County of Santa Barbara
Elected Leaders Forum to Address Homelessness

Wednesday, February 5, 2020
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
Los Olivos Community Organization Hall ("The Grange")
2374 Alamo Pintado Ave, Los Olivos, CA 93441

AGENDA

Item #	Topic

I. Welcome & Introductions

II. Public Comment

III. Governance

IV. Federal Update – *Helene Schneider, Regional Coordinator, USICH*

V. Phase II Regional Action Plan to Address Homelessness – *Kris Kuntz, LeSar Consultants*
   - Present Draft Plan for Feedback

VI. State Funding to Address Homelessness - *Kimberlee Albers, County of Santa Barbara*
   - Homeless, Housing Assistance and Prevention Program Application Proposed Uses

VII. Closing Remarks and Next Steps

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- Phase II Regional Plan to Address Homelessness

- State Funding to Address Homelessness

- Closing Remarks and Next Steps

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

GOVERNANCE

FEDERAL UPDATE

HELENE SCHNEIDER
REGIONAL COORDINATOR, USICH

PHASE II
REGIONAL ACTION PLAN
TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Elected Leaders Forum to Address Homelessness Presentation

February 5, 2020

Objectives

1. Provide overview of current homeless system including persons served, housing resources, funding, and system performance

2. Provide observations of current system, gaps, and recommendations

3. Receive feedback on proposed guiding principles

4. Receive feedback on proposed goals

5. Receive feedback on proposed action plan governance structure

6. Receive feedback on proposed new housing intervention targets

7. Receive feedback on proposed action strategies

8. Other questions/feedback

Introduction and Background

- **Homelessness is traumatic for those who experience it and has significant impact on one's overall well-being.**

- **Homelessness significantly impacts community: law enforcement, healthcare, business, tourism, and neighborhoods.**

- **Homelessness is a top concern among diverse stakeholders across the region including the general public.**

- **Efforts to address homelessness have been building.**
  - *Bringing Our Community Home: 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness* (2006)
  - Enhanced governance structure of the Continuum of Care (CoC)
  - Fully implemented a Coordinated Entry System (CES)
  - Expanded formal and informal cross-sector collaboration within the system of care
  - Network of partners – County, Cities, governmental agencies, homeless services providers, faith-based providers, healthcare, and others are more engaged and working together than ever before
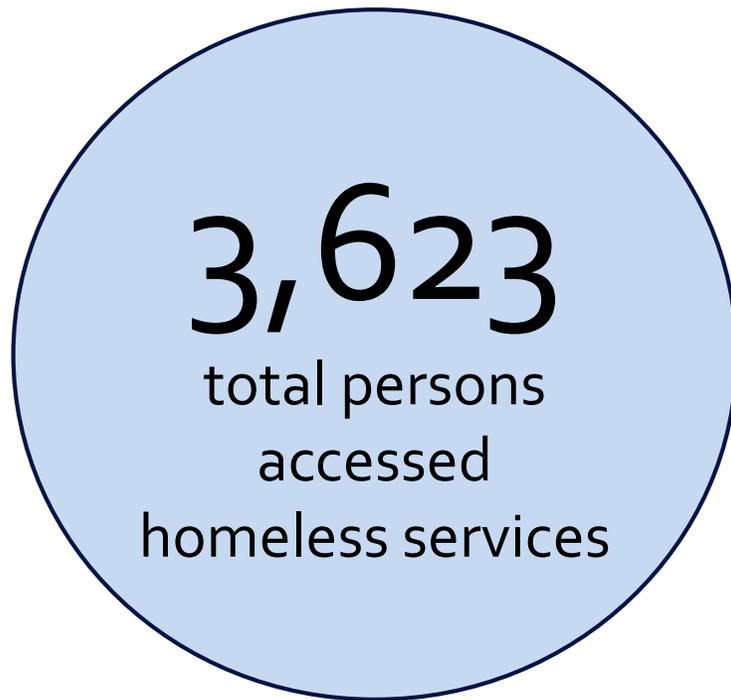
Introduction and Background – Phase I Plan

Collaborative engagement process that identified needs and set 5 overarching goals:

1. **Increase Access to Safe, Affordable Housing**

2. **Use Best Practices to Deliver Tailored Supportive Services to Meet Individual Needs**

3. **Build a Collective Action Plan; Improve Data Sharing**

4. **Strengthen Support System Available to Help Residents Obtain and Maintain Housing**

5. **Build Provider Capacity to Address the Needs of Specific Populations**
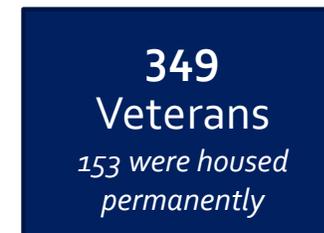
Persons Served Annually in Homeless Programs

October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

3,623
total persons accessed homeless services

Households

2,877
total households

2,626
single adult households

250
families with children

Sub-Populations (Adults 18+)

349
Veterans
153 were housed permanently

200
youth (18-24)

1,289
chronically homeless

2,407
had health insurance

1,027
mental health issue

960
substance use

Note: Data includes all programs that entered data into HMIS, including permanent housing programs such as RRH and PSH, so data is not entirely representative of just those in homeless living situations as it includes some in permanent housing settings.

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Santa Barbara Homeless Housing Interventions

Temporary Housing

Emergency Shelter: Low-barrier, safe place for people to stay while awaiting housing placement. Focused on housing but generally has some support services – healthcare, linkages to mainstream services, some employment, etc.

Transitional Housing: Temporary housing with more support services and longer length of stay – up to 2 years. Focused on addressing challenges – employment, mental health, substance use, etc... prior to permanent housing. Generally higher barrier programs with rules and sobriety requirements.

Permanent Housing

Rapid Re-Housing: Permanent housing model that uses the private rental market and provides time-limited rental assistance with wraparound case management to promote housing stability and taking over of the rent. Targeted to mid-level acuity households who will be self-sufficient in time and most likely be employed.

Permanent Supportive Housing: Subsidized housing with intensive services – targeted to those most in need, with significant challenges, who are disabled. Single site and scattered site.

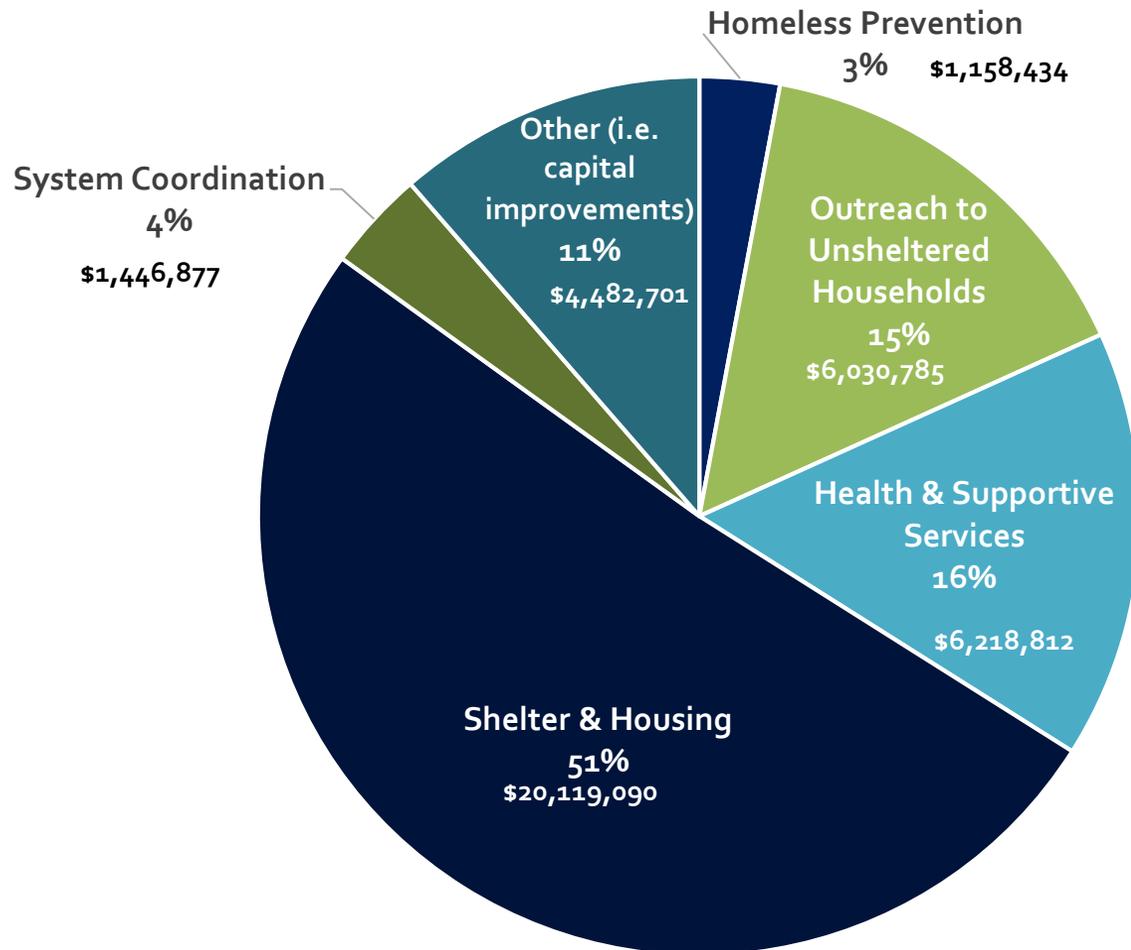**Other Permanent Housing:** Affordable housing dedicated to homeless households. Minimal services provided.

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Homeless Housing Inventory Trends
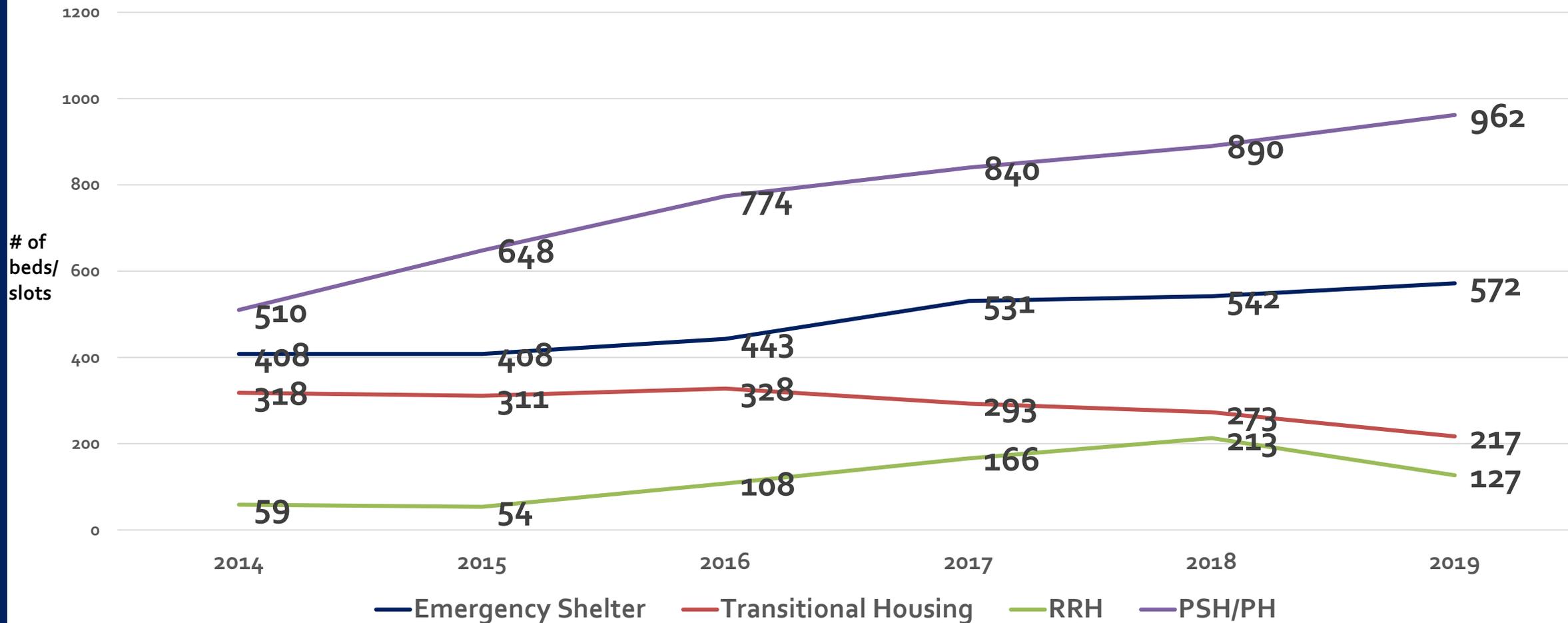
Source: County of Santa Barbara Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Chart, 2014-2019

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Regional Funding for Homelessness

Dedicated Annual Funding for Homeless Programs and Services

Pie chart: Dedicated Annual Funding for Homeless Programs and Services

- Homeless Prevention — 3% — $1,158,434
- Outreach to Unsheltered Households — 15% — $6,030,785
- Health & Supportive Services — 16% — $6,218,812
- Shelter & Housing — 51% — $20,119,090
- Other (i.e. capital improvements) — 11% — $4,482,701
- System Coordination — 4% — $1,446,877

Region TOTAL:

$39,456,699

(includes public and private funding)

TOTAL ANNUAL FUNDING THROUGH THE **COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**:

$16,014,684

2018-19

County General Funds
Federal Funds (CDBG, ESG, HHS)
State Funds (AB109, MHSA, CalWORKS)

With increased state funding and more forthcoming it is critical to align funding priorities for impact.

Note: Does not include all dollars being spent to address impacts of homelessness such as law enforcement, healthcare, public works, and other public agencies that incur expenses for managing the problem. Figures only include dedicated funds for providing housing and services to homeless households.

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HOMELESS SYSTEM ANALYSIS

Homeless System Data: Observations

- Housing affordability continues to significantly impact households across the County and remains a key factor contributing to homelessness.

- The local PIT count remains stable while counts across California have been increasing significantly.

- Along with steadily increasing funding from HUD CoC program, new state funding is providing unprecedented resources that require coordination and alignment for maximum impact.

- Although Housing Inventory resources have increased, demand for shelter and housing opportunities far exceed availability, limiting new placements.

- Street outreach programs and their effectiveness have increased over the past two years, including improved results in connecting people to shelter and housing.

- Lack of participation in HMIS impacts the ability to provide the community, funders and stakeholders with a comprehensive view of the homeless response system.

Homeless System Data: Recommendations

- **More services tailored to meet the unique needs of specific populations.**
  - Chronic and unsheltered counts are rising.
  - Many individuals need expanded and enhanced services. Over 10% of those who exit to permanent housing fall back into homelessness within six months, that number rises to 25% within two years.

- **More affordable housing and better matching of housing interventions to household types.**
  - The largest unmet need is additional Rapid Re-Housing. Families in the region primarily need RRH and individuals with disabilities primarily need PSH.
  - 23% of households need long-term rental assistance/affordable housing but likely do not require intensive services.
  - 70% of households successfully exiting from RRH is notable, though 20% returns to homelessness within two years supports the need for longer-term rental assistance.

- **More efforts targeting youth, veteran and family populations.**
  - Though the percentage of homeless youth declined slightly from 2018-2019, this population rose steadily in the preceding five years.
  - The total number of veterans experiencing homelessness has remained steady even with increase in veteran housing resources. Many veterans are unsheltered.
  - Families living in shelters has increased steadily.

- **More homeless prevention and shelter diversion resources.**
  - 14% of people entered emergency shelter from a housed situation highlighting the need to have diversion activities at the front door of the shelter system.

PHASE II REGIONAL HOMELESS ACTION PLAN

Action Plan Purpose and Process

Planning ➔ **Action**

| Ensure Collective Buy In for Regional Impact | Adopt Common Vision and Guiding Principles | Use Data to Identify Specific Homeless Intervention Needs | Set Goals, Strategies, Priorities, and Action Steps | Determine Action Plan Governance Model and Measurement |

Process: Review of progress to date, diverse community engagement, data-driven, review of best-practices, and conversations with key stakeholders

Key Themes from Community Engagement

Increase Access to Affordable Housing	**Deliver Tailored Supportive Services**	**Collective Action; Improve Communications**	**Maximize Funding & Resources**

Develop & Expand Partnerships	**Build Service Provider Capacity**	**Create Culture of Best Practices**

Regional Vision and Guiding Principles

Vision: Create a regional a unified strategic response and a flexible, responsive system of care that is driven by data, guided by best practices and seeks to prevent homelessness when possible or otherwise ensures that homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time for anyone in Santa Barbara County. It is through collaboration, connection, and commitment that we realize this vision.

Respond with urgency	Transparency and accountability at all levels of decision making	Embrace best practices and be housing focused	Grounded in community with regular and ongoing communication	Support homeless services providers and value contribution
Work collaboratively and create culture of togetherness	Promote cross-sector collaboration and response	Use objective data to drive decision making	Incorporate those with lived experience at all levels of planning, policy, and implementation	Commitment to ongoing performance management and process improvement

Commit to Goals: Immediate, Short-Term, Longer Term

- **Prioritize ending/dramatically reducing homelessness for specific populations.**
  - Immediate: End homelessness among Veterans. Reduce street homelessness among youth.
  - Short-term: Prevent and end homelessness for families.
  - Longer term: Reduce homelessness for all other populations, including chronic.

- **Increase housing inventory (units and beds) dedicated to homelessness and affordability.**
  - Immediate: Add South County Crisis Respite Navigation Center. Reach Full Capacity (Bed Utilization) at Existing Shelters.
  - Short-term: Submit and Develop Housing Projects for No Place Like Home and Dedicated State Funding
  - Longer term: New Housing Projects in Every Supervisorial District and Municipal Jurisdiction

- **Reduce the number of people who become homeless for the first time by creating a culture of diversion and prevention across the homeless response system**.

- **Improve overall homeless system performance.**
  - Increase participation, decrease length of time of homeless, increase homeless placements, and limit returns to homelessness.

What does **End Veteran Homelessness** mean?

1. **All veterans are identified.**

2. **The community can provide immediate shelter to any Veteran in need.**

3. **A housing resource for all identified veterans.**

4. **Resources in place should a Veteran become homeless.**

Note: Map indicates communities that have ended veteran or chronic homelessness or both. Dark blue states have ended veteran homelessness. Other blue states have at least one city that has ended all homelessness (Source: USICH) .

Action Plan Leadership and Governance Structure

Local Elected Leaders → **Responsibility:** Leadership, political will, commitment, education, advocacy, and increasing community-wide buy in

Homeless Interagency Policy Council → **Responsibility:** Ownership and overall oversite of the Action Plan, planning how strategies are going to be implemented, funding, working with stakeholders, and measuring and regularly reporting progress

Continuum of Care → **Responsibility:** Implementation of various strategies, Coordinated Entry, HMIS, federal and state funding decisions, promoting best practices, providing training opportunities, system and project level monitoring and evaluation

Housing & Shelter Gaps Analysis

New Permanent Housing	Total Need	Amount In System Available Annually	New Housing Needed
Rapid Re-Housing	1,215	162	**1,053** slots/vouchers
Permanent Supportive Housing	898	63	**835** units
Long-Term Subsidy/Rental Asst.	631	100	**531** units/vouchers

New Temporary Housing	Total Need	Amount in System Available Annually	Total People Still Needing a Bed	Total Beds Needed *At current turnover rate*
Shelter and TH Beds	2,780	1603	1,177	**563** beds

Rapid Re-Housing and Long-Term Subsidies utilize existing units in the rental market. New PSH units would be a combination of existing units in the market and new construction.

Temporary Beds Needed by Region

Region	Number of New Beds Needed
SOUTH COUNTY Goleta, IV, Montecito, Carpinteria, Summerland, City of Santa Barbara	369
MID-COUNTY Lompoc, Santa Ynez Valley	61
NORTH COUNTY Santa Maria, Orcutt, Guadalupe	133
TOTAL	563

Based on % of unsheltered PIT numbers

IMPLEMENTATION WORK PLAN

STATE FUNDING
TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP)

One-time flexible block grants intended to
expand and develop local capacity
to address their **immediate homeless challenges**
informed by a best practices framework
focused on moving homeless individuals and families
into permanent housing
and **supporting the efforts** of those individuals and families
to **maintain their permanent housing**.

Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care HHAP Funding Application	
Eligible Activity	**Request Amount**
Rental assistance and rapid rehousing	$700,000
Incentives for Landlords	$299,154
Support for Crisis Respite Navigation Center	$700,000
Administrative Costs	$148,676
System Support Costs	$106,197
Youth Set Aside*	$169,915
Total CoC HHAP Application	**$2,123,942**

County of Santa Barbara HHAP Funding Application	
Eligible Activity	**Request Amount**
Outreach and coordination to assist vulnerable populations in accessing permanent housing and to promote housing stability in supportive housing	$574,145
Support for Crisis Respite Navigation Center	$1,000,000
Administrative Costs	$137,738
System Support Costs	$98,384
Youth Set Aside*	$157,414
Total County HHAP Application	**$1,967,681**

Detail of Combined Youth Set Aside (both CoC and County Allocations)	
Eligible Activity	**Request Amount**
Rental assistance and rapid rehousing	$218,220
Outreach and coordination to assist vulnerable populations in accessing permanent housing and to promote housing stability in supportive housing	$109,110
Total HHAP Dedicated to Youth Homelessness	**$327,330**

Proposed Activity	Measurable Goal
Rental assistance and rapid rehousing (RRH) and Incentives to Landlords	Permanently place at least 50 adult households and at least 16 youth households, and secure at least 100 adult units dedicated to RRH households.
Outreach and coordination to assist vulnerable populations in accessing permanent housing and to promote housing stability in supportive housing	Improve housing retention by assisting at least 100 vulnerable adults in accessing permanent housing and promote housing stability in supportive housing through outreach and coordination.
New navigation center(s) and emergency shelter(s) based on demonstrated need	Lower returns to homelessness after permanent housing placement by developing 30-40 respite care beds with supportive services.

CLOSING REMARKS & NEXT STEPS