County of Riverside Revised HHAP Application
March 30, 2020

1. ### SUMMARY OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

   A. **Please see Attachment A for the Riverside County CoC's complete HUD Longitudinal System Assessment (LSA) from October 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018.**

   B. **Use the LSA data to provide (as defined by HUD):**
      a. Total number of households served in:
         i. (1) Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven and Transitional Housing: **3790**
         ii. (2) Rapid Rehousing: **447**
         iii. (3) Permanent Supportive Housing: **1190**
      b. Total number of disabled households served across all interventions: **3028**
      c. Total number of households experiencing chronic homelessness served across all interventions: **578**
      d. Total number of 55+ households served across all interventions: **1388**
      e. Total number of unaccompanied youth served across all interventions: **845***
      f. Total number of veteran households served across all interventions: **1193**
      g. Number of individuals served across all interventions who were
         i. (1) Female: **2281**
         ii. (2) Male: **3551**
         iii. (3) Transgender: **23**
         iv. (4) Gender Non-Conforming: **3**
      h. Total number individuals served across all interventions who were:
         i. (1) White, Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino (only): **2218**
         ii. (2) White, Hispanic/Latino (only): **1899**
         iii. (3) Black or African American (only): **1351**
         iv. (4) Asian (only): **55**
         v. (5) American Indian or Alaska Native (only): **120**
         vi. (5) Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (only): **54**
         vii. (6) Multiple races: **13**

2. DEMONSTRATION OF REGIONAL COORDINATION

A. Coordinated Entry System (CES) Information

1. How Riverside County Coordinates with our CoC's CES

The Riverside County Continuum of Care (CoC) encompasses the entirety of Riverside County's geography and is served by a single Coordinated Entry System (CES).

The County of Riverside coordinates seamlessly with the CoC's CES, owing in part to the roles County departments play in the administration of the CoC as well as the CES.

While Riverside County Department of Public Social Services serves as the collaborative applicant for the CoC, Riverside University Health System – Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) operates the Coordinated Entry System. RUHS-BH serves as the County's department of behavioral health, under the umbrella agency, Riverside University Health System (RUHS). RUHS includes the County medical center, 12 federally qualified health centers (FQHC), the County Public Health Department, and the Behavioral Health Department.

RUHS-BH leads weekly CES meetings attended by over 20 nonprofit and public agencies serving homeless people. This includes staff from the Riverside County (Housing Authority, Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team, RUHS-BH outreach teams, Adult Protective Services), nonprofit homeless services agencies, emergency shelter providers, and others.

In 2018, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors approved adoption of the County Homeless Action Plan and creation of a position in the Executive office, Deputy County Executive Officer – Homelessness Solutions, to coordinate the county's response to homelessness. The Deputy CEO-Homelessness Solutions focuses on the role of County departments in fulfilling their mission external to, but supportive of, the CoC. She also serves as an ex-officio member of the CoC Board of Governance. One County Supervisor, the County Sheriff, and a legislative aid to a County Supervisor, serve as voting members on the CoC Board of Governance.

Because the work of the CES is intrinsically linked to the goals of the County's Action Plan, the Executive Office involves RUHS-BH in planning efforts, and implementation of strategies such as the encampment response.

2. Current Challenges Related to CES, and How We Plan to Address Them

Riverside County faces the following challenges related to CES:

- Geography: One of the greatest challenges is Riverside County's sheer size – 7,300 square miles. Often available housing is located at great distances from

prioritized clients and transporting them to available housing can take hours of staff time; or offered units may not be close enough to public transportation to be viable for the client.

- Lack of affordable housing stock: Historically known for its affordable housing supply compared to its neighboring coastal county, Riverside vacancy rates countywide are 3-4% at all levels of affordability. This creates long waits for voucher-holders as securing units can be difficult. Though 1703 permanent supportive housing beds have been created in the CoC, only 30% are linked to a project-based site and are readily available upon turnover. The remaining scattered site units rely on tenant-based vouchers which depend on the acceptance of private property owners. With Riverside County market rents rising over 5% over the last year (Marcus & Millichap Market Report, Q3/19) the HUD Fair Market Rents (FMRs) have not kept pace, making it increasingly difficult to lease these units.

- COVID-19 Pandemic: This has resulted in limits on existing shelter beds, as well as the economic impact shrinking financial supports for agencies. We are working to secure various means of funding to keep open existing operations and expand to meet the need.

Riverside County seeks to mitigate these challenges in the following ways:

Geography

- The County joins the CoC Board of Governance in strategic planning currently underway. Among the topics to be resolve is the creation of subregions, which may influence how we manage CES moving forward. As it is, Riverside County uses teleconferencing and video conferencing when possible.

Housing

- With approximately 80% of County residents living in cities, the County of Riverside supports affordable and permanent supportive housing development in cities and unincorporated areas by leveraging resources such as *No Place Like Home (NPLH), Whole Person Care (WPC), Section 8/Housing* Choice Voucher Program, and the CalWORKs Housing Support Program to maximize the development of new affordable housing and rental assistance programs to support increased access to housing. Details are provided below, under Section D.

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

Riverside County has developed and implemented Coordinated Entry System (CES) Policies and Procedures in conjunction with the Riverside County Continuum of Care Written Standards to operate its CES system. These guidelines outline the assessment, referral, priority and non-discriminatory protocols for all participatory agencies and service navigators for the full implementation of the CES in accordance with 24 CFR 578.7 (a)(8). The lead CES agency for Riverside County, RUHS-BH,

coordinates marketing and training for CES access point organizations and navigators in the CES system.

Marketing includes HomeConnect branded bracelets, lanyards and bags, printed flyers, and electronic media. CES Lead Agency RUHS-BH gives away thousands of rubber bracelets annually with the CES access number printed on wristband. These are given directly to homeless individuals, to libraries, to warming/cooling centers, to first responders, and to staff at Parks and Open Space and Flood Control, and others who may contact homeless individuals.

The CES lead agency further markets access to the CES by making presentations to housing and services providers and community events. Promotional materials are also distributed at public spaces such as libraries, hospitals, websites, social media, public housing authorities, and other access sites.

In 2019, the CES began leveraging a new effort to use GIS mobile applications to find and support people living in remote encampments who are the most difficult to engage individuals. This effort, headed by the County's Executive Office – Office of Homeless Solutions coordinates with US Forest Service, Code Enforcement, Parks & Open Space, and Flood Control, Sheriff, as well as city personnel to coordinate an integrated service response and connect individuals to CES.

*As of March 20, 2020, Riverside County updated the app to collect information relevant to COVID-19. County departments, City of Riverside and partner agencies have used the app to track notification and acceptance of a motel room. The map dashboard indicates the number of people screened, age, and responses related to the key COVID-19 symptoms, as well as occupancy by motel. Teams are continuing to use the app to inform people in encampments, offer services and check for any potential spread of COVID-19

B. Prioritization Criteria

1. Prioritizing Assistance

Homeless households (singles and families) are prioritized first and foremost according to length of time homeless and severity of service need. Prioritization is based on and aligns with the **[HUD Prioritization Notice CPD-16-11](#)** and *Riverside CoC Written Standards* for permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, emergency shelter and street outreach criteria.

*Prioritization has shifted to seniors and persons with underlying medical conditions who are most at risk of death due to COVID-19. The people who fit the criteria below are not significantly different from our original prioritization.

Prioritizing Chronically Homeless Individuals

PSH is not a one-size-fits-all approach and should only be offered to those households that truly need that level of support. Thus, in order to use our limited resources in the most effective means possible, the Riverside County CoC is committed to prioritizing those most in need through an established order of priority. Within that order of priority, all CoC-PSH funded programs are required to ensure compliance with the "chronically homeless" definition and to fill vacant beds with chronically homeless individuals *(CPD-16-011 (7/25/16))*.

The Riverside County CoC has developed an order of priority to establish a uniform process for prioritizing placement into PSH through the CES. The overarching intent of this order of priority is to ensure that chronically homeless persons with the longest lengths of time homeless and the most severe service needs are prioritized for housing.

If there are no chronically homeless persons within the CoC, then prioritization will be:

1) **First Priority**–Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with Long Periods of Episodic Homelessness and Severe Service Needs

2) **Second Priority**–Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with Severe Service Needs.

3) **Third Priority**—Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability Coming from Places Not Meant for Human Habitation, Safe Haven, or Emergency Shelter Without Severe Service Needs.

4) **Fourth Priority**–Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability Coming from Transitional Housing.

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

The CES Lead Agency is accessible via both verbal and written communication in order to accommodate individual need. As an example, CES regularly use interpretation services and TTY to accommodate consumers of differing verbal and auditory abilities. All CoC funded agencies are expected to comply with Section 504 and Title II regulations. Over and above individual agencies policies and grievance procedures, if a consumer reports that they cannot access a service on the basis of their disability the CES Lead Agency communicates this to our CoC Collaborative Applicant and works with the individual to identify an accommodation in order to meet their need.

C. Coordination of Regional Needs

1. Partnerships to Identify Share of Regional Need

The County of Riverside covers the same geography as the Riverside County Continuum of Care and encompasses all the cities within the County. The partnership between the County, the CoC and the cities relates to the role the county can and does play with respect to health and human services, housing, public safety, open space management, and emergency management.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors are actively engaged in addressing homelessness in their respective districts and working through the County Executive Office to organize department resources and coordinate with cities and nonprofit partners.

Continuum of Care Coordination
The County of Riverside coordinates with the Continuum of Care in the following ways:

- The Department of Public Services CORE division has historically served as the Continuum of Care applicant to HUD. On March 17, 2020, the Board of Governance approved moving the Continuum of Care responsibilities to a newly created department at the County, currently operating under the name of Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions. The new department will assume the following activities previously handled by DPSS staff:

  1) Provide meeting support for the Board of Governance and all Continuum of Care committees. This includes the legally required public notices, communications to membership, meeting agendas and minutes, and any data and materials required for the meeting.

  2) Management of the annual point-in-time (PIT) count, and release of the annual PIT Count report

  3) Submission of the Continuum of Care application, providing data and review of narrative

  4) Manage funding processes, including development and release of the Notices of Funding Availability, recruitment of proposal reviewers, management of the proposal review process and presentation of recommendations to the Board of Governance

- Board of Governance Representation:

  1) Supervisor Chuck Washington has left the board, replaced by Supervisor Karen Spiegel. She and Greg Rodriguez, aide to Supervisor V. Manuel Perez, serve as voting members. Natalie Komuro, County Executive Office Deputy CEO – Homelessness Solutions serves as an ex-officio member.

2) Riverside County Executive Office: Deputy CEO – Homelessness Solutions works with the Board of Governance Chair and Continuum of Care staff to ensure CoC planning and implementation of the County's Homeless Action Plan remain aligned.

2. County identified share of this need, and How the Requested Funds Will Help Us Meet the Need

Riverside County shares 100% of the need geographically in unincorporated areas, but within the county's 28 cities shares responsibility for housing and human services. We seek to most effectively target our resources by implementing strategies that cannot be addressed by existing and expected City resources, or by the Continuum of Care. For example, in partnership with the City of Riverside, the County's housing authority supplies Section 8 vouchers to formerly chronically homeless adults who completed 12 months in housing subsidized by the City's tenant-based rental assistance.

For the HHAP program funding, we have identified the following priorities for County leadership:

a. Facilitate more timely leasing of permanent housing by cultivating relationships with rental property owners, and providing support when issues arise with tenants. This line has been reduced from $700,000 to $400,000.

b. Addition of operating subsidies and reserves: $250,000. This is anticipation of new operating needs related to our County's pandemic response.

c. Landlord incentives: $50,000 in flexible funding to ensure clients can be efficiently placed in permanent housing.

d. Outreach and Coordination, $1,282,786 to:

1. Reduce the number of homeless encampments by providing long-term, wraparound services to address the complicated needs of people living in encampments. The request is to pilot this project for the Santa Ana River, an area managed by 18 different entities, including the cities of Riverside, Jurupa Valley, Eastvale, Norco, and Corona, and Riverside County Flood Control District and Riverside County Parks and Open Space. Where appropriate, the County team will support efforts led by the cities. This effort is expected to continue, supported by a updates to our mobile app that additionally collect information pertinent to COVID-19 response, including documenting report symptoms of people interviewed.

2. End Senior homelessness. This is a commitment made by the County Department heads and has been proposed for the State's 100 Day challenge. A county-wide team specializing in the needs of

older adults will lead the service planning to move them from homelessness to stability in permanent housing. This goal has not changed, and the pandemic heightens the urgency of our response.

    e.   Systems Support to Create Regional Partnerships: $100,000 will support the County's efforts to continue critically needed work to build subregional capacity within the County.

    f.   Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing: $371,413.93 is allocated in anticipation of the economic impact of COVID-19.

    g.   Reducing youth homelessness by working collaboratively with youth providers and coordinating with the CoC and cities of Riverside and Palm Springs. This project will move forward unchanged, with $245,419.99 allocated to Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing.

    h.   Strategic Planning: $153,837.50 to support the transition of the CoC to a new department, and the ongoing implementation of the CoC's strategic planning initiated under the HEAP grant.

D. Creating Sustainable, Long Term Housing Solutions
1. How Riverside County is creating sustainable, long-term housing solutions countywide.

Riverside County is involved in the following planning and coordination efforts to create sustainable, long-term housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness across our region:

Land use Planning: Riverside County Planning's application for an SB2 Planning Grant is currently under review at the State.

Creation of Permanent Supportive Housing through No Place like Home: RUHS – Behavioral Health received $23.7 million in funding to create 162 permanent supportive housing for individuals with severe and persistent mental illness who are homeless, chronically homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The Housing Authority of Riverside County also contributed 162 housing vouchers.

Integrated programming for frequent utilizers. Whole Person Care: Riverside County Probation Department, Riverside University Health System Medical Center and Behavioral Health

Lift To Rise Capital Campaign: Nonprofit and County collaborative initiative to build 2,000 additional affordable housing units in Coachella Valley. Projects will target multi-family rental units, new mobile homes, rehabilitated homes and single-family homes.

CalWORKs Housing Support Program: The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) administers the HSP program for CalWORKs eligible families who are experiencing homelessness in partnership with the Housing Authority of the

County of Riverside and Riverside University Health System (RUHS) – Behavioral Health. The program provides interim/bridge housing, rapid rehousing and transitions eligible households who require ongoing rental assistance to a Section 8 voucher.

Housing Choice Voucher Program: The County's Housing Authority of the County of Riverside has established a homeless admission preference in its Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program. Up to 15% of annual admissions is targeted for an extraordinary local preference for referrals from the CoC CES system for those who are not eligible for HUD funded housing through the CoC and are able to live independently with minimal supports. Additionally, the Housing Authority's "Moving on Initiative" allows for individuals who have utilized a special rental assistance program for six months to graduate to a Housing Choice Voucher during their 7th month.

3. RESOURCES ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

A. Existing Programs and Resources

Federal Funding

Program	FY 18/19 Budget
Behavioral Health - HUD	$ 149,366
HUD - CoC	$ 9,593,077
HUD - HOME	$ 136,024
HUD - Housing Choice Voucher	$ 4,887,358
HUD - ESG	$ 678,024
HUD - CDBG	$ 655,724
EFSP	$ 344,072
Federal Total	**$ 17,317,573**

State Funding

Program	FY 18/19 Budget	Total Grant Allocation
Full Service Partnership	211,950	
MHSA Grant	1,355,088	
AB 109 Housing	1,998,772	
Behavioral Health - MHSA & HUD Grant Combined Funding	6,887,251	
Behavioral Health - Wraparound Grant	1,759	
Behavioral Health - Prop 47 Grant	99,386	
State ESG	720,962	
Home Safe		1,900,000
HEAP		9,791,805
CESH		1,344,336
CAPI Program	5,120,471	
THP Plus	864,991	
State Totals	**$ 17,260,630**	**$ 13,036,141**

Local Funding

Program	FY 18/19 Budget
Encampment Patrol/Response Activities	308,230
Outreach	352,427
County-run Shelters	1,218,576
General Assistance Program	12,750,959
CORP Homeless Court Program	88,136
Local Total	**$ 14,718,328**

Federal/State/Local Funding Mix

Program	FY 18/19 Budget	Sources
Primary, Emergency Health Care, ICU	3,863,749	Federal, State, other grants, non-reimbursed; Varies: Medical, Medicare, IEHP, Self-pay
Homeless Program Staffing	1,980,576	County General Fund, CoC, ESG
Licensed Board & Care Facilities	30,000	44.6% Federal 38.8% Realignment 16.6% County
Motel Vouchers & Other Services	23,000	44.6% Federal 38.8% Realignment 16.6% County
HDAP	1,384,466	50% State/ 50% county match
Safe Haven Shelter	72,000	45.2% Federal 54.8% Realignment
Emergency Shelter	112,000	Occupied Beds: CWS ($26,746) 47% Federal / 35% Realignment /18% County. Unoccupied Beds: ($85,250) 100% County
Emergency Living Expenses (CWS)	19,246	Fed-47%, Realignment-35%, County-18%
Temp/Emergency Youth Shelter Services	130,200	42% Federal/ 58% State; unoccupied beds 100% County
CalWORKs Housing Support	2,547,000	HSP Federal - 100% Federal HSP Non-Federal & Non-MOE - 100% State General fund
CalWORKs Perm & Temp Homeless Assistance	3,302,203	Fed/State/County
Mixed Funding Total	**$ 13,464,440**	

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

The County takes into consideration the practices and priorities of the CoC and cities when allocating its own funding. County staffs serve on CoC and regional boards as voting and ex-officio members and bring this knowledge to County-driven funding processes. Informally shared principles include:

- Geographic equity
- Leveraging existing investments in services and housing
- Developing capacity in underserved areas

In one example of seizing an opportunity to leverage resources, the City of Riverside uses HOME-TBRA funding for the first 12 months of the Housing First Pilot Project, and if the tenant needs ongoing subsidy, the Housing Authority of the County of Riverside uses Section 8 to continue the support.

The CoC Board of Governance determines the funding awards for CoC, HEAP, CoC HHAP, and CESH funding. Nonprofit and public agencies apply for this funding, at times leveraging other sources, such as CDBG and ESG.

2. Current gaps in housing and homeless services in Riverside County?

The jurisdiction of Riverside County has gaps in mental health services, housing subsidies, and technology to support collaboration.

As one of the fastest growing counties in the country, Riverside lags in per capita funding for essential services because funding has been based on 2010 census data. This situation is further exacerbated by state realignment of funding for public/mental health and social services. As a result, Riverside County receives half the revenue of what most counties in California receive for these critically-needed services: $17.85 per capita in Riverside County, compared to $33.98, the median for all 58 counties. Riverside County incurs annual losses of approximately $70 million due to disparate funding formulas, as well as associated federal matching funds, for a total of $140 million annually.

In housing, the Housing Authority of Riverside County has a waitlist of 80,000, as well as 800 voucher holders seeking housing at any given time.

In addition to gaps in County-operated services, we see a need for short-term housing beds throughout Riverside County, in particular in western Riverside County, mid-county/ "Pass" area, the southwest cities, western Coachella Valley, and in Blythe, which is 100 miles from the nearest shelter. While short-term housing provides the logistical support needed by agencies as they work to find housing for their homeless clients, there also is a growing need for affordable permanent housing throughout Riverside County. Because 80% of the County's population live in incorporated cities, those areas would likely be the

most suitable location for new or expanded services and housing. The County is also researching suitable sites adjacent to cities.

The County's experience in attaining functional zero for homeless veterans demonstrates the capacity of the county to successfully meet ambitious goals. However, other subpopulations, lacking the same type of resource commitment, are proving more difficult to move to housing. This HHAP submission seeks to strategically target resources geographically and in terms of service gaps for encampment dwellers, youth and aging adults.

Regarding technology, collaborative efforts such as Whole Person Care and the encampment response have required additional planning to integrate data collection practices and technology. To support case collaboration, Riverside County was instrumental in drafting AB210, to support data collection among multidisciplinary teams service homeless adults and families. The bill was signed into law October 7, 2017, facilitating case coordination. Esri GIS mapping applications have supported the coordination of services to homeless encampments. These early efforts are forming the foundation for further assessment and planning for technology solutions.

B. HHAP Funding Plans

1. **How Riverside County plans to use the full amount of HHAP funding, including the youth set-aside, and how it will complement existing funds to close identified gaps.**

Riverside County intends to use HHAP funding to support implementation of key pieces of our Homeless Action Plan. The County Homeless Action Plan focuses on the responsibility of County Departments to prevent and end homelessness, and is intended to complement the planning of cities and the Continuum of Care. The strategies are organized in terms of a) impact related to long-term prevention of homelessness; b) focused reductions in specific populations (youth, families, seniors, and encampment dwellers); c) capacity building in the array interim and long-term housing, as well as services; and d) employing key principles and methods, such as client-centered service delivery, and technology and collaboration to ensure impact, transparency, and accountability.

Following the HHAP spending categories, the County of Riverside proposes the following:

- Rental Assistance/Rapid Rehousing: Original request: $700,000 over two years for staffing to recruit landlords and facilitate more timely housing placement, funding as needed for deposits and transportation to housing interviews. Change: Keep $400,000 for rental assistance and rapid rehousing, move balance of $300,000 to operating subsidies and reserves ($250,000) and Landlord Incentives ($50,000). The budget will show an additional $245,419.99 for youth housing placement services.

- Outreach and Coordination: $1,282,786, including $782,786 to establish a multi-disciplinary team to address homeless encampments in ecologically sensitive areas, and $500,000 to expand services to homeless older adults as part of our 100 Day challenge to end senior homelessness, now integrated with with COVID-19 response.

- Systems Support to Create Regional Partnerships: $100,000 for the Executive Office to support regional coordination with cities by facilitating planning, cross-training, and collaborative proposals, to promote more effective utilization of county services to prevent and address homelessness.

- Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing: $371,413.93 to assist 310 households.

- Strategic Homelessness Planning: $153,385.50, administered by the Department of Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions to promote County initiatives that will strengthen the Continuum of Care.

- Youth Set-Aside: $245,419.99 to support a Youth Care Team to engage youth participants issues Family Unification Vouchers. This complements the plans of the Youth Action Board, and investments by City of Riverside, City of Palm Springs, and Riverside County Continuum of Care in services for homeless youth. The County of Riverside Housing Authority administers Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers to emancipated foster youth. This project seeks funding to provide needed wraparound support services to 75 youth eligible for vouchers. The need for these services became evident when only 5 of 42 youth issues FUP vouchers were able to secure housing this fiscal year (2019-20).

- Administration: $214,742.49 to track use of program funds, monitor progress and report results.

These investments complement City efforts to address homeless encampments in open space areas and protected habitats along the Santa Ana river; dramatically improve housing placement rates for homeless older adults by providing wrap around county services; and to support our youth advisory board priority for ensuring emancipated foster youth successfully secure housing and engage in services to support their long-term self-sufficiency. The systems coordination will supports regional coordination efforts currently under way among cities via their associations of government. Strategic planning funding will support the recently approved transition of the CoC to the new department of Housing, Homelessness Prevention and Workforce Solutions.

2. **How HHAP funded projects will align and comply with the core components of Housing First as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code § 8255(b).**

Per direction from HUD, Riverside County has been compliant with Housing First standards and will continue to be so. Because Riverside County HHAP-funded projects will operate client-centered programming, we will ensure that the services and housing for clients will include harm reductions options as needed and desired by the program participants.

4. PARTNERS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

A. Collaborating Partner Efforts

1. HHAP Project Collaborative Partners

The County of Riverside will be working with the following partners:

Rental Assistance/Rapid Rehousing: Riverside County Housing Authority will administer this program and accept referrals from County Departments including Behavioral Health, Sheriff's Department, Department of Public Social Services. As the program becomes established, it will open to non-county partners as needed.

Operating Subsidies and Reserves: Riverside County will coordinate with the Continuum of Care to ensure that grants complement, and not duplicate, their investments to ensure shelter and other short-term housing operators can remain open.

Landlord incentives: These will be used as mitigation funds in support of rapid rehousing. Administered by the Housing Authority County in support of Youth and Senior Partners. Expanded to other partners as resources permit.

Outreach and Coordination for Encampments: Partners include Executive Office, Behavioral Health, Housing Authority, Probation, Sheriff's Department, Code Enforcement, Emergency Management Department, Parks and Open Space, Flood Control, Animal Services, U.S. Forest Service, California Department of Fish and Game, CalTrans, and the cities of Riverside, Corona, Norco, Jurupa Valley and Eastvale. In addition, Riverside County Information Technology, using Esri geographic information systems, will continue to support with mobile app and dashboard development.

Outreach and Coordination for Homeless Seniors will be partnering with the following County departments: Office on Aging, Adult Protective Services, Behavioral Health, Probation, Housing Authority, Community Action Partnership. Students at University of California, Riverside have been assisting with data analysis and mapping.

Systems Support to Create Regional Partnerships: The County will continue its work with Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the Western Riverside Council of Governments, the 2nd District task force of cities convened by Supervisor Spiegel, the 3rd

District Homeless Alliance Task Force of cities, convened by Supervisor Washington, and the Regional Homeless Alliance of the cities in southwest Riverside County. The Executive Office will also work with the 1st and 5th Districts to develop more formalized structures for subregional coordination. Additional stakeholders include the Riverside County Office of Education and local Tribes.

Prevention and Shelter Diversion: With priority for seniors, key partners will be the Office on Aging, and Adult Protective Services.

Youth services: Riverside County Housing Authority, Department of Public Social Services, Continuum of Care Youth Advisory Board, United Way of Inland Valleys.

Strategic Homeless Planning: Riverside Continuum of Care membership (includes County departments, cities, nonprofit organizations, including faith-based organizations, and businesses); and Youth Advisory Board.

In employing a client-centered approach to services, all efforts will be responding to the priorities of people experiencing homelessness.

2. Barriers to Partnership

Riverside County already has a strong culture of collaboration across county departments and with our nonprofit partners, including weekly CES meetings and monthly Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings. Thus, the most difficult challenge for many communities, the will to act, is not the most significant challenge here. The barriers we face tend to be more practical:

Geography: Riverside County encompasses 7300 square miles. In-person meetings thus consume significant amounts of travel time and costs. When possible, we use teleconferencing and videoconferencing.

Lack of continuity in funding: For this we need to find ways to secure more multi-year funding commitments to successfully realize a shared vision. This will ensure that investments have the time to build and demonstrate impact. Creating more stability in funding for homeless programs, including the cultivation of our philanthropic sector, is part of the County's Homeless Action Plan.

Dogmatic policy: While the harm reduction principle in housing first practice is an important best practice, the blanket requirement for *all* programs receiving this funding effectively shuts out people who prefer a sober environment. It is also problematic when smaller communities must serve families with children and adults in the same physical space. The push for coordinated entry has also created barriers to having a streamlined and timely response to geographically concentrated encampments, since not all encampment dwellers will score highly enough on the assessment tool to be prioritized for housing. We are seeking ways to create a viable pathway to housing that is client-centered and grounded in client self-determination, an early principle of HUD's Continuum of Care.

3. *Collaborative Partners.*

We consider the relationships across County Departments to be critically important collaborative partnerships, particularly as the County seeks to overcome a legacy of siloed services. As noted throughout this application, partnerships with the cities in our County and with nonprofit organizations are also essential to our success. As this landscape is continually evolving, we expect to see additional partners join us as we move forward with our Homeless Action Plan.

5. SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

- **Measurable Goals, including numbers served and placed in housing.**

HHAP funding will enable us to accomplish the funding:

Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing: With some of the earliest cases of COVID-19 occurring in Riverside County's desert communities, the economic impact of event closures such as the Coachella and Stagecoach Festivals were immediately felt. We are already experiencing higher demand for housing assistance. In the first four hours of launching, the County's HomeConnect housing hotline received over 200 calls.

Funding for this project will expand and deepen the County's outreach to rental housing owners, and provide the financial assistance needed to ensure housing found is housing secured. Currently 800 voucher holders are seeking units in the county. These program participants are often hampered by a history of bad credit, and limited expertise in seeking housing. This program will augment the County's existing orientation to voucher holders and specifically target support to the pilot projects to be funded under HHAP: encampment dwellers, seniors and youth. **We anticipate that this project will facilitate 240 housing placements in the first year.**

Rental Assistance/Rapid Rehousing	Monthly Average	Annual
Enrolled	25	300
Placed in Housing	80% (20)	80% (240)

Operating Subsidies and Reserves: [new] $250,000. The need to limit the number of people in a given space, a dramatic drop-off in in-kind and cash donations, and continuing uncertainty have left some housing programs at risk of closure, or in need of funding to expand their hours. This program will offer homeless people more sheltering options by supporting existing programs that are struggling. This funding will be coordinated with the disaster relief funding also coming to the county for COVID-19 mitigation and recovery.

Recipients of this funding will be required to document destination of program exits; however this may be challenging to document, accounting for lower documented placement rates.

Operating Subsidies	Monthly Average	Annual
New Contacts	12	140
% Placed in Housing	25% (3)	25% (35)

Landlord Incentives: [new] $50,000

Landlord Incentives	Monthly Average	Annual*
New Contacts	10	50
Moved to Housing	100% (10)	100% (50)

Outreach and Coordination: $1,282,786 for two discreet programs.
1. Encampment Response: $782,786 to develop a multidisciplinary approach that will result in at least 36 people living in homeless encampments moving to permanent housing in one year. Additional impacts: holistic, long-term engagement of services to build client capacity to sustain employment, minimizing if not altogether eliminating the need for housing subsidies; improved health and well-being of program participants; improved capacity of County departments to provide focused and collaborative service; supports the restoration of sensitive ecological habitats. This program creates an outreach team dedicated to the Executive Office's implementation of encampment protocols developed in 2019. The project is further supported by GIS mapping to spacially track efforts and demographic information.

Encampment Response Team	Monthly Average	Annual
New Contacts	20	240
Accepting Services	12	144
Placed in Housing	25% (3)	25% (36)

2. Older Adults/Seniors: $500,000 to establish key staff in three areas of the county to promote access to services and coordinate the identification, assessment and expedited housing placement of homeless adults age 55 and older. Leverage existing mainstream programs, and provide essential wraparound behavioral health, health, and legal services to support their stability in permanent housing. This pilot project is expected to house at least 72 homeless adults age 55 and older. The project will include continuous program assessment to track types and extent of particular needs, and identify and address service gaps. Staffing will adjust accordingly.

HHAP Senior Care Team	Monthly Average	Annual
New Homeless Contacts	30	360
Placed in Housing	50% (15)	50% (180)

Systems Support to Create Regional Partnerships: $100,000 to the Executive Office to further develop its outreach, support and collaboration with cities to address homelessness.

Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing: $371,413.93, administered by the Housing, Homeless Prevention and Workforce Solutions Department in anticipation of increased need due to COVID-19 economic impacts.

Prevention & Diversion	Monthly Average	Annual (or until exhausted)
New Contacts	50	400
Diversion to Permanent Housing (includes retention in housing)	80% (40)	80% (360)

Youth: Funding will support improved utilization of Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers by emancipated foster youth. The Youth Care Team will provide wraparound support services to 75 youth eligible for vouchers to ensure they secure permanent housing and have enough support to remain stably housed. Goal: Place 50 youth in Year 1.

Youth Care Team	Monthly Average	Annual
New Contacts	10	120
Placed in Housing	50% (5)	50% (60)

Strategic Planning: The county will apply these resources to data collection and analysis, including mapping, as well as convenings to further our understanding of what practices are working and what needs improvement. In reframing our Homeless Action Plan, we have targeted our priorities to long-term prevention strategies to reduce the number of new homeless families and individuals, developing key partnerships with schools to address families and youth experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and mobilizing our resources to more effectively move people out of homelessness as quickly as possible.

In additional the benefits to homeless individuals, these programs will serve to build the County's capacity for cross agency collaboration, "whatever it takes" approach to service delivery, and continuity to ensure ongoing performance despite inevitable staff turnover. This includes a standard practice of team meetings to identify and address issues and

barriers, cross training to support more efficient service delivery, and documentation of refinements made to improve program performance.

End

We appreciate the partnership and support from the State of California.

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

APPLICANT INFORMATION

CoC / Large City / County Name:	County of Riverside
Administrative Entity Name:	County of Riverside

Receiving Redirected Funds? Y/N	No
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	$ 645,419.99		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 645,419.99
Operating Subsidies and Reserves	$ 250,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 250,000.00
Landlord Incentives	$ 50,000.00		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 50,000.00
Outreach and Coordination (including employment)	$ 1,282,786.00		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 1,282,786.00
Systems Support to Create Regional Partnerships	$ 100,000.00	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 100,000.00
Delivery of Permanent Housing		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing	$ 371,413.93	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 371,413.93
New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Strategic Homelessness Planning, Infrastructure Development, CES, and HMIS (up to 5%)	$ 153,387.50	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 153,387.50
Administrative (up to 7%)	$ 214,742.49		$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 214,742.49

TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION

$ 3,067,749.91

	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	TOTAL
Youth Set-Aside (at least 8%)	$ 245,419.99	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 245,419.99

*Narrative should reflect details of HHAP funding plan

COMMENTS:

FINAL

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

GEORGE A. JOHNSON
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER

LISA BRANDL
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

DON KENT
ASSISTANT COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COUNTY FINANCE OFFICER

February 11, 2020

Ms. Alicia Sutton, Deputy Secretary of Homelessness
Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council
915 Capitol Mall, Suite 350-A
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Sutton:

The County of Riverside, the Riverside Continuum of Care, and the cities of Palm Springs and Riverside are pleased to provide this letter of mutual support for the application for California Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program.

We have been working collaboratively in the following ways and will continue to use these methods for ongoing oversight and evaluation of HHAP spending and projects:

A. **Continuum of Care Board of Governance:** Riverside City and County have elected officials representing as voting members; Palm Springs participates in CoC meetings. The Board of Governance meet every other month, with committees meeting in the intervening months.

B. **Coachella Valley Association of Governments:** City of Palm Springs and County of Riverside participate on the Homeless Subcommittee and in regional homeless services planning and funding. The subcommittee meets monthly.

C. **Western Riverside County of Governments (WRCOG):** City and County of Riverside are members and participate with other cities in coordinated planning related to homelessness.

D. **Encampment Response:** Riverside County's Executive Office coordinates the use of Riverside County services, and CoC funded outreach to support City of Riverside's and other city outreach to homeless encampments.

E. **Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH),** collaborates with the Riverside city's outreach team and supports the City's effort to house and serve homeless clients with persistent mental illness. RUHS-BH operates The Place on the City's Hulen Place campus, providing 24-hour drop-in services, and low-demand permanent supportive housing for 25 adults.

F. In 2018, the City and County of Riverside signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create the Riverside Housing First Program to housing 100 chronically homeless adults. In the pilot project, the City of Riverside identifies chronically unsheltered and vulnerable homeless individuals and families for referral, funds security and utility deposits and the initial 12-month subsidy, as well as up to 6 months of case management to participants that transition into the County's Housing Choice/Section 8 Voucher program.

ROBERT T. ANDERSEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
4080 LEMON STREET • FOURTH FLOOR • RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501 • (951) 955-1110 • FAX (951) 955-1034

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Riverside County commits up to 100 Housing Choice Vouchers annually, and provides coordination of Continuum of Care resources, Coordinated Entry System housing navigation and matching, and assistance in accessing mainstream benefits administered by the Department of Public Social Services. City and County staff meet regularly to discuss project progress and address any impediments.

To date, 89 formerly homeless households have been placed into permanent housing through this partnership.

Riverside County commits to continuing the Housing First Project meetings as well as the following:
- Coordinated Entry System meetings – meetings are every Tuesday
- Multi-disciplinary Team meetings to troubleshoot difficult cases – meets monthly
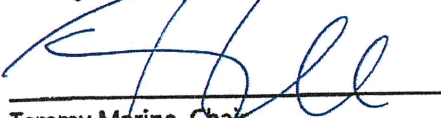
In addition to the above, representatives from our respective organizations participate in these coordinating efforts that will also support HHAP implementation:
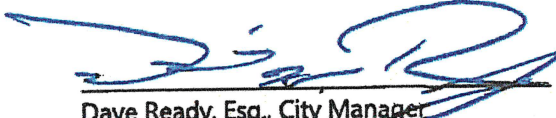- Western Riverside Cities – a collaborative focused on regional planning to address homelessness, led by the City of Riverside. Meetings anticipated to be bi-monthly. Includes the cities of Corona, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Norco, Moreno Valley and Riverside, as well as City and County of San Bernardino.
- Riverside County 2nd District cities meeting, convened by Supervisor Karen Spiegel, this includes the cities of Corona, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Norco and Riverside.
- Riverside County 3rd District Homeless Task Force Meeting. Convened by Supervisor Chuck Washington, this meeting includes the cities of Hemet, Murrieta, San Jacinto and Temecula.
- Riverside County 4th District Coachella Valley Homeless Engagement & Action Response Team (CVHEART) collaboration of government and nonprofit organizations serving and housing homeless people in the Coachella Valley.

Lastly, the City of Riverside has collaborated with affordable housing developers, non-profit agencies, and County Riverside University Health System Behavioral Health to procure No Place Like Home Funding for three affordable housing communities totaling up to 195 units with 94 units designated as NPLH.

We appreciate the State's investment in our collaboration and look forward to sharing the impact of this investment in the coming years.

George Johnson, County Executive Officer
County of Riverside

Tammy Marine, Chair,
Riverside County Continuum of Care
Board of Governance

Dave Ready, Esq., City Manager
City of Palm Springs

Moises Lopez, Deputy City Manager
City of Riverside