

No Place Like Home Program Program Guidelines



**State of California
Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.**

**Alexis Podesta, Secretary
Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency**

**Ben Metcalf, Director
Department of Housing and Community Development
Kathryn Amann, Acting Deputy Director
Division of Financial Assistance**

**HCD – NPLH Program
2020 West El Camino Avenue, Suite 500
Sacramento, CA 95833**

July 17, 2017

Section 201. Threshold Requirements for Noncompetitive Allocation

- (a) Noncompetitive Allocations must be awarded within 18 months of the issuance of the Department's initial NOFA.
- (b) To receive a Noncompetitive Allocation award, no later than 12 months following the issuance of Department's initial NOFA, a County must:
 - (1) Submit a resolution of the County Board of Supervisors to the effect that the County will submit one or more Project applications within 30 months of the issuance of the Department's initial NOFA, proposing to utilize any Noncompetitive Allocation awarded to the County.
 - (2) Submit a certification on a form created by the Department, or approved by the Department, certifying that prior to receiving its Noncompetitive Allocation, the Project(s) submitted by the County will have met all the requirements under Article II, III, or IV, as applicable.
 - (3) Submit a County plan that specifies the goals, strategies and activities both in process or to be initiated to reduce homelessness and make it non-recurring. Any plan that meets the following requirements is acceptable, including but not limited to Continuum of Care Plans, a County Mental Health Services Act fund expenditure plan that includes a section that specifically focuses on homelessness, or any other County plan specific to homelessness. Projects proposed by the County should be clearly connected to the goals and strategies outlined in the plan.
 - (A) The County plan must discuss all of the following:
 - (i) A description of homelessness County-wide, including a discussion of the estimated number of residents experiencing homelessness or chronic homelessness among single adults, families, and unaccompanied youth;
 - (ii) To the extent possible, the estimated number of residents experiencing homelessness or chronic homelessness who are also experiencing serious mental illness, co- occurring disabilities or disorders, or who are children with a Serious Emotional Disturbance;
 - (iii) Special challenges or barriers to serving the Target Population;
 - (iv) County resources applied to address homelessness, including efforts undertaken to prevent the criminalization of activities associated with homelessness;
 - (v) Available community-based resources;

H-2

Hayes, Kathy

From: Nezzie Wade <now1@suddenlink.net>
Sent: Monday, January 08, 2018 1:12 PM
To: Bass, Virginia; Fennell, Estelle; Bohn, Rex; Sundberg, Ryan; Wilson, Mike; Hayes, Kathy
Subject: Board Agenda January 9, 2018 - Item H2 - Important Please Read Immediately
Attachments: NW Letter to BOS re-Shelter Crisis Declaration.pdf

Importance: High

January 8, 2018

Virginia Bass, Chairperson
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
825 5th Street, room 111
Eureka CA 95501

RE:
January 9, 2017, Board of Supervisors Agenda; H. MATTERS INITIATED BY BOARD MEMBERS, 2:
Discussion and Possible Action of Issues Related to the Board of Supervisors Declaring a Shelter Crisis in
Humboldt County (Supervisor Mike Wilson)

Dear Supervisor Bass, and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I want to thank Supervisor Wilson for bringing this issue to the forefront and to the BOS agenda. It is extremely important that our county and all its communities have an opportunity to weigh in on this. And while the Discussion of the agenda item as presented in the documentation is framed as pertaining only to the unincorporated areas of the county, it is also important to recognize that our cities are inundated with homeless and issues related to their needs. None of our cities alone have the ability to respond to the needs for housing and shelter in the interim efforts to create affordable housing options. Declaring a Shelter Crisis will help all of the municipalities to respond to homelessness. Whatever effort Humboldt County makes in light of this must be a coordinated, concerted one that engages those most affected, the homeless themselves, the agencies county-wide that exist to and serve this population, the appropriate County Departments that could facilitate an adequate county-wide response, and all of the residents' groups and organizations that are eager to address the shelter crisis we are experiencing.

The published Recommendations and the Discussion document in the agenda packet only recognize an immediate response to the need for temporary shelter in the event of prolonged or unusually inclement weather conditions and not to the existing state of homelessness in Humboldt. The document further states that a declaration of a shelter crisis is premature because there is no statistical data before the Board to support a finding that a "significant number of persons" within the County are without ability to obtain shelter, and that the situation has resulted in "a threat to the health and safety of those persons." This statement is followed by a concluding statement "to refer this matter to staff so that they can provide the information needed in order for this Board to make a factual determination whether a shelter crisis exists."

In 2016, Megan Kurteff Schatz stood in front of the joint board meeting of the BOS and the Eureka City Council and, in a response to Supervisor Sundberg's question about how a shelter crisis might impact the decision to go with Homeless Strategy Implementation Plan and the Housing First Strategy, conceded that following their strategy to respond to homelessness, which by design fails to provide for the immediate shelter needs of those who remain homeless until other housing is available, could and even by implication is likely to contribute to the death of people without shelter. And indeed, since 2016 this has been the case. It was recently brought to your attention in public comments, and recognized at Homeless Person's Memorial Day held at the Gazebo plaza in Eureka on December 21st, that just in this year alone more than a dozen people have died as a result of being on the street with no options for places to live.

In addition, it isn't even about lack of funds for many of Humboldt's residents who are without housing as they have wherewithal but no place to go. There are many different groups now working on homeless issues. Many community groups also want to be part of the solution. The idea of petitioning the County Board for the declaration of a shelter crisis is to put in motion the means by which we can take care of our neighbors in ways that work for them and for the communities of Humboldt. It would also work for you, the leadership. The Housing and Homeless Coalition and numerous other community groups and organizations are postured to act on a shelter crisis declaration now more than ever and not just for one emergency shelter to provide a four month opportunity for 40 people to get out of the weather.

Let's have a real discussion about how this can happen and not limit or put constraints on the discussion before it happens. Please revisit the petition and the public's request: "Therefore, we are calling for the Board of Supervisors of Humboldt County to place this Shelter Crisis on the Board Agenda and 1) Declare a Humboldt County Shelter Crisis and 2) appoint a county-wide Task Force that includes representatives from all homeless stakeholder groups to develop services and land access to successfully relocate all homeless people temporarily into multiple legal sanctuary camps to tiny house villages in SB2 or other available areas UNTIL there are adequate and accessible shelter beds or low income housing available for these persons."

Please, expand your thinking and our opportunity for discussing how we all can benefit from the declaration of a shelter crisis in Humboldt County. The evidence of a shelter crisis is before all of us daily as we travel from community to community. How can we imagine that a shelter crisis does not exist in Humboldt County? It seems inadequate to think that staff of relevant departments in the County are going to be able to provide accurate data at this time when we all know that the data gathered to date is flawed, seriously flawed. We need to use the lived experience of many of us that interface daily with the homeless and the homeless themselves to inform you and provide the evidence that a shelter crisis exists in Humboldt. We do not have time to continue keeping people outside with no support (2/3 of the homeless population) simply because the tasks at hand or the decisions to act on what we do know have not been handled effectively. People's lives depend on it. We have an opportunity to do better right now. Shelter and Humboldt County's ability to address it, with all of us engaged, still rests in your hands.

I am unable to attend the Supervisors meeting on Tuesday due a death in my family. Again, I urge you to facilitate a deep and open exchange of ideas by declaring a shelter crisis and acting to engage a Task Force and all of your constituents in addressing homeless solutions. We are an amazing county and the best is yet to be. Believe in us.

Sincere Best Wishes,

Nezzie Wade

January 8, 2018

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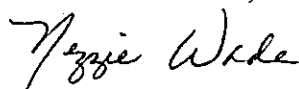
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