County of Fresno Report for FMCoC General Membership Meeting: December 8, 2022

HHAP

- The HHAP-4 Landscape Analysis and Local Homelessness Action Plan, as well as the joint application on behalf of the FMCoC was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on 11/29/22.

- The HHAP-4 application was submitted on 11/29/22.

- All jurisdictions received supplemental questions regarding the HHAP-3 system performance measure outcome goals. Jurisdictional partners worked together to develop a coordinated response. The County submitted the response (shared) to Cal ICH on 11/21/22.

- All jurisdictions also received a HHAP-4 Guidance Document. This document This document is required of Cal ICH as a commitment to further the HHAP-3 outcome goals by 1) pursuing more ambitious goals to, "reduce the number of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness on a daily basis," and by 2) implementing as many of the best practices indicated, as possible. During the mandatory HHAP-4 consultation process, the County will be asked to provide a written narrative that describes which of the best practices will be or are already being implemented, as well as specifying any best practices not under our authority. Much of this information was addressed as part of the HHAP-4 application narrative. However, any additional information will be added to a summary in preparation for this meeting. The County submitted the executed document (shared) on behalf of the County and the FMCoC on 11/29/22.

- The HHAP Rounds 1 and 2 Annual Reports are due to Cal ICH on December 15, 2022. These are expenditure reports through 9/30/22 and include performance measure data pulled from HMIS. The County anticipates submitting the reports by 12/9/22.

- An agreement with the Marjaree Mason Center (MMC) was approved by the County Board of Supervisors on 11/29/22. This agreement will enable MMC to procure a provider to develop a plan to address homelessness specifically for victims of domestic violence. A plan will be brought to the FMCoC for approval in February of 2024. This agreement ($50,000) is funded with the HHAP-1 FMCoC allocation.

CESH

- An agreement with Innovative Research and Analysis, LLC was executed effective November 1, 2022 to provide a homeless services plan for rural communities, utilizing data from Reedley, Selma, and Sanger. The plan is due October 31, 2023, with an optional extension through January of 2024. This agreement ($25,000) is funded with the CESH-1 allocation.

HHAP-3 SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

Please provide a more detailed explanation of the outcome goal you have set for Outcome Goal #1b: Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness on a daily basis, by fully addressing the following considerations:

1. Describe how data and projections, including local data and HHAP-3 baseline and historical data, impacted your outcome goal regarding the number of people newly becoming homeless and experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
   o Baseline data indicated the number of persons becoming homeless for the first time has steadily increased since 2018 by 35%.
   o Based on historical trends in unsheltered PIT counts from 2018 – 2020, unsheltered homelessness increased by 59% and was projected to increase by 75% from 2020 to 2024.
   o Inflow into homelessness continues to outstrip exits to permanent housing by a significant margin. The number of people that exited to permanent housing increased by 34% between 2018 and 2020 (885 to 1185). However, the number of people that became homeless for the first time similarly increased by 35% between 2018 and 2020 (1540 to 2081) and is projected to increase another 52% between 2020 and 2024.

2. Describe your efforts to increase the production of low-barrier shelter and interim housing in your community.
   o Since 2019 the City of Fresno has added 867 low-barrier shelter beds and continues to seek additional funding opportunities to increase the production of low-barrier shelter and interim housing in our community. The City applied for and was awarded four Homekey 2.0 projects to acquire properties and rehabilitate into interim housing then later permanent housing. The City plans to apply for Homekey 3.0 and is investigating additional properties to acquire and rehabilitate into low-barrier shelter and interim housing.
   o The County of Madera has been in the process of collaborating with Community Action Partnership of Madera County (CAPMC), the Madera Rescue Mission (MRM), and the City of Madera on a new service expansion project that will entail the installation of self-contained manufactured housing units creating six one-bedroom units and one two-bedroom unit. Triage services will assist homeless individuals and families with securing a permanent housing solution through a Housing Case Worker. Homeless Outreach Workers will provide direct outreach to those experiencing homelessness across Madera County.

o The County of Fresno committed $2.4 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLRF) to partner with the Fresno Mission to fund a portion of the cost to purchase 64 pre-fabricated units to be used as dwelling units for women and families. The County also committed $1 million of ARPA- SLRF to improve, adapt, and secure a location to place 20 emergency travel trailers received from the California Office of Emergency Services, which will be used as longer-term housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

3. Describe any other significant considerations that informed the outcome goal you have set for Outcome Goal #1b.
   o The number experiencing homelessness on a daily basis is revolving. As COVID shelters and Roomkey facilities are closed for renovation into permanent housing, other resources will be leveraged to ensure the total number experiencing unsheltered homelessness continues to decrease. In developing Outcome Goal 1b, the jurisdictions considered all ongoing efforts to prevent homelessness, increase shelter capacity, and exit households to permanent housing, making existing shelter beds available to those on the street.
   o The end of the COVID-19 eviction moratorium and historic rental rate increases were cited as leading causes to persons experiencing homelessness. Considering the uncertainties of the rental housing market and possible recession, the jurisdictional partners concurred that reducing unsheltered homelessness by 8% by 2024 would be a strong goal.

Please provide a more detailed explanation of the outcome goal you have set for *Outcome Goal #3: Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing*, **by fully addressing the following considerations:**

1. Describe how data and projections, including local data and HHAP-3 baseline and historical data, informed your outcome goal regarding exits from your homelessness response system to permanent housing within your community (including exits outside your homelessness response system).
   a. According to the baseline data, people exiting homelessness into permanent housing has increased year over year since 2018, however the rate of increase has steadily decreased from 20% in 2019 to 12% in 2020. Based on this trend and decrease in the success rate of staying housed, the jurisdictional partners set a conservative but realistic goal of a 15% increase by 2024.
   b. *The number of people that exited to permanent housing increased by 34% between 2018 and 2020 (885 to 1185).*

    c. *Internal System Performance Data shows a 59% increase in length of time homeless for people in Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing programs between 2019 and 2020 from 62 to 99 bed nights, indicating that it is taking longer to secure permanent housing for people staying in interim shelter. This corresponds to the trend in Cal ICH baseline data, which shows a 53% increase in length of time homeless overall between 2018 and 2020.*

    d. *While total exits to permanent housing have increased since 2018, the overall program exit success rate has decreased by 8%. Likewise, the success rate for interim shelter programs has fallen by 8% and exits from these programs represent a higher percentage of total exits since 2018.*

2. Describe any projections reflecting efforts to increase exits to permanent housing within your homelessness response system (e.g., rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing).

    a. Current data suggests permanent supportive housing improves the long-term success of a person staying housed – the rate of successful exits from this intervention was 75% in 2020. The jurisdictional partners have coordinated to increase staffing at triage centers/emergency shelters to improve successful exits to permanent housing. City of Fresno-funded housing stability case managers will also provide continued support for up to 12-months after successful exit into permanent housing.

3. Describe your efforts to increase people's exits from the homelessness response system to permanent housing within your community and obstacles to increasing such exits (to permanent housing outside your homelessness response system).

    a. The Fresno Madera Continuum of Care applied for $10,477,963 in homelessness funding through the competitive CoC Special Unsheltered NOFO to address unsheltered homelessness including homelessness in rural communities. The recommended projects that would be supported with this funding include coordinated entry, permanent supportive housing, and supportive services. If awarded, these programs would bolster efforts to connect individuals experiencing homelessness in the region – including Madera County and rural Fresno County – with permanent housing.

    b. The Fresno County Department of Behavioral Health was awarded No Place Like Home funding to begin development of 41 permanent supporting housing units in the County with essential on-site supportive services to assist tenants to maintain their housing. The project is scheduled to be fully leased by December 2023.

    c. The lack of affordable rental housing and overall rental availability continues to be a barrier to successful exits to permanent housing.

According to the US Census Bureau, the 2021 rental vacancy rate for the Fresno Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is 2.6% - the lowest vacancy rate among the six largest MSAs in California.

d. In response to the challenges in identifying affordable housing for those experiencing a housing crisis, the jurisdictions have invested in landlord engagement and risk mitigation strategies with HHAP funding and will be bolstering this effort through the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program to identify additional units for rent and secure additional housing stock.

e. In partnership with the local managed care providers, FMCoC providers and other partners are currently participating in Shared Housing Training through the Shared Housing Institute, recognizing that shared housing is a key strategy in identifying increased housing capacity in the community and can provide additional long-term benefits for participants.

4. Describe other significant considerations that informed the outcome goal you have set for Outcome Goal #3.

a. The County of Fresno partnered with Upholdings and RH Community Builders on a Homekey project which will enter rehabilitation in February of 2023, making 141 additional permanent housing available as early as August of 2024.

b. The Fresno Housing Authority was awarded funding for four Homekey projects, the first of which is under conversion currently and will add approximately 70 housing units to the community by late 2023.

c. Shelter capacity as part of the COVID response did not always have corresponding intensive housing case management. More people were seeking shelter during the pandemic without the appropriate level of support, causing exits from shelter to stagnate amid COVID.

HHAP-4 GUIDANCE

Thank you for your partnership in the development of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Round 4 (HHAP-4) applications. Supporting robust goals that propose to reduce the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and increase the number of people placed in permanent housing is a top priority for the state. We must also ensure that HHAP resources and solutions are advancing equity by reaching organizations, neighborhoods, and communities that have been marginalized and under-resourced.

Commitment
In the spirit of partnership, your HHAP-4 plan will be objectively conditioned upon committing to further your HHAP-3 outcome goals by pursuing the following:

1. Establish more ambitious outcomes for Goal 1B during the HHAP-4 consultation and review process.
2. Implement as many of the best practices listed below as possible.

Best Practices
1) Enter into regional Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with detailed commitments that focus on coordinating and integrating interim and permanent housing resources (both capital and rental subsidies), supportive services, and outreach and engagement strategies.
2) Streamline Coordinated Entry System processes to ensure that housing resources are being effectively matched to people based on need so that the right housing interventions are being targeted to the right people at the right time.
3) Utilize available land slated for supportive housing development for interim housing solutions during the entitlement process, where feasible.
4) Streamline multifamily affordable housing development, specifically housing Extremely Low and Very Low-Income housing, and further efforts to remove local barriers to development and accelerate the implementation of state laws that provide for streamlined approval of affordable housing.
5) Develop and strengthen relationships with local Public Housing Authorities (PHA) to increase voucher utilization and success rates, implement strategies to maximize emergency vouchers for households experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness; explore prioritization for special populations; work with landlords to increase participation; and pair PHA

resources, including vouchers, with services and housing units to create permanent supportive housing opportunities.

6) Leverage funding sources, including, but not limited to, CalAIM, Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing, Homekey, Mental Health Services Act, Emergency Solutions Grants or other locally funded rental assistance opportunities.

7) Establish cross-system partnerships to enhance person-centered and effective homelessness response system outcomes. Examples include partnerships with local jails and/or sheriff departments, child welfare agencies, and/or institutions of higher education.

During the HHAP-4 consultation process, you will be asked to provide a written narrative that describes which of the best practices above will be implemented or are already being implemented. If a specified best practice is not within your authority, or you are otherwise limited in implementing a specific best practice, you will be asked to specify that limitation during the HHAP-4 consultation process.

Cal ICH requests that a program designee attest to the foregoing commitment and transmit a signed copy to Cal ICH at HHAP@bcsh.ca.gov as soon as possible, but no later than November 29, 2022.

Fresno County

Authorized Signatory: _____