



**SACRAMENTO  
STEPS FORWARD**

Ending Homelessness. Starting Fresh.

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## **Sacramento Steps Forward Receives \$5 Million Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to Help End Homelessness for Families in Sacramento**

***Day 1 Families Fund grants \$96.2 million to 32 nonprofits across the country to provide shelter for children and families in need***

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. – (November 17, 2021):** Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF), a non-profit agency leading multi-sector, system-level change to compassionately end homelessness, today announced that it has been selected to receive a \$5 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund. Launched in 2018 by Amazon founder and executive chair Jeff Bezos, the Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families.

“We are excited about this significant investment for Sacramento to elevate our community’s ability to systematically address family homelessness over the next five years, and to expand access to stable housing for families” said Lisa Bates, Sacramento Steps Forward Chief Executive Officer. “We thank the Day 1 Families Fund for recognizing the comprehensive approach needed to achieve our aim to end family homelessness.”

This one-time grant will allow Sacramento Steps Forward to gather real-time data to monitor and identify families at risk of and experiencing homelessness. SSF will focus on best practice approaches to identify and address racial disparities, quickly divert families from being homeless and rapidly rehouse families experiencing homelessness.

Sacramento Steps Forward was selected as a Day 1 Families Fund grant recipient by an independent advisory board comprised of homelessness experts with experience in policy, advocacy, racial equity, child welfare and housing and service delivery, as well as firsthand experience in homelessness.

This year, the Day 1 Families Fund issued a total of \$96.2 million in grants to 32 organizations across the country. The 2021 Day 1 Families Fund grant recipients are: ACLAMO; Adopt-A-Family of the Palm Beaches; Alabama Rural Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.; All Chicago Making Homelessness History; AACI (Asian Americans for Community Involvement); Building Changes and Africatown International; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Santa Rosa; Colorado Coalition for the Homeless; Covenant House Alaska; Destination: Home; Doorways; Family Life Center; Family Service League; Friends of the Family; Homeless Action Network of Detroit; Homeward; LifeMoves; Lubbock Open Door; Mesilla Valley Community of Hope; Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter & Services; Mississippi United to End Homelessness;

Newcap, Inc.; Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA); Portland Homeless Family Solutions; Project Community Connections, Inc.; Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RurAL CAP); Sacramento Steps Forward; SHELTER, Inc.; Texas Homeless Network; The Link; Tri-County Community Action Agency, Inc.; and Union Station Homeless Services.

“As the lead agency for the Sacramento Continuum of Care, Sacramento Steps Forward is uniquely situated to be able to lead the system change necessary to end family homelessness,” said Cassandra Jennings, President and CEO of St. HOPE and Vice Chair of SSF’s Board of Directors. “SSF is committed to collaborating with our partners and addressing racial equity to strengthen and enhance our region’s ability to resolve family homelessness.”

The Bezos Day One Fund made a \$2 billion commitment to focus on making meaningful and lasting impacts in two areas: funding existing non-profits that help families experiencing homelessness, and creating a network of new, non-profit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families. Since 2018, the Day 1 Families Fund has issued 130 grants totaling more than \$398 million to organizations around the country working to combat homelessness and help families gain housing support and stability. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary’s Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit [www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund](http://www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund).

#### **About Sacramento Steps Forward**

Sacramento Steps Forward is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization serving the Sacramento region leading multi-sector, system-level change to compassionately end homelessness where our vision is an equitable community where everyone has a safe place to call home. Sacramento Steps Forward is also the lead agency for the Sacramento City and County Continuum of Care.

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