

# **The Kings County Human Services Agency Application Narrative Template**

## **Summary of Homelessness in the Kings County**

See the attached file of the HUD Longitudinal System Assessment (LSA) from October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018 for Kings County.

## **Demonstration of Regional Coordination**

### **How does your county coordinate with your CoC's CES?**

The Kings County Human Services Agency has a strong relationship with our homeless Continuum of Care (CoC); Kings/Tulare Homeless Alliance (KTHA), which allows for regional coordination of our entry system. We have staff dedicated to support CES and serve on our CoCs executive board.

KTHA is a broad-based coalition of homeless housing and service providers, advocates, government representatives and consumers working together to shape regional planning and decision-making. Since its inception in 1999, the Alliance has worked tirelessly on its mission of building and sustaining an integrated system for homelessness that promotes quality of life by improving access to housing, health, education, employment and other supportive services connected to or as part of varied levels of homeless support in the bi-county region.

The information received from our CoC assists in driving our approach to working with and advocating for our families. This partnership, along with funding specific to homelessness, has resulted in our development of a Supportive Services Team within Kings County Human Services Agency to serve those in need of homelessness services. By integrating our homeless services in one team, we have been able to provide consistency in our delivery of services which greatly impacts the effectiveness of our regionally coordinated entry system and ease of understanding processes between our agency and our CoC.

We have successfully collaborated with our CoC through the Housing Support Program (HSP) since 2015. We have focused on the following components:

- Creating responsive relationships to assist landlords address customer's barriers to ensure permanent housing retention.
- Addressing tenancy barriers with our families so become more desirable tenants, which results in an increase in permanent housing retention
- Working with local housing partners to ensure that housing navigation and stock are maximized

This approach resulted in housing 106 homeless families and maintaining housing for 23 at-risk of homelessness families in FY 2018/19. The permanent housing retention for the newly housed families was 94% at the sixth month following their exit from HSP.

Though initially gaining landlords willing to work with our clients was the largest barrier, we have built a good reputation in the community and now have a group of landlords that are very willing to work with us and our families. We would leverage these relationships to assist in the permanent housing search for those assisted with rapid re-housing through HHAP funding.

The Kings County Human Services Agency has adopted a team approach philosophy with no wrong door for assistance and is continuously building on our community relationships in order to best serve our struggling clients.

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

Kings County is a largely agricultural community with 22% of the population residing in rural areas and an unemployment rate of 7.7%, which is 4% higher than the state's average ([https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/hanf\\$pd.pdf](https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/hanf$pd.pdf)). Kings County's most populated city, Hanford, also has lower than average vacancy rate of 8.3% with the national average being 12.5 % and a renter pool of 39% of the population. (<http://bestplaces.net/housing/city/california>).

The number of rural residents contributes to the need for greater accessibility to services in these areas. Lack of affordable housing in an already limited vacancy pool necessitates an increase in our housing inventory. The limited access to affordable housing also results in a need for rapid re-housing to bridge the gap between identifying a need to barrier removal. This need is most significant for our highest homeless demographic, single adults, for whom, funding is extremely limited.

The 2019 Point in Time (PIT) count conducted by KTHA reflects 89% (223) of those experiencing homelessness in Kings County are single adults. There are only 105 rapid re-housing beds in our region to meet the need of the 223 single adults in Kings County in addition to the 687 single adults in Tulare County. The lack of available housing further disadvantages an already disadvantaged pool of Kings County citizens due to the competitiveness in the housing application process. Because of our low vacancy rate, landlords have a large applicant pool, which often results in the screening out of those with housing barriers, many of which are a result of unemployment; i.e. poor credit score, low or no income, poor rental history. For those who experience homelessness in a rural part of our community, access to services is a barrier to having their needs identified and met.

Our plan to tackle these challenges involves identifying the specific gaps and leveraging community resources and funding to fill these gaps. We have begun with contracting OrgCode in 2018/19 to provide training to our Supportive Services staff in motivational interviewing, housing based case management, working with landlords and rural homelessness strategies. We have continued to tackle these challenges for the immediate future through weekly outreach at our homeless encampments via our Supportive Services Team in conjunction with community partners. We collaborate with community based organizations, such as Behavioral Health and Champions Recovery Alternative, Inc. to utilize currently available supportive services assists us in these efforts. We have also completed a request for proposal for a master lease to increase our rapid re-housing inventory. For the long term, we will address the need for increasing our housing inventory with strategic planning through our Kings County Homelessness Collaborative.

**How do you promote the utilization of your CES?**

The Kings County Human Services Agency promotes the utilization of our CES through our Supportive Services Team's participation and/or board membership of the following:

- Kings Tulare Homeless Alliance (KTHA)
- Kings County Homelessness Collaborative

- Kings Partnership for Prevention Wellness Bridge
- HMIS workgroup
- KTHA monthly housing navigator Bi County case management round table

Participation in these groups in conjunction with the completion of the HMIS entry and VI-SPDAT forms equips us with the knowledge needed to refer our families to appropriate programs in our community that can fill a supportive service our housing need if we are unable to.

Our Supportive Services Team gives periodic trainings to our staff on homelessness services available through our agency. This includes information on eligibility requirements, the housing first concept and the coordinated entry process. They give presentations of similar content to many of the local committees and work groups that have contact with our homeless populations or are working to address the homeless issues in Kings County. This team also conducts weekly visits to our homeless encampments to build rapport and identify needs. Collaboration with other agencies during these visits are a crucial factor in the effectiveness of our outreach because we are able to conduct on site assessments and directly link individuals to services.

Other outreach efforts include participating in an offsite, weekly and annual Homeless Connect where homeless or at-risk of homelessness individuals can be referred to Human Services Agency, Whole Person Care Program or Kings County Behavioral Health. The annual event also provides immediate, on-site services such as meals, clothing, medical, dental and vision care, vaccines, pet services, haircuts, veteran's services and employment opportunities at one centralized location.

Our emphasis on building strong relationships with community based organizations allows our Supportive Services team to facilitate a direct link for our families to shelters and/or transitional housing as needed.

### **Prioritization Criteria**

**What are the criteria used to prioritize assistance for people experiencing homelessness in your jurisdiction and how is CES, pursuant to 24 CFR 578.8(a)(8) used for this process?**

Assistance for people experiencing homelessness begins with a housing meeting to identify the need for diversion or prevention services, emergency needs, identifying barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing, evaluating vulnerability to prioritize for assistance through the VI-SPDAT, screening for program eligibility, and facilitating connections to mainstream resources.

Households are evaluated through the Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) to assess and prioritize their need. Assistance is prioritized for households who have been literally and chronically homeless. This means those who have a household member with a disability and are residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter. They must also have been continually homeless for at least twelve months or experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years where the combined occasions total at least 12 months.

Kings County has a centralized coordinated system to coordinate program participant intake assessment and provision of referrals. The prioritization process for persons experiencing chronic homelessness is based on the length of time in which an individual or family has been homeless and the severity of the individual's or family's service needs. Any prioritization is consistent with the nondiscrimination provisions of the Federal civil rights laws, including, but not limited to the Fair Housing Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, and Title II or III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as applicable.

Applications and referrals are entered into HMIS where VI-SPDAT scores are maintained for reference. Those that cannot be served by a program through Kings County Human Services will be referred through the Coordinated Entry System through HMIS, and will be linked to other agencies immediately.

### **Coordination of Regional Needs**

#### **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?**

Kings County has convened a Homelessness Collaborative to address homelessness by assessing strengths and gaps in the current systems, developing strategies to bridge any gaps and work on comprehensive approaches to address the root causes of homelessness and significant barriers to reducing homelessness. We serve on the board of this collaborative along with representatives from the following:

- Kings County Department of Public Health
- City of Lemoore, Avenal, & Corcoran
- Housing Authority of Kings County
- Kings County Behavioral Health
- Kings County Board of Supervisors member
- City of Hanford
- Kings County Sheriff's Office
- Kings Tulare Homeless Alliance (KTHA)
- Kings County Area Public Transit Agency
- Adventist Health Hospital
- Kings Community Action Organization
- Community Partner
- Kings County Office of Education
- Lived Experience

The Kings County Homelessness Collaborative purpose is to advise and assist the County efforts to address homelessness issues affecting the community with a focus on:

- Assisting the County in assessing the community's homeless population and services, including strengths and gaps in the current system (including rural and/or underserved areas), and help to develop strategies (Short Term & Long Term) to meet unmet needs
- Recommending policies that improve quality of life for homeless persons

- Recommending strategies, goals, and funding resources to address homelessness within the county
- Encouraging support for the development and implementation of effective homeless programs and services
- Aligning current efforts and identify/prevent the creation of redundant services

The intent of the collaborative is to have a single county plan of action and that every organization applying for funding that addresses homelessness would utilize that plan and work towards the same goals and coordinate in such a way to avoid duplication and maximize the limited available resources. We are active members of the collaborative, have presented our services and have utilized partners at the collaborative to determine the best use of funding for this application process as well as other funding and service coordination opportunities.

The chairperson for our CoC also sits on our Kings County Homelessness Collaborative. This connection helps ensure the alignment between the COC and the Homeless Collaborative.

In addition, we have representation on our CoC's (KTHA) board. This consists of monthly meetings where we are able to collaborate through discussions of grants, budgets and the progress of current projects. We co-chair the Kings/Tulare County Point in Time Count and the aforementioned Homeless Connect events and participate in monthly housing navigation meetings with our CoC where we are able to discuss individual cases. This participation gives each of our agencies a clear and consistent view of where we are at, what needs we can fill and where we need to be. This assists in providing direction in the setting of our goals to address homelessness in our region.

The collaborative two key actions up to this point are to 1) create a list of services and resources provided by each entity within the county and keep this resource inventory updated and make it available to all organizations and 2) hire an external contractor to conduct a countywide gap analysis of resources that are needed in the county so that funding applications can focus on addressing the gaps that are agreed upon by the homeless collaborative. Funding applications submitted by Human Services Agency as well as other partners in the collaborative essentially have committed to utilize this single body and gap analysis plan for coordination of funding in services.

This effort is still in progress and in the meantime members of the collaborative generally agree that the most significant gaps in our system are in the following: 1) sufficient supportive housing units for homeless single adults and then homeless families (housing stock); 2) housing subsidies (short term and long term) for single adults; 3) sufficient appropriate shelter for single adults that is sufficiently low barrier that addresses the housing for their pets and storage needs. A number of other needs follow this list; this list will be adjusted and be more comprehensive with the completion of the contracted work related to the gap analysis.

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

Our responsibility is to serve at the highest capacity possible and across all populations. Currently, we do not have the funding capacity to serve the single adult population, which, as previously noted, comprises 89% of our county's homeless population. The lower percentage of individuals in households with children may be attributed to our success through our Supportive Services Team in proving short to

medium-term rental subsidies, security deposits, utility payments, housing search assistance, housing stabilization case management and credit repair due to the availability of funding streams aimed at our populations with children. The identified gap in our homelessness resources lies with our inability to provide a similar level of service to our single adult households.

The requested funds will assist in providing short or medium-term rental assistance and utility payments for five units of a master lease project we are proposing for non-chronic, single adult households. This allows for the housing first approach to reach this population and an ability for our Supportive Services Team to assist and offer referrals to other local resources in order to remove barriers to permanent housing. Essentially, all supports offered to families served through HSP and BFH programs will be offered to single adults that are referred to our organization through the CSE.

We also share the responsibility of resolving the issue of affordable housing availability in our jurisdiction, which we plan to assist with through the dedication of a portion of the HHAP funds to our CoC for the purposes of combining this funding, COC funding, Whole Person Care Housing Navigation Funds, No Place like home funds and partnering with other entities, including developers, to collaborate on funding a development that would provide permanent supportive housing and a range of low income housing options. This project will be developed through our Kings County Homelessness Collaborative, which enables us to leverage several sources of funding to meet the financial needs of a project of the size we hope to achieve. It will include low income housing units as well as on-site supportive services.

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

Kings County Homelessness Collaborative has only been in existence for several months and the long term plan of this group is to pool resources and collaboratively work on developing new resources to address homelessness issues. The gap analysis plan and creating a list of existing resources are the initial steps towards this effort. Human services agency is a committed partner in this effort and will work jointly with other partners in developing a long term plan for the county that is supportive by all collaborative partners and then pursue funding to achieve the goals of that plan. The application for the HHAP funding is one of the steps that are taken towards accomplishing this countywide goal.

**Resources Addressing Homelessness**

**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.**

These are specific to the Human Services Agency, however other county departments (Behavioral Health, Public Health) also expend resources on housing and supportive services to the homeless population:

| <b>Housing Program</b>       | <b>State</b> | <b>County Match</b> |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| FAM S- Family Stabilization  | 1,216,006    | 0                   |
| HSP- Housing Support Program | 1,219,836    | 0                   |

|                              |          |         |
|------------------------------|----------|---------|
| BFH- Bringing Families Home  | 405,681  | 405,681 |
| Home safe- APS Home Safe     | 113,440  | 113,440 |
| Whole Person Care            | 110,054  | 0       |
| CalWORKs Homeless Assistance | 503, 369 | 0       |

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

When an individual is identified as homeless or at risk of homelessness, assistance begins with a housing meeting to assess for diversion or prevention, assessing shelter and other emergency needs, identifying housing resources, barriers to getting and maintaining housing, evaluating vulnerability to prioritize for assistance, screening for program eligibility, and facilitating connections to mainstream resources. This allows for the most effective use of available resources as well as ensuring we are not overlapping services.

We utilize HMIS to avoid duplication of services, which ensures we are responsibly administering funding and meeting the needs of the largest number of households possible. Our approach with the housing meeting is to intervene at the lowest level possible and offer supports based on the intervention identified. If applicants are not eligible to receive direct service through Human Services Agency (HSA), Whole Person Care Program links these applicants to partnering agencies such as, KTHA utilizing CES.

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

The most significant gap in our county are sufficient number of housing units for single adults. This includes short term housing options that are acceptable to the single adult population with pets and sufficient number of long term supportive housing units. Overall increasing of housing stock is a significant goal for the collaborative. Additionally, housing subsidies for single adults and supportive services across the board for all single homeless adults are insufficient compared to the resources available for families. The gaps in our jurisdiction lie in the populations which cannot benefit from our already established homeless programs. We have been successful in providing housing assistance and helping individuals remove housing barriers through the Housing Support Program, Bringing Families Home and Home Safe programs through the policies and procedures implemented in our Supportive Services Team, which consists of the following members:

- Two housing navigators that
  - Maintains list of landlords, recruits new landlords
  - Conducts initial meeting with clients
  - Completed HMIS intake forms
  - Reviews housing program and services before/after housing placement
  - Mitigates landlord/tenant issues
  - Asses initial need and issue rental subsidy payments

- Meets with clients monthly to review employment status, landlord issues, assess need for continued assistance (Housing team meeting)
- Two housing workers with duties consisting of, but not limited to:
  - Facilitating housing team meetings
  - Ability to make financial decisions which align with the housing programs during the housing meeting
  - Basic budgeting with clients
  - Facilitate conversation and spending based on need, not an automatic pay scale
  - Ensure that housing first model is applied, especially if dealing with multiple case plans (Child Welfare, Eligibility, Housing and Employment and Training)
  - Identify needs/barriers and request specific team members to assist with overcoming those needs/barriers
- Two clerical staff to arrange meetings, update stats, update landlord info, update HMIS system, provide transportation for clients when needed, maintain meeting calendars and other client as well as other unit supportive services.
- One supervisor, who, among other duties completes the reports required for the housing programs

The criteria to receive these services under our current homeless program funding guidelines do not include non-chronic, single adults, which creates a gap in the service we are able to offer to our homeless population. Other resources in the community are also limited and while some are served through these programs (Behavioral Health ACT team; Salvation Army; Champions, etc), collectively, there are insufficient resources (specifically housing stock and subsidies) to address the total county need. Many in this population are unable to be served because they do not rise to the high level of priority in the HMIS vulnerability index through our coordinated entry system to receive other housing assistance in our current, very limited, 105 bed rapid re-housing inventory.

### **HHAP Funding Plans**

**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.**

In addition to the homeless families in our community, homeless single adults and foster youth recently aged out of foster care have limited resources or transitional housing to assist them with services and locating permanent housing. Awarding HHAP funding to Kings County will contribute to the reduction of homeless population in the community and may reduce at risk youth from becoming homeless.

We will publish a Request for Proposal (RFP) to the Kings County community to enter into a Master Lease contract to provide rapid re-housing units for families and single adults. Human Services Agency will be the liaison between tenants and the Master Lease contractor. The occupancy timeframe will vary depending on household need and availability of permanent housing. The Master Lease Program is expected to begin on or about July 2020. Creating a Master Lease to provide rapid re-housing units will decrease the cost of housing and provide a more appropriate living setting by replacing motel stays or

housing street homeless for the first time. HHAP funds would be utilized for single adults only that have no other funding source for housing subsidies.

A portion of the HHAP funds will be utilized for this project for non-chronic, homeless, single adults and non-chronic, homeless youth between the ages of 18-24. HHAP will be used to fund 5 of these units for one year; four units for the adults and one unit for the youth. The HHAP funding will bridge the 2<sup>nd</sup> year CESH funding gap for our master lease project for the units specific to the non-chronic, homeless adults and youth. We estimate the units to cost \$1500 a month, which includes the rental subsidy, utilities, management and cleaning costs.

Our Supportive Services Team will offer case management and supportive services to these individuals to assist in obtaining permanent housing and achieve long term stability. Services include, but are not limited to:

- Credit report and/or repair (to remove housing barrier)
- Application or credit check fees
- Landlord recruiting and liaison
- Transportation to/from landlord or agency appointments
- Renter's education classes
- Assistance with rental application
- Budgeting
- Assistance with Section 8 applications

The remaining funds will be utilized for rental subsidies in a larger affordable housing development which is in the initial planning stages through our Kings County Homelessness Collaborative. The development will include low income housing units with supportive services available on-site. Lack of affordable housing has been identified as one of the largest barriers to homelessness and only by leveraging several funding sources can we hope to achieve this long-term goal.

**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)?**

We will ensure compliance with the Housing First approach continuing our already established policies surrounding our homeless assistance programs. This includes, stabilizing housing as a first priority and as quickly as possible through the rapid re-housing units we hope to obtain the HHAP finding for. We will offer supportive services for removal of barriers, but not require participation as contingency to housing. Our Supportive Services Team will also continue to utilize our CES to ensure our no wrong door policy is upheld.

**Partners Addressing Homelessness**

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

We have substantial partnerships with community based service providers such as Champions Recovery and Alternative, Inc., Behavioral Health and other CBOs who take part in Kings County's Homelessness Collaborative, which we plan on leveraging for service referrals for removal of housing barriers and

consult with on availability of services and problem solve around any lack of identified services for our target rapid re-housing population.

We will use our homelessness collaborative partners to create a comprehensive development plan to increase our County's low income housing inventory. This development will provide a housing first community with service availability on-site. We will identify and utilize funding opportunities and provision of services with our behavioral and public health departments, work with our local government to reduce building and property fees and taxes and housing authority to leverage section 8 vouchers to build upon our plan.

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

Despite the good will, Kings County residents are concerned with impacts low income housing developments will have on surrounding areas which results in resistance to supports plans for this. In many cases the belief is that it could negatively impact property values as well as increase crime in the surrounding areas due to the stigma associated with low income housing tenants.

We plan to address these barriers through community involvement. Allowing the community to assist in the decision making process provides more personal ownership of the project which instills an increased sense of responsibility for its successful outcome. We also plan to provide more education to the community to dispel the myths surrounding low income housing developments.

In addition, we will utilize a similar rapport building approach with our business owners and residents as we do with our landlords, which includes:

- Creating responsive relationships to address and mitigate any issues or concerns
- Addressing tenancy barriers with our clients

We also believe that having supportive services on-site of the development will help mitigate any issues from becoming a community issue or barrier to public acceptance.

**Solutions to Address Homelessness**

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

Due to the supportive needs of our target population, we expect to serve 5 individuals with the piece of the funding dedicated to rapid rehousing. The assistance will include a rent and utility subsidy, costs to making the home habitable and maintaining habitability. We will leverage our Supportive Services Team to provide flexible, individually tailored support. CES will be utilized to better identify immediate critical housing needs through Whole Person Care, CalFresh Employment and Training, Job Training Office, Champions Alternative Recovery, Salvation Army and Behavioral Health.

A portion of this funding would be utilized for funding development of new housing units, the measurable goal is the number of housing units created in the county that are partially funded with this funding.



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

**APPLICANT INFORMATION**

|                                 |                       |                                 |      |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------|
| CoC / Large City / County Name: | Kings County          | Receiving Redirected Funds? Y/N | No   |
| Administrative Entity Name:     | Human Services Agency | Total Redirected Funding        | \$ - |

**HHAP FUNDING EXPENDITURE PLAN\***

| ELIGIBLE USE CATEGORY   | FY20/21 | FY21/22      | FY22/23       | FY23/24 | FY24/25 | TOTAL         |
|---|---------|--------------|---------------|---------|---------|---------------|
| Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing   | \$ -    | \$ 93,000.00 | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 93,000.00  |
| Operating Subsidies and Reserves  | \$ -    | \$ -         | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          |
| Landlord Incentives   | \$ -    | \$ -         | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          |
| Outreach and Coordination (including employment)                                      | \$ -    | \$ -         | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          |
| Systems Support to Create Regional Partnerships                                       | \$ -    | \$ -         | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          |
| Delivery of Permanent Housing   | \$ -    | \$ -         | \$ 160,735.98 | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 160,735.98 |
| Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing                                 | \$ -    | \$ -         | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          |
| New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters   | \$ -    | \$ -         | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          |
| Strategic Homelessness Planning, Infrastructure Development, CES, and HMIS (up to 5%) | \$ -    | \$ -         | \$ -          | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ -          |
| Administrative (up to 7%)   | \$ -    | \$ 7,000.00  | \$ 12,098.41  | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 19,098.41  |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION</b>   |         |              |               |         |         | \$ 272,834.39 |
|   | FY20/21 | FY21/22      | FY22/23       | FY23/24 | FY24/25 | TOTAL         |
| Youth Set-Aside (at least 8%)   | \$ -    | \$ 8,000.00  | \$ 13,826.75  | \$ -    | \$ -    | \$ 21,826.75  |

\*Narrative should reflect details of HHAP funding plan

**COMMENTS:**

FINAL



February 12, 2020

Sanja Bugay, Director  
Kings County Human Services Agency  
1400 West Lacey Boulevard, Building 8  
Hanford, CA 93230

Dear Mrs. Bugay

**RE: Letter of Support – Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Program**

On behalf of the Kings/Tulare Continuum of Care on Homelessness (CoC), I am pleased to express support of the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program funding that Kings County Human Services Agency (Kings HSA) is pursuing through the NOFA issued on December 6, 2019.

The CoC, Kings HSA, and other key stakeholders have met to determine the most impactful way to use the funds allocated to our region. The Kings HSA spending plan for HHAP funds aligns with community priorities and provides meaningful solutions to address homelessness in the community. Kings HSA will utilize their allocation for both rapid rehousing assistance and operating support for permanent supportive housing. The CoC is also committing the portion of the HHAP CoC allocation for Kings County toward operating support for the same permanent supportive housing project.

We are committed to aligning our efforts and eliminating the silos that exist in order to prevent the duplication of services and efforts in Kings County. This funding partnership will allow us to establish a core infrastructure and bundle available services with a goal of increasing the level of coordination amongst providers. We will be meeting as a Collaborative on a monthly basis to plan and evaluate HHAP projects, spending, and outcomes.

If you have any questions about this letter of support, please feel free to contact me at (559) 738-8733 or via email at [msmith@kthomelessalliance.org](mailto:msmith@kthomelessalliance.org).

Sincerely,

Machael Smith  
Executive Director