

**Agenda Item III. Council Updates**

Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council Meeting, April 9, 2019

1) Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)

- All 43 Continuums of Care (CoCs) and the 11 large cities were awarded their Round 1 HEAP funds by January 31, 2019, as required by statute. There will not be a second round of funding, since all HEAP funds have been awarded in Round 1.
- As of April 3, 2019, all \$500 million in HEAP funds has been disbursed.
- The cities and CoCs have reported they will allocate their HEAP funds as follows:

Services: 38 percent (\$189,380,834.11)

Capital Improvements: 36 percent (\$177,665,232.36)

Rental Assistance: 13 percent (\$64,645,050.97)

Homeless Youth: 7 percent (\$33,544,250.66)

Administrative Costs: 4 percent (\$20,864,598.00)

Other (e.g. hand washing stations, restrooms): 2 percent (\$12,900,033.90)

- The weekly office hours calls conducted by the HEAP team have become a platform for peer-to-peer networking and an opportunity to share resources and best practices. In April, one office hours call a month will be focused on best practices to address youth homelessness and one call will focus on building collaborative partnerships. Between 35 and 40 representatives from the large cities and CoCs participate in these weekly calls.
- Although it is early days, there are some lessons learned that have contributed to the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council's (HCFC's) success in establishing HEAP and disbursing the funds so quickly:
  - The authorizing statute was clear but not too directive in the major program structure, eligible applicants and uses, and allocation formula provisions. It allowed HCFC to move ahead quickly and at the same time gave HCFC enough discretion to make the specific decisions that inevitably arise in developing and implementing a new program.
  - HCFC deliberately set out to make the program as simple, transparent, and streamlined as possible, with an eye always on how HCFC could make things as easy

as possible for HEAP applicants and now, grantees. HCFC took the flexibility to heart while also working hard to ensure sufficient guidance and accountability. This is why HCFC received the first applications, from Oakland and San Diego, on the day the Notice of Funding Availability was released.

- HCFC took partnership seriously. Of the three positions authorized to develop and implement HEAP, one is a Local Government Liaison, whose primary role is to develop and maintain relationships with the cities, counties and Continuums of Care. The HEAP team spent a lot of time doing presentations and webinars across the state, holding weekly office hours, and answering e-mails and calls. Throughout the application period, the team also provided one-on-one support and direct engagement with local jurisdictions, which was possible because it was not a competitive program. The Local Government Liaison continues to hold weekly office hours in which all cities, counties and Continuums of Care can call in to discuss any topic with both the staff and their peers.
- HCFC knows the work is not over. In order to ensure the real success of the program, meaning the funds are used efficiently and effectively and make real progress in addressing homelessness, HCFC must shift quickly into providing support and technical assistance, working with grantees to establish good reporting processes and monitoring performance over time. Consistent with HCFC's overall approach, the HEAP team will engage in these activities with a continued commitment to partnership—focusing on how HCFC can assist grantees in accomplishing their goals and making a difference in their communities.
- A high-level HEAP timeline is attached to this document

## 2) Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness

- As outlined in its 2019 Action Plan, HCFC has initiated a process to develop a state strategic plan to address homelessness. This plan will focus on how the state should prioritize its resources to efficiently and effectively address homelessness in California, with the goal of reducing the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness as quickly as possible, reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered, reducing youth homelessness, and reducing the duration and episodes of homelessness people experience.
- As a first step, HCFC issued a request for white papers, inviting researchers, policy experts, advocates and other stakeholders to submit their evidence-based recommendations for priority actions the state should take to achieve these goals.

- As of April 4, about 30 papers have been submitted. HCFC will now begin reviewing these documents and begin synthesizing their recommendations, in addition to conducting additional research and analysis, so that a draft strategic plan can be developed by early to mid-summer 2019.
- There will be opportunities for researchers, policy experts, and stakeholders to review the draft strategic plan and provide input to HCFC, including regional forums and convenings.
- Chris Webb-Curtis has been added to the HCFC team to lead the strategic planning initiative.

### 3) SB 918—The Homeless Youth Act of 2018

- HCFC is working closely with youth homelessness policy and program experts, advocates and funders, including the California Coalition for Youth and John Burton Advocates for Youth, to identify strategies to ensure best practices are implemented through HEAP and to expand technical assistance and training opportunities for local jurisdictions.
- HCFC anticipates hiring two additional staff to focus on providing ongoing technical assistance on best practices to address youth homelessness; developing specific goals and clear milestones for measuring progress; collecting and analyzing data on youth homelessness; and fulfilling the other mandates of SB 918.

### 4) Other Council Business

- Last week, HCFC participated in a series of collaborative meetings and convenings with federal, state and local partners engaged in addressing homelessness. Staff from both the Washington D.C. and San Francisco offices of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) met with HCFC, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Social Services, and the California Office of Emergency Services to discuss responses to the Camp Fire in Butte County and more broadly, opportunities to collaborate on providing technical assistance and training to local jurisdictions.

This represents an exciting step forward in partnering to ensure consistent messaging and avoid duplication in providing technical assistance, and the opportunity to convene joint regional trainings to provide information and support to CoCs on topics of mutual interest, such as implementing Housing First and

sustaining meaningful collaborative partnerships, as well as specific program and funding information in multi-agency forums.

- HCFC continues to participate in regional convenings, such as two summits sponsored by HUD and USICH last week, and present workshops at conference such as the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference in February and the upcoming Housing CA conference next week.

High-Level HEAP Timeline – April 5, 2019

| Name of document or Event                          | Brief Summary   | Date Complete |
|--|---|---------------|
| HEAP authorized in State Budget                    | SB 850 signed.  | 6/27/18       |
| HEAP Program Guidance Issued                       | Official resource guide providing an overview of HEAP.  | 8/3/18        |
| HEAP FAQs Issued                                   | Initial version of HEAP frequently asked questions. Intended to be a resource for grantees and stakeholder, to address common questions (subsequently revised to reflect additional Q&As) | 8/10/18       |
| HEAP Application Instructions Issued               | Maps created to help each large city and CoC compile documents necessary for a completed application.   | 8/17/18       |
| HEAP NOFA Issued                                   | Official announcement of funding available for HEAP. Provides program and process overview, along with key dates.   | 9/5/18        |
| HEAP Application Form Issued                       | Online portal for HEAP applicants to apply for funds  | 9/5/18        |
| First HEAP Applications Received                   | Applications from the cities of Oakland and San Diego   | 9/5/18        |
| First Award Notifications Sent                     | Award notifications sent to cities of Oakland, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Long beach and to Bakersfield/Kern Continuum of Care.  | 9/28/18       |
| Date of First Disbursement of Funds                | Checks sent to the city of Los Angeles and the Bakersfield/Kern Continuum of Care.  | 10/22/18      |
| Last Date for Round 1 Applications to be Submitted | This is in statute.   | 12/31/18      |
| Date 100% Applications Received                    | Applications were received from all 11 large cities and 43 Continuums of Care   | 12/27/18      |
| Date Award Notifications for Round 1 Must be Made  | This is in statute.   | 1/31/19       |
| Date Last Award Notification Sent                  | Last award notification was to San Mateo Continuum of Care  | 1/30/19       |
| Date 100% Funds Disbursed                          | Checks sent to San Mateo and Redding/Shasta Continuums of Care  | 4/4/19        |
| Last Date for Round 2 Applications to be Submitted | Since we awarded 100% of HEAP funds in Round 1, no Round 2 application process necessary.   | N/A           |
| Date 50% of Allocations Must be Obligated          | This is in statute.   | 1/1/20        |
| Date First Progress Reports Due                    | This is in statute.   | 1/1/20        |
| Date Second Progress Reports Due                   | These reports will provide an update to the first progress report.  | 1/1/21        |
| Date 100% Allocations Must be Expended             | This is in statute.   | 6/30/21       |
| Date Final Reports Due                             | These reports will provide complete information on HEAP expenditures and outcomes.  | 9/30/21       |