

**NARRATIVE APPLICATION**

**HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION (HHAP)  
PROGRAM**

**CALIFORNIA HOMELESS COORDINATING AND FINANCING  
COUNCIL**

**Submitted By:**

**CITY OF BAKERSFIELD**

**February 2020**

## 1. SUMMARY OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE COC

**A. Longitudinal System Assessment.** In January 2020, the Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative (BKRHC), also known as the Bakersfield/Kern County Continuum of Care (CoC) (CA CoC-604) provided the City of Bakersfield with an electronic copy of its HUD October 2017–September 2018 Longitudinal System Assessment (LSA) which is included in this application as *Attachment 1: BKRHC Longitudinal System Assessment (LSA)*. The region served by the BKRHC is all of Kern County, and the data reflects all persons experiencing homelessness who were entered into HMIS during this period.

### B. LSA Data:

1. Total number of households served in:
  - 1) Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing – 2,020
  - 2) Rapid Rehousing - 570
  - 3) Permanent Supportive Housing - 982
2. Total number of disabled households served across all interventions - 2,096
3. Total number of households experiencing chronic homelessness served across all interventions - 556
4. Total number of 55+ households served across all interventions - 893
5. Total number of unaccompanied youth served across all interventions - 204
6. Total number of veteran households served across all interventions - 559
7. Number of individuals served across all interventions who were:
  - 1) Female – 1,463
  - 2) Male – 2,417
  - 3) Transgender - 6
  - 4) Gender Non-Conforming - 1
8. Total number of individuals served across all interventions who were:
  - White, Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino (only) - 1,739
  - White, Hispanic/Latino (only) - 1,082
  - Black or African American (only) - 876
  - Asian (only) - 7
  - American Indian or Alaska Native (only) - 82
  - Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (only) - 24
  - Multiple races - 70

## 2. DEMONSTRATION OF REGIONAL COORDINATION

### A. Coordinated Entry System (CES)

#### 1. Coordination with BKRHC CoC's Coordinated Entry System.

Funds received through State and Federal grants by the City of Bakersfield are required to be part of the BKRHC and use the CoC's CES system. This includes City Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recipients, Homeless Emergency Assistance and Prevention Program (HEAP) Grant Recipients, and future Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP). This requirement is written into each formal grant agreement between the City and sub-recipient. Sub-recipients of grants submit reports to the City to include in both the Federal and State annual reports.

BKRHC's CES is managed by Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK). The CES is a Housing First system that assesses and prioritizes eligible individuals and families for housing and services, with emphasis on placing them in housing as quickly as possible based on vulnerability and length of time homeless. Assessment occurs in two phases:

- 1) *Phase I: Access Points.* This phase involves completion of the Quick Referral Tool (QRT) to screen applicants and quickly connect them to an Assessment Point. Access points include numerous public and private agencies and organizations throughout the county that have been trained by CAPK in the use of the QRT.
- 2) *Phase II: Assessment Points.* Phase II is conducted by designated Assessment Points that utilize the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) Version 2.0 to calculate vulnerability scores. The appropriate VI-SPDAT is used for the specific population being assessed, i.e. Family-VI-SPDAT for families, Youth-VI-SPDAT for youth, PR-VI-SPDAT for persons at-risk. Once an individual has been scored, the information is entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for automatic prioritization and referral.

Designated assessment points for the homeless population within the CoC include: CAPK/2-1-1 Program (all), California Veterans Assistance Foundation (Veterans), Bakersfield Homeless Center (families), Flood Bakersfield Ministries (Singles), and The Mission at Kern County (singles). Assessment Points for at-risk persons include: CAPK (all), CVAF (Veterans), and the Housing Authority of the County of Kern (all others). Assessment Points must confirm receipt of the QRT within two business days.

Individuals and families who are at risk of or are experiencing homelessness within the county are referred or matched to housing and services in a uniform, coordinated way, based on use of the VI-SPDAT. All federal and state mandated homeless programs, along with programs voluntarily participating, are required to use the CES process as the only referral source from which to consider filling vacancies in housing and services. The BKRHC maintains a list of all resources that can be accessed through referral from the CES. Each BKRHC project publicizes its specific eligibility criteria on BKRHC's website.

Upon referral individuals receive detailed information about what to expect from the project and what their responsibilities will be. If an individual is prioritized for PSH but

no PSH resources are available, that individual is offered any other resource available in the BKRHC geographic area. Case Conferencing opportunities for challenging individual circumstances are held monthly during the CES working group meeting. All members in attendance must have signed HMIS Memoranda of Understanding in place. Individuals are not screened out because of perceived barriers to housing or services including, but not limited to, lack of employment or income, drug or alcohol use, or having a criminal record. In addition, housing and homeless programs must lower their screening barriers in partnership with the CES and will avoid steering people towards any particular program or provider simply because they presented at that location.

2. Description of jurisdiction's current challenges related to CES, and plan to address these challenges?

The City of Bakersfield has witnessed great collaboration and training on the CoC's CES System. The system has provided a way to maximize housing placement beginning with the most vulnerable needs in our community. However, with the rise in persons experiencing homelessness, the CoC's CES System has experienced a backlog of persons requesting services. The current staff level cannot meet the current demand. CAPK, the BKRHC's CES administrator, needs more staff to provide housing navigation services and assess persons requesting assistance.

To address this issue, City of Bakersfield and BKRHC will utilize portions of their HHAP funds to create one new CES Housing Navigator position funded for two years. All CES staff serve the entire CoC, which includes the City of Bakersfield.

3. How do you promote the utilization of your CES? Specifically, what outreach do you conduct to ensure all individuals experiencing homelessness in your jurisdiction, including those with multiple barriers, are aware of the CES assessment and referral process?

CAPK, the CES Administrator, and other BKRHC representatives have conducted widespread, countywide marketing to inform service providers, the public, and the homeless population about the CES assessment and referral process and how to access it. This includes presentations to community groups, non-profit agencies, public employees, public service media announcements, bus advertisements, flyers, United Way resource cards, group emails, social media, and the BKRHC websites.

Street outreach has proven to be the most effective means of marketing CES to people with multiple barriers, both by informing local service providers and the homeless population directly about CES, and by actively seeking out and engaging the most isolated, vulnerable unsheltered people in all corners of the county. Street outreach workers are authorized to bypass the Quick Referral Tool and perform CES assessments with people they encounter.

## **B. Prioritization Criteria**

### **1. Describe criteria used to prioritize assistance for people experiencing homelessness.**

The CES is designed to assess and prioritize customers quickly without preconditions or service participation requirements. The prioritization standards established by the BKRHC Housing Committee and approved by its Governing Board ensure that individuals with the longest history of homelessness and greatest service needs receive priority for any type of housing and homeless assistance available within the BKRHC including Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and other interventions. All HUD-funded PSH beds are prioritized in accordance with HUD notice CPD16-11.

The VI-SPDAT Version 2.0 assessment tool utilized by CES considers a number of factors when assigning a vulnerability score to clients, including:

- Significant challenges or functional impairments, including physical, mental, developmental, or behavioral challenges, which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing.
- High utilization of crisis or emergency services to meet basic needs.
- Extent to which people, especially youth and children, are unsheltered.
- Vulnerability to illness or death.
- Risk of continued or new homelessness.
- Vulnerability to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking, or sex work.

### **2. Describe how CES, pursuant to 24 CFR 578.8(a)(8), is used for this purpose.**

During the quick referral tool process, if an individual discloses they are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, the individual is immediately linked to a victim service provider. The DV provider will complete the assessment. Safety is given priority during the access process for those seeking protection. The CES assures data collection adheres to the Violence Against Women Act and other state laws.

## **C. Coordination of Regional Needs**

### **1. How City of Bakersfield has partnered with the CoC and County of Kern to identify share of regional need to address homelessness.**

In 2018, the local Continuum of Care established a State Funding Workgroup with representatives from service providers, City of Bakersfield, County of Kern, and subject matter experts. The purpose of the workgroup is to plan and coordinate the optimum utilization of one-time State funding, including HEAP, CESH, and HHAP. The workgroup has been meeting regularly to coordinate the funding and determine how best to allocate the funds within the City, County, and CoC.

Based on a comprehensive assessment of needs related to homelessness in Kern County and Bakersfield, the workgroup recommended HHAP allocations for the CoC, County of Kern, and City of Bakersfield to address the regional needs. This recommendation was considered and then approved by the BKRHC Executive Board (which has representatives from the City, County, and CoC) on February 3, 2020.

2. City of Bakersfield's identified share of regional need, and how requested funds will help meet it.

The BKRHC service area encompasses all of the County of Kern and City of Bakersfield. Therefore, through the development of the Gaps Analysis (Attachment 2: BKRHC Gaps Analysis), the BKRHC, City, and County allocated the share of regional need based on which entity was best suited to help address the need. (See Attachment 3: City-County-BKRHC Collaborative Budget for HHAP Funds.) The regional needs allocated to the City of Bakersfield include:

Outreach and Coordination- Case Management:

Most CoC member agencies report high case manager to client ratios, ranging from 1:40 to 1:65, in contrast to the industry standard of 1:25. Using the preferred 1:25 case manager to client ratio, it is estimated that a total of 114 case managers are needed to serve a combined total of 2,847 new and existing clients recommended for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) or Rapid Rehousing (RRH) interventions, as reported for 2018. These are 41 more case manager positions than exist now. Assuming an average cost (including salary and benefits) of approximately \$60,000 per position, it is further estimated that about \$2,460,000 would be needed to create these positions.

How funds will meet need:

City will allocate \$695,513.35 of HHAP funds over two years to fund six new case manager positions. Although it is well under the unmet need for our City, County, and CoC, it will help to meet needs of persons who are homeless who will be added to the system with the expanded services funded through HHAP.

Need: Infrastructure Development – CES

The BKRHC coordinated entry system reports that 2-1-1/CES Kern has received about twice the calls for assistance in 2019 from persons who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness than originally anticipated based on the 2018 Point in Time (PIT) Count. This has caused a backlog of persons waiting to be assessed by housing navigators. Funds are needed to hire additional personnel to ensure that the CES can respond to calls for help in a timely manner.

How funds will meet need:

The City will allocate \$42,000 to help fund the hiring of one new FTE for CES for two years to address the increased volume of calls and referrals to CES. This will be accomplished by combining the City's \$42,000 allocation with the BKRHC HHAP allocation of \$78,000.

Operating Subsidies & Reserves - Shelter

Focus on the Housing First approach has affected public funding for emergency shelters over the past 15 years, forcing shelters to rely increasingly on private fundraising. The City of Bakersfield committed to paying for capital expenses for the 80-bed expansion of Bakersfield Homeless Center and The Mission at Kern County (40 beds each). However, operating funds for the additional beds have not been identified. At \$8,000 per bed, per year, these operating costs are estimated at \$640,000 annually, for a total of \$1,920,000.

How funds will meet need:

The City will allocate \$1,920,000 to shelter operations for the 80-bed expansion at the two local shelters for three years, which will total \$640,000, annually. These funds are essential to ensuring shelters are properly funded to meet the needs of the added bed inventory. This is in conjunction with the County's \$400,000 allocation to operation of its new low barrier shelter that will ultimately provide beds for 150 additional individuals.

Need: Rapid Re-Housing

Approximately 60% of persons assessed by CES qualify for Rapid Re-housing (RRH) assistance. Between January and December 2018 there were a total of 1,400 new and existing homeless households who required RRH, of which 256 were family households and 1,144 were single adult households. At an average cost of \$2,888 for single households and \$3,920 for families with children, the cost of providing RRH for these households is estimated at \$4,307,392 annually. A total of \$2,142,641 of RRH funding is available this year, leaving a shortfall of \$2,164,751.

How funds will meet need:

The City will allocate \$112,838.75 for Rapid Re-Housing services. When combined with \$50,000 from the CoC HHAP funds and \$446,618.31 from County HHAP funds, an estimated 179 households will receive rapid rehousing services. While this is significantly less than the need, it will help meet part of the need to move individuals and families rapidly into housing.

Need: Rental Assistance – Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

PSH rental assistance is a priority for use of HHAP funds to address the recent increase in homelessness, particularly for the most vulnerable homeless persons. About 30% of persons assessed by CES qualify for PSH. There was a total of 716 new homeless persons living in about 515 households between January and December 2018 who required PSH. At \$7,800 per year, per household, the cost of providing them with PSH is estimated at \$4,017,000 a year. However, only about \$2,253,409 (25%) of the BKRHC's total PSH budget is actually available for new households. Thus, it is estimated that an additional \$1,763,591 annually is needed.

How funds will meet need:

The City will allocate \$70,838.75 for PSH rental assistance. When combined with \$405,069.87 of CoC HHAP funds, an estimated 33 households will be provided PSH rental assistance for two years. While this is significantly less than the need, it will help meet part of the need to move individuals and families into permanent supportive housing.

Youth Rental Assistance- PSH:

PSH rental assistance is a priority for use of HHAP funds to address the recent increase in homelessness. Because there is such high need for PSH and not enough assistance to meet that need, homeless youth may face challenges in attaining PSH assistance.

How funds will meet need:

City of Bakersfield will allocate \$261,258.93 of HHAP funds to provide 18 homeless youth households with PSH for two years. This is in conjunction with the CoC and County's plans to provide \$125,339.76 for five youth specific emergency shelter

beds for three years and \$116,930.42 for youth specific outreach for two years, respectively.

#### **D. Creating Sustainable, Long-Term Housing Solutions**

1. City of Bakersfield's involvement in efforts to create sustainable, long-term housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness across the county.

The City of Bakersfield has worked collaboratively on the BKRHC ten-year plans to end homelessness, which identify specific objectives, goals and strategies for providing long-term housing solutions to persons at risk of or experiencing homelessness. One major objective in the most recent BKRHC ten-year plan (adopted in 2018) is: increase, "the affordable housing inventory for homeless individuals and families by 10,470 new beds," including: 8,591 permanent supportive housing (PSH), and 1,879 new Rapid Rehousing (RRH) beds. To help meet this demand, the City has continuously funded CoC member agencies in both Rapid Rehousing and affordable housing development. Through this process, the City has recognized that in order to create sustainable, long-term housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness, there needs to be an even more significant increase in rental assistance and development of new housing units affordable to low- and very-low income households.

To further address the need for long-term housing solutions, the City of Bakersfield has worked in partnership with the Housing Authority of the County of Kern, as well as other affordable housing developers, in identifying and developing needed housing resources. Specifically, the City's main source of funds for affordable housing development includes the Federal HOME Program with an annual allocation of approximately \$1.3 million. The City also grants approximately \$100,000 annually for Rapid Rehousing through the Federal Emergency Solutions Grant to CoC organizations. Furthermore, the City has committed \$5 Million in Public Safety & Vital Services local funds to affordable housing development, and plans to use future State Permanent Local Housing Allocation (SB-2) to incentivize the development of future affordable housing.

The City, as part of the CoC's Planning and Performance Committee, is responsible for monitoring progress in meeting and improving its housing objectives, using quarterly System Performance Measures (SPM) from HMIS that include measures such as length of time persons remain homeless, number of persons obtaining permanent housing, and the extent of returns to homelessness. Additionally, the City will continue to collaborate with the BKRHC and County of Kern on the Gaps Analysis (Attachment 2) and work to monitor progress towards regional goals to ensure all available funding is being used efficiently and effectively.

#### **4. RESOURCES ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS**

##### **A. Existing Programs and Resources**

1. List of Homeless Funds. The following table contains an exhaustive list of all funds, shown by program and annual dollar amount, currently used by BKRHC member agencies to provide countywide housing and services to Kern's homeless population. The City of Bakersfield is among the outlined BKRHC member agencies whose funds are



listed in Table 1: Revenues Currently Received by BKRHC Agencies for Homeless Housing and Services in 2019-2020. These funds, amounting to a combined total of more than \$40,000,000 in the current year, include direct federal and state grants and formula-based allocations, local government funds, and private funding sources.

- a) Federal Funding for local homeless activities administered through the City of Bakersfield include: Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Grant, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).
- b) State Funding for local homeless activities administered through the City of Bakersfield include: Homeless Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP), and remaining State Redevelopment Agency funds.
- c) Local government Funding for local homeless activities administered through the City of Bakersfield include: sales tax and general fund dollars.

Table 1: Revenues Currently Received by BKRHC Agencies for Homeless Housing and Services in 2019-20

Source/Program	Description	Amount
<b>Federal Grants</b>		
HUD CoC	HUD Continuum of Care grants to 9 agencies for rapid rehousing (RRH), permanent supportive housing (PSH), transitional housing (TH), supportive services, HMIS, and planning.	\$5,921,458
HUD HCV	HUD Housing Choice Vouchers for rental assistance, administered by the Public Housing Authority.	\$4,426,264
VA GPD	Grant and Per Diem Program funds for PSH, TH, Bridge Housing, and supportive services for military veterans, implemented by California Veterans Assistance Foundation (CVAF).	\$942,141
VA SSVF	Funds supportive services for RRH and supportive services for veterans and their families, implemented by CVAF.	\$691,641
HUD HOPWA	Housing Opportunities Persons w/AIDS provides temporary housing, case management, housing placement, short-term rental assistance and other services, implemented by Clinical Sierra Vista (CSV).	\$180,000
HHS HRSA	Health Resources & Services Administration funds medical case management for people experiencing homelessness, including women needing maternal health care, implemented by CSV	\$519,783
HHS SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration grant to CSV for street outreach, case management, and behavioral health treatment.	<u>\$272,000</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$12,953,287</b>
<b>Federal Formula-Based Allocations</b>		
FEMA EFSP	Emergency Food & Shelter Program funds for emergency shelters (ES), and one-time food, rental and utility assistance to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness, administered by United Way.	\$320,418
City ESG	HUD Emergency Solutions Grants Program formula allocation administered by City of Bakersfield for outreach, ES, prevention and RRRH.	\$308,712
County State ESG	ESG allocation administered by Kern County for outreach, ES, prevention, and RRH.	\$548,175
County Federal ESG	ESG allocation administered by Kern County for outreach, ES, prevention, and RRH.	\$409,344
City CDBG/RDA	HUD Community Development Block Grant and Redevelopment Agency funds, portion allocated for ES expansion and operations.	<u>\$1,335,000</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,921,649</b>
<b>State of California Grants</b>		
CAL OES DV	Governor's Office of Emergency Services Domestic Violence grants for ES,	\$306,254

NPLH	TH, counseling, advocacy, and services for victims and their children. No Place Like Home Program funds awarded to Kern County for PSH development for people with behavioral health disorders.	\$4,758,368
HCD CESH I & II	California Emergency Solutions & Housing Program funds used by CoC for PSH rental subsidies, bridge housing beds, and landlord incentives.	\$967,217
City HEAP	City of Bakersfield Homeless Emergency Aid Program allocation used for ES development and PSH beds for youth.	\$1,206,162
CoC HEAP	RRH beds, ES beds, rural motel vouchers, PSH move-in costs, prevention, and PSH beds for youth.	\$887,751
DSS HDAP	Department of Social Services Housing and Disability Advocacy Program funds for outreach, case management, disability advocacy, and housing assistance for people with disabilities, administered by County.	\$257,000
DSS HSP	Housing Support Program funds case management and RRH for families experiencing homelessness enrolled in the County CalWORKS program.	\$914,928
WPC	Whole Person Care pilot program administered by Kern Medical, portion allocated to CoC members for ES development, medical respite care, PSH move-in costs, and housing navigators.	<u>1,698,467</u>
<b>Total State Grants</b>		<b>\$10,996,147</b>
<b><u>City of Bakersfield</u></b>		
City Measure N	New sales tax dollars allocated for ES development and CoC coordination.	\$4,155,000
City-Other	Various funds allocated for transitional jobs program for people experiencing homelessness, operated by Bakersfield Homeless Center.	<u>1,000,000</u>
<b>Total City of Bakersfield</b>		<b>\$5,155,000</b>
<b><u>County of Kern</u></b>		
KernBHRS MHSA	Mental Health Services Act funds used for outreach and case management for people with behavioral health disorders, and CoC coordination.	\$1,071,449
KernBHRS	Kern Behavioral Health & Recovery Services HMIS operations	\$100,000
HOME	Home Investments Partnership Program, portion of block grant allocated to PSH development for NPLH projects.	\$1,500,000
NSP	Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds used for NPLH projects.	\$315,160
General Fund	New shelter development, CoC Coordination (\$73,400)	\$1,959,533
PLHA SB 2	New shelter operating funds from Senate Bill 2 through the Permanent Local Housing Allocation.	<u>1,300,000</u>
<b>Total County of Kern</b>		<b>\$4,430,982</b>
<b><u>Private Funds</u></b>		
Kern Health Systems	Medi-Cal managed care provider donations for medical respite care and case management.	\$550,000
Private	Private donations and fundraising used primarily for ES operations.	<u>1,822,119</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,372,119</b>
<b>Grand Total All Homeless Funds</b>		<b>\$40,644,344</b>

2. How are these resources integrated or coordinated with applicants from overlapping jurisdictions?

The resources listed above are received by one or more of the BKRHC's 34-member agencies that, between them, provide the vast majority of services to the City of Bakersfield and County homeless population. The services and activities they fund are integrated through the BKRHC's eight standing committees and workgroups, and through mutual referral and collaboration on behalf of clients by member agencies in the conduct of daily business.

The City of Bakersfield and County of Kern both participate in the BKRHC Executive Board, Governing Board, and various committees. They are also involved in helping to prepare the BKRHC's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, which contains the agreed upon objectives, goals, and strategies around which all members and jurisdictions coalesce.

The HHAP allocation requested by City of Bakersfield will augment and not supplant funds for any existing services and is based on items identified in the gaps analysis of housing and service needs detailed in the following section. This analysis was used as a common starting point by the BKRHC, City of Bakersfield, and County of Kern for making decisions about the use of HHAP funds to address gaps in a coordinated, complementary manner.

3. Existing gaps in housing and homeless services for homeless populations.

As previously mentioned, the City of Bakersfield is a member of the BKRHC, and collaborates on a unified ten-year plan to end homelessness that includes measurable objectives, goals, and strategies for providing housing and services to the homeless and at-risk populations. The plan is reviewed on at least a bi-annual basis to assess progress, re-evaluate, and adjust in response to intervening developments. A January 2020 review of the current Plan, adopted in May 2018, found the following gaps in housing and homeless services:

- a) HMIS. Kern County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (KernBHRS) Department, which operates the HMIS database tracking system for the BKRHC, indicated that funds are needed to cover additional software license and user fees due to the growing number of new and existing agencies participating in HMIS.
- b) CES. The Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK), operator of the BKRHC coordinated entry system, reports that 2-1-1/CES Kern has received about twice the calls for assistance in 2019 from persons who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness than originally anticipated based on the 2018 PIT Count. This has caused a backlog of persons waiting to be assessed by housing navigators. Funds are needed to hire additional personnel to ensure that the CES can respond to calls for help in a timely manner.
- c) Prevention/Diversion. Preventing homelessness is much less expensive than resolving it, yet only limited public funds have been available for this purpose, to date. HMIS reported 1,668 households as having experienced homelessness for the first time between January and December 2018 (in HUDX SPM). Many of these homeless episodes could have been prevented if the BKRHC had been able to intervene before these persons lost their housing.
- d) Street Outreach and Engagement. The BKRHC has had a net increase of street outreach workers in the past year, but has lost one of two positions dedicated specifically to outreaching and engaging veterans, who remain a high priority target population nationally. It is preferable that street outreach workers work in two-person teams; therefore, one additional outreach worker specific to veterans is needed at this time.
- e) Emergency Shelter. As reported in the January 2019 PIT Count, Kern County experienced a 51% increase in its homeless population, largely due to a 118% increase in the number of unsheltered persons. This resulted in overcrowding at Kern's two largest shelters, the Mission at Kern County and Bakersfield Homeless Center, both of which had been operating at near or full capacity the preceding year.

At that time, the county had only two low-barrier shelter beds, no youth-specific beds, and no emergency shelter beds in rural areas. In response, the City of Bakersfield funded a 40-bed expansion at both large shelters (80 total), and funded development of a new 150-bed, low-barrier emergency shelter scheduled to open fall 2020. The County of Kern has also funded development of a low-barrier, 150-bed shelter, scheduled to open spring 2020.

Additional shelter needs include:

- 1) *Shelter Operating Costs.* The combined 80-bed expansion of the above-mentioned shelters will necessitate additional funds to cover operating costs, estimated at about \$640,000 annually (\$8,000/bed). The two new low-barrier shelters will also need operating funds, estimated at a combined total of \$2,400,000 per year.
  - 2) *Rural Communities.* Several rural communities and smaller cities also saw significant increases in their homeless populations, sufficient to merit creation of temporary shelter/navigation centers in their areas.
- f) Medical Respite Care. Respite care fills a critical niche by offering short-term residential care and medical oversight for homeless persons who are too sick to recover on the streets or in a shelter but not sick enough to need a hospital. Kern Health Services (KHS), a local managed Medi-Cal provider, estimates that it could fill 15 to 20 beds on a daily basis, and plans to help fund a respite care program for its homeless patients discharged from local hospitals. Start-up funds amounting to \$250,000 are needed to secure and renovate a suitable facility. Operating funds will be supplied by KHS and partnering hospitals.
- g) Case Management. Case management is a core homeless service needed to engage and connect persons experiencing homelessness to permanent housing and ensure that they have adequate support in place to remain in housing once placed. Most CoC member agencies that provide this service have high case manager to client ratios, ranging from 1:40 to 1:65, in comparison to the industry standard of 1:25.

About 90% of homeless persons assessed by CES have VI-SPDAT scores high enough to qualify for permanent supportive housing (PSH) or rapid rehousing (RRH). Using the preferred 1:25 case manager to client ratio, it's estimated that a total of 114 case managers are needed to serve a combined total of 2,847 new and existing clients recommended for PSH or RRH interventions, as reported for 2018. These are 41 more case manager positions than currently exist within the CoC. Assuming an average cost (including salary and benefits) of about \$60,000 per position, it is further estimated that approximately \$2,460,000 would be needed to create these positions.

- h) Permanent Supportive Housing. PSH is a priority for use of HHAP funds to address the recent increase in homelessness, particularly for the most vulnerable homeless persons. About 30% of persons assessed by CES qualify for PSH. To date, most new PSH beds have been created with HUD Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV). However, annual federal HCV allocations have not been sufficient to keep pace with the need. Households who formerly experienced homelessness occupy about 75% of the

BKRHC's PSH bed inventory, leaving only 25% of the PSH stock for households who are currently experiencing homelessness.

There were 716 new homeless persons living in about 515 households (average of 1.39 persons/household) between January and December 2018 who required PSH. At \$7,800 per household, the cost of providing them with PSH is estimated at \$4,017,000 a year. However, only about \$2,253,409 (25%) of the BKRHC's total PSH budget is actually available for new households. Thus, it is estimated that an additional \$1,763,591 is needed annually for PSH above what is currently available.

- i) Rapid Rehousing. Approximately 60% of persons assessed by CES qualify for rapid rehousing (RRH) assistance. RRH is a quick and cost-effective means of housing persons experiencing homelessness, at an average cost of \$2,888 for single households and \$3,920 for families with children. Between January and December 2018 there were a total of 1,400 new and existing homeless households who required RRH, of which 256 were family households and 1,144 single adult households. The cost of providing RRH for these households is estimated at \$4,307,392 annually, including \$1,003,520 for families and \$3,303,872 for single adults. A total of \$2,142,641 of RRH funding is available this year, or about one-half (\$2,164,751) of what is actually needed for these households.
- j) Landlord Incentives/Risk Mitigation Fund. The Housing Authority of the County of Kern (HA) administers a risk mitigation fund used as an incentive to recruit landlords willing to rent to homeless persons. The fund provides an added protection for landlords by guaranteeing up to \$2,500 in damage repairs above the usual security deposit. It has been especially useful in the current housing market where there is a significant shortage of affordable housing units. Additional funds are needed to replenish and expand the fund, which is down to about \$7,700 at present.

Attachment 2: BKRHC Gaps Analysis, further describes the analysis above.

## **B. HHAP Funding Plans**

1. Explain how the City of Bakersfield plans to use the full amount of HHAP funds (including youth set-aside) and how it complements existing funds to close the identified gaps in housing and homeless services.

The City of Bakersfield, BKRHC and County of Kern worked collaboratively on a unified budget to address the needs outlined in the BKRHC Gaps Analysis (Attachment 2). This budget is included as Attachment 3. Through the process of analyzing the gaps in the CoC system of care, each jurisdiction was assigned the categories in which it could best meet the need with the HHAP grant, and which would also benefit the CoC area as a whole. The following is a description of each category of funding that the City of Bakersfield will fund.

### **Outreach and Coordination: Case Management**

The City's HHAP request for Case Management is \$695,513.35. *The City will allocate \$695,513.35 of HHAP request to fund six new case management positions for two years.* Although it is well under the unmet need for our City, County, and CoC, it will help in

meeting needs of persons who are homeless and will be added to the system with the expanded services funded through HHAP.

### **Infrastructure Development – CES**

The combined HHAP request for City and BKRHC for CES is \$120,000 for 1 FTE CES staff for 2 years to address the increased volume of calls and referrals to CES. The CoC will allocate \$78,000 of the \$120,000. *The City of Bakersfield will allocate for the remainder \$42,000.* Both requests complement the \$236,838 each year that is allocated by HUD for CES and the \$57,000 in one-time CESH funding that was allocated to other BKRHC members.

### **Operating Subsidies and Reserves**

The combined HHAP request for City and County for Operating Subsidies and Reserves is \$2,320,000. *The City will allocate \$1,920,000 to shelter operations to meet the operational needs of the 80-bed expansion at the two local shelters for three years.* This amounts to \$320,000 per organization, annually. These funds are essential to ensuring shelters are properly funded to meet the needs of the added bed inventory. This is in conjunction with the County's \$400,000 HHAP allocation to operations of its new low barrier shelter that will ultimately provide beds for 150 additional individuals. When combining the HHAP Operating Subsidies and Reserves request with other City and County funds, the HHAP grant will help with the creation of 380 new shelter beds in the City of Bakersfield.

### **Rapid Re-Housing**

The combined HHAP request for City, BKRHC, and County for Rapid Rehousing is \$609,457.06. *The City of Bakersfield will allocate \$112,838.75 for Rapid Re-Housing services.* When combined with \$50,000 from the CoC HHAP funds and \$446,618.31 from County HHAP funds, an estimated 179 households will be provided Rapid Rehousing services. While this is significantly less than the need, it will help meet part of the need to move individuals and families rapidly into housing. This complements the \$2,142,641 in existing RRH funds available through HUD CoC, VA SSVF, HUD ESG, HEAP, and CalWORKs HSP to serve additional homeless households.

### **Rental Assistance - PSH**

The combined HHAP request for City and BKRHC County for Rental Assistance is \$475,908.62. *The City will allocate \$70,838.75 for PSH rental assistance.* When combined with \$405,069.87 of CoC HHAP funds, an estimated 33 households will receive PSH rental assistance for two years. While this is significantly less than the need, it will help meet part of the need to move individuals and families into permanent supportive housing. This complements the \$9,013,636 in existing HUD CoC, HUD HCV, VA Per Diem, and CESH I & II funds allocated to PSH rental assistance to other CoC member agencies. However, only approximately ¼ of these existing funds are available for current persons experiencing homelessness as a majority of the funds are utilized to support the ongoing housing needs of formerly homeless persons. Therefore, the new HHAP rental assistance funds will assist additional currently homeless households with PSH.

### **Youth Rental Assistance - PSH**

The HHAP request for City Youth Rental Assistance is \$261,258.93. This is conjunction with the County of Kern's allocation of \$125,339.76 for five youth specific emergency shelter beds for three years and the CoC's \$116,930.42 for youth specific outreach for two years.

2. How City of Bakersfield will be ensured that HHAP-funded projects will align and comply with the core components of Housing First, as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code 8255(b).

The Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative (BKRHC), then known as the Kern County Homeless Collaborative (KCHC), formally adopted the Housing First model in its original 2008 10-Year Plan (*Home First! A Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness*), and reconfirmed its commitment to this approach when it updated and expanded the Plan in May 2018 (*Home at Last! Kern County's Plan to End Homelessness by 2028*).

By "Housing First," the BKRHC refers to the evidence-based homeless assistance model that helps homeless people access permanent housing as quickly as possible without preconditions, such as sobriety, participation in treatment, or transitional services. Underlying this approach is the truism that housing will immediately end homelessness and provide a stable platform from which persons can pursue goals, address their needs, and improve their quality of life. Client choice in housing and services is also seen as fundamental to their success.

All BKRHC member agencies provide homeless services in a manner that aligns and complies with the core components of Housing First. All clients will be assessed, prioritized, and linked to housing and services through the low-barrier CES using the VI-SPDAT triage survey, as previously described. Referrals to CES will be received from a variety of sources countywide, including street outreach, shelters, service agencies, community groups, law enforcement, friends, family, and self-referrals.

CES will place clients on a Housing Waiting List based on their VI-SPDAT vulnerability scores, and assign them housing vouchers as they become available during weekly Housing Case Conferences. Housing placement will be provided regardless of income, credit history, sobriety, criminal convictions unrelated to tenancy, housing "readiness", or other traditional barriers. HHAP tenants will sign a lease and have all the rights and responsibilities of any other renters under California laws.

Supportive services will be voluntary, client-driven, and based on individualized service plans that reflect client preferences and goals. Retention of housing will be subject to compliance with the lease, and will not be conditioned on continued services, or sobriety. Case managers will be trained in and employ client-centered, non-judgmental, evidence-based practices such as motivational interviewing.

Supportive service providers will incorporate a harm reduction approach to drug and alcohol use, offering voluntary services based on client choice that do not mandate sobriety but instead assist clients to avoid risky behaviors and develop safer, more constructive lifestyles. Housing options will include units designed to accommodate people with physical disabilities, and are located in secure, safe settings near transportation, shopping, services, and community amenities.

All City of Bakersfield HHAP sub-recipients will be required to comply with Housing First components as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code § 8255(b). This will be formally included in all agreements and will be monitored by the City of Bakersfield. Sub-recipients will also report on progress and adherence to the core components of housing first through annual reports to the City.

## **5. PARTNERS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS**

### **A. Collaborating Partner Efforts**

The BKRHC is the HUD recognized Continuum of Care (CA CoC-604) regional jurisdiction responsible for ending homelessness in Kern County. It is a non-profit organization whose membership covers the full spectrum of public and private homeless service providers and agencies that interface with the homeless population. The BKRHC staff is jointly funded by the City, County and CoC and has an Executive Board with members from all three jurisdictions. The CoC also works in collaboration with numerous partner agencies and community groups who participate in its standing committees and collaborative projects such as the annual PIT Count. The City is a member of multiple CoC standing committees such as the Planning and Performance and the Housing Committees, and participates in the annual PIT count. The City, along with members from the County and CoC, was a part of the ad-hoc State Funding Committee that was formed to ensure a collaborative approach to applying for the HHAP grants.

1. Description of collaborative partners who will be working with City of Bakersfield on identified HHAP projects and how it will be partnering with them.

#### Collaboration through the Bakersfield Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative

Collaboration on all projects to be funded with the HHAP grant begins with the fundamental collaboration of various organizations through the BKRHC. Collaboration between BKRHC member agencies around the provision of housing and services occurs in 11 standing committees, under oversight and direction of a Governing Board elected by the CoC membership. These committees, most of which meet on a monthly basis, include: CoC Planning and Performance, PIT Count, Homeless Prevention and Discharge, HMIS/Data Quality, Outreach, Housing, Resource Development, SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery), Homeless Youth, and the Youth Action Board.

City representation in the CoC includes the City Manager, Development Services, Code Enforcement, and Police departments. County representation includes the Chief Administrator's Office, and the Planning, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Human Services, Aging and Adult Services, and Probation departments, as well as the Sheriff's Office and Employers Training Resource. Membership also includes: Bakersfield College (BC), the Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) McKinney-Vento representatives, and the Kern County Network for Children. Other members include the Housing Authority of the County of Kern, United Way of Kern County (UWKC), Kern Health Systems, and the Kern Hospital Authority, in addition to numerous non-profit shelter, outreach, case management, health care, disability, and legal services providers.

One seat on the Governing Board is reserved for a person who is currently or has previously been homeless. The Youth Action Board is composed entirely of youth (18 to 24 years), two-thirds of who are currently or previously homeless. Additionally, several



CoC member agencies have staff persons, including outreach workers and case managers, with lived experience of homelessness.

In addition to participating together in the BKRHC, the CoC, City, and County routinely share information about homelessness. The BKRHC shares HMIS PIT Counts and System Performance reports with the City and County, as well as the 10-Year Plan for inclusion in their Consolidated and Annual Action plans. Members also participate in stakeholder focus groups and complete ESG Priority surveys, and provide annual presentations to the City Council and Board of Supervisors about the state of homelessness in Kern County. These collaborations have greatly influenced the ability for the City, County, and CoC to develop a unified approach to applying for HHAP funds.

#### Collaboration with Organizations on HHAP Projects

The categories that will be funded through the City of Bakersfield's HHAP allocation were developed through collaboration with both the County and CoC. The City's portion of the overall HHAP grant includes projects in the following categories: Case Management, Infrastructure Development through CES, Operating Subsidies and Reserves for Shelters, Rapid Rehousing, Rental Assistance, and a Youth Set-Aside for Rental Assistance. The list below describes the collaborative partners who will be working with the City of Bakersfield on HHAP projects, as well as how the City will work with collaborative partners.

#### *Known Collaborations - Operating Subsidies and Reserves for Shelters*

Kern County's two main emergency shelters are the Mission at Kern County's men's dormitory and the Bakersfield Homeless Center's (BHC) family shelter. The City of Bakersfield will allocate \$1,920,000 in HHAP funds to assist in meeting the operational needs for the current expansions of both the Bakersfield Homeless Center and the Mission at Kern County shelter. HHAP funds requested will cover operational costs associated with a 40-bed expansion at each shelter for 3 years. The City of Bakersfield will fill the administrative role of the HHAP grant, while each shelter operator will provide the services

#### *Collaborations on Remaining HHAP Projects*

The remaining categories of Case Management, Infrastructure Development through CES, Rapid Rehousing, Rental Assistance, and a Youth Set-Aside for Rental Assistance, will be awarded through a joint Request for Proposals (RFP) process led by the BKRHC. The Requests for Proposals will be based on activities specified in the attached City-County-BKRHC Collaborative HHAP Budget (Attachment 3), and will be open to both members and non-members of the BKRHC. Non-members that may apply for and receive funds will be required to participate in HMIS and CES and become dues paying members of the CoC.

Although it is not known yet all the agencies who will receive HHAP funds from the City, BKRHC, and County jurisdictions, it is possible to describe partner agencies and services they provide that coincide with those included in the City's HHAP budget. The City of Bakersfield will provide administration over each HHAP grant including reporting and marketing, while each service provider will provide their expert services.

Case Management: Case management is the core homeless service connecting clients to housing, and the primary means of integrating supportive services. It is a voluntary service based on client choice and with integrated service plans that link clients to mainstream services such as benefits, employment, health care, behavioral health care, and other supports needed to maintain stable housing. Ten CoC member agencies provide case management or housing navigation services, including: BHC, The Mission at Kern County, Flood, Kern BHRS, Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault, Women's Center High Desert, CAPK, California Veterans Assistance Foundation, Greater Bakersfield Legal Assistance, Housing Authority of the County of Kern, and the Independent Living Center of Kern County. Between them, they currently employ 73 case managers who variously provide brief case management to prevent loss of housing, short-term (up to 6 months) case management to provide RRH services, and long-term, ongoing case management for clients in PSH, in partnership with the Housing Authority. City of Bakersfield HHAP funds will be used to provide six new FTE case manager positions for 2 years.

Benefits counseling training is offered to CoC case managers by the SOAR Committee. Case management-related outcomes including housing placements, housing retention, changes in earned and non-earned income are monitored quarterly by the CoC Planning and Performance Committee using HMIS.

CES: CAPK operates the CES system used in Kern County. CES receives referrals from numerous agencies and community groups countywide who have been trained by CAPK in the use of a Quick Referral Tool (QRT) screening survey. The City of Bakersfield's HHAP funds will be combined with the BKRHC HHAP funds to increase CES staff by one (1) FTE for 2 years in order to ensure timely assessments.

Rapid Rehousing: Two agencies, including BHC and CVAF, provide rapid rehousing services, including funds for deposits, short-term (6 months) rental subsidies, and brief case management. City HHAP funds will be combined with CoC and County HHAP funds to provide RRH services for an additional 178 households.

Rental Assistance - Permanent Supportive Housing: A major objective of the BKRHC, as detailed in its Ten-Year Plan is to increase affordable housing by 10,470 PSH and RRH beds, or 1,047 beds per year. In 2019, there were 2,405 PSH beds and 577 RRH beds in the CoC's inventory. The Housing Authority uses HUD CoC Program and Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) to provide the bulk of PSH housing beds, which it does in close partnership with several case management providers. The United Way of Kern County administers a Move-In Fund to help clients cover costs, such as credit checks, application fees, and basic appliances that are needed to access and maintain PSH. The City of Bakersfield's HHAP funds will be combined with CoC HHAP funds to provide rental assistance for PSH to 33 households for two years.

In addition, a portion of the City's Rental Assistance for Permanent Supportive Housing request will be set aside to assist Youth with Rental Assistance for Permanent Supportive Housing, which will provide rental assistance for 18 youth households for two years.

2. Description of barriers experienced in partnering, and how these will be addressed.

The BKRHC does not anticipate any significant barriers in partnering on the HHAP-funded activities, either between itself and other jurisdictions or between its members. The BKRHC is a well-established collaborative whose members have long-standing working relations in their mutual interest of ending homelessness. The members' experience in partnering with each other extends from work within the democratic structures of the BKRHC governing board and standing committees, to collaborating as working groups on community outreach activities, such as the PIT Count and Veterans' Stand Down. Members also share a common CES, HMIS database, and System Performance Measures. Any barriers that might arise involving access to services, inter-agency cooperation, duplication of services, or service gaps, can be brought up, discussed and resolved within the committee venues or taken to the governing board or executive board for a decision, if necessary.

## 6. SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

- A. Explain how HHAP funds will directly impact measurable goals included in CESH Strategic Plan and by how much, including number of individuals to be successfully placed in permanent housing with HHAP funding.**

Total Individuals Served:

*The goal for the total amount of non-duplicative individuals served in all categories of the City of Bakersfield's HHAP grant is 400 people.*

Percentage of Individuals Successfully Placed in Permanent Housing

*The goal for the percentage of non-duplicative individuals successfully placed in permanent housing in all categories of the City of Bakersfield's HHAP grant is 70%. This percentage, when applied to the 400 persons served would amount to 280 persons successfully exiting into permanent housing.*

The following provides more detail for each category:

As shown in the budget request, the City of Bakersfield proposes to allocate its HHAP funds for 1) Case Management 2) Infrastructure Development - CES, 3) Operations Subsidies and Reserves - Shelters, 4) Rapid Rehousing, 5) Rental Assistance, and 6) Youth Specific Rental Assistance. Only 5% of the HHAP budget will be allocated for City Administration to allow additional funds for services.

Descriptions of and measurable goals for these activities are provided below:

1. Case Management: Provide agencies/organizations within city's jurisdiction with funds to hire a total of six new case managers who will provide wrap-around services to individuals residing in city.

**Goals**

- a. Individuals served: 210 individuals served each year
- b. Individuals placed in permanent housing: 134
- c. Increase the percent of successful shelter exits into permanent housing by 5% annually (baseline of 60%).

2. Infrastructure Development – CES: The City and CoC will partner to fund 1.00 FTE Housing Navigator for two years to assess, prioritize and refer persons at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. BKRHC has operated a HUD-compliant CES since April 2018, supported by a CES Committee that oversees its activities.

**Goals**

- a. Number of homeless persons served: 2,500 persons, including 500 at-risk persons, and 2,000 homeless persons, including 1,000 unsheltered persons.
    - i. City’s portion of the goal above is: 875
  - b. Length of time before assessment: 75% of CES participants will be assessed in 7 days or less.
3. Operating Subsidies and Reserves - Shelters: Provide operating costs for 80 new shelter beds for 3 years. Funds will be distributed beginning in Year 2 of HHAP as shelter infrastructure additions will be complete in 2021.

**Goals**

- a. Individuals served: 240 individuals annually
  - b. Individuals placed in permanent housing: 163
  - c. Decrease jurisdiction’s percentage of unsheltered homeless population by 10% annually (baseline of 56% in 2019)
4. Rapid Rehousing. The City, County and CoC will partner to provide Rapid Rehousing services to 179 households.

**Goals**

- a. Number of households/persons placed in RRH with City, County, and BKRHC combined funds: 179 households
    - i. City’s portion = 33 households with 63 persons
  - b. Number of persons who will be served by program: 70
5. Rental Assistance: The City will partner with the CoC to provide two years’ PSH for 33 households experiencing homelessness.

**Goals**

- a. Number of households/persons placed in PSH with City, County, and BKRHC combined funds: 33 households with 38 persons.
  - i. City’s Portion = 5 households with 6 persons
- b. Number of persons who will be served by program: 7

**Goals**

6. Youth Rental Assistance: Two years of funding for rental assistance targeted to youth, 18 to 24 years old.
  - a. Number of youth to be served: 18 households, 20 individuals
  - b. Number of youth placed in permanent housing: 18



## HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM (HHAP) ANNUAL BUDGET TEMPLATE

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

CoC / Large City / County Name:

City of Bakersfield
---------------------

Receiving Redirected Funds? Y/N

No
----

Administrative Entity Name:

City of Bakersfield
---------------------

Total Redirected Funding

\$ -
------

### HHAP FUNDING EXPENDITURE PLAN\*

ELIGIBLE USE CATEGORY	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	TOTAL
Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing	\$ 91,838.75	\$ 222,468.22	\$ 130,629.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 444,936.43
Operating Subsidies and Reserves	\$ -	\$ 640,000.00	\$ 640,000.00	\$ 640,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,920,000.00
Landlord Incentives	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach and Coordination (including employment)	\$ 347,756.67	\$ 347,756.68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 695,513.35
Systems Support to Create Regional Partnerships	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Delivery of Permanent Housing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Strategic Homelessness Planning, Infrastructure Development, CES, and HMIS (up to 5%)	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 21,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 42,000.00
Administrative (up to 7%)	\$ 54,428.94	\$ 54,428.94	\$ 54,428.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 163,286.83
<b>TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>						<b>\$ 3,265,736.61</b>
	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	TOTAL
Youth Set-Aside (at least 8%)		\$ 130,629.47	\$ 130,629.46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 261,258.93

\*Narrative should reflect details of HHAP funding plan

**COMMENTS:**

FINAL
-------



February 10, 2020

Virginia Gennaro  
Interim City Manager  
1600 Truxtun Ave  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Subject: HHAP Grant Funding, Regional Coordination and Partnership

Dear Ms. Gennaro:

On behalf of the Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative (BKRHC), I am writing to assure you of our commitment to coordinate and partner with the City of Bakersfield (City), as well as the County of Kern (County), in utilizing grant funds to be received under the State Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP).

As you know, the BKRHC is the non-profit organization responsible for administering the HUD recognized Continuum of Care (CA CoC-604) in the Bakersfield/Kern County region. We understand that to be maximally effective in ending homelessness we must ensure that HHAP-funded services and efforts to be conducted by the County, City, and BKRHC will supplement, but not duplicate, one another within our overlapping jurisdictions.


In 2018, our CoC established a State Funding Workgroup with representatives from the County, City, and subject mater experts which has met regularly to plan and coordinate the utilization of one-time State funding, including HEAP, CESH, and HHAP, to best address homeless population needs within all three jurisdictions. Based on a comprehensive needs assessment related to homelessness, the Workgroup recommended HHAP allocations for all three regional jurisdictions, identifying which entity was best suited to help address the identified needs. These recommendations were then approved by the BKRHC Executive Board, which includes representatives from the County, City, and CoC, on February 3, 2020.

The State Funding Workgroup, including the BKRHC, County, and City will continue to meet on a regular and as needed basis to jointly plan and evaluate HHAP spending and projects, and will provide regular HHAP progress reports at monthly meetings to the BKRHC Executive Board. Also, per our mutual agreement, the county's Coordinated Entry System (CES) will be used to assess, prioritize, and link persons at risk of or experiencing homelessness with the appropriate HHAP-funded service provider in their area. All HHAP recipient agencies will participate in the

existing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) used to track and report on client services and outcomes, data from which will be shared by all three HHAP jurisdictions.

The BKRHC acknowledges that the City, County, and BRHC have reviewed and agreed upon how HHAP funds will be spent within their respective jurisdictions, and that the HHAP spending plan and budget accurately addresses their share of the regional need to address homelessness.

Sincerely,



Stephen M. Pelz  
Board Chairman

# Kern County Administrative Office



## County Administrative Center

1115 Truxtun Avenue, Fifth Floor Bakersfield, CA 93301 - 4639  
Telephone 661-868-3198 FAX 661-868-3190 TTY Relay 800-735-2929

**Ryan J. Alsop**

County Administrative Officer

Virginia Gennaro  
Interim City Manager  
1600 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Subject: HHAP Grant Funding, Regional Coordination and Partnership

Dear Ms. Gennaro:

On behalf of the County of Kern (County), I am writing to assure you of our commitment to coordinate and partner with the City of Bakersfield (City), as well as the Bakersfield-Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative (BKRHC), in utilizing grant funds to be received under the State Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP).

As you know, the County provides most of the social services to our most vulnerable populations and in addition participates in both the BKRHC Executive and Governing Board, which support our Continuum of Care. We understand that to be maximally effective in ending homelessness, we must ensure that HHAP-funded services and efforts to be conducted by the County, City, and BKRHC will supplement, but not duplicate, one another within our overlapping jurisdictions.

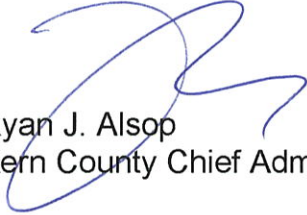
In 2018, our CoC established a State Funding Workgroup with representatives from the County, City, and subject matter experts which has met regularly to plan and coordinate the utilization of one-time State funding, including HEAP, CESH, and HHAP, to best address homeless population needs within all three jurisdictions. Based on a comprehensive needs assessment related to homelessness, the Workgroup recommended HHAP allocations for all three regional jurisdictions, identifying which entity was best suited to help address the identified needs. These recommendations were then approved by the BKRHC Executive Board, which includes representatives from the County, City, and CoC, on February 3, 2020.

The State Funding Workgroup, including the BKRHC, County, and City will continue to meet on a regular and as needed basis to jointly plan and evaluate HHAP spending and projects, and will provide regular HHAP progress reports at monthly meetings to the BKRHC Executive Board. Also, per our mutual agreement, the county's Coordinated Entry System (CES) will be used to assess, prioritize, and link persons at risk of or experiencing homelessness with the appropriate HHAP-funded service provider in their area. All HHAP recipient agencies will participate in the existing Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) used to track and report on client services and outcomes, data from which will be shared by all three HHAP jurisdictions.



The County acknowledges that the City, County, and BRHC have reviewed and agreed upon how HHAP funds will be spent within their respective jurisdictions, and that the HHAP spending plan and budget accurately addresses their share of the regional need to address homelessness.

Sincerely,



Ryan J. Alsop  
Kern County Chief Administrative Officer