

El Dorado County HHAP Application

1. SUMMARY OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE CoC, LARGE CITY, OR COUNTY

A. Submit their CoC's complete HUD Longitudinal System Assessment (LSA) from June 2018 – June 2019 (Attached)

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

1. Total number of households served in:
 - (1) Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven and Transitional Housing: **457**
 - (2) Rapid Rehousing: **1**
 - (3) Permanent Supportive Housing: **0**
2. Total number of disabled households served across all interventions: **229**
3. Total number of households experiencing chronic homelessness served across all interventions: **93**
4. Total number of 55+ households served across all interventions: **143**
5. Total number of unaccompanied youth served across all interventions: **468**
6. Total number of veteran households served across all interventions: **62**
7. Number of individuals served across all interventions who were:
 - (1) Female: **510**
 - (2) Male: **453**
 - (3) Transgender: **7**
 - (4) Gender Non-Conforming: **4**
8. Total number individuals served across all interventions who were:
 - (1) White Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino (only): **733**
 - (2) White, Hispanic/Latino (only): **104**
 - (3) Black or African American (only): **33**
 - (4) Asian (only): **6**
 - (5) American Indian or Alaska Native (only): **40**
 - (5) Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (only): **11**
 - (6) Multiple races: **24**
 - (7) Client doesn't know or refused: **23**
 - (8) Data not collected: **2**

For Large City and County applicants:

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

As the Administrative Entity for California Emergency Solutions to Housing (CESH), the County has allocated a majority of the available funding to pay for enhanced coordinated entry services. To date, the enhanced Coordinated Entry has consisted of funding Coordinated Entry Services and personnel, through an agreement between the County and Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless, which serves as the lead agency for Coordinated Entry through the CoC serving the South Lake Tahoe basin (East Slope). Additionally, the County has pursued the recruitment of a

dedicated, full-time position to operate CES on the Western Slope of the county. Should the County continue to be unable to recruit a qualified Coordinated Entry position on the West Slope, the County will look to provide Tahoe Coalition with additional funding to expand its services on the West Slope through a collaborative, co-location for services model. In either approach, the West Slope Coordinated Entry position will be located at Health and Social Services (3047 Briw Rd, Placerville), which is located next door to the physical access point for most of the County's assistance programs and in the same building CalWORKs, Housing Support Program, and the Public Housing Authority. The West Slope Coordinated Entry position will be meeting with walk ins, conduct CES intakes over the phone, and perform homeless outreach with law enforcement, city partners, and other CoC agencies to all areas of the County, ensuring that the entire geographic area receives access to CES on a regular basis.

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

The greatest challenge is the unique and large geography of El Dorado County (EDC). According to the US Census Bureau, 53% of EDC is forestland and only 17% is developed interspersed with mountains/forests dividing developed areas throughout the county. Having so much forestland creates unique challenges as homeless encampments or individuals may be hidden or otherwise have barriers to accessing coordinated entry services. To ensure full coverage within this challenging terrain, the CoC advertises CES in as many ways as possible to ensure that persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness can access CES through telephone from anywhere in the County, in person at a CES Lead Agency office, on either slope during walk-in hours, through contact with outreach teams at hot spots or encampments, and at multiple other sites where CES Staff do regularly scheduled intakes. CES does the best it can with the resources available. However additional funding that could be renewable, the system could be ensured to retain its foundation while improving and fine tuning its efforts to conduct outreach to all areas of the County.

To address these challenges, the County, Cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe, and the Continuum of Care are developing a 5-Year Regional Homeless Strategic Plan. The intent is for this plan to lead to enhanced regional coordination, and hopefully ongoing financial support from local partners that could help sustain and improve CES staffing levels, improving the ability to serve more folks, provide more document readiness services, and also conduct enhanced outreach. In addition to the strategic plan, the CoC is hopeful that through its limited HUD CoC Renewable funding, Tahoe Coalition may apply for Coordinated Entry funding should a housing project not be renewed. Beyond the use of the strategic plan to coordinate local contributions to the system response to homelessness, the County and CoC will continue looking to both the Federal and State governments for opportunities to pursue Coordinated Entry specific funding as it becomes available, to continue chipping away at El Dorado's expansive geographic barriers.

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

- a. Specifically, what outreach do you conduct to ensure all individuals experiencing homelessness in your jurisdiction, including those with**

multiple barriers, are aware of the CES assessment and referral process?

CES serves the entire geographic area. Due to the unique geography of El Dorado County, it is especially important to have multiple and diverse access, intake, and outreach resources. To ensure full coverage within this challenging terrain, persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness can access CES thru telephone from anywhere in the County, in person at a CES Lead Agency office, on either slope during walk-in hours, through contact w/ outreach teams at hot spots or encampments, and at multiple other sites where CES Staff do regularly scheduled intakes. Outreach is conducted with the Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), Police Department Teams, at the emergency rooms located at Marshall and Barton Hospitals, seasonal shelters during snowy or cold winter months, and in response to calls for service from local CoC partners where individuals may have made contact. While conducting outreach of any type, CES staff use trauma-informed, client-centered approaches to engage individuals in homeless encampments and other remote areas where individuals are least likely to otherwise be served. For example, the Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team recently retrofitted a trailer to include mobile WiFi and desks/computers, creating a confidential/mobile space to increase opportunities for outreach services access, including providing health/mental health services and connections to other available benefits and resources. CES staff and other local agencies support HOT in the outreach trailer regularly. Other examples of locations where outreach is conducted by CES staff include libraries, food banks, shelters, and other local areas frequented by individuals experiencing Homelessness. CES staff are multilingual and are prepared to address the needs of non-English speaking or disabled individuals and of families with children, who might not otherwise apply. To ensure that CES reaches those least likely to apply and who experience barriers to housing, information about CES is provided to housing service providers throughout the CoC; it is also posted and widely advertised verbally, on fliers, and on the EDOK website (www.edokcoc.org) as well as partner websites.

A. Prioritization Criteria

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

El Dorado County is closely partnered with the CoC, and relies upon the EDOK criteria for prioritizing assistance for people experiencing homelessness. The county relies upon EDOK's written standards, which are required as written policies and procedures that govern the provision of assistance to individuals and families in CoC and ESG-funded programs. These policies and procedures provide guidance to El Dorado County and to local providers in administering assistance. All CoC- and ESG-funded programs may serve only clients who meet federal definitions of homelessness, with the exception of homelessness prevention programs, which may serve persons "at-risk of homelessness." EDOK programs that have dedicated or prioritized beds for clients who meet the definition of chronically homeless, must serve or prioritize those clients, as set forth in the HEARTH Final Rule Defining "Chronically Homeless."

Homeless status must be verified at intake for all incoming consumers, and providers must make every effort to meet federal standards of documentation. Acceptable forms of documentation include third-party documentation, second-party documentation (observation by provider) if third-party documentation is not available, and client self-certification if the other forms are not available. If third-party documentation is not available, records must certify the due diligence undertaken to obtain such documentation.

1. **Income Levels**

Program participants receiving housing assistance where rent or occupancy charge is paid by the participant will be required to certify their income level, in compliance with 24 CFR § 578.103(a)(6).

2. **Documentation**

The following documents will be gathered at intake:

- a. Personal Identification: If the participant is unable to produce personal identification, the participant shall not be barred from programs, but may be assisted in obtaining identification;
- b. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Intake Form;
- c. HMIS acknowledgment forms and Releases of Information (ROIs);
- d. Verification of Homelessness Form; and
- e. VI-SPDAT.

As needed, the following documents will be gathered at follow-up:

- a. Income Verification Form;
- b. If Chronic Homelessness was indicated on the HMIS Intake Form, Verification of Chronic Homelessness Form; and
- c. If Chronic Homeless status is indicated on the Verification of Chronic Homelessness Form, the Certification of Disability Form should also be completed.

At program enrollment, program intake forms may also be completed. However, program intake forms do not determine eligibility for the program.

3. **Coordinated Entry and Program Eligibility Assessment**

As set forth in the El Dorado Opportunity Knocks' CoC Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures, providers administering CoC- or ESG-funded permanent housing (either RRH or PSH) shall use Coordinated Entry to ensure housing is prioritized for the most vulnerable members of the community who are eligible for the provider's program. Providers will also use Coordinated Entry to prioritize clients for other services and interventions.

4. **Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT).** The VI-SPDAT is an assessment tool chosen for coordinated entry and being used currently in

the coordinated entry system. The VI-SPDAT combines the strengths of two widely used existing assessments:

- a. The Vulnerability Index (VI), developed by **Community Solutions** using leading medical research, which helps determine the chronicity and medical vulnerability of homeless individuals.
- b. The Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT), developed by **OrgCode Consulting**, is an intake and case management tool. Based on a wide body of social science research and extensive field testing, the tool helps service providers allocate resources in a logical, targeted way.

The VI-SPDAT is designed to help calibrate the response based on the individual, not merely the general population category into which they may fall (e.g., vulnerable, chronically homeless, etc.). The tool helps identify the best type of support and housing intervention for an individual.

THE COC ADOPTED ORDER OF PRIORITY IN NOTICE CPD 16-11

The Order of Priority in CoC Program-funded Permanent Supportive Housing Beds Dedicated to Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Permanent Supportive Housing Prioritized for Occupancy by Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

1. First Priority—Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest History of Homelessness and with the Most Severe Service Needs.

A chronically homeless individual or head of household as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 for whom both of the following are true:

- a. The chronically homeless individual or head of household of a family has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for at least 12 months either continuously or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the cumulative total length of the four occasions equals at least 12 months; and
- b. The CoC or CoC Program recipient has identified the chronically homeless individual or head of household, who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of the definition for chronically homeless, of the family as having severe service needs (see Section I.D.3. of this Notice for definition of severe service needs).

2. Second Priority—Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Longest History of Homelessness.

A chronically homeless individual or head of household, as defined in 24 CFR 578.3, for which both of the following are true:

- a. The chronically homeless individual or head of household of a family has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for at least 12 months either continuously or on at least four

separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the cumulative total length of the four occasions equals at least 12 months; and

- b. The CoC or CoC program recipient has not identified the chronically homeless individual or the head of household, who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of the definition for chronically homeless, of the family as having severe service needs.

3. Third Priority—Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families with the Most Severe Service Needs.

A chronically homeless individual or head of household as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 for whom both of the following are true:

- a. The chronically homeless individual or head of household of a family has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the total length of those separate occasions equals less than one year; and
- b. The CoC or CoC program recipient has identified the chronically homeless individual or the head of household, who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of the definition for chronically homeless, of the family as having severe service needs.

4. Fourth Priority—All Other Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families.

A chronically homeless individual or head of household as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 for whom both of the following are true:

- a. The chronically homeless individual or head of household of a family has been homeless and living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter for on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the cumulative total length the four occasions is less than 12 months; and
- b. The CoC or CoC program recipient has not identified the chronically homeless individual or the head of household, who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of the definition for chronically homeless, of the family as having severe service needs

Order of Priority in Permanent Supportive Housing Beds Not Dedicated or Prioritized for Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

1. First Priority—Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with Long Periods of Episodic Homelessness and Severe Service Needs.

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), who has experienced fewer than four occasions where they have been living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter but where the cumulative time homeless is at least 12 months **and** has been identified as having service needs.

2. Second Priority—Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability with Severe Service Needs.

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH, who is residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, and has been identified as having severe service needs. The length of time in which households have been homeless should also be considered when prioritizing households that meet this order of priority, but there is not a minimum length of time required.

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

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter where the individual or family has not been identified as having severe service needs. The length of time in which households have been homeless should be considered when prioritizing households that meet this order of priority, but there is not a minimum length of time required.

4. Fourth Priority—Homeless Individuals and Families with a Disability Coming from Transitional Housing.

An individual or family that is eligible for CoC Program-funded PSH who is currently residing in a transitional housing project, where prior to residing in the transitional housing had lived in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or safe haven. This priority also includes individuals and families residing in transitional housing who were fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and prior to residing in that transitional housing project even if they did not live in a place not meant for human habitation, an emergency shelter, or a safe haven prior to entry in the transitional housing.

These written standards with respect to assessment, prioritization, matching, and referral are to be read in conjunction with a Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures Manual, which the EDOK CoC Board approved.

ORDERS OF PRIORITY FOR ESG-FUNDED ACTIVITIES

The El Dorado Opportunity Knocks CoC adopts the recommended order of priority established in 25 CCR 8409 for ESG-funded activities. The CoC will prioritize access to assistance for people with the most urgent and severe needs, including, but not limited to, survivors of domestic violence. ESG-funded activities shall seek to prioritize people who:

1. Are unsheltered and living in places not designed for human habitation, such as cars, parks, bus stations, and abandoned buildings;

2. Have experienced the longest amount of time homeless;
3. Have multiple and severe service needs that inhibit their ability to quickly identify and secure housing on their own; and
4. For Homelessness prevention activities, people who are at greatest risk of becoming literally homeless without an intervention and are at greatest risk of experiencing a longer time in shelter or on the street should they become homeless.

EMERGENCY TRANSFER PRIORITIZATION

An Emergency Transfer Plan provides for emergency transfers for survivors of domestic violence receiving rental assistance or residing in units subsidized under a covered housing program (including CoC- and ESG- funded programs). Survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, who are eligible for and specifically request an emergency transfer, qualify for Emergency Transfer priority.

When determining and prioritizing which eligible individuals and families will receive CoC- or ESG-funded housing assistance, the El Dorado Opportunity Knocks CoC will follow the CoC's Emergency Transfer Priority protocols as detailed in its Emergency Transfer Plan, which is contained in the CoC's Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures.

STANDARDS FOR ADMINISTERING ASSISTANCE

All programs supported by CoC and/or ESG resources shall meet all HUD requirements, including but not limited to Housing Quality Standards, rent reasonableness standards, Fair Market Rent (FMR) (as relevant), environmental review, and others as applicable.

Enrollment in a CoC and/or ESG-funded program shall be time-limited according to each program's HUD-approved contract terms.

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

Before launching Coordinated Entry by the January 2018 HUD deadline, EDOK had its policies and procedures for Coordinated Entry drafted, reviewed, and approved by ICF, a HUD consultant providing technical assistance to CoC's, nationally. By receiving their approval of the CoC's policies and procedures, Coordinated Entry started with a compliant, HUD approved system that was implemented pursuant to 24 CFR 578.8(a)(8).

Since that time, EDOK has considered updates that help improve service access and delivery for eligible homeless residents, while ensuring compliance pursuant to 24 CFR 578.8(a)(8). EDOK utilizes the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) as its HUD approved, universal intake tool, which develops the CoC's by-name list of homeless individuals. With a by-name list of individuals, ranked by name based upon vulnerability through the VI-SPDAT assessment, the CoC's HUD approved Written Standards are then utilized

to determine prioritization of individuals on the by-name list for available program beds. These described steps are HUD compliant and pursuant to 24 CFR 578.8(a)(8). On a monthly basis, the Coordinated Entry lead agency and CoC Collaborative Applicant participate on calls with Homebase, a technical assistance provider, to continue supporting compliant and improved implementation of Coordinated Entry pursuant to 24 CFR 578.8(a)(8).

All required CoC documents consistent with 24 CFR 578.8(a)(8) are submitted annually to HUD for review during the annual CoC NOFA competition and other HUD reporting periods. EDOK has continued receiving funding from HUD, without any findings of issues related to the policies and procedures and written standards associated with Coordinated Entry.

B. Coordination of Regional Needs

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

There are only two incorporated cities in El Dorado County, Placerville and South Lake Tahoe, with the rest of the county being unincorporated and therefore covered by the County. Approximately 82% of the County is unincorporated and therefore is not supported by a City. Approximately 12% of the County lives in South Lake Tahoe, and approximately 6% of the County lives in Placerville. Through the 2019 Point in Time Count, EDOK analyzed homeless data to determine the proportionate share of homeless individuals not necessarily in each of the three jurisdictions, but rather by the proportionate share of homelessness in the South Lake Tahoe Basin and the Western Slope of the County, which covers mostly unincorporated areas and the City of Placerville. The PIT Count showed that of the 613 individuals counted, 18% were enumerated in the South Lake Tahoe Basin while 82% were enumerated on the Western Slope.

EDOK, the Cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe, and the County of El Dorado are currently working together to develop a 5-year Regional Strategic Plan to Impact Homelessness. The goal of the plan is to bring together these entities, which include all homeless services providers, health clinics, hospitals, housing developers, the public housing authority, and others to coordinate regional efforts. This plan is anticipated to be completed by July-August 2020 and will be adopted by the EDOK and County Board of Supervisors, as well as the two City Councils. The goals and action steps laid out in the plan will be framed around community need. The figures regarding proportionate share of homeless in South Lake Tahoe and the western slope from the 2019 PIT Count will be utilized in decision making, influencing where resources are allocated and the roles of each subsequent jurisdiction in contributing to which causes, as well as the size of their contributions based upon the PIT report of proportionate share data and other information.

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

El Dorado County has enough experience locally to understand that homeless individuals may have resided in a city jurisdiction on the night of the count, while frequently moving in and out of incorporated and unincorporated jurisdictions on a daily basis due to the dispersed location of services, resources, and government offices in El Dorado County. As such, El Dorado County is supporting the Countywide figures as its overall share of the need, and additionally the County will utilize the PIT Count figures from each of the slopes to identify some proportionate share decisions around funding and resources. Lastly, it's also possible that overall census figures from the Cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe and Unincorporated El Dorado County residents may be utilized to determine some allocation of resources and programs.

To maximize the development of the 5-year strategic plan, and ensure the Cities, County, and CoC collectively meet their goals as a region of coordinated partners, HHAP funding and its determined uses will not be identified until the 5-Year Strategic Plan is fully developed. Once the plan is finalized, available HEAP, CESH, and HHAP funding will be utilized to help the 5-Year strategic plan accomplish its goals. Remaining financial needs may be supported by other available CoC programs, State or Federal funded programs, or contributions from local jurisdictions, hospitals, or other organizations.

D. Creating Sustainable, Long Term Housing Solutions

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

El Dorado County has prioritized creating sustainable units as a key piece of the conversation in the current development of the 5-year strategic plan. As a key example, to gather as many resources as possible to assist with long-term, sustainable housing solutions through the strategic plan, the El Dorado Public Housing Authority has pursued several grant opportunities to focus on homelessness: Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers and Mainstream Vouchers. In December, the Public Housing Authority received an award of 25 VASH vouchers, increasing the total allocation for the program to a total of 30 VASH and 10 Mainstream vouchers. The intent is to pair these vouchers with the strategic plan, to ensure regional support and coordination occurs with cities, hospitals, and CoC agencies.

All of these vouchers will be distributed to developers over the coming 6-12 months through a Request for Proposal process. With developer's requiring vouchers to pursue tax credits in an effort to create financially feasible projects, the distribution of these vouchers should allow the Housing Authority to create 30 project based units that are dedicated to homeless veterans and 10 units dedicated to individuals/households with disabilities that are at risk of homelessness and institutionalization. As project-based vouchers, these units would remain a consistent resource, indefinitely for vulnerable homeless households to obtain and retain long-term housing.

Additionally, the public housing authority is in the process of developing what's called a 'moving on strategy,' which will go hand-in-hand with these 40 project-based units. Over time,

if a homeless household has stabilized and will no longer require as many supportive services to retain the units, through the ‘moving on strategy,’ the housing authority can replace either the VASH or Mainstream voucher with a normal project-based voucher, thereby helping the individual to continue retaining the unit while freeing up the VASH and Mainstream voucher and its services to be made available to the next, eligible homeless household. Through these strategies, there are many opportunities to increase affordable, long-term housing for homeless residents that El Dorado County is proud of.

2. RESOURCES ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

A. Existing Programs and Resources

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

a. Federal Funding

ESG: \$273,000 - Rapid Rehousing, Street Outreach, HMIS

CoC: \$19,564 – HMIS Grant and Planning Grant

CSBG: \$30,000: Homeless Prevention Services

HOME: \$89,397 – First Time Homebuyer and Owner Occupied Rehab loan programs

CDBG: \$139,914 – First time Homebuyer, Owner Occupied Rehab, and Business loan programs

PATH: \$ 47,000 – Homeless outreach, SSI advocacy, case management for individuals with Serious Mental Illness, first month’s rent and deposit.

VASH Vouchers: \$225,360 – 30 VASH Vouchers

Mainstream Vouchers: \$87,620 – 10 Vouchers

b. State Funding

HEAP: \$1,448,323.63 – Capital improvements (temporary housing program), rental assistance or subsidies, homeless youth set aside, short-term housing, administrative costs.

CESH 2018: \$474,717 – Systems Support (Coordinated Entry Staffing and 2019/2021 Point in Time Counts), Development of a Plan Addressing Actions within Service Area (strategic plan), Administrative costs

CESH 2019: \$277,237 – Flexible Housing Subsidy funds (housing authority), operating support for emergency housing interventions, systems support (Coordinated Entry staffing), development of a plan addressing actions within service area (strategic plan), administrative costs.

CalWORKS HSP: \$1,303,968 – first month’s rent and deposit, rental assistance, case management

NPLH: \$911,801 – technical assistance and development/construction costs

- SB2 Planning Grants:** \$310,000 – Housing production related
- c. Local Funding**
- Technical Assistance Contract:** \$52,000 – funding from Barton hospital, Marshall hospital, El Dorado County, City of Placerville, and City of South Lake Tahoe for technical assistance to the Continuum of Care.

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

The majority of these resources (ESG, CoC, CSBG, PATH, VASH, Mainstream, HEAP, CESH, CalWORKs HSP, and NPLH) are all programs that are now or once operational available through Coordinated Entry. CalWORKs HSP is the only program that could be accessed without going through Coordinated Entry; all other programs can be accessed exclusively through Coordinated Entry (CES). With that, CES serves the entire geographic area. Due to the unique geography of El Dorado County, it is especially important to have diverse access/intake and outreach. To ensure that Coordinated Entry and all the described homeless and housing resources are integrated and coordinated with the county, our cities, and the CoC, entry points for these services are available in every area of El Dorado County, in partnership with all jurisdictions and the CoC. Persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness can access CES through telephone from anywhere in the County, in person at a CES Lead Agency office in Placerville or South Lake Tahoe during walk-in hours, through contact w/ outreach teams at hot spots or encampments, and at multiple other sites where CES Staff do regularly scheduled intakes. Outreach is conducted with the Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team, South Lake Tahoe and Placerville Police Department Teams, at the emergency rooms located at Marshall and Barton Hospitals, seasonal shelters during snowy or cold winter months, and in response to calls for service from local CoC partners where individuals may be located. Other examples of locations where outreach is conducted by CES staff include libraries, food banks, shelters and other local areas frequented by individuals experiencing Homelessness.

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

A recent housing study conducted in El Dorado County suggests that we lack 3,070 affordable units to meet our housing needs, locally¹.

Specific to services, we lack permanent supportive housing (PSH). The CoC has never had any PSH programs, largely because the CoC has not increased its bonus funding through the HUD CoC competition. The CoC has only been administratively supported by the county, cities, and hospitals collectively since 2017. Prior to 2017, the CoC was supported by a small group of non-profits that did the best they could to maintain as much of the compliance requirements as

¹ Produced by the California Housing Partnership, with local policy recommendations provided through the Tahoe Prosperity Center. Accessed 1/23/20. Report located: <https://1p08d91kd0c03rlxhmhtydpr-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/HNR-El-Dorado-2019.pdf>

possible. Since 2017, the CoC has significantly increased its funding and non-profit partner expertise, and the 2019 CoC NOFA saw the first PSH application in El Dorado's history. We hope to receive this grant.

Lastly, El Dorado County does not have a year-round emergency shelter. Winter shelters exist during snowy and cold months. However, these shelters have limited capacities, and the larger program, exclusively on the western slope, is a nomadic shelter of churches. Because they are volunteers, expertise lacks specific to sheltering the chronically homeless, and as such the program tends to serve lower needs homeless, leaving higher needs individuals outside in the elements. This expands upon the trauma already experienced by these individuals, while increasing local EMS, hospital, law enforcement, and other emergency expenses.

In closing, the top three resources missing: Affordable housing units; Permanent Supportive Housing programs; and year-round temporary/emergency beds.

B. HHAP Funding Plans

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

El Dorado plans to use its HHAP funding primarily on (1) creating new permanent housing, and on (2) continuing the operation of new low-barrier emergency shelters that were funded through HEAP and CESH, and (3) the launch of El Dorado's first major prevention and diversion program. Other HHAP funding allocations include landlord incentives, an expansion of El Dorado's HMIS, and a youth set-aside that will provide services uniquely tailored to the needs of homeless youth, including youth-appropriate counselling, education, and social activities.

The new permanent housing will close a major existing gap in El Dorado's current housing and homeless services, because El Dorado's Homeless Inventory Count (HIC) shows that there are only 5 Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds in the region, compared to 107 Rapid Re-Housing beds and 64 Transitional Housing beds. Even a modest increase in the stock of PSH beds will therefore help re-balance El Dorado's system of care.

The operating subsidies for emergency shelters will complement existing HEAP/CESH funds by allowing them to operate for a longer period of time, ensuring stable operations that allow staff to accumulate expertise and increasing the likelihood that the new shelters will be able to acquire a permanent source of ongoing funding. The region already has over \$700,000 in non-HHAP funds earmarked for the construction of new low-barrier emergency shelters, so HHAP funding will be critical in helping to ensure that these new shelters remain operational for as long as possible.

Finally, the prevention and diversion program will fill a gap in the region's services, which primarily focus on addressing the needs of people who are already unsheltered. Because the El

Dorado region will likely continue to have a small number of subsidized beds, solving homelessness will require reducing the inflow of new homeless clients into the system through strategies like prevention and diversion.

El Dorado Opportunity Knocks Continuum of Care, El Dorado County, and the cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe are working together to author a strategic plan that will help build consensus around how to maximize the use of these available resources. Once completed, this plan will include clear goals, projects, responsible parties, and performance measures identified to ensure that the plan produces measurable success.

By Fall/Winter 2020, a local application process will occur through the CoC to solicit interest in HHAP funding, with specific projects targeted based upon the strategic planning process identifying those projects as clear needs. As a piece of that process, any agencies that may be uniquely qualified to perform any of the plan's identified services that HHAP funding will go toward would be selected. If there is more than one agency that provides the same or similar services, a scoring tool will be developed, and a local competition will be held to select providers, similar to the CoC NOFA or ESG NOFA processes. This will ensure open, fair, and equal access to compete for funding, while also ensuring that HHAP funding goes toward meeting the biggest gaps and needs in the community as identified through the development of the 5-year strategic plan. The full required amount of the youth set-aside will also be distributed using this process, with a preference for providers who have experience working with homeless youth.

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

El Dorado Opportunity Knocks only funds Housing First programs. By California Law, all California funded programs must only fund Housing First Programs. To ensure that this continues, following the completion of the 5-year Regional Strategic Plan draft, when agencies are being solicited for HHAP funded programs associated with the plan, a threshold requirement of simply seeking the funding will be that they implement the program as "Housing First." Should a shelter program be implemented, a threshold requirement for the provider will be that it is a no-barrier program. A few additional threshold requirements for any Housing First Programs will be that they only receive referrals to the program from the Coordinated Entry System, and that they receive technical assistance from our CoC Consultant in best practices related to implementing Housing First and No-Barrier programs.

3. PARTNERS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

A. Collaborating Partner Efforts

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

The final HHAP recipients will not be identified until the completion of the 5-Year Homeless Strategic Plan towards the end of 2020. However, those entities involved in the development of the strategic plan will also likely be organizations seeking the HHAP funding and partnering with HHAP funded projects to accomplish the strategic plan's goals. Agencies involved in the development of the strategic plan include: El Dorado County HHSA, El Dorado County Probation, El Dorado County Sheriff's Office, El Dorado County Community Economic Development, El Dorado Public Housing Authority, City of Placerville, City of South Lake Tahoe, Barton Hospital, Marshall Hospital, Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless, Only Kindness, the Center for Violence Free Relationships, Live Violence Free, Nomadic Shelter, Bella Real Estate, Church of Jesus Christ LDS, Citrus Heights VA, Community Haven, El Dorado Community Foundation, El Dorado Community Health Center, El Dorado County Democratic Party, El Dorado County Office of Education, Elder Options, El Dorado Progressives, Green Valley Community Church, Job's Shelters of the Sierra, Just Serve, National Alliance on Mental Illness, New Morning Youth and Family Services, Placerville Union School District, Tahoe Youth and Family Services, Lilliput, Whole Person Learning, Upper Room, the Lighted Candle, Victory Village, Volunteers of America, and US Bank.

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

Significant barriers that exist are varying beliefs around shelter programs and temporary housing, including a focus on emergency shelter versus pathways to housing. Additionally, there are programs that are resistant to the Housing First methodology and other best practices, despite the research that exists showing its efficacy. There is definitely room for education around best practices for temporary and permanent housing solutions. The intent of utilizing the 5 Year Regional Strategic Plan as the vehicle for accomplishing goals related to all homeless services and housing funding, including the County and CoC portions of HHAP, is to ensure community and regional involvement so that all jurisdictions and the CoC can participate in the plan's development and adopt the plans, creating a pathway for ensuring that these described barriers don't impact the ability to most effectively utilize the funds to reduce homelessness.

3. *If no collaborative partners have been identified at the time of application, describe the collaborative process of how you intend to include new and existing partners on HHAP projects.*

El Dorado Opportunity Knocks and El Dorado County have identified priority areas for funding in alignment with the early stages of the strategic planning process and the gaps and needs in the community but will not allocate the HHAP funding to specific programs until the completion of the 5-Year Strategic Plan in late 2020. Once completed, there will be clear goals, projects, responsible parties, and performance measures identified to ensure that the plan produces measurable success. At that point, all jurisdictions, hospitals, and CoC partners will come

together to bring forward their financial and programmatic contributions to the plan. As that occurs, both the CoC and County HHAP allocations can most strategically be utilized to complement the existing funds, meet identified gaps in housing and homeless services, and ultimately help the plan to produce successful reductions in homelessness in 5 years.

A local application process will occur to solicit interest in HHAP funding, with specific projects targeted based upon the strategic planning process identifying those projects as clear needs. As a piece of that process, any agencies that may be uniquely qualified to perform any of the plan's identified services that HHAP funding will go toward would be selected. If there is more than one agency that provides the same or similar services, a scoring tool will be developed, and a local competition will be held to select providers, similar to the CoC NOFA or ESG NOFA processes. This will ensure open, fair, and equal access to compete for funding, while also ensuring that HHAP funding goes toward meeting the biggest gaps and needs in the community as identified through the development of the 5-year strategic plan. At that time, specific to Youth, the minimum youth set aside will also be distributed in the same way, as a component of the implementation plan developed following the completion of the 5-year strategic plan.

4. SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Applicants that did not Submit a Strategic Plan for CESH must:

- Identify clear, measurable goals that HHAP will be expected to achieve in your jurisdiction.

El Dorado County and El Dorado Opportunity Knocks Continuum of Care will use the HHAP funding in support of our identified goals of preventing homelessness, diverting clients from emergency shelter, providing temporary shelter when necessary, and developing new permanent supportive housing. Based on the first stages of the El Dorado Regional Strategic Plan, which included a detailed community engagement process with surveys, focus groups, and interactive discussion, there was a strong consensus in support of these activities, and so these are the activities that we will pursue under the HHAP program.

In particular, El Dorado plans to allocate \$457,049 (\$95,990 in the County Allocation and \$361,058 from the CoC Allocation) in delivery of permanent housing, which will be used to rehabilitate or acquire new permanent housing. The CoC will provide \$74,739.14 per year for 4 years to fund prevention and diversion, with the County contributing an additional \$10,703.84 per year for the goal. The County has budgeted \$20,000 per year for 3 years to provide landlord incentives, and the County is including a total budgeted amount of \$33,449.50 to support Strategic Homeless Planning Efforts and building HMIS data collection Capacity. The County will also contribute \$126,400 per year for 3 years (FY2022 – FY2025) to supplement the operating costs allocated to the emergency shelter activities supported by the one-time CESH funding for emergency shelters that will expire in FY2022.

Detailed planning for these programs has not yet been worked out due to the emergency nature of the HHAP funding, and because the El Dorado Strategic Planning process is still ongoing. Therefore, the goals below are subject to change based on further development of the program concepts and based on the needs of subrecipients who are successful in the local competition that El Dorado will hold to further allocate this funding.

With that in mind, El Dorado plans to create 5 new units of permanent supportive housing, which is expected to increase the percent of successful ES/TH/SH/RRH exits into permanent housing from its 2018 baseline of 38% up to 50%. In the long run, El Dorado would prefer to have an even higher rate of exits to permanent housing, but this will require additional time and additional funding.

Similarly, El Dorado plans to offer prevention and diversion services to 20 clients per year for 4 years, which is expected to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness for the first time from its 2018 baseline of 387 people down to 372 people. The assumption here is that of the 20 people served with prevention and diversion each year, 16 of them would have become homeless but for the new services, and of those 16 people, 15 will be successfully prevented from becoming homeless and/or diverted from emergency shelter.

Finally, El Dorado plans to continue operating the emergency shelters that were founded through CESH and HEAP for another three years beyond their initial launch period, which is expected to increase the percentage of successful exits from street outreach by 5 percentage points annually above the scenario where these emergency shelters were not available.

In order to improve administrative efficiency, the youth set asides for both El Dorado County and the El Dorado Continuum of Care have been placed entirely into FY2021-22, allowing what would otherwise be a relatively modest stipend to add up to a full-fledged one-time program. Similarly, all funding for acquisition and/or rehabilitation of permanent supportive housing has been combined into FY2021-22, which will allow the County and the CoC to negotiate from a position of strength and make a large cash payment on an appropriate property. By contrast, funding for prevention and diversion will be spread out across 4 years so that staff will have time to learn from experience and improve their delivery of these innovative services, and funding for the emergency shelter operating subsidy will be spread out across 3 years so that it will not begin until the CESH and HEAP funding is running out. Administrative funding has been partially front-loaded so that administrative costs will be available as needed to help develop these programs, win community approval for specific program designs and subrecipients, and remove barriers to program startup.

Consistent with H&S Code 50219(a)6, the County would estimate the total number of individuals served at 20, and the percentage of individuals successfully placed in permanent housing at 10%. This projection is purely speculative at this time and subject to revision. Any activities performed and persons served would be a project of activities determined in the strategic plan that is currently in development. However, to meet the requirement of the aforementioned Code, these projections are meant to serve as nominal outcomes.



January 22, 2020

To whom this may concern:

On behalf of the El Dorado Opportunity Knocks Continuum of Care, CA-525, I write this letter as acknowledgement that the CoC serves the entire geographic service area of El Dorado County in close partnership with the County of El Dorado, as well as the two city jurisdictions: South Lake Tahoe and Placerville.

As homelessness continues to be an issue facing our great state, El Dorado Opportunity Knocks strongly believes that the Continuum of Care must help lead regional coordination with county and city governments as close partners. In this vein, El Dorado Opportunity Knocks is currently working in partnership with El Dorado County, the Cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe, and Marshall and Barton Hospitals to develop a 5-Year Regional Strategic Plan to Impact Homelessness. The plan will be completed by Summer/Fall 2020, and the intent of the plan is to ensure that the region, its jurisdictions, health care providers, and many partners can work together to expand and develop local capacity to address immediate and anticipated homelessness challenges. Through the plan's development and being adopted by all government jurisdictions and the local Continuum of Care, regional coordination will ensure that services and efforts within the area are not duplicated and are greatly supplemented by one another.

El Dorado Opportunity Knocks hosts quarterly community meetings, at which all local government partners and service agencies attend. As the 5-Year Regional Strategic Plan is finalized, these meetings will be utilized to ensure each year's implementation plans are developed, monitored, and lived out. It will be during these regular standing meetings that all overlapping jurisdictions and the Continuum of Care will coordinate efforts closely, jointly planning and evaluating how to best utilize HHAP funding, monitoring of HHAP spending over all, and progress toward accomplishing measurable success through the 5-Year Regional Strategic Plan as the vehicle.

By way of submitting this letter of support, the EDOK Board acknowledges and agrees to regional coordination and partnership with the County of El Dorado and the Cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe, per Health and Safety Code 50219 (a)(1).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel DelMonte". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

EDOK Chair of the Board of Director