

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Patricia Charles-Heathers, Ph.D., MPA
Director



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: December 10, 2018

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Daniel Del Monte, M.P.A., Deputy Director

RE: El Dorado Opportunity Knocks Continuum of Care priorities: California Emergency Solutions and Housing, and Homeless Emergency Aid Program

The purpose of this memo is to provide an overview of local priorities established by the El Dorado Opportunity Knocks Continuum of Care (EDOK) for the strategic utilization of two State of California funding streams, one administered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) and the other by the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC).

Background: California Emergency Solutions and Housing

SB 850 enacted the California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) program, which was signed into law by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. on June 27, 2018. A notice of funding availability for CESH was announced on August 15, 2018, providing grant funding to administrative entities (AEs) across California with the intent of assisting persons who are experiencing or are at risk of homelessness. AEs are designated by their local Continuum of Care (CoC), ensuring that they submit an application for funds while collaborating with their local CoC within their respective services area. An AE is defined as a unit of general purpose local government, and HHSA was approved by EDOK as the AE for available CESH funding in September 2018. The funding allocation for El Dorado County's service area was determined by a formula which includes the following components: 1) The 2017 Point-in-Time Count; 2) The number of extremely low-income households in rental housing that pay more than 50 percent of household income on rent; and 3) The percentage of households below the federal poverty line. Final applications were due October 15, 2018.

Background: Homeless Emergency Aid Program

Similar to CESH, the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) is authorized by SB 850. The notice of funding availability for HEAP was announced on September 5, 2018, referencing a \$500 million block grant program designed to provide direct assistance to cities, counties and CoCs to address the homelessness crisis throughout California. HEAP is also applied for through AEs, and EDOK approved HHSA as the AE for HEAP. In order to be eligible to utilize HEAP funds within local city and county limits, each jurisdiction must declare a shelter crisis unless the CoC has fewer than 1,000 homeless people in its most recent 2017 Point-in-Time Count. EDOK accounted for approximately 600 individuals in its most recent Point-in-Time Count and therefore El Dorado County will submit a waiver, exempting our cities and the county as part of the CoC from declaring a shelter crisis. Final applications are due December 31, 2018.

EDOK Local Priorities for Funds

In order to be eligible to receive these grants, CoCs must demonstrate that a local collaborative process was conducted prior to submitting an application to the state. The local collaborative process must ensure that programs are strategically developed, either based upon an adopted homelessness

plan or other local priorities, and evidence of this process must be submitted as a component of the application. To meet this requirement, EDOK hosted its quarterly Board and General Membership meetings on September 7th, 2018, where lengthy collaborative discussions occurred in order to establish meaningful, local priorities for funding.

CESH Priorities: As CoCs are technical in nature and have many unfunded mandates, the EDOK Board discussed the need to focus available CESH funding on supporting CoC administrative requirements, strategic planning, and improved access for local homeless to CoC services. From this discussion, the three CoC priorities established for CESH were: a contract to administer the 2019 and 2021 Point in Time Counts; a contract to develop a countywide 5-year homeless strategic plan; and additional Coordinated Entry staffing to support improved access to services.

HEAP Priorities: The EDOK Board discussed the available \$1.448 million in HEAP funding, considering critical services and gaps in our system. By strategically considering program types that meet current gaps in CoC services, the EDOK Board believes that it can improve services, immediately, while also supporting improved scores and points on annual CoC grant competitions. After reviewing HEAP program requirements, potential providers to support HEAP, current gaps in CoC services, and application requirements where the CoC could improve its competitiveness for future funding, local HEAP priorities were established to include: a project that impacts chronic homelessness; a project that impacts transitional-age youth homelessness; purchase or rehab of a property that can be dedicated to a project; and sheltering.

Next Steps: CESH

Assuming that the application for CESH is successful, the award is likely to be received by early January 2019. Funding must be expended within 5 calendar-years from the executed AE contract with HCD.

2019 and 2021 Point in Time Count: The Federal U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires that communities receiving CoC funding conduct a count of all sheltered and unsheltered homeless residents on a bi-annual basis, establishing the dimensions of homelessness locally to help inform the development of a relevant, localized system response. A contract will be executed with Applied Survey Research (ASR) to support the next two counts in 2019 and 2021. ASR has unique Point-in-Time expertise, providing project planning and implementation, oversight, enumerator and surveyor training, data tabulation and analysis, as well as a comprehensive report of findings for CoCs across California. ASR has supported Point in Time Counts in many regions, including: San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Clara, Sonoma, Santa Cruz, San Benito, King, and many more. ASR uses methodology commended and recommended by HUD as a best practice.

Coordinated Entry staffing: HUD requires that local communities receiving CoC funding establish, maintain, and operate Coordinated Entry Systems (CES) to identify, assess and prioritize homeless individuals and families for housing and services based on vulnerability and severity of need. CES is a community-wide approach that moves a homeless response system from a collection of independent housing and service providers who employ their own referral policies and wait lists, to a comprehensive approach intended to coordinate all housing and service resources. CES enables EDOK to target limited housing and services to those with the greatest vulnerabilities, often times also serving the highest costs individuals that frequently use costly emergency services such as jail, emergency room, and others. A contract will be executed with current CES partners to increase staffing for Coordinated Entry.

5-Year Homeless Strategic Plan: It is well documented that the most effective CoCs nationwide operate within the context of regional strategic plans to impact homelessness. These plans lay out actions to be taken within the CoC service area by service providers, local

governments, businesses, hospitals, and other regional stakeholders in order to maximize outcomes and coordinate funds, effectively. In addition to improved coordination, grant funding streams are more regularly requiring that a strategic plan be in place in order to simply be eligible for funds. To improve local coordination of resources and to ensure continued access to available federal and state grants, a contract will be executed with HomeBase (Current CoC Homeless Coordinator) to lead the development of a 5-year homeless strategic plan in El Dorado County. HomeBase has facilitated multi-sector homeless strategic planning processes in dozens of states and communities, including over 20 ten-year plans for ending homelessness; numerous homelessness-oriented strategic plans and updates; over 30 plans to integrate health, housing and homelessness systems; and myriad of agency-specific strategic plans.

Estimate Eligible Uses and Adopted Priorities:

\$473,717.00	Total Amount Available
\$ 23,685.85	5% for AE Admin Expenses
\$121,090.56 approx	2019 and 2021 Point in Time Count
\$250,000.00 approx	Additional Coordinated Entry Staffing Through Local Providers
\$ 78,940.59 approx	Development of 5-Year Homeless Strategic Plan

Next Steps: HEAP

The application for HEAP will be submitted by the December 31, 2018 deadline. Once awarded, contracts will be executed with identified agencies that have the depth to comply with HEAP requirements while expending funding by June 30, 2021.

Programs That Impact Transitional Age Youth: Contracts will be executed with three providers who will offer transitional and permanent housing with supportive services for homeless youth ages 18 to 24. The three interested and eligible providers are: Tahoe Youth and Family Services, Whole Person Learning, and Lilliput.

Programs That Impact Chronic Homelessness: The most successful program in ending chronic homelessness is Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). EDOK has never had a PSH program, which requires indefinite funding to support rent and services for individuals who have a disabling condition and otherwise wouldn't be able to retain housing on their own. As HEAP is one-time funding, PSH is not possible through these funds, however the EDOK board considered how HEAP could invest in common pipelines to chronic homelessness such as the Child Welfare or the Prison System. With that consideration in mind, a contract is planned to be executed with the Probation Department to provide transitional and permanent housing with supportive services to the reentry population. Funds will be utilized to rent a home where those reentering the community can seamlessly move into a transitional house until a permanent unit is located. HEAP funding will additionally support rent, deposit, and other remedies to ensure access to a permanent unit while helping to reduce perceived risk to landlords renting to this population.

Sheltering / Purchase of Property or Rehab: EDOK will be seeking to contribute the remainder of HEAP funds for the purchase or rehab of a property that can be dedicated to sheltering. At this time, no specific project or agency has been identified for meeting the final two EDOK priorities of shelter and purchase of a property, however these funds will be reserved for these purposes. EDOK does not currently have a year-round shelter for the homeless population. With that in mind, as CESH funding should allow for the development of a 5-year homeless strategic plan, it is likely that a clearly defined shelter need and path to create and coordinate these services may likely come about as that plan is developed. Additionally, in *Martin v. City of Boise*, the Ninth Circuit Court recently held that if a person experiencing homelessness has no option of sleeping indoors, a city cannot cite him or her for violating an ordinance disallowing sleeping outside in public space. Based upon the current gap of shelter services,

coupled with this most recent Ninth Circuit ruling, reserving these dollars to support the development of a shelter through local strategic planning could ensure resources are available as discussions between local cities, El Dorado County, and EDOK continue.

Eligible Uses and EDOK Adopted Priorities:

\$1.448 million	Total Amount Available
\$72,400	5% for AE Admin Expenses
\$325,000 approx	Programs that Impact Transitional Age Youth Homelessness
\$200,000 approx	Programs that Impact Chronic Homelessness
\$850,600 approx	Sheltering / Purchase of Property and/or Rehab

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Cc: Don Ashton, M.P.A., Chief Administrative Officer
Shawne Corley, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia Charles-Heathers, PhD., HHSA Director
Jim Mitrison, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors