1. SUMMARY OF HOMELESSNESS IN NEVADA COUNTY

According to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), an individual or family can be described as homeless if "(1) they live in a place not meant for human habitation, emergency shelter, transitional housing and hotels paid for by a government or charitable organization; (2) they will immanently lose their primary night time residence within 14 days and have no other resources or support to obtain other permanent housing; (3) they are unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 or families with youth who are defined as homeless under other federal statues who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, have not had a lease and have moved two or more times in the past 60 days, and are likely to remain unstable because of special needs or barriers; or (4) they are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stocking or other dangerous life threating conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member and who lack resources to obtain other permanent housing.

In January 2019, the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras conducted a Point in Time (PIT) Count of the homeless individuals in Nevada County. Approximately 415 individuals were identified as meeting category 1 of homelessness. Of the 415 individuals:

- 43 under the age of 18
- 58 suffer from chronic substance abuse
- 41 are fleeing domestic violence
- 35 are military veterans
- 76 suffer severe mental illness
- 88 meet HUD's definition of chronically homeless

In conjunction with the PIT Count, an annual Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) is created. As of January 2019, only 135 year-round emergency shelter beds and 37 transitional housing beds were available in Nevada County. Based on the PIT Count alone, which is only a small snapshot of the reality of homelessness in the region, 251 individuals live in a place not meant for habitation on a regular basis. A minimal amount of Rapid Rehousing (34 beds) and Permanent Supportive Housing (22 beds) is available in the region, but affordable housing availability is scarce.

According to the Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) submitted to HUD, 1,379 households are being served in either Emergency Shelter/Safe Haven/Transitional Housing (1,004), Rapid Rehousing (197), or Permanent Supportive Housing (177). This information comes directly from the region's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Please note that at the time of the LSA submission, the Nevada County CoC was merged with Placer County CoC. Of the 1,379 households, 1,067 households are disabled, 402 meet the definition of chronic homelessness, and 413 households are aged 55+. Additionally, 81 individuals are unaccompanied youth and 133 households are veterans. Below is the gender and racial information according to the LSA:

- 624 Females
- 820 Males
- 5 Transgender
- 1 Gender Non-Conforming
- 1088 White, Non-Hispanic/Non-Latino
- 94 White, Hispanic/Latino
- 59 Black or African American
- 7 Asian

- 46 American Indian or Alaska Native
- 8 Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
- 134 Multiple Race

The Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras, Nevada County, and other partnering agencies are continually cleaning HMIS data in order to ensure accuracy. It is recognized that not all individuals experiencing homelessness are in HMIS, and continual outreach is provided.

2. <u>DEMONSTRATION OF REGIONAL COORDINATION</u>

A. Coordinated Entry System (CES) Information

Nevada and Placer County jointly fund the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras (HRCS) that acts as both Counties CoC's collaborative applicant. HRCS utilizes a phone system that covers both Counties as the Coordinated Entry Process (CEP). Connecting Point is contracted to serve both Counties as the entity responsible for operating the CEP as the primary point of contact. Additionally, in Nevada County local service agencies and the Homeless Outreach and Medical Engagement (HOME) team are able help individuals and households access the CEP either by facilitating phone access or conducting in-person assessments. Individuals and households experiencing homelessness in either County can access the CEP 24-7 by dialing 211. Trained assessors conduct the vulnerability assessment on the phone with the individual seeking services. This assessment includes the collection of HMIS universal data elements as well as administering the standardized vulnerability assessment tool. The completes assessment results in a vulnerability score, which prioritizes households with the largest needs and vulnerabilities. The household's name is then placed on the By Name List (BNL), with the ranking being determined by the vulnerability score. The Housing Resource Team (HRT) comprised of County service providers (Behavioral Health and CalWORKS) and all local housing agencies/HMIS license holders, meet every Tuesday for ninety minutes. It is at this meeting where the BNL is discussed and referrals are made. The HRT Team discusses the highest-ranking households on the list and reviews case plans with the appropriate/eligible service agencies who are tasked with helping them secure housing. Many of the participating agencies have staff that are bi-lingual, or the Universal Language Line (ULL) is utilized.

The CEP has a grievance policy in place. The individual with a grievance is first asked to attempt to resolve the issue with the referral agency. If the issue cannot be resolved through the referral agency's grievance process, a grievance can be made to the Outcomes and Measurements Committee. This committee will review the grievance and the matter shall be settled by Board vote. If there is a concern about discrimination, a Title VI complaint form may be completed and sent to Connecting Point.

How does the County coordinate with your CoC's CES?

The County coordinates with the CEP in multiple ways. Nevada County staff are members of the Executive Committee of the HRCS and the Governing Board of the CA-531 Nevada County Continuum of Care. County staff coordinate with the CEP/HMIS provider (Connecting Point, 2-1-1) weekly as part of the CoC's Best Practices Committee. This committee is charged with overseeing and analyzing system performance measures and implementing improvements to the system in line with best practices. The Committee includes staff from all agencies that utilize HMIS and are trained to conduct vulnerability assessments or, if needed, reassessments. County Staff also sit on the monthly HRCS Outcomes Measurements Committee. This committee is a joint committee with Placer County. Nevada and Placer counties share the same CEP and HMIS provider

and jointly fund a contract with that provider for CEP and HMIS services. Participation in these committees provides for collaboration between the County, the CEP provider and the services that utilize HMIS and the CEP. Coordination through these regular meetings also ensures that the system has the correct policies and procedures in place to ensure access to the system for people experiencing homelessness; is responsive to emerging best practices; and effective at capturing quality data that can be used to improve services and identify gaps.

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

The County adopted Coordinated Entry at the end of 2017. The main challenge has been building awareness of the system and increasing participation among service providers particularly in the eastern region of the County that includes the Town of Truckee where services are sparse and weather often prohibits robust outreach. To address this, the Truckee region is represented on the County CoC as its own committee. The committee includes staff from the County located in the Truckee region, local services, and staff from the CEP provider. A primary task of the committee is to improve exposure of the system in the region, inform and train partner organization in conducting vulnerability assessments and connecting the regions sole outreach worker to the HOME team to provide to flexible funding and other resources to assist in outreach and engagement. The HOME team travels to Truckee once per month to assist in the CEP and to assist local individuals and families in connecting to services and housing. The Committee and the CEP provider are working on a plan to conduct CEP specific outreach to the Truckee region over the next 6 months and to have Truckee specific by name list by June 30, 2020

Additionally, in its initial form, the CEP lacked policies and procedures to ensure that the BNL was accurate and contained real time data. For the first year the list was added to daily with no real process in place to ensure that everyone who was on the list was being connected to the appropriate services or exited if they were housed or found to not be homeless in the first place. To address this, the County, the CoC and the CEP provider joined Built For Zero, a national campaign that aims to assist communities in implementing processes to ensure the accuracy of the BNL in ways that allow the community to track individuals throughout the homeless system, from initial engagement and addition to the list to placement into housing. Built for Zero also provides expert coaching in the use of case conferencing as means to ensure that the entire system is working from the list and accurately tracking case information in real time through HMIS. These efforts are on track to achieve a "quality by-name list" by June 30, 2020 and case conferencing teams focused on specific sub populations and services areas are already in place meeting weekly.

A final challenge for CEP is that the initial role out of the system only involved direct referrals HUD funded entities of which there are only two in the region. Over the past 18 months, County agencies have been working to incorporate CEP and HMIS into the workflow for Behavioral Health, Adult Protective Services and CalWORKS – Housing Support Program. The County is taking steps to assist contracted homeless services providers and other governmental agencies to utilize HMIS for data tracking. Through Built for Zero, the County is incorporating HMIS and CEP data into all homeless initiatives and working with providers to ensure system utilization and data quality. The County is also working closely with the CEP provider to ensure that the CEP system can provide direct referrals to all HMIS licensed entities based on eligibility. The County is working to bring up to six new agencies into HMIS by June 30, 2020.

How do you promote the utilization of your CES?

The County's HOME team is comprised of contracted providers from 4 different CoC partner agencies. The team is collocated. The team unifies outreach and engagement, intake and service linkage and housing-based navigation and connection to supportive services. The team includes a registered nurse who works in the field

to assist highly vulnerable individuals in accessing services. The HOME team coordinates CEP outreach efforts, conducts assessments in the field (including the jail and the hospital) and meets people who were unable to complete phone access where-ever they are at. The HOME team also practices progressive engagement strategies and tracks individuals who are not yet in the CEP but are vulnerable and currently unwilling or unable to complete CEP assessment.

B. Prioritization Criteria

The Coordinated Entry vulnerability assessment uses a variety of criteria to prioritize assistance. This includes the location where the individual has been sleeping, the number of instances of homelessness in the last three (3) years and disabling conditions. Additionally, a history of hospitalizations and/or victimization, whether the individual has HIV/AIDS or any medical vulnerabilities, and substance use or behavioral health issues are criteria for prioritization. If an individual is identified as being a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, or human trafficking are immediately referred to the local domestic violence service provider (VSP). If the client does not wish to seek DV services through the local domestic violence service provider, they can still access the By Name List anonymously.

Pursuant to 24 CFR 577(a)(8), the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras involves all Emergency Solutions Grant recipients in the planning and implementation of the CEP. A policy and procedure manual has been established and made available to the local nonprofits and county staff. This manual details how an individual fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking, but who are seeking shelter or services from nonvictim service providers. Any individual experiencing or fleeing from the above victimization(s) have full access to the CEP and are informed of ways to insure his/her safety. A victim of domestic violence may access the CEP through the local VSP or through the phone system anonymously.

C. 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?

Dating back to October of 2018 with the release of the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) guidelines, the County and the Nevada County Regional CoC (NCRCoC or CoC) began to coordinate planning meetings to establish priorities for HEAP funding. The dialogue included expansive discussions on specific projects, areas of agreement and areas that each entity would take lead on. This collaborative process involved stakeholder and community members from the across the CoC. These meeting resulted in a consensus recommendation for projects that would receive funding. In November the CoC's governing board approved the recommendations and projects received award of funding shortly thereafter. The CoC entertained using a request for proposal process but, in the end, unanimous consent for the recommendations by individual organization and stakeholders represented on the CoC including the county resulted in the CoC submitting that application listing the specific projects to receive funding.

After the HEAP funding discussion and understanding that future state funding for the CoC's and Counties would require demonstration of collaboration in order to receive funds, the CoC moved to authorize the creation of five committees: Youth, Best Practices, Housing, Shelter, and Tahoe/Truckee. These committees were provided with guidance on establishing a structure and workplans and were given the primary task of presenting to the Governing Board of the CoC recommended projects for future funding. These committees meet separate from the CoC and have organizations from the CoC and grass roots representation from the

community. The committees provide for an ongoing community dialogue about CoC program priorities, County priorities and emerging opportunities for funding. The Committees present their activities on a quarterly basis and their recommendations are woven into the Governing Board's deliberations for funding allocations.

HHAP funds were discussed by the CoC Governing Board with input for the 5 committees. These deliberations and this input resulted in a consensus agreement of what eligible uses each entity would apply for. In many cases the needs were split equally.

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

Nevada County agreed with CoC partners to support increasing from an 8% youth set aside to just over 10% youth set side (\$48,000 county share). The County agreed to support the recommendations of the CoC's Youth committee for how to expend the funds, providing nearly a dollar for dollar match with CoC HHAP funds. The total, \$100,000, matches the amount of HEAP funding provided in 2018 to the Friendship Club for innovative program connecting former foster youth and TAY youth the college resources and housing.

The County and the CoC agreed to each provide 5% of funds for infrastructure development for HMIS and the CES. Both entities agreed to these funds will be used to expand HMIS utilization and to support joint participation in the Built for Zero campaign.

The County agreed to use funds support implanting trainings for CoC and county provider in line with HHAP eligible activities necessary for regional coordination and partnerships to maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system. These trainings will be open to all providers and will be utilized to improve outreach and engagement, and pre and post housing case management that align with the goal of improving housing stability and decreasing the occurrence of people returning to homelessness.

The CoC agreed to provide additional funding to bolster the Counties flexible rental assistance and landlord incentives funds. These funds will join committed HEAP and CESH funds and will be available to all providers who participate in HMIS and the weekly case conferencing meetings that utilize the by-name list to house the most vulnerable.

The CoC agreed to provide additional funds to bolster the Counties operating subsidies for existing permanent supportive housing and expand the county's innovative master leasing program.

The CoC agreed to provide funding to the County's extreme weather shelter program to increase shelter days in the winter months and expand extreme weather shelter to the summer months for PSPS events.

The County supports the CoC's decision to use the remainder of the CoC allocation to establish a homeless prevention pool and to provide general operating funds to Hospitality House shelter.

D. Creating Sustainable, Long Term Housing Solutions

The County and the CoC collaborate closely to identify gaps in services and ways to create sustainable, long-term housing solutions. Nevada County staff sit on the board of the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras and are active leaders within the CoC. Committees have been created by members of the community to

identify needs specific to the region, and these committees report back to the CoC. Additionally, community meetings are held quarterly to receive input from the local stakeholders and community members.

At the highest level, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors prioritized homelessness and housing development in 2017 and has continued to make addressing homelessness and housing a top priority through 2020. This priority serves as a county-wide, agency level directive to find and allocate local resources (General Fund, Inter Governmental Transfer, SB 90, re-alignment etc.) and collaborate and coordinate to address homelessness and housing. This prioritization has resulted in substantial collaboration within and between county agencies; with local jurisdictions; and with nonprofit service providers throughout the region. Since 2017, the collaboration has expanded year-round shelter capacity by 15 low barrier beds and over 60 seasonal beds, slated for development over 100 units of new affordable housing, expanded key services, and increases data and information sharing across the county and the CoC.

Housing:

The County, including the Health and Human Services Agency and the Community Development Agency (CDA), collaborated extensively with the City of Grass Valley and its planning department and the Regional Housing Authority to develop a 41-Unit apartment complex in Grass Valley. This project will prioritize placement of shelter stayers at the local shelter. The Project was also awarded No Place Like Home (NPLH) funding that will dedicate 12 of the units for use as the Permanent Supportive Housing. The County took the step of acquiring the property to gain site control. Additionally, The County worked with Regional Housing Authority to funding for the Lone Oak development in Penn Valley, a 31unit low-income complex for seniors. The County has submitted applications for Housing for a Health CA and NPLH Round 2, both projects involved working with CDA to assess zoning issues and begin planning for zoning changes.

In eastern county (Tahoe-Truckee region) the County is deeply involved in the Mountain Housing Council, a multi-jurisdictional entity dedicated to the development of affordable, workforce and permanent supportive housing in the Tahoe-Truckee region. The MHC includes partners from the Town of Truckee, Placer and Nevada County, local developers, water and sewer districts and other land use entities in the region. Collaboration through the MHC has resulted in approvals for numerous housing developments including the 61-unit affordable Artists' Lofts project. Through participation in the MHC and the HRCS, Nevada County and Placer County have jointly agreed to look for options to implement Permanent Supportive Housing in the region.

To further accelerate affordable housing development throughout the county, HHSA and CDA have recently implemented an interagency workgroup charged with identifying suitable development sites, addressing site control, and beginning the entitlement and land use processes. The workgroups goal is to focus resources on mixed-use sites that comply with the requirements of state funding opportunities (VHHP, AHSC, NPLH, MHP etc.) and work to identify potential development partners. This effort is designed to move projects into the "pipeline" and clear as many pre-development hurdles as possible in order to attract willing developers.

Data and Information sharing:

The County and the CoC have joined the Built for Zero campaign, a national effort to improve the CEP and HMIS data quality and to "deploy" this data though a collaborative case conferencing process that involves all regional housing and service providers. Built for Zero provided expert technical assistance to achieve a "quality by name list" and to establish a highly functional case conferencing process. Nevada County and the CoC are set to achieve a quality by name list by June 30, 2020. Case conferencing is already implemented. The case conferencing team, comprised of every housing and service provider engaged in the CoC meets weekly to

review the by name list, implement housing case plans and input real time information and data directly onto the by name list. This allows all case managers to have real-time information about location, service referrals, eligibility, income, and housing search activities.

Nevada County and the CoC have expanded HMIS utilization over the last year to include the family and youth system, the Veterans services office, and the Behavioral Health System. On June 30, 2020, the County and the CoC will implement case conferencing teams specific to families, youth and veterans.

The County has embraced the role of providing system wide trainings in evidence-based practices improve effectiveness of engagement, case management and post housing case management focused on stability. Over the last year, the County has provided:

- 2-day Housing First training (August 2019)
- 2-day Landlord Engagement training (Oct 2019)
- 2-day Critical Time Intervention Training (Dec 2019)

The County provides a monthly "report card" to the CoC. This report contains up-to-date data on all county-funded programs. This includes data on the numbers served, housing placements, and development projects that are the works.

3. RESOURCES ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

A. Existing Programs and Resources

Grants and funding	Source	Program	Amount
County Funds	Local	Low Barrier Shelter	\$205,000
County Funds	Local	60-bed extreme weather shelter	\$45,000
		expansion Nov – March	
County Funds	Local	Bridge Housing – Housing First	\$235,000
County Funds	Local	HDAP cash match	\$151,000
Substance Abuse and Mental Health	Federal	Homeless Outreach and Medical	\$2,000,000
Services Administration – Grants to		Engagement (HOME) team.	
Benefit Homeless Individuals			
Mental Health Services Act –	State	Homeless Outreach and Medical	\$2,400,000
Innovation		Engagement (HOME) team	
Housing and Disability Advocacy	State	Assisting homeless individuals who	\$151,000
Program (HDAP) funds		are disabled in getting SSI/SSDI	
		benefits. Provides rental assistance	
		to participants	
No Place Like Home (awarded)	State	40-unit apartment complex (in	\$1.62 Million
		progress)	
HEAP – Housing Development	State	Additional financing for 40-unit	\$500,000
		apartment complex (in progress)	
HEAP – Flexible Housing funds	State	Landlord incentives and rental	\$50,000
		assistance	

California Emergency Solutions and	State	Landlord incentives and rental	\$100,000
Housing (CESH) – Flexible Housing		assistance	
funds			
California Emergency Solutions and	State	60-bed extreme weather shelter	\$40,000
Housing (CESH) — Emergency		expansion Nov – March	
Shelter funds			
Proposition 47 funds	State	Diversion housing for chronically	\$1,000,000
		homeless individuals with high	
		recidivism in local jail	
Community Services Block Grant –	Federal	Part Time housing navigator and	\$75,000
Housing navigator (FREED)		HDAP program coordinator	
Community Development Block	Federal	Rehabilitation and expansion of	\$3,196,396
Grant funds – Odyssey House Rehab		mental health housing	
Mental Health Services Act PEI	Local	Permanent Supportive Housing,	\$935,129
		Peer Empowerment Center, Full-	
		Service Partnership, crisis services,	
		and respite transitional housing	
Mental Health Services Act CSS	Local	Homeless Outreach, case	\$217,608
		management, and therapy	
		including funding for local shelter	
		operations	
Housing and Urban Development	Federal	Rental assistance and project-based	\$175,000
(HUD) Permanent Supportive		assistance for 30+ PSH housing	
Housing grant funds		units	
Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital	Local	Recuperative Care Program	\$280,000
CalWORKS – HSP	State	Housing Support Program	\$540,076
CalWORKS – FSP, THA, PHA	State	Family Stabilization, Temporary	\$187,718
		Housing Assistance and Permanent	
		Housing Assistance	
Home Safe	State	Flexible housing assistance to Adult	\$50,000
		Protective Services eligible seniors	
Homeless Mentally ill Offender	State	Homeless Services and Housing	\$100,000
Treatment funds			
Community Investment Fund –	Local	Transportation services for	\$30,000
Homeless Access Transport (HAT)		homeless residents, 8-5 Monday –	
Van		Saturday	
Whole Person Care	State	Homeless Resource Center	\$452,868

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

Nevada County has developed a regional brand for all Homeless Initiatives: Better Together. This brand speaks to the collaborative approach to addressing homelessness that the County has fostered since 2017. Operationally, the County works to distribute funding from grants awarded and other sources to the County through contracts with multiple agencies and nonprofits. The CoC governing board is comprised of many of these providers. The County recognizes that providers themselves also bring in funding for operations and services and the County works closely with these providers to find innovative ways to integrate County funding into programs throughout the CoC.

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

The primary gap is housing. Nevada County is a small rural community with a very low vacancy rate and an overall high cost of living. In 2017, the County and the CoC created a Process Improvement Group to review existing services and identify gaps. The results of the that's groups work shaped the last 3 years of grant writing and program development. Gaps that we have addressed and closed include:

- Jail based mental health and substance use services
- Coordinated multi-agency outreach and engagement efforts
- Expanded supportive housing opportunities
- Increase substance use treatment funding and increased recovery residency beds.

Currently identified gaps include:

- Coordinated training of EBP's for case management and post housing supports
- HMIS utilization and data quality is low
- Lack of additional PSH units/PSH at capacity
- Lack of landlords willing to work with providers
- Lack of flexible funding to cover a wide range of costs associated with housing extremely vulnerable households.

B. HHAP Funding Plans

\$48,00 (10.5%) to support CoC Youth Committee recommended activities for the homeless youth population

Nevada County supports collaborative efforts to improve programs and housing opportunities for transitional age youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The County is an active member of the Nevada County Regional Continuum of Care (NCRCoC) 531 which includes a Youth Committee comprised of local governmental and nonprofit providers with the expertise to decide how to best use HHAP funds to expand services for homeless youth. To this end, Nevada County intends to contribute \$48,000 of the County HHAP application to the recommended activities outlined in the NCRCoCs HHAP application narrative. These funds will join \$52,000 of HHAP funds provided through the NCRCoC allocation for youth programming (\$100K total). The NCRCoC's application will include details and budgetary information for how these dollars are to be spent.

\$22,000 (4.7%) HMIS and Coordinated Entry Support

• HMIS licenses - \$15,000

Nevada County will utilize HHAP funds to support expansion of HMIS utilization by partnering with the CoC to fund HMIS licenses fees for CoC organizations. HHAP funds will complement existing funds used to provide HMIS license fees to County services providers (such as CalWORKS HSP) and CoC providers. Funds will expand HMIS coverage and data entry and expand the number of agencies and nonprofits participating in the CEP and in the multi-disciplinary case conferencing teams (Youth, Chronic, Families and Veterans). HHAP funds from the CoC and the County will complement existing funds for licenses and provide 5-years of HMIS license support for up to seven NEW local providers to utilize HMIS.

• Built for Zero costs – \$7,000

The CoC and the County are engaged in the nationwide Built for Zero campaign. Built for Zero provides hands on technical assistance to improve the CEP and to coordinate highly effective multi-disciplinary case conferencing teams. The Built for Zero campaign works to ensure that community are utilizing real time and

quality data, tracking that data in HMIS and working directly off the by name list to house the most vulnerable. Funds will be used to cover costs of travel and conference registration fees. Currently, neither entity has funding to cover these costs.

\$21,000 (4.6%) System Support - Trainings to improve system wide utilization of Evidence Based Practices

• 4 trainings over 2 years = \$5,250 per training

To further expand collaboration, improve information sharing and increase efficiency and effectiveness of the local homeless response system, the County will be able to expand trainings open to all agencies and nonprofit who provide outreach, case management and supportive services to people experiencing homelessness. Funds will be used to contract with training providers and/or offset costs associated with trainer fees, travel, registration and other expenses related to delivery of trainings. The county will ensure that all trainings are based on established evidence-based practices and that certificates received and training materials provided are catalogued in a training library to preserve system wide learning that can be accessed and reviewed regularly by County and CoC providers. These funds will complement existing grant funds for training specific to the HOME team, allowing the County to expand the trainings to all CoC providers and add additional trainings over the next two years.

1st year training Schedule:

- May 15 Trauma Informed Care
- November 18 Housing-based case management
- February 2021 Critical Time Intervention weeklong advanced series (CTI is already an EBP utilized by county providers. This would expand knowledge, specific sharpen skills, and review fidelity practices)

\$200,000 (44.2%) Flexible Housing Funds

- \$50,000 Landlord incentives, landlord risk mitigation funds
- \$150,000 rental assistance
- Up to \$5,000 per client per year = 50 Housing placements in two years

The County utilized a portion of allocated CESH and HEAP funds totally \$150,000 to provide flexible housing dollars available to all providers engaged in the CEP and the multi-disciplinary case conferencing teams. These funds would be added to the existing funds to increase by 20 the number of households served by the case conferencing teams. The funds will be used for a wide variety of activities including:

- Direct Rental assistance
- Landlord incentives particularly to incentive the acceptance of Housing Choice Vouchers
- -Landlord risk mitigation
- Costs associated with limited rehabilitation of a unit to be compliant with Housing Choice Voucher/HUD inspection standards
- Temporary homeless assistance (hotel/motel stays) that is tied to an active housing plan
- Other "whatever it takes" costs directly associated with successful housing placement

\$105,200 (23%) Permanent Supportive Housing Operating Subsidy and master leasing expansion

- \$25,000 operating support for existing PSH programs
- \$80,200 master leasing support for 12-unit expansion of the PSH program

The County currently operates two permanent supportive housing (PSH) projects. One is a scattered site rental assistance program and the other is a project-based program. Both programs are supported by HUD funded vouchers with services provided by the County Behavioral Health Department and its contracted Full Services Partnership provider, Turning Point Community Programs (TPCP). These programs have never had any operating support outside of the HUD funded vouchers and local MHSA funds. HHAP funds would be used to provide operating support that would allow the County to expand the PSH program by twelve units. To achieve this, these funds would be used by the County to provide gap funding for existing units secure additional housing for PSH clients (currently waitlisted) through expansion of master leasing. Through a partnership with the Regional Housing Authority, after acquisition of the units, operating costs for these units would be converted from local sources (HHAP and others) to federal Housing Choice Voucher subsidies.

\$31,705 (7%) Administration

Alignment with Housing First Principles:

Since 2017, Nevada County has implemented all Housing First core principles into County-administered PSH Housing Programs. In 2018, the County informed all contracted providers who offer housing-based assistance to begin phasing in Housing First core principles. In places where contracts were already in place but due for renewal, compliance with Housing First core principles will be a part of all new contracts moving forward. The County and the CoC have aggressively moved to help all housing services partners to implement Housing First core components. In 2018, The County and the CoC contracted with Corporation for Supportive Housing for technical assistance. This assistance involved CSH reviewing housing first compliance across Housing providers, providing guidance on working with providers to make programmatic changes and culminated in 2019 with a 2-day community-wide training on Housing First and Landlord Engagement practices.

To ensure that proposed activities in this HHAP plan align with current County administered Housing First programs and comply with all Housing First core principles, the County in coordination with the CoC will:

- Incorporate Housing First core components in all contracts with entities that provide housing
 assistance and/or services. Each entity will be monitored quarterly to ensure that tenant selection
 processes, referral sources, lease terms and evidence-based practices are in-line with Housing First
- Work with the CoC, to provide quarterly training and assistance to housing providers in line with supporting Housing First core components. Trainings will focus on evidence-based practices and skill building around engagement.
- On July 1, 2020, the County will launch a Landlord Engagement Program. The program will provide landlords with education and assistance as it relates to Housing First lease requirements and providing landlord specific services aimed at mitigating landlord risk and mediating any tenant issues that could arise as a result of housing vulnerable individuals.
- Provide staff support and assistance to the CoC's Best Practices Committee to implement CoC-wide evaluation plans that will incorporate Housing First compliance as a key evaluation practice. Implement evaluation plans by July 1 2020.
- Support the CES and HMIS access for all providers ensuring that ranked prioritization based on a standardized vulnerability assessment is the primary method for selecting households.
- Continue to provide leadership and support the Best Practices Committee of the COC and Housing Resource Team in implementing CES and HMIS policies and procedures that ensure housing programs are working to house the most vulnerable in the shortest amount of time.
- By June 30, 2020 ensure that the CES By name list is as accurate and "real time" as possible.

4. PARTNERS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

A. Collaborating Partner Efforts

Nevada County will be responsible for monitoring the County's HHAP funding but will work closely with the Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras Board of Directors (BoD) and the CoC. Because the HHAP funding plans from the respective entities include many areas of shared contribution of funding to a specific eligible use (example: rental assistance), the County will include these HHAP activities and outcomes into its regular monthly report card to the CoC.

Collaboration and monitoring of HHAP funded activities will also occur at:

- HCRS BoD, comprised of: Hospitality House, Advocates for Mentally III Housing, Volunteers of America, County of Nevada, County of Placer, Stand Up Placer, and Sierra Foothills AIDS Foundation.
- Nevada County Regional CoC that includes additional representation from Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital, Grass Valley Police Department, Nevada County Office of Education, Tahoe/Truckee HHS, homeless service providers, youth advocates, CalWORKS, religious organizations, and other community members.

5. SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Functional zero:

Specific to measuring the overall impacts of HHAP funding, over the next five years, Nevada County and its CoC partner will reach "functional zero" for veteran and youth homelessness. This means that the monthly inflow of actively homeless veterans and youth is less than the average monthly housing placement rate. Over that same period, the County and CoC will see a 30% reduction in the number of unsheltered chronic homeless.

Key measures by HHAP funding by use:

HMIS and CES:

- Expand HMIS utilization to 6 new organizations and provide technical assistance and continued HMIS license support to ensure data quality and participation over 5 years
- Increase data quality and reduce data error rates. Increase system performance measures and improve LSA data

System Support:

- Provide 4 trainings over two years. Trainings will increase system wide performance in three key areas: outreach/engagement practices and skills, client centered case management, and post housing case management.
- Key performance measure: After housing placement, 20% decrease in return to homeless at 6 months, 15% decrease in return to homeless at 12 months.

Flexible Housing assistance:

- 50 housing placements per year over two years resulting in a 25% reduction in the active homeless population as counted through PIT in year three.
- 10 new landlords identified per year and actively working with HRT to house households

• 20% increase in Homeless households' acquisition of Housing Choice Vouchers (# approved for HCV) and a 15% increase in successful housing placement for homeless household that acquire the vouchers (# successfully using voucher in units).

Total measurable goals for Housing Assistance:

TOTAL SERVED OVER TWO YEARS: 100 (25% of Homeless Population based on 2019 PIT count) TOTAL MOVED INTO PERMANENT HOUSING OVER TWO YEARS: 70 (20 though master lease/PSH expansion and 50 through placement in rental housing with/without permanent subsidy)

- TOTAL OF THE 70 IN PERMANENT HOUSING AT 6-MONTHS: 80%
- TOTAL IN PERMANENT HOUSING AT 12-MONTHS: 60%

Nevada County's 2019 Strategic Plan to address homelessness:

Below are key excerpts from the strategic plan. The full plan be viewed here: https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/32460/Homeless-Strategic-Plan

In 2017 the Nevada County Board of Supervisors made addressing homelessness a top priority, directing staff to develop initiatives and incorporate homelessness in fiscal planning and management of County operations. Over the past two years, County staff, nonprofits and community stakeholders have made significant strides in addressing this pervasive issue. These efforts are spearheaded by the County and coordinated between jurisdictions and providers in new and innovative ways. Homelessness touches many systems and presents social, political, economic and environmental challenges that can only be addressed through a collaborative approach. Existing programs address homelessness in a piecemeal fashion with resources that are needed for other critical services. To meet the new service expectations around homelessness, we must be aggressive in seeking new funding.

Since February of 2017, County staff have brought more than 32 resolutions directly related to homelessness before the board. These resolutions have expanded collaboration with regional partners, increased existing services to the most vulnerable and created new innovative services that have worked to increase the number of people engaged in services and housing programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Although much remains to be done, much has already been accomplished. The following is a partial list:

- Added 11 low barrier beds and four recuperative care beds at Hospitality House.
- Implemented the Coordinated Entry System.
- Created the Bridges to Housing program.
- Partnered with FREED on the Housing Disability Advocacy program.
- Awarded \$3.2 Million to remodel the Odyssey House residential treatment facility.
- Awarded No Place Like Home funding to develop 41 units of affordable housing.
- Created the HOME Team, which meets homeless individuals where they are and gets them into services and housing.

ABOUT THIS PLAN

The specific objectives and initiatives presented here are the result of a broad-based review of multiple source documents, and over two years of collaborative work to address homelessness in Nevada County. This will be a living document as we identify new opportunities, collaborate with additional partners, measure success and adjust strategy.

Plan Structure

Objectives

This plan is divided into five overarching objectives. The Objectives will remain consistent over the duration of this plan, while specific initiatives and goals to implement the strategies will change as successes and failures are measured, new needs emerge, or new funding sources necessitate the creation of additional initiatives. The five Objectives are as follows:

- 1. Prevent Homelessness
- 2. Provide Emergency Shelter
- 3. Expand Supportive Services
- 4. Increase Affordable, Subsidized and Supported Housing
- 5. Enhance Communication, Coordination and Collaboration

Accomplishments to Date

Each objective highlights accomplishments to date, including initiatives that are complete or ongoing, new funding obtained, and programs that are starting to show results.

Initiatives

Within each Objective, specific Initiatives have been identified. These initiatives are the activities that County and partners are taking to make progress towards the objectives. Most of the initiatives include specific milestones or goals necessary to achieve them.

Performance Measures

The plan includes seven Key Performance Indicators derived from the Built for Zero program. Additionally, within each objective section there are Performance Measures to indicate the success of the specific initiatives.

Performance Measures will be tracked in the County's ClearPoint software to effectively monitor and communicate progress.

Partners

While the County and its Health and Human Services Agency have embraced a lead role in addressing homelessness, we cannot do it alone. Each Objective identifies key stakeholders or partners whose collaboration and cooperation are critical to success. These lists are not exhaustive.

Phases

The work within these objectives will be implemented over three phases:

PHASE 1: Began January of 2018 and ends June 30 of 2020

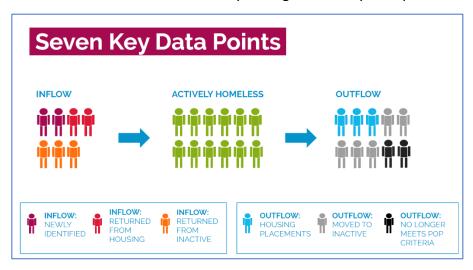
PHASE 2: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 PHASE 3: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 202

Overview of Objectives and Phase 1 Initiatives to Address Homelessness:

A. Prevent Homelessness				
A1 – Assess gaps in youth, family and	A4 – Increase availability of intensive mental			
Transitional Age Youth services and identify	health services for foster youth or youth at			
funding opportunities.	risk of entering the foster care system.			
A2 – Increase availability and access to	A5 – Improve early identification and			
funding and supportive services to prevent	assessment of mental illness and substance			
individuals from slipping into homelessness.	use disorder in the jail.			
A3 – Utilize the CalWORKS Family				
Stabilization Program (FSP) and the				
Permanent Housing Assistance (PHA)				
program to prevent families from becoming				
homeless.	Cl. II			
	ergency Shelter			
B1 – Expand shelter options.	B3 – Increase effectiveness of Bridges to Housing.			
B2 – Strengthen and support seasonal	B4 – Implement a hotel/motel voucher			
extreme weather shelters.	system.			
C. Expand Sup	portive Services			
C1 – Create a homeless resource center.	C4 – Expand embedded case management.			
C2 – Utilize the HOME Team to engage	C5 – Expand outreach and supportive			
people experiencing homelessness in	services in the Tahoe/Truckee region.			
services.				
C3 – Strengthen the coordinated multi-	C6 - Help people experiencing homelessness			
disciplinary case conference team (Housing	with substance use disorder access			
Resource Team).	residential treatment and low barrier			
	housing.			
	dized and Supported Housing			
D1 – Facilitate and promote partnerships for	D4 – Secure additional flexible housing funds			
the development of affordable housing.	for rental assistance and to fund a landlord			
D2 F and an alcoholic and in an	recruitment and retention program.			
D2 – Expand master leasing and improve	D5 - Expand Recovery Residence housing.			
supportive housing programs, including in				
eastern county.				
D3 – Maximize utilization of federal housing				
subsidies. E. Enhance Communication, Coordination and Collaboration				
E1 – Strengthen the Coordinated Entry	E3 – Provide County assistance to the Nevada			
System.	County Regional Continuum of Care.			
E2 – Enhance data sharing and tracking.	E4 – Improve community engagement,			
	relations, and education on homelessness			
	and related issues.			
L	1			

Key Performance Measures

All these initiatives, working together, aim to significantly reduce homelessness over the next three years. To measure these reductions the County and the local Continuum of Care have joined Built for Zero, a nationwide campaign of over 80 communities who are pioneering changes in how communities use data and collaboration to tackle homelessness. Utilizing local data collected through Coordinated Entry and tracked on the individual level in the Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), Built for Zero will work with the County and its partners to build a real-time "Quality By-Name List" of everyone experiencing homelessness in the community. This list is reviewed weekly at case conferencing meetings attended by multiple service providers who work directly off the list to prioritize assistance based on vulnerability, screen for program eligibility, coordinate housing plans and combine resources with a shared goal of housing people as quickly as possible. The results are tracked monthly through seven key data points:



- 1. Inflow (newly identified): Individuals and families who have entered the homeless system for the first time
- 2. Inflow (returned from housing): individuals and families who were housed but lost that housing and have returned to homelessness
- 3. Inflow (Returned from inactive): individuals and families who were moved to "inactive status" but have now reentered the system
- Actively Homeless: Everyone on the current by-name list and/or identified through outreach and engagement as in the process of being assessed and included on the by-name list
- 5. Outflow (Housing Placements): the number of individuals and families exiting the homeless system to housing.
- Outflow (moved to inactive): individuals and families who have not been located by outreach, received a service by any provider or have not sheltered in over 90 days.
- 7. Outflow (no longer meets population criteria): individuals whose current status changes in ways that remove them from the active list. Examples included entering institutions for long periods of time, re-unification with families, or other situations that resolve their homelessness.

Phase One Goals and Objectives:

A. Prevent Homelessness

Combating homelessness requires effective services to reduce the number of families and individuals who become homeless, in addition to helping currently homeless individuals and families move into housing. Research suggests that 50% of all chronically homeless individuals had their first episode of homelessness as children (Johnson, 2013). This points to a cycle of homelessness and poverty that is inter-generational and connected to family turmoil and instability. A similar cycle is also represented in people experiencing homelessness who move in and out of institutional settings like jails, hospitals and foster care. Providing effective services to prevent families, Transitional Age Youth (TAY), and individuals exiting institutions from exiting to homelessness is key to ending cycles of homelessness.

Objective A Initiatives:

- ➤ A1 Assess gaps in youth, family and TAY services and identify funding opportunities
- ➤ A2 Increase availability and access to funding and supportive services to prevent individuals from slipping into homelessness
- ➤ **A3** Utilize the CalWORKS Family Stabilization Program (FSP) and the Permanent Housing Assistance (PHA) program to prevent families from becoming homeless
- ➤ A4 Increase availability of intensive mental health services for foster youth or youth at-risk of entering the foster care system
- ➤ **A5** Improve early identification and assessment of mental illness and substance use disorder in the jail.

Performance Measures:

- Reduction in Inflow metrics (newly identified, returned to homelessness from housing, and returned from inactive) as measured through the Coordinated Entry System and HMIS
- Increase in number of families receiving FSP/PHA funding compared to prior fiscal year

Collaborating department/agencies:

Nevada County Regional Continuum of Care
Nevada County Social Services
Nevada County Behavioral Health Department
Nevada County Sheriff's Office
Sierra Forever Families
Victor Community Services
Partners Family Resource Centers

B. Provide Emergency Shelter

Nevada County is home to three highly effective, year-round shelter providers: Hospitality House, Community Beyond Violence, and Salvation Army's Booth Center. Additionally, community-based organizations have opened shelters in the winter months that add capacity during extreme weather events. Shelters are an integral part of the continuum of services to address homelessness and expanding capacity, lowering barriers to access and collaborating on service delivery are of paramount importance to ensure shelter access while long term strategies are completed.

Objective B Initiatives:

- ➤ **B1** Expand shelter options
- **B2** Strengthen and support seasonal extreme weather shelters
- > B3 Increase effectiveness of Bridges to Housing
- > **B4** Implement a hotel/motel voucher system

Performance Measures:

- Increase in shelter beds utilized each night open
- Reduction in unsheltered population

Collaborating departments/agencies:

Nevada County Housing and Community Services
Nevada County Housing Development Corporation
Nevada County Behavioral Health
Foothills House of Hospitality
Salvation Army Booth Family Center
Sierra Roots
Church of the Mountains
North San Juan Community Center
Community Beyond Violence
Nevada County Social Services
Nevada County Office of Emergency Services
City of Nevada City
Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital

C. Expand Supportive Services

Most families and individuals experiencing homelessness need some level of case management and supportive services to secure and maintain permanent housing. The level of need varies with the circumstances but, for many, the needs will initially be high and fluctuate over time. Services will likely need to be offered on an ongoing basis in order to prevent individuals and families from re-entering homelessness. This will require collaboration by multiple service providers. Additionally, case management and supportive services need to meet people where they are. This includes institutions like jails, hospitals and treatment facilities. Working with these facilities to create a process to quickly identify homeless individuals caught in the "revolving door," we can work proactively to ensure they receive services and do no re-enter the community into homelessness.

Discussions on creating a homeless resource center have been a centerpiece of County efforts to address homelessness. While various models of these kinds of centers exist, the overall vision is to create a centralized location, open during the day, with access to essential services (restroom, lockers, showers, etc.) and intensive case management. Phase 1 goals related to implementing a homeless resource center will focus on securing a location for day-time access. Phase 2 goals will continue the planning process for constructing on-site, low barrier units dedicated to chronically homeless individuals.

Objective C Initiatives:

- > C1 Create a homeless resource center
- > C2 Utilize the HOME Team to engage people experiencing homelessness in services
- > C3 Strengthen the coordinated multi-disciplinary case conference team (Housing Resource Team)
- > C4 Expand embedded case management
- > C5 Expand outreach and supportive services in the Tahoe/Truckee region
- ➤ **C6** Help people experiencing homelessness with substance use disorder access residential treatment and low barrier housing

Performance Measures:

- Number of contacts made, duplicated and unduplicated
- Number of people connected to health, mental health, substance use disorder treatment and sources of income

Collaborating departments/agencies:

Nevada County Behavioral Health
Foothill House of Hospitality
Turning Point Community Programs
Connecting Point
FREED Center for Independent Living
Nevada County Sheriff's Office
Nevada County Housing Development Corporation
Community Beyond Violence
Nevada County Social Services
Partners Family Resource Center
Project MANA / Sierra Community House
SPIRIT
Common Goals
Granite Wellness Centers
Nevada County Office of the Public Defender

D. Increase Affordable, Subsidized and Supported Housing

Nevada County Regional Continuum of Care

Across the State of California, the homeless crisis can be contextualized as a housing crisis. Not only is there not enough housing to meet the needs of the residents of the State but, increasingly, the amount of money residents pay in rent as a percentage of their household income is increasing. This puts up-stream pressure on services and systems as more individuals and families struggle to maintain housing and keep from entering homelessness and down-stream on services as it becomes increasingly hard to locate suitable housing for chronically homeless individuals and families. This strategy proposes that there are two distinct sides of any

strategy to address the housing issues: 1) expansion of financial assistance, leveraging multiple subsidy sources, and embracing innovative interim housing options while, 2) Working on a regional plan to spur the development of additional affordable housing units. This view accounts for the reality that even if all the stars align, new housing development takes time.

Objective D Initiatives:

- D1 Advocate for and collaborate on the development of affordable housing
- > D2 Expand master leasing and improve supportive housing programs, including in eastern county
- > **D3** Maximize utilization of federal housing subsidies
- ➤ **D4** Secure additional flexible housing funds for rental assistance and to fund a landlord recruitment and retention program
- > **D5** Expand Recovery Residence housing

Performance Measures:

- Increased number of landlords willing to accept families/individuals with housing vouchers/subsidies
- Number of identified affordable housing projects connected to available funding opportunities

Collaborating departments/agencies:

Nevada County Department of Housing and Community Services
Nevada County Community Development Agency
Regional Housing Authority
Nevada County Regional Continuum of Care
Nevada County Behavioral Health Department
City of Grass Valley
City of Nevada City
Town of Truckee
FREED Center for Independent Living

E. ENHANCE COMMUNICATION, COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

Accurate and timely information is key to winning support for initiatives and highlighting progress towards objectives. Informed messaging can highlight new trends in homeless demographics that require new resources or responses, provide perspective from various partners (i.e. law enforcement, crisis workers, veteran services officers etc.), and shed light on innovative approaches to addressing issues faced by individuals experiencing homelessness and impacts on the wider community. Accurate data will inform and frame this messaging and measure how well programs are performing, ensuring that high performing programs are promoted and expanded.

Objective E Initiatives:

- > **E1** Strengthen the Coordinated Entry System
- > E2 Enhance data sharing and tracking
- > E3 Provide County assistance to the Nevada County Regional Continuum of Care (NCRCoC)
- ➤ E4 Improve community engagement, relations, and education on homelessness and related issues

Performance Measures:

- Creation of Communication Plan and Media Plan

- Number of trainings, meetings, and camp clean-up events

Collaborating departments/agencies:

Nevada County Regional Continuum of Care
Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras
Homeless Outreach Team
Nevada County Housing and Community Development
Nevada County Sheriff's Office
Nevada City Police Department
Grass Valley Police Department
Foothill House of Hospitality
HOME Team



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

APPLICANT INFORMATION CoC / Large City / County Name: **County Nevada** Receiving Redirected Funds? Y/N Nno **Administrative Entity Name: Nevada County Health and Human Services Agency Total Redirected Funding HHAP FUNDING EXPENDITURE PLAN* ELIGIBLE USE CATEGORY** FY20/21 FY21/22 FY22/23 FY23/24 FY24/25 TOTAL 87,000.00 \$ Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing 87,000.00 174,000.00 \$ Operating Subsidies and Reserves 12,500.87 12.500.87 25,001.74 \$ \$ Landlord Incentives 25,000.00 25,000.00 50,000.00 \$ Outreach and Coordination (including employment) \$ Systems Support to Create Regional Partnerships 10,500.00 10,500.00 21,000.00 **Delivery of Permanent Housing** \$ 52,600.00 52,600.00 105,200.00 \$ Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing 12,000.00 12,000.00 24,000.00 \$ **New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters** \$ \$ 3,000.00 6,500.00 3,000.00 3,000.00 Strategic Homelessness Planning, Infrastructure Development, CES, and HMIS (up to 5%) 6,500.00 22,000.00 \$ Administrative (up to 7%) 15,851.68 15,851.67 31,703.35 **TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION** 452,905.09 FY21/22 FY22/23 TOTAL FY20/21 FY23/24 FY24/25 24,000.00 \$ 24,000.00 \$ \$ \$ Youth Set-Aside (at least 8%) 48.000.00 *Narrative should reflect details of HHAP funding plan COMMENTS:

FINAL	



February 5, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

The Homeless Resource Council of the Sierras, the administrative entity for CA-531, has a close collaboration with the County of Nevada, with representatives from the County sitting on the Board of Directors. CA-531: Nevada County CoC meet on a monthly basis. The planning and evaluation of HHAP spending and projects will be a standing agenda item for the CoC meeting. Meetings are attended by local nonprofit agencies, representatives from local jurisdictions, law enforcement, religious organizations, county staff, and other members of the community. Additional meetings will be held as necessary. The CoC has reviewed the County's plans for HHAP spending and agrees with their intended spending plan. Both the CoC and the County have identified the needs to address homelessness and are working to share the need in concordance with the Nevada County Strategic Plan.

Thank you,

Nancy Baglietto Board President