

HOMELESS EMERGENCY AID PROGRAM (HEAP) OVERVIEW AND COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON THE USE OF FUNDS

OVERVIEW

The HEAP grant funding was authorized as part of the state's 2018-2019 budget, and the total eligible amount for the Turlock/Modesto/Stanislaus County CoC is **\$7,236,985.95**. At least 5% or **\$361,849.30** of this total allocation shall be used to establish or expand services meeting the needs of homeless youth or youth at risk of homelessness. The eligible applicant is Stanislaus County.

In order to receive HEAP funding, applicants must:

- 1) Declare a shelter crisis in jurisdictions that will receive funding for projects; and
- 2) Provide evidence of a collaborative community process to identify proposed projects.

In order to receive funds in this first round of funding, applicants must apply by December 31, 2018. Fifty percent of funds must be obligated by January 1, 2020 and all funds must be expended by June 30, 2021.

SHELTER CRISIS DECLARATION

The shelter crisis declaration pursuant to Chapter 7.8 (commencing with Section 8698) of Division 1 of Title 2 of the Government Code is required for all cities and counties that wish to receive HEAP funds. Each incorporated city must declare a shelter crisis to receive HEAP funds. Counties may declare a shelter crisis only for the unincorporated areas of the county. **The shelter crisis declaration is a resolution that should be adopted by the governing body of the city or county.** CoCs, cities, counties, and nonprofit organizations may use HEAP funds to provide services in jurisdictions that have not declared a shelter crisis. HEAP funds cannot be used for rental assistance, rental subsidies or capital projects in jurisdictions that have not declared a shelter crisis.

COLLABORATIVE PROCESS

Applicants must conduct a local collaborative community process to determine how HEAP funds will be utilized. This may include, but is not limited to, a public meeting, regional homeless taskforce meeting, letters of support with signatures of endorsement, an adopted homeless plan, and an adopted budget that includes HEAP funds. Proof of a public process may include sign-in sheets, meeting minutes, agendas, and public comment logs, among other items. It is important that a wide range of participants are consulted as part of this process, including representatives of local homeless service providers, law enforcement, behavioral health, and city/county officials.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

While there are few limits on what funds can be used for, the nature of the funding (i.e. one-time funds with a short window to expend funds) may not align with some uses CoCs typically fund and limits a CoC's ability to use the funds for ongoing programs or longer-term projects such as new construction. However, HEAP funding may be coupled with funding from other sources to achieve sustainability or could be used to pilot innovative programs to be continued with future funding. HEAP funding can be used for the following eligible activities:

- **Services**

- **Rental Assistance or Subsidies**
- **Capital Improvements**
- **Youth Programs/Services.**

Youth Set Aside: At least 5%, or \$361,849.30, of the Turlock/Modesto/Stanislaus County CoC's total allocation shall be used to establish or expand services meeting the needs of homeless youth or youth at risk of homelessness. In order to accurately assess existing gaps in homeless youth services, many CoCs have established Youth Advisory Committees, where youth with lived experience of homelessness can advise stakeholders on program design and use of funds. Please note that for the mandatory allocation for youth services: Five percent is the floor, not the ceiling and funding may be used to meet the needs of both homeless youth and youth at risk of homeless.

NOTE: Administrative costs are capped at five percent of program funds, which does not include staff costs directly related to carrying out program activities and uses must align with California's Housing First Policy.

STANISLAUS COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FROM THE CSOC AND CSOC LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

During the October 15, 2018 CSOC Leadership Council Meeting and the October 18, 2018 CSOC Meeting, CSOC membership and community stakeholders identified the following possible eligible activities for the use of HEAP funding in Stanislaus County.

SERVICES

- **Outreach and engagement**
- **Additional case management for existing programs**
- **Homelessness prevention services for families**
- **Housing navigation for existing programs**
- **Housing location/landlord recruitment**
- **Employment programs/opportunities**

RENTAL ASSISTANCE OR SUBSIDIES

- **Flexible funds for security deposits/landlord mitigation and incentive funds**
- **Assistance with basic household furnishings/move-in costs**
- **Flexible prevention/diversion subsidies**
- **Subsidies for rapid rehousing program and extended subsidies**
- **Short-term rental subsidies**
- **Low-barrier shelter**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/INCREASING UNITS

- **Master leasing properties for rental subsidies**
- **Purchasing/leasing hotel/motel for permanent units**
- **Public toilets & showers**
- **Capital repairs to current shelter**
- **Rehabbing vacant properties to convert into affordable housing units**
- **Day center for families/individuals to serve as an access point**

YOUTH SERVICES

- **Youth shelter/navigation center**
- **Diversion and case management for youth**
- **Rental vouchers for youth**
- **Transitional housing for former foster and other youth (dorm/college style)**
- **Developing alternative housing: pairing roommates, host families, and shared housing**

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- HEAP funds may not be used for capital projects within a jurisdiction that has not declared a shelter crisis.
- HEAP funds cannot be used to fund HMIS infrastructure or improvements.
- HEAP funds cannot be used to create a strategic plan for homelessness.
- HEAP funds cannot be expended after June 30, 2021. Any long-term projects that would require payment after that date are not appropriate uses of HEAP funds.
- Expenditures not intended for the purposes of providing aid for persons who are homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness are not appropriate uses of HEAP funds.

RESOURCES

- HEAP 2018 NOFA: https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/heap_nofa.pdf
- HEAP Application for CoC Allocation: https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/webapps/coc_grant_app.php
 - Application Map for CoCs: https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/heap_map_coc.xlsx
 - Application Instructions for CoCs: https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/heap_app_coc.pdf
- HEAP Guidance Document: https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/heap_overview.pdf
- HEAP FAQs: https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/heap_faqs.pdf
- HEAP Workshop PowerPoint Slides: https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/heap_workshop.pptx