

NARRATIVE APPLICATION

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

**CALIFORNIA HOMELESS COORDINATING
AND FINANCING COUNCIL**

Submitted By:



February 2020

SUMMARY OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE COUNTY

A. Longitudinal System Assessment. The applicant, the County of Kern, is submitting its HUD October 2017–September 2018 Longitudinal System Assessment (LSA) with this application. The LSA data was received from our Bakersfield/Kern County Continuum of Care, which is also known as the Bakersfield- Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative (BKRHC). Electronic copies of this LSA were also provided to the City of Bakersfield and County of Kern Planning Departments in January 2020. The region served by the BKRHC is all of Kern County, and the data reflects all persons experiencing homelessness in the county 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

1. DEMONSTRATION OF REGIONAL COORDINATION

To successfully complete this section, applicants must provide:

A. Coordinated Entry System (CES) Information

For Large City and County applicants:

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

Kern County coordinates with its CES directly through the Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Department which is the entity that is lead for the COC's Homeless Management Information System. The County Administrative Office also initiated a training for County departments to train to use the Quick Referral Tool for departments that regularly engage with homeless in our region. The training has assisted staff in education County leadership and Board of Supervisors understand the importance of CES in Kern County. In Spring 2020, Kern County will be opening its first low barrier navigation center where Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) has been selected as the operator. One of largest benefits of this partnership is that CAPK is the lead for Kern's CES and can integrate this component with homeless entering the center.

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

One of the challenges it's facing is the response compared to the current staffing. The additional funding will assist with that but it has been promoted very well throughout the community so there is a need to keep up with that great response. Another is tying CES to HMIS and ensuring the two systems are integrated well. HMIS can be expanded to include the housing referral system which will avoid this being done externally.

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 County Administrative Office hosted a CES training for all County departments that interface with the homeless population. This included Human Services, Behavioral Health, Child Support, Aging and Adult Services, Kern County Sheriff's Office, Probation, and many more. County departments need to ensure that all County employees engaging with our homeless in all areas of our County are referred into CES and HMIS. With a County of our size, its imperative that all areas where are services are

rendered are given access to CES. Outreach has also been done at multiple Board of Supervisors meetings to provide clarity and capture the importance of CES on a public stage.

B. Prioritization Criteria

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

The County of Kern utilizes CES to prioritize assistance. 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 takes into account 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. How is CES, pursuant to 24 CFR 578.8(a)(8) used for this process?

VI- SPDAT vulnerability scores range from 0 to 16. Applicants who receive a score of 0-3 are considered non-vulnerable; those with a score of 4-7 are referred to rapid rehousing (RRH); and those with scores of 8 or above are referred to permanent supportive housing (PSH). Factors affecting placement on the BKRHC Housing Committee's Prioritization Lists for the various type of housing include:

- a) Permanent Supportive Housing:
 - 1st – Chronically homeless (disabled) with a vulnerability score of 9 or higher and longest length of homelessness (LOH).
 - 2nd – Disabled non-chronically homeless with a score of 9 or higher and longest LOH.
 - 3rd – Disabled homeless with 8 or lower and longest LOH.
 - 4th – Disabled homeless from transitional housing with a 9 or higher and longest LOH.
 - 5th - Non-disabled homeless with a 9 or higher and longest LOH.

- b) Rapid Rehousing:
 - 1st – Fleeing domestic violence
 - 2nd – Literally homeless
 - 3rd – Temporary shelter
 - 4th – Graduating from/recently left transitional housing program

- c) Bridge Housing:
 - 1st – PSH matches (awaiting housing placement)
 - 2nd – RRH matches

- d) Transitional Housing:
 - 1st – Individuals not eligible to be matched for PHS or RRH
 - 2nd – Individuals who declined PHS or RRH offer.

C. Coordination of Regional Needs

1. How have you coordinated with your partnering CoC, large city (if applicable), and/or county to identify your share of the regional need to address homelessness?

The County Administrative Office has remained active on the Bakersfield/Kern Continuum of Care Governing Board. Through this participation, the County has remained active with the Continuum of Care through its transition to the new non-profit entity, BKRHC. From this participation, the County joined the State Funding Workgroup with representatives from service providers, City of Bakersfield, and subject matter experts. The purpose of the workgroup is to plan and coordinate the utilization of one-time State funding, including HEAP, CESH, and HHAP, to best meet the needs to address homelessness within the County of Kern and City of Bakersfield. The workgroup has been meeting regularly to coordinate the funding and determine how best to allocate the funds within the City, County, and Continuum of Care.

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 County, City, and CoC) on February 3, 2020.

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

The County of Kern service area is the entire county which encompasses both the COC and the City of Bakersfield area. Therefore, the BKRHC, City, and County allocated the share of regional need based on which entity was best suited to help address the need. The regional needs allocated to the County of Kern include:

Need: Rapid Re-Housing

About 60% of people assessed by CES qualify for rapid rehousing (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 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 of what is actually needed for these households.

How funds will meet need:

The County will allocate \$415,212.76 for Rapid Re-Housing services. When combined with \$112,838.75 from the City HHAP funds and \$50,000.00 from COC 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.

Need: Outreach and Coordination

There is a need to restore an outreach position specifically to engage homeless veterans in our region. It's preferable to have a two person team so an additional outreach worker is needed.

In addition, there is a need to support homeless resource fairs that include 20+ service providers that visit communities Countywide. Most of the resource fairs are done in-kind however there is need for financial support for meals. Providing meal allows the resource fairs to

draw our homeless population and provide access to other resources offered such as healthcare, general assistance, CES registration, clothing, showers, mental healthcare, and more.

There is also need to expand services in our smaller and rural communities. Most services for the homeless reside in Bakersfield making it difficult for our homeless in the remote and rural areas. This would include the expansion of newly created service providers in the rural areas to increase their draw of homeless in their area and connect them with county services and other homeless service providers. Our rural subcommittee has identified new service providers that already familiar with their local homeless and the desire for them to stay in their original city.

How funds will meet need:

The County will allocated \$100,000 for a two year period to fund one (1) veterans outreach worker. An amount of \$5,000 is allocated to assist with meals and sanitation costs for approximately eight (8) countywide homeless resource fairs. It is the resource fair committee' desire to acquire donations where possible. There is also \$20,000 allocated to assist rural areas expand outreach services in an effort to connect homeless with other county and housing services.

Need: Emergency Shelter

The County and City of Bakersfield have been working tirelessly to address the extreme shortage of beds with specific focus on a low barrier navigation center model. Currently, there are two homeless shelters, The Mission of Kern County (240 beds) and the Bakersfield Homeless Center (175 beds). Both are always at maximum capacity and both are not low barrier. The County is currently constructing a 150-bed low barrier navigation center in downtown Bakersfield with wraparound services set to open in March 2020.

How funds will meet need:

The County intends to utilize \$400,000 to assist with the operations of the navigation center which will house 150 people and provide a day center for other homeless. An amount of \$250,000 is set aside for a navigation center in a rural area. Rural areas have a smaller number of homeless however an area, such as the City of Delano, may have identified a property where these funds could assist with a start-up of a navigation center. No low barrier homeless shelters exist outside of metropolitan Bakersfield.

Need: HMIS

Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services operates HMIS for the COC in Kern County. The COC's HMIS needs exceed its current capacity and more licenses are needed.

How funds will meet this need:

The County will use its 5 percent of \$72,573 to assist the HMIS administrative oversight that is need and expand the staffing gap that exists. A portion of these funds will also add 20 new licenses to offer to local service providers.

Need: Youth Outreach

There currently is very little outreach done specific for Youth and at times may be difficult to identify our homeless youth to connect them with services.

How funds will meet this need:

The County's 5 percent youth set-aside of \$116,118 will fund one (1) youth specific outreach worker for a term of two years. This allocation will work in tandem with the COC's funding to provide emergency youth beds and the City of Bakersfield's funding to provide youth rental assistance.

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?

The County of Kern believes that ending homelessness will ultimately depend on remedying the affordable housing shortage in Kern County, and recognizes that this will require both a significant increase in rental assistance and development of new housing units affordable to low- and very-low income households. The County has joined the BKRHC which has operated on the basis of 10-year plans to end homelessness that identify specific objective, goals and strategies for providing long-term housing solutions to people at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

The BKRHC and the County of Kern has chosen the Housing Authority of the County of Kern (HA) as the lead agency responsible for identifying and developing needed housing resources, working in partnership with the county, cities, and low-income housing providers. The second 10-year plan adopted in 2018 has as one of its major objectives increasing "the affordable housing inventory for homeless individuals and families by 10,470 new beds," including: 8,591 permanent supportive housing (PSH), beds broken down by subpopulations, and 1,879 new rapid rehousing (RRH) beds. The BKRHC reviews the plan annually to record progress in meeting these objectives, evaluates current demand for housing, and modifies these target numbers as needed. Annual presentations are made to the Kern County Board of Supervisors regarding the 10-year plan.

The Housing Authority regularly applies for all possible federal Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program, CoC Program, and State HHC rental subsidies, and has recently augmented these funds with state HEAP and CESH allocations. The Housing Authority and its affiliate non-profit Golden Empire Affordable Housing, Inc. (GEAHI) are also involved in developing new low-income housing projects throughout the county, including several MHSA and NPLH permanent supportive housing programs targeted to people with behavioral disorders. Many of these housing projects are partnered with the Housing Authority and Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services.

The County Administrative Office is in the process of evaluating its own processes to streamline the process of permitting and building affordable housing. SB2 planning grants have been submitted to generate an inventory of construction ready properties that exist in the County for future affordable housing properties. Partnerships are being formed with property owners that have vacancies in current affordable housing properties and what efforts can be made to remove barriers for our homeless population. The County also issues Emergency Solutions Grants, HOME funds, and Community Development Block Grants to expand housing projects and support COC organizations. Future projects and innovative solution are being discussed with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity for the potential of building units in the Kern River Valley/Lake Isabella area of Kern County.

The County, 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 County will continue to

collaborate with the BKRHC and City of Bakersfield on the Gaps Analysis and work to monitor progress towards regional goals to ensure all available funding is being used efficiently and effectively.

2. RESOURCES ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

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 County of Kern 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 County of Kern include: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Grant, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).
 - b) State Funding for local homeless activities administered through the County of Kern include: Department of Social Services Housing and Disability Advocacy Program through County Human Services, No Place Like Home funds through Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Housing Support Program through County CalWORKS, and Whole Person Care capital funds for construction of the County's low barrier navigation center.
 - c) Local government Funding for local homeless activities administered through the County of Kern include: General Fund dollars for construction of low barrier navigation centers, road cleanup, Point in Time Count app survey development, homeless resource fairs, and more.

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

Source/Program	Description	Amount
Federal Grants		
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	\$4,426,264

VA GPD	Public Housing Authority. 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>
Total		\$12,953,287
<u>Federal Formula-Based Allocations</u>		
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>
Total		\$2,921,649
<u>State of California Grants</u>		
CAL OES DV	Governor's Office of Emergency Services Domestic Violence grants for ES, TH, counseling, advocacy, and services for victims and their children.	\$306,254
NPLH	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>
Total State Grants		\$10,996,147
<u>City of Bakersfield</u>		
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>
Total City of Bakersfield		\$5,155,000
<u>County of Kern</u>		
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.	\$1,300,000
Total County of Kern		\$4,430,982
<u>Private Funds</u>		
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.	\$1,822,119
Total		\$2,372,119
Grand Total All Homeless Funds		\$40,644,344

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 County of Kern 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 County of Kern 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 co-ordinated 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.

A. 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.

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. This budget is also included. 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 County of Kern will fund.

Rapid Rehousing

The combined HHAP request for City, BKRHC, and County for Rapid Rehousing is \$609,457.06. The County of Kern will allocate \$415,212.72 for Rapid Re-Housing services. When combined with \$50,000 from the CoC HHAP funds and \$112,838 from City 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.

Operating Subsidies and Reserves

The combined HHAP request for City and County for Operating Subsidies and Reserves is \$2,320,000. The County will allocate \$400,000 for operation of our new low barrier navigation center. It is intended to open in March 2020 with Community Action Partnership of Kern as its operator and County departments to provide many wraparound services. There is space for storage, pets, and partners to enter this facility. This is in conjunction with the City's allocation of \$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. 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.

An allocation of \$250,000 for operating subsidies for a rural navigation center. There are two homeless shelter in Kern County and both are located in metropolitan Bakersfield. The Mission of Kern County with 240 beds and Bakersfield Homeless Center at 175 remain at maximum capacity. Based on our 2019 PIT Count, there are over 800 unsheltered individuals Countywide outside of those housed in these two shelters. There are no low barrier navigation centers located in rural areas and we recognized the desire for our rural homeless to stay in their home city. The City and the County both are opening low barrier shelters in 2020 however these are also in Bakersfield as well. It is the hope of Kern County to assist a rural community to provide this resource elsewhere given the vast size of our region.

Both projects are working with the Housing Authority of Kern County and the City of Bakersfield to add affordable housing options and increase landlord assistance to transition the homeless out of these shelters. The COC has included \$30,000 for landlord assistance in their allocation.

Outreach and Coordination

The County will allocate a total of \$125,000 to outreach and coordination. An allocation of \$100,000 over a two year term funds a veteran outreach worker that need to be restored. An allocation of \$5,000 will assist meal and sanitation services costs at homeless resource fairs for over 8 events in cities across the County. Resource fairs connect homeless to other County and homeless resources. A remaining allocation of \$20,000 will assist outreach services in rural areas in assisting new service providers expand services and connect with County resources while connecting homeless in the city they reside.

Youth

The County's youth set aside of \$116,118 will be utilized to fund a youth specific outreach for a period of two years. This will work in tandem with the COC's allocation of \$125,339 for emergency youth beds and the City of Bakersfield's \$261,258 for youth rental assistance.

HMIS

The County will utilize the 5 percent allocation for CES/HMIS to assist the HMIS Lead, Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, with administrative support which had remained a gap. A portion of the \$72,573 will also fund additional 20 licenses for HMIS over a three year term to expand the coverage and effectiveness of HMIS. Several collaborative meeting with service providers, local officials, healthcare organizations, and many more identified this as a gap.

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 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 pre-conditions, 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 County of Kern 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 County of Kern. Sub-recipients will also report on progress and adherence to the core components of housing first through annual reports to the County.

3. PARTNERS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

To successfully complete this section, all applicants must answer the following questions:

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.

The BKRHC is the HUD recognized continuum of care (CA CoC-604) regional jurisdiction responsible for ending homelessness in Kern County. It is a newly formed 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 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 BKRHC is the administrative entity applying for HHAP funds on behalf of the Bakersfield/Kern County CoC for activities specified in the budget and application narrative, and will allocate and administer HHAP funds to members on the basis of a request for proposals (RFP) process. Non-members who may apply for and receive funds will be required to participate in HMIS and become dues paying members of the CoC. The region covered by the BKRHC includes all of Kern County.

The BKRHC was created in October 2019 to support the Collaborative by serving as its fiscal agent and applicant for HUD CoC and state HHAP grants; providing planning, logistical and administrative support; and acting as its spokespeople. Previously, the United Way of Kern County (UWKC) acted as its fiscal agent and collaborative applicant, and most other functions were performed by volunteers. The BKRHC employs several full-time staff including an executive director who reports to the Executive Board, which is composed of directors appointed by the City, County and CoC. Five percent (5%) of the CoC's HHAP allocation will be used for grant administration.

Creation of the new non-profit has increased the involvement of the City of Bakersfield and County of Kern jurisdictions in the CoC, and opened the door to greater participation by their various departments. City representation in the CoC includes the Planning, Code Enforcement, and Police departments. Membership also includes: Bakersfield College (BC), the Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS) McKinney-Vento representatives, and the Kern

County representation includes the Chief Administrator's Office, Planning and Natural Resources, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Human Services, Aging and Adult Services, Probation department, Sheriff's Office, and, County Veterans' Services, and Employers Training Resource.

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.

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.

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 out-reach 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. The County of Kern also provided its IT staff for the development of a PIT Count app in order

to move away from paper surveys. Members also participate in stakeholder focus groups, complete ESG Priority surveys, and provide annual presentations to the City Council and Board of Supervisors about the state of homelessness in Kern County.

Although it is not known yet all the agencies who will receive HHAP funds from the BKRHC or the City and County jurisdictions, it is possible to describe how collaborative agencies currently partner to address needs identified in the gaps analysis summarized in Section 3.A.3

Outreach. Several agencies including Flood Bakersfield Ministries (Flood), Clinica Sierra Vista (CSV), and the California Veterans Assistance Foundation (CVAF) conduct street outreach activities throughout the county to ensure that the most vulnerable, isolated persons are engaged in services. These agencies coordinate outreach areas to avoid overlap and duplication of services. The outreach teams network with and receive referrals from local service providers, law enforcement, and the public in all communities, and contact emergency responders if and when needed.

CES. CAPK operates the CES system used in Kern County, as described in Section 2.A. 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 BKRHC will allocate HHAP funds will be used to increase CES staffing to ensure timely assessments, per Section 5.A.1. CAPK also was selected as the County's operator of its first low barrier navigation center.

HMIS. KernBHRS administer the HMIS system used to track and report client services and outcomes, and provides training to users who enter data in the system. Currently there are 19 agencies and 78 active users entering data. The HMIS/Data Quality Committee oversees HMIS operation.

Emergency Shelters. Kern County's two main emergency shelters are the Mission at Kern men's dormitory and the Bakersfield Homeless Center (BHC) Family Shelter. Domestic violence shelters include the Alliance Against Family Violence (AAFV) Bakersfield and Delano shelters, ALPHA House in Taft, and the Women's Center – High Desert (WCHC) in Ridgecrest. All shelters are full service programs, offering food, clothing, hygiene, and supportive services ranging from case management to childcare. Between them, they offer a total of 593

beds, more than three-quarters of which are concentrated in Metro Bakersfield. This gap explains the funding for navigation center in a rural area under the County's funding.

Additionally, Flood Bakersfield Ministries coordinates a motel voucher program in rural communities. The City of Bakersfield and County are both developing new 150-bed, low-barrier ES/navigation centers in Metro Bakersfield, expected to open sometime later this year. Eight percent (8%) of the BKRHC's HHAP funds will be used to operate five new youth specific low-barrier beds in an existing ES, per Section 5.A.7.

Respite Care. The BKRHC plans to use HHAP funds to start up a new 15-20 bed medical respite care facility for persons discharged from hospitals who are too ill to sleep in an emergency shelter or on the streets, per Section 5.A.6. The program will probably be operated by CoC member agency Kern Health Systems in partnership with a local hospital. Case management services will be provided to respite care residents by partner agencies listed below, under CM in this section.

Transitional Housing: Four BKRHC member agencies operate a combined total of 10 transitional housing programs with 185 beds, all in Bakersfield, including: 1 DV (AAVF), 4 Veterans' (CVAF), 1 Family (HA), and 5 privately funded faith-based programs (Mission). Under the Housing First approach, public funding of TH has diminished considerably, resulting in a 25% decrease in TH beds over the past 10 years. In addition to 24-hour residential care, all of these facilities offer case management and supportive services, including childcare for the DV and women's programs.

Bridge Housing: Two agencies, including the Housing Authority and CVAF, provide bridge housing (BH) to individuals and families who have a PH voucher but require short-term housing (up to 90 days), typically in a motel or hotel, while awaiting a suitable PH placement.

The CoC Planning and Performance Committee monitors ES and TH occupancy rates on a quarterly basis, as tracked by HMIS.

Permanent Housing. A major objective of the BKRHC, as detailed in its 10-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 UWKC 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 housing. A significant portion of the BKRHC's HHAP request will be used towards rental assistance for PSH to augment limited federal HCV dollars, which have not been sufficient to meet existing needs, per Section 5.A.5.

Rapid Rehousing: Two agencies, including the BHC and CVAF, provide rapid re-housing services, including funds for deposits, short-term (6 month) rental subsidies, and brief case management. HHAP funds will also be used to provide RRH services for an additional 178 households, as detailed in Section 5.A.4.

Housing Development: The Housing Authority and Golden Empire Affordable Housing (GEAHI) have partnered with KernBHRS, the City of Bakersfield, and the County, to develop and operate three supportive housing facilities in Bakersfield, including one HUD SRO and two MHSA projects. Currently, the Housing Authority and KernBHRS have been awarded funds for two NPLH projects and have another application pending.

As described in Sections 2.A & B, CES is the means by which all homeless persons are assessed and prioritized on the Housing Prioritization List, from which they are placed in housing during weekly case conferences held by the Housing Committee. The CoC Planning and Performance Committee also monitors housing placements and retention on a quarterly basis, using HMIS.

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: the BHC, Mission, Flood, KernBHRS, AAFV, WCHD, CAPK, CVAF, GBLA, HA, and the Independent Living Center of Kern County (ILCKC). Between them, they currently

employ 73 case managers who variously provide brief CM to prevent loss of housing, short-term (up to 6-months) CM to provide RRH services, and long-term, ongoing CM for clients in PSH, in partnership with the Housing Authority.

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.

Prevention. The CES began assessing, prioritizing and referring persons at-risk of experiencing homelessness using the Pro-VI-SPDAT on May 19, 2019. The BHC has primary responsibility for providing prevention services to this population, including financial assistance for rental arrears, utility assistance, food, brief case management, and landlord mediation. Prevention strategies are discussed within the Prevention and Discharge Committee. HHAP funds will be used to augment existing prevention funds, per Section 5.A.3.

9. 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 County and Veterans' Stand Down. Members also share a common CES, HMIS database, and system performance measures system. 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.

4. SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

As shown in the budget request, the County of Kern proposes to allocate its HHAP funds for 1) Rapid Rehousing, 2) Operation Subsidies and Reserves-Shelters, 3) Outreach and Coordination, 4) Infrastructure Development-HMIS, and 5) Youth Specific Emergency Shelter. Only 5% of the HHAP budget will be allocated for CoC Administration to allow additional funds for services.

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

Total Individuals Served:

The goal for the total amount of non-duplicative individuals served in all categories of the County of Kern's HHAP grant is 500 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 County of Kern's HHAP grant is 50%. This percentage, when applied to the 500 persons served would amount to 250 persons successfully exiting into permanent housing.

1. 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
 - b. Number of persons who will be served by program: 70
2. Operating Subsidies and Reserves - Shelters: Assist in operating costs for 150 new low barrier navigation center opening March 2020. Funds will assist in operating costs which will later be fully funded by Permanent Local Housing Allocation funds. Individuals served is estimated for shelter residents only. Updated goals will include goals for drop-in clients and individuals served will differ. County will also fund operation subsidies for a rural navigation center.

Goals

- a. Individuals served: 200 individuals annually/ 30 annually (rural)

- b. Decrease jurisdiction's percentage of unsheltered homeless population by 10% annually (baseline of 56% in 2019)
3. Outreach and Coordination: County will fund 1.00 FTE for an outreach worker for veterans only for two years. County will also fund coordination with rural homeless service providers for outreach exits into permanent or temporary housing.

Goals

- c. Individuals served: 50 individuals annually
 - d. Individuals contacted: 4-7 contact engagement per quarter
 - e. Assist in the decrease of unsheltered veterans by 10 percent (baseline of 51% in 2019).
 - f. Decrease homelessness in rural areas by 5% (baseline of 20% in 2019)
4. HMIS: County will provide administrative support and funding for 20 new licenses.

Goals

- a. Provide 20 new licenses for more service providers and navigation centers by end of 2023.
 - b.
5. Youth Outreach: County will fund 1.00 FTE for an outreach worker for youth only for two years.

Goals

- a. Individuals served: Provide successful street outreach exits of homeless youth to temporary or permanent housing: 10% increase in successful exits (60% unsheltered in 2019)



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

APPLICANT INFORMATION

CoC / Large City / County Name:	County Kern	Receiving Redirected Funds? Y/N	No
Administrative Entity Name:	County Administrative Office	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	\$ 415,212.72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 415,212.72
Operating Subsidies and Reserves	\$ 525,000.35	\$ 125,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 650,000.35
Landlord Incentives	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach and Coordination (including employment)	\$ 133,059.00	\$ 108,059.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 241,118.00
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%)	\$ 24,191.30	\$ 24,191.32	\$ 24,191.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72,573.94
Administrative (up to 7%)	\$ 24,191.32	\$ 24,191.32	\$ 24,191.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 72,573.96
TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION						\$ 1,451,478.97
	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	TOTAL
Youth Set-Aside (at least 8%)	\$ 38,706.11	\$ 38,706.11	\$ 38,706.11	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 116,118.33

*Narrative should reflect details of HHAP funding plan

COMMENTS:

FINAL



BAKERSFIELD

THE SOUND OF *Something Better*

Ryan J. Alsop
Kern County Administrative Officer
Kern County Administrative Office
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Subject: HHAP Grant Funding, Regional Coordination and Partnership

Dear Mr. Alsop:

On behalf of the City of Bakersfield (City), I am writing to assure you of our commitment to coordinate and partner with the County of Kern (County), 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).

The City understands that 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. We also understand that both the City and County are active members of the CoC.

In 2018, our CoC established a State Funding Workgroup with representatives from the County, City, and subject matter experts which 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 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



BAKERSFIELD

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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 City acknowledges that the City, County, and BKRHC 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,

Christopher Boyle
Development Services Director

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).

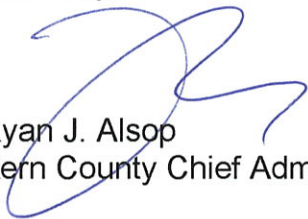
As you know, the County provides most of the social services to our most vulnerable populations and in addition participates in both the BKRHC Executive and Governing Board, which support our Continuum of Care. We understand that to be maximally effective in ending homelessness, we must ensure that HHAP-funded 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.

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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



Ryan J. Alsop
County Administrative Officer
County of Kern, California
1115 Truxtun Ave. 5th Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Subject: HHAP Grant Funding, Regional Coordination and Partnership

Dear Mr. Alsop:

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 County of Kern (County), as well as the City of Bakersfield (City), 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