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A STRATEGIC PLAN TO ADDRESS  
HOMELESSNESS IN **MARIPOSA**  
**COUNTY**

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# Background

## Why a strategic plan to address homelessness?

Homelessness is a problem we can no longer ignore in Mariposa County. This strategic plan was borne of a belief that doing nothing solves nothing and that a plan to end homelessness will benefit the entire community.

Solving a community-wide problem requires a community-wide solution, a unified and strategic response to address the complex challenge of homelessness in a way that makes sense for Mariposa County and is grounded in strategies that are cost-effective and proven to work in other communities.

Whether the crisis is fire, illness or housing, we Mariposans have a tradition of facing and solving our problems together. We know that our whole community thrives when everyone is able to be productive. When people have the support they need, they can give back to the community.

People become homeless for a lot of reasons. In our expensive housing market, a single crisis, like a medical bill, a death in the family, a missed paycheck, or an expensive repair can cause a household to lose their home. Helping our neighbors in crisis sustains our whole community, reducing system costs and improving quality of life for all Mariposans.

## Who is Homeless in Mariposa County?

Homelessness looks different for different households, populations and communities. (For examples of how various federal agencies define “homeless,” see Appendix B.) In Mariposa County, we believe that safe, stable, and affordable housing is key to the wellbeing of our neighbors and community. Households living outside, in shelters, cars, campgrounds, temporary or overcrowded sharing housing situations, or in housing that is unsafe or unsanitary are considered homeless.

### 2015 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT DATA

To apply for homeless housing and services funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), communities are required to conduct a census of people who are homeless on a single day during the last ten days of January. On January 28, 2015, we counted our residents who meet HUD’s definition of homeless. Because that definition is intended to prioritize limited funding to the most vulnerable homeless populations, only people living in shelter, cars, or outdoors were counted (see Appendix B for full definition).

52 persons:  
41 adults | 11 children

DEMOGRAPHICS	NEEDS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65% male; 35% female</li> <li>• Age               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 60+: 15%</li> <li>○ 25-59: 54%</li> <li>○ 18-24: 6%</li> <li>○ 6-17: 6%</li> <li>○ 0-5: 15%</li> <li>○ Unknown: 4%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ethnicity:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Caucasian: 60%</li> <li>○ Native American/Alaskan Native: 18%</li> <li>○ Hispanic: 18%</li> <li>○ Asian: 2%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Veterans: 8%</li> <li>• 66% homeless for the first time</li> <li>• Length of Time Homeless               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 60% less than one year</li> <li>○ 25% more than one year</li> <li>○ 15% unknown</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% have a history of domestic violence experience</li> <li>• 20% work full- or part-time</li> <li>• Health needs:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Serious health problem or concern: 40%</li> <li>○ Mental health problem: 33%</li> <li>○ Physical disability: 30%</li> <li>○ Head injury: 33%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Living at the time of survey               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In a shelter or at Open Arms: 67%</li> <li>○ Outside: 11%</li> <li>○ On a couch: 11%</li> <li>○ In a vehicle: 3%</li> <li>○ Transitional Housing: 5%</li> <li>○ Motel: 3%</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reasons for difficulty obtaining/maintaining housing:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lack of Income/Employment</li> <li>○ Lack of Affordable Housing</li> <li>○ Health or Mental Health Issue</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Though these numbers can provide a rough idea of who is homeless in Mariposa County, this is far from the full picture. In addition to leaving out households who are couch surfing, doubled up, or living in substandard conditions, we know that this count does not capture everyone who is living outdoors. First, this count represents only those who were homeless on that specific day in January; because housing status is fluid, many other people may be homeless at other points during the year. Second, in our largely forested county, it is impossible to canvas our entire geography. Our count relied on people congregating at centralized locations for services; because many people are unwilling or unable to do so, they are not reflected in our Point-in-Time count data.

Our school districts, which are required by the US Department of Education to track homeless students (including students who are doubled-up and couchsurfing as well as living outdoors or in shelter), can help us fill in some of the gaps. Based on data collected by the Mariposa County Unified School District, 50-75 students (out of a total student population of approximately 1,600) *annually* have experienced homelessness in each of the past several years.

Although not measured in our Point in Time Count, other surveys/interviews were conducted during the Fall of 2014 with the homeless population. Although most results were consistent with the Point in Time Count, we learned some additional things through these surveys:

- A large percentage of homeless individuals (75%+) report ties to Mariposa County that brought them or keep them here (they were living here prior to being homeless, they have family connections or supports here, familiarity because they have lived here in the past, or they have an ongoing Probation or Court issue for which they have to stay)
- The majority of homeless individuals were faced with a major crisis that led to their homelessness (major health/mental health crisis, death in the family, divorce, incarceration, etc.)

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# Responding To Homelessness in Our Community

## Services Currently Available

Though we know we are not reaching all people in need in Mariposa County, we do have some services and grassroots community initiatives in place already. Below is a brief summary of services currently available to people who are homeless.

### Alliance for Community Transformations Programs:

- **Mountain Crisis Services:** provides emergency shelter and transitional housing to victims of domestic violence and their children.
- **Mariposa Heritage House:** Assists individuals with substance abuse issues to locate housing and income assistance. Operates a day-time weekend drop-in center for homeless individuals and community members in need.
- **Center For Opportunities Re-entry and Education:** Provides case management services to offenders to assist with locating and obtaining housing.
- **Court Appointed Special Advocates:** Links youth in the foster care system with CASA's and supports them to receive ongoing services through the County Child Welfare Department.
- **Ethos Youth Center:** Provides a drop-in center for youth (ages 13-18) and links them with necessary services.

**Manna House:** Provides food boxes to low-income individuals and families.

**Mariposa County Human Services:** Various programs (CalWorks, CalFresh, Cash Aid/General Assistance, Child Welfare Services, Adult Protective Services, Behavioral Health, Energy Assistance, Weatherization Assistance, etc.) provide case management services and financial assistance to assist with finding and supporting housing. Currently, operates R.O.A.D. House, a drop in center for the community, which will be outsourced to a non-profits starting July 1, 2015.

**Mariposa County Unified School District:** Assists homeless families, linking them to necessary services.

**Mariposa Open Arms:** Provides dinner and overnight stays 7 days per week.

**Mariposa Safe Families Family Enrichment Center and Community Partners Program:** Links all families to necessary services and works with individuals in poverty through mentoring relationships to help move families out of poverty.

**Mother Lode Job Training:** Links individuals with job and training opportunities.

**Salvation Army:** Provides emergency financial assistance to individuals and families to help meet basic needs.

**Stanislaus County Housing Authority:** Administers the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program for Mariposa County residents.

## Federal, State and Local Funding: Current Landscape and Opportunities

Our work is supported by funding from a variety of sources, including private donations, state and federal grants, and local dollars. Though we are currently accessing many of the funds available to us, there are opportunities to diversify our financial supports.

### Current Sources of Funding

**AB 109:** There are limited dollars to help individuals in the criminal justice system who meet eligibility criteria with temporary housing while obtaining more permanent income and housing support.

**CalWORKS Funding:** Human Services can provide assistance to CalWORKS recipients who qualify for assistance with obtaining housing.

**Child Abuse Prevention:** Mariposa County receives funds to support family preservation before engagement with the Child Welfare system.

**Community Services Block Grants:** Supports Mariposa Safe Families to operate the Community Partners Program.

**Domestic Violence Assistance Program Funding:** Mountain Crisis Services receives state and federal grants to administer their emergency shelter and transitional housing program.

**Donations:** Mariposa Open Arms relies on donations from their church and community partners to support the services they provide.

**Emergency Housing Assistance:** Human Services administers a small pot of one time emergency assistance funding to help homeless individuals with first month's rent, hotel vouchers, etc. There are state guidelines that limit who is eligible for funding.

**Mental Health Services Act Funding:** There are limited dollars available to support and treat individuals with severe mental illnesses. Currently funding is not being utilized for housing although this is being explored as a possibility.

**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration:** Mariposa County Human Services receives SAMHSA funds to operate a treatment drug court. Currently funding is not utilized for housing although this is being explored as a possibility.

**Transitional Housing Program Plus:** Funds from this source are utilized to support foster youth as they age out of the foster care system to obtain and maintain housing.

## Funding Opportunities

### *Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grants Programs*

The Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grants programs are the primary sources of funding for homeless housing and services. As part of the application for CoC and ESG funds, communities are required to develop a Continuum of Care system to deliver housing and services to meet the specific local needs of people who are homeless, from outreach and prevention to interim or emergency, transitional, and permanent housing.

#### WHAT IS A COC?

The Continuum of Care is a geographically-based group that carries out the planning responsibilities of the Continuum of Care program. A CoC is expected to include representation from all of the following groups, to the extent that the type of organization exists within the geographic area that the Continuum represents and is available to participate in the Continuum:

- Nonprofit homeless providers
- Victim service providers
- Faith-based organizations
- Governments
- Businesses
- Advocates
- Public housing agencies
- School districts
- Social service providers
- Mental health agencies
- Hospitals
- Universities
- Affordable housing developers

Among other things, CoCs are required to:

- Have a board to act on behalf of the Continuum, as well as governance documents outlining the CoC's structure and decision-making responsibilities
- Establish and maintain a centralized or coordinated assessment system
- Set performance targets and evaluate outcomes
- Engage in community planning

In 2013, Mariposa County began collaborating with the Central Sierra Continuum of Care (encompassing Amador, Tuolumne, and Calaveras Counties), and will become an official member in 2015. When membership becomes official with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mariposa County will be eligible to apply for available funding.

#### EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS

The Emergency Solutions Grant program is federal funding administered through the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Under the ESG Program, communities may apply for assistance to provide:

- Street outreach, including engagement, case management, emergency services, and transportation
- Emergency shelter, including services for people in shelter

- Homeless prevention for people who are unstably housed; includes relocation and stabilization services and short- or medium-term rental assistance
- Rapid rehousing for people who are living outside or in emergency shelter; includes relocation and stabilization services and short- or medium-term rental assistance

#### CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM GRANTS

The Continuum of Care Program is administered by HUD through an annual funding competition. Under the CoC Program, communities may apply for assistance to provide housing support and services for people who are living outside or in emergency shelter through several housing types:

- Rapid rehousing
- Short term (2 years or less) transitional housing
- Supportive housing for people with disabilities

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANTS

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides funding to develop viable communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.

All funds must be used to meet at least one of three national objectives:

- Benefit low- and moderate-income persons
- Prevent or eliminate slums or blight
- Meet other community needs of particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community where other financial resources are not available to meet such needs

Eligible uses of CDBG funds include, but are not limited to, acquisition of real property, relocation and demolition, rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures, construction of public facilities and improvements (such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and conversion of school buildings), public services, activities related to energy conservation and renewable energy resources, and assistance to for-profit businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities.

## Known Gaps in Housing and Services

Stakeholders have identified the following gaps in our existing system of care:

- Housing affordable for people with very low incomes
- Supportive housing for people with physical and/or mental disabilities
- Short-term rental assistance for households with moderate needs
- Support for single adult males
- Employment opportunities

- Employment and job training services
- Transportation options
- Outreach targeting street homeless

## Supportive Housing and Temporary Rental Assistance: A Cost Effective “Leg Up”

### *Sustainable and cost effective solutions*

#### SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Many people who are homeless have multiple barriers to successful independent living and require long-term housing support and associated services. Supportive housing provides housing to homeless people with disabilities with attached supportive services that are flexible to meet changing client needs. This housing model is appropriate for households who, without that level of assistance, would remain on the streets.

Though providing housing with attached services sounds expensive, because many of the persons appropriate for supportive housing are high users of other public systems, placing homeless disabled people in supportive housing can actually save communities money.

- In a King County, Washington study of 95 chronically homeless individuals who had incurred the highest total costs for use of alcohol-related hospital emergency services, pre-housing costs for each individual were an average of \$4,066 per month. After six months in housing, monthly costs decreased to \$1,492, and after 12 months in housing, to \$958. After accounting for housing program costs, permanent supportive housing saved an average of \$2,449 per month.

Supportive housing may be provided through a variety of models. Although ideally, individuals would have access to their own apartment or efficiency unit, in Mariposa County where affordable housing is scarce, a shared housing model, wherein several disabled homeless persons are housed together in a single house, may be most appropriate at this time.

#### TEMPORARY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

For populations needing less intensive assistance than those appropriate for supportive housing, short-term flexible rental assistance paired with support services concentrating on improving incomes to pay rent is a cost-effective model to stabilize households and return them to self-sufficiency.

- A 2014 US Department of Veterans Affairs found that approximately 84% of single veterans and 90% of veterans in families did not experience subsequent episodes of homelessness in the year after receiving rapid rehousing assistance. The study found that there was no significant relationship between income level at program entry and the likelihood of experiencing subsequent homeless episodes, indicating that

households of all income levels may be successfully served with rapid rehousing assistance.<sup>1</sup>

- In Humboldt County, CA the short-term Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing program provided temporary rental assistance and stabilization services to 3,000 homeless households from 2009-2012, which resulted in a marked decrease in homelessness between 2011 and 2013.
- In Connecticut, three years after receiving rapid rehousing assistance, 82% of singles and 95% of families remained stably housed.<sup>2</sup>

## Federal Initiatives

### Opening Doors: the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

In 2010, the US Interagency Council on Homelessness released *Opening Doors*, a plan designed to address homelessness through partnerships between federal agencies, including HUD, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Health and Human Services, and the Department of Labor. *Opening Doors* and its annual updates set ambitious goals for our work to end homelessness, including:

- End veteran homelessness by the end of 2015
- End chronic homelessness by 2017
- End family and youth homelessness by 2020

Since its release, *Opening Doors* has influenced the allocation of HUD and other federal spending, driven HUD policy, spawned planning initiatives, including Zero: 2016, and given direction to CoC planning efforts.

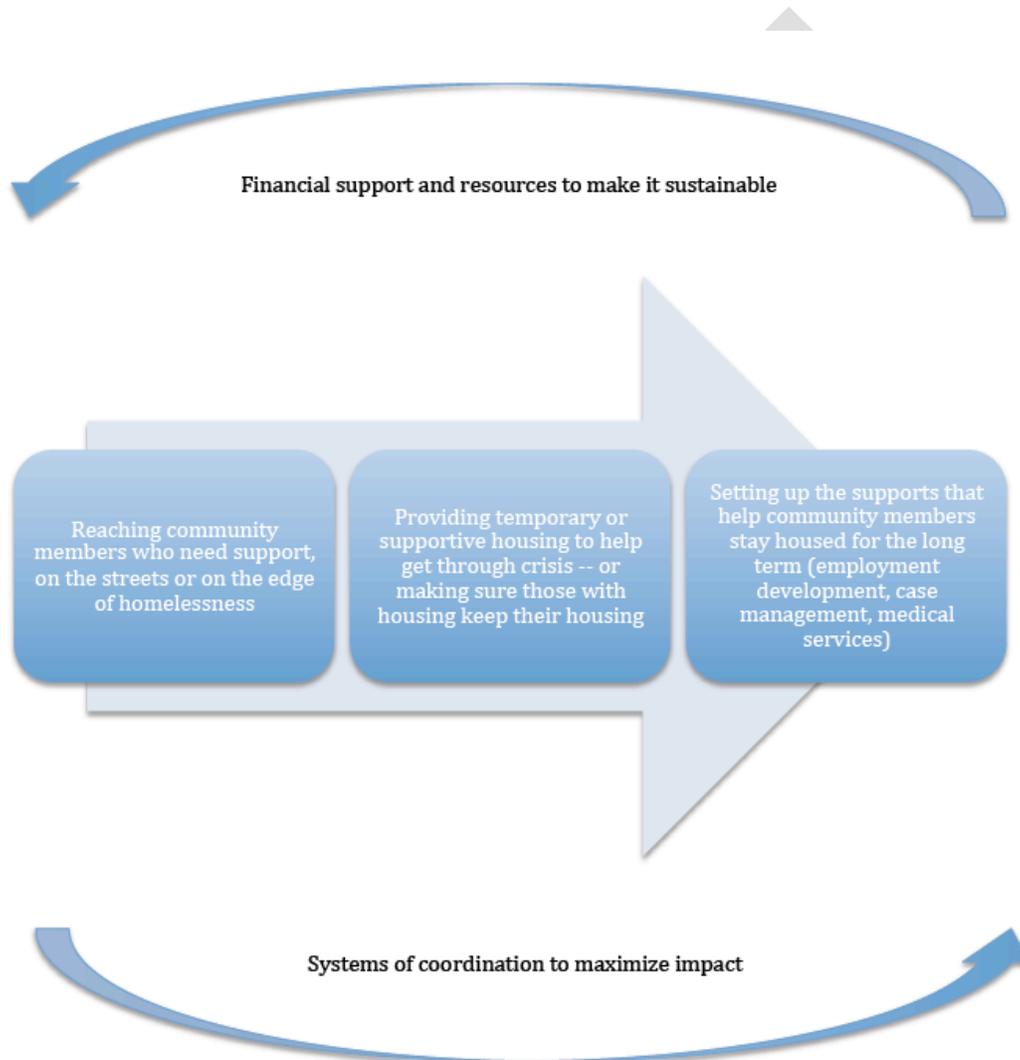
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<sup>1</sup> Byrne, Thomas. "Housing Outcomes of Veterans Following Exit from the Supportive Services for Veteran

<sup>2</sup> Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, "Three Years Later, Did Rapid Re-Housing Work in Connecticut?" October 2013

# Framework

The following priorities and action steps were developed through an extended strategic planning and stakeholder feedback process over several months of 2014-15. Together, these priorities create a Safety Net that will support our neighbors in permanently exiting homelessness or in never becoming homeless in the first place.



# Strategic Plan

The following strategic plan envisions a 3-5 year process to establishing an effective, coordinated response to homelessness in Mariposa County. While some of the priorities and action items described below will be capable of immediate implementation, others are contingent on funding and available resources and will take more time to plan for and implement.

## PRIORITY ONE: BUILD A COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

ACTION STEPS
<p><b>1. Formally join the Central Sierra Continuum of Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Central Sierra Continuum of Care’s geographic area includes Mariposa County in 2015 Continuum of Care Registration</li> <li>• Establish formal membership parameters, including that funding available from HUD for Mariposa County remains in-county</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Review available funding sources to maximize access to funds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review use of existing funding sources to determine their ability to support homeless/housing objectives</li> <li>• Develop strategy to access additional funding sources</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Communicate with community and people in need about available services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a 2-1-1 system for information and referrals or another similar system and familiarize stakeholders and community with system</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Invest in relationships with local stakeholders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host bi-monthly local stakeholder meetings to highlight successes, identify needs, provide forum for local engagement</li> <li>• Ensure participation from law enforcement, healthcare, faith community, domestic violence services, education, local government and other interested parties</li> <li>• Continue outreach and dialogue with business and other community members around plan implementation and community narrative around homelessness</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Evaluate policy opportunities to increase housing inventory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify ways to reduce attrition of rental inventory</li> <li>• Identify and support modifications to local regulations that could incentivize development of affordable housing or reduce existing barriers to development</li> </ul>

**PRIORITY TWO: ENGAGE STREET HOMELESS POPULATION IN SERVICES TO ADDRESS IMMEDIATE NEEDS**

<b>ACTION STEPS</b>
<p><b>1. Establish day center in community-appropriate location</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition operation of community drop-in center to nonprofit</li> <li>• Establish case managers/system navigators at drop-in center</li> <li>• Ensure linkages from day center to services, including employment, mental health, and chemical dependency treatment resources</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to minimize access barriers such as by locating facility close to services and ensuring transportation available for clients to access facility</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Establish Downtown Outreach Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Realign County staff to create Downtown Outreach Team targeting people who are homeless in Downtown Mariposa</li> <li>• Ensure Downtown Outreach Team staff receive training in outreach best practices</li> <li>• Establish referral protocol from Downtown Outreach Team to local services</li> <li>• Provide warm handoff from Downtown Outreach Team to case manager/system navigator</li> <li>• Engage community through volunteer opportunities and education regarding services available and evaluate opportunities to engage homeless in providing outreach</li> </ul>

**PRIORITY THREE: ESTABLISH TEMPORARY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT FOR LOWER-NEED HOUSEHOLDS**

<b>ACTION STEPS</b>
<p><b>1. Identify providers with capacity to administer rental assistance and/or provide accompanying case management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify providers currently providing supportive services or administering financial assistance</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Educate providers, particularly those identified as already administering similar programs, about funding opportunities for expanding these services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical assistance workshop to inform interested providers about funding stream requirements, application process, and estimated timeline</li> <li>• Ensure providers are connected with community support and referral network</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Build inventory of housing opportunities for households with subsidies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and reach out to landlords interested in renting to households with housing subsidies, including landlords accepting or considering Section 8 vouchers</li> <li>• Invest in relationships with landlords and develop positive messaging and engagement strategy</li> <li>• Identify opportunities to support landlords such as through risk management, mediation and incentive programs</li> <li>• Establish incentives to bring rental properties up to code, including identifying potential funding sources to support landlords in rehabilitation of rentals</li> </ul>

**4. Apply for Emergency Solutions Grants funds to support rental assistance project**

- Coordinate with other county members of Central Sierra Continuum of Care
- Provide support to providers to complete applications for ESG funding

**PRIORITY FOUR: DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE EMERGENCY HOUSING SUPPORT SYSTEM**

**ACTION STEPS**

**1. Create a matrix of existing emergency housing supports and eligibility criteria**

- Map emergency housing currently available in Mariposa County
- Investigate successful emergency housing models in other communities, including interim housing models

**2. Identify providers with capacity to administer proposed emergency housing model**

- Identify providers currently providing supportive services or administering financial assistance
- Support providers, as necessary, in establishing emergency housing model
- Provide linkages to programming and support, including case management, life skills development, employment, and mental health providers
- Identify and mitigate potential transportation and access barriers for clients

**3. Establish sustainable funding stream to support emergency housing system**

- Identify funding streams to support proposed emergency housing model
- Provide technical assistance to providers to apply for and implement emergency housing funds

**PRIORITY FIVE: DEVELOP AND COORDINATE SUSTAINABLE HOMELESS PREVENTION SUPPORT SYSTEM**

**ACTION STEPS**

**1. Promote and expand landlord/tenant mediation program**

- Research successful landlord/tenant mediation models in other communities, including renter/landlord helplines
- Identify potential funding streams to support mediation expansion
- Support tenants in feeling safe to access services

**2. Coordinate prevention support system network**

- Identify agencies and other entities that administer prevention support
- Ensure relevant agencies aware of prevention support opportunities and able to make referrals as appropriate

**3. Identify mainstream resources that may be leveraged to provide homeless prevention assistance**

- Identify current utilization of utility assistance programs; Determine whether community members are fully aware of resource; Determine frequency and cause of assistance denial

- Identify potential funding streams to support expansion of current utility assistance programs
- Identify other strategic services that would prevent persons from becoming homeless, such as case management, housing deposit, mental health services, and relocation support

**4. Secure homeless-specific prevention funding**

- Identify possible sources of homeless-specific prevention funding, including ESG and SSVF
- Determine appropriate party to apply for and administer prevention funds
- Provide support to providers to apply for and administer funds

**PRIORITY SIX: LEVERAGE MEDI-CAL EXPANSION TO PROVIDE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS**

**ACTION STEPS**

**1. Build linkages between community homeless response team and local medical and behavioral health providers.**

- Identify local medical and behavioral health providers who interact with homeless population
- Invite providers to participate in stakeholder meetings
- Incorporate providers into outreach and referral system

**2. Explore opportunities to use Medi-Cal to financially support support services.**

- Stay abreast of CA 1115 waiver renewal progress and outcomes
- Evaluate possibility of partnerships between housing providers and providers eligible to bill for Medi-Cal
- Evaluate possibility of supporting homeless providers in becoming Medi-Cal certified

**PRIORITY SEVEN: ESTABLISH SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR HIGH-NEED HOUSEHOLDS**

**ACTION STEPS**

**1. Learn about supportive housing models**

- Investigate successful shared housing models
- Investigate best practices for serving subpopulations, including seniors, persons with mental health needs, veterans, and others.
- Build partnerships with agencies currently administering a shared housing model of supportive housing

**2. Identify potential funding streams to establish supportive housing**

- Review possibility of accessing CoC Program and Veterans Administration Supportive Housing funds

<p><b>3. Identify providers who might be interested in administering housing or providing supportive services to high-need households</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify providers currently providing supportive services to high-need households or administering housing financial assistance</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Educate providers, particularly those identified as already administering similar programs, about funding opportunity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical assistance workshop to inform interested providers about funding stream requirements, application process, and estimated timeline</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Apply for supportive housing funds from CoC Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with other county members of Central Sierra Continuum of Care</li> <li>Provide support to applicants to complete applications</li> </ul>

## PRIORITY EIGHT: IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS OR RECENTLY HOUSED

<b>ACTION STEPS</b>
<p><b>1. Build partnerships with business community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify potential partners in the business community who may be interested in employing homeless persons</li> <li>Establish support and/or incentives to assist businesses in participating</li> <li>Provide information to businesses about benefits of employing people who are homeless</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Establish supportive employment program to provide intensive supports, including skills training, to homeless persons who gain employment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen existing resources and services for subsidized and supportive employment</li> <li>Investigate successful supportive employment programs, particularly those in rural communities</li> <li>Identify funding streams to support supportive employment programs</li> <li>Identify existing employment service providers interested in operating supportive employment program</li> <li>Communicate benefits of hiring supportive employment program participants to local employers</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Investigate feasibility of establishing social entrepreneurship program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify successful social entrepreneurship programs in similar communities</li> <li>Identify current employment service providers</li> <li>Identify local entrepreneurs willing to partner with homeless services agencies</li> <li>Identify funding streams to support social entrepreneurship programs</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Improve transportation options for people who are homeless to access employment and education opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify existing transportation supports for persons who are homeless and/or low-income</li> <li>Explore funding opportunities to increase access to transportation, including free bus</li> </ul>

passes to people who are homeless and transportation programs linked to day center and homeless housing and services programs

## PRIORITY NINE: EVALUATE COMMUNITY PROGRESS

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. Draft 3- and 5-year progress updates, including:
  - Inventory of housing and services available for people who are homeless
  - Comparison of Point-in-Time counts for 2015, 2017, 2019
  - Updated strategic plan action steps

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## Appendix A: Stakeholder Strategic Planning Process

This Plan was developed based on best practices that have successfully addressed homelessness in communities like Mariposa and on substantial feedback from diverse Mariposa community stakeholders, including local service providers, the Mariposa business community, law enforcement, and County agencies. Over the course of three in-person strategic planning sessions facilitated by technical assistance provider HomeBase, participants identified the key priority areas and an action plan to respond to the challenge of homelessness in our community.

Following a growing recognition of the impact of homelessness on our community, Mariposa stakeholders held an initial strategic planning session in November 2014, seeking to identify sustainable ways to support our neighbors in overcoming or avoiding homelessness.

A draft strategic plan was further developed during subsequent planning meetings on February 23 and March 16, 2015. The draft plan was presented and discussed in various community settings and meetings throughout April and May (Rotary Club, Mariposa Abuse Prevention Council, Mental Health Board, Community Corrections Partnership, Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board, In-Home Support Services Committee, etc.). This culminated in a community town hall meeting on May 7 to gather input into the plan. The final draft will be presented to the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors for adoption on June 9, 2015.

Participating stakeholders include:

- Alliance for Community Transformations (Mountain Crisis Services, Mariposa Heritage House, Center for Opportunity Re-entry and Education, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Ethos Youth Center)
- Business community
- Habitat for Humanity
- Interested community members (homeless individuals, community members)
- John C. Fremont Healthcare District
- Manna House
- Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
- Mariposa County Building Department
- Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce
- Mariposa County Counsel
- Mariposa County Community Services – Veteran’s Services
- Mariposa County Health Department
- Mariposa County Human Services
- Mariposa Open Arms
- Mariposa County Planning Department
- Mariposa County Probation Department
- Mariposa County Sheriff’s Office
- Mariposa County Unified School District
- Mariposa Grand Jury
- Mariposa Safe Families
- Mother Lode Job Training

## Appendix B: Definitions

### The Definition of Homelessness

Before we can accurately discuss who is homeless, it is first important to clarify that there are a number of different definitions of homelessness used by various federal funding sources. Here is a summary of the major definitions:

**Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD):**

“Literally homeless” refers to persons who are sleeping in places not meant for human habitation, or who are sleeping in an emergency shelter. This includes people who are sleeping on streets, in cars, campgrounds, parks, bus stations, and abandoned buildings and people who are using motel vouchers. It also includes people who have been institutionalized (e.g. staying in a hospital or jail) for a short time and were sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation before their institutionalization. **Importantly, this does not include people who are doubled-up, couch surfing, or otherwise poorly housed.**

**Department of Education:**

“Homeless” means “individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.” Broader than HUD’s definition, this includes all persons who HUD defines as “literally homeless,” as well as children and youth who are doubled up, living in motels and hotels, and those who are awaiting foster care placement.

**Department of Health and Human Services: Runaway and Homeless Youth Act:**

Broadest of all, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act defines a homeless youth as a youth under age 21 “for whom it is not possible to live in a safe environment with a relative, and who has no other safe alternative living arrangement.” This means that any youth considered homeless under the Department of Education or HUD definitions is considered homeless if she or he cannot live with relatives and has no other safe place to go.

Unless otherwise noted, in this plan “homeless” refers to HUD’s definition of homelessness. We use this definition not to minimize the needs of households who are doubled up, poorly housed, or at serious risk of homelessness, but to target limited homeless-specific resources to those who have the highest need. Most homeless-specific housing and services funding comes through HUD, while other systems of care may be most appropriate for serving these other populations.

## HOMELESSNESS

### Department of Education: “homeless children and youths”

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance and Improvements Act of 2001 §725**

(2) The term “homeless children and youths” —

(A) means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence (within the meaning of section 103(a)(1)); and

B) includes —

- (i) children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; are abandoned in hospitals; or are awaiting foster care placement;
- (ii) children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings (within the meaning of section 103(a)(2)(C));
- (iii) children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- (iv) migratory children (as such term is defined in section 1309 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965) who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).<sup>3</sup>

### HUD: “Homeless”

- (1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
  - (i) An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
  - (ii) An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low- income individuals); or
  - (iii) An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;
- (2) An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:
  - (i) The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and
  - (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks needed to obtain other permanent housing;
- (3) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:
  - (i) Are defined as homeless under section 387 of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (42 U.S.C. 5732a), section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832), section 41403 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14043e-2), section 330(h) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b(h)), section 3 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2012), section 17(b) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(b)), or section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11434a);
  - (ii) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;
  - (iii) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance; and
  - (iv) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of

<sup>3</sup> <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg116.html>

domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect), the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment; or

(4) Any individual or family who:

(i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;

(ii) Has no other residence; and

(iii) Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> [https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/HEARTH\\_HomelessDefinition\\_FinalRule.pdf](https://www.onecpd.info/resources/documents/HEARTH_HomelessDefinition_FinalRule.pdf)