



CALIFORNIA HOMELESS COORDINATING AND FINANCING COUNCIL

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
Gavin Newsom, Governor | Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, Secretary

March 23, 2020

Department of Public Social Services
Attn: Jennifer Claar, DPSS Managing Director
1111 Spruce Street
Riverside, CA 92507

RE: Award Announcement - COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding Agreement #: 20-HCFC-00009

Dear Jennifer Claar,

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak and to protect the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness, Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 89 on March 17 allocating funding to help protect this vulnerable population. We are pleased to announce that Continuum of Care for Riverside has been awarded a grant in the amount of **\$547,812.48**.

This funding is immediately available as a result of swift action taken by the California State Legislature in unanimously approving SB 89 to help California fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, this is described in the March 18, 2020 letter from the Department of Finance to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, pursuant to the provisions of Section 36.00, Chapter 2, Statutes of 2020, and the augmentation to Budget Act of 2019 Item 0515-101-0001. The purpose of this funding is to protect the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness and reduce the spread of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Specifically, this award is intended for investments into COVID-19 prevention and containment efforts for shelters, including, but not limited to, medically indicated services and supplies, such as testing and handwashing stations, and enhancements to existing shelter facilities. This will allow for proper social distancing and isolation to reduce the spread of COVID-19 among the homeless population. While eligible uses for funding are broad and should be determined based on the need of the jurisdiction, suggested uses include but are not limited to:

- **Emergency Shelter Operations** – furnishings, supplies, and equipment needed to maintain a sanitary shelter environment for clients and staff.
- **Shelter Capacity** – support for increasing shelter capacity and the acquisition of new shelters.
- **Isolation Capacity** – support for the acquisition/lease of hotels, motels, trailers, and other alternative isolation placements.
- **Street Outreach** – supplies and equipment needed to protect staff engaging with unsheltered from COVID-19 and to meet the urgent physical needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- **Transportation** – support for the transportation of those experiencing homelessness to and from shelters and medical care.
- **Staffing** – support for additional staff for infectious disease preparedness and case management for clients.

We also invite you to review guidance documents and the most up-to-date information for homeless assistance providers available on our website at <https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/hcfc/coronavirus19>.

The Standard Agreement along with instructions on how to fill it out are enclosed. Please review and follow the instructions thoroughly. Incorrect information provided may result in a delay of disbursement of funds. Continuum of Care for Riverside will receive its full disbursement of funds after the Standard Agreement is fully executed.

In an effort to ensure that these funds are immediately achieving their intent, we request that every jurisdiction execute and return this Standard Agreement no later than 30-days from receipt of this letter. For further information, please contact Amber Ostrander, HAAP Grant Manager at 916-651-7995 or by email at amber.ostrander@bcsh.ca.gov.

On behalf of Governor Newsom and our entire California State family, we thank you for all you are doing to protect and assist some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Sincerely,



Lourdes M. Castro Ramírez, Secretary
Council Chair