

# Casa Esperanza Homeless Center

*offering hope and help every day!*

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Sharon Friedrichsen, Deputy Director  
Santa Barbara County Community Services Department  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA. 93101

Dear Ms. Friedrichsen:

This is our formal letter of request for County funding through the non-profit, not budgeted grant request process through the Board of Supervisors.

***Request:*** Casa Esperanza and Good Samaritan, Inc., in collaboration and partnership seek \$127,960 to fund case management staffing and administrative costs associated with providing rapid re-housing services to the homeless across Santa Barbara County.

North County Case Manager	\$ 49,980
South County Case Manager	\$ 49,980
<u>Administrative Costs</u>	<u>\$ 28,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$127,960</b>

***The Program:*** For the last three years, Casa Esperanza and Good Samaritan successfully provided rapid re-housing services to homeless people across the entire County. Revenue was secured through ARA funding via HUD, through the City of Santa Barbara, the City of Santa Maria and the County of Santa Barbara.

Across the nation, and here in Santa Barbara County, rapid re-housing has proven to be an enormous success. Through rapid re-housing homeless people who have secured jobs, social security or other government benefits and have a proven means of supporting themselves, are given cash grants directly to landlords, covering the cost of security deposits and first month's rental assistance.

***Over the past 31 months, 2,337 people and 986 households accessed these funds and moved from homelessness to permanent housing.***

When a homeless person secures revenue, it can take anywhere from two to six months for them to save enough money to secure permanent housing. This creates significant continues exposure to homelessness and creates a significant backlog in our shelter system. When this backlog occurs, many homeless people who have jobs enter the motel trap, and can never save the money needed to secure permanent housing. Rapid re-housing funding has been a vital

solution to this problem. Absent this program, the number of homeless people on our streets county-side would be far worse than it is today. Research shows that at least 80% of all those housed under HPRP remain housed after one year.

Our Crisis: The rapid re-housing program was funded through the federal stimulus program. Funding for this program comes to an end in August, 2012. The only identified source of funding to replace this program was the Emergency Shelter Grant program, and only \$45,000.

Solution: Tenant-Based Rental Assistance is available through the HUD HOME program. Working with the cities and the County we have been able to adjust this program to meet the needs of homeless people currently served by the rapid-re-housing program. Thus far we have secured the following for this year:

• City of Santa Maria for Good Samaritan	Up to \$ 100,000
• City of Santa Barbara for Casa Esperanza	\$ 135,000
• County of Santa Barbara ESG for God Samaritan/ Casa Esperanza Collaboration	\$ 45,000
• County of Santa Barbara HOME Program Funds	<u>\$ 80,000</u>
	\$ 360,000

100% of these funds, however, must be spent exclusively on rental assistance. None of this money can be allocated for staffing or the costs of administering the funds – checks, accounting, grant management, record keeping.

One significant differences at this point between our adjusted HOME effort and the rapid re-housing program, is that each household must save and contribute 30% of the costs of rental assistance. The other difference is that under HPRP, ongoing grant assistance is available, but not often used, while under the HOME project, grants will be one-time only.

In order to utilize this secured funding, we must secure the funding to cover the cost of Case Management and administration. We have stretched to keep the cost of administration to just 6% of the program costs. It is our belief that some of the administrative costs can be covered through the new homeless services collaborative effort.

With the requested funding secured, we will have come as close as possible to keeping the successful rapid-re-housing program whole.

Information: Future federal funding for homeless life-line assistance will be based on our ability to reduce the length of shelter stays and is a requirement found in the HEARTH Act.

Our target population is low-income people who are currently homeless and meet HPRP guidelines for rapid re-housing. Each potential client fills out a complete intake form and provides proof of income, identification, etc. Each client must meet federal low-income guidelines. Each client works with the housing case manager and completes a budget. In order to qualify for funding, the budget must show that the client will be self-sufficient. If this threshold is not met, the client is not qualified for assistance.

Ongoing case management continues on an as-needed basis, with a minimum of monthly contact for six months. Recidivism rates are tracked at three, six and twelve month intervals, with a goal of at least 75% remaining housed after one year.

Based on history, we anticipate that the average grant will be approximately \$1,000 and that approximately 360 households will be served county-wide. Some individuals will access less than \$1,000, some families will access more than this amount.

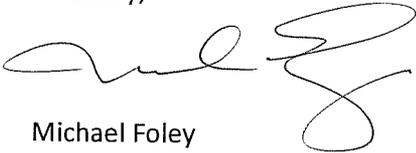
This project is specifically designed to help two target populations, people who have jobs and can secure immediate housing and people with disabilities who have secured disability benefits. Hence, this project prevents chronic homelessness and also provides the necessary revenue to move a chronically homeless person immediately off the streets.

This program is highly regulated and monitored by City and County staff and HUD and together we have a successful track-record. Projected budgets, audits and agency/program information are currently on file with the County through CDBG/ESG/SHP and HPRP grants for both Casa Esperanza and Good Samaritan.

Casa Esperanza and Good Samaritan have received a grant from the Santa Barbara Foundation to develop a close affiliation and formal collaborative relationship. Casa Esperanza is currently the fiscal agent for Bringing Our Community Home. Good Samaritan is currently the fiscal agent for \$95,000 in joint ESG funding. If this grant request is secured, we will work together with CSD to develop a specific plan for fiscal leadership for this grant that proves to be the most cost-effective.

Thank you for considering this very urgent request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Foley', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Michael Foley  
Executive Director

cc: Sylvia Barnard