to encampment living over time that uphold security, safety, privacy and confidentiality throughout this process. The project will further its collaboration with County and City authorities, including public safety departments, such as the Public Defender's Office and re-entry programs, to address justice-involved individuals' needs.

16. Describe how this proposal considers sanitation services for people residing in the prioritized encampment. This may include but is not limited to non-intrusive, curbside waste removal and access to clean and available bathrooms. (1000-character limit)

With this project, we anticipate that identified households will be placed immediately into bridge housing where they will have access to appropriate sanitation. In the case that there is an unexpected delay in placement, the outreach and engagement teams will be providing education and information on sanitation and waste disposal to address the discard of food, trash and bodily waste. The encampment expands across four cities, making centralized sanitation stations ineffective due to the spread of the encampments.

Part 3: IMPLEMENTATION

Core Service Delivery and Housing Strategies

17. Describe the proposed outreach and engagement strategy, case management, and / or service coordination for people while they are continuing to reside within the encampment site. Quantify units of service to be delivered including the ratio of staff to people served, frequency of engagement, and length of service periods. (2000-character limit)

The multidisciplinary team will use an in-reach strategy to coordinate, deliver and facilitate case management services to 100% of the residents which currently includes 60 residents, with an additional 40 expected to relocate to the encampment over time. A total of 4 teams, one per each city, encompassing two team members each, will have 1:10 residents that they are engaging at any given time at their current place of residency. Frequent visits to each resident's home at the encampment for 45 minutes to an 1hr at a time, will focus on utilizing trauma-informed tools to build rapport and develop an Individual Service Plan that is client-driven and remains flexible to add and omit goals directed by each resident. It is anticipated for teams to spend most of their time at the encampment site meeting with individual residents during the first quarter of the program in order to build trusting relationships and educate residents on the resources available through the project. These visits will be frequent with daily visits to the site, and with the goal of coordinating and providing transportation to residents to and from the encampment so residents can get "doc ready" (e.g., obtain CA ID, Birth Certificates, Social Security Cards), get to and from appointments for housing, workforce, education, healthcare/medical, and behavioral health services. Additionally, the team will coordinate Resource Fairs to improve access and opportunity to residents and include pet care through a partnership coordinated with Animal Services. Behavioral Health Specialists will provide substance use and mental health services, in addition to Adult Services Social Workers to offer immediate intervention to crisis for dependent adults and seniors who are 60 years and older. The deployment of these services is critical because we understand the city outreach teams provide a "generalist approach" and creates a unique opportunity for a warm handoff to County services.

18. Describe the role of Coordinated Entry in the context of this proposal and how Coordinated Entry policies or processes will support and / or hinder the implementation of this proposal. (1000-character limit)

The project will integrate seamlessly within our Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) and will conform to our county-wide adopted, Coordinated Entry System (CES) policies. These policies prioritize client choice, take into account available resources, and base prioritization thorough an assessment that measures individual needs. The CES system will acknowledge new units developed by this project and will give priority to the most vulnerable residents at the encampment site for these resources. This approach aids in clearing the encampment and reducing its population influx. CES assessments consider various factors such as physical location and living conditions to determine the level of need and the most suitable interventions for each individual. By utilizing CES and HMIS data, comparisons can be made to identify individuals who have responded from the region and are on the By-Name List (BNL).

19. Describe each of the specific (a) interim housing and (b) permanent housing opportunities that will be used to achieve the proposed outcomes of this ERF project. Demonstrate that any ERF-3-R funded interim housing capacity is either non-congregate or clinically enhanced congregate shelter. (2000-character limit)

The objective is to provide housing and a range of services encompassing behavioral health, workforce support, healthcare, and other benefits to a total of 100 residents. Currently, 60 residents are situated in the encampment, with an additional 40 residents anticipated to migrate into the area. While the primary mission is to offer and secure permanent housing for all residents, the team aims for 80% or 80 residents, to accept, engage, and successfully transition into interim and permanent housing. To facilitate immediate relocation for residents seeking to leave the encampment, 50 low-barrier bridge housing beds will be secured and made available for resident stays of up to one to six months; provisions exist to extend stays as necessary to support care into appropriate placements of long-term housing. These accommodations will be established through partnerships with local hotel vendors and housing partners within the Homeless Continuum of Care, encompassing interim/bridge-housing/crisis-stabilization units. As individuals transition from interim housing to permanent settings, turnover beds will be promptly made available to additional residents.

Recognizing the diverse pathways to permanent housing, individuals will have the option to move directly from the encampment site into permanent housing supported by rental assistance subsidies funded through the grant. These subsidies will be complemented by housing resources identified within the broader continuum of services, including respite care, recovery beds, long-term residential care, board and care, permanent supportive housing, affordable housing, and the Housing Choice Voucher Program. The grant funding will directly cover 80 rental assistance subsidies for individuals transitioning into suitable housing. Additionally, individuals deemed ready for more independent housing, such as the Housing Choice Program through the Housing Authority, will be supported.

20. Demonstrate the applicant's commitment and ability to deliver permanent housing solutions to the people residing in the prioritized encampment, including by providing examples of prior successful efforts to permanently house similarly situated individuals. (2000-character limit)

Riverside County's Department of Housing and Workforce Solutions (HWS) is the Administrative Entity, Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead for all CoC and into our County to address homelessness, in addition to managing state WIOA funding to coordinate workforce services. Further, the County's Behavioral Health Department serves as the Coordinated Entry System (CES) lead coordinating multiple access points and referrals that flow to and through CES for street outreach and other housing supports. These shared roles has better positioned both departments, and in greater aspect, the County of Riverside to better leverage, streamline and coordinate housing, workforce, behavioral health and other critical services needed to address homelessness for the entire county. During last fiscal year alone, the County captured over 17,000 unduplicated individuals who received services through our Homeless Continuum of Care, of which 1 in 3 received access to housing. A deeper analysis looking into the outcomes of those assisted through the CoC, showed 86% did not return back to homelessness after three years further validating Housing First and housing as a solution to create ends to homelessness. These outcomes speak to a strong system of care inclusive of over 200 agencies who participate in our continuum, and a similar dive into the County's Encampment Resolution 2-L Santa Ana Riverbed Projects reflects 71% of individuals already connected to housing and there still remains 18 months before the project end/completion date. The success of our system and the SAR Encampment Project, which prioritize on vulnerability are in large part due to investments made from the state through ERF, HHAP, Homekey, CARES and federal funding through HUD and ARPA, and also local use of Housing Choice Vouchers, and Behavioral Health funding to increase housing resources through affordable housing production, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing which will be leveraged in this project.

21. Describe how this proposal is tailored to meet the needs and preferences of people residing within the prioritized encampment. (1500-character limit)

The characteristics of the residents at this encampment site, includes a larger population of 37% struggling with substance abuse (34%) and/or mental health disorders (21%), highlighting the necessity for specialized housing and behavioral health services, while an additional 23% require physical health care. Additionally, pet care is an instrumental part of the program given many of the residents have pets. Recognizing that many of the residents who live at this encampment site have done so because of its great distance and remoteness from businesses and residential communities, will require an “in-reach” approach where teams are equipped to deliver services into each individual residence or encampment. Teams are equipped with technical devices that support access to internet and appropriate system software, to enroll residents into HMIS, submit housing and other essential applications, and navigate resources. Additionally, we have found, that many of the residents have identified this encampment site as a refuge and to avoid sweeps that often occur in cities and further displace and further perpetuate trauma. To that end, incorporate our street medicine and mobile crisis teams through Health Care in Action, Behavioral Health and Adult Services, will ensure appropriate linkages to care exist and are prioritized within the encampment.

Where applicable, identify the people, data, evidence, and / or other sources of information that was relied upon for this proposal.

Table 1: Projected Living Situations Immediately Following the Encampment

For people served who exit the encampment, what are the projected Living Situations Immediately Following the Encampment, including but not limited to, permanent housing, interim sheltering, and unsheltered?

Please provide responses in the table below. Add a row for each projected living situation. (250-character limit for each cell)

Briefly Describe Each Projected Living Situation Immediately Following the Encampment	Is This Permanent Housing?	Quantify the Capacity (e.g., number of beds/units, frequency of bed/unit availability)	Prioritized or Set-Aside for ERF-3-R?	Is this living situation funded by ERF-3-R and / or Leveraged Funds?	% of Served Persons Projected to Fall Within This Living Situation
Bridge Housing (various forms: hotel vouchers and site-specific)	No <small>Yes/No</small>	30	Set-aside for ERF-3-R <small>Pri/Set-Aside/Neither</small>	ERF <small>ERF/Lev/Both</small>	<input type="text"/> <small>%</small>
Emergency Housing	No <small>Yes/No</small>	20	Prioritized <small>Pri/Set-Aside/Neither</small>	Leveraged Funds <small>ERF/Lev/Both</small>	<input type="text"/> <small>%</small>

Transitional Housing	No Yes/No	20	Set-aside for ERF-3-R Pri/Set-Aside/Neither	ERF ERF/Lev/Both	%
Recovery Beds	No Yes/No	20	Prioritized Pri/Set-Aside/Neither	Leveraged Funds ERF/Lev/Both	%

Table 2: Permanent Housing Opportunities

A permanent housing opportunity is a combination of project and/or service provided to an individual with the goal of helping the individual obtain permanent housing. Of course, applicants cannot and do not need to provide every possible scenario; Cal ICH is looking to understand the primary, expected permanent housing opportunities for people projected to be served by this proposal.

Please provide responses in the table below. Add a row for each projected opportunity. (250-character limit for each cell)

Describe the Permanent Housing Opportunity	Prioritized or Set-Aside for ERF-3-R?	Quantify the Capacity of the Housing and Service Opportunity	Is this Housing Opportunity Funded by ERF-3-R and / or Leveraged Funds?
Housing subsidies	Set-aside Pri/Set-Aside/Neither	80	ERF ERF/Lev/Both
Flexible Housing Funds	Set-aside Pri/Set-Aside/Neither	80	ERF ERF/Lev/Both
Housing Choice Vouchers	Prioritized Pri/Set-Aside/Neither	20	Lev ERF/Lev/Both
Application Fees	Set-aside Pri/Set-Aside/Neither	80	ERF ERF/Lev/Both
Security Deposits	Set-aside Pri/Set-Aside/Neither	80	ERF ERF/Lev/Both

22. Describe strategies the applicant will use to ensure that people are not displaced from the prioritized encampment into another unsheltered location. Include strategies that are in addition to/complement the interim shelter and permanent housing opportunities that are part of this proposal. (1000-character limit)

A combination of strategies will be implemented in order to ensure people are not displaced from the prioritized encampment into another location. This includes conducting a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the specific needs of each resident, in addition to their challenges and preferences. The findings of this report will be used to guide the development of the program. Additionally, each resident will be paired with a street outreach and housing navigation team that will provide engagement, housing navigation, case management services at their current place of residency at Murrieta Creek and follow the resident into interim and permanent housing, ensuring a continuity of services. The outreach and housing navigation team will engage in relationship building and provide individualized case management services, which include tenant education and support services to help residents understand their rights and responsibilities as tenants, and maintain stable housing.

23. Describe specific strategies and/or services the applicant will use to prevent returns to unsheltered homelessness among people from the prioritized encampment who are sheltered and housed through this ERF project. Include whether these strategies will be funded with ERF-3-R funds and, if not, what other resources will be leveraged. (1000-character limit)

Our strategies focus on providing ongoing support and resources to ensure housing stability and prevent individuals from returning to unsheltered homelessness. As the Administrator of the program, the County's Housing and Workforce Solutions Department will run regular reports in HMIS to track progress of each resident. Additionally, because funding from this program is time limited or restricted to three years, we plan to prioritize workforce linkages to ensure residents can find meaningful employment, and earn sufficient income to successfully sustain rents independently in addition to leveraging a County Workforce Re-Entry Grant and existing relationships with the Housing Authority, CoC and partnering developers to graduate individuals who are disabled and need ongoing rental assistance to an affordable housing unit or Housing Choice Voucher. While some of these strategies may be funded with ERF-3-R funds, others will leverage additional resources to provide comprehensive support.

24. Describe how this proposal considers and plans for the dynamic nature of encampments including potential inflow of people into the geographically served areas. (1000-character limit)

Murrieta Creek is currently home to 60 unsheltered individuals, with inflows largely influenced by activities in each city that motivate individuals into this region of the county. Based on historical patterns, we anticipate an influx of 40 new individuals relocating to this area over the 2-3 year duration of the project. Daily and weekly coordination with existing street outreach teams in each city which track engagements in CES/HMIS, will be leveraged to identify individuals passing through the area and those seeking to relocate into the region. This information will guide the team in adjusting the program and resources to better serve all areas and meet individuals where they are at. Removal of abandoned dwellings and restricted access to vacated areas will deter new camp dwellers and create opportunities for ongoing personal connections with others (workers and friends) outside the camp. This approach aims to fulfill social needs and reduce the inclination to return to the region.

25. Describe how participants in this ERF project will be supported with continued access to, and storage of, their personal property while in the encampment, in interim housing (if applicable), and in permanent housing. (1000-character limit)

Partner agencies will facilitate property and vehicle storage by collaborating with commercial storage facilities near the encampment site. Transportation arrangements, including public transit or assistance from existing resources, as well as moving assistance, are part of the flexible services tailored to individual needs. Additionally, plans are underway to establish secure temporary sites for pet boarding, ensuring the well-being of residents' animal companions.

26. Describe how participants in this ERF project who have service animals and/or pets will be supported while in the encampment, in interim shelter (if applicable), and in permanent housing. (1000-character limit)

Companion animal care coordination is a key aspect of the project's design and implementation, achieved through collaboration with Riverside County's Department of Animal Services (RCDAS). Given the significant number of animals residing in the encampment, whether as companions or for breeding, Animal Services will provide a comprehensive array of services. These services include health assessments, vaccinations, veterinary care, microchipping, reproductive services, shelter, food, temporary pet boarding, and licenses for pet owners, addressing over 100 service needs. Additionally, funding from this grant will cover pet fees and applications needed to secure an owner's placement into permanent housing. Furthermore, both bridge and secured housing options will be available to accommodate typical animal companions (such as dogs, cats, and birds) after their departure from the camp.

Budget and Resource Plan

27. State the total amount of ERF-3-R funds requested.

\$12,612,778.95

\$

28. State the estimated dollar value of secured, non-ERF-3-R resources that will help meet this proposal's outcomes.

\$2,469,172.47

\$

29. Identify and describe each leveraged non-ERF-3-R resource and how that specific resource will be used to help meet the proposal's outcomes, including the permanent housing outcomes. (1000-character limit)

The County's Housing and Workforce Solutions Department will be leveraging resources through Housing Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) to integrate street medicine teams consisting of a nurse, LVN, and Physician to respond and meet the medical needs of residents residing at the encampment. This includes integrating staff from our Coordinated Entry System (CES) to ensure all referrals are prioritized in accordance with local requirements, with persons with most acute needs going first. Additionally, HMIS funding from HUD Continuum of Care and Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) will be leveraged to provide needed user licenses and access to all teams, and to monitor program compliance and effectiveness. Additionally, the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside has a special preference for persons who are referred through CES, and 15 Housing Choice Vouchers are available to persons who will need access to affordable housing after the term of the ERF agreement ends.

*Applicants are directed to provide a detailed description of other fund sources, and system capacity, that will be leveraged to achieve the outcomes proposed for the ERF-3-R funded project (**especially as it relates to meeting this proposal's permanent housing outcomes**) and, if applicable, to sustain the new programming beyond the end of the grant term.*

This includes prior ERF awards, HUD unsheltered NOFO, and other federal, state, and local funding sources.

Applications will be evaluated with the understanding that communities vary significantly with respect to the current availability of other fund sources that can be used as leverage for their proposed projects and to sustain the projects beyond the grant term.

In the absence of currently available resources, Applicants are encouraged to provide a specific plan for obtaining the funding necessary to sustain their project beyond the grant term if the project is intended to continue.

30. Describe how the proposal is a prudent and effective use of requested funding relative to the number of people it seeks to serve, the types of services and housing to be provided, and any benefits to the community's efforts to address homelessness that will extend beyond the grant term, including ongoing expansion of interim and permanent housing capacity. Include an explanation of how the requested ERF-3-R amount was determined. (1000- character limit)

The lack of permanent housing options is frequently identified as a significant obstacle in resolving homelessness. To address this challenge, the project is dedicated to developing 80 permanent housing options and providing 50 emergency or bridge housing opportunities at any given time, ensuring a seamless transition out of Murrieta Creek. Customized services aimed at promoting the health, safety, and well-being of vulnerable individuals address the diverse needs of various groups, including those with behavioral health and chronic health issues, individuals impacted by violence, challenges related to aging, pet owners, and individuals involved in the justice system such as probation, parole, and conservatorship.

Conservatively estimating the value of adding 80 newly dedicated permanent housing opportunities at \$1,900 per month, the total cost for this component alone is \$5.4 million over a two-year period of time. However, the value of potentially saving lives is immeasurable.

Attachment: Standardized Budget

Applicants must use the [ERF-3-R Budget Template](#) available on [box.com](#)

Key Entities and Staff

31. First, describe the implementing organization and specific unit or office within the implementing organization that would administer ERF-3-R. Then, describe their role and primary responsibilities for this proposal. Finally, if these entities have managed a complex homelessness project or grant, describe how those experiences informed this proposal. (1500-character limit)

The County Dept. of Housing and Workforce Solutions (HWS) will lead the administrative efforts for the project. As the Administrative Entity for the Riverside CoC and the Housing Lead for the County, HWS manages complex federal and state programs aimed at developing, implementing, and operating housing assistance programs countywide. While many of these projects are operated internally, a substantial number are sub-contracted. In its role for this project, HWS will oversee grant and compliance, participating in weekly coordination calls to monitor accountability among all parties and act as a liaison, facilitating connections to other county programs deemed critical during the project's duration.

Table 3: Key Staff

Identify all staff positions (e.g. administrative, programmatic, development etc.) which are integral to this ERF project and to achieving the proposal's outcomes. For each position include the title, whether the position is filled or vacant, the approximate fulltime equivalent (FTE) of the position dedicated to the ERF project, whether the position is funded through ERF-3-R and/or Leveraged (i.e.non-ER-3-R) funds, and a brief description of the duties. Please provide responses in Table 3 below.

Title	Currently Filled Position?	FTE of Staffing for This Proposal	Funded by ERF-3-R and / or Leveraged Funds?	Brief Description of Duties
-------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------	---	-----------------------------

Administrative Assistant	Yes Yes/No	1 FTE # FTE	Both ERF/Lev/Both	Supports the Management Analyst and oversees project compliance with management, operations and public safety standards.
Street Outreach & Housing Navigator	No Yes/No	8 FTE # FTE	ERF ERF/Lev/Both	Street outreach, case mgt., housing navigation.
Animal Services Outreach Worker	No Yes/No	1 FTE # FTE	ERF ERF/Lev/Both	Outreach staff case manager coordinated veterinary services and lodging as needed for pets.
Behavioral Health Specialist III	No Yes/No	4 FTE # FTE	ERF ERF/Lev/Both	Substance Use Counselor, Peer Specialist and Behavioral health Case Managers
Outreach Officer (Animal Services)	No Yes/No	.5 FTE # FTE	ERF ERF/Lev/Both	Outreach Officer to accompany MDT for pet assistance.
Housing Specialist	No Yes/No	2 FTE # FTE	Both ERF/Lev/Both	Housing Locator, Landlord Liaison and Mitigation Specialist
Social Services Practitioner	No Yes/No	2 FTE # FTE	ERF ERF/Lev/Both	Adult Services Social Worker
Nurse	Yes Yes/No	1 FTE # FTE	Lev ERF/Lev/Both	Street Medicine Team
Licensed Vocational Nurse	Yes Yes/No	1 FTE # FTE	Lev ERF/Lev/Both	Street Medicine Team
Physician	Yes Yes/No	1 FTE # FTE	Lev ERF/Lev/Both	Street Medicine Team

Shelter Case Manager	Yes Yes/No	3 FTE # FTE	ERF ERF/Lev/Both	Interim Shelter Case Managers
Management Analyst Assistant	Yes Yes/No	1 FTE # FTE	ERF ERF/Lev/Both	Oversees project compliance with management, operations and public safety standards.
CES Coordinator	Yes Yes/No	.25 FTE # FTE	Lev ERF/Lev/Both	CES, Manages Referrals and facilitates linkages to housing providers based on acuity. Monitors for accountability and housing readiness, and expediency of referral to housing placement.

32. First, describe key partners that will be responsible for implementing this ERF project and achieving the proposal's outcomes (e.g. service providers, public agencies, development entities etc.). Then, describe their role and primary responsibilities for this proposal. Finally, if these entities have managed a complex homelessness project or grant, describe how those experiences informed this proposal. (1500-character limit)

BH, with its extensive experience in coordinating homeless and behavioral health services, is committed to prioritizing services and specialty housing for individuals impacted by mental health and substance use disorders. Adult Services will provide specialized care for residents aged 60 and older, as well as dependent adults aged 18-59. Animal Services will address the needs of pet owners within the community.

Each city will partner with the County to coordinate street outreach services which transition into housing case management for all residents served. Collaborations with the County's contracted Street Medicine Vendor, Healthcare in Action, will ensure access to medical services, with a focus on providing primary care to residents at their current residence and facilitating long-term healthcare plans. Furthermore, partnerships with the County's Workforce Services will offer job training, shadowing, and placement opportunities for residents seeking to re-enter the workforce.

33. Describe specific examples of how Local Jurisdiction(s) and the CoC have collaborated on the design and implementation of this proposal. (1000-character limit)

The southwest cities, along with the County and CoC, convene regularly as part of the Regional Housing Alliance (RHA) to strategically coordinating efforts to address homelessness through a regional lens. The RHA recognizes the need for additional resources to develop tangible solutions for residents residing in Murrieta Creek who, due to limited resources at this time, find themselves on waiting lists for viable housing options. This call to action spurred four county units, four multi-jurisdictional partners, and two non-profit providers to come together to invest in the project proposal. Community input, informed by data, firsthand experience, and knowledge of residents, has shaped the project's design and service approaches. A diverse array of experts in housing, outreach, behavioral health, health and safety, animal services, and justice system intervention have resulted in the design and implementation of this project.

Applicants may upload evidence of cross-jurisdictional collaboration such as MOUs, letters of support, or interagency agreements etc. in the field immediately below.

Optional Upload: Evidence of Cross-Jurisdictional Collaboration

34. Identify any entities that have a right to and/or control of the property upon which the encampment site resides. Describe how applicant has engaged with these entities and confirm that each of these entities has committed to allowing the implementation of this proposal. (1000-character limit)

Representatives from each incorporated city and county unincorporated areas have been actively involved in the planning and implementation of this proposal. All entities have collectively agreed to prioritize this region and collaborate closely to facilitate the implementation of the proposal, and work collaboratively to imbed this program into the County and each City's Homeless Systems of Services, to maximize all resources and tools for the successful implementation of the project.

Accelerated Timeline

35. How is your community currently supporting and / or engaging with people residing within the prioritized encampment? (1000-character limit)

At present, residents are connected with services through the existing County regional street outreach teams and emergency responses managed by the County and City's Public Safety Department. It's important to recognize that the outreach's reach has been constrained due to the County teams covering a large service area. If funded, this grant would enable a more targeted effort to coordinate care, consequently reducing the reliance on emergency response teams dispatched by public safety departments. Establishing rapport, learning individuals' names, and understanding their specific needs are crucial initial steps in building trust and gathering information to design relevant interventions. Funds allocated from this grant will also ensure that the necessary housing and services are accessible to assist residents in leaving the camp and transitioning to stable, safe permanent housing.

36. If this proposal is selected, in advance of receiving funding, what steps will your community take to support the people living in the encampment and swift implementation of this proposal? (1000-character limit)

The County and Cities partnering on this project will leverage existing regional teams that provide homeless street outreach services to conduct a Comprehensive Needs Assessment of the residents who are living at the encampment to better learn about their needs, gaps, challenges and opportunities that exist, and involve them in guiding the development and implementation of the program. Additionally, we will begin to coordinate community engagement meetings to maximize awareness about the program to further enhance and attract partnerships from the larger community to expand housing and service opportunities. Simultaneously, we will begin to execute MOUs and all other needed agreements which includes meeting with our CES Lead Agency to ensure proper agreements and protocols are in place to quickly implement the program.

Table 4: Project Timeline

Cal ICH should be able to use the project timeline to understand the general parameters of the project and how it will be implemented.

This Standardized Project Timeline Template will not perfectly capture every nuance - that's Ok. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide incremental milestones for achieving the interim shelter and permanent housing goals set out in the proposal. For projects that include interim shelter and/or permanent housing development, the timeline should include major development milestones.

Where there is ambiguity, conflict, or silence, use your judgment.

Date	Milestone	Category	Additional Detail for Milestone
6/30/2024	Award Announcement	Project Management	Meet with stakeholders to announce and provide direction on implementation. Begin drafting MOUs for each agency or department.
9/1/2024	Begin Outreach	People	Project Management will have began working with IT to create maps of the more densely populated areas to ensure that all areas of the river bottom are covered.
9/1/2024	Coordination of Murrieta Creek Outreach & Case Conferencing	Project Management	Project Manager will hold bi-weekly meeting to case conference any individuals who may have significant barriers to moving into interim or permanent housing.
10/1/2024	All Subrecipient and MOUs executed	Project Management	
10/1/2024	Interim Housing Available	Place	
2/28/2025	Move 20-30 individuals into interim housing	Place	Interim housing begins for prioritization and placement of 20-30 individuals.

5/28/2025	Identify gaps in services to reduce unforeseen barriers	Project Management	Project Manager will meet with providers to identify any foreseen gaps in services
6/30/2025	50% ERF Funds Expended/100% Obligated	Project Management	Statutory Deadline for 50% of ERF funds to be spend and 100% obligated.
9/28/2025	Moved 30 Individuals into permanent housing	People	
9/28/2025	Interim housing	Place	Interim housing remains available for 20 - 30 individuals
9/28/2026	Moved 70 individuals total into permanent housing	People	
1/30/2027	Moved 80 individuals total into permanent housing	People	
6/30/2027	100% of ERF funds expended	Project Management	Statutory Deadline for 100% of ERF funds to be spent.

Table 5: Projected Milestones

Answer the following questions in relationship to April 30, 2024. Cal ICH assumes disbursement will occur approximately 3-6 months after April 30, 2024.

Please provide responses in the table below including the month and year. (15-character limit for each cell)

Outreach to the people residing in the prioritized encampment site began / will begin in mm/yyyy.

This proposal will reach full operating capacity in mm/yyyy.

The first planned exit of a person or household from the prioritized encampment will occur in mm/yyyy.

The last planned exit of a person or household from the prioritized encampment will occur in mm/yyyy.

09/01/2024

09/01/2024

10/01/2024

01/30/2027

CERTIFICATION

Before certifying, applicants are strongly encouraged to review the NOFA.

I certify that all information included in this Application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Name

First

Last

This does not have to be an authorized representative or signatory.

Title

Email

	ELIGIBLE USE CATEGORY	-5 WORD DESCRIPTION	NAME OF ENTITY OR PART OF PROPOSAL				ERF-3-R PROPOSED BUDGET	LEVERAGED FISCAL SUPPORT	-2 SENTENCE DESCRIPTION
				SALARY	FTE	MONTHS	Only ERF-3-R Funds	Non-ERF-3-R Funds That WILL be Used to Support this Proposal	Enables Cal ICH to better understand the line item, context, and / or other pertinent information related to the proposed line item.
Guidance and Intended Use	<i>This budget template may be slightly modified to meet local needs. If awarded funding, this budget, once approved, will serve as your community official project budget. Any future changes to this budget must be authorized through the change request process.</i>			<i>Use dropdowns. See NOFA, III. A.</i>			<i>Enables Cal ICH to immediately understand the line item.</i>		
				<i>Enables Cal ICH to associate the line item with specific entities or parts of a proposal.</i>					
	PERSONNEL COSTS								
	Street Outreach	Outreach & Housing Case Manager	Regional Housing Alliance	\$75,358.40	5.00	36	\$1,130,376.00		
	Street Outreach	Outreach & Housing Case Manager III	Regional Housing Alliance	\$96,678.40	3.00	36	\$870,105.60		
	Street Outreach	Street Medicine Specialists	Healthcare In Action, Inc.			36		\$1,200,000.00	
	Street Outreach	Outreach Staff	RivCo Animal Services	\$94,500.00	0.50	36	\$141,750.00		
	Interim Sheltering	Shelter Case Manager	Project Touch	\$75,358.40	3.00	36	\$678,225.60		
	Services Coordination	CES Coordinator	RivCo Behavioral Health	\$108,296.63	0.25	36		\$81,222.47	
	Services Coordination	Certified Peer Support Specialist	RivCo Behavioral Health	\$108,296.63	1.00	36	\$324,889.89		
	Services Coordination	Behavioral Health Specialist II (Behavioral Health Case Manager)	RivCo Behavioral Health	\$121,678.85	2.00	36	\$730,073.10		
	Services Coordination	Behavioral Health Specialist III (Alcohol & Drug Counselor)	RivCo Behavioral Health	\$129,443.24	1.00	36	\$388,329.72		
	Services Coordination	Social Service Practitioner III (Social Worker)	RivCo Adult Services	\$154,237.00	1.00	36	\$462,711.00		
	Services Coordination	Administrative Services Analyst II (Social Worker Assistant)	RivCo Adult Services	\$120,225.84	1.00	36	\$360,677.52		
	Delivery of Permanent Housing	Housing Specialist I	Housing and Workforce Solutions	148,948.00	1.00	36	270,000.00		
Delivery of Permanent Housing	Housing Specialist I	Housing and Workforce Solutions	148,948.00	1.00	36		\$270,000.00		
Systems Support	Administrative Assistant	City of Murrieta	148,948.00	1.00	36	\$446,844.00			
Systems Support	Administrative Management Analyst	City of Murrieta	157,996.00	1.00	36	\$473,988.00			
Subtotal - Personnel Costs							\$6,277,970.43	\$	1,551,222.47
NON-PERSONNEL COSTS				UNIT	RATE	TIME			
Services Coordination	Hygiene, Clothing and Household Essentials Allowance	Regional Housing Alliance	40.00	\$300	1 time	\$12,000.00			
Services Coordination	Property Storage & Moving Costs	Storage Facility	1.00	\$1,200	24 months	\$28,800.00			
Services Coordination	Vehicle (Leasing and Fuel)	Regional Housing Alliance	6.00	\$900	36 months	\$194,400.00			
Interim Sheltering	Motel/Hotel Lodging	Regional Housing Alliance	30.00	\$150	120 nights	\$540,000.00			
Interim Sheltering	Motel/Hotel Food Cards	Regional Housing Alliance	30.00	\$100	120 nights	\$360,000.00			
Interim Sheltering	Transitional Housing Lodging & Meals	Project Touch	20.00	\$150	365 nights	\$1,095,000.00			
Delivery of Permanent Housing	Application Fees	Regional Housing Alliance	80.00	\$100	applications each	\$8,000.00			
Delivery of Permanent Housing	Landlord Incentives	Regional Housing Alliance	80.00	\$1,000	1 time	\$80,000.00			
Delivery of Permanent Housing	Security Deposit	Regional Housing Alliance	80.00	\$1,900	1 time	\$152,000.00			
Delivery of Permanent Housing	Utility Deposits	Regional Housing Alliance	80.00	\$400	1 time	\$32,000.00			
Delivery of Permanent Housing	Rental Assistance (up to 24 months)	Regional Housing Alliance	60.00	\$1,900	24 months	\$2,736,000.00			
Delivery of Permanent Housing	Rental Assistance (up to 12 months)	Regional Housing Alliance	20.00	\$1,900	12 months	\$456,000.00			
Delivery of Permanent Housing	HUD Continuum of Care PSH (Moving-on for Adults needing Long-term Affordable Housing/PSH)	Housing and Workforce Solutions	5.00	\$1,900	24 months		\$228,000.00		
Delivery of Permanent Housing	Housing Choice Vouchers (Moving-on Preference for Adults needing Long-term Affordable Housing)	Housing and Workforce Solutions	15.00	\$1,900	24 months		\$684,000.00		
Prevention and Diversion	Flexible Subsidies: Reunification, Mitigation Fund for repairs and other contingencies	Regional Housing Alliance	20.00	\$2,000	1 time	\$40,000.00			
Systems Support	HMIS - Clarity User Licenses	Housing and Workforce Solutions	10.00	\$420			\$4,200.00		
Systems Support	HMIS - Clarity One-Time User Activation Fee	Housing and Workforce Solutions	10.00	\$175			\$1,750.00		
Subtotal - Non-Personnel Costs							\$5,734,200.00	\$	\$917,950
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS									
	Administrative Costs	Supplies for grant management				600,608.52			
Subtotal - Administrative Costs							\$600,608.52		
TOTAL BUDGET							\$12,612,778.95	\$	2,469,172.47



April 19, 2024

Heidi Marshall
Director, Housing and Workforce Solutions
3403 Tenth Street, Suite 310
Riverside, CA 92501

**RE: THE ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION PROGRAM FUNDING (ERF)
LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Dear Ms. Marshall:

The City of Lake Elsinore is pleased to submit this letter of support for Riverside County's project application for the Encampment Resolution Funding program. If awarded, this funding will significantly expand the resources available to support those experiencing homelessness in southwest Riverside County by creating a direct path to permanent housing. The Murrieta Creek Trail system stretches through Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore, and much of the chronically homeless population in our region utilizes these isolated areas to set up encampments. The Encampment Resolution Funding would greatly increase the capacity of the region to address the homeless issue by adding a coordinated regional street outreach team, expanding interim housing options, and supporting the households with securing and maintaining permanent housing. Additionally, we'll continue to strengthen our partnership with Riverside University Health System to provide much needed mental health services.

Lake Elsinore invests significant resources to ensure effective service delivery to the homeless population. We are the only city in the southwest Riverside County region that owns a crisis stabilization program. The partnership between the City, Riverside County Sheriffs, and our outreach provider (Social Work Action Group) has proven to be effective. We are optimistic that partnering with our neighboring cities on the Encampment Resolution Funding Program will allow us to take the next step and create a regional program that will make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.

We appreciate the opportunity to work collaboratively with the County on this effort.

Sincerely,

Jason Simpson
City Manager
City of Lake Elsinore

951.674.3124

130 S. MAIN STREET

LAKE ELSINORE, CA 92530

WWW.LAKE-ELSINORE.ORG



CITY OF MURRIETA

April 23, 2024

Heidi Marshall
Director, Housing and Workforce Solutions
3403 Tenth Street, Suite 310
Riverside, CA 92501

**RE: THE ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION FUNDING (ERF) PROGRAM
LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Dear Ms. Marshall:

The City of Murrieta is pleased to submit this letter of support for Riverside County's project application for the Encampment Resolution Funding Program. If awarded, this funding will significantly expand the resources available to support those experiencing homelessness in southwest Riverside County by creating a direct path to permanent housing. The Murrieta Creek Trail system stretches through Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore, and much of the chronically homeless population in our region utilizes these isolated areas to set up encampments. The Encampment Resolution Funding would greatly increase the capacity of the region to address the homeless issue by adding a coordinated regional street outreach team, expanding interim housing options, and supporting the households with securing and maintaining permanent housing. Additionally, we'll continue to strengthen our partnership with Riverside University Health System to provide much needed mental health services.

As you know, the cities in the southwest Riverside County region formed a collaborative in 2016 called the Regional Homeless Alliance (RHA). This partnership continues working towards the goal of functional zero homelessness by creating seamless care systems. For the past year, the RHA has been working on a regional homeless action plan to coordinate efforts. The regional homeless action plan and ERP funding would allow the region to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring for a service area of 340,000 residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project that will be a benefit to our entire region.

Sincerely,

Kim Summers
City Manager

Executive Committee

Daneen Ashworth

Compass HR
Chairwoman of the Board

Jay Diallo

First Community Capital, Inc.
1st Vice Chair

Nicole Albrecht

Elite Tax Partners
Treasurer

Sandy Word

Which Wich Superior Sandwiches
Secretary

Derric Gonzalez

Altura Credit Union
Director

Directors

Eddie Binder

Consultant

Amy Blackwell

State Farm Insurance

Tracy Bouvet

The Mill Restaurant/ The Bouvet Group

Danielle Coats

Rancho Water

Lisa DeWitt

Corner Escrow

Benjamin Diederich

Law Office of Benjamin Diederich

Jeremy Goldman

Southern California Edison

James Hicken

Legacy Bank

Chris Keyson

8bit Brewing Company

Rene Tovar, MSN, RN

Loma Linda University Medical Center

Alistair Machoka

Southwest Healthcare System

Brandon Moore

Mt. San Jacinto College

Andrea Shoup

Shoup Legal, A Professional Law Corp.

Terrance Tucker

Serve 1st Sports Marketing

Patrick Ellis

President/CEO

April 15, 2024

Heidi Marshall

Director, Housing and Workforce Solutions
3403 Tenth Street, Suite 310
Riverside, CA 92501

RE: THE ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION FUNDING (ERF) LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Ms. Marshall:

On behalf of the Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce, this letter supports Riverside County's application for the Encampment Resolution Funding program. As our organization represents business interests in two neighboring cities, we have become keenly aware of the impacts that homelessness and encampments have on our membership. However, I have also witnessed firsthand the work that the homeless outreach team does in Murrieta and Wildomar to address emergency homeless situations. This service is one of the reasons businesses are thriving in our region.

Murrieta, Wildomar, and Southwest Riverside County have remained one of the fastest growing regions in the country. As is typical with exponential growth of new families to our area, we have also witnessed an increasing trend of homeless or soon-to-be homeless individuals and families settling in this region. Due to the complex nature of homeless services, cities have had to partner with Riverside County agencies to provide lasting and effective services. Regrettably, housing options in our region are limited and affordable options are becoming more and more scarce. Should the Southwest Riverside County region secure funding through the Encampment Resolution Funding program, I am convinced this region could reach functional zero homelessness.

Without hesitation, I recommend this regional project for funding. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Heather Estrada, Vice President of Operations
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce

LOCAL NEWS

News

Helping homeless people is goal for 5 southwest Riverside County cities

Regional Homeless Alliance aims to tackle homelessness with a plan



Elise Rahn, left, gets information from Jesus Nungaray during the 2020 Point in Time homeless count in Temecula on Jan. 29, 2020. Temecula is one of five southwest Riverside county cities joining forces to help solve homelessness. (File photo by Andrew Foulk, Contributing Photographer)



By **NOVA BLANCO-RICO** | nblancorico@scng.com

PUBLISHED: May 26, 2023 at 1:46 p.m. | UPDATED: May 26, 2023 at 1:53 p.m.

Five southwest Riverside County cities are moving forward with creating a regional plan to confront homelessness by working together.

The [Regional Homeless Alliance began in 2016](#) and is a collaboration between Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Murrieta, Temecula and Wildomar that's aimed at solving homelessness in the cities. The alliance was not official when it first launched, but now the lead city, Murrieta, has hired a consultant to help the group craft a plan. The Chicago-based Baker Tilly, will be paid \$199,200 to help solve the growing homeless problem.

In September 2022, the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration awarded \$500,000 to Murrieta to hire a consultant to create an action plan, formalize the alliance and provide street outreach to homeless people.

Based on findings from the federally [mandated homeless count across Riverside County in January](#), the five cities have a total of 419 unsheltered and sheltered homeless people. Riverside County has 3,725 homeless people, an increase of 12% from 2022.

“Our goal is to remove an emphasis on city-specific homeless numbers and look at it as a regional issue,” Brian Ambrose, director of community service in Murrieta, said by phone. “Whenever the yearly numbers come out for each city’s homelessness population, you see a city prop their numbers like achievements if they have less. But you then see another bordering city increase in numbers at the same rate.”

Ambrose said the firm has employees with experience tackling the issue. For example, Carol Jacobs, its project director, was [city manager in the California cities of Stanton and Eastvale](#) and worked on homeless issues. Ambrose also mentioned [Susan Price, once nicknamed Orange County’s “homeless czar,”](#) who has worked for more than 20 years in public agencies addressing homelessness. Representatives of the firm could not be reached for comment. Murrieta spokesperson Dominique Samario said in an email that the consultants would not be doing interviews about the alliance or the plan.

“No one city can solve homelessness independently, but together, cities can target and prioritize limited resources to address local needs while holding all people accountable in public spaces,” Jacobs, managing director for [Baker Tilly, wrote in the firm’s proposal to the city.](#)

The firm outlined its proposed plan on how to tackle the issue with four key points:

- Meet with leaders and staff, law enforcement, medical and behavioral health agencies and others in the five cities to review data and information.
- Complete a list of resources and analyze what’s missing in these services.
- Create a regional homelessness action plan using feedback and priorities identified with the five cities.
- Formalize a structure for the Regional Homeless Alliance.

The firm’s contract lasts until May 2024.

“We’ve had a relatively low number of homeless population in Temecula, but we are also concerned for those outside the city who also need resources,” said Mike Wooten, community services manager for Temecula. He added that the grant will allow the alliance to become stronger than when the cities met once every few months to discuss the problem.

Anne Unmacht, founder of [Project T.O.U.C.H.](#), a nonprofit group established in 2003 that’s worked with Murrieta and [Temecula on housing for the homeless population](#), has worked more than 19 years on the issue.

“Being in the frontlines and in the trenches, there’s never enough help and not just for emergency housing, but for people to move on from emergency to public housing,” Unmacht said. “Because we’re in California, it’s so expensive and the prices skyrocket, so even when homeless individuals gain employment or find some stability, renting is just too high.”

Unmacht added that she is excited about the cities’ momentum in trying to solve homelessness on a regional scale.

“It’s a complex issue to address, because it’s not just public housing but handling the mental health side of homelessness, so anything like hiring the firm in order to move the needle forward is great.”

In the past five years alone, there have been attempts to address homelessness in southwest Riverside County. In 2018, [Temecula opened the Temecula Help Center](#), a [program](#) that aims to help homeless individuals be self-sufficient and assist them with coordinating housing and other needs. Most recently, in 2020, [Lake Elsinore opened its first housing project](#) for homeless people and it can host up to 20 individuals.

“Our goal with the firm and with the alliance is to become the first region that has achieved the goal of zero homelessness and I think it’s obtainable,” Ambrose said. “We also want to create a program that’s the national best practice, so we no longer look at city-specific solutions for homelessness, but to look at the bigger area by working together to solve homelessness, not manage it.”

SOUTHWEST RIVERSIDE COUNTY HOMELESS

Here is the number of unsheltered and sheltered homeless people in the five cities, according to Riverside County’s 2023 homeless count.

Lake Elsinore: 110

Menifee: 25

[Helping homeless people is goal for 5 southwest Riverside County cities – Press Enterprise](#)

Murrieta: 165

Temecula: 73

Wildomar: 46

Source: Riverside County



April 15, 2024

Heidi Marshall
Director, Housing and Workforce Solutions
3403 Tenth Street, Suite 310
Riverside, CA 92501

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT - ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION FUNDING (ERF)

Dear Ms. Marshall:

It is our pleasure to submit a letter of support for an application for the Encampment Resolution Funding program. The Santa Margarita Group of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club would be a major stakeholder in this project, as we have been involved in the creation of the Murrieta Creek Regional Trail System from the beginning.

The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Santa Margarita Group is part of the San Gorgonio Chapter, serving the Inland Area of Southern California. Our mission is to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate, protect, restore the quality of the natural environment; and use all lawful means to carry out those objectives.

Our chapter's crowning achievement so far has been the creation of an approximately 15-mile, non-motorized, multi-use trail through four participating cities. This historic trail route was used by indigenous peoples and has a long, colorful history. It is important that the trail and the surrounding Murrieta Creek area be preserved for perpetuity due to the important wildlife, native plants, and historical relevance to the Southwest Riverside County region. Unfortunately, an increase in homeless encampments has caused negative impacts to the Murrieta Creek ecosystem and the trail system over the past decade. Yet the four cities we partner with have each established effective homeless service programs. By expanding the services through the ERF program, we'll be able to mitigate these harmful effects that have occurred in the past and reverse this trend. The ERF program would provide an environmental benefit to Southwest Riverside County.

Should you need any additional information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me at pamela05n@yahoo.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "P. Nelson".

Pamela Nelson
Chair, Santa Margarita Group/San Gorgonio Chapter/Sierra Club
(951) 767-2324

District Office: French Valley
37600 Sky Canyon Drive, #505
Murrieta, CA 92563

Robyn Brock, Chief of Staff
E-Mail: D3Email@rivco.org

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



Riverside Office:
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA. 92501

(951) 955-1030 – Fax (951) 955-2194
www.SupervisorChuckWashington.com

Supervisor Chuck Washington Third District

April 25, 2024

Encampment Resolution Funding Program
California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing
915 Capital Mall Suite 350-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Letter of Support for the Encampment Resolution Fund Application

Dear Members of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness,

I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse the Encampment Resolution Fund application put forth by the Riverside County Continuum of Care for the Murrieta Creek Project. As the Third District Supervisor of Riverside County, I express my unwavering support for this initiative, which promises to make a significant impact in our ongoing battle against homelessness.

Homelessness continues to be an urgent and multifaceted issue that demands our utmost attention and a collaborative approach. It is a complex issue that requires a comprehensive and coordinated response. I commend the county for strategizing to work alongside the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore, to address homelessness at the Murrieta Creek which spans across five jurisdictions. The Murrieta Creek Project showcases a remarkable multi-jurisdictional partnership that aims to provide sustainable solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness. By joining forces, we can leverage our resources, knowledge, and expertise to make a lasting impact on the lives of those most in need.

I have witnessed firsthand the dedication and commitment of the Riverside County Continuum of Care in addressing homelessness within our community. Their tireless efforts in providing comprehensive services to individuals experiencing homelessness have made a significant difference. The Encampment Resolution Fund will serve to enhance their work and allow for further expansion of services, ensuring that more individuals receive the support they require.

I strongly urge the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to give favorable consideration to the Riverside County Continuum of Care's application for the Encampment Resolution Fund. The Murrieta Creek Project represents a significant step forward in our collective efforts to combat homelessness and create a more compassionate and inclusive community. With the support of this fund, we can have a tangible and positive impact on the lives of our homeless population.

Sincerely,

Chuck Washington
Riverside County Third District Supervisor

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



KAREN SPIEGEL
SECOND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



STAFF

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AMBER SMALLEY, Field Representative
MELANIA CASTELLANOS, Field Representative

April 29, 2024

California Business, Consumer Services, and Housing
915 Capital Mall Suite 350-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Letter of Support for the Encampment Resolution Fund Application

Dear Members of the California Interagency Council on Homelessness,

As the Riverside County Supervisor for the Second District, I write to express my support for the Encampment Resolution Fund application being submitted by the Riverside County Continuum of Care for the Murrieta Creek Project. I wholeheartedly endorse this application and commend the collaborative efforts of the county and the cities of Temecula, Murrieta, Lake Elsinore, and Wildomar in addressing the issue of homelessness in our region.

Homelessness is a pressing issue that requires concerted efforts from all levels of government and the community. The Murrieta Creek Project, with its multi-jurisdictional partnership, exemplifies the kind of collaborative approach necessary to tackle this complex problem. By working together, we can pool our resources, knowledge, and expertise to provide meaningful and sustainable solutions for individuals experiencing homelessness.

The funding provided will enable the implementation of essential services, including emergency shelter, outreach programs, mental health support, and job training. These services are integral in assisting individuals experiencing homelessness in finding stable housing and regaining their independence.

I strongly encourage the California Interagency Council on Homelessness to consider the application from the Riverside County Continuum of Care favorably. The Murrieta Creek Project represents a significant step forward in our collective efforts to combat homelessness and create a more inclusive and compassionate community. With the support of this fund, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of our homeless population.

It is for these reasons that I hope your office will provide favorable consideration to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions regarding my support at (951) 955 - 1020. On behalf of the Second District of Riverside County, we thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Spiegel

Karen Spiegel
Second District Supervisor
County of Riverside



CITY OF MURRIETA

April 23, 2024

Heidi Marshall
Director, Housing and Workforce Solutions
3403 Tenth Street, Suite 310
Riverside, CA 92501

**RE: THE ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION FUNDING (ERF) PROGRAM
LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Dear Ms. Marshall:

The City of Murrieta is pleased to submit this letter of support for Riverside County's project application for the Encampment Resolution Funding Program. If awarded, this funding will significantly expand the resources available to support those experiencing homelessness in southwest Riverside County by creating a direct path to permanent housing. The Murrieta Creek Trail system stretches through Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore, and much of the chronically homeless population in our region utilizes these isolated areas to set up encampments. The Encampment Resolution Funding would greatly increase the capacity of the region to address the homeless issue by adding a coordinated regional street outreach team, expanding interim housing options, and supporting the households with securing and maintaining permanent housing. Additionally, we'll continue to strengthen our partnership with Riverside University Health System to provide much needed mental health services.

As you know, the cities in the southwest Riverside County region formed a collaborative in 2016 called the Regional Homeless Alliance (RHA). This partnership continues working towards the goal of functional zero homelessness by creating seamless care systems. For the past year, the RHA has been working on a regional homeless action plan to coordinate efforts. The regional homeless action plan and ERP funding would allow the region to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring for a service area of 340,000 residents.

Thank you for your consideration of this important project that will be a benefit to our entire region.

Sincerely,

Kim Summers
City Manager



April 19, 2024

Heidi Marshall
Director, Housing and Workforce Solutions
3403 Tenth Street, Suite 310
Riverside, CA 92501

**RE: THE ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION PROGRAM FUNDING (ERF)
LETTER OF SUPPORT**

Dear Ms. Marshall:

The City of Lake Elsinore is pleased to submit this letter of support for Riverside County's project application for the Encampment Resolution Funding program. If awarded, this funding will significantly expand the resources available to support those experiencing homelessness in southwest Riverside County by creating a direct path to permanent housing. The Murrieta Creek Trail system stretches through Temecula, Murrieta, Wildomar, and Lake Elsinore, and much of the chronically homeless population in our region utilizes these isolated areas to set up encampments. The Encampment Resolution Funding would greatly increase the capacity of the region to address the homeless issue by adding a coordinated regional street outreach team, expanding interim housing options, and supporting the households with securing and maintaining permanent housing. Additionally, we'll continue to strengthen our partnership with Riverside University Health System to provide much needed mental health services.

Lake Elsinore invests significant resources to ensure effective service delivery to the homeless population. We are the only city in the southwest Riverside County region that owns a crisis stabilization program. The partnership between the City, Riverside County Sheriffs, and our outreach provider (Social Work Action Group) has proven to be effective. We are optimistic that partnering with our neighboring cities on the Encampment Resolution Funding Program will allow us to take the next step and create a regional program that will make homelessness rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.

We appreciate the opportunity to work collaboratively with the County on this effort.

Sincerely,

Jason Simpson
City Manager
City of Lake Elsinore

951.674.3124

130 S. MAIN STREET

LAKE ELSINORE, CA 92530

WWW.LAKE-ELSINORE.ORG

Executive Committee

Daneen Ashworth

Compass HR
Chairwoman of the Board

Jay Diallo

First Community Capital, Inc.
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Derric Gonzalez

Altura Credit Union
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Directors

Eddie Binder

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Tracy Bouvet

The Mill Restaurant/ The Bouvet Group

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Corner Escrow

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Law Office of Benjamin Diederich

Jeremy Goldman

Southern California Edison

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Chris Keyson

8bit Brewing Company

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Southwest Healthcare System

Brandon Moore

Mt. San Jacinto College

Andrea Shoup

Shoup Legal, A Professional Law Corp.

Terrance Tucker

Serve 1st Sports Marketing

Patrick Ellis

President/CEO

April 15, 2024

Heidi Marshall

Director, Housing and Workforce Solutions
3403 Tenth Street, Suite 310
Riverside, CA 92501

RE: THE ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION FUNDING (ERF) LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear Ms. Marshall:

On behalf of the Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce, this letter supports Riverside County's application for the Encampment Resolution Funding program. As our organization represents business interests in two neighboring cities, we have become keenly aware of the impacts that homelessness and encampments have on our membership. However, I have also witnessed firsthand the work that the homeless outreach team does in Murrieta and Wildomar to address emergency homeless situations. This service is one of the reasons businesses are thriving in our region.

Murrieta, Wildomar, and Southwest Riverside County have remained one of the fastest growing regions in the country. As is typical with exponential growth of new families to our area, we have also witnessed an increasing trend of homeless or soon-to-be homeless individuals and families settling in this region. Due to the complex nature of homeless services, cities have had to partner with Riverside County agencies to provide lasting and effective services. Regrettably, housing options in our region are limited and affordable options are becoming more and more scarce. Should the Southwest Riverside County region secure funding through the Encampment Resolution Funding program, I am convinced this region could reach functional zero homelessness.

Without hesitation, I recommend this regional project for funding. If I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Heather Estrada, Vice President of Operations
Murrieta/Wildomar Chamber of Commerce



April 15, 2024

Heidi Marshall
Director, Housing and Workforce Solutions
3403 Tenth Street, Suite 310
Riverside, CA 92501

RE: LETTER OF SUPPORT - ENCAMPMENT RESOLUTION FUNDING (ERF)

Dear Ms. Marshall:

It is our pleasure to submit a letter of support for an application for the Encampment Resolution Funding program. The Santa Margarita Group of the San Gorgonio Chapter of the Sierra Club would be a major stakeholder in this project, as we have been involved in the creation of the Murrieta Creek Regional Trail System from the beginning.

The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Santa Margarita Group is part of the San Gorgonio Chapter, serving the Inland Area of Southern California. Our mission is to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; to educate, protect, restore the quality of the natural environment; and use all lawful means to carry out those objectives.

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Should you need any additional information from me, please do not hesitate to contact me at pamela05n@yahoo.com.

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Pamela Nelson
Chair, Santa Margarita Group/San Gorgonio Chapter/Sierra Club
(951) 767-2324

LOCAL NEWS

News

Helping homeless people is goal for 5 southwest Riverside County cities

Regional Homeless Alliance aims to tackle homelessness with a plan



Elise Rahn, left, gets information from Jesus Nungaray during the 2020 Point in Time homeless count in Temecula on Jan. 29, 2020. Temecula is one of five southwest Riverside county cities joining forces to help solve homelessness. (File photo by Andrew Foulk, Contributing Photographer)



By **NOVA BLANCO-RICO** | nblancorico@scng.com

PUBLISHED: May 26, 2023 at 1:46 p.m. | UPDATED: May 26, 2023 at 1:53 p.m.

Five southwest Riverside County cities are moving forward with creating a regional plan to confront homelessness by working together.

The [Regional Homeless Alliance began in 2016](#) and is a collaboration between Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Murrieta, Temecula and Wildomar that's aimed at solving homelessness in the cities. The alliance was not official when it first launched, but now the lead city, Murrieta, has hired a consultant to help the group craft a plan. The Chicago-based Baker Tilly, will be paid \$199,200 to help solve the growing homeless problem.

In September 2022, the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration awarded \$500,000 to Murrieta to hire a consultant to create an action plan, formalize the alliance and provide street outreach to homeless people.

Based on findings from the federally [mandated homeless count across Riverside County in January](#), the five cities have a total of 419 unsheltered and sheltered homeless people. Riverside County has 3,725 homeless people, an increase of 12% from 2022.

“Our goal is to remove an emphasis on city-specific homeless numbers and look at it as a regional issue,” Brian Ambrose, director of community service in Murrieta, said by phone. “Whenever the yearly numbers come out for each city’s homelessness population, you see a city prop their numbers like achievements if they have less. But you then see another bordering city increase in numbers at the same rate.”

Ambrose said the firm has employees with experience tackling the issue. For example, Carol Jacobs, its project director, was [city manager in the California cities of Stanton and Eastvale](#) and worked on homeless issues. Ambrose also mentioned [Susan Price, once nicknamed Orange County’s “homeless czar,”](#) who has worked for more than 20 years in public agencies addressing homelessness. Representatives of the firm could not be reached for comment. Murrieta spokesperson Dominique Samario said in an email that the consultants would not be doing interviews about the alliance or the plan.

“No one city can solve homelessness independently, but together, cities can target and prioritize limited resources to address local needs while holding all people accountable in public spaces,” Jacobs, managing director for [Baker Tilly, wrote in the firm’s proposal to the city.](#)

The firm outlined its proposed plan on how to tackle the issue with four key points:

- Meet with leaders and staff, law enforcement, medical and behavioral health agencies and others in the five cities to review data and information.
- Complete a list of resources and analyze what’s missing in these services.
- Create a regional homelessness action plan using feedback and priorities identified with the five cities.
- Formalize a structure for the Regional Homeless Alliance.

The firm’s contract lasts until May 2024.

“We’ve had a relatively low number of homeless population in Temecula, but we are also concerned for those outside the city who also need resources,” said Mike Wooten, community services manager for Temecula. He added that the grant will allow the alliance to become stronger than when the cities met once every few months to discuss the problem.

Anne Unmacht, founder of [Project T.O.U.C.H.](#), a nonprofit group established in 2003 that’s worked with Murrieta and [Temecula on housing for the homeless population](#), has worked more than 19 years on the issue.

“Being in the frontlines and in the trenches, there’s never enough help and not just for emergency housing, but for people to move on from emergency to public housing,” Unmacht said. “Because we’re in California, it’s so expensive and the prices skyrocket, so even when homeless individuals gain employment or find some stability, renting is just too high.”

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“It’s a complex issue to address, because it’s not just public housing but handling the mental health side of homelessness, so anything like hiring the firm in order to move the needle forward is great.”

In the past five years alone, there have been attempts to address homelessness in southwest Riverside County. In 2018, [Temecula opened the Temecula Help Center](#), a [program](#) that aims to help homeless individuals be self-sufficient and assist them with coordinating housing and other needs. Most recently, in 2020, [Lake Elsinore opened its first housing project](#) for homeless people and it can host up to 20 individuals.

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SOUTHWEST RIVERSIDE COUNTY HOMELESS

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[Helping homeless people is goal for 5 southwest Riverside County cities – Press Enterprise](#)

Murrieta: 165

Temecula: 73

Wildomar: 46

Source: Riverside County



- LEGEND**
- Visitor Center
 - Hiking / Walking Trails
 - Equestrian Staging Area
 - Wildlife Viewing / Natural Area
 - Picnic Area
 - Parking
 - Restrooms
 - Sports Fields
 - Golf Course
 - Food
 - Existing Park Area
 - Planned Park Area
 - "Old Town" Area
 - Creeks / Waterways
 - Existing Trail
 - Planned / Proposed Trail
 - Army Corps Levee Trail (future)
 - Community Civic Center
 - Select School Sites

Murrieta Creek Regional Trail Project



The Murrieta Creek Regional Trail project represents a joint effort between the Cities of Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, Temecula, and Wildomar in partnership with the Santa Margarita group of the Sierra Club. Technical assistance on this project was provided by the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program.

NOTE: Map illustrations and trail alignments are conceptual (for illustrative/planning purposes only) and not all roadways and trail corridors, existing or planned, are depicted on this map.

