



## California Interagency Council on Homelessness

# Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Round 3 Application

## Application Information

This Cognito platform is the submission portal for the Cal ICH HHAP-3 Application. You will be required to upload a full copy of the HHAP-3 Data Tables Template *and* enter information into the portal from specific parts of the HHAP-3 Local Homelessness Action Plan and Application Template as outlined below.

Please review the following HHAP-3 resources prior to beginning this application:

- [HHAP-3 Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#)
- [HHAP-3 Local Homelessness Action Plan & Application Template](#) and
- [HHAP-3 Data Tables Template](#)

## Application Submission for HHAP-3 Funding

Using the [HHAP-3 Local Homelessness Action Plan & Application Template](#) as a guide, applicants must provide the following information in the applicable form section (see *How to Navigate this Form*) to submit a complete application for HHAP-3 funding:

1. **Part I: Landscape Analysis of Needs, Demographics, And Funding:** the information required in this section will be provided in Tables 1, 2, and 3 of the HHAP-3 Data Tables Template file uploaded in the *Document Upload* section.
2. **Part II: Outcome Goals and Strategies for Achieving Those Goals:** the information required in this section will be provided in Tables 4 and 5 of the HHAP-3 Data Tables Template file uploaded in the *Document Upload* section, **AND** copy and pasted into the fields in the *Outcome Goals and Strategies* section of this application form.
3. **Part III: Narrative Responses:** the information required in this section will be provided by entering the responses to the narrative questions within the *Narrative Responses* section of this application form. Applicants are **NOT** required to upload a separate document with the responses to these narrative questions, though applicants may do so if they wish. The responses entered into this Cognito form will be considered the official responses to the required narrative questions.
4. **Part IV: HHAP-3 Funding Plans:** the information required in this section will be provided in Tables

6, 7 (as applicable), and 8 of the HHAP-3 Data Tables Template file uploaded in the *Document Upload* section.

5. **Evidence of meeting the requirement to agendize the information in Parts I and II at a meeting of the governing board** will be provided as a file upload in the *Document Upload* section.

## **How to Navigate this Form**

This application form is divided into **five sections**. The actions you must take within each section are described below.

- **Applicant Information:** In this section, indicate (1) whether you will be submitting an individual or joint application, (2) list the eligible applicant jurisdiction(s), and (3) provide information about the Administrative Entity.
- **Document Upload:** In this section, upload (1) the completed HHAP-3 Data Tables Template as an Excel file, (2) evidence of meeting the requirement to agendize the local homelessness action plan and outcome goals at a regular meeting of the governing board where public comments may be received, and (3) any other supporting documentation you may wish to provide to support your application.
- **Outcome Goals and Strategies:** In this section, copy and paste your responses from Tables 4 and 5 of the completed HHAP-3 Data Tables Template.
- **Narrative Responses:** In this section, enter your responses from Part III of the HHAP-3 Local Homelessness Action Plan & Application Template.
- **Certification:** In this section, certify that the information is accurate and submit the application.

Prior to the submission deadline, you can save your progress in this application and come back to it later by clicking the save button. This will provide you with a link to the saved application, and there will be an option to email that link to the email address(es) of your choosing.

After submitting the application, you will not be able to make changes to your responses unless directed by Cal ICH staff.

**I have reviewed the HHAP-3 NOFA and application template documents**

Yes

**I am a representative from an eligible CoC, Large City, and/or County**

Yes

## **Applicant Information**

List the eligible applicant(s) submitting this application for HHAP-3 funding below and check the corresponding box to indicate whether the applicant(s) is/are applying individually or jointly.

### **Eligible Applicant(s) and Individual or Joint Designation**

Individual

This application represents the individual application for HHAP-3 funding on behalf of the following eligible applicant jurisdiction(s):

### **Eligible Applicant Name**

CA-503 Sacramento City & County CoC

## **Administrative Entity Information**

Funds awarded based on this application will be administered by the following Administrative Entity:

### **Administrative Entity**

Sacramento Steps Forward

### **Contact Person**

Ya-yin Isle

### **Title**

Chief Strategic Initiatives Officer

### **Contact Person Phone Number**

(916) 284-6275

### **Contact Person Email**

yisle@sacstepsforward.org

## Document Upload

Upload the completed [HHAP-3 Data Tables Template](#) (in .xlsx format), evidence of meeting the requirement to agendaize the local homelessness action plan and outcome goals at a regular meeting of the governing body where public comments may be received (such as a Board agenda or meeting minutes), and any other supporting documentation.

### **HHAP-3 Data Tables**

HHAP-3 Data Tables Updated Template\_Sacramento CoC.xlsx

### **Governing Body Meeting Agenda or Minutes**

CoC Board Meeting Agenda\_6.8.22.pdf

### **Optional Supporting Documents**

Sacramento Local Homeless Action Plan 2022.pdf

# Outcome Goals and Strategies for Achieving Those Goals

Copy and paste your responses to Tables 4 and 5 from the [HHAP-3 Data Tables Template](#) into the form below. All outcome goals are for the period between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2024.

## Table 4: Outcome Goals

### 1a. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness.

<b>Baseline Data</b> 9,899	<b>Decrease/Increase in # of People</b> 495	<b>Decrease/Increase as % Change from Baseline</b> 5%
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**Decrease/Increase in # of People**  
Increase

#### Optional Comments

This outcome goal assumes at least 5% increase over CY20 baseline, due to assumed increased capacity, access, and quality of services.

## Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness

**Describe any underserved and/or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:**

Analysis of local data shows that while persons who identify as Black/African American represent 11% of the population in our CoC's geographic area, yet this demographic represents approximately 39% of individuals experiencing homelessness. ("Source derived from above ""Population and Living Situations" estimates and FY 2021 Stella P)

**Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:**

Of the 5% increase from baseline data of people accessing HMIS, 39% should be persons who identify as Black/African American.

### 1b. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness on a daily basis

<b>Baseline Data</b> 3,900	<b>Reduction in # of People</b> 2,764	<b>Reduction as % Change from Baseline</b> 71%
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#### Optional Comments

The outcome goal is an INCREASE of 71% over the 2019 PIT baseline (2,764 additional people for an end total of 6,664 unsheltered) due to local housing market, economic conditions, and diminishing emergency rental assistance and other eviction safeguards, and assuming the 2022 PIT count numbers will be used to measure the outcome. If the 2024 PIT count were to be used to measure the outcome, the assumption is that the number will be at least 2 times over the 2019 PIT (~7,800), which is consistent with 2022 PIT results showing a significant increase over the 2019 PIT; and with additional system investments and improvements would be expected to result in a 20% reduction in unsheltered homelessness by Jan

2024 PIT count, compared to current trend (6,240 vs 7,800 unsheltered as of 2024 PIT).

## **Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness**

**Describe any underserved and/or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:**

Analysis of local data shows that while persons who identify as Black/African American represent 11% of the population in our CoC's geographic area, yet this demographic represents approximately 39% of individuals experiencing homelessness. ("Source derived from above ""Population and Living Situations"" estimates and FY 2021 Stella P)

**Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:**

In order to reduce the number of persons experiencing homelessness on a daily basis, we will consider the 71% increase from the baseline data. Of that 71% increase the goal would be to not increase Black/African persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness higher than 39%.

## **2. Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time.**

<b>Baseline Data</b>	<b>Reduction in # of People</b>	<b>Reduction as % Change from Baseline</b>
4,051	203	5%

### **Optional Comments**

This outcome goal assumes a modest INCREASE of 5% over the baseline (203 more people recorded as homeless for the first time in HMIS) due to increased HMIS coverage and system use.

## **Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness**

**Describe any underserved and/or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:**

Analysis of local data shows that persons who identify as Black/African American folks only represent 11% of the population in our CoC's geographic area, this demographic represents approximately 39.6% of individuals experiencing homelessness for the first time. (CAL ICH Baseline data)

**Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:**

In order to reduce the numbers of persons who become homeless for the first time we will consider the 5% increase from the baseline data. Our goal is the number of persons who become homeless for the first time persons identifying as Black/African American should not surpass 39.6%.

## **3. Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.**

<b>Baseline Data</b>	<b>Increase in # of People</b>	<b>Increase as % Change from Baseline</b>
2,770	277	10%

**Optional Comments**

This outcome goal assumes a modest improvement of 10% over the baseline (277 more people exiting into permanent housing) due to additional system rehousing capacity, fidelity to evidence-based practices, and performance.

**Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness**

**Describe any underserved and/or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:**

Analysis of local data shows that while persons who identify as Black/African American represent 11% of the population in our CoC’s geographic area, this demographic is exiting to permanent housing at rate of 32%. (CAL ICH Baseline data)

**Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:**

In order to increase the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing we will consider the 10% increase from baseline data. Of the 10% increase determined by the Gaps analysis, our goal is to ensure that at least 50% of persons exiting to permanent housing will identify as Black/African Americans.

**4. Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.**

<b>Baseline Data</b>	<b>Decrease in Average # of Days</b>	<b>Decrease as % Change from Baseline</b>
156	20	13%

**Optional Comments**

This outcome goal assumes a 13% INCREASE over the baseline to 176 average days (20 day increase) due to limited system capacity, the Coronavirus pandemic, local housing market and economic conditions. However, this goal is an improvement over the current trendline, which indicates an 18% increase in days homeless from CY18 to CY20.

**Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness**

**Describe any underserved and/or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:**

Currently the analysis of local data shows Black/African Americans average 157 days length of time homeless. (CAL ICH Basline Data)

**Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:**

In order to reduce the length of time persons remain homeless, we will consider the 13% increase from baseline data. Of that 13% increase to 176 average days, the similar goal is to increase the number of days of Black/African Americans experiencing length of time homeless by 19 days for a total of 176 days length of time homeless so that Black/African Americans are not experiencing a longer length of time homeless than the general population.

**5. Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing.**

**Baseline Data**  
8

**Decrease in % of People who  
return to Homelessness**  
2

**Decrease as % Change from  
Baseline**  
24%

**Optional Comments**

This outcome goal assumes an INCREASE in returns to homelessness to 10% (increase of 2%) over baseline. However, this is a positive outcome compared to CY19 (11% returns) and CY20 is less representative for baseline purposed due to the pandemic. The anticipated improvement is due to increase capacity and stabilization supports.

## **Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness**

**Describe any underserved and/or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:**

American Indian or Alaska Native persons are 4 times more likely to experience homelessness. (Racial Equity Action Plan, 2021) Analysis of local data shows that 13% of persons who identify as Indigenous (state refers to as American Indian or Alaska Natives) return to homelessness within 6 months of exiting homelessness to permanent housing. (CAL ICH Baseline data)

**Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:**

In order to reduce the number of persons returning to homelessness after exiting to permanent housing, we will consider an increase of 24% from baseline data. Of that 24% increase, the goal is to reduce the number of persons identifying as American Indian or Alaskan Native who return to homelessness after 6 months from 13% to 10%.

## **6. Increasing successful placements from street outreach.**

**Baseline Data**  
297

**Increase in # of People  
Successfully Placed from  
Street Outreach**  
59

**Increase as % of Baseline**  
20%

**Optional Comments**

This outcome goal assumes a modest improvement by 20% (total of 386 successful placements) over the baseline due to improved street outreach, rehousing capacity, and service engagement.

## **Describe Your Related Goals for Underserved Populations and Populations Disproportionately Impacted by Homelessness**

**Describe any underserved and/or disproportionately impacted population(s) that your community will especially focus on related to this Outcome Goal and how this focus has been informed by data in your landscape assessment:**

Analysis of local data shows that 112 persons (29%) who identify as Black/African American are served in street outreach projects who exit emergency shelter, safe haven, transitional housing, or permanent housing designations. (CAL ICH Baseline data)

**Describe the trackable data goal(s) related to this Outcome Goal:**

In order to increase successful placements from street outreach, we will consider the 20% increase from baseline data. With that 20% increase to 386 total successful placements, 143 persons identifying as Black/African American will be served by successful placements from street outreach by offering culturally



responsive training to street outreach providers.

## Table 5: Strategies to Achieve Outcome Goals

### Strategy 1

#### Description

Build and Scale a Streamline Coordinated Access System

#### Timeframe

7/1/2022 - 6/30/2025

#### Entities with Lead Responsibilities

Sacramento Continuum of Care, in partnership with the County of Sacramento and City of Sacramento

#### Measurable Targets

Increase dedicated coordinated access navigators to support diversion and system access.

#### Performance Measure(s) to Be Impacted (Check all that apply)

1. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness.
2. Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time.
3. Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.
4. Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.
6. Increasing successful placements from street outreach
7. Focused on equity goals related to underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

### Strategy 2

#### Description

Ensure Emergency Shelter and Interim Housing is Focused on Rehousing

#### Timeframe

7/1/2022 - 6/30/2025

#### Entities with Lead Responsibilities

City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, with systemwide support from the Sacramento Continuum of Care

#### Measurable Targets

Increase emergency shelter, interim, and transitional housing full-service beds dedicated to rehousing.

#### Performance Measure(s) to Be Impacted (Check all that apply)

1. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness.
3. Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.
4. Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.
7. Focused on equity goals related to underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

### Strategy 3

#### Description

Increase Permanent Housing Opportunities

**Timeframe**

7/1/2022 - 6/30/2025

**Entities with Lead Responsibilities**

City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, Sacramento Continuum of Care, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

**Measurable Targets**

Increase housing exits for households through landlord engagement and increased coordinated rehousing resources.

**Performance Measure(s) to Be Impacted (Check all that apply)**

1. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness.
3. Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.
4. Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.
5. Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing.
6. Increasing successful placements from street outreach
7. Focused on equity goals related to underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

**Strategy 4****Description**

Expand Prevention and Diversion Programs

**Timeframe**

7/1/2022 - 6/30/2025

**Entities with Lead Responsibilities**

City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, Sacramento Continuum of Care, Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

**Measurable Targets**

Increase availability of housing problem-solving and diversion services for all people engaged with the Coordinated Access system.

**Performance Measure(s) to Be Impacted (Check all that apply)**

1. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness.
2. Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time.
3. Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.
4. Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.
5. Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing.
6. Increasing successful placements from street outreach
7. Focused on equity goals related to underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

**Strategy 5****Description**

Invest in Community Capacity Building and Training

**Timeframe**

7/1/2022 - 6/30/2025

**Entities with Lead Responsibilities**

Sacramento Continuum of Care, in partnership with the County of Sacramento and City of Sacramento

**Measurable Targets**

Develop and provide educational materials that explains how to access services and navigate the homeless crisis response system.

**Performance Measure(s) to Be Impacted (Check all that apply)**

1. Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness.
2. Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time.
3. Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.
4. Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.
5. Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing.
6. Increasing successful placements from street outreach
7. Focused on equity goals related to underserved populations and populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

*Click + Add Strategy above to add additional strategies as needed.*

# Narrative Responses

Copy and paste your responses to Part III. Narrative Responses from the [HHAP-3 Local Homelessness Action Plan & Application Template](#) into the form below.

## Question 1

A demonstration of how the jurisdiction has coordinated, and will continue to coordinate, with other jurisdictions, including the specific role of each applicant in relation to other applicants in the region.

### Question 1 Response

Knowing that homelessness does not follow political boundaries, the cities, County of Sacramento and the CoC regularly work together to address system needs, plan for new funding opportunities and oversee implementation of local programs. Sacramento County, the cities therein, and the Sacramento Continuum of Care (CoC) are regular collaborators on issues related to homelessness, including policy development, system design and program implementation. Sacramento County, as well as representatives from the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento city and county serve on the CoC Board and on various subcommittees of the board.

In late 2019, each of the jurisdictions approved the development of the Sacramento Homeless Policy Council (Policy Council) and appointed representatives from their respective elected board or Council to serve on the Policy Council. The purpose of the Policy Council is to create a forum where members could meet regularly to provide strategic leadership on Sacramento's homelessness response. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, initiation of the Policy Council was delayed to August 2021. A second meeting was held in March 2022 and the next meeting is scheduled for August 2022.

In early 2020, in coordination with the County and City of Sacramento, SSF released public facing data dashboards that will support this work. The dashboards (Public Dashboard - Sacramento Steps Forward) are updated quarterly with data from the community-wide Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS). Evaluation of data collected through HMIS may also be used to inform the collective understanding of interventions. Recent examples include: racial equity analysis of COVID-19 homelessness response and re-housing data across programs re-housing COVID-19 shelter participants. The COVID-19 re-housing effort has supported peer learning through bi-weekly sessions with re-housing program; topics have included how to access affordable housing; In-Home Supportive Services Program; peer sharing of challenges and success with participants; accessing behavioral health services, among other topics.

In 2022, the City of Sacramento, the County of Sacramento and the CoC began a collaborative process to complete a countywide local homeless action plan. The development of this plan leveraged existing plans and efforts to address homelessness. This local homeless action plan creates a cross-jurisdictional unified approach to addressing homelessness across Sacramento County. This is a three-year plan beginning on July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. It is actionable, relatable, and provides a roadmap for future funding. Outlined in the plan are key system components that are in alignment with national best-practices and if resourced and implemented consistently across funders and providers, will bring the local response system to scale with capacity to move the needle on homelessness. Through these efforts, homelessness in the County over time will become preventable whenever possible, brief, and non-recurring. The Plan was adopted by the CoC Board on June 8, 2022, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors on June 14, 2022 and the Sacramento City Council on June 28, 2022.

## Question 2

A demonstration of the applicant's partnership with, or plans to use funding to increase partnership with:

- Local health care and managed care plans
- Public health systems
- Behavioral health
- Social services
- Justice entities
- People with lived experiences of homelessness
- Other (workforce system, services for older adults and people with disabilities, Child Welfare, education system)

### **Question 2 Response**

Local health care and managed care plans:

The applicant is working closely with managed care plans and other stakeholders to ensure a strong partnership between the CoC and the implementation of Cal-AIM. Cal-AIM represents a significant opportunity to infuse resources into the system to better address the service needs of people experiencing homelessness. The Local Homelessness Action Plan calls out the Cal-AIM opportunity, CoC Board membership and guests include representation from the managed care plans, and the CoC Board has agendaized Cal-AIM updates and planning at its monthly meetings to ensure this opportunity is maximized. The Coordinated Access System CoC allocation of HHAP-3 funding will help support an increased partnership with Cal-AIM.

Public health systems:

There is high intersectionality of homelessness and public health. In the midst of the COVID-19 health crisis, Public Health came to the forefront to address the needs and challenges of the homeless population, a particularly vulnerable and often, high risk, population that did not have access to basic hygiene supplies to keep themselves safe. Homeless service providers relied heavily on guidance from PH to address immediate health needs and increase protective measures for sheltered and unsheltered persons and staff. During the first year of the pandemic, Public health worked with local cities and the CoC along with designated outreach workers, provider agencies, mobile health units and medical volunteers. Outreach staff and COVID funding provided for the operation of hand washing stations, portable toilets, access to potable water, protective gear, testing and vaccine clinics. This relationship carries forward with new initiatives to increase street health services and support.

Behavioral health:

The applicant operates the CoC's Coordinated Entry System (CES) and is the CoC HMIS Lead Agency. In both of these roles, the applicant partners closely with the County of Sacramento's behavioral health system and the array of nonprofit service providers that deliver services to people experiencing homelessness on behalf of the County. With CES, the applicant and County collaborate to maintain a By Name List of households that are co-eligible for CoC permanent housing and the most intensive level of behavioral health services and use this list to refer the most vulnerable households to available permanent supportive housing openings. With HMIS, the applicant works closely with the County and behavioral health services providers to ensure all homeless projects are entering into the HMIS and that agency staff have ongoing training and technical assistance to ensure good data quality.

Social services:

The applicant's partnership with social services agencies is well-established in multiple arenas, including through the CoC's inventory of HUD-funded permanent housing projects. The Sacramento CoC's FY2021

award totaled over \$29M in funding for 25 projects operated by 12 agencies providing a wide array of supportive social services to over 2500 permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing beds for people experiencing homelessness. The services provided by HUD CoC-funded agencies include wrap-around housing stabilization and retention services for people experiencing chronic homelessness, as well as agency-specific specialization in behavioral health and substance use disorders; employment; subpopulation services for families, youth, seniors, and veterans; and services for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. The HUD CoC provider agencies are actively partner with the CoC through engagement with the work of the CoC Board and its committees, convening 10-12 times a year for a combination of training sessions and information-sharing and problem-solving discussions.

#### Justice entities:

The CoC Board and its Point-in-Time Count Committee include representatives from the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department and the Sacramento Police Department, offering ongoing opportunities to partner on CoC business in general and the PIT count specifically.

#### People with lived experiences of homelessness:

PLE's are foundational to the work of the Sacramento CoC as they represent folks who are the most impacted by homelessness and need to be centered at every level of the decision-making process. Their shared experience is integral to making sure that the work being done is equitable, effective, and successful. PLE's are serving on multiple working groups, including the CORE HUD Equity Team, HHAP 3 Outcome Goals working group and the Racial Equity Committee. PLE's are being centered in the development of new racially equitable tools and frameworks for the continuum.

The Sacramento City and County CoC Board includes two board members with lived experience of homeless. The CoC Board reviews funding plans, funding allocations, and is consulted and provides feedback on program design, implementation and evaluation. In addition, outreach is being coordinated by SSF's PLE Coordinator to foster relationships with and center the voices of PLE's throughout the Sacramento CoC. This work includes developing training for PLE's to navigate the CES System and provide guidance to further develop their advocating, public speaking, financial literacy and other life skills.

#### Other (workforce system, services for older adults and people with disabilities, Child Welfare, education system):

The CoC's Racial Equity Action Plan highlights that intersectional issues of race/ethnicity, culture, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation are both prominent and largely misunderstood. The data shows that persons who identify as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color are more likely to experience homelessness. Within the Racial Equity Action Plan, un-housed Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color were interviewed, and it was noted that they also experience disabilities and other barriers not related to race/ethnicity. Due to the need to further explore intersectionality to understand the multiplier effects of demographics outside of race and ethnicity, the Sacramento Steps Forward conducted a Gaps Analysis in 2022. It was found that just over half of all adults (~54%) report having one or more severe and persistent disabling conditions. This work is happening throughout the CoC, yet is finding its home in the HUD CORE Racial Equity team. This team is foundational in this approach and has a rich, diverse representation of the most impacted persons experiencing homelessness in Sacramento. One of the major goals set forth by this team is to engage persons with lived expertise and to replace the VI-SPDAT with a new equitable assessment and prioritization tool to serve our most underserved populations including families and persons with disabilities.

In addition to this work, SSF and the CoC recently was awarded the Cal ICH Family Planning Grant that will be leveraged with the Bezos Day 1 funds to create a Family Collaborative. The Family Collaborative Strategy is in direct partnership with the Black Child Legacy Campaign and supports 7 newly formed navigator positions with problem solving, diversion and training support to assist 280 families over 2 years. Sacramento County (SCOE) of Education and the Local Education Agencies will be working directly within the Family Collaborative and in partnership with the navigators to end youth and family homelessness.

SCOE, community partners, and SSF also sit in collaboration on the Youth Homelessness Task Force. The Youth Homelessness Task Force creates a forum for Youth Action Board members, providers, and system representatives to partner monthly to design policy, drive best practice, and strengthen youth voice across our continuum.

### **Question 3**

A description of specific actions the applicant will take to ensure racial and gender equity in service delivery, housing placements, and housing retention and changes to procurement or other means of affirming racial and ethnic groups that are overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness have equitable access to housing and services.

Note: These actions should be aligned with the equity-focused Outcome Goals and related strategies described in previous Parts, but should not need to be limited to those strategies.

#### **Question 3 Response**

In 2021, the Sacramento CoC created The Racial Equity Committee. This body conducted a community analysis including quantitative and qualitative data that identified contributing factors that highlighted a wide range of disparities that culminated into an action plan titled, The Findings & Recommendations from the CoC Racial Equity Committee. Key report findings included: disparities in access to homeless services, undercounting and poor data collection within historically under-resourced communities, negative impacts of racial biases across the system including the assessment and prioritization processes for the allocation of resources, implementation of a trauma-informed and racial equity approach to engage landlords to reduce historical discriminatory tenant leasing practices, and a lack of racial/ethnic, and lived expertise participation across all levels of the homelessness workforce.

While this work is happening throughout the CoC, it is finding its home in the HUD CORE Racial Equity team. This team is foundational in this approach and has a rich, diverse representation of the most impacted persons experiencing homelessness in Sacramento. This team is made up of 35% of persons with lived expertise and 66% of whom identify as Black, Indigenous and people of color. In addition to Persons with Lived Expertise, the team is also made up of persons identifying as LGBTQIA+, domestic violence survivors, TAY youth providers, veterans, outreach providers, seniors, coordinated entry representatives, housing providers, people living with disabilities, and justice impacted folks. Yet, the team is aware that there is a gap within the Indigenous community, and it is the goal of the team to engage Wilton Rancheria Tribal members to join by July 2022.

In 2022, Sacramento was chosen to participate in the California Racial Equity Action Lab Community of Practice. The Sacramento CoC and County teamed up to develop three SMARTIE goals to address racial disparities within the homelessness system in Sacramento. Goal #1 was to engage persons with lived expertise in the CORE HUD Initiative to replace the VI-SPDAT with a new equitable assessment and prioritization tool. Goal #2 was to develop thresholds of representation for all committee recruitment processes, with consideration given to the inclusion of individuals aiming to have at least 50% be Black individuals and persons with lived experience and expertise. The second part of Goal 2 was to survey existing committee members of the CoC to understand the demographics more clearly prior to recruitment. The survey would include questions in regards to domestic violence survivors, persons with Lived Experience, race, ethnicity, and/or persons with disabilities. Goal 3 focused on addressing inequities where the gaps exist and prioritizing the Black Population by using the data from surveys to identify inequities in representation throughout the CoC. The Racial Equity Committee will review and analyze the recommendations and will present them to the CoC for adoption and implementation.

American Indian or Alaska Native (Indigenous) communities are 4 times more likely to experience homelessness in Sacramento and suffer a 13% return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing. Due to these significant disparities, the Sacramento CoC has chosen to specifically

target these groups with an trauma-informed approach. In February 2022, the Wilton Rancheria Tribe passed a Tribal resolution to join the Sacramento CoC. This is a historic partnership between the two entities and is supported by the Racial Equity Action Plan. Wilton Rancheria Tribe's Housing department is serving as an access point for Coordinated Entry and will be utilizing HMIS by the end of June, 2022. The goal of the CoC is to incorporate Wilton Rancheria Tribal Members into every committee to elevate Indigenous voices. Currently, Wilton Rancheria Tribal members are engaged in the work of the Homeless Youth Task Force that is writing and applying for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. The Sacramento CoC is also recruiting Indigenous youth to participate in this grant process.

Other notable work has begun with prioritizing families identifying as Black/African American. In Sacramento, persons identifying as Black/African American are 3 times more likely to experience homelessness. Due to this disparity, the Sacramento CoC collaborated with PLE's, outreach staff, community partners, Wilton Rancheria, CORE HUD Equity Team, and the Racial Equity Committee to design a more equitable prioritization tool for families. The formation of this tool was based in trauma informed practices and targeted families identifying as Black/African American seeking permanent housing. The goal of this pilot tool was to address reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time and on a daily basis. This tool will serve as the foundation for the replacement of the VI-SPDAT tool in Sacramento. Culturally responsive training and guidance is in development and will be provided to all administering the tool.

In addition, the Sacramento CoC seeks to build a system level coordinated response to ending family homelessness. Using innovative best practices and leveraging support from Community Solutions as a Built for Zero community, the effort will expand capacity to collect real time quality data on families experiencing or imminently at risk of homelessness, develop shared goals and strategies across systems of care to address family homelessness, and build cross-agency case conferencing by using an established quality by name list of homeless families in our community. We will be leveraging The Family Planning Grant (if awarded) and SSF's Day1 Family Fund in partnership with the Black Child Legacy Campaign to address the racial disparities of those experiencing homelessness, particularly among our Black/African American community.

Collaboration with Black Child Legacy Campaign will include coordinating on broader Family Collaborative Strategy and supporting 7 Community Incubator Lead navigator positions with problem solving, diversion and training support to assist 280 families over 2 years from experiencing homelessness. Studies have shown that 25-30% of families can be successfully diverted from homelessness with appropriate problem solving and diversion assistance. SSF's current gaps analysis identifies significant need for additional problem solving and diversion assistance for families and individuals. SSF and the CoC hope to learn from this partnership and pilot to build a more transformed system response to families experiencing or imminently at risk of homelessness that will reduce disparities of Black/African American families and reduce overall homelessness.

The Sacramento CoC is dedicated to focusing on its disparities to ensure that our system-wide approach is equitable. This work is at the heart of the entire CoC and will continue to help us end homelessness.

## **Question 4**

A description of how the applicant will make progress in preventing exits to homelessness from institutional settings, including plans to leverage funding from mainstream systems for evidence-based housing and housing-based solutions to homelessness.

Note: Such mainstream systems could include:

- Physical and behavioral health care systems and managed care plan organizations



- Public health system
- Criminal legal system and system for supporting re-entry from incarceration
- Child welfare system
- Affordable housing funders and providers
- Income support programs
- Education system
- Workforce and employment systems
- Other social services and human services systems

#### **Question 4 Response**

The Sacramento CoC is working to develop and staff a Family Collaborative leveraging the broader Black Child Legacy Campaign (BCLC) network and city/county program homeless services. This collaborative will create a family specific By Name List and case conferencing approach to assist families out of homelessness by expediting and increasing rates of permanent housing placement. This collaborative will be used to pilot a Diversion program within the new Coordinated Access System with Black Child Legacy and Family Resource Navigators and Community Based Organizations to help divert homelessness. Collaboration with BCLC will include coordinating on broader Family Collaborative Strategy and supporting 7 Community Incubator Leads, newly formed navigator positions with problem solving, diversion and training support to assist 280 families over 2 years from experiencing homelessness.

The Black Child Legacy Campaign, a county-wide proven infrastructure, implemented by Community Incubator Leads (CILs), and overseen by the Reduction of African American Child Deaths (RAACD) Steering Committee (representatives from cross-sectors) is a community-driven coordinated support service system designed to build capacity and reduce the disproportionate rates of African American child deaths and related risk factors in seven neighborhoods throughout Sacramento County identified as experiencing the greatest disproportion of African American deaths and with at least 50% of African American children living below poverty. CILs, community-based organizations with trusted relationships in their neighborhoods and culturally relevant support services, have provided services to families experiencing homelessness through limited resources, including temporary, short-term housing, and motel vouchers.

#### **Question 5**

Specific and quantifiable systems improvements that the applicant will take to improve the delivery of housing and services to people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, including, but not limited to, the following:

(I) Capacity building and workforce development for service providers within the jurisdiction, including removing barriers to contracting with culturally specific service providers and building the capacity of providers to administer culturally specific services.

(II) Strengthening the data quality of the recipient's Homeless Management Information System.

(III) Increasing capacity for pooling and aligning housing and services funding from existing, mainstream, and new funding.

(IV) Improving homeless point-in-time counts.

(V) Improving coordinated entry systems to strengthen coordinated entry systems to eliminate racial bias, to create a youth-specific coordinated entry system or youth-specific coordinated entry access points, or to improve the coordinated entry assessment tool to ensure that it contemplates the specific needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

### **Question 5 Response**

(I) Capacity building and workforce development for service providers within the jurisdiction, including removing barriers to contracting with culturally specific service providers and building the capacity of providers to administer culturally specific services.

The Coordinated Entry System Committee surveyed its providers in April 2022 to determine the need for Language Accessibility and Culturally Responsive training needs. The responses were clear that there was a critical need for language accessibility for all access points to best serve the needs of the persons seeking services and that there is a substantial amount of people not accessing services because of the language barrier. This is also highlighted as a major goal within the Racial Equity Plan and Local Homeless Action Plan. The CoC is also working to strengthen collaboration with underserved communities that do not have access to HMIS.

Sacramento Steps Forward is organizing a series of trainings in the final half of the 2022 calendar year that will be focused on Coordinated Entry policies, standards, and assessor trainings; best practices for serving domestic violence survivors, including protocols for addressing immediate safety concerns; HMIS policies and procedures; and coverage of mainstream services. In addition, SSF intends to complete a provider assessment to identify gaps in knowledge within the areas noted above as well as further explore the professional development and training needs of our community's homeless providers. This activity directly aligns with the initiation of efforts around Strategy 5 of the Sacramento Local Homeless Action Plan to invest in community capacity building and training.

Building upon the work of the Coordinated Entry System and Coordinated Access System, CoC staff has launched the interactive cohort based "Housing Problem Solving" trainings. These sessions are a strength-based, empathetic, and client-centered approach to ending homelessness. This intervention specifically targets early stages of homelessness, seeking to avoid the trauma of being unhoused. The training focuses on building the skills necessary to put into practice through breakouts, scenario discussions, and role plays.

Furthermore, SSF has invested in internal staff whose role will be central to the planning, evaluation, and sustainability of communitywide trainings that are aimed towards building providers' skills and confidence that can mitigate barriers in their service and assist them with facilitating encounters in a trauma-informed, culturally responsive manner.

(II) Strengthening the data quality of the recipient's Homeless Management Information System.

As the lead agency for the Sacramento CoC, SSF oversees HMIS for the continuum. With designated HMIS infrastructure funding in the first round of HHAP, we were able to improve the infrastructure to support the HMIS system and bring on additional HMIS staff. As HMIS usage continues to grow and the CoC continues to bring more organizations into HMIS, our needs for staffing and funding also continues to grow to ensure accurate data. Additional funding is being requested from HHAP-3 to support our HMIS and Data system. Our HMIS/Analytics team has developed systemwide goals that include:

1. Appropriately staff HMIS to meet the needs of the CoC, HUD, and partners.
2. Improve communication and coordination with partner agencies to determine their needs and Key Performance Measures.
3. Improve the amount, quality and accuracy of data in HMIS

4. Improve the training, support, and user experience for HMIS end-users
5. Increase the representation of unsheltered individuals who are not connected to services in HMIS.
6. Create methods for integrating other data sources into HMIS.
7. Investigate and recommend alternative scoring for NOFO competition (outputs vs outcomes)
8. Improve data sharing among agencies to aid in housing clients

(III) Increasing capacity for pooling and aligning housing and services funding from existing, mainstream, and new funding.

Available funding for homeless housing and services continues to be insufficient for the need and gaps, and leveraging and aligning funding is a high priority for the CoC. One example of funding alignment between the CoC, City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento was standing up the Project RoomKey Program, where resources - financial and staff - from all three entities were pooled to open and operate the program. The CoC's partnership with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency for the Emergency Housing Voucher program is another example where we worked in close coordination around a new resource in the community. Most recently and notably funding for the Coordinated Access System includes funding allocations from the CoC, City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento. In addition, the CoC continues to apply for grant opportunities as they become available to increase new funding. Recent examples include the Bezos Day One Family fund where the CoC was awarded \$5 million and the Cal ICH Family Challenge grant.

(IV) Improving homeless point-in-time counts.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the 2022 Point-in-Time count included approximately 500 volunteers trained and deployed across 143 sampled zones. In future PIT counts, essential community support should include expanded partnerships with non-traditional organizations, business community and other non-profits on identifying locations where people living on the streets are sleeping shortly before the count (pre-count mapping) and helping recruit volunteers to conduct the count and surveys of people experiencing homelessness on count night(s).

As managed care plans begin delivering Cal-AIM services through their supportive services partners, sharing information about where their unsheltered members sleep overnight will be very helpful for future counts- this can be accomplished through requiring data entry of location information into HMIS by contracted providers, as well as participation in PIT-specific location data collection outside of HMIS. Additionally, encouraging staff to participate as volunteers, and also spreading the call for volunteers across networks will also be very helpful.

(V) Improving coordinated entry systems to strengthen coordinated entry systems to eliminate racial bias, to create a youth-specific coordinated entry system or youth-specific coordinated entry access points, or to improve the coordinated entry assessment tool to ensure that it contemplates the specific needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

In the Sacramento Continuum of Care, the Racial Equity Committee (REQC) and the Coordinated Entry System Committee (CESC) are collaborating to address bias in the assessment and prioritization tool, language accessibility, system navigation, and outreach to eliminate racial bias in the homelessness system. The Racial Equity Committee conducted a community analysis including quantitative and qualitative data that identified contributing factors that highlighted a wide range of disparities that culminated into an action plan titled, The Findings & Recommendations from the CoC Racial Equity Committee. Key report findings included: disparities in access to homeless services, undercounting and poor data collection within historically under-resourced communities, negative impacts of racial biases across the system including the assessment and prioritization processes for the allocation of resources, implementation of a trauma-informed and racial equity approach to engage landlords to reduce historical discriminatory tenant leasing practices, and a lack of racial/ethnic, and lived expertise participation across

all levels of the homelessness workforce. The Racial Equity Plan and 2022 Gaps Analysis is serving as the basis to re-design the Coordinated Entry System in Sacramento.

In response to the inequities highlighted in the Racial Equity Action Plan and the 2022 GAPS analysis, a targeted approach has focused on two specified demographics of persons identifying as Black/African American or Indigenous American Indian/Alaskan Native experiencing homelessness. In March of 2022, The Coordinated Entry Committee collaborated with Partners with Lived Expertise, outreach staff, community partners, Wilton Rancheria Tribal members, the CORE HUD Equity Team, and the Racial Equity Committee to design a more equitable prioritization tool for families. The formation of this tool was based in trauma informed practices and targeted families identifying as Black/African American seeking permanent housing. The goal of this pilot tool was to address reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time and on a daily basis. This tool will serve as the foundation for the replacement of the VI-SPDAT tool in Sacramento. Culturally responsive training and guidance is in development and will be provided to all administering the tool.

The Sacramento CoC created a partnership with Wilton Rancheria Tribe to join the CoC in 2022. This direct effort has led to collaboration and advocacy for youth programs specific to persons identifying as Indigenous. American Indian or Alaska Native (Indigenous) communities are 4 times more likely to experience homelessness in Sacramento and suffer a 13% return to homelessness after existing homelessness to permanent housing. This is a historic partnership between the two entities and is supported by the Racial Equity Action Plan. Wilton Rancheria Tribe's Housing department is serving as an access point for Coordinated Entry and will be utilizing HMIS by the end of June, 2022. The goal of the CoC is to incorporate Wilton Rancheria Tribal Members into every committee to elevate Indigenous voices. Currently, Wilton Rancheria Tribal members are engaged in the work of the Homeless Youth Task Force that is writing and applying for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. The Sacramento CoC is also recruiting Indigenous youth to participate in this grant process.

Sacramento utilizes a combination of a "no wrong door" and centralized access point structure for youth. Any person, including youth, can be assessed at any access point. However, there are also dedicated TAY providers, street outreach teams, and drop-in services that can assess youth. Sacramento could improve on building out an updated assessment tool; we currently use the TAY VI-SPDAT, it centers racial and gender equity at the forefront, to ensure our most marginalized youth have equitable access to housing. With HHAP-3 funding, the CoC approved per the requested recommendations of the Youth Homelessness Task Force (YHTF) to support new housing coordination and retention staff for existing prevention & intervention teams, plus client problem solving funding. The new funding will be implemented through TAY-designated resources within the system-level Coordinated Access System initiative.

## **Question 6**

Evidence of connection with the local homeless Coordinated Entry System.

### **Question 6 Response**

The Sacramento Continuum of Care is the lead agency for the coordinated entry system. HUD mandated projects and programs currently participate in the coordinated entry system and the CoC continues to expand the reach of the coordinated entry system to other housing and shelter opportunities.

The Coordinated Access System was recently approved by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, the Sacramento City Council and the CoC Board, and will replace a siloed approach to addressing homelessness with a systematic approach that is designed to leverage all of the resources available in the region and looks to provide lasting results for clients.

People in crisis will have one phone number to call. On the other end will be specially trained staff and caseworkers who will work with them to immediately problem solve their situation and refer them to the

best resource available in the area, ranging from one-time funds to prevent entering into homelessness, emergency shelter, to more permanent solutions. In addition, the coordinated access system seeks to centralize access to shelter beds by ensuring that every shelter bed in the response system is fully utilized and that people throughout the county have access to those.

With the funding in place from the County, City of Sacramento and the CoC, the next steps are to bring on and train additional 2-1-1 specialists and other providers on trauma-informed approaches and assessment tools, expand the opportunity for service providers to connect with problem solving funds, increase the number of providers using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and start coordinating with shelters, clinics, and other sites that serve people experiencing homelessness to launch fully by Fall 2022.

# Certification

I certify that all information included in this Application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Yes