#### CITY OF SANTA ANA HHAP APPLICATION NARRATIVE

#### 1. <u>SUMMARY OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE COC, LARGE CITY, OR COUNTY</u>

The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) has submitted the **LSA** for our jurisdiction. Please use this report for the City of Santa Ana's application.

The 2019 Point in Time Count (PIT) showed that there were 6,860 individuals in Orange County who were experiencing homelessness. Of this number, 2,899 shelter beds were provided throughout the County, leaving 3,961 individuals Unsheltered. In the City Santa Ana alone, the PIT counted 1,769 individuals experiencing homelessness, with 830 individuals remaining Unsheltered. These numbers alone demonstrate the need for additional shelters beds. As shown in the table below, the City of Santa Ana has 742 Year-Round Shelter beds and 200 Seasonal beds.

The City oversees only the Link Shelter, with 200 beds. Since the Link opened in November, 2018, Link shelter vacancy rates have remained low, (approximately 10%), and are consistent between summer and winter months. (In order to enforce the City's anti-camping ordinance, the shelter must have available beds, so there will always be available beds.)

Over 700 individuals experiencing homelessness in Santa Ana have been referred to the Link Shelter since its opening. Individuals are referred, in an effort to connect to both emergency and permanent housing. To date, there have been 118 successful emergency shelter exits to permanent housing solutions. This shelter has one of the highest percentage of exits from shelter exits to permanent housing in the area.

To connect residents to permanent housing, the City's plan includes utilizing a variety of options to seek what is best for each individual. The City requires that the non-profit operator create an individual housing plan for each guest entering the shelter. Guests continue to work with their Case Manager each week on this plan and to address any obstacles that would be holding them back from housing, until the time that they are housed. The City will follow this same plan in the replacement, permanent shelter.

Emergency Shelters available in Santa Ana is identified in the table below.

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	Santa Ana Emergenc	y Shelters		
ORGANIZATION NAME	PROJECT NAME	YEAR- ROUND BEDS	TOTAL SEASONAL	DESCRIPTION
Mercy House- COUNTY SHELTER	Santa Ana Armory Cold Weather Shelter	0	200	Normally open from December through April. Serves families, couples, adults with children, singles. Overnight stay from 5:00pm to 6:00am. Services include hot meals, showers, blanket and warm clothing.
SAFE Place at WISEPlace COUNTY SHELTER	SAFE Place Temporary Emergency Shelter	60	0	For Women
Salvation Army- PRIVATE SHELTER	Hospitality House Phase 1	57	0	Provides emergency shelter for men. Services include case management, clothing, access to showers, breakfast and dinner services. Stay is up to 21 nights, then guests must wait 45 days to re-enter. Must leave at 7am and return by 5pm. Must actively seek work during stay.
The Midnight Mission- COUNTY SHELTER	Courtyard in OC	425	0	Food, shelter and case management.
Mercy House- TEMPORARY CITY SHELTER	The Link	200	0	200 Bed Emergency Shelter for women, men, couples and families from the City of Santa Ana experiencing homelessness. Case Management services including connections to permanent housing. 102 Successful housing placements since November, 2018. Vacancy Rate- less than 20%

TOTAL

200

#### 2. <u>DEMONSTRATION OF REGIONAL COORDINATION</u> A. Coordinated Entry System (CES) Information

#### How do you coordinate with your CoC's CES?

Our City actively coordinates with the Orange County Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System. Specifically, we serve on the Board of the Continuum of Care (CoC) and attend CoC Committee meetings; we require that our tenant-based and project-based vouchers provided by our Housing Authority be tied to the CoC Coordinated Entry System; and we require that our

742

homeless service providers who receive funding from our Emergency Solutions Grant Program work with CES.

Since 1998 the County of Orange has coordinated a comprehensive regional Continuum of Care (CoC) strategy that includes the participation of all thirty-four cities in Orange County, County Agencies, the County's homeless service providers, and other community groups to identify the gaps and unmet needs of the County's homeless. Orange County's coordinated entry system accounts for the diverse needs of people experiencing homelessness, responds to those needs with permanent housing solutions, and incorporates various housing, healthcare, and employment systems. The City of Santa Ana has actively participated in Continuum of Care activities, serving as a current Board Member and previously holding the honor of Board Chair. Through this participation, the City of Santa Ana has had the opportunity to not only provide input on programs throughout the County, but has had a Board vote.

In addition, the City of Santa Ana coordinates with the CoC Coordinated Entry System (CES) through participation in a number of regional CoC meetings including the Central Service Planning Area (SPA) and the Homeless Provider Forum. Meetings are well-attended by stakeholders, including homeless service providers, community- and faith-based organizations, public health and healthcare providers, employment organizations, advocate groups and homeless and formerly homeless individuals. The Housing Placement Match meetings also allow housing providers to share housing opportunities regarding households who appear to be eligible for openings based on their assessment and the community prioritization plan. Meetings are facilitated by 2-1-1 Orange County and staff in attendance include those who have assessed an applicant such as staff with mobile outreach, emergency services, and access points along with housing providers with an opening. The City of Santa works closely with funded housing providers to ensure that applicants matched to housing are matched and to ensure a warm hand off can be offered.

Santa Ana Housing Authority coordinates with our CoC's CES most directly. Specifically, our Housing Authority has awarded 135 project-based vouchers that have been tied to CES in which the service provider is required to refer families off of the CES list for each project-based voucher units. In addition, our Housing Authority received 120 Mainstream Program vouchers that were administered for individuals on the CES list. This coordination also includes the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program. Our Housing Authority has 280 VASH vouchers that are tied to the Veteran CES list. Each tenant-based voucher and project-based voucher administered by our Housing Authority for a homeless individual or family (including VASH-eligible homeless veterans) is administered in coordination with CES.

Lastly, as an entitlement jurisdiction through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), our City receives Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding for homeless services. For these funds, the City requires referrals to these activities to come through CES. All funded organizations receiving ESG funding by the City are required to participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This includes the City's Interim Homeless shelter, the Link, which is integrated into the CoC's CES. This same requirement will be in place for the City's new year-round Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center coming soon.

### What, if any, are your jurisdiction's current challenges related to CES, and how do you plan to address these challenges?

The Coordinated Entry System started without a fully operational database; therefore, gaps in tracking inventory, waitlists, and collecting assessment data exist. Recently, Orange County has moved to a new database and it is expected that improvements have been made to the system.

CES is intended to prioritize resources for those with the greatest need, match with the best services to exit them from homelessness and ensure that resources are allocated efficiently. Because the need for services is greater than resources available, CES utilizes an established prioritization schema VI-SPDAT) approved by the CoC Board to connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness with available housing opportunities. Individuals with the most urgent and severe needs on the CES prioritization list are prioritized for the next housing opportunity. At times, there are individuals who do not score the highest, but with a little assistance could be quite successful. While these individuals may be offered housing regardless of vulnerability score, the more vulnerable persons are offered housing before less vulnerable persons, leaving little opportunity remaining for others. Unfortunately, some individuals remain on the CES list for over a year. This is due in part to being unable to secure permanent housing due to specific barriers to housing that have yet to be overcome, including criminal and eviction histories and sex offender registrants. A diverse portfolio of housing options must be cultivated over time in an effort to match units to those within the CES queue.

Our jurisdiction's greatest challenge related to CES is that we have inadequate resources available to assist more individuals on the CES prioritization list. We also do not have sufficient resources to provide shelter for those individuals while they are waiting to be pulled off of the CES list. We are working to address these challenges by applying for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program.

# How do you promote the utilization of your CES? - Specifically, what outreach do you conduct to ensure all individuals experiencing homelessness in your jurisdiction, including those with multiple barriers, are aware of the CES assessment and referral process?

All organizations working with individuals experiencing homelessness and funded by the City of Santa Ana are required to use the CES for referrals and required to use HMIS. This currently includes our Outreach teams by both City Net and our Santa Ana Police Department. Agencies receiving Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding must use the CES. The City's Interim shelter is integrated into CES and all individuals assisted at this site are assessed.

The Santa Ana Police Department interacts with individuals experiencing homelessness on a daily basis. The City is fortunate in that the SAPD created the Homeless Evaluation Assessment Response Team (H.E.A.R.T.) to oversee citywide homeless outreach needs, safety and security as well as mental health conditions. All police personnel working in this detail have received over 16 hours of specifically designed mental health training (Crisis Intervention Training for Law Enforcement) for first responders. The Homeless Evaluation Assessment Response Team (H.E.A.R.T.) Program focuses exclusively on individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, and addresses the problem in its entirety by way of immediate needs and long-term effects on the homeless population.

The HEART program utilizes Coordinated Entry to provide assistance to chronically homeless individuals based on vulnerability and severity of needs and to reduce barriers to housing entry. The H.E.A.R.T. program officers serve to provide outreach and engagement to individuals on the streets of Santa Ana by directing them to the appropriate agency, including emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and transitional housing.

The Orange County CoC has one Coordinated Entry System (CES) covering the entire CoC geographic area. The CES has three main components to target the unique needs of these subpopulations – Individuals, Families and Veterans – and increasing access to available housing and supportive services. To ensure full coverage of the CoC's geographic area, the CoC utilizes Service Planning Areas to allow for targeted services and resource allocation. The CES facilitates access to homeless individuals and families through physical access points, countywide street outreach, a virtual front door operated and a No Wrong Door Approach among providers. The street outreach includes local law enforcement agencies, behavioral health teams and community- and faith based organizations. The behavioral health teams provide a linkage to individuals with mental health and substance use resources that may not typically access homeless services and connects them to CES.

CoC incorporates the opinions and feedback of homeless or formerly homeless individuals and families in its ongoing program evaluation and development processes. As such, the CoC hosted a Shelter Consumer Feedback Forum and provided transportation to and from various shelter sites to facilitate participation for individuals. The CoC has several email distribution lists that reach hundreds of organizations and individuals in the community. Information relating to upcoming meetings, community events and resource fairs, training and webinar opportunities, and community newsletters are shared. This communication method ensures broad communication with individuals with disabilities and increases accessibility of information for the public.

#### B. Prioritization Criteria

### What are the criteria used to prioritize assistance for people experiencing homelessness in your jurisdiction?

Households will be matched to available housing opportunities by utilizing a prioritization schema approved by the Orange County Continuum of Care. Orange County adapted the VI-SPDAT to screen for levels of severity. Households will be matched based on availability, system-wide eligibility, and prioritization criteria. CES will utilize vulnerability indices and qualitative measures, in addition to case conferencing, to rank applicants in order of vulnerability, with the most vulnerable households at the top of the list. More directly, applicants may be offered housing regardless of vulnerability score, but more vulnerable persons will be offered housing before less vulnerable persons. Vulnerability may be characterized by length of literal homelessness and residential instability, involvement with the judicial and court system, significant challenges or functional impairments, and trauma history.

Due to the overwhelming need for emergency shelter, the City of Santa Ana provides a residency preference for those interested in the Interim Emergency Shelter and other housing opportunities. The forthcoming year-round Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center will have this residency preference as well.

#### How is CES, pursuant to 24 CFR 578.8(a)(8) used for this process?

CES assessment procedures follow federal Fair Housing Laws for protected classes such as race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, familial status, disability, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or marital status. Data will be protected by and only shared as allowed for based on the consent of the Applicant.

At any time during the coordinated entry process, participants have the right to file a complaint, should they feel that CES has not complied with the nondiscrimination and equal opportunity provisions of Federal civil rights law, fair housing laws and requirements, or the CES policies and procedures. During assessment, all CES participants will be provided with the process for filing a complaint. All complaints will be addressed in a timely and fair manner. The following three contacts are provided to participants for the purpose of addressing discrimination or grievance concerns:

- For grievances with the Coordinated Entry System policies and procedures, individuals can contact Orange County Community Resources at <u>CoordinatedEntry@occr.ocgov.com</u>
- For housing program related complaints, grievances can be directed to the appropriate housing provider for resolution.
- To file a nondiscrimination complaint, individuals are directed to file an on-line complaint through the online portal: <a href="https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/fair\_housing\_equal\_opp/online-complaint">https://www.hud.gov/program\_offices/fair\_housing\_equal\_opp/online-complaint</a>

#### C. Coordination of Regional Needs

## How have you coordinated with your partnering CoC, large city (if applicable), and/or county to identify your share of the regional need to address homelessness?

Homelessness as a regional issue impacts all aspects of our economic and social fabric and can only be effectively addressed collectively. As the County seat, Santa Ana has experienced the overwhelming impact of homelessness from the entire County of Orange. According to recent Point-In-Time homeless counts, the City accommodates more than its fair share of the unsheltered and the sheltered homeless population. According to the 2019 Orange County Pointin-Time Count, the Orange County's homeless population increased from 4,792 to 6,860 since the 2017 Point-In-Time Count. Santa Ana's portion of the county's homeless is reported to be 1,769. Staff from the City participated in the 2019 Point-in-Time Count to identify our share of the regional need to address homelessness.

As a result of this homeless crisis, it is estimated that Santa Ana spent approximately \$16.6 million in FY 18/19 and anticipates spending \$25.4 million in FY 19/20 to address homelessness related issues. These include public safety (police and medical services), Quality of Life Team (QOLT), Homeless Evaluation Assessment Response Team (HEART), maintenance of public right away and public facilities, street outreach, and administrative support services.

Santa Ana has been addressing homelessness far longer than other cities in Orange County and is active in a variety of organizations. Santa Ana participated in the discussions which ultimately led to the Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) taking the lead at coordinating a regional approach to homelessness. They lobbied the state legislature in April of 2018 for a regional housing body to help fund 2,700 permanent supportive housing units for homeless people. As a result, the Orange County Housing Finance Trust (OCHFT) was formed in 2019 as a joint powers authority between the County of Orange and the cities throughout the County. The OCHFT was created for the purpose of funding housing specifically for the homeless population and families of extremely low, very low, and low income within the County of Orange. The Orange County Housing Finance Trust, County, and Cities share a common goal of creating 2,700 permanent supportive housing units by June 30, 2025. The housing trust speaks to the collaboration throughout the County of Orange.

In addition, Santa Ana worked closely with the United Way on a regional landlord incentive program to address one of the most significant barriers facing our homeless voucher holders: finding and leasing a unit. The landlord incentive program provides deposits for damage claims, unit holding fees, and other landlord incentives for the program as needed. Most recently, Santa Ana partnered with the United Way to provide housing for 25 emancipated foster youth through the Foster Youth to Independence Program and 50 homeless individuals through the Mainstream Voucher Program.

### What is your identified share of this need, and how will the requested funds help your jurisdiction meet it?

Following a settlement agreement reached in a recent federal lawsuit, each city in Orange County must also provide enough emergency shelter beds for at least 60 percent of the city's last Pointin-Time count number of unsheltered individuals. According to the 2019 Orange County Point-In-Time Count, the Orange County's homeless population increased from 4,792 to 6,860 from the 2017 Point-In-Time Count. Santa Ana's portion of the county's homeless is reported to be 1,769. As evidenced, approximately one quarter of individuals experiencing homelessness in Orange County reside in Santa Ana. Of the 1,769, there were 830 unsheltered individuals identified in Santa Ana. The HHAP funding will enable the City of Santa Ana to meet the required number of shelter beds by developing and operating a permanent Year-Round Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center.

In addition, a regional approach to homelessness is a best practice. An attempt in Orange County has been made to each City to develop an equitable and proportional target number for its share of permanent supportive housing units to develop in their city based on population and other factors. Santa Ana's target number is 283 permanent supportive housing units. The City has over 325 permanent supportive housing units in the pipeline so we are going to exceed this goal.

#### D. Creating Sustainable, Long Term Housing Solutions

### How is your jurisdiction involved in the efforts to create sustainable, long-term housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness across your region?

The City of Santa Ana has over 405 units of Permanent Supportive Housing units and 250 Housing Vouchers specifically for individuals experiencing homelessness. In addition, the Santa

Ana Housing Authority provides 2699 Vouchers to low-income residents. ESG dollars are also used to create long-term housing solutions by funding both Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing activities.

The City of Santa Ana provides financial assistance to support the acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction of properties to preserve and increase affordable housing opportunities for lower income households. The City also provides deferred payment loans and/or grants to bridge the financial gap between available resources, including the borrower's/grantee's equity and private financing, and the costs of developing affordable multi-family housing. Funds raised through inlieu fee payments under the City's local inclusionary housing ordinance have also been used to develop permanent supportive housing units. Santa Ana is one of only 15 cities statewide to be on track to meet all of our Regional Housing Needs Allocation requirements at all income levels for the current Housing Element planning period.

The City of Santa Ana actively partners with non-profits and affordable housing developers to create sustainable, long-term housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness. 81 units of permanent supportive housing units have been developed in two different projects and 325 more units are in the pipeline in 6 different projects. Two recent examples include:

- The Santa Ana Veterans Village is new construction consisting of 75 permanent supportive housing units for homeless veterans to be completed in March 2020. All residents will receive wrap-around supportive services from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Step Up on Second as the service provider.
- The Orchard is a motel rehabilitation project consisting of 71 permanent supportive housing units for chronically homeless individuals. All residents receive wrap-around supportive services provided on-site by Mercy House, one of the largest and most experienced homeless service providers in Southern California.

Participation with the OCHFT is another example showing that systems have been created in Orange County to use funds efficiently and effectively to assist the homeless population and persons and families of extremely low, very low, and low income within the County of Orange.

The City is currently operating an Interim Emergency Shelter, the Link. Upon entering the shelter, each guest is assigned to a Housing Navigator. The primary function of the Housing Navigator is to work side-by-side with the client to create a pathway toward permanent housing opportunities, with the ultimate goal of ending their homelessness within a 30-day timeframe. The Housing Navigator and the client complete a Housing Plan, which guides their efforts toward securing permanent housing opportunities. For guests that are in need of a deeper housing intervention, the Navigators complete an assessment, gather documentation and enter them into the Coordinated Entry System. The shelter is often the first step towards a long-term housing solution.

On January 7, 2020, the City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to enter into a public-private partnership to develop, construct and operate a year-round Homeless Shelter & Navigation Center. This shelter will replace the City's temporary emergency shelter referred to as The Link which is scheduled to cease operation in November 2020. The City plans to utilize the HHAP funds to construct and operate this new permanent year-round Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center. The first deadline for the RFP is February 25, 2020.

The selection of a developer and operating partner will commence at that time, including a minimum threshold review, panel interviews, committee review and approval by the City Council. Additional partners will be sought if necessary to carry out program activities not provided by the selected operator. This would be a cooperative effort between the City and the chosen non-profit operator.

The City of Santa Ana coordinates with other regional jurisdictions to ensure systems are aligned and all available funding is being used efficiently and effectively. This is seen by active participation in regional meetings including Continuum of Care Board meetings, CoC Committee meetings, United to End Homelessness Leadership meetings, Orange County Housing Trust Fund meetings, and County of Orange Central Service Planning Area meetings. All of these efforts ensure that systems are aligned so that funds continue to be used efficiently and effectively.

The creation of the Orange County ESG Collaborative is a specific example of coordinating with other regional jurisdictions to share information and data and to utilize funds efficiently and effectively. The Collaborative consists of the cities of Santa Ana, Garden Grove, Anaheim as well as the County of Orange. Realizing the importance of sharing information and to ensure that Emergency Solutions Grant funds are leveraged to create maximum impact, the Collaborative has developed aligned values and priorities, and makes funding decisions collaboratively. The Orange County ESG Collaborative makes funds available to organizations that provide homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing services, conduct street outreach, operate emergency shelters and transitional housing facilities for various homeless populations.

Data and Information sharing is seen in the Homeless Management Information System, which is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness. Most programs throughout the County are entering into this database. As this system is refined, data sharing will be improved. There are current discussions regarding the use of ESRI software along with HMIS for live data to be integrated and accessed across the County for street outreach. There is also discussions about creating a live bed management system.

#### 3. <u>Resources Addressing Homelessness</u>

#### A. Existing Programs and Resources

## Provide an exhaustive list of all funds (including the program and dollar amount) that your jurisdiction currently uses to provide housing and homeless services for homeless populations.

In FY 18-19, the City spent almost \$16.7 million dollars addressing the "effects" of homelessness. In the current FY, we estimate that cost will rise to \$25.5 million dollars. Funding for these items are seen across a variety of sources as well as departments including Code Enforcement, Police and Fire Response, Homeless Services, Management and Legal Services, Clean-Ups and Park Safety. While the City addresses the effects of homelessness, Santa Ana is also proactive in utilizing a variety of funding (see below) to provide housing and homeless services for individuals experiencing homelessness. The following sources of funds have been used to develop 406 units of permanent supportive housing (81 units are complete and 325 are under construction or in predevelopment) through one-time allocations:

One-Time Program Allocations for	<b>D</b>		Veen	FY
Permanent Supportive Housing	DC	ollar Amount	Year	Fĭ
Community Development Block Grant	\$	500,000	May-16	16-17
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$	2,634,566	Apr-17	16-17
Community Development Block Grant	\$	365,434	Apr-17	16-17
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$	2,219,760	Jun-17	16-17
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$	1,199,869	Dec-16	16-17
HUD-VASH Project-Based Vouchers (75)	\$	11,489,000	Apr-17	16-17
Project-Based Vouchers (56)	\$	6,227,195	Apr & June 2017	16-17
Inclusionary Housing In-Lieu Fees	\$	2,900,000	Jun-17	16-17
Project-Based Vouchers (71)	\$	7,895,194	Dec-16	16-17
Subtotal	\$	35,431,018		
Inclusionary Housing In-Lieu Fees	\$	1,875,000	May-16	17-18
Project-Based Vouchers (8)	\$	1,612,800	Mar-18	17-18
Subtotal	\$	3,487,800		
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$	407,871	Sep-18	18-19
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$	504,550	Aug-18	18-19
Subtotal	\$	912,421		
99-year ground lease	\$	788,000	Jan-19	19-20
Community Development Block Grant	\$	1,687,047	Mar-19	19-20
Low and Moderate Income Housing Asset Fund	\$	1,069,947	Jan-19	19-20
Project-Based Vouchers (3)	\$	1,341,840	Jan-19	19-20
Project-Based Vouchers (89)	\$	9,896,792	Mar-19	19-20
Inclusionary Housing In-Lieu Fees	\$	3,170,547	Jan-19	19-20
Project-Based Vouchers (8)	\$	2,664,960	Jan-19	19-20
Subtotal	\$	20,619,133		
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$	3,007,489	Jul-19	20-21
Neighborhood Stabilization Program	\$	963,951	Jul-19	20-21
TOTAL	\$	64,421,813		

In addition, the following on-going sources of funds are used to provide housing and homeless services for homeless populations:

On-Going Program Allocations for Housing and Services	Do	ollar Amount	Year	FY
HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	\$	2,130,164	Mar-19	18-19
HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing	\$	53,760	Feb-19	18-19
Mainstream Voucher Program	\$	585,384	Nov-18	18-19
Foster Youth to Independence	\$	319,950	Nov-19	19-20
Mainstream Voucher Program	\$	731,346	Nov-19	19-20
Emergency Solutions Grants Program	\$	493,582	Jul-19	19-20
TOTAL	\$	4,314,186		

The City has made a historic impact in the County of Orange by investing in long term housing through the creation of permanent supportive housing units, utilizing housing vouchers for homeless individuals, and creating short-term emergency housing such as the Link, Santa Ana's Interim Emergency Shelter. The City realizes that permanent housing is the goal; however, we also acknowledge the need for an emergency shelter until permanent housing is attained. The HHAP funds will help to create this emergency shelter.

### How are these resources integrated or coordinated with applicants from overlapping jurisdictions (i.e. CoC, large city, and/or county)?

The one-time program allocations for permanent supportive housing are coordinated with applicants from the County of Orange by combining funding for affordable housing projects. In various affordable housing projects with permanent supportive housing units, the County will invest funds and the City / Housing Authority will invest funds to make the project financially feasible. The County's source of funds include, No Place Like Home funding from the Mental Health Services Act and most recently, 43 project-based vouchers.

The one-time program allocations are integrated with the CoC by requiring that referrals for these units come off of the CES prioritization list.

In regards to the on-going program allocations, the ESG Collaborative was formed specifically to coordinate with applicants from neighboring jurisdictions including the cities of Garden Grove, Irvine and Anaheim. These three cities are on the border of Santa Ana. In addition, the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers and Mainstream Program Vouchers are also integrated with the CoC's CES prioritization list.

### What gaps currently exist in housing and homeless services for homeless populations in your jurisdiction?

There are two primary gaps that currently exists in the City of Santa Ana. First is the lack of emergency shelter beds. During the 2019 Point-in-Time Count, there were 830 unsheltered individuals identified in Santa Ana. Our City does not have sufficient emergency shelter beds for these 830 unsheltered individuals. Second is the lack of flow from emergency shelter beds into permanent housing opportunities. There is insufficient supportive housing and housing vouchers to provide housing solutions for sheltered individuals in our emergency shelters. With the HHAP funds, the City will be able to create its own Emergency Shelter and Navigation Center while also creating 11 permanent housing units for transitional age youth.

The largest gap in housing and homeless services is by far for those who suffer from mental illness and for those who are service resistant. It has been estimated that 47% of our unsheltered homeless may not want our help. Therefore, a large gap exists in determining what services or housing would be acceptable to assist this 47%.

Gaps in both housing and homeless services are seen more in areas in the southern area of Orange County. Because this area has not provided enough housing to date, individuals experiencing homelessness travel from those areas to Santa Ana where services are provided.

#### **B.** HHAP Funding Plans

How will your jurisdiction plan to use the full amount of HHAP and how will it complement existing funds to close the identified gaps in housing and homeless services for the homeless population in your jurisdiction.

#### **Emergency Shelter and Navigation Center**

Due to the shelter crisis, the City of Santa Ana plans to use the majority of the HHAP funds to develop and operate a year-round Homeless Shelter & Navigation Center to mitigate the negative impacts of homelessness in Santa Ana and to provide Santa Ana unsheltered homeless with shelter and essential supportive services. The facility will embrace the Housing First philosophy, will be low-barrier, and will be service-enriched, focusing on moving homeless individuals and families into permanent housing. The shelter will be considered a temporary living facilities for guests while case managers connect these individuals to employment, public benefits, health services, and permanent housing. The HHAP funds will be able to fill a funding gap that currently exists to develop a permanent homeless shelter. Existing funds available to complement the HHAP dollars include the temporary HEAP dollars and on-going Permanent Local Housing Allocation (State funds from SB2.) The development of a permanent shelter with HHAP funds will allow beds and case management to be increased above the current interim shelter, ultimately supporting the entire region in addressing homelessness. All HHAP dollars will be spent on programs that are 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.

The City has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) from eligible respondents to enter into a public-private partnership to develop, construct and operate a year-round Homeless Shelter & Navigation Center that will serve 200 individuals, with the ability to scale up to 250 individuals. This shelter will replace the City's temporary emergency shelter referred to as The Link, which was opened in November 2018. The Link is a 200-bed emergency shelter for men, women, couples and families with children. The Link is scheduled to cease operation in November 2020. The City plans to utilize the HHAP funds to construct and operate a new and improved permanent year-round Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center with expanded services.

The year-round Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center and its supportive service programs will be designed to provide a safe environment and a pathway for individuals, youth and families, experiencing homelessness on the streets of Santa Ana to transition into permanent housing. The shelter will create a play area for children, safe locations for pets, including a dog run and will provide safe storage for possessions. Clients will be admitted with low-barrier requirements through a referral system and coordination with the Santa Ana Police Department (SAPD). The overall project will represent best practices in exceptional trauma-informed care for all shelter participants. The Housing First approach will be utilized, so that people experiencing homelessness will be connected to permanent housing swiftly and with few to no treatment preconditions, behavioral contingencies, or other barriers. The Santa Ana Shelter and Navigation Center will provide immediate access to temporary shelter via the CES, meet basic needs like food, clothing, and hygiene, and quickly connect individuals to housing and other mainstream services including employment services (connecting with Santa Ana's WORK Center), health and behavioral health services, welfare agencies, juvenile justice and social service agencies.

The 2019 Point in Time Count (PIT) showed that there were 6,860 individuals in Orange County who were experiencing homelessness. Of this number, 2,899 shelter beds were provided throughout the County, leaving 3,961 individuals Unsheltered. In the City Santa Ana alone, the PIT counted 1,769 individuals experiencing homelessness, with 830 individuals remaining Unsheltered. These numbers alone demonstrate the need for additional shelters beds. The City of Santa Ana has 742 Year-Round Shelter beds and 200 Seasonal beds; not enough to house all who are in need.

The City oversees only the 200-bed Link Shelter. Since the Link opened in November, 2018, the Link shelter vacancy rates have remained low, (approximately 10%), and have been consistent between summer and winter months. (In order to enforce the City's anti-camping ordinance, the shelter must have available beds, so there will always be a vacancy percentage.) When this Shelter closes, in the Fall of 2020, there will be no shelter beds for these individuals to go; thus there is a need for a new shelter/navigation center to replace this closing shelter.

Over 700 individuals experiencing homelessness in Santa Ana have been referred to the Link Shelter since its opening. Individuals are referred, in an effort to connect to both emergency and permanent housing. To date, there have been 118 successful emergency shelter exits to permanent housing solutions. This shelter has one of the highest percentage of exits from shelter exits to permanent housing in the area.

To connect residents to permanent housing, the City's plan includes utilizing a variety of options to seek what is best for each individual. The City requires that the non-profit operator create an individual housing plan for each guest entering the shelter. Guests continue to work with their Case Manager each week on this plan and to address any obstacles that would be holding them back from housing, until the time that they are housed. The City will follow this same plan in the replacement, permanent shelter.

#### Homeless Transitional Age Youth

Eight percent of the HHAP funding will be used specifically for homeless transitional age youth. It is the intent of the City, to enter into an agreement with a non-profit developer/homeless service provider for homeless youth housing at an existing vacant facility which had been used for congregate housing (a convent.) The HHAP funds would be used to renovate the two structures and adapt the buildings for housing. The renovation will include conversion of some units (bedrooms) for counseling and social service space; structural and life-safety upgrades of the building structures, which were built over 70 years ago; upgrades of the existing shared spaces-living room, patio, community kitchen; creation of a laundry room; renovations; new surfaces

including paint and flooring; new roof; new efficient lighting fixtures in rooms and common areas; new fencing; new windows.

The property will serve Transitional Age Youth (TAY) who are in transition from state custody, foster care or incarceration and are at-risk, including pregnant youth, in the Santa Ana area. The ages of eighteen (18) to twenty-four (24) represent an important developmental period often coupled with transitional relationships and events. Once they become 18 years of age, they no longer receive assistance from the systems of care that previously provided for many of their needs. They are struggling to start out with limited resources such as unemployment, homelessness, and lack of education.

This community-oriented former convent housing community is located in close proximity to Santa Ana College who we anticipate partnering with on this project. This youth centric program will provide the opportunity to address multi-faceted needs of the TAY homeless population in a unique residential environment while employing case management, job skills training, educational planning and life skills training.

The non-profit will use a Housing First approach throughout all of its programs. This will include low-barrier and a low-threshold approach to housing which allows the case managers to quickly engage participants in services, move them into housing quickly, and provide continued services so they sustain permanent housing and avoid experiencing homelessness again. Working collaboratively with a case manager, clients create their own goals and develop a housing stability plan articulating the steps needed to obtain interim or permanent housing. The case manager then helps the client in obtaining the services needed to move into housing and communicates daily to encourage them to follow their plan each day. The non-profit will additionally be a traumainformed agency, acknowledging that the experience of trauma is often both the source of homelessness and also an effect of living on the street and/or living in poverty. Ultimately, all engagement and supportive services are intended to support individual choice, with the ultimate goal of fostering resiliency, long-term stability and prevention of a return to homelessness.

#### <u>Outreach</u>

Santa Ana's outreach efforts will engage and provide services to people living in places not meant for human habitation, including cars, parks, water ways, abandoned buildings, encampments, railroads, or parking lots. Outreach workers will engage unsheltered individuals and assess them via the local Coordinated Entry System (CES), and connect to emergency shelter, housing, and/or other critical services. Unfortunately, homeless encampments are prevalent throughout the City, requiring on-going clean-ups as well as engagement. These encampments expose individuals to hazardous elements and conditions detrimental to health and safety.

The City will use a portion of the HHAP funds for the Quality of Life Team (QOLT.) This team provides clean-ups of encampments and provides services to individuals at these locations as an effective homeless crisis response. The formation of QOLT has increased the efficiency in addressing quality of life issues. This multidisciplinary team is comprised of staff from the offices of SAPD, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and the Orange County Health Care Agency. The process of bringing all stakeholders together in the field was modeled on best practices utilized by several cities throughout the country. The QOLT team is a holistic program that provides outreach and engagement services, such as mental health resources as well as shelter opportunities for individuals in these encampments. Shelter beds and services are offered to each individual at the encampment. After services are offered, the QOLT team provides the function of cleaning the area of trash, thus eliminating the health and safety concerns of the encampment.

The City of Santa was the first City in the County of Orange to pass a Resolution declaring a Public Health and Safety Crisis related to homelessness in September 2107. Following this Resolution, in August, 2018, the City of Santa Ana declared a shelter crisis related to homelessness because a significant number of persons in the City are without the ability to obtain shelter, resulting in a threat to the health and safety of those persons. The City is proactively conducting outreach and engagement in response to this Public Health and Safety Crisis.

#### <u>Admin</u>

Seven percent of the funding will be utilized for administration of the grant which may include additional personnel. In addition, activities including grant oversight and monitoring, data collection and other overhead costs associated with the new permanent shelter and with the TAY housing project. The City will ensure that the HHAP funds and programs are administered, evaluated and monitored to ensure compliance with the core components of Housing First, include a progressive engagement approach and offer opportunities to retain employment.

#### Strategic Homeless Plan

The City of Santa Ana plans to develop a Strategic Homelessness Plan to build upon the City's existing efforts to prevent and combat homelessness and to identify long-term goals to address the needs of its homeless and unstably housed residents. The plan will provide a roadmap to establish the city's approach to addressing homelessness over the next several years. The Plan has been placed in Fiscal Year 21/22 so that the 2021 Point In Time numbers can be incorporated into this Plan.

### How will you ensure that HHAP funded projects will align and comply with the core components of Housing First as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code § 8255(b)?

The permanent year-round Shelter and Navigation Center will be a low-barrier shelter, following the Housing First model, as defined by the Welfare and Institutions Code. The City understands that the fundamental belief that a homeless individual or household's first and primary need is to obtain stable housing first with supportive services, and that other issues such as mental illness, drug addiction etc., can be followed after stability is provided. The Housing First model has proven successful as the homeless population gains stability to focus on addressing other factors that have precipitated homelessness to begin with, through intensive case management and supportive services. The Shelter and Navigation Center operator will only be chosen if they agree with the Housing First model, and will be monitored to ensure that the core components of the Housing First philosophy are maintained.

Since the inception of the Link in November 2018, over 100 individuals experiencing homelessness on the streets of Santa Ana have not only been provided emergency shelter at the Link, but now have their own permanent home. These individuals received immediate shelter, clothing, food and a safe place to live. Most importantly, they were surrounded by supportive services and case management through a local homeless service provider, Mercy House. Their case manager taught them life skills, job skills, linked them to mental health, substance abuse and medical assistance programs. Many were able to get on their feet through job skills, resume writing and connection to employers. Fifteen learned conflict resolution skills to assist them with moving back in with family through family reunification. Nine learned budget skills and managed income to receive rapid rehousing subsidies. Many learned how to rent rooms and afford their own apartment. It is expected that a new permanent shelter will provide the same types of positive outcomes in compliance with the core components of Housing First.

#### **4.PARTNERS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS**

#### **Collaborating Partner Efforts**

At the time of this application, no collaborative partners have been chosen for the year-round Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center, however the City has existing partners in other endeavors and many have expressed an interest in this new Permanent Shelter. The process to develop a successful year-round Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center will include the collaboration of many partners.

On January 7, 2020, the City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for eligible respondents to enter into a public-private partnership to develop, construct and operate a year-round Homeless Shelter & Navigation Center that will serve 200 individuals, with the ability to scale up to 250 individuals. This shelter will replace the City's temporary emergency shelter referred to as The Link that is scheduled to cease operation in the Fall of 2020. The City plans to utilize the HHAP funds to construct and operate this new permanent year-round Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center. The RFP is due February 25, 2020. The selection of a developer and operating partner will commence at that time, including a committee review and approval by the City Council. Existing collaborative at the interim shelter may in fact remain involved with the new shelter, or new partners may be added.

The largest barrier that the City may face regarding this shelter would be from our local residents, schools, or businesses who may not want a shelter in the City, or near their home, school, or place of business. Beyond this aspect, the City does not foresee any barriers to working with

partners. It is also expected that the organization selected to develop and operate the facility will bring their relationships with them and collaborate on this shelter. Many of the following current partners are suggested collaborative partners for the permanent shelter. Additional partners may be identified once the operator is selected.

#### Organization

- Selected Homeless Service Provider
- Chosen Developer
- SAUSD
- SAPD (HEART)
  Referrals
- Orange County Health Care Workers
- City Net
- Various County Service Departments
- City Officials and City Councilmembers
- Santa Ana College
- Santa Ana WORK Center and Chrysalis
- Orange County Community Health Care Clinics
- Santa Ana Housing Authority
- "HEART" Healthcare and Emergency Animal Rescue Team Pet Care
- People with lived experience
- United Way
- Santa Ana Family Justice Center
- American Family Housing

#### **Provided Service**

Management/Operator Developer Homeless youth programs Enforcement, Background Checks,

Behavioral Health Services Outreach - Resource and Referrals County Services Approval and Guidance Youth Programs Workforce development Health Care Housing Vouchers

- Advisor Landlord Incentives Social Services
- Developer and Non-profit provider

The Santa Ana Family Justice Center (SAFJC) opened at the SA Police Department just this month. The SAFJC establishes partnerships between the Santa Ana Police Department and 17 social services organizations to provide a "one stop shop" where survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, human trafficking and elder abuse can receive the assistance and support they need. These current partnerships may be expanded upon once the Shelter is open.

#### **5.SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS**

### Identify clear, measurable goals that HHAP will be expected to achieve in your jurisdiction.

According to the 2019 Orange County Point-In-Time Count, the Orange County's homeless population increased from 4,792 to 6,860 from the 2017 Point-In-Time Count. Santa Ana's portion of the county's homeless is reported to be 1,769. As evidenced, approximately one quarter of

individuals experiencing homelessness in Orange County reside in Santa Ana and continue to be drawn to the area for its services. The County of Orange operates two cold weather shelters, of which one is in the City of Santa Ana. In addition, the County operates a 425 bed shelter in the center of the City and a 60-bed women's shelter. The Salvation Army Hospitality House Shelter provides shelter to 75 individuals and the Mental Health Association's facility, also in Santa Ana provides mental health assessment, diagnosis and treatment, medication services, individual and group therapy, crisis intervention and case management, to a myriad of individuals struggling with chronic and persistent mental illness. In fact, of the 31 behavioral health service programs offered by the County of Orange, 24 are in the City of Santa Ana. Because of these services, the population of individuals without housing and in need of services continue to increase despite efforts taken by the City.

Because the need for shelter is so great, a residency preference was established for the interim shelter. The Interim Link shelter has been operational since November, 2018. Since that time, 760 individuals have been referred to the shelter. The interim shelter is scheduled to close in November 2020. With the creation of a new permanent shelter, individuals in the Link shelter would be able to transfer over to the new shelter without being exited to the streets.

The new shelter is proposed to serve 200 individuals on a nightly basis, with possible expansion to 250. Comparable goals to what have been seen at the Interim Shelter would be expected. Upon closure of the Link shelter, guests will be offered shelter beds at the new year-round shelter.

The creation of a year-round shelter will be funded with HHAP combined with Permanent Local Housing Allocation funds and local inclusionary housing funds (e.g. in-lieu fees that have been collected). These funds will enable the following measureable goals to be met:

GOAL	MEASUREMENT	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS					
Shelter Bed Occupancy	elter Bed Occupancy (20 beds reserved nightly for SAPD)						
Employment Status	20% at Exit	36 Annually					
Increased Incomes	Increased Incomes 25% at Exit						
Successful Shelter Exits	50% at Exit	90 Annually					

\*Total successful shelter outcomes/placements upon exit from the year-round Homeless Shelter and Navigation Center include: family reunification, permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, room rental, etc. Permanent housing placements will not be funded with HHAP dollars. This assumes a 200 bed shelter with 20 beds reserved nightly for SAPD placements.

- Decrease the percent of Santa Ana's total homeless population that is unsheltered by 15 percentage points determined by biennial Point-In-Time counts (830 unsheltered individuals counted in 2019).
- Decrease the number of unsheltered Veterans in Santa Ana by 20 percentage points determined by biennial Point-In-Time counts (40 unsheltered Veterans counted in 2019).

For the rehabilitation project for 10 homeless transitional age youth, these funds will enable the following measureable goals to be met:

GOAL	MEASUREMENT	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
Provide Permanent	80% Remained housed	10 individuals Housed in
Supportive Housing for	after one year	Year 1
Transitional Age Youth	30 year affordability period	8 Remained Housed



#### HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM (HHAP) ANNUAL BUDGET TEMPLATE

**APPLICANT INFORMATION** 

CoC / Large City / County Name:	City of Santa Ana	Receiving Redirected Funds? Y/N	No
Administrative Entity Name:	City of Santa Ana	Total Redirected Funding	\$-

#### HHAP FUNDING EXPENDITURE PLAN\*

ELIGIBLE USE CATEGORY		FY20/21		FY21/22		FY22/23		FY23/24		FY24/25	_	 TOTAL
Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$ -
Operating Subsidies and Reserves	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$ -
Landlord Incentives	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$ -
Outreach and Coordination (including employment)	\$	50,000.00	\$	62,500.00	\$	62,500.00	\$	62,500.00	\$	62,500.00		\$ 300,000.00
Systems Support to Create Regional Partnerships	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$ -
Delivery of Permanent Housing	\$	673,773.03	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$ 673,773.03
Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$ -
New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters	\$	6,658,838.50	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-		\$ 6,658,838.50
Strategic Homelessness Planning, Infrastructure Development, CES, and HMIS (up to 5%)	\$	-	\$	200,000.00			\$	-	\$	-		\$ 200,000.00
Administrative (up to 7%)	\$	117,910.23	\$	117,910.27	\$	117,910.27	\$	117,910.27	\$	117,910.27		\$ 589,551.31
TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION											\$ 8,422,162.84	

	_	FY20/21		FY21/22 FY22/23		FY22/23	FY23/24		FY24/25	TOTAL		
Youth Set-Aside (at least 8%)		\$	673,773.03	\$ -	\$	-	\$	-	\$ -		\$	673,773.03

\*Narrative should reflect details of HHAP funding plan

COMMENTS:



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405 W. 5<sup>th</sup> STREET, 7<sup>th</sup> FLOOR SANTA ANA, CA 92701 FAX: (714) 834-5506

February 11, 2020

State of California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

#### Re: Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Letter of Support

Dear State of California,

The County of Orange (County) is writing this letter to support the City of Santa Ana (City) in their application for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding. The funding opportunity from the State will allow for regional coordination in Orange County to address gaps and provide vital services to persons experiencing homelessness. The City is engaged with the County, which functions as the Administrative Entity for two of the overlapping jurisdictions of HHAP funding, to address homelessness within the region.

The City along with the County and the City of Anaheim participate in the Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) monthly board meeting as well as monthly subcommittees, where Santa Ana, Anaheim, the CoC, and County are engaged in planning for how to build and align resources to address homelessness in a systems approach for Orange County. These meetings will allow for the overlapping jurisdictions to provide regular updates and to evaluate effectiveness of the programs funded through HHAP.

The County has been informed of the City's intent for the expenditure of HHAP funds and is in agreement that there is a need for continued resources towards emergency shelter solutions to reduce the number of persons that are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Sincerely,

Richard Sanchez, Director Orange County Health Care Agency



PAUL DUNCAN CoC MANAGER (714) 834-5185 pduncan@ochca.com

#### **ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE**

405 W. 5<sup>th</sup> STREET 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, SUITE 658 SANTA ANA, CA 92701

February 10, 2020

State of California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency

#### Re: Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Letter of Support

Dear State of California,

The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) is writing this letter to support the City of Santa Ana (City) in their application for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) funding. The funding opportunity from the State will allow the partnerships within Orange County to address gaps and provide vital services to persons experiencing homelessness. The City is engaged in partnerships with the other three overlapping jurisdictions to address homelessness within the region.

The City has representation and leadership within the CoC Board and has been an active participant in the funding discussions and decision making process for the funds that will be received from the CoC. Additionally, a representative from the City chairs the Housing Opportunities sub-committee for the CoC and actively looks for ways that resources operated through the City can be aligned for a regional approach.

The Orange County CoC has a monthly board meeting along with monthly subcommittees, where CoC board members and staff of the Administrative Entity of the CoC are engaged in planning for how to build and align resources to address homelessness in a systems approach for Orange County. These meetings will allow for the overlapping jurisdictions to provide regular updates and to evaluate effectiveness of the programs funded through HHAP.

The CoC has been informed of the City's intent for the expenditure of HHAP funds and is in agreement that there is a need for continued resources towards emergency shelter solutions to reduce the number of persons that are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

Sincerely, Her A

George Searcy, Chairman Orange County Continuum of Care

Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) Letter of Support February 10, 2020 Page 2 of 2

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Paul Duncan, Continuum of Care Manager Office of Care Coordination