Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Grant Program

Submission ID NOFA-HHAP00102

Applicant Information

Eligible Applicant Name:
Eligible Applicant Name Response: Merced

Eligible Applicant Type:
Eligible Applicant Type Response: County

COC Number:
COC Number Response: 520

Eligible Applicant Email:
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Eligible Applicant Phone:
Eligible Applicant Phone Response: (209) 385-3000

Administrative Entity Name and Address:
Administrative Entity Name and Address Response:
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Merced, CA   953410112

Is This a Government Entity?
Is This a Government Entity Response: Yes

Primary Contact Information

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Applicant Redirections?

Applicant Redirections Response:
Applicant Redirections Response: No

1. Homelessness Response System Gaps Assessment

When determining local funding priorities, it is critical to understand the current gaps in the local homelessness response system. Each community faces unique challenges in reducing and ending homelessness, so an assessment of current resources and understanding the needs yet to be fulfilled is critical to ensuring the effective and efficient use of new resources. This can be done in various ways and can include conducting a community needs assessment, holding local public forums, talking with service providers and people experiencing homelessness, and utilizing HUD's seven system-level performance measures that help communities gauge their progress in preventing and ending homelessness.

To successfully complete this section of the application, applicants will need to provide the following:

1. A narrative description of the most recent assessment process used to determine local gaps in housing services for persons experiencing homelessness in the applicant's community. Information should include but is not limited to:

    a. How data collection methods were used to determine gaps (ie: HUD's homeless Point-in-Time count, Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count, Longitudinal Systems Analysis, and Stella tools, HMIS Annual Performance Reports for Emergency Shelter (ES), Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), as well as any recently conducted local needs assessments);

    Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1a - Begin Answer
    Primary sources of data used to determine gaps are Point In Time Count data and our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)/ COC Longitudinal System Assessment data, the COC Racial Equity Analysis Tool, the COC Outcomes by Race and Ethnicity report, and a COC Three Year Funding Plan developed by the Merced County Executive Office in December 2020. Other data utilized was from the American Community Survey, US Census Bureau, and CA Department of Finance.
    Merced County's homeless system planning has also been guided by a variety of plans, described below:
    2019-2020 Merced Community Regional Homeless Plan (Draft July 2019)
    This plan identifies immediate and long term needs of Merced County, presents initiatives toward meeting those needs, and frames objectives in achieving these initiatives. The plan is undergoing review as it provides a framework upon which future project funding is based.

2019-2020 New Direction Outreach & Engagement Center Annual Report

The New Direction Outreach and Engagement Center is available to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness. The report is a comprehensive summary of the individuals who were served between July 2019 and June 2020; the age group, ethnicity and other demographics of the individuals served; how long the individual has been homeless; the county in which the individual first became homeless; and other information highly useful in conducting a gaps analysis.

The New Direction- Outreach & Engagement Center is operated by Turning Point Community Programs. Merced County has contracted with Turning Point for services since September 2017.

2020 No Place Like Home Community Plan for Merced County, November 2020

First drafted in 2017 and revised in 2020, the No Place Like Home Community Plan provides a summary of strategies and activities in Merced County addressing homelessness; analyzes number of homeless by jurisdiction; number of available beds, then estimates need for permanent supportive housing units.

2020 Rethinking Homelessness Merced County Strategic Analysis Report

Assesses the Merced County region's data and presents specific recommendations to address homelessness more effectively. These recommendations include improvements in HMIS participation; a reorganization of the COC; and increasing Rapid Rehousing options for youth, veterans, families and the chronically homeless. The project lead was a formerly homeless individual.

2015-2020 City of Merced Consolidated Plan, May 2015

Assesses Merced's housing needs and the current housing market; the needs of the homeless; and recommends strategies to address the housing needs of homeless and persons at risk of homelessness, including permanent and permanent supportive housing. The City's Consolidated Plan includes a discussion of housing challenges in areas where concentrations of racial and ethnic minorities are located.

2019-2022 Merced County Mental Health Services Act Three Year Plan

The Mental Health Services Act of 2004 increased funding for community mental health delivery systems to transform to a model promoting intervention, treatment and recovery from mental illness. The Three Year Plan assesses local capacity, defines gaps, and sets forth a plan to deliver programming to fill these gaps, and reduce the negative outcomes that may result from untreated mental illness. Homelessness is one of those identified negative outcomes.

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1a - End Answer

b. How people with lived experience of homelessness had ongoing meaningful and purposeful opportunities to participate in and inform the most recent gaps assessment and how they have meaningful opportunities to inform all levels of system planning over time;

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1b - Begin Answer
The COC Board and COC committee members include several persons who are formerly homeless. They participate regularly in funding decisions and regional planning discussions.
Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1b - End Answer

c. How organizations that have historically served communities of color but may not have previously participated formally in the CoC and may not be a part of the homelessness provider community had meaningful and purposeful opportunities to participate in and inform the most recent gaps assessment and how they will be engaged in system planning over time;

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1c - Begin Answer
The COC Board and COC committee members represent many organizations that serve communities of color. They participate regularly in funding decisions and regional planning discussions.
Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1c - End Answer

d. How gaps were assessed for special populations such as families, youth, victims of domestic violence, seniors, persons who have been convicted of a crime, persons with a disability, persons who are chronically homeless, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons who are LGBTQ, veterans, persons with limited English proficiency, and persons who are undocumented;

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1d - Begin Answer
The COC Racial Equity Analysis Tool, COC HUD Longitudinal Assessment, HUD 2019 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Populations and Subpopulations report, 2019 COC Point in Time Count, data from the Merced COC Subcommittee on Ending Veteran Homelessness, and COC Homeless Response Local Investment Plan ESG-CV Round 2 were reviewed. This data was used to assess gaps in assistance for families, youth, veterans, seniors and persons who are chronically homeless.
Regarding the gaps assessment for veterans, the Merced COC Subcommittee on Ending Veteran Homelessness is composed of a Fresno Veteran Affairs Office community planner, a Fresno Veteran

Affairs HUD VASH social worker, the lead advocate and journey advocate for San Joaquin Valley Veterans, the Merced County Veteran Services Officer, and a Management Analyst with the County of Merced Executive Office.

The Subcommittee follows the guidelines set out by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness metrics to reach functional zero by June 30, 2021. Compiling names extracted from the Homeless Management Information System and by direct referral from homeless service providers, the Subcommittee meets on a biweekly basis to review a by-name list of verified veterans experiencing homelessness and assign appropriate resources to that individual. As of December 14, 2020 24 veterans are known to be homeless in Merced County, and 17 of them have been sheltered.

We do not have reliable data for several special populations such as persons who have been convicted of a crime, persons who are LGBTQ, persons with limited English proficiency, or persons who are undocumented.

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1d - End Answer

e. How racial or ethnic disparities in the delivery of homeless services were assessed;

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1e - Begin Answer
The COC Racial Equity Analysis Tool, the COC Outcomes by Race and Ethnicity report, data from the US Census, and COC HUD Longitudinal Assessment were reviewed. In this way, the ethnicity of Merced County residents overall was compared to the ethnicity of homeless persons who have received assistance from Merced County providers.
Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1e - End Answer

f. How frequently gaps assessments are conducted;

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1f - Begin Answer
Gaps assessments are conducted whenever required; approximately once each year.
Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1f - End Answer

g. How findings are used to make informed decisions for funding projects within the community; and

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1g - Begin Answer
Gaps assessments are reviewed and taken into consideration when funding projects.

This is especially the case for outreach and rapid rehousing projects targeting youth, veterans and the chronically homeless.
Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1g - End Answer

h. How the applicant will conduct ongoing system performance evaluation to ensure the impact of HHAP-2 funds throughout the spending period and determine if adjustments are needed to address gaps in the homelessness response system.

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1h - Begin Answer
The County has contracted with a nonprofit provider for daily management of the Navigation Center. Performance milestones have been written into the contract, including housing placements, connection to Medi-Cal and a primary care physician, and job training sessions on site for Navigation Center residents.
The contracted agency is also responsible for entering participant data into the County-wide Homeless Management Information System. The County will review the contractor's performance at least quarterly.
Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 1h - End Answer

2. The most recent gaps assessment that was conducted and the date in which it was completed. Reports can be attached, but all applicants must summarize main findings within this section. Reports submitted without a summary will not be accepted. Summaries must include, but are not limited to:

a. Current number of people experiencing homelessness in the community including demographic information, and the existing programs and funding which address homelessness within the jurisdiction;

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 2a - Begin Answer
The 2019 Merced COC Point In Time Count showed a total of 607 persons were identified as meeting the HUD definition of homeless on January 24, 2019.
•   322 individuals were considered sheltered in either transitional housing or emergency shelter.
•   Of those counted, 285 persons were unsheltered, with 71% (n=204) located in the City of Merced.
•   Of the 285 unsheltered persons, 46.3% (n=129) were identified as chronically homeless.
•   Of the 285 unsheltered persons, 23.8% (n=68) were identified as having a serious mental health problem.
•   26% of those homeless persons contacted self-identified as current substance abusers

- 35% of the homeless persons contacted stated they had been admitted to the emergency department or hospital more than once during the previous year.

Merced County offers short term housing assistance, housing search assistance, credit repairs, crisis counseling, substance use disorder counseling, job training, transportation, and other services which support homeless individuals and families. These services are integrated into the overall system of care and utilized by other Merced CoC providers.

A list of existing programs will be found in the Homelessness Response Local Investment Plan spreadsheet.

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 2a - End Answer

b. Data and qualitative information showing any gaps or disparities in access to services, delivery of services, and housing placement and housing retention outcomes for special populations such as families, victims of domestic violence, seniors, youth and young adults, persons who have been convicted of a crime, persons with a disability, persons who are chronically homeless, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons who are LGBTQ, veterans, persons with limited English proficiency, and persons who are undocumented;

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 2b - Begin Answer

Merced County is known for rates of poverty and unemployment approximately double the national average, and a shortage of housing which is affordable for residents. These factors have contributed to rates of homelessness which visibly appear to be increasing, but which are not necessarily captured in Point in Time Counts.

It should be noted that although the January 2019 Point In Time Count showed 607 homeless, that number is inconsistent with other local provider data sources:

- The January 2019 Point In Time Count showed 607 homeless. However:
  - 1,503 unduplicated homeless adults sought shelter services between December 2018 and December 2019, as reflected in the Merced County HMIS; and
  - 1,435 unduplicated homeless adults sought services through the New Direction-Outreach & Engagement Center between July 2019 and June 2020.

This disparity is an indicator that the Merced COC's Point in Time Count has not accurately captured the number of homeless in Merced County.

- The January 2019 Point In Time Count showed that 48 of Merced County's homeless are seniors age 55+. However:

☐ 194 unduplicated homeless seniors sought shelter between October 2017 and September 2018.

This disparity is an indicator that the Merced COC's Point In Time Count did not accurately capture the numbers of seniors who are homeless.

Below is Merced County's homeless subpopulations data compared to numbers of homeless subpopulations served or sheltered, in both tabular and graphic format.

	Merced County All Residents	Merced County Homeless	Merced County Served/Sheltered
All People	267,390	607	195
Youth <25	110,828	21	5
Veterans	9,255	24	17
In Families w/ Children	143,307	189	176
Chronically Homeless	N/A	195	66
Seniors 55+	45,456	48	194
Disabled	Unknown	212	140
Victims of Domestic Violence	Unknown	Unknown	15
HIV/AIDS	Unknown	Unknown	9

SOURCES:
1 COC Racial Equity Analysis Tool
2 COC HUD Longitudinal Assessment Oct 2017 – Sep 2018
3 COC 2019 Point in Time Count
4 COC Homeless Response Local Investment Plan ESG-CV Round 2
5 COC Subcommittee on Ending Veteran Homelessness, Dec 2020
6 2019 American Community Survey, 17% age 60+
7 76 were persons w/ developmental disabilities; 136 were persons w/ physical disabilities

This assessment shows that disparities do exist in the following areas:
• Numbers of chronically homeless successfully sheltered or housed does not meet the need as demonstrated in the 2019 Point in Time Count.

Local stakeholders have minimal resources to house and case manage chronically homeless individuals who often have untreated mental illness, severe substance abuse, and chronic health conditions.

- Numbers of disabled homeless successfully sheltered or housed does not meet the need, as demonstrate in the 2019 Point in Time Count.

Local stakeholders have minimal resources to house and case manage homeless persons who have a physical or developmental disability.

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 2b - End Answer

c. Data and qualitative information showing any racial or ethnic disparities in access to services, delivery of services and housing placement and housing retention outcomes of homeless services;

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 2c - Begin Answer

Below is Merced County's ethnicity data compared to ethnicity of homeless served or sheltered, in both tabular and graphic format. This assessment shows that any disparities are minimal, and the ethnicity of persons accessing services largely reflects that of all Merced County residents.

Merced County % Ethnicity All Residents	Merced County % Ethnicity of Homeless Served/Sheltered
61 White (Hispanic)	46 White (Hispanic)
26 White (Non-Hispanic)	30 White (Non-Hispanic)
3 Black or African American	17 Black or African American
7 Asian	2 Asian
3 Other	5 Other
Source: U.S. Census	Source: HUD Longitudinal System Assessment

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 2c - End Answer

d. Any other disparities that were found in the delivery of homelessness services including rates of successful permanent housing placements, and housing retention rates;

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 2d - Begin Answer

There is a common perception within the Merced County region that homeless persons are not originally Merced County residents, but came here from other areas. This perception creates a reluctance on the part of the private sector and others to participate in addressing homelessness.

An analysis of intake data from the New Direction-Outreach & Engagement Center reveals that the vast majority of homeless persons seeking assistance were originally residents of Merced County before becoming homeless.

e. Using the Service Gap Analysis Chart below, identify which areas of the local homelessness response system (e.g. shelter, rental subsidies, supportive housing) have gaps in resources based on the needs of people experiencing homelessness in the community.

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 2e - Begin Answer

SERVICE GAP ANALYSIS	Total # of Clients Currently Needing This Service	Total # of Clients Currently Receiving This Service	Remaining Need
Interim Housing/Shelter Beds	607	204	403
Rental Assistance	607	345	262
Supportive Housing (Permanent)	198	130	68
Outreach	2,645	2,038	607
Prevention/Diversion	65,073	70	65,003

SOURCES:

1 January 2019 Point in Time Count

2 COC Three Year Funding Plan, Merced County CEO office, Dec 2020

3 COC Homeless Response Local Investment Plan ESG-CV, Round 2

4 January 2019 Point in Time Count: 68 of the 285 unsheltered adults surveyed during the Jan 2019 PIT Count stated that they have a serious mental health problem

5 Annual Report Jul 2019-Jun 2020, New Direction-Outreach & Engagement Center

6 Per CA Department of Finance Merced County population in May 2019 was 282,928. Per the 2017 American Community Survey, 23% of Merced County residents are living below federal poverty level

Interim Housing/ Shelter Beds

75 individuals will be provided with shelter plus supportive services through $4,909,495 in Mental Health Services Act funding. This project is also known as the Merced Navigation Center, opening in March 2021.

30 individuals will be provided with shelter plus supportive services through $995,431 in Mental Health Services Act funding. This project is locally referred to as "mini Navigation Centers", "satellite Navigation Centers", or "Distributive Housing". Run by Merced

Rescue Mission, the project consists of a 5-bed home in Livingston, and four homes in Merced containing 25 beds total (Barclay, 5 beds; Early Light, 6 beds; Sunrise, 6 beds; Wellman, 8 beds).

60 individuals will be provided with shelter through $387,900 in California Emergency Solutions & Housing (CESH) funding from the CA Department of Housing and Community Development. Run by Merced County Community Action Agency, MCCAA matches $296,102 of its Community Services Block Grant funding for shelter operations. This project is locally known as the D Street Shelter.

30 individuals will be provided with transitional housing assistance through $344,126 in Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding via the CA Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC). This project is for youth aged 18-24. This project is also known as "AIM High House".

9 individuals will be provided with bridge/ transitional housing assistance through $219,126 in Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding via the CA Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC). This project will be run by Merced Rescue Mission, and located in Los Banos.

There is a remaining need of 403 beds for interim housing or shelter.

Rental Assistance

200 households will be provided with rental assistance through $2,936,748 in CalWORKS Housing Support Program (HSP) funds via the CA Department of Social Services.

50 individuals will be provided with rental assistance through $503,500 in CESH 1 funds.

25 individuals will be provided with rental assistance through $475,000 in ESG-CV funds via HCD.

40 individuals will be provided with rental assistance through $375,000 in HHAP Round 1 funds through HCFC to the Continuum of Care.

30 individuals will be provided with rental assistance through $280,000 in HEAP funds via HCFC.

262 persons are still in need of rental assistance.

Supportive Housing (Permanent)

25 individuals will be served through $636,259 in HDAP funds via CA Department of Social Services.

40 individuals will be served through $626,269 in Continuum of Care funds from HUD.

30 individuals will be served through $482,441 in funds from the Department of Health Care Services.

25 individuals will be served through $258,800 in funds from the CA Department of Social Services intended for the Home Safe program, which provides assistance to elderly persons referred by Merced County Human Services Agency, Adult Protective Services division.

Homelessness Response System Gaps Question 2e - End Answer

Table: SERVICE GAP ANALYSIS

	Total # of Clients Currently Needing This Service	Total # of Clients Currently Receiving This Service	Remaining Need
Interim Housing/Shelter Beds	607	204	403
Rental Assistance	607	345	262
Supportive Housing (Permanent)	198	130	68
Outreach	2645	2038	607
Prevention/Diversion	65073	70	65003

2. Regional Resources Planning

When working within the homelessness system, it is critical to assess the current resources available within the community to ensure any new resources are most effectively and efficiently targeted to best serve people experiencing homelessness within the community. Given the high number of people experiencing homelessness in California and the unprecedented amount of federal and state funds available to address homelessness, HCFC expects applicants to coordinate all available funding to safely shelter and permanently house as many people experiencing homelessness in the applicant's community as possible, with a particular focus on rehousing individuals currently living in Project Roomkey (PRK) sites.

HCFC requires all HHAP-2 applicants to complete a **Homelessness Response Local Investment Plan (Appendix A)** that lists all regional resources used to address homelessness. The document includes different interventions within the homelessness system. For each intervention, please tell us:

- The funding source(s) used to assist in the delivery of the intervention. If several funding sources are used, please list them in order of highest amount of funding used for the intervention to the lowest;
- If the funding source is covered by more than one applicant (i.e. County and Continuum of Care) please list separately. Do not combine allocations; and
- When referencing units of measurement, please reference service basis unit of measurement. Example: $500,000 in funding provided RRH to approximately 20 households over XX period of time.

In addition to filling out the **Homelessness Response Local Investment Plan** document, applicants must answer the following narrative question that will support the information provided:

1. What efforts are made to coordinate all available local, state and federal funds that can address homelessness in the applicant's community?

    Regional Resources Planning Question 1 - Begin Answer
    The 2020 No Place Like Home Community Plan provides a summary of strategies and activities offered by Merced County stakeholders to address homelessness.
    A Management Analyst with the County of Merced Executive Office maintains a database of local, state and federal grant awards to local providers. The Collaborative Applicant maintains its own similar database.
    A Coordinated Entry System working group meets weekly to review the latest participant data report from HMIS. The CES group is comprised of County staff and local hoeless providers. The data is reviewed in tandem with Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (Vi-

SPDAT) assessment scores, and then housing and services recommendations are made for the homeless individual.   In this manner, all available resources are coordinated and utilized.

"Appendix A" – Homelessness Response Local Investment Plan is attached.

Regional Resources Planning Question 1 - End Answer

3. HHAP-2 Funding Plans

When planning how to target new HHAP-2 resources, it is essential to do so in direct response to the gaps assessment and current regional investment planning described in Sections 1 and 2. HHAP-2 funding plans must state the specific gaps that will be addressed with these new funds and provide sufficient detail to ensure that any selected projects will effectively meet identified gaps. HCFC expects applicants to clearly understand and identify the intervention types requiring funding prior to initiating their local project selection processes.

Applicants must identify and describe each intervention type they intend to fund with their HHAP-2 grant and how much of their HHAP-2 funding they intend to focus on that intervention type. Applicants must also describe how investing in the requested interventions will meet the previously identified needs of their community.

Intervention Types are broken into six categories: (1) Outreach; (2) Interim Housing; (3) Rental Assistance; (4) Permanent Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing; (5) Diversion and Homelessness Prevention, and (6) Services.

Applicants should utilize the HHAP-2 **Application Guidance** document for detailed information on how these interventions can be implemented, how they work together, and how HCFC recommends prioritization and utilization of these interventions.

In addition to providing information on how the applicant intends to utilize their HHAP-2 funds on specific interventions, applicants must also outline the amounts they intend to allocate to the eligible uses that will support the interventions throughout the duration of the grant period.

To successfully complete this section of the application, applicants will need to provide the following:

1. Using the **Funding Plan Template (Appendix B)** and **Expenditure Plan Template (Appendix C),** provide detailed information for each of the intervention types and eligible uses being proposed for HHAP-2 funding. (**NOTE:** Specific project information for the intervention types identified will be requested at a later date once the local selection process has been completed.)

2. Describe how the applicant intends to prioritize funding towards local Project Roomkey permanent housing pathways. If an applicant does not intend to prioritize funding in this way, they must explain what other resources have been identified to meet this need locally to ensure that households staying at Project Roomkey sites move to permanent housing and do not return to unsheltered locations or congregate settings.

HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 2 - Begin Answer
The requested HHAP 2 funds will allow Merced County to meet operational needs of the 75-bed Merced Navigation Center, projected to open in March 2021.
Project Roomkey residents are given first priority for all available resources.
HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 2 - End Answer

3. Describe the activities budgeted for grant administration. In the applicant's response, describe the overall grant administration staffing plan to accomplish the applicant's goals and activities. Provide information on roles that will be responsible for ensuring the successful execution of HHAP funded projects.

    HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 3 - Begin Answer
    County employees involved in the project include Deputy Director; Fiscal Manager; Management Analyst; Program Manager; and Staff Services Analyst. The County has subcontracted with a nonprofit entity to operate the Merced Navigation Center.
    HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 3 - End Answer

    Descriptions should include but are not limited to:

    a. The number of full-time employees (FTE) or percent of time per FTE that will be employed by the applicant dedicated to the execution of HHAP-2.
        HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 3a - Begin Answer
        Five existing full time Merced County employees will be involved in the execution of HHAP-2, estimated at 5% time for each position.
        HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 3a - End Answer

    b. Existing staff positions that will be leveraged to fulfill this need.
        HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 3b - Begin Answer
        Deputy Director; Fiscal Manager; Management Analyst; Program Manager; and Staff Services Analyst.
        HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 3b - End Answer

4. In what ways the applicant's jurisdiction is leveraging the adult system to serve youth and in what ways the homelessness response system has been or will be adapted to youth; and how the applicant will use HHAP-2 funding to ensure youth can access services and that targeted spending meets their needs.

HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 4 - Begin Answer
The proposed HHAP 2 funding – including the eight percent set aside for youth ages 18 to 24 – will be used to operate the Merced Navigation Center.
HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 4 - End Answer

5. Describe how the applicant will incorporate meaningful collaboration with individuals that have lived experience being homeless throughout funding planning, design, implementation, and evaluation.

HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 5 - Begin Answer
The COC Board and COC committee members include several persons who are formerly homeless. They participate regularly in funding decisions and regional planning discussions.
HHAP-2 Funding Plans Question 5 - End Answer

4. HHAP-2 Goals

Creating performance targets that can be clearly measured every year ensures a commitment to locally shared goals. Utilizing the local needs assessment, applicants must identify the areas of impact to be targeted by HHAP funds in Section 3: HHAP-2 Funding Plans, and in this section must present specific and measurable goals for those investment areas. These goals should inform how applicants design HHAP programming and should be stated in the local selection process funding announcements and subcontracts so that local applicants and the selected subrecipients understand program expectations.

HHAP Programmatic Goals
HHAP statute mandates that applicants set goals related to the total number of individuals served and, of those served, the number who will be successfully placed in permanent housing due to HHAP-2 investments.

For interventions funded with HHAP, applicants must show how their jurisdiction plans to use their HHAP investment to meet statutorily-required goals by providing the following in the table below: (1) number of individuals that *currently* need this intervention; (2) number of households expected to be <u>served</u>, annually and over the entire grant period; and (3) number of households expected to be <u>placed into permanent housing,</u> annually and over entire grant period.

Note: identified need below should be the same as the numbers indicated in Section 1.

Table – Statutory Goals by Intervention Type – Permanent Supportive and Service-Enriched Housing

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	Total #
Total # of individuals that *currently* need this intervention	68					
# of individuals expected to be served by HHAP-2	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of individuals expected to be placed into permanent housing through HHAP-2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table – Statutory Goals by Intervention Type – Rental Assistance

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	Total #
Total # of individuals that *currently* need this intervention	262					
# of individuals to be served	0	0	0	0	0	0

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	Total #
# of individuals to be placed into permanent housing	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table – Statutory Goals by Intervention Type – Interim Housing

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	Total #
Total # of individuals that *currently* need this intervention	412					
# of individuals to be served	0	150	0	0	0	150
# of individuals to be placed into permanent housing	0	75	0	0	0	75

Table – Statutory Goals by Intervention Type – Diversion and Homelessness Prevention

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	Total #
Total # of individuals that *currently* need *equity* this intervention	65003					
# of individuals to be served	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of individuals to be placed into permanent housing	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table – Statutory Goals by Intervention Type – Outreach

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	Total #
Total # of individuals that *currently* need this intervention	607					
# of individuals to be served	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of individuals to be placed into permanent housing	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table – Statutory Goals by Intervention Type – Services

	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	Total #
# of individuals to be served	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of individuals to be placed into permanent housing	0	0	0	0	0	0

In addition to setting clear goals on numbers served and numbers moved into permanent housing, applicants must also provide the following:

1. Any additional systemwide goals the applicant's jurisdiction and/or region has identified and the metrics used to evaluate progress towards those goals.

    HHAP-2 Goal Question 1 - Begin Answer

Goal	HHAP 2 Project	# Beds/ Persons	% to be permanently housed
Transitional Shelter	Navigation Center – shelter plus services. 75 beds, estimated to serve 150 persons per year.	150	50

    HHAP-2 Goals Question 1 - End Answer

2. An update on systemwide goals identified in HHAP-1 and explanation of any goal modifications made in response to changing needs.

    HHAP-2 Goal Question 1 - Begin Answer

    No modifications have been made to HHAP 1 goals.
    Transitional Shelter:
    $663,533 in HHAP 1 funds are planned to serve 150 individuals at the new Navigation Center, 75 of whom will be placed in permanent housing. Additionally, $53,083 of the HHAP 1 funding is planned to target Transitional Age Youth staying at the Navigation Center; 12 individuals aged 18-24 will be served, 6 of whom will be placed in permanent housing.

    HHAP-2 Goals Question 1 - End Answer

3. At least one clear, measurable performance goal related to how HHAP-2 funding will address racial disparities identified in the jurisdiction's homelessness response system.

    HHAP-2 Goal Question 1 - Begin Answer

    As previously indicated, Merced County is committed to a robust assessment to reveal any existing racial disparities in the rates at which people of color access homeless services and exit to stable housing. Our data currently shows a 14% overrepresentation of Black/African Americans in those experiencing homelessness compared to their percentage of the overall population within Merced County. By January 31, 2022, Merced County will: 1) complete a thorough gaps assessment in conjunction with TA from HCFC to identify the specific interventions needed to reduce this overrepresentation and 2) establish new

==measurable, outcomes-focused numeric goals to reduce this==
==overrepresentation and will provide those to HCFC by this date.==
==Our first step in achieving this level of assessment is to assure more reliable==
==HMIS data entry on the part of homeless providers. The nonprofit provider==
==who will be operating the new Navigation Center - with HHAP 2 funding -==
==is contractually obligated to enter Navigation Center data into HMIS. To==
==assist us in ensuring we have reliable data to use in our disparity analysis,==
==the Navigation Center operator will be required to demonstrate that its==
==staff members have completed at least 4 hours of HMIS training.==
HHAP-2 Goals Question 1 - End Answer

4. At least one clear, measurable, youth-specific performance goal related
to HHAP-2 investments, including an explanation of how the applicant's
jurisdiction accounts for the unique service needs of youth when
determining how to set performance targets for youth set-aside funding
interventions.

HHAP-2 Goal Question 1 - Begin Answer
==The County will decrease the number of total known homeless Transitional==
==Age Youth (age 18-24), placing at least 6 of these individuals in==
==permanent housing.==
HHAP-2 Goals Question 1 - End Answer

5. Local Project Selection Process

Applicants may choose (though they are not required) to contract with local nonprofits and service providers to administer the services detailed in their HHAP-2 Funding Plan. When contracting for services, applicants shall select qualified service providers that provide services which match the needs of the local population of people experiencing homelessness and which are HHAP-eligible activities that are in line with the applicant's HHAP-2 Funding Plan.

HCFC encourages applicants to consider how these funds are accessible to smaller and non-traditional organizations that have historically served communities of color but may not have previously participated formally in the CoC or been a part of the homeless provider community.

To successfully complete this section of the application, applicants will need to provide the following:

1. An explanation of how HHAP-2 funds will be distributed and whether a local project selection process will be utilized to select subcontractors.

   Local Project Selection Process Question 1 - Begin Answer
   After an open bidding selection process, the County has entered into a contract with a nonprofit organization for management of the Navigation Center.
   Local Project Selection Process Question 1 - End Answer

   Will subcontractors be utilized? No

   a. If the applicant *is not utilizing* a local selection process, please include the following in the explanation:
      i. Description of why this is the best funding plan for the community; and

         Local Project Selection Process Question 1a.i. - Begin Answer
         The requested HHAP-2 funds will allow Merced County to meet operational needs of the 75-bed Merced Navigation Center opening March 2021.
         The Merced Navigation Center will be a "low barrier" shelter – individuals with pets, possessions and partners will be accommodated. This new facility will meet a need in addressing homelessness in the Merced County region.
         Local Project Selection Process Question 1a.i. - End Answer

      ii. Description of how applicants will ensure equitable access to services funded.

Local Project Selection Process Question 1a.i.i. - Begin Answer

==After an open bidding selection process, the County has entered into a contract with a nonprofit organization for management of the Navigation Center. The contract includes "Client Selection Policies" which ensure equal access and a non-discrimination standard regarding residents and potential residents of the Navigation Center.==
==The County's contractor will collect racial and ethnicity data on residents of the Navigation Center; this data will be analyzed to ensure that equitable access is being provided.==

Local Project Selection Process Question 1a.i.i. - End Answer

b. If the applicant *is utilizing* a local selection process, please include the following in the explanation:

   i. What is the process and timeline for project selection?

   Local Project Selection Process Question 1b.i. - Begin Answer
   Local Project Selection Process Question 1b.i. - End Answer

   ii. How will the applicant encourage new partners to participate?

   Local Project Selection Process Question 1b.i.i. - Begin Answer
   Local Project Selection Process Question 1b.i.i. - End Answer

   iii. How will people with lived experience of homelessness, including youth with lived experience, have meaningful and purposeful opportunities to shape the selection process and funding decisions?

   Local Project Selection Process Question 1b.i.i.i. - Begin Answer
   Local Project Selection Process Question 1b.i.i.i. - End Answer

   iv. How will the applicant promote equity and ensure underrepresented communities can be competitive applicants for funding?

   Local Project Selection Process Question b.i.v. - Begin Answer
   Local Project Selection Process Question b.i.v. - End Answer

2. Describe how systemwide collaboration would occur among homelessness service providers and other social safety net providers. How do these collaborative efforts help minimize or avoid the duplication of service and effort?

Local Project Selection Process Question 2 - Begin Answer

Homeless individuals will be referred to the New Direction Outreach and Engagement Center; Outreach and Engagement Center staff will add the individual to the Coordinated Entry System (CES) listing and into HMIS.

Merced County staff from at least three departments participate in the Merced City and County Continuum of Care CES working group, including the County Executive Office, Human Services Agency, and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services.

Merced County Human Services Agency is now the Collaborative Applicant for the Merced City and County Continuum of Care, and is the CES lead agency. Other key CES participants are direct service provider organizations including:

• Turning Point, a non-profit organization which connects homeless individuals to housing and service providers;

• Sierra Saving Grace, a faith-based non-profit organization which connects homeless individuals to housing and service providers;

• Healthy House, a non-profit organization which connects homeless individuals to housing and service providers, with emphasis on overcoming challenges related to differences in language and culture;

• Department of Veterans Affairs, which connects individuals to housing and service providers, with emphasis on veterans, their dependents and survivors;

• Merced Police Department, which responds to complaints of homeless individuals appearing to sleep in public spaces not meant for human habitation, exhibiting signs of severe service needs, or otherwise coming into frequent contact with law enforcement;

• Merced County Community Action Agency, a non-profit corporation and the largest shelter provider in Merced County; and

• Merced Rescue Mission, a faith-based non-profit organization which provides several transitional shelter facilities.

Local Project Selection Process Question 2 - End Answer

In addition to the narrative questions above, check all box(s) that apply to the applicant's community:

Table – Local Project Selection Process Assessment

LOCAL PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS ASSESSMENT (check all that apply)
Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The process will clearly define for potential subcontractors which types of projects will be prioritized for funding and which needs identified in the needs/gaps assessment are intended to be met by funding such projects. Local Project Selection Assessment Response: Yes
Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The process will prioritize programs that address the disproportionate impacts that homelessness and COVID-19 have on communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native and Indigenous communities. Local Project Selection Assessment Response: Yes

Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The process will remove barriers to competitive participation by applicants representing marginalized communities. Local Project Selection Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>
Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The process will use objective criteria to evaluate projects for funding. Local Project Selection Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>
Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The objective criteria used to evaluate projects will include data on past performance related to the proposed activity (for example, an existing rapid rehousing provider applies to provide rapid rehousing services with HHAP funds and provides HMIS data to show a history of positive outcomes) Local Project Selection Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>
Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The objective criteria used to evaluate projects will allow applicants applying to perform services not previously performed by their organization, to provide other data or outcome results to support their competency to perform the proposed activity. Local Project Selection Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>
Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The process will have provisions to allow for innovation, while balancing the need for data and performance-based decision-making. Local Project Selection Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>
Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The process will be posted publicly on a platform that is accessible to the public. Local Project Selection Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>
Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The process will consider the severity of needs and vulnerabilities of the proposed target population in its objective criteria – and aligns its prioritization of these needs with the needs identified through the community needs assessment process. Local Project Selection Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>
Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The process will avoid conflict of interest. Local Project Selection Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>
Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The process will only fund programs that follow a Housing First approach. Local Project Selection Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>
Local Project Selection Assessment Statement: The process will include people with lived experience to have meaningful and purposeful opportunities to inform and shape all levels of planning and implementation. Local Project Selection Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>

6. Racial Equity Efforts

HHAP-2 applicants should prioritize the advancement of racial equity at every level of the homelessness response system. Applicants must be actively involved in their homelessness response systems, facilitating partnerships among service organizations, and promoting racial equity practices. Applicants must respond to disproportionality in access to services, service provision, and outcomes. Applicants cannot simply rely on delivering a standardization of services to address equity. Applicants have the responsibility to examine their data to ensure all eligible persons receive equitable services, support, and are served with dignity, respect, and compassion regardless of circumstances, ability, or identity.

HCFC encourages applicants to consider how these funds are accessible to smaller and non-traditional organizations that have historically served communities of color but may not have previously participated formally in the CoC or been a part of the homeless provider community, and how these funds would address the organizational capacity of organizations that are led by Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous people that support the goal of reducing and ending homelessness.

To successfully complete this section of the application, applicants will need to provide the following:

1. Using the **Racial Demographic Data Worksheet** (**Appendix D**), please provide the Continuum of Care Outcomes by Race and Ethnicity.

2. Describe how the local homelessness response system or projects the applicant is planning use policy and practices to ensure equal access and non-discrimination when serving prospective and new program participants.

   Racial Equity Efforts Question 2 - Begin Answer
   The County has entered into a contract with a nonprofit organization for management of the Navigation Center. The contract includes "Client Selection Policies" which ensure equal access and a non-discrimination standard regarding residents and potential residents of the Navigation Center.
   Racial Equity Efforts Question 2 - End Answer

3. How does the applicant's grant making process and/or funding decisions include prioritization of programs that are addressing the disproportionate impacts that homelessness and COVID-19 have on communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander and Indigenous communities?

   Racial Equity Efforts Question 3 - Begin Answer

The County has entered into a contract with a nonprofit organization for management of the Navigation Center. The contract includes "Client Selection Policies" which ensure equal access and a non-discrimination standard regarding residents and potential residents of the Navigation Center.

Racial Equity Efforts Question 3 - End Answer

4. How are the voices of Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander and Indigenous communities being developed as central in creating effective approaches to reducing and ending homelessness?

Racial Equity Efforts Question 4 - Begin Answer
The COC Board and COC committee members represent many organizations that serve communities of color. They participate regularly in funding decisions and regional planning discussions.
Racial Equity Efforts Question 4 - End Answer

5. Does the applicant have a strategy to expand the reach of funding to underserved and marginalized communities and non-traditional providers who can reach and serve disproportionately impacted communities? If so, please describe.

Racial Equity Efforts Question 5 - Begin Answer
All HHAP-2 funds will be allocated to the operations of a new Navigation Center. The County has selected a nonprofit provider to operate the Navigation Center. Performance data will be analyzed to ensure the provider is serving vulnerable subpopulations.
Racial Equity Efforts Question 5 - End Answer

6. Describe how the priority population(s) learn about and enter local homelessness programs, including marketing and communication strategies used.

Racial Equity Efforts Question 6 - Begin Answer
Our strategy consists of these elements:
• use of the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (Vi-SPDAT) assessment.
• staff training for those administering these assessments in using practices to reduce barriers for underserved populations, including youth, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQ individuals, and immigrants
• affirmative marketing to all eligible persons regardless of race, age, disability, sexual orientation, and
• affirmative marketing to vulnerable subpopulations, including by outreach teams specifically targeting persons experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, youth, LGBTQ youth, and survivors of domestic violence
Racial Equity Efforts Question 6 - End Answer

7. How is the applicant making community project grants accessible to smaller organizations that have historically served communities of color, but may not have previously participated formally in the CoC or as a part of the "homeless provider" community?

Racial Equity Efforts Question 7 - Begin Answer
Not applicable to the County; however, the COC Collaborative Applicant issues a local Request For Proposal and offers technical workshops to all potential subgrantees.
Racial Equity Efforts Question 7 - End Answer

8. How does the applicant partner with organizations that are addressing racial equity in the housing and homelessness response system?

Racial Equity Efforts Question 8 - Begin Answer
The County provides staff to the COC Collaborative Applicant. The COC Board and COC committee members represent many organizations that serve communities of color. They participate regularly in funding decisions and regional planning discussions.
Racial Equity Efforts Question 8 - End Answer

9. How will the applicant ensure that racial disparities are addressed with this funding?

Racial Equity Efforts Question 9 - Begin Answer
The County's contractor will collect racial and ethnicity data on residents of the Navigation Center; this data will be analyzed to ensure that equitable access is being provided. If any technical assistance becomes available from the CA Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to improve practices to ensure a racial equity focus in planning, Merced County will participate.
Racial Equity Efforts Question 9 - End Answer

In addition to the narrative questions above, check all boxes that apply to the applicant's community:

Table – Racial Equity Assessment

RACIAL EQUITY ASSESSMENT (check all that apply)
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We have a racial equity policy within the organization I work for. Racial Equity Assessment Response: Implemented
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We collect racial, ethnic and linguistic data on clients and constituents outside of HMIS. Racial Equity Assessment Response: Implemented
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We provide language interpreter/translator services for people who speak languages other than English. Racial Equity Assessment Response: Implemented

Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We collect data on service-user or constituent satisfaction with our organization regarding racial equity. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Planning to Implement</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We have formal partnerships with organizations of color. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Implemented</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We allocate resources for engagement and outreach in communities of color. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Implemented</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: Racial equity and cultural competency training are offered to employees within the applicant's organization. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Implemented</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We meet regularly with leaders from communities of color specifically to discuss racial equity within the homelessness system. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Planning to Implement</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We analyze to assess whether equitable access to new and existing shelter facilities is being provided to people of color, especially Black, Latinx, and Indigenous populations most impacted by homelessness, and examine data to determine if there are other disparities to be addressed, such as by age, ethnicity, disability, gender status, family composition, etc. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Planning to Implement</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We have convened and actively engage with a lived experience board that represents the population served. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Implemented</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We ensure strategies and communications efforts have broad geographic reach, including into rural areas and in support of Tribal communities. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Planning to Implement</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: Providers and front-line staff reflect the people they serve including the necessary language skills to serve sub-populations. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Implemented</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We have access to data on racial/ethnic disparities to guide our planning and implementation of HHAP funding. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Planning to Implement</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: Our work includes performance measures to determine how well we are doing to address racial disparities. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Planning to Implement</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We have developed and implemented a plan to address racial disparities in the homelessness response system. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Planning to Implement</mark>
Racial Equity Assessment Statement: We host or participate in trainings dedicated to improving equitable outcomes. Racial Equity Assessment Response: <mark>Planning to Implement</mark>

7. Regional Collaboration and Partnerships

HHAP program funds are intended to support regional coordination and expand local capacity to address homelessness. Demonstration of how jurisdictions have coordinated and will continue to coordinate with other jurisdictions is a critical factor of funding. With HHAP-1 funding, applicants were required to partner with other applicants to make collective funding decisions for their communities. HHAP-2 funding should increase and improve those partnership efforts.

To successfully complete this section of the application, applicants must provide the following:

1. Describe the process by which neighboring HHAP-funded jurisdictions are coordinating together to address homelessness, including funding collaboration and coordination, peer learning, and data sharing.

   Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 1 - Begin Answer
   Merced County staff are in regular communication with neighboring Stanislaus County regarding regional strategies, and project implementation. These communications take place among all levels, including elected, executive and management staff.   Further, Merced County staff travel to Stanislaus County for in-person tours of projects there addressing homelessness, including the recently-opened Stanislaus Navigation Center, the Stanislaus Outreach and Engagement Center, and an outdoor emergency shelter in Modesto.
   The Merced County Ending Veteran Homelessness Committee participates with the Fresno office of the Veterans Administration during bi-weekly reviews of our by-name list.
   Merced County staff also participate in HCFC-hosted office hours conference calls and Nor Cal and CenCal Peer-to-Peer teleconferences.
   Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 1 - End Answer

2. Describe the ways HCFC funding plans are coordinated with regional partners that are also receiving HCFC funding. If there are changes to the funding plans, how are partners informed of these changes?

   Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 2 - Begin Answer
   Funding plans are communicated with other partners in the Merced County region through monthly Continuum of Care meeting conference calls.
   Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 2 - End Answer

3. Using the experience with HHAP-1 planning, describe successes that have come out of regional coordination and partnering efforts. Also, describe any barriers the applicant has experienced in working with regional partners.

Explain any strategies identified that have contributed to the address these barriers.

Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 3 - Begin Answer
HHAP Round 1 funding has not yet been allocated, because the new Navigation Center is still under construction.
Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 3 - End Answer

4. How will HHAP-2 funding support and scale current partnerships?

Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 4 - Begin Answer
Not applicable.
Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 4 - End Answer

5. Describe applicant's share of the regional need as well as the share of the regional need from partnering jurisdictions (CoC, County, Large City). Describe the methodology used for determining the share of the regional need.

Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 5 - Begin Answer
It is our understanding that the CA Homeless Coordinating & Financing Council determines share of regional need based on Point In Time count numbers.
The Point In Time count is accomplished via coordination between various law enforcement and homeless outreach workers; the effort is coordinated during Continuum of Care meetings.
Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 5 - End Answer

6. Describe how HHAP-2 funds will be integrated into the current regional strategic plan to address homelessness. Has the region's strategy for use of HHAP funding changed since HHAP-1?

Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 6 - Begin Answer
HHAP-2 funds will be leveraged with HHAP-1 to support the new Navigation Center. There has been no strategic shift in HHAP funding since HHAP-1.
Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 6 - End Answer

7. When spending plans need to be adjusted in response to changing needs in the community, how are collaborative partners involved in those decisions?

Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 7 - Begin Answer
Adjustments in spending plans are typically accomplished by monitoring grant spend-down by partners. A review of HMIS data, project performance

and monetary need is presented to the COC Board for approval of any spending adjustments.
Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 7 - End Answer

8. Has a youth-specific strategy been identified within the applicant's region? If so, please describe. If not, why not?

Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 8 - Begin Answer
Yes.
The Merced County Point In Time count historically has consistently found 23 to 26 homeless Transitional Age Youth per year. HEAP funding has been allocated to establish a 10-bed female Transitional Age Youth home to assist these individuals to overcome barriers to housing stability and identify permanent housing options. When a permanent housing option is identified, Rapid Rehousing funds are prioritized for Transitional Age Youth. This effort led to the reduction of unsheltered Transitional Age Youth from 21 in 2018 to 16 in 2019, and 15 in 2020. We will continue to identify Transitional Age Youth-specific projects based on available funding.
Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 8 - End Answer

9. Describe how youth-specific local partners are involved in making regional planning or spending decisions.

Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 9 - Begin Answer
The COC Board and COC committee members include representatives of several organizations which serve youth. They participate regularly in funding decisions and regional planning discussions.
Regional Collaboration and Partnerships Question 9 - End Answer

8. Housing First Assessment

Housing First-oriented programs are low or no barrier and client-centered, emphasizing client-choice. Housing is not viewed as a reward or incentive for achieving specific goals or participating in a specific program, but as necessary to help a family or individual stabilize and meaningfully access services, which are offered as needed on a voluntary basis. In practice, this means that programs connect participants to permanent housing as quickly as possible with few to no preconditions, behavioral contingencies, or other barriers at enrollment or throughout the program.

Health and Safety Code Section 50220.5(g) mandates that all recipients of state homelessness funding shall comply with Housing First as provided in Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 8255) of Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

To successfully complete this section of the application, applicants will need to assess their current policies and check all that apply:

Table – Housing First Assessment

Housing First Assessment (check all that apply)
Housing First Assessment Statement: Access to programs is not contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, lack of a criminal record, completion of treatment, participation in services, or other unnecessary conditions. Housing First Assessment Response: Yes
Housing First Assessment Statement: Programs or projects do everything possible not to reject an individual or family on the basis of poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, minor criminal convictions, or behaviors that are interpreted as indicating a lack of "housing readiness." Housing First Assessment Response: Yes
Housing First Assessment Statement: People with disabilities are offered clear opportunities to request reasonable accommodations within applications and screening processes and during tenancy and building and apartment units include special physical features that accommodate disabilities. Housing First Assessment Response: Yes
Housing First Assessment Statement: Programs or projects that cannot serve someone work through the coordinated entry process to ensure that those individuals or families have access to housing and services elsewhere. Housing First Assessment Response: Yes
Housing First Assessment Statement: Housing and service goals and plans are highly client centered and driven. Housing First Assessment Response: Yes
Housing First Assessment Statement: Supportive services emphasize engagement and problem-solving over therapeutic goals. Housing First Assessment Response: Yes
Housing First Assessment Statement: Participation in services or compliance with service plans are not conditions of tenancy but are reviewed with clients and regularly offered as a resource to clients. Housing First Assessment Response: Yes
Housing First Assessment Statement: Services are informed by a harm-reduction philosophy that recognizes that drug and alcohol use and addiction are a part of some clients' lives. Clients are engaged in non-judgmental communication regarding drug and alcohol use and are offered education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices.

Housing First Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>

Housing First Assessment Statement: Substance use in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not considered a reason for eviction.

Housing First Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>

Housing First Assessment Statement: Clients are given reasonable flexibility in paying their share of rent on time and offered special payment arrangements for rent arrears and/or assistance with financial management, including representative payee arrangements as needed.

Housing First Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>

Housing First Assessment Statement: Every effort is made to provide a client the opportunity to transfer from one housing situation, program, or project to another if a tenancy is in jeopardy. Whenever possible, eviction back into homelessness is avoided.

Housing First Assessment Response: <mark>Yes</mark>

9. Expenditure Plan

HHAP-2 Submission Expenditure Plan - NOFA-HHAP00102

CoC / Large City / County Name:
CoC / Large City / County Name Response: <mark>Merced</mark>

Administrative Entity Name:
Administrative Entity Name Response: <mark>Merced County - Human Services Agency</mark>

Receiving Redirected Funds?
Receiving Redirected Funds? Response: <mark>No</mark>

Total Redirected Funding:
Total Redirected Funding Response:

Table – HHAP Funding Expenditure Plan – Eligible Use Categories and Funding

	FY 20/21	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26	TOTAL
Rapid Rehousing							
Rapid Rehousing: Youth Set-Aside							
Operating Subsidies and Reserves			$282,096.00				$282,096.00

Operating Subsidies and Reserves: Youth Set-Aside			$24,267.00				$24,267.00
Street Outreach							
Street Outreach: Youth Set-Aside							
Services Coordination							
Services Coordination: Youth Set-Aside							
Systems Support							
Systems Support: Youth Set-Aside							
Delivery of Permanent Housing							
Delivery of Permanent Housing: Youth Set-Aside							
Prevention and Shelter Diversion							
Prevention and Shelter Diversion: Youth Set-Aside							
New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters							
New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters: Youth Set-Aside							
Strategic Homelessness Planning, Infrastructure Development, CES and HMIS (up to 5%)							
Administrative (up to 7%)			$21,233.00				$21,233.00

TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION:

Total Funding Allocation Response: $303,329.00

TOTAL YOUTH SET-ASIDE (at least 8%):

Total Youth Set-Aside (at least 8%) Response: $24,267.00

EXPENDITURE PLAN COMMENTS:

Expenditure Plan Comments Response:

10.   HHAP Round 2 Funding Plan 1

Submission ID: NOFA-HHAP00102

Intervention Type:
Intervention Type Response: Interim Housing (Operations)

Total Funds Requested:
Total Funds Requested Response: $282,096.00

HHAP Eligible Uses:

1. Rapid rehousing
Rapid rehousing response:

2. Operating subsidies
Operating subsidies response: $282,096.00

3. Street outreach
Street outreach response:

4. Services coordination
Services coordination response:

5. Systems support
Systems support response:

6. Delivery of permanent housing
Delivery of permanent housing response:

7. Prevention and diversion
Prevention and diversion response:

8. New navigation centers and emergency shelters
New navigation centers and emergency shelters response:

(Interim Housing Only Begins)

Demonstrated Need Data:

# of available shelter beds
# of available shelter beds response: 204

# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count
# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count response: 285

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months response: 9

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months response: 3

% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
response: 8

Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing
Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing response:
Homeless individuals will be referred to the New Direction Outreach and Engagement Center; Outreach and Engagement Center staff will add the individual to the Coordinated Entry System listing and into HMIS.

A case manager, housing navigator and/or housing advocate will be assigned to assess housing needs of the individual and link the resident to available housing resources swiftly and with no treatment preconditions or other barriers.

(Interim Housing Only Ends)

2. **Describe the scale and scope of anticipated intervention model and outline the key service components expected to be provided with this funding.**

Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Begins
The County will utilize its HHAP-2 funding for operational needs of its new 75-bed Navigation Center, opening March 29, 2021.
The funds will be used for salaries of staff who are operating the center and working with Navigation Center clients, and other essential costs such as meals and janitorial expenses.

Currently, Merced County has one year-round emergency shelter, which has 60 beds.
The new 75-bed Navigation Center is intended to combine shelter services with intensive supportive services available on site - linking the resident to health care, job training, substance abuse counseling if needed, and housing placement assistance. This intervention will be new to Merced County.
Transitional Shelter:
$303,329 in HHAP 2 funds are planned to serve 150 individuals, 75 of whom will be placed in permanent housing.
Additionally, $24,267 of the HHAP 2 award is planned to target 12 Transitional Age Youth aged 18-24 at the Navigation Center, 6 of whom will be placed in permanent housing.
Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Ends

3. **Describe how the requested investment amount for this intervention will help your community achieve regional goals and address specific gaps in the homeless response system as identified in the regional gaps assessment.**

Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Begins
The County will utilize its HHAP-2 funding for operational needs of its new 75-bed Navigation Center. This investment will assist the community in addressing one of its most pressing gaps – interim housing, combined with supportive services.
Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Ends

4. **Check any specific population(s) expected to be served through this intervention investment.**

Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Begins
Submitter expects to serve the following specific populations:
Adults without children
Unaccompanied Youth (12-24yr of age per definition in HHAP statute)
Chronically Homeless
Veterans
Domestic Violence Survivors
Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Ends

5. **Describe how this intervention investment will address the disproportionate impacts of homelessness on communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous communities.**

Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Begins
Merced County is committed to ensuring that racial equity is advanced at every level of its homelessness response system, including the new Navigation Center being funded by HHAP 2.
Navigation Center staff will interview potential participants using a standard assessment known as the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (Vi-SPDAT). The Vi-SPDAT prioritizes severity of need by determining history of homelessness, chronic health conditions, substance use and mental illness, and other factors.
The individual will then be referred to Merced County's Coordinated Entry System (CES). The CES is a process to match people experiencing homelessness to resources that are the best fit for their situation.
Our initial assessment indicates that the protocols in place have resulted in consistency between the ethnicity of persons receiving services versus the ethnicity of all Merced County residents.
However, we are in need of a more robust assessment to reveal any existing racial disparities in the rates at which people of color access homeless services and exit to stable housing.

Accurate assessments are dependent upon a reliable participant database. We are still in the process of integrating HMIS data entry from all of our homeless and housing program providers. This continues to be a challenge county-wide, limiting our ability to adequately evaluate existing gaps. With the implementation of new HMIS policies and training of additional users, we anticipate more robust data will be available to assist in identifying disparities in access to services and housing placement outcomes. We will address these disparities as they are identified.

Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Ends

6. **Describe how and how often performance will be measured for this intervention investment.**

Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Begins
We will review data from HMIS and the COC HUD Longitudinal Assessment at least annually to measure any racial or ethnic disparities.
Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Ends

7. **If this intervention investment is expected to serve youth experiencing homelessness (as defined in HSC § 50216 (k) what youth-specific best practices will be utilized to ensure they can access the services?**

Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Begins
$24,267 in HHAP 2 funding is planned to target Transitional Age Youth (ages 18 to 24) staying at the Navigation Center.
The new Navigation Center was intentionally constructed to ensure an option for homeless persons - including youth - to be more comfortable accessing services to overcome homelessness.
Known as a "low barrier" shelter, homeless persons are welcomed with their pet, possessions and partners. This model is a departure from any other emergency or transitional shelter in Merced County.
There are storage lockers available for possessions, and a crate for the pet. The pet is bathed and vaccinated prior to entering the Navigation Center. Navigation Center residents can keep the pet in its crate next to them at night. Bed assignments at the Navigation Center consider the comfort level of youth residents.
The County's contracted management entity of the Navigation Center has included policies and procedures for engaging and providing services to youth aged 18 to 24; the stated objective of these policies and procedures is to create an environment where young people feel safe and engaged while accessing services.
Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Ends

11.   HHAP Round 2 Funding Plan 2

Submission ID: NOFA-HHAP00102

Intervention Type:
Intervention Type Response:

Total Funds Requested:
Total Funds Requested Response:

HHAP Eligible Uses:

1. Rapid rehousing
Rapid rehousing response:

2. Operating subsidies
Operating subsidies response:

3. Street outreach
Street outreach response:

4. Services coordination
Services coordination response:

5. Systems support
Systems support response:

6. Delivery of permanent housing
Delivery of permanent housing response:

7. Prevention and diversion
Prevention and diversion response:

8. New navigation centers and emergency shelters
New navigation centers and emergency shelters response:

(Interim Housing Only Begins)

Demonstrated Need Data:

# of available shelter beds
# of available shelter beds response:

# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count
# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months response:

% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
response:

Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing
Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing response:

(Interim Housing Only Ends)

2. **Describe the scale and scope of anticipated intervention model and outline the key service components expected to be provided with this funding.**

   Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Ends

3. **Describe how the requested investment amount for this intervention will help your community achieve regional goals and address specific gaps in the homeless response system as identified in the regional gaps assessment.**

   Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Ends

4. **Check any specific population(s) expected to be served through this intervention investment.**

   Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Begins
   Submitter expects to serve the following specific populations:
   Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Ends

5. **Describe how this intervention investment will address the disproportionate impacts of homelessness on communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous communities.**

   Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Ends

6. **Describe how and how often performance will be measured for this intervention investment.**

   Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Ends

7. **If this intervention investment is expected to serve youth experiencing homelessness (as defined in HSC § 50216 (k) what youth-specific best practices will be utilized to ensure they can access the services?**

Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Begins
Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Ends

12.   HHAP Round 2 Funding Plan 3

Submission ID: NOFA-HHAP00102

Intervention Type:
Intervention Type Response:

Total Funds Requested:
Total Funds Requested Response:

HHAP Eligible Uses:

1. Rapid rehousing
Rapid rehousing response:

2. Operating subsidies
Operating subsidies response:

3. Street outreach
Street outreach response:

4. Services coordination
Services coordination response:

5. Systems support
Systems support response:

6. Delivery of permanent housing
Delivery of permanent housing response:

7. Prevention and diversion
Prevention and diversion response:

8. New navigation centers and emergency shelters
New navigation centers and emergency shelters response:

(Interim Housing Only Begins)

Demonstrated Need Data:

# of available shelter beds
# of available shelter beds response:

# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count
# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months response:

% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
response:

Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing
Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing response:

(Interim Housing Only Ends)

2. **Describe the scale and scope of anticipated intervention model and outline the key service components expected to be provided with this funding.**

    Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Begins
    Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Ends

3. **Describe how the requested investment amount for this intervention will help your community achieve regional goals and address specific gaps in the homeless response system as identified in the regional gaps assessment.**

    Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Begins
    Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Ends

4. **Check any specific population(s) expected to be served through this intervention investment.**

    Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Begins
    Submitter expects to serve the following specific populations:
    Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Ends

5. **Describe how this intervention investment will address the disproportionate impacts of homelessness on communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous communities.**

    Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Begins
    Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Ends

6. **Describe how and how often performance will be measured for this intervention investment.**

    Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Begins
    Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Ends

7. **If this intervention investment is expected to serve youth experiencing homelessness (as defined in HSC § 50216 (k) what youth-specific best practices will be utilized to ensure they can access the services?**

Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Begins
Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Ends

13. HHAP Round 2 Funding Plan 4

Submission ID: NOFA-HHAP00102

Intervention Type:
Intervention Type Response:

Total Funds Requested:
Total Funds Requested Response:

HHAP Eligible Uses:

1. Rapid rehousing
Rapid rehousing response:

2. Operating subsidies
Operating subsidies response:

3. Street outreach
Street outreach response:

4. Services coordination
Services coordination response:

5. Systems support
Systems support response:

6. Delivery of permanent housing
Delivery of permanent housing response:

7. Prevention and diversion
Prevention and diversion response:

8. New navigation centers and emergency shelters
New navigation centers and emergency shelters response:

(Interim Housing Only Begins)

Demonstrated Need Data:

# of available shelter beds
# of available shelter beds response:

# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count
# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months response:

% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
response:

Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing
Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing response:

(Interim Housing Only Ends)

2. **Describe the scale and scope of anticipated intervention model and outline the key service components expected to be provided with this funding.**

   Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Ends

3. **Describe how the requested investment amount for this intervention will help your community achieve regional goals and address specific gaps in the homeless response system as identified in the regional gaps assessment.**

   Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Ends

4. **Check any specific population(s) expected to be served through this intervention investment.**

   Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Begins
   Submitter expects to serve the following specific populations:
   Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Ends

5. **Describe how this intervention investment will address the disproportionate impacts of homelessness on communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous communities.**

   Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Ends

6. **Describe how and how often performance will be measured for this intervention investment.**

   Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Ends

7. **If this intervention investment is expected to serve youth experiencing homelessness (as defined in HSC § 50216 (k) what youth-specific best practices will be utilized to ensure they can access the services?**

Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Begins
Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Ends

14.   HHAP Round 2 Funding Plan 5

Submission ID: NOFA-HHAP00102

Intervention Type:
Intervention Type Response:

Total Funds Requested:
Total Funds Requested Response:

HHAP Eligible Uses:

1. Rapid rehousing
Rapid rehousing response:

2. Operating subsidies
Operating subsidies response:

3. Street outreach
Street outreach response:

4. Services coordination
Services coordination response:

5. Systems support
Systems support response:

6. Delivery of permanent housing
Delivery of permanent housing response:

7. Prevention and diversion
Prevention and diversion response:

8. New navigation centers and emergency shelters
New navigation centers and emergency shelters response:

(Interim Housing Only Begins)

Demonstrated Need Data:

# of available shelter beds
# of available shelter beds response:

# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count
# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months response:

% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions response:

Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing
Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing response:

(Interim Housing Only Ends)

2. **Describe the scale and scope of anticipated intervention model and outline the key service components expected to be provided with this funding.**

Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Begins
Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Ends

3. **Describe how the requested investment amount for this intervention will help your community achieve regional goals and address specific gaps in the homeless response system as identified in the regional gaps assessment.**

Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Begins
Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Ends

4. **Check any specific population(s) expected to be served through this intervention investment.**

Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Begins
Submitter expects to serve the following specific populations:
Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Ends

5. **Describe how this intervention investment will address the disproportionate impacts of homelessness on communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous communities.**

Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Begins
Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Ends

6. **Describe how and how often performance will be measured for this intervention investment.**

Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Begins
Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Ends

7. **If this intervention investment is expected to serve youth experiencing homelessness (as defined in HSC § 50216 (k) what youth-specific best practices will be utilized to ensure they can access the services?**

Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Begins
Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Ends

15.   HHAP Round 2 Funding Plan 6

Submission ID: NOFA-HHAP00102

Intervention Type:
Intervention Type Response:

Total Funds Requested:
Total Funds Requested Response:

HHAP Eligible Uses:

1. Rapid rehousing
Rapid rehousing response:

2. Operating subsidies
Operating subsidies response:

3. Street outreach
Street outreach response:

4. Services coordination
Services coordination response:

5. Systems support
Systems support response:

6. Delivery of permanent housing
Delivery of permanent housing response:

7. Prevention and diversion
Prevention and diversion response:

8. New navigation centers and emergency shelters
New navigation centers and emergency shelters response:

(Interim Housing Only Begins)

Demonstrated Need Data:

# of available shelter beds
# of available shelter beds response:

# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless
point-in-time count
# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless
point-in-time count response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months response:

% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions response:

Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing
Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing response:

(Interim Housing Only Ends)

2. **Describe the scale and scope of anticipated intervention model and outline the key service components expected to be provided with this funding.**

   Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Ends

3. **Describe how the requested investment amount for this intervention will help your community achieve regional goals and address specific gaps in the homeless response system as identified in the regional gaps assessment.**

   Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Ends

4. **Check any specific population(s) expected to be served through this intervention investment.**

   Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Begins
   Submitter expects to serve the following specific populations:
   Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Ends

5. **Describe how this intervention investment will address the disproportionate impacts of homelessness on communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous communities.**

   Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Ends

6. **Describe how and how often performance will be measured for this intervention investment.**

   Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Begins
   Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Ends

7. **If this intervention investment is expected to serve youth experiencing homelessness (as defined in HSC § 50216 (k) what youth-specific best practices will be utilized to ensure they can access the services?**

Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Begins
Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Ends

16.   HHAP Round 2 Funding Plan 7

Submission ID: NOFA-HHAP00102

Intervention Type:
Intervention Type Response:

Total Funds Requested:
Total Funds Requested Response:

HHAP Eligible Uses:

1. Rapid rehousing
Rapid rehousing response:

2. Operating subsidies
Operating subsidies response:

3. Street outreach
Street outreach response:

4. Services coordination
Services coordination response:

5. Systems support
Systems support response:

6. Delivery of permanent housing
Delivery of permanent housing response:

7. Prevention and diversion
Prevention and diversion response:

8. New navigation centers and emergency shelters
New navigation centers and emergency shelters response:

(Interim Housing Only Begins)

Demonstrated Need Data:

# of available shelter beds
# of available shelter beds response:

# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count
# of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 homeless point-in-time count response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the summer months response:

Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months
Shelter vacancy rate (%) in the winter months response:

% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
% of exits from emergency shelters to permanent housing solutions
response:

Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing
Describe plan to connect residents to permanent housing response:

(Interim Housing Only Ends)

2. **Describe the scale and scope of anticipated intervention model and outline the key service components expected to be provided with this funding.**

    Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Begins
    Funding Plan – Question 2 – Response Ends

3. **Describe how the requested investment amount for this intervention will help your community achieve regional goals and address specific gaps in the homeless response system as identified in the regional gaps assessment.**

    Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Begins
    Funding Plan – Question 3 – Response Ends

4. **Check any specific population(s) expected to be served through this intervention investment.**

    Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Begins
    Submitter expects to serve the following specific populations:
    Funding Plan – Question 4 – Response Ends

5. **Describe how this intervention investment will address the disproportionate impacts of homelessness on communities of color, particularly Black, Latinx, Asian, Pacific Islander, and Native and Indigenous communities.**

    Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Begins
    Funding Plan – Question 5 – Response Ends

6. **Describe how and how often performance will be measured for this intervention investment.**

    Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Begins
    Funding Plan – Question 6 – Response Ends

7. **If this intervention investment is expected to serve youth experiencing homelessness (as defined in HSC § 50216 (k) what youth-specific best practices will be utilized to ensure they can access the services?**

Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Begins
Funding Plan – Question 7 – Response Ends

Homelessness Response Local Investment Plan

Please refer to the following for guidance and a sample plan:

Guide to Strategic Uses of Key State and Federal Funds to Reduce Homelessness During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Use the Table below to complete the Regional Resources Guide for submittal with your HHAP application. Refer to the Sample Local Investment Plan on page 11 of the Guide to Strategic Uses of Key State and Federal Funds as an example (link above).

Applicant Name:	MERCED COUNTY

Part 1: Summary of Investment Plan

1. Implement a robust Street Outreach & Engagement program for all subpopulations. Connect unsheltered individuals and families to non-congregate emergency shelter, bridge/transitional housing, permanent housing, or critical needed services including health care providers. Implement outreach COVID screening and testing protocols to identify and prioritize individuals and families who face the highest risk. Provide unsheltered individuals and families with assistance to meet basic daily needs. Serving 100 individuals

2. Emergency Non-Congregate Shelter - Continue to operate Project Room Key (motel type shelter), implement COVID screening and testing protocols to identify and prioritize individuals and families who face the highest risk, provide individualized case management to identify, coordinate

3. Rapid Re-Housing Assistance- Provide individuals and families with housing relocation services, housing stabilization services including short or medium term rental assistance as necessary to move into and remain in permanent housing. Provide individuals and families in non-congregate sh

4. Permanent Supportive Housing-Provide individuals and families with permanent housing and wrap around services in order for them to successfully transition from homelessness to housing. Assess individuals and families for current needs and connect them to those services. Case manager

Part 2: Priority and Order of Use of Funding Sources

Non-Congregate Shelter/Interim Housing (Capital / Operations / Services)		Rental Assistance (Short-Term to Permanent)		Permanent Supportive and Service Enriched Housing (Capital / Operations / Services)		Diversion and Homelessness Prevention	
Funding Source: Use and Priority #1		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #1**		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #1**		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #1**	
Funding Source:	Other	Funding Source:	CalWORKs HSP (via CDSS)	Funding Source:	HDAP (via CDSS)	Funding Source:	Other
If Other, List:	MHSA	If Other, List:		If Other, List:		If Other, List:	CA Dept of Social Services
Funding Amount:	$4,909,495.00	Funding Amount:	$2,936,748.00	Funding Amount:	$636,259.00	Funding Amount:	$266,670.00
Unit of Measure:	Individual	Unit of Measure:	Household	Unit of Measure:	Individual	Unit of Measure:	Individual
If Other, List:		If Other, List:		If Other, List:		If Other, List:	
Number Assisted:	75.00	Number Assisted:	200.00	Number Assisted:	25.00	Number Assisted:	50.00
Deadline for Expenditure:	1/31/2022	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2021	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2021	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2021
Funded Activity:	Operations	Funded Activity:	Permanent	Funded Activity:	Other	Funded Activity:	Prevention
If Other, list:		If Other, list:	Short Term	If Other, list:	Permanent Housing/Rental Assistance	If Other, list:	Diversion
Narrative Description (Optional):	Navigation Center opening March 2021	Narrative Description (Optional):	Rapid Re-Housing & Temporary Short-term Housing	Narrative Description (Optional):	for individuals, including assisting them through the Social Security application	Narrative Description (Optional):	Home Safe provides prevention services to APS referred clients
Funding Source: Use and Priority #2		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #2**		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #2**		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #2**	
Funding Source:	Other	Funding Source:	Other	Funding Source:	CoC (via HUD)	Funding Source:	HEAP (via HCFC)
If Other, List:	MHSA	If Other, List:	CESH I	If Other, List:		If Other, List:	
Funding Amount:	$994,431.00	Funding Amount:	$503,500.00	Funding Amount:	$626,269.00	Funding Amount:	$100,000.00
Unit of Measure:	Individual	Unit of Measure:	Other	Unit of Measure:	Other	Unit of Measure:	Individual
If Other, List:		If Other, List:	Individuals & Families	If Other, List:	Individuals & Families	If Other, List:	
Number Assisted:	30.00	Number Assisted:	50.00	Number Assisted:	40.00	Number Assisted:	50.00
Deadline for Expenditure:	1/31/2022	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2025	Deadline for Expenditure:	12/31/2021	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2021
Funded Activity:	Other	Funded Activity:	Permanent	Funded Activity:	Operations	Funded Activity:	Other
If Other, list:	Capital & operating	If Other, list:		If Other, list:		If Other, list:	Outreach for Diversion & Housing
Narrative Description (Optional):	Mini Navigation Centers; 4 in Merced, 25 beds total 1 in Livingston, 5 beds	Narrative Description (Optional):	Rapid Rehousing Short Term & Medium Term	Narrative Description (Optional):	Permanent Supportive Housing Units	Narrative Description (Optional):	Outreach/Diversion Program for high risk elders age 50 & over
Funding Source: Use and Priority #3		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #3**		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #3**		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #3**	
Funding Source:	Other	Funding Source:	ESG-CV (via HCD)	Funding Source:	Other	Funding Source:	HHAP (via HCFC)
If Other, List:	CESH I	If Other, List:	Round 1	If Other, List:	epartment of Health Care Servic	If Other, List:	
Funding Amount:	$387,900.00	Funding Amount:	$475,000.00	Funding Amount:	$482,441.00	Funding Amount:	$90,000.00
Unit of Measure:	Individual	Unit of Measure:	Other	Unit of Measure:	Individual	Unit of Measure:	Individual
If Other, List:		If Other, List:	Individuals & Families	If Other, List:		If Other, List:	
Number Assisted:	60.00	Number Assisted:	25.00	Number Assisted:	30.00	Number Assisted:	40.00
Deadline for Expenditure:	12/31/2020	Deadline for Expenditure:	8/31/2022	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2025	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2025
Funded Activity:	Operations	Funded Activity:	Permanent	Funded Activity:	Operations	Funded Activity:	Other
If Other, list:		If Other, list:		If Other, list:		If Other, list:	
Narrative Description (Optional):	D Street Shelter matched by $296,102 CSBG	Narrative Description (Optional):	Rapid Rehousing; short term and medium term	Narrative Description (Optional):	Permanent Supportive Housing Units	Narrative Description (Optional):	Transitional Hsg & Support Svcs for high risk youth aged 18-24
Funding Source: Use and Priority #4		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #4**		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #4**		**Funding Source: Use and Priority #4**	
Funding Source:	HEAP (via HCFC)	Funding Source:	HHAP (via HCFC)	Funding Source:	Other	Funding Source:	Other

If Other, List:		If Other, List:		If Other, List:	California Department of Social Services	If Other, List:	HCD-HNP
Funding Amount:	$344,126	Funding Amount:	$375,000	Funding Amount:	$258,800	Funding Amount:	$60,535
Unit of Measure:	Individual	Unit of Measure:	Other	Unit of Measure:	Individual	Unit of Measure:	Individual
If Other, List:		If Other, List:	Individuals & Families	If Other, List:		If Other, List:	Youth 18-24
Number Assisted:	30	Number Assisted:	40	Number Assisted:	25	Number Assisted:	10
Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2021	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2025	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2021	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2022
Funded Activity:	Operations	Funded Activity:	Permanent	Funded Activity:	Services	Funded Activity:	Other
If Other, list:		If Other, list:		If Other, list:	istance to keep the aged client	If Other, list:	Prevention and Diversion
Narrative Description (Optional):	Transitional/ Bridge Housing for Youth Age 18-24 - "AIM HIGH"	Narrative Description (Optional):	Rapid Rehousing Short Term & Medium Term	Narrative Description (Optional):	Permanent Housing program provides assistance to elderly APS referred clients services are	Narrative Description (Optional):	Care youth to prevent them from becoming homeless after exiting

Funding Source: Use and Priority #5		Funding Source: Use and Priority #5		Funding Source: Use and Priority #5		Funding Source: Use and Priority #5	
Funding Source:	HEAP (via HCFC)	Funding Source:	HEAP (via HCFC)	Funding Source:	HHAP (via HCFC)	Funding Source:	Other
If Other, List:		If Other, List:		If Other, List:		If Other, List:	HCD-THP
Funding Amount:	$219,126.00	Funding Amount:	$280,000.00	Funding Amount:	$180,000.00	Funding Amount:	$54,400.00
Unit of Measure:	Individual	Unit of Measure:	Other	Unit of Measure:	Individual	Unit of Measure:	Individual
If Other, List:		If Other, List:	Individuals & Families	If Other, List:		If Other, List:	Youth 18-25
Number Assisted:	9.00	Number Assisted:	30.00	Number Assisted:	10.00	Number Assisted:	10.00
Deadline for Expenditure:	3/31/2021	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2021	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2025	Deadline for Expenditure:	6/30/2022
Funded Activity:	Other	Funded Activity:	Permanent	Funded Activity:	Other	Funded Activity:	Other
If Other, list:	Capital & operating	If Other, list:		If Other, list:	Transitional Hsg & Support Svcs	If Other, list:	Prevention, Services, Rental Assist
Narrative Description (Optional):	Transitional/ Bridge Housing in Los Banos	Narrative Description (Optional):	Rapid Rehousing Short Term & Medium Term	Narrative Description (Optional):		Narrative Description (Optional):	Program for Foster Care youth to prevent them from becoming homeless after exiting care

Continuum of Care 2019 Outcomes by Race and Ethnicity

Applicant Name:	Merced County	CoC Name, if different:	Merced City & County Continuum of Care

Using data from your HMIS, please insert outcomes here (using the period from Jan 1 2019- Dec 31 2019):

	Experiencing Homelessness		Accessing Emergency Shelters		Exiting to Permanent Housing		Length of Time Homeless		Accessing Permanent Supportive Housing		Length of Time to get housing (# of days to exit homelessness)		Accessing Coordinated Entry		Returns to Homelessness		Other Measure: _____	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total	608	100%	320	100%	422	100%	510	100%	32	100%	510	100%	32	100%	213	100%		####
White	445	73%	242	76%	188	45%	228	45%	16	50%	228	45%	16	50%	98	46%		#####
Black	79	13%	49	15%	62	15%	84	16%	8	25%	84	16%	8	25%	31	15%		#####
Native American/Alaskan	12	2%	3	1%	11	3%	12	2%	0	0%	12	2%	0	0%	0	0%		#####
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	1%	2	1%	8	2%	3	1%	0	0%	12	2%	1	3%	5	2%		#####
Other/Multi-Racial	68	11%	24	8%	153	36%	183	36%	8	25%	174	34%	7	22%	79	37%		#####
Ethnicity								0%		0%		0%		0%		0%		#####
Hispanic	207	34%	95	30%	141	33%	157	31%	6	19%	157	31%	6	19%	68	32%		#####
Non-Hispanic	401	66%	225	70%	281	67%	353	69%	26	81%	353	69%	26	81%	145	68%		#####