

Application Narrative

1. SUMMARY OF HOMELESSNESS IN DEL NORTE COUNTY

A. Submit CoC's complete HUD Longitudinal System Assessment (LSA) from October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018.

B. Use the LSA data to provide (as defined by HUD):

1. Total number of households served in:
 - (1) Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven and Transitional Housing **0**,
 - (2) Rapid Rehousing **133**, and
 - (3) Permanent Supportive Housing **14**.
2. Total number of disabled households served across all interventions **66**.
3. Total number of households experiencing chronic homelessness served across all interventions **51**.
4. Total number of 55+ households served across all interventions **59**.
5. Total number of unaccompanied youth served across all interventions **0**.
6. Total number of veteran households served across all interventions **30**.
7. Number of individuals served across all interventions who were:
 - (1) Female **73**,
 - (2) Male **84**,
 - (3) Transgender, or
 - (4) Gender Non-Conforming **1**.
8. Total number individuals served across all interventions who were:
 - (1) White, Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino (only) **121**,
 - (2) White, Hispanic/Latino (only) **5**,
 - (3) Black or African American (only) **9**,
 - (4) Asian (only) **0**,
 - (5) American Indian or Alaska Native (only) **8**,
 - (6) Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (only) **1** or
 - (7) Multiple races **3**

Additional information and data specific to Del Norte County:

For the Point in Time (PIT) Survey of the homeless in Del Norte County, community members and county staff surveyed 189 individuals who identified themselves as experiencing homelessness on the night of January 22, 2019. This represents

annual increases since 2016 (115 surveyed), 2017 (158 surveyed), and 2018 (127 surveyed). Some notable highlights:

- When compared to nationwide trends, women in Del Norte County are disproportionately more affected by homelessness.
- 15% of those counted (29) were children under the age of 18.
- 75% of participants (141) indicated they were unsheltered, a 15% increase since 2017 (90 individuals / 60% unsheltered).
- Of the 182 people who reported their felony status, 50 people or 27% reported having a felony.

It is recognized nationally - and our experience in Del Norte County backs this up - that the Point in Time Count (PIT) efforts and the resulting data generally undercount the number of individuals experiencing homelessness, simply due to the challenges of having enough community volunteers, finding those who are unsheltered on any given day, and their willingness to participate. In addition, not every question was necessarily answered by those who were counted. Sometimes, volunteers only complete a "tally" sheet when they observe someone who appears to be homeless, but do not engage the individual in the completion of a survey. Also, not all individuals necessarily feel comfortable answering all the questions, or the volunteer may be unable to finish a survey for a variety of reasons.

Del Norte County conducted the 2020 PIT on January 28. Preliminary count shows 218 surveys were completed.

The County's primary industries - hospitality and tourism - are low wage earning which make it difficult for many residents to secure safe, stable and affordable housing. Temporary emergency sheltering in the county is limited to an emergency shelter that is only allowed to open if it is raining or the temperature dips below 35 degrees, a domestic violence shelter, and hotel voucher assistance.

2. DEMONSTRATION OF REGIONAL COORDINATION

A. Coordinated Entry System (CES) Information

For CoC applicants: N/A

- 1. Describe how your CES functions, including:**
 - a. What entity is responsible for operating your CES?**
 - b. What is the process for assessment and identification of housing needs for individuals and families that are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in your community?**

- c. How are people referred to available housing through CES?
2. How do you promote the utilization of your CES? Specifically:
 - a. What outreach do you conduct to ensure all individuals experiencing homelessness, including those with multiple barriers, are aware of the CES assessment and referral process?
 - b. What is the grievance or appeal process for customers?
 - c. How do you provide culturally responsive services to people experiencing homelessness?
3. What, if any, are the current challenges preventing successful CES operation in your jurisdiction, and how do you plan to address these challenges?

For Large City and County applicants:

1. How do you coordinate with your CoC's CES?

The NorCal Homeless Continuum of Care CA-516, (NorCal CoC) Coordinated Entry Process is a collaboration of multiple community, government, and faith-based agencies that, collectively, provide services that range from prevention of homelessness to permanent housing placements. The NorCal CoC covers an expansive geography that includes 7 counties: Del Norte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, and Siskiyou. Coordinated Entry covers this full geography by identifying access points, standard assessments, and referral processes that are unique to each of those regional areas.

Del Norte County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is the lead agency for the local CoC Advisory Board (AB) and is an active participant in the NorCal CoC Executive Board. The AB has two members participating in the NorCal HMIS/CEP Committee to review and ensure the Coordinated Entry process and procedures are reflecting current needs of the community. Coordinated Entry is one of the strategies identified in the NorCal CoC 2019-2021 Strategic Plan. The strategy states the CoC will implement the Coordinated Entry Process to streamline access to housing and services while addressing barriers. The strategy goes hand in hand with the Housing First approach.

DHHS will continue to work with local partners on housing identification needs, utilizing an intake housing assessment/questionnaire, so to identify individuals and/or families that are currently in need of bridge and permanent housing assistance, i.e., a Vulnerability Index –Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT). It will standardize the assessment process and coordinate the referral for resources such as

prevention services, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, emergency shelter, and case management, in a way that incorporates participant choice. Individuals and families with homeless and housing needs will immediately be evaluated for assistance and permanency.

The County began utilizing the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in December 2019 for DHHS housing programs. NorCal CoC has a number of free licenses for accessing HMIS which are available for providers of homeless assistance programs and services in Del Norte County. HMIS will be used to collect and manage data associated with assessments and referrals.

The County's draft Homeless Plan, which addresses the region's lack of Permanent Supportive Housing, and which will be submitted as part of the threshold documentation for the State Housing and Community Development Department's (HCD) "No Place Like Home" Program (NPLH), includes the following goals related to Coordinated Entry:

1. Develop a list of resources for the Coordinated Entry Process (CEP) database for Del Norte County.
2. Implement the Coordinated Entry Process (CEP) as a means of prioritizing Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), which can be administered at a local level in order to prioritize access to available housing and supportive housing.

2. What, if any, are your jurisdiction's current challenges related to CES, and how do you plan to address these challenges?

The County considers a challenge the lack of use of the HMIS system by community partners. DHHS currently has two licenses to access HMIS. As a new user of CES, DHHS is just beginning to put into place systems for accessing the CES and using HMIS and the VI-SPDAT. Currently, all referrals for persons experiencing homelessness come from Coordinated Entry administered by DHHS. Over the next 12 months, DHHS will continue to reach out to community partners who serve the homeless population, to encourage them to obtain access to HMIS. Our goal is for all coordinated entry locations to offer the same assessment approach and referrals using uniform decision-making processes. The CES promotes the Housing First approach, ensuring that clients with the highest level of acuity are provided the most intensive housing and service interventions available.

DHHS will focus on streamlining the CES in early 2020, which may include: better defining entry points; determining ongoing operational costs; use of

demographics to leverage resources; analysis of entry point need to determine initial intake and provide individualized recommendations; and, establishing a process to guide use of data that takes into consideration individual needs. This work is estimated to be completed over the coming 6 months, in coordination with the NorCal CoC and the other participating 6 counties.

3. How do you promote the utilization of your CES?

a. 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?

The current process at DHHS is for all individuals and/or families declaring they are experiencing homelessness are assessed for the appropriate homeless program following the Housing First model. DHHS staff are actively engaged in trainings and new approaches on how to serve our customers in crisis and direct need of housing, food, health assistance, and supportive services with the goal of becoming self-sufficient.

Once the CES is in place and providers have been trained on how to access it, staff from the various participating agencies that serve the homeless, will help to ensure that all those experiencing homelessness are engaged and assessed in a coordinated manner. County and partner staff will be trained to provide outreach to homeless individuals about the CES and how to access it, and flyers will be distributed at partner agencies including clinics and non-profit agencies. The County will also use local media (Triplicate Newspaper, KCRE Radio) and social media (which may be used by many of the homeless locally) to make homeless individuals aware of the CES assessment and referral process.

B. Prioritization Criteria

1. What are the criteria used to prioritize assistance for people experiencing homelessness in your jurisdiction?

The following represents the uniform process to be used across each community for assessing individuals/families, matching them to an appropriate housing intervention, diversion, Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), and within each category prioritizing placement into housing. This will eliminate the need to complete multiple assessments with individuals.

The VI-SPDAT will be the only tool used to assess individuals at the point of entry. The VI-SPDAT scores will be used to triage individuals into the appropriate category of intervention.

Pregnant individuals will be given the VI-SPDAT as an individual until which time the baby is born and then a Family VI-SPDAT can be given to them.

The NorCal CoC has adopted the HUD released guidance for the prioritization of chronically homeless individuals and families, which can be found at Notice CPD 16-11. As such, this CoC has established the following order of priority for individuals and families:

- 1.) CH (longest episodic homelessness + Highest Acuity (most severe service needs) + Disability
- 2.) Highest Acuity (most severe service needs) + Longest Time Homeless (Non-CH) + Disability
- 3.) Acuity Score (not the most severe service needs) + Homeless + Disability
- 4.) Exiting Transitional Housing (TH) (those who were homeless prior to entry) + Disability

For individuals that score (8+) and families that score (9+) on the VI-SPDAT signals the need for **Permanent Supportive Housing**, they will be prioritized based on the following criteria:

1. Chronic Homeless Status: The first prioritization factor is serving those with a disability with long periods of episodic homelessness and severe service needs.
2. Severe Service Needs: The second prioritization factor is serving those with a disability experiencing homelessness with severe service needs.
3. Disability: The third prioritization factor is serving those with a disability who are experiencing homelessness, but not identified as having severe service needs.
4. Transitional Housing Exit: The fourth prioritization factor is serving those who have a disability and were experiencing homeless or fleeing Domestic Violence (DV) prior to TH entry.

For individuals that score 4-7 and families scoring 4-8 on the VI-SPDAT, signals the need for **Rapid Re-Housing**, individuals and families will be prioritized based on the following criteria:

1. Severe Service Needs: The first prioritization factor is the highest acuity, or most severe service needs of those experiencing homelessness.
2. Length of Time Homeless: The second prioritization factor is the

length of time an individual or family has experienced homelessness, giving priority to the person that has experienced homelessness the longest (VI-SPDAT question #1).

3. Date of VI-SPDAT: The third prioritization factor is the date of the VI-SPDAT, serving those who have been on the Prioritization List the longest.

VI-SPDAT for Individuals

Intervention Recommendation	VI-SPDAT Prescreen Score for Individuals
Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First	8+
Rapid Re-Housing	4-7
Diversion	0-3

VI-SPDAT for Families

Intervention Recommendation	VI-SPDAT Prescreen Score for Families
Permanent Supportive Housing/Housing First	9+
Rapid Re-Housing	4-8
Diversion	0-3

Clients are not required to disclose specific disabilities in order to access the CEP; however, certain programs may require disclosure to ascertain program eligibility for a specified program. Access Points are required to inform clients that disclosure is not required at time of entry into CEP but may be required for appropriate housing placement and program eligibility.

2. How is CES, pursuant to 24 CFR 578.8(a) (8) used for this process?

The NorCal CoC has adopted the HUD released guidance Notice CPD 16-11 on prioritizing persons experiencing chronic homelessness and other vulnerable homeless persons in permanent supportive housing. The guidance in this Notice is provided to all CoCs and all recipients and subrecipients of CoC Program funds. CoCs are strongly encouraged to incorporate the order of priority described in this Notice into their written standards, which CoCs are required to develop per 24 CFR 578.7(a)(9) for their CoC Program-funded PSH.

The overarching goal of this Notice is to ensure that those individuals and families who have spent the longest time in places not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelters, or in safe havens and who have the most severe service needs within a community are prioritized for PSH. By ensuring that persons with the longest histories of homelessness and most severe service needs are prioritized for PSH, progress towards the goal of ending chronic homelessness will increase. HUD encourages all recipients of CoC Program-funded PSH to follow a Housing First approach to the maximum extent practicable.

The Vulnerability Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool Index – Service (V-SPDAT) is used to prioritize individuals, Transition Age Youth (TAY), and families for available permanent housing based on acuity and chronicity. Additionally, the Homeless Information Management System (HMIS) in coordination with the CES, assist to determine eligibility and prioritization for services. Clients are matched to available resources based on their need and vulnerability. The most vulnerable clients (including those who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, but who are seeking shelter or services from nonvictim service providers) are prioritized for available housing navigation and location services.

C. Coordination of Regional Needs

1. How have you coordinated with your partnering CoC to identify your share of the regional need to address homelessness?

Del Norte County is a member of the NorCal Continuum of Care (NorCal CoC), a consortium of the seven rural northern California counties of Shasta, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Siskiyou, Del Norte, and Modoc. These 7 counties are working together to plan a regional system of housing and services for those experiencing homelessness in the region. The NorCal CoC is staffed by a designated Coordinator who works for the Shasta County Housing and Community Action Programs Department. The NorCal CoC plays an important role as a key partner in addressing homelessness in Del Norte County. As an entity charged by the federal government with prioritizing and administering homeless funding, the CoC reviews and recommends applications for Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and CoC grants, and submits an annual Consolidated CoC Funding Application to HUD. More recently, the NorCal CoC has also been involved in collecting, reviewing and recommending applications for the State's Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) program. The NorCal CoC also maintains the consortium's Homeless Management Information (HMIS),

Coordinated Entry System (CES), and ensures the execution of the Point-in-Time (PIT) Census and Survey and Housing Inventory Counts (HIC).

DHHS has a representative who sits on the NorCal CoC Executive Board. In addition, as a member of the NorCal CoC DHHS participates in the Coordinated Entry System Committee, attends monthly CoC meetings regarding strategic planning, and shares information regarding resources. As a multi-branch agency, DHHS administers a variety of programs providing services to vulnerable, indigent and low-income persons (including homeless individuals) residing in Del Norte County. DHHS also receives funding from the State of California Department of Social Services to provide housing crisis intervention and mitigation services for low-income families receiving CalWORKs benefits. The Child Welfare Services Branch provides interim housing assistance to families in the reunification process. The Behavioral Health Branch provides outreach and temporary housing services to homeless individuals who are clinically diagnosed with mental health issues. The Public Health Branch works directly with the youth population at our teen drop-in center Coastal Connections. In addition, all the branches have a relationship with Del Norte Unified School District through MOUs and collaborative efforts.

The local CoC Advisory Board, chaired by a DHHS representative, is a working group of the NorCal CoC. It includes representatives from relevant stakeholders and includes a broad representation of key stakeholder groups found within the counties encompassed in the CoC as articulated in the HUD interim Rule. The local Advisory Board includes representatives of Del Norte County, the City of Crescent City, a representative with lived experience, Del Norte County Unified School District, Del Norte Senior Center, and Redwoods Community College District. The local Advisory Board meets monthly in Crescent City to oversee local planning and coordination of a full range of homelessness services in the County. The local Advisory Board, in conjunction with the Lead Agency, plan for and conduct an annual Point-in-Time Count (PIT) in Del Norte, and ensures funding requests meet the County specific Strategic goals.

2. What is your identified share of this need, and how will the requested funds help your jurisdiction meet it?

The NorCal CoC directs funding towards Del Norte County housing and homelessness projects and assists with overall coordination (e.g. CES design and HMIS usage), but does not provide any direct services or projects for homeless individuals in the county. The local CoC and Del Norte County, together with our community partners, are entirely

responsible for implementing programs and services to address housing and homelessness needs in the county.

Del Norte County does not have a permanent emergency shelter. There is, however, a temporary 13-bed shelter operated by a non-profit organization that only opens during the winter season and only during inclement weather. When the shelter is open, the utilization rate is at an average of 80%. The shelter is not fully utilized due to various reasons such as: limited means of transportation during inclement weather, packing and transporting belongings from campsite to the shelter, and individuals not knowing when the shelter is open. The temporary shelter's use permit expires July 2020.

As there is currently no permanent, year-round emergency shelter in the county, the HHAP funds will be used to meet this pressing need, which has been designed as an Evidence-Based Practice that abides by Housing First guidelines. The NorCal CoC is aware that this is our intended use of funds, and agrees that this is a pressing and immediate need, in line with regional plans.

D. Creating Sustainable, Long Term Housing Solutions

1. How is your jurisdiction involved in the efforts to create sustainable, long-term housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness across your region?

Del Norte County envisions a homeless response system that uses resources effectively, identifies those at risk of becoming homeless, quickly connecting our neighbors with services to regain and retain housing or to prevent homelessness from occurring. By reducing homelessness, we will improve the quality of life and well-being of everyone in our region.

During 2019, Del Norte County commissioned **Housing Tools** to provide a report that analyzes housing and homelessness in the County, and lays out a focused and practical strategy to address the lack of permanent supportive housing in Del Norte County. The report, (<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1mjEVtMhuGf-GVJoYKkaBDGYRBOGzg0KV>) builds and expands upon the initial work of Del Norte County and their consideration of "No Place Like Home" Program (NPLH) funding. Housing Tools developed a survey tool ("Community Matters: Housing and Homelessness in Del Norte County"), designed to gain a better understanding of Del Norte County residents' perceptions around homelessness and housing issues in their community. The results of the survey are intended to inform future stakeholder proposals and goals.

Furthermore, the report provides a comprehensive financial analysis of three NPLH-assisted development types, or permanent supportive housing models, that have been identified from assessing local needs and receiving input from community workshops. The models are conceptual and provide a general framework for understanding potential unit types, affordability levels, and financing sources. The actual project structure will depend on the particular site characteristics and partnership arrangement of the entities involved. Each of the development types have different requirements in terms of property type, zoning, operations, and financing. Each of them also has particular strengths and weaknesses in terms of addressing community needs and financial feasibility. In addition, each development type serves different populations and income groups. The purpose of this analysis is to present the opportunities and challenges associated with each development type, and determine which one will best build on available resources to address County goals.

Based on this report, Del Norte County is developing a comprehensive approach to end chronic homelessness, described in the county's (draft) Housing Plan. This includes enhancing our prevention efforts through early intervention and outreach to individuals on the streets and providing services and treatment needed to support their transition from homelessness into permanent supportive housing. We are also looking at building a strong system of income reinforcing supports so that each chronically homeless person has enough income to subsist upon. Finally, the county is creating an implementation structure to ensure that the Plan gains the political support and oversight it needs to succeed.

The county is currently engaging community partners and other stakeholders to coordinate resources. This process includes the creation of a Housing and Homelessness Advisory Group (HHAG), a multi-disciplinary team including the affected homeless population, local nonprofit organizations, business representatives, clinics and hospitals, faith leaders, philanthropy, school district representation, and other stakeholders. The HHAG will work to research best practices, generate public support for solutions to the crisis, and advocate for local housing opportunities.

The County's Draft Housing Plan includes the following goals concerning the development of permanent supportive housing (PSH):

Goal 2: Identify resources to increase Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) housing stock and Affordable Housing Units and develop housing plans that addresses the needs of the various funding sources, as well as identifies targets for housing capacity growth.

Strategy: Establish a baseline and a method to track increases in

PSH and subsidized housing units in Del Norte County and.

Activities: This is currently underway working with Consultant Housing Tools. Look at development of a housing committee made up of County/City/Housing Authority, Tribal Housing and local realtors.

Timeframe: 5-10 years.

Goal 4: Creation of a partnership with an experienced builder/developer who has succeeded with similar projects.

Strategy: Benefit from learned best practices with regard to leveraging funding and project sustainability.

Activities: Housing Tools helping to create partnerships ongoing partnerships managed by local entity in collaboration with most appropriate department in the County.

Timeframe: 1-5 years.

The report concludes: *" While it is clear that the scope of homelessness is increasing in Del Norte County and that there are tremendous community concerns regarding its impacts, which in some cases have been divisive, it is also clear that community partners and members wish to be engaged and involved in solutions, and are excited about the potential opportunities to build Permanent Supportive Housing. It is our observation that there is no better time in which to further strengthen and support a coordinated and comprehensive planning effort through the development of a Homeless Coalition. Solutions will ultimately have to be those which are at a scale which is appropriate for the community and at the same time address the greatest needs. These are best arrived at through a collaborative community-driven decision-making process. This will build the foundation needed to attract new resources to the community to help it realize its goals".*

3. RESOURCES ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

A. Existing Programs and Resources

1. Provide an exhaustive list of all funds (including the program and dollar amount) that your jurisdiction currently uses to provide housing and homeless services for homeless populations.

- a. Federal Funding: N/A
- b. State Funding :
 - 1. Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) - \$361,706.33
 - 2. CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP) - \$197,131
 - 3. CalWORKs Family Stabilization Program (FSP) - \$177,060

4. CalWORKs Homeless Assistance Program (HA) Funding is claimed as utilized. Total expenditures for FY 2018-2019 is \$130,085
5. No Place Like Home (NPLH) Non-competitive Letter of acceptance submitted 8/15/19 - \$500,000
6. No Place Like Home (NPLH) Competitive plan to apply in Round 3 in February 2021 - \$TBD
7. No Place Like Home (NPLH) Technical Assistance (TA) - \$75,000
8. Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA) - \$TBD NOFA to be released in the Spring 2020
9. Whole Person Care (WPC) - \$426,206.02
10. California Department of Health Care Services MHSAs - \$418,445
11. Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) - \$493,118
12. Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) 28 vouchers - \$144,000

c. Local Funding: N/A

2. How are these resources integrated or coordinated with applicants from overlapping jurisdictions (i.e. CoC, large city, and/or county)?

The County coordinates, with the support of the NorCal CoC, the implementation of a housing and service system within its geographic area that meets the needs of the homeless individuals, unaccompanied youth, and families. At a minimum, such system encompasses the following: outreach, engagement and assessment, shelter, housing, and supportive services, and prevention strategies.

3. What gaps currently exist in housing and homeless services for homeless populations in your jurisdiction?

Del Norte County currently does not have a year-round, permanent emergency shelter. The only emergency shelter that currently exists has only 13 beds, and is only permitted to operate when it is rainy, or the temperature is below 35 degrees. In addition, the permanent supportive housing available is very limited, and is only available for certain groups of individuals (victims of domestic violence, women exiting the criminal justice system, veterans), not for the general homeless population.

B. HHAP Funding Plans

- 1. Explain, in detail, how your jurisdiction plans to use the full amount of HHAP funds (including the youth set-aside) and how it will complement existing funds to close the identified gaps in housing and homeless services for the homeless population in your jurisdiction.**

Del Norte County does not have a year-round, permanent emergency shelter. HHAP funding will support a project for building improvements and operating subsidies for a potential site zoned for emergency shelter use located at 1135 Harrold Street, in Crescent City. This is the only site in Del Norte County that is zoned for emergency homeless shelter use – and it is the site of the current shelter available during inclement weather.

The improvements to the shelter are required to meet use permit for a year-round emergency shelter. After the improvements are complete, the site will provide a 52-bed emergency shelter for homeless Del Norte County residents, including 5 beds set aside for homeless youth (aged 12 – 24) and 9 bunkbeds for homeless families.

The required improvements include: sprinkler system for fire prevention, and heating, insulation, and a false ceiling to meet fire code regulations. Additional necessary upgrades include: commercial washer and dryer, bathroom for guests, storage container for food storage to make room for 52 beds, including bunk beds, mattresses, mattress covers, and repair of a front window. In addition to providing 52 beds for overnight shelter, a local nonprofit organization will help to provide residents with regular hot meals, clothing, hygiene supplies, and other emergency items, emergency housing referral and assistance, laundry and showers, storage lockers, job training and connection, and support groups.

At least 5 beds (9.6% of the total available beds) will be set aside for homeless youth aged 12 to 24. In addition, 9 beds will be set aside for homeless families.

Furthermore, improvements to the building will enable us to move toward our next phase of initiating a Navigation Center to implement whole person care at the emergency shelter.

Once funding is approved and available, we anticipate that construction will be completed by September 2020.

2. How will you ensure 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 new year-round emergency shelter will be operated by a nonprofit organization using a Housing First approach, a widely researched, evidence-based model used nationwide. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities like food and a place to live before attending to anything less critical, such as getting a job, budgeting properly, or attending to substance use issues. Additionally, Housing First is based on the theory that client choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that exercising that choice is likely to make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their life.

Using this Housing First approach, someone experiencing homelessness will be immediately housed in the new emergency shelter, and then connected to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Evidence shows that once a person has a safe, stable living situation, they are more successful addressing their other areas such as mental health, substance use, maintaining income, and improving overall health. The Housing First model acknowledges that social services and care coordination are necessary elements of maintaining stable housing and achieving quality of life. Research indicates that clients of Housing First programs are far less costly to public systems compared with other programs.

The new emergency shelter will also act as a service center and provide opportunities for community agencies to provide information and services to the shelter's residents. Services include, but are not limited to mental health services, substance abuse services, public health services, public assistance outreach services and referrals, and housing support services.

The new emergency shelter will also be a navigation center for the homeless population, regardless whether or not if they are residents at the shelter. Staff from DHHS will make on-site visits to the emergency shelter to provide housing support services using the Housing First approach. DHHS has created relationships with local landlords and real estate agencies to help implement the CalWORKs Housing Support Program and its rapid re-housing

component. Experience in capacity building and program development helped to create the service delivery foundation to move forward with the efforts to reduce homelessness. In addition, DHHS staff has the knowledge of local resources, such as the housing market, and provide case management which includes the ability to assess and identify an individual's or family's needs and barriers, and regular reassessments of household stability to ensure they are neither over nor under assisted. DHHS will continue capacity building in order to serve individuals and families through a progressive engagement approach that provides an appropriate level of intervention to help each household obtain permanent housing and retain the housing with the long-term goal of economic self-sufficiency.

Assistance with permanent housing payments may be provided to households for an initial six (6) months and will be evaluated every three (3) months thereafter to determine if additional months of rental assistance are needed. The funding sources listed under "Resources Addressing Homelessness" will be utilized to assist with housing and homeless services.

4. PARTNERS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

A. Collaborating Partner Efforts

- 1. Describe, in detail, the collaborative partners who will be working with you on identified HHAP projects and how you will be partnering with them.**

Del Norte County has built the framework for a collaborative process over the past two years by meeting regularly with stakeholders throughout the county and discussing the issue of homelessness and possible solutions. Regular meetings and ongoing communication have been with our local Continuum of Care, Sutter Coast Hospital, Open Door Clinic, Senior Center, the Sheriff's Office, Probation, the City of Crescent City and the City Housing Authority, Crescent City Police Department, Del Norte County Administration, Board of Supervisors, California State Senator Mike McGuire and his District Representatives. Discussions have also taken place at our monthly Local Behavioral Health Board meetings, which includes consumers and family members of consumers.

The County has asked True North Organizing Network, a local nonprofit organization, to convene a new community-based Housing

and Homelessness Advisory Group which brings together County and City employees, non-profit organizations, clinics and hospitals, business representatives, civic groups, philanthropy, schools, and faith-based organizations to develop recommendations for the county to address Del Norte's housing crisis. Each of these organizations is committed to working together towards researching and developing local solutions for homelessness and will support the HHAP project.

The County will work closely with law enforcement and healthcare providers to target high utilization clients and triage them for services, to engage the clients most in need of assistance. Del Norte County DHHS and the City of Crescent City Housing Authority also have a long and demonstrated history of partnership to fill in gaps between services where they exist, specifically with homeless prevention and rapid re-housing.

Coordinating directly with healthcare providers will ensure that we align any services with clients' medical needs and set them on the path to a more stable life with less emergent medical and mental health issues. It will be critical for our Behavioral Health branch to work closely with clients who require psychiatric medication to assist them in navigating services and treatment to prevent re-hospitalizations. Sutter Coast Hospital and the Open Door Clinic are Medi-Cal providers and have significant experience serving the target population.

The principle partner for the proposed HHAP project is a local nonprofit agency which has been providing a 13-bed emergency shelter when it is raining or below 35 degrees (this is the only emergency shelter in the county). The shelter is located at a warehouse site in downtown Crescent City that is zoned for emergency shelter use. However, significant improvements are needed to meet permitting requirements for a permanent, year-round emergency shelter, including a fire suppression sprinkler system, heating and insulation, and false ceiling to meet fire code regulations; a commercial washer and dryer; bathrooms for guests; a food storage container; furniture including beds and mattresses; and repair of a front window. DHHS has an existing relationship and provides outreach services out of this location.

Once the 52-bed facility is fully operational, it will receive referrals from the County, as well as other partners including health clinics, schools, police, etc., as well as walk-ins. Local nonprofit organization personnel will be trained to administer the VI-SPDAT and access the CES, as well as entering client data directly into HMIS.

The local nonprofit organization is already successfully coordinating with County and City services to connect our homeless residents with needed support systems. These efforts for partnerships are early successes and show that this model will be successful for the Del Norte County region.

2. Describe any barriers that you experience in partnering, and how you plan to address them.

Key barriers to partnering include Del Norte’s geographic isolation and relatively small population, which have resulted in a relative dearth of social service organizations with the capacity to impact the homeless crisis. In addition, the organizations that do exist – including county departments – are understaffed, so employees wear many ‘hats’ and are stretched in many directions. The lack of any one organization having the capacity to take the lead in providing a range of shelter and supportive housing is also an issue, as is the lack of funding to support the development of new housing.

These barriers will be addressed by bringing together a wide range of cross-sector partners that are committed to playing a role in addressing homelessness and the lack of affordable housing. The collective will to address this issue is strong, and is already demonstrating that partnerships can be successful in small, rural regions.

SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

DHHS will work with community partners on the following goals to utilize HHAP in Del Norte County:

1. Complete rehabilitation work on potential site zoned for emergency shelter use for a 52-bed permanent, year-round emergency shelter by September 2020.
2. Decrease the percent of Del Norte County’s homeless population that is unsheltered by 20% annually (percentage to be taken from baseline count of 211; number taken from the 2020 P.I.T. Survey)
 - a) Numbers served includes homeless youth.
 - b) Numbers recorded will be unduplicated persons who are admitted to the shelter.

- c) Numbers will not include navigation services provided to homeless persons.
- 3. The estimated number of individuals expected to be served (utilizing a bed) at the shelter for the initial year (November 2020 through October 2021) is 140 unduplicated individuals.
 - a) Del Norte County currently does not have a year-round permanent emergency shelter and therefore does not have a baseline count for the number of expected individuals to be serviced. This number takes into consideration our 2020 P.I.T. count of 211 unsheltered individuals, the unknown length of stay for any one individual, and the 52-bed capacity of the shelter.
- 4. Increase the percent of successful shelter exits into permanent housing by 5% annually (baseline 0%).
 - a) The initial year (November 2020 through October 2021) will create baseline percentage to use for Year 2.



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

APPLICANT INFORMATION

CoC / Large City / County Name:

County of Del Norte

Receiving Redirected Funds? Y/N

No

Administrative Entity Name:

Department of Health and Human Services

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	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Subsidies and Reserves	\$ 200,806.11	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200,806.11
Landlord Incentives	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach and Coordination (including employment)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
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%)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Administrative (up to 7%)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION						\$ 200,806.11
	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	TOTAL
Youth Set-Aside (at least 8%)	\$ 19,308.30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 19,308.30

*Narrative should reflect details of HHAP funding plan

COMMENTS:

FINAL



NorCal Continuum of Care™

February 11, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

The NorCal Continuum of Care (NorCal CoC) is writing this letter in support of the County of Del Norte (County) applying for the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) funding allocation. We understand that the HHAP funding allocation may fund the following uses:

- Rental assistance and rapid rehousing;
- Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers. Operating subsidies may include operating reserves;
- Incentives to landlords, including, but not limited to, security deposits and holding fees;
- Outreach and coordination, which may include access to job programs, to assist vulnerable populations in accessing permanent housing and to promote housing stability in supportive housing;
- Systems support for activities necessary to create regional partnerships and maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system particularly for vulnerable populations including families and homeless youth;
- Delivery of permanent housing and innovative housing solutions such as hotel and motel conversions;
- Prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing; and
- New navigation centers and emergency shelters based on demonstrated need.

As a partnering agency, we acknowledge and agree to regional coordination and partnership, per Health and Safety Code 50219(a)(1). In order to support regional coordination and partnership, we will attend regular meetings with County representatives at the NorCal CoC to jointly plan and evaluate HHAP spending and projects. These regularly scheduled meetings will take place on a quarterly basis at the NorCal CoC local Advisory Board meetings and Executive Committee meetings. We have reviewed and agree with how the County intends to spend their HHAP funds. The County's spending plan accurately addresses their share of the regional need to address homelessness.

Understanding the importance of regional coordination, we are dedicated to ensuring this collaboration will supplement the services and efforts provided by the use of HHAP funds.

Sincerely,

Melissa Janulewicz
Executive Board Chair
NorCal Continuum of Care