



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

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April 10, 2019

To: Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Thank you for your continued support and service to the residents and communities in our County. Over the last several months, representatives from all nine cities, County officials, and community partners were tasked with identifying next steps and actions necessary for implementing a new community-wide strategic direction to address homelessness in Stanislaus County. We are pleased to share the work completed, as well as the outcomes and recommendations developed during that process.

**Background**

The County and many other stakeholders recognize that the current design of the homeless Community System of Care (CSOC) limits our ability to align formal authority with the actions necessary to fully implement the needed homelessness strategies. While much progress has been made to develop a framework for future homeless services, there is broad recognition that the current model and relationships between CSOC and local governments must evolve. In October 2018, a workgroup was formed in partnership with the City Managers, Focus on Prevention and the existing CSOC leadership council to address this issue. The workgroup was tasked with (1) developing a model for the strategic governance of homeless services in Stanislaus County, and (2) developing recommendations for the \$7.2 million in Homeless Emergency Aid Program funding available through the State of California. Homebase, a nonprofit with experience in homeless service capacity building and technical assistance, facilitated several planning sessions to support the workgroup. The following members have participated regularly throughout these planning sessions:

- Kathryn Harwell, CSOC Co-Chair (Stanislaus County Community Services Agency Director)
- Francine DiCiano, CSOC Co-Chair (President/CEO United Way of Stanislaus County)
- Jody Hayes, Stanislaus County Chief Executive Officer
- Joe Lopez, Modesto City Manager
- Bob Lawton, Turlock City Manager
- Toby Wells, Ceres City Manager
- Bryan Whitemyer, Oakdale City Manager

- Sean Scully, Riverbank City Manager
- Ken Irwin, Patterson City Manager
- Brad Hawn, Focus on Prevention Stewardship Council Chair
- Cindy Duenas, Focus on Prevention Stewardship Council Vice Chair

### **Homeless Emergency Aid Program Recommendations**

Of the \$7.2 million in HEAP funding, \$5 million has been designated for Capital Improvements. The eligible uses for HEAP Capital Improvements funds include emergency shelter, navigation centers, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, small/tiny houses, and improvements to current structures that serve homeless individuals and families. \$4 million of the HEAP Capital Improvement funds will be used towards the Permanent Access Center and Emergency Shelter for the City of Modesto, and the remaining \$1 million was recommended to be used for projects currently under development in Turlock, Patterson and Oakdale. Remaining funds are designated for development of a homeless youth navigation center (\$1 million) and flexible funding/rental assistance (\$875,000). The County has been designated as the Administrative Entity for receipt and distribution of HEAP funds in coordination with CSOC. We are currently developing procedures to finalize each of these projects and bring them forward for the approval and distribution of funding.

### **Homeless Programs and Strategic Governance Structure**

The primary focus of the workgroup recommendations is the creation of a formal public/private governance structure to establish a single point of community leadership and oversight to guide our response to homelessness in Stanislaus County. This new governance structure is called the "Stanislaus Homeless Alliance (SHA): Community Leaders Working to End Homelessness." The intent of this new community-wide leadership structure is to develop one vision, one program strategy, one funding strategy, and one annual report card to communicate performance outcomes to the community and serve as the framework for our mutual accountability. To accomplish this, the SHA is intentionally designed to include elected officials, executive staff, and non-government community leaders to reinforce the core principle that effective solutions must include all sectors of the community working together with a common purpose and strategy.

The workgroup has developed draft bylaws to establish the initial structure of the SHA, including a framework for representation and participation from throughout the community. The SHA will consist of the following participating organizations:

- Stanislaus County
- City of Modesto
- City of Turlock
- City of Ceres
- West County Representative (Patterson/Newman)
- (2) East County Representatives (Riverbank, Oakdale, Waterford and Hughson)

- Focus on Prevention (non-government representative)
- Community System of Care (non-government representative)
- Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority

The bylaws state that each agency will provide a primary representative and an alternate.

**Next Steps**

My “ask” is to appoint your Chair as the primary representative and Executive Director as the alternate representative to serve on the Stanislaus Homeless Alliance.

The first Alliance meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8th, 2019 from 5:30PM to 7:30PM. Meetings will comply with the Brown Act requirements for notification and participation from the public. We expect the group to meet at least monthly with agendas taking 2-3 hours on average. The first meeting will serve as an introductory onboarding and educational session on the roles and responsibilities of the SHA, along with approval of the founding bylaws and election of a committee chair and vice chair. Attached for reference is the latest version of the draft bylaws as well as two County Board of Supervisors’ agenda reports for further background information of when the concept of this leadership structure was adopted and an overview of the HEAP funding recommendations.

Thank you once again for your continued support in moving this conversation forward in our community. Please feel free to reach out to any member of our team if we can be of assistance at any time.

Sincerely,



Jody L. Hayes  
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosures

Distribution: Barbara Kauss, Executive Director