

**BRINGING FAMILIES HOME (BFH) PROGRAM
CERTIFICATION, BUDGET, AND MATCH**

This form must be completed by all applicants applying for BFH funding for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 through FY 2021-22.

County Agency/Tribe Name: Humboldt County DHHS & Yurok Tribe

I. BFH PROGRAM CONTACTS

The contact(s) listed below will be the primary person for questions or follow up for both the proposal and program. The contact's information will also be available to the public and stakeholders for direct questions.

Primary County/Tribe BFH Contact

Contact Name and Title: CONNIE BECK, DHHS DIRECTOR

Address: 507 F ST EUREKA, CA 95501

Email Address: cbeck@co.humboldt.ca.us Phone Number: 707/441-5400

Secondary County/Tribe BFH Contact

Contact Name and Title: STEPHANIE WELDON, MSW, DIRECTOR, YUROK TRIBE
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Email Address: sweldon@yuroktribe.nsn.us Phone Number: 707/445-2422

II. PROGRAM APPLICATION PACKAGE CHECKLIST

Complete program applications will include the following. Refer to Attachment One for detailed application packaging requirements.

- X Certification, Funding Request, and Match (Attachment Two)
- X New Program Description Template (Attachment Four)
- X Housing First Assessment (Attachment Five)
- X Letters of Support (See Attachment One for more information)

III. PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST

All applicants must complete sections a, b, c, and d below. Continuing BFH Programs must also complete section e. Note: information below should match the Detailed Program Budget and Match Template.

- a. Amount of state BFH funding the applicant is requesting
(i.e., total amount, without match, for FY 2019-22): 1,521,931
- b. Match amount the applicant is proposing: 4,557,178
- c. Total amount of funding the applicant is proposing
(i.e., the total amount (a), with match (b), for FY 2019-22): 6,079,109

- d. Estimated number of families the BFH will **newly** house in permanent housing from FY 2019-22: 129
- e. (Continuing BFHs Only) Number of families the BFH will **continue to support** in permanent housing during FY 2019-21 (i.e., number of families housed prior to FY 2019-20 who will continue to receive case management and/or housing subsidies or other financial assistance through the BFH): N/A

IV. COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTOR AND/OR TRIBAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

I certify that the County Welfare Department or Tribe will administer the BFH Program pursuant to the conditions set forth by the California Department of Social Services. I certify that the information completed above and attached is true and correct.

Print Name: CONNIE BECK

Signature:



Date:

11-7-19

Print Name: STEPHANIE WELDON

Signature:



Date:

11/7/19

V. DETAILED PROGRAM BUDGET

Per Welfare and Institutions Code section 16523.1(d)(1), a county child welfare agency or tribe that receives state funds under this program must match that funding on a dollar-by-dollar basis. The county child welfare agency or tribal funds used for this purpose must supplement, not supplant, county or tribal funding already intended for these purposes (see Attachment Six for more information).

BFH applicants must complete all components of the budget templates provided below. The projected program budget is broken down by fiscal year and includes space for the applicant to provide both the amount of match funding **and** the source of match funding.

In addition to alignment with overall program design, strong applications will demonstrate an ability to maximize financial assistance while minimizing program administrative costs and maximizing funding on permanent housing costs.

For more information about allowable match sources, see Attachment Six.

Note for Continuing BFH Programs: Continuing BFH Programs must include their planning allocation received in July 2019 in their total budget outline.

Note for New BFH Applicants: As described in Attachment One, funded programs are expected to begin serving BFH families by July 1, 2020 and may use the time from allocation to June 30, 2020 for program planning and implementation. As a result of this implementation period, the projected budget for FY 2019-20 may be less than subsequent years. However, if an applicant can implement sooner, they should indicate their anticipated timeline in Attachment Four and include all expected expenses in the FY 2019-20 budget template.

New BFH Programs will be required to demonstrate their ability to successfully operate a BFH Program before receiving authorization from the CDSS to start serving clients. The CDSS will work closely with funded programs during the implementation phase to support program development, goals, and budgeting. Additional guidance will be provided to funded programs during the allocation process.

A. Anticipated BFH Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget

	BFH (State) Funds	BFH Match (including Amount and Source)
Administration (e.g., data tracking, program management, overhead costs, benefits, data tracking)	\$2,260	
Housing Navigation and Case Management (e.g., housing case managers, housing navigator, life skills training, legal/credit repair assistance, cross-agency liaison)	\$60,790	\$57,157 IV-B, IV-E, 2011 Realignment, County General Fund
Financial Assistance		
	BF (State) Funds	BFH Match (including Amount and Source)
Rapid Rehousing Subsidies (if applicable)		
Long Term Housing Subsidies (if applicable) (e.g., Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers, Housing Choice vouchers, affordable housing, supportive housing)		
Interim Housing Interventions (e.g., motels, shelters, bridge housing)		\$35,238.63 County General Fund
Other Financial Assistance (e.g., other housing intervention costs, deposits, making the home habitable, move-in costs, landlord outreach, engagement, and/or financial incentives)		\$35,238.63 County General Fund
Total Amount	\$63,050	\$127,634
Target Number of Families to House in FY 2019-20		
Total Number of Families to House		5
Number of Families to Continue to House (Continuing Counties Only) Families housed in the previous fiscal year who will continue to receive support via BFH (e.g., financial support and/or case management)		N/A

B. Anticipated BFH Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget

	BFH (State) Funds	BFH Match (including Amount and Source)
Administration (e.g., data tracking, program management, overhead costs, benefits, data tracking)	\$2,630	
Housing Navigation and Case Management (e.g., housing case managers, housing navigator, life skills training, legal/credit repair assistance, cross-agency liaison)	\$185,955	\$1,899,772 IV-B, IV-E, 2011 Realignment, County General Fund
Financial Assistance		
	BFH (State) Funds	BFH Match (including Amount and Source)
Rapid Rehousing Subsidies (if applicable)	\$225,550	\$315,000 2011 Realignment
Long Term Housing Subsidies (if applicable) (e.g., Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers, Housing Choice vouchers, affordable housing, supportive housing)		
Interim Housing Interventions (e.g., motels, shelters, bridge housing)		
Other Financial Assistance (e.g., other housing intervention costs, deposits, making the home habitable, move-in costs, landlord outreach, engagement, and/or financial incentives)	\$87,500	
Total Amount	\$501,635	\$2,214,772
Target Number of Families to House in FY 2020-21		
Total Number of Families to House		62

C. Anticipated BFH Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget

	BFH (State) Funds	BFH Match (including Amount and Source)
Administration (e.g., data tracking, program management, overhead costs, benefits, data tracking)	\$2,630	
Housing Navigation and Case Management (e.g., housing case managers, housing navigator, life skills training, legal/credit repair assistance, cross-agency liaison)	\$191,566	\$1,899,772 IV-B, IV-E, 2011 Realignment, County General Fund
Financial Assistance		
	BFH (State) Funds	BFH Match (including Amount and Source)
Rapid Rehousing Subsidies (if applicable)	\$675,550	\$315,000 2011 Realignment
Long Term Housing Subsidies (if applicable) (e.g., Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers, Housing Choice vouchers, affordable housing, supportive housing)		
Interim Housing Interventions (e.g., motels, shelters, bridge housing)		
Other Financial Assistance (e.g., other housing intervention costs, deposits, making the home habitable, move-in costs, landlord outreach, engagement, and/or financial incentive)	\$87,500	
Total Amount	\$957,246	\$2,214,772
Target Number of Families to House in FY 2021-22		
Total Number of Families to House		62

VI. Match Funds Details

List each source of match funding below including the type, amount, and any additional description necessary. (See Attachment Six for more information on allowable match sources.)

	Source (Name of Entity)	Type (cash, in-kind, etc.)	Description of match	Amount
1.	County of Humboldt	In-kind	2011 Realignment	\$1,219,680
2.	County of Humboldt	In-kind	County General Fund	\$165,587
3.	County of Humboldt	In-kind	Title IV-B	\$19,022
4.	County of Humboldt	In-kind	Title IV-E	\$3,152,889
5.				
6.				
Total Amount of Match				\$4,557,178
<i>Total amount should be consistent with match amounts completed on page 1.</i>				

**BRINGING FAMILIES HOME PROGRAM:
NEW PROGRAM DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE**

New Program Description Template

Applicants applying for Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program funding must complete the template below. Responses will be evaluated by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) according to the evaluation criteria outlined in Attachment One. Strong responses will provide detailed analyses on how the applicant plans to align with evidence-based and best practices. Attachment Seven provides additional information on evidence-based interventions and best practices; applicants should use this as a resource as they complete this template.

All elements must be completed. Responses should be concise and limit responses to 25 pages total. Applications with missing or incomplete elements will be considered incomplete.

When responding to each component below, applicants should include the following in addition to their description:

- 1) how program plans will meet the needs of your community and aligns with best practices;
- 2) and anticipated timelines for implementation and milestones (including anticipated completion dates, if applicable).

Recommendation: If using percentages in your responses, also include the raw numbers to provide additional context. For example: 25 percent of BFH recipients (i.e., 50 of the 200 BFH recipients) exited into community provided housing. Applicants should cite all data sources.

A Word version of this template may be requested by emailing Housing@dss.ca.gov.

A. Identifying Need and Outreach

1. Applicants should consider both their identified need (i.e., the number of families experiencing homelessness and receiving child welfare services in the county or tribe) and their capacity to utilize the funding within the specified timeframe. Examples of data source options include but are not limited to: Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) data, Structured Decision Making (SDM) data, California Child Welfare Indicators Project (CCWIP) data, County Point in Time (PIT) count, homeless Continuum of Care/ Homeless Management Information System (CoC/HMIS) encounter data, and, for tribal applicants, applicable tribal data resources (such as data on instances where Indian children, whose tribes are correctly identified, are being served in the county child welfare system).

In the spaces below, provide the information requested using data referencing both family reunification (FR) and family maintenance (FM) cases experiencing literal homelessness or imminent risk of homelessness. From WIC section 16523(d), for literally homeless use subsections 2, 3, or 4 and for imminent risk of homelessness use subsections 5(A) through 5(C) of WIC section 16523(d).

Complete responses will include data sources.

- a. Total number of child welfare involved families experiencing literal homelessness and imminent risk of homelessness, separated by FR and FM case components.

	Family Reunification	Family Maintenance
Literally Homeless	24	48
Imminent Risk of Homelessness	2	12

Total number of families with an open child welfare case (i.e., either FR or FM) that are literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness:

86

Data Source(s):

1. CMS/CWS FY18-19 Open Cases FM/FR
2. SSB Fiscal-FY18-19 Housing Datapool (shows \$90k authorized requests)
3. PACT Data FY18-19 (provided by Housing & Assistance- Robert Ward)
4. CalWorks Data FY18-19 (provided by Housing & Assistance)
5. Street Contacts Data FY18-19 (provided by Housing & Assistance)
6. Betty Chin Data FY18-19 (provided by Housing & Assistance)

- b. Number of child welfare involved families your BFH Program **intends to serve** by June 30, 2022 and how this goal was determined. (Note: the total goal listed below should be the same as the goal entered in Attachment Two.)

	Family Reunification	Family Maintenance
Literally Homeless	36	72
Imminent Risk of Homelessness	3	18

Total number of families with an open child welfare case (i.e., either FR or FM) that are literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness that your program intends to serve by June 30, 2022: 129

How this goal was determined (including data sources):

We plan to serve 129 FR or FM families through June 30, 2022 and we will endeavor to transition all of them to permanent housing as quickly as possible. Others will be assisted by the project by provision of interim housing using existing resources such as motel vouchers and local shelter providers under contract with DHHS.

We used the data sources identified above. We also relied on information provided by DHHS HOME unit based on its history and experience of providing PSH and services to individuals and families with disabilities including serious mental illness since 2006. CWS Supervisors were polled to determine reasonableness of this number of families based on current caseloads.

2. In the space below, describe your community’s need for BFH, including how BFH will address the need identified above and how BFH will address gaps in housing services for this population. If applicable, provide additional narrative to further explain your data and analysis (e.g., housing availability in the community or on tribal land, impact of natural disasters, housing/homeless resources available to BFH-eligible families, and/or families’ ability to access these resources).

DHHS HOME has been providing housing navigation and financial assistance for the past 13 years. Due to constraints on funding for supportive services we have only been able to work with persons experiencing serious mental illness (SMI). We use the Case Management and Clinical Services provided by DHHS-Mental Health to provide services. DHHS-HOME has only been able to house a handful of families whose head of household has SMI due to very limited funding available for support services to other equally needy families. BFH will provide a fund for financial assistance and housing navigation to families in need that do not meet the SMI requirement.

The experience of DHHS-HOME teaches us there is a significant lack of housing affordable to persons at all income levels. Families with Very Low and Extremely Low Income bear the brunt of this deficiency because they are competing with others with greater resources. To begin to remedy this gap, DHHS has partnered with local housing developers to build housing using funding and tax credits accessible to Special Needs Populations. One of these projects is designed specifically for families in poverty, Samoa Townhomes. Expected to be completed by September 2020, the project will have 79 affordable units with 2 to 4 bedrooms and community amenities for families: on-site medical clinic and mental health services, childcare, after school programs, parenting support and education, play groups, community gardens and more. Having BFH financial support for these families will allow DHHS to house families that are very low income but don’t meet SMI definition. (DHHS-HOME has reserved 20 of the 79 units for families that need supportive housing. We will also help families get on the waiting list for the other 59 affordable units.)

Humboldt is home to eight Federally recognized Tribes, including the Yurok Tribe the largest Tribe in California. Like many of the Tribes, the Yurok Tribal members have a limited housing available on and off the reservation. Often many Tribal families leave their Tribal homelands to seek treatment and services and are at imminent risk of homelessness. Tribal children are overrepresented in the Humboldt Child Welfare system. Of the child population of Humboldt county Native American Children make up approximately 7%, yet Native American children are involved in Humboldt CWS at rates of 35-39%.

3. In the space below, describe how you will use outreach and/or in-reach strategies to identify families for BFH, in accordance with the prioritization scheme outlined in Attachment One. Also describe the steps you will take to ensure that staff and partners are aware of the program.

DHHS has teams of street outreach workers that go out into the community several times a week seeking to engage persons experiencing homelessness, as well as conducting in-reach at all emergency shelters. DHHS outreach teams would be trained on BFH eligibility requirements and the benefits the program can provide to participants such that they will be able to identify

potentially eligible literally homeless families and shall refer them to the BFH program coordinator. DHHS Eastern area team (Measure Z team) that provides target SUD and behavioral health services to Native Americans in the Eastern area will be trained on the program benefits and eligibility and provide outreach to the Tribal communities in the Eastern part of the county.

CWS staff will also be trained in eligibility rules and program benefits so that they are able to identify eligible families and refer them to the BFH program coordinator. DHHS will coordinate and include Yurok Tribal TANF, ICWA, and other program staff in the trainings. DHHS will also outreach and develop a partnership with Yurok Indian Housing authority in order to provide outreach and strengthen partnership opportunities to fill existing gaps in service delivery to Yurok families. DHHS will fund .5 FTE of a Yurok Tribal outreach coordinator through contracting with the Yurok Tribe. In order to inform community partners, DHHS will employ a multi-media strategy, including flyers, a webpage, and a press release that would be sent to all local media outlets including television, radio, newspapers and internet, community events and we will make announcements on social media. DHHS will work with Tribes to develop a culturally informed media strategy to specifically outreach to Tribal communities. DHHS also offers “benefits basics” trainings to community partners and we would include BFH information in these trainings.

B. Prioritization and Assessment

1. Funded programs must coordinate with the greater homelessness response system, including the local homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) and Coordinated Entry (CE) System. At minimum, applicants are expected to be able to accept referrals from their CE and submit referrals if BFH is unable to meet the family’s homelessness needs. (See Attachment Seven for additional information on CoC and CE).

In the space below, describe your plans for BFH participation in your local CE, including a description of steps and timeline for integration. Responses should include how you will participate in the flow and ongoing functions of the CE (e.g., the ability to accept referrals and send referrals, by-name list discussions, etc.). Indicate your current partnership with other homelessness services in your community and any plans for expanding these partnerships to implement BFH.

BFH will accept referrals from the Humboldt County Coordinated Entry System (CES) and will help families enroll in the CES if BFH is unable to provide the family what is necessary to exit homelessness. CES intake workers will be trained on BFH eligibility in order to identify families that are potentially eligible and in need of a referral. BFH staff will be trained so that they understand how the CES operates. DHHS manages the CES and we anticipate that coordination with the CES will be fully operational as soon as BFH launches, should funds be awarded.

2. Funded programs must use an assessment tool to determine a family’s housing and service needs, including a plan to help families meet their identified needs. Assessment tools can be pre-existing tools like the Vulnerability Index - Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) or can be created by the applicant based on nationally recognized models and evidence-based practices (e.g., adapting the VI-SPDAT to better

serve your community). Funded programs are expected to use their assessment tool in accordance with the prioritization scheme outlined in Attachment One. In the spaces below, describe:

- a. The housing assessment tool you plan to use and a description of your implementation plan (including steps and associated timeline), and how the tool will be used to help enroll families and assist them with creating a plan to meet their identified needs.

DHHS will utilize the VI-SPDAT to inform our decisions about each family's housing and service needs, including plans to help families meet their identified needs. DHHS will work with the Yurok Tribe Health and Human Services Department to make adaptations to fit and better serve the Yurok community.

- b. In the space below, describe how you will prioritize enrollment of families and how you will connect families unable to be served by BFH to other resources. (See the prioritization scheme outlined in Attachment One.)

DHHS will create and maintain a list of all families with CWS involvement whom are known to be literally homeless as defined in subsections 2, 3 or 4 of WIC § 16523(d). These families shall be the first priority for BFH enrollment. If sufficient resources are available to serve these families, the second order or priority shall be families who will imminently lose their housing as defined in subsections 5(A) through 5(C) of WIC § 16523(d). All other eligible families shall be the third order of priority. A targeted effort will be made to prioritize Yurok involved CWS families that meet the criteria above. The prioritization is based on the population vulnerability, disproportionate involvement in CWS, and the partnership. Additionally, Yurok families involved in the Joint Family Wellness court will receive additional priority.

The demand for supportive housing (PSH & RRH) resources that are attached to the Coordinated Entry System is vastly disproportionate to the availability in Humboldt County, such that only those households that meet the HUD definition of chronic homelessness have any hope of receiving it, and there is not enough PSH for the vast majority of people who are chronically homeless at any given time. BFH will be trained on to identify CWS families that meet the definition of chronic homelessness and shall assist any CWS involved family they believe to be chronically homeless in enrolling in the CES. Most families will be assisted by Rapid Rehousing with support services but some will need PSH with intensive services for an unlimited period of time.

C. Housing Interventions

Competitive applications will have a clear plan to provide BFH families with evidence-based housing services, including Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Supportive Housing (SH), and/or subsidies to make rental housing affordable, whether the services are provided directly through BFH or one is provided through BFH and others through a partner in the community. (See Attachments One and Seven for more information.) As a reminder, BFH families should be continually assessed for their housing needs and be connected to the appropriate level of services needed to successfully exit homelessness, including both RRH and SH.

1. Describe the housing intervention(s) and services that will be provided by BFH (note if the interventions will be offered in-house or contracted out).

DHHS will prioritize families with severe service needs for BFH. As such, we expect that Rapid Rehousing will be the most appropriate intervention for all BFH participating families. Level of support services will be determined by CWS and family. We expect families needing BFH assistance will be in need of a wide variety of supportive services. In line with Housing First principles, the decision to accept services rests with the family except for those required by Court order. This supportive housing program will combine permanent, affordable housing with services that help families live more stable, productive lives. We will have 10 2-bedroom units and 10 3-bedroom units at a new housing complex that will be intended and designated for BFH families who are homeless and who have multiple barriers to independent living. Other families will be housed in units that will be available for rent on the open market, and these other families will receive intensive housing navigation services to help them lease an appropriate unit that they have chosen. Families will have leases directly with the landlords with all the usual rights of California tenants. Families will pay no more than 30% of household income toward rent and utilities thanks to the provision of BFH and other rental subsidies such as the Housing Choice Voucher program.

We will endeavor to make agreements with housing owners and property managers that will help us coordinate to address issues that may threaten housing stability. All members of the families will have easy, facilitated access to a flexible and comprehensive array of supportive services designed to assist the tenants to achieve and sustain housing stability. DHHS staff will proactively seek to engage tenants in on-site and community-based supportive services, but participation in such services will not be a condition of tenancy. All services will be provided directly by BFH.

If a family has lower needs such that rapid rehousing without intensive support services is a more appropriate intervention, they will be served by the CalWORKs Housing Support Program.

2. Describe the other housing-related services (e.g., housing interventions) available in your community that BFH families will be connected to, if needed. In your description, include how BFH families will be connected to those resources. Specifically address how these resources will be used if the program will be unable to provide one of the housing intervention types (either in house or through a contracted provider).

Families that are eligible for BFH that cannot be enrolled in BFH due to a lack of capacity, or who need a lower level of service than supportive housing, will be referred to DHHS's CalWORKs Housing Support Program, which can provide up to two years of rental assistance, housing navigation services and supportive services after the families have entered housing.

In addition, BFH will use other community housing resources to support families until an apartment or house is secured for them. BFH staff will refer and assist application to family shelters including those already under contract for services with DHHS. Family friendly motels can also be used for temporary or bridge housing.

Several of the CoC member agencies also operate PSH and RRH programs and CWS and Yurok Tribal services staff can assist families in making these connections.

3. Describe resource constraints in your community to providing these evidence-based housing services through BFH or community partners and how the applicant will work to address these constraints.

The need for supportive housing in Humboldt County is very extreme relative to the supply. The availability of long-term rental assistance is a particular concern. DHHS's supportive housing program has employed a strategy of using time limited rental assistance to get a household into permanent housing as quickly as possible, and to help them get on the waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs as quickly as possible. DHHS includes our contact information on the application to the Housing Authority so that our staff are notified when the person comes up on the waiting list. We have found this to be extremely important because the Housing Authority still communicates through the postal service and we have observed that the BFH target population often does not check and open their mail in a timely manner. The Housing Authority also purges the waiting list periodically by sending letters that must be responded to in order to prevent a family from being purged, so our staff are able to ensure that participants are aware and respond.

There are many, many more people in Humboldt County that are eligible for the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs than are receiving housing assistance, and yet the Housing Authority struggles with utilization rates. Many people that receive vouchers are unable to locate a housing unit within the time allotted by the Housing Authority that is priced at or below the HUD limits that meets quality standards with a landlord that will accept the voucher. By providing housing navigation services and time limited rental assistance, we have found that we can get households into units where they will be able to use their vouchers once their number comes up on the waiting list, eliminating the potential that they would get a voucher only to be unable to use it, causing them to go back to the bottom of the waiting list.

The Humboldt County Continuum of Care recently persuaded the Housing Authority to create a waiting list preference for HUD CoC program-funded supportive housing participants. Once participants have been stably housed for six months, the Housing Authority will move not more than 20 participants per year to the top of the waiting list for a voucher. DHHS continues to provide supportive services to the supportive housing families which should allow us to significantly increase supportive housing capacity in the County over time. If BFH funds are awarded we will endeavor to enter into a similar agreement with the Housing Authority for BFH participants.

4. Describe the process for BFH enrollment. Include a description of the process from referral to approval and how housing intervention determinations will be made (i.e., which housing intervention will the family receive). Include a proposed timeline for this process. (Answers may reference previous answers to questions surrounding CE, assessment, etc.)

The BFH program coordinator will maintain a list of potentially eligible families, with referrals accepted from multiple sources including DHHS street outreach workers, all CES entry points including 2-1-1 and the Arcata House Annex "One-Stop" drop in center, and from CWS social workers, Yurok Tribal social workers, Yurok Tribal TANF, and other CWS staff. BFH program staff will administer the VI-SPDAT to inform the decision about whether to prioritize the family

for BFH or for CalWORKs HSP rapid rehousing, but the program coordinator will consider all available data sources in addition to the VI-SPDAT in making prioritization decisions.

The program coordinator will make a decision on whether to prioritize each family referred for BFH or to refer them to other resources such as HSP within 10 business days of receiving the referral.

5. Critical to any housing program are several key elements. In the spaces provided below, describe the county and/or tribe's plans to provide these elements. Note: include if these elements will be offered in-house or contracted out (if contracting out, identify the intended contractor and/or the process to procure a contractor), and if they will differ depending on the housing intervention(s) planned to be provided.

a. Case Management Plans (including the use of evidence-based models, such as motivational interviewing and trauma-informed care to engage families);

CWS staff will develop detailed case management plans for all BFH participating families. Plans will be developed around the service philosophy of helping participants maximize their ability to live independently. This philosophy is based on providing compassionate, individualized, voluntary services designed to help participants meet their own goals for self-sufficiency and self-determination.

CWS staff will use evidence-based practices including motivational interviewing and trauma-informed care to engage families and to help them identify their own goals that will be listed in their written case plans. Once goals have been identified, staff will work with the families to develop specific strategies to help them achieve their goals.

For Yurok Tribal families, CWS will be sure to work with the Yurok Tribe and assure that case planning is collaborative and timely along with culturally responsive. For Joint Jurisdictional Family Wellness Court clients, CWS works with the entire family wellness team in case planning. Most of Yurok staff time will be provided via in house, and DHHS will contract with the Yurok Tribe to staff time to provide outreach and case management.

b. Housing navigation and identification;

DHHS staff will provide housing navigation and identification services to all BFH participants. The BFH program coordinator will identify the participants' strengths as well as barriers related to housing and will employ various strategies to overcome barriers. DHHS has an agreement with AmRent, a national provider of background checks to landlords that allows us to see what the landlords will see before we submit a rental application. With the participants' consent, we attach these background checks to rental applications with a letter from the program coordinator that can provide information that can mitigate negative information found in background checks.

Over our thirteen-year history of working with landlords to house people experiencing homelessness with significant barriers to housing, we have developed relationships with a number of landlords and property managers, from small mom and pop operations to the largest property management company in the County. Landlords have come to trust that they will

receive our rental assistance payments in a timely manner, and they appreciate that there are professional service providers that they can call when problems arise so that they don't need to have very difficult conversations directly with tenants who are exhibiting problematic behaviors.

DHHS is constantly employing landlord outreach and recruitment strategies, including our Landlord Benefits Checklist and landlord marketing letters. Our best strategy for landlord recruitment is that we have consistently built and maintained our reputation for providing high quality services and being very responsive to landlord concerns. Humboldt County is a close-knit community and reputation is everything. Word travels fast among landlords and property managers.

The BFH program coordinator will complete a housing preferences worksheet with each participating household that will help us conduct a more targeted housing search in collaboration with the participants. Staff will collect all of the information that is typically needed on rental applications and will assist the participants in completing applications, informed with information from background check reports. Many households with severe service needs do not "present well" to landlords, so staff will coach them on various aspects of communicating with landlords and property managers so that they can put their best foot forward when meeting landlords in person or communicating with them on the phone. We will also cover application fees for participants which allows us to cast a wide net for units.

- c. Interim housing interventions (e.g., shared housing with friends and family, shelters, motels, bridge housing);

BFH staff will be trained to employ problem solving techniques to help participants tap into their own social networks so that they can stay with friends and family whenever possible. When this is not possible, CWS has secured a commitment from Redwood Community Action Agency to prioritize beds in their temporary housing facilities for BFH participants. When space is not available in these facilities, CWS may assist families in securing beds at the Eureka Rescue Mission. If none of these options are feasible, CWS has resources to pay for motel stays while we work to move the families into more appropriate and financially sustainable housing.

- d. Rent and Housing-Related Financial Assistance (including but not limited to move-in costs, rental subsidies, utility payments, moving costs, etc.). Include expected average duration and maximum duration of financial assistance—noting progressive engagement strategies, where appropriate;

All BFH participants will receive rent and housing-related financial assistance, including, but not limited to, rental subsidies, utility allowances, application fees and assistance with moving costs. We will endeavor to continue subsidizing the rent using BFH, HSP and other funds available to CWS for as long as it takes to transition the families to a permanent source of rental assistance—primarily the Housing Choice Voucher and Public Housing programs, but also potentially Continuum of Care program-funded permanent supportive housing.

Because we anticipate these families having high needs, progressive engagement strategies that are typically employed in rapid rehousing programs would not be appropriate. Rather we intend to provide intensive services from the moment of enrollment, and to regularly re-evaluate each family's needs so that we can increase or decrease the level of services as needed. Financial assistance will generally be provided under guidelines of rapid rehousing, i.e. limited to 2 years. However, families with very high needs will receive PSH with intensive services and financial assistance for rent as long as necessary. These families will be prioritized internally for Housing Choice Vouchers. DHHS is currently working with the Housing Authority to develop and implement a FUP project.

- e. Housing Stabilization and Retention Services (including ongoing tenant engagement, case management, public systems assistance, legal services, credit repair assistance, life skills training, and conflict mediation with landlords and neighbors).

CWS staff will provide ongoing tenant engagement and case management services. Case managers do not provide every service a tenant needs, but rather they help broker relationships between the tenant and service providers. Case management includes new tenant orientation, assistance with accessing childcare, community building activities and transportation assistance to help the participants access services in the community.

If CWS staff believe any household members may meet criteria for specialty mental health services and/or DHHS substance use disorder services, staff will explain what services are available and the potential benefits of these services. If participants are interested in receiving these services, CWS and Yurok Tribal staff will guide them through the process of obtaining services, including helping them make and keep appointments for the assessments that are required in order to access services. DHHS-CWS will work collaboratively with Yurok Tribal staff to ensure Yurok Tribal members have access to needed services in their communities.

CWS staff will provide independent living skills training to participants including assistance with rent payment and budgeting, conflict resolution, training in cooking/meal preparation, training in personal hygiene and self-care, and training in housekeeping and apartment safety.

Staff will link participants to vocational services that are designed to assist participants in accessing employment or improving their employment situation, including vocational counseling, job placement and supported employment. These services will be provided by the DHHS CalWORKs Welfare to Work program, and the DHHS Employment and Training Division. Staff will also inform participants of, and help them obtain services through, the "Job Market"- a one-stop workforce system where job seekers may use computers for job searches, attend workshops, pick up job listings and meet with vocational counselors.

Staff will guide participants through every step of the process of obtaining or regaining all available benefits that participants will likely be eligible for, including CalFresh, Medi-Cal, and CalWORKs, and will provide assistance with things like periodic reports that must be submitted in order to avoid discontinuance of benefits.

Staff will also link participants to physical health providers, including helping them establish a primary care provider- specifically Open Door Community Health Centers. DHHS has a very close and productive working relationship with Open Door.

DHHS employs a number of peer support specialists and “parent partners” that will provide peer support services to families. For adults, peer support services are provided by someone who is on their own recovery journey and has received training in how to be helpful to others who participate in behavioral health services. For children, peer services are called “family-to-family” services. DHHS has observed that trained specialists with lived experience of mental illness and substance use disorder often have a particular ability to engage program participants in services. Specialists can help people find interesting or fun things to do, advocate for themselves, make friends, get a job, find better housing and learn skills to live well in the community. Through this partnership with the Yurok Tribe, DHHS will take steps to employ Tribal peer support specialists and parent partners to provide culturally responsive peer support services to families.

Last but not least, social activities are an important way to build community within supportive housing. Some activities will be provided by housing and service providers, and others may be led by participants themselves. Examples of activities that DHHS staff have helped lead include fishing in Humboldt Bay, mindfulness meditation, bowling and Tai Chi. Cultural engagement activities and opportunities will be provided to Yurok and other Native American families through contracts that DHHS is currently developing with Tribal Services providers.

D. Housing First

Funded programs must operate their BFH in compliance with the core components of Housing First. The CDSS has developed a Housing First Assessment (Attachment Five) to support applicants in assessing their adherence to and adoption of Housing First.

Applicants must submit a completed Housing First self-assessment, including goals for the Fiscal Year 2019-22 funding cycle, with the application package. Applicants are encouraged to use Attachment Five as a tool for assessing their progress throughout the year. (See Attachment Seven for additional information on Housing First.)

E. Collaborating with Partners

1. Partnerships and collaboration are critical to the success of BFH. Funded programs must coordinate with their homelessness response system, including participation in their local homeless CoC and designation of a cross-agency liaison who will coordinate between the county welfare agency and/or tribe and the CoC. Note: BFH funds may be used to help fund the role of a cross-agency liaison.

Additionally, funded programs should partner with community housing and homelessness providers (e.g., housing providers, shelters, Housing Authority, etc.), as well as local child welfare, social services, and juvenile dependency courts. Tribal applicants are encouraged to identify and describe any structural barriers to these partnerships and areas the CDSS can assist tribal applicants in navigating and/or problem solving.

In the spaces below, describe:

- a. How BFH services will be provided in coordination with other services provided by county child welfare agency and/or tribe, family resource centers, family courts,

social services, the greater homelessness response system (including the CoC), and/or other services.

CWS will be providing the BFH services. DHHS will contract for some of the Yurok specific services directly with the Yurok Tribe Health and Human Services Department in effort to support specific Tribally tailored outreach and support. DHHS will inform family resource centers (FRC) about the eligibility requirements and benefits of BFH so that they can assist with outreach, engagement and referral of families that are potentially eligible. CWS staff will link BFH participants to services that are available at the FRCs such as providing backpacks, school supplies, clothing, shoes, laundry vouchers, emergency food support, access to computers, printers and the internet. DHHS-Social Services administers the CalWORKs HSP program, which may be able to provide rental assistance and other financial assistance to some BFH participants. Social Services will work closely with CWS to ensure that all BFH participants are receiving all benefits that they are eligible for. The greater homelessness response system will provide temporary shelter and services designed to help BFH participants exit those facilities to permanent housing as rapidly as possible. The CES will prioritize BFH participants that meet criteria for chronic homelessness for supportive housing resources that are available through that system.

Member agencies of the CoC – Humboldt Housing & Homelessness Coalition (HHHC) - offer services and shelter, some already under contract with DHHS, to families. DHHS is a founding member of the HHHC and works closely with all member agencies. To assure excellent coordination, a staff member of the BFH project will have a seat at the HHHC Executive Committee table.

- b. How Child and Family Teams (or other multi-disciplinary teams) will collaborate to ensure that sources of case management are coordinated and client-centered (i.e., how will you ensure that co-case management is streamlined and that the family is not receiving mixed messages or conflicting plans/guidance)?

DHHS supportive housing programs use a care coordination software platform called ACT.md to develop, communicate, and execute shared case management plans. This reduces duplication through clear roles and responsibilities. All members of the care team can clearly see who is assigned to do what, when they were assigned to do it, and whether a task has been completed, regardless of which agency they work for. DHHS will provide access and use of the software ACT to the Yurok Tribe.

DHHS CWS is working to improve coordination and co case management with the Yurok Tribe. DHHS is working on developing an MOU with the Yurok Tribe on Yurok ICWA cases. DHHS will ensure that regular CFT's and MDT will occur regularly for BFH families. DHHS and the Yurok Tribe meet weekly with families that are involved in the dependency Joint Jurisdictional Family wellness court.

- c. How the role of the cross-agency liaison will support the efforts of collaboration. Applicants are encouraged to explore how existing positions and roles could be expanded to meet the requirements of a cross-agency liaison.

DHHS currently has a Housing and Assistance Coordinator who also serves as the CoC Coordinator, as well as being the project lead for the CES and HMIS. This person would serve

as the cross-agency liaison. This person prepares funding applications for all types of federal and state homeless assistance programs, some of which could be used to support the BFH program. They have been deeply involved in preparing this application and they are well positioned to coordinate the efforts of BFH and the larger homelessness response system because of their deep and wide knowledge of the entire spectrum of programs. They will be responsible for training CWS staff on what the larger homeless system can provide, and for informing other parts of the homeless response system on eligibility requirements and benefits of BFH. The DHHS coordinator will work with the Yurok Coordinator that will be contracted from DHHS to the Yurok Tribe. The Coordinators will engage and provide Yurok Tribal staff in these trainings.

- d. Describe any significant partnerships and their anticipated role in your BFH. If this is a joint application, use the space below to further clarify how collaboration will operate across the counties and/or tribes and how the collaborative entities will work together to meet program requirements (e.g. match requirements, reporting requirements, etc.).

DHHS-CWS has submitted this joint application in partnership with the Yurok Tribe. Yurok Tribal staff will conduct outreach in order to identify tribal members that may be eligible for this program. DHHS will provide funding via contract for Yurok Tribal portions of Yurok Tribal staff time. All BFH participating households that include at least one Yurok member will receive services provided by CWS staff in collaboration with Yurok Tribal staff. CWS, in collaboration with Yurok Tribal staff, will provide ongoing client engagement and case management services to all Yurok BFH participants as described elsewhere in this application. CWS will ensure that all required data are collected from Yurok BFH households and that they are entered into the BFH 17 and HMIS. The Yurok team and DHHS BFH staff will meet monthly during the first six months of the project to launch the project, to develop an operational MOU for BFH, and to ensure program collaboration measures and teaming is occurring as envisioned. After the initial six months the collaborative teams will meet every other month to ensure program coordination and collaboration.

2. **Per Attachment One, applicants must submit a letter(s) of support from your local COC with the application package.** Additional letters to further demonstrate collaboration with other entities (e.g., housing authority, contractors, county agencies) are encouraged. If a county applicant is partnering with a tribe, the tribe must also provide a letter of support.

F. Data

1. Applicants are required to submit monthly data reports via the BFH 17, enter data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and participate in a CDSS coordinated evaluation. The BFH 17 is an individual-level data report and includes personal identifying information (PII). Therefore, it is collected via a Secure File Transfer (SFT). Applicants are also expected to use a special projects code (SPC) in the CWS/CMS to indicate participation in BFH.

In the space below, briefly describe how you will gather the data required for the BFH 17, including the data sources you plan to use (e.g., CWS/CMS, HMIS, Statewide Automated Welfare Systems (SAWS)). The CDSS understands tribal applicants may structural barriers to accessing certain county or state systems; the CDSS is committed to working with tribes to address these barriers. If that is the case, please describe the tribe’s current ability to collect data on potential program participants and relevant data systems available to the tribe.

DHHS will customize an HMIS workflow that will allow us to collect all data elements that we will need in order to complete the BFH 17 for each household using data that we have entered into HMIS, with the exception of expenditure data which will be tracked by DHHS Financial Services and reported to the BFH program coordinator. Data that will be entered into HMIS will be collected by interviewing program participants, and also by pulling data from CWS/CMS and SAWS.

2. BFH participation in HMIS is crucial to coordination with the greater homelessness response system. Funded programs will be required to enter BFH clients’ data into HMIS, consistent with their local HMIS system and procedures.

In the space below, describe your current level of access to HMIS and steps that will be taken to be able to enter BFH into HMIS by June 30, 2020. Include a timeline of these steps. As a reminder, BFH funds may be used to acquire necessary product licenses and training. If the applicant believes there are extenuating circumstances that prevent their participation in HMIS, please describe any limitations or concerns below.

DHHS is the HMIS Lead Agency for Humboldt County, as designated by the CoC. We have staff that are prepared to design the HMIS work flow and to train BFH staff to collect and enter the required data. No data use agreements will need to be implemented. We do not anticipate any difficulties with fully integrating HMIS data collection with BFH by June 30, 2020, or earlier if we launch prior to that date.

G. Implementation Plans

1. In the space below, describe your capacity to design and implement a BFH program, and include any steps that will need to be taken in order to begin full program operation on or before July 1, 2020. For example, include items related to securing/identifying match funds, developing or finalizing formal partnerships with contractors or local housing agencies, budget development, Board of Supervisor approval, (if applicable), or any additional requirements necessary to establishing a new BFH program. For each step, identify an appropriate timeline. Indicate if you believe your agency will be able to begin serving clients prior to July 1, 2020, and if so, your expected date of planned implementation and level of services to be provided.

In the space below, describe how data and outcomes are or will be used to inform continuous quality improvement, and/or any future plans for program improvement.

HMIS intake data shall be used to set a baseline for each family that will be used to measure changes they experience between intake into BFH and exit. We shall collect the standard HMIS data elements for rapid rehousing projects, including living situation at entry, income sources and amounts, benefits and disabilities. When the family moves into permanent housing, that date will be recorded in HMIS, allowing us to track length of time between project enrollment and entry into permanent housing. At exit we will again collect data on living situation, income, benefits and disability to allow us to measure outcomes, with a particular emphasis on whether families that were literally homeless at intake were living in permanent housing at exit. We shall evaluate the outcome data and use it to inform decisions about how we are tailoring our services and financial assistance to each family.

DHHS is an integrated agency, with CWS, eligibility and employment services, HOME, and mental health all under the same leadership. That, coupled with the fact that HOME has been providing effective housing navigation services to the SMI population for years, means DHHS is equipped to implement a BFH program quickly. Immediately upon award, DHHS will pursue allocation of the new housing navigator position. HOME and CWS have already coordinated with Employee Services to ensure that this process goes as quickly as possible and that recruitment activities begin concurrently with activities to allocate the position. The budget assumes that DHHS can hire a program coordinator/housing navigator as early as March 2019 in order to immediately begin to support families. The BFH Housing Navigator will be housed in the same office as the current HOME housing navigator/program coordinator, which will further enable the BFH housing navigator to adopt the effective practices and processes of the HOME housing navigator. DHHS will draft a contract with the Yurok Tribe to fund .5 FTE of a Yurok coordinator and .5 FTE for Yurok ICWA worker to provide case planning/management. The contract will be prepared to move forward for approval and execution if funding is approved and with staff readily available to be on board April 2020.

With a BFH housing navigator on board in March 2020, CWS-referred families can be assisted immediately to locate and obtain permanent housing. Existing fund sources will be used for direct housing assistance costs incurred prior to July 1, 2020.

DHHS currently has the contractual agreements or collaborative working relationships necessary to support near-immediate implementation. The existing agreement with RCAA (see letter of support) enables CWS-BFH to refer families for immediate transitional housing. DHHS is currently working with the Housing Authority on administrative plan updates that would enable prioritization of certain vulnerable populations as identified by DHHS, and CWS-involved families would fall under the designation regardless of BFH implementation. DHHS is working on a government to government MOU- protocol with the Yurok Tribe regarding CWS cases involving Yurok children.

DHHS has fully embraced the Housing First model, as has the County of Humboldt through official adoption by the Board of Supervisors. HMIS intake data shall be used to set a baseline for each family that will be used to measure changes they experience between intake into BFH and exit. We shall collect the standard HMIS data elements for rapid rehousing projects, including living situation at entry, income sources and amounts, benefits and disabilities. When the family moves into permanent housing, that date will be recorded in HMIS, allowing us to track length of time between project enrollment and entry into permanent housing. At exit we will again collect data on living situation, income, benefits and disability to allow us to measure outcomes, with a particular emphasis on whether families that were literally homeless at intake were living in permanent housing at exit. We shall evaluate the outcome data and use it to inform decisions about how we are tailoring our services and financial assistance to each family.

BRINGING FAMILIES HOME PROGRAM HOUSING FIRST ASSESSMENT

Incorporating the Housing First Philosophy (Required)

As of July 1, 2019, Senate Bill (SB) 1380 (Chapter 847, Statutes of 2016) requires that all state-funded housing programs be operated in compliance with the core components of Housing First enumerated in [Welfare and Institutions Code \(WIC\) section 8255](#). Therefore, funded Bringing Families Home (BFH) Programs must be operated in compliance with the core components of Housing First; CDSS will continue to provide technical assistance to help counties improve practices to accomplish this requirement.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has developed a Housing First Assessment to support applicants in assessing their adherence to and adoption of Housing First, as well as space to identify areas for development. This tool was developed using: the Housing First core components in [WIC section 8255](#), [the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness \(USICH\) Housing First checklist](#), the [United States Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\) Housing First Assessment Tool](#), and the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) checklist.

This assessment is intended to provide a baseline assessment of applicants' implementation of and alignment with Housing First principles. Responses will be used by the CDSS to provide guidance and support to programs as they continue to work toward aligning with Housing First core components and best practices. Strong responses do not necessarily reflect perfect compliance but will include concrete plans for further alignment with Housing First.

For Existing BFH Programs: Applicants must complete the Part 1 of the self-assessment by checking the box that best describes program alignment with each Housing First element.

In Part 2 this assessment, applicants must complete the self-improvement plan by identifying two to three Housing First elements that they can further improve upon. Applicants must also provide a description of their improvement plans for the new funding cycle, as well as an anticipated implementation timeline.

For New BFH Applicants: Applicants must complete the self-assessment, Part 1, by checking the box that best describes how the proposed program design aligns with each Housing First element.

In the space below the matrix, applicants must provide a description of their plans to implement the Housing First core components, as well as an anticipated implementation timeline. New applicants do not need to complete Part 2.

See Attachment Seven for more information on Housing First.

Part 1. Housing First Self-Assessment					
County or Tribe: HUMBOLDT COUNTY					
Date Completed: OCTOBER 29, 2019					
Completed by: SALLY HEWITT, SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER, DHHS					
1. Low barrier entry Program enrollment is not contingent on pre-requisites such as sobriety, treatment or behavioral contingencies, disability status, income, credit or rental history, or any other behaviors that might be interpreted as indicating a lack of “housing readiness.”	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, program enrollment is not contingent on pre-requisites		<input type="checkbox"/> No, program enrollment is contingent on some pre-requisites		
2. Intake process is expedited, client-centered and flexible. Case managers meet with participants quickly and clearly communicate program expectations and offerings upon enrollment and throughout program.	All the time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Some of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Infrequently <input type="checkbox"/>	Never <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Access to housing is without preconditions Program compliance and participation in services is not a condition of receiving or maintaining housing and participation is voluntary.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, program compliance and participation is not a condition of receiving or maintaining housing and participation is voluntary.		<input type="checkbox"/> No, program compliance and participation is a condition of receiving or maintaining housing and participation is voluntary.		
4. Families are connected to permanent housing as early as possible in case planning Participants are offered quick access to rapid re-housing assistance, including housing identification, rent and move-in assistance, and case management.	All the time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Some of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Infrequently <input type="checkbox"/>	Never <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Interim Housing Interventions are offered Interim Housing Interventions (e.g., temporary housing, bridge housing, motels) are offered if permanent housing is not immediately available. If interim housing interventions are used there is a focus on safe and quick transitions to permanent housing.	All the time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Some of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Infrequently <input type="checkbox"/>	Never <input type="checkbox"/>
6. Participants are provided services that are evidence-based and client-centered When engaging clients, evidence-based models are used (e.g., motivational interviewing, client-centered counseling, harm-reduction,	All the time <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Some of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Infrequently <input type="checkbox"/>	Never <input type="checkbox"/>

trauma informed care). Clients' needs are continuously being assessed with the case plan being updated and communication is clear and ongoing.					
7. Leases or contractual agreements are used and reflect the same rights and responsibilities as other tenants. Participants receive education about their lease or occupancy agreement terms.	All the time X	Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Some of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Infrequently <input type="checkbox"/>	Never <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Every effort is made to prevent a return to homelessness Every effort is made to prevent a return to homelessness, including but not limited to rehousing. The BFH provider has protocols for how to work with families and landlords to prevent lease violations and preserve tenancy (e.g., tenant rights classes, landlord check ins, home visits). Services are continued despite change in housing status or placement.	All the time X	Most of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Some of the time <input type="checkbox"/>	Infrequently <input type="checkbox"/>	Never <input type="checkbox"/>

(For Continuing Programs) In the space below, summarize areas the program has worked to better align with housing first since implementation and any additional information to further explain the assessment above.

(For New Applicants) Use this space to describe how your program will align with Housing First and steps you will take to incorporate the components above into your program design.

Humboldt County DHHS has been operating HUD CoC-funded PSH and RRH for families and individuals whose disabilities include serious mental illness since 2006. Housing First is the policy required by Humboldt County BOS and by HUD and now by State. DHHS continues to require Housing First implementation in all new housing programs and contracts for housing and homelessness services. DHHS is very cognizant of Housing First and attributes its current success in housing placement and retention to following Housing First. To bring BFH into alignment with Housing First, DHHS's housing unit known as HOME will provide initial and on-going training to CWS and CaWORKS staff about Housing First. The BFH Housing Navigator for CWS families will be housed with HOME staff and receive continuous support to implement Housing First in CDSS BFH project.

<p align="center">Part 2. Housing First Improvement Plan (Required for Continuing Programs Only)</p> <p>Select a minimum of two Housing First elements that you can further improve upon (e.g., removing barriers to entry, home visits) and complete the table providing details as necessary. The Result column should be left blank until further improvement and completion of the goal. Attach additional pages or documents as needed.</p>			
<p>Which Housing First element needs to be improved and why? (refer to list above and Attachment Seven)</p>	<p>What is your improvement plan? (What specific policies and practices do you plan to adopt within your BFH to address the areas identified for improvement? What steps will you pursue to implement these policies and practices?)</p>	<p>Timeline (include progress and/or status updates when applicable)</p>	<p>Result (for programs to fill out upon completion of improvement plan)</p>

LETTERS OF SUPPORT ATTACHED

- 1. Humboldt Housing & Homeless Coalition (CoC CA-522)**
- 2. Yurok Tribe Health and Human Services**
- 3. Redwood Community Action Agency**
- 4. First 5 of Humboldt County**
- 5. Humboldt County Probation Department**



HUMBOLDT HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS COALITION

November 6, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The Humboldt Housing & Homelessness Coalition (HHHC) strongly supports the joint application of County DHHS and Yurok Health & Human Services to serve families with CWS involvement under the Bringing Families Home initiative.

DHHS was one of the founding organizations of HHHC in 2004 and has Co-Chaired and provided staff support since then. DHHS as a member organization has successfully operated Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing Programs over the last 13 years. DHHS acts as the Collaborative Applicant in annual HUD CoC competitions, hosts the community's HMIS system and operates the CES for Humboldt County.

The highest priorities of HHHC include increasing the supply of housing affordable to low, very low and extremely low-income families and individuals. Rental assistance programs such as BFH are critical to this effort and very much needed by families with CWS involvement experiencing homelessness.

The HHHC, DHHS, local governments, nonprofit homeless service organizations, Housing Authority, private developers and many other community partners are working to remedy the problem by building affordable housing and pursuing all funding possibilities to financially support rent for those that need temporary and long-term assistance. We have added 90 new units of PSH in new developments and will be adding an additional 79 units of affordable family housing by end of 2020. Many families involved with CWS could benefit by being housed in this new MF Housing project with BFH support.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Humboldt County is ready for a BFH project and can begin quickly to house families as most of the pieces are already in place.

Best regards,

Sally Hewitt

Sally Hewitt
Co-Chair, HHHC



Yurok Tribe Health and Human Services

3400 Erie Street, Eureka, CA 95501 Ph. (707)445-2422 Fax (707)445-2428
190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548 Ph. (707) 482-1350 Fax (707) 482.1377
Hwy 96 Weitchpec RT, Weitchpec, CA 95546 Ph. (530)625-4130. Fax (530)625-4148

November 7, 2019

California Department of Social Services
Bringing Families Home Application Review Panel
Housing and Homelessness Bureau

Re: Bringing Families Home Program Joint Application and Letter of Support

Dear CDSS:

This letter is offered in support of the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, Child Welfare Services division (DHHS-CWS) and Yurok Health & Human Services (YHHS) joint application for the Bringing Families Home (BFH) grant. Obtaining and maintaining housing has been a barrier for many of Humboldt's most vulnerable families. DHHS-CWS and YHHS often work with families experiencing the destabilizing effects of homelessness or near-homelessness.

DHHS is currently working collaboratively with the Yurok Tribe and is working on a government to government agreement to address families involved with child welfare and to improve collaboration and implementation of ICWA. A disproportionate number of Native American children are involved in the county child welfare system and disproportionate number of Native American families experience homelessness, food insecurity and poverty. YHHS supports DHHS's goal to strengthen collaboration and to work to reduce the disproportionality and health disparities of all children and families in Humboldt County.

DHHS-CWS, YHHS, Yurok Tribal Court and Humboldt County Superior Court have collaborated to implement Wellness Court; the mission of Wellness Court is to provide a path to healing for non-violent Yurok offenders affected by drugs and/or alcohol through an intensive substance abuse treatment program to improve family, community and cultural involvement, to promote healthy life choices, and to reduce criminal recidivism. Implementation of the Wellness court reflects the joint commitment of DHHS-CWS and YHHS to better serve Native American children through collaboration.

The goals of the BFH Grant align with the goals of DHHS and YHHS: providing housing-related services to families receiving child welfare services, increasing the number of families reunifying, and preventing foster care placement.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Weldon, MSW,
Yurok Health and Human Services Director



Redwood Community Action Agency

ADMINISTRATION
Information & Referral
(707) 269-2001

COMMUNITY SERVICES
(707) 269-2052
AmeriCorps Programs
(707) 269-2047
TOOTH Program
(707) 269-2076
PACT Program
(707) 269-2013

ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
(707) 444-3831
Weatherization, Ext. 204
Home Energy Assistance Program
(HEAP) Info (707) 444-3834
General Contractor
License #466777

NATURAL RESOURCES
SERVICES
(707) 269-2061
Landscape Contractor
License # 518874

AFFORDABLE RENTALS
Managed by: Rural Communities
Housing Development Corp.
(707) 826-7312

YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU
24-Hour Youth & Family Hotline
(707) 444-CARE
YSB Administration
Launch Pad TLP
Our House Emergency Shelter
(707) 443-8322
Raven Street Outreach Program
(707) 443-7099

ZURETTI GOOSBY
Board President

VAL MARTINEZ
Executive Director

10/30/19

California Department of Social Services
Bringing Families Home Application Review Panel
Housing and Homelessness Bureau

Re: Bringing Families Home Grant application

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is offered in support of the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, Child Welfare Services division (DHHS-CWS) application for the Bringing Families Home (BFH) grant.

Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) operates the Parents and Children in Transition Program (PACT), which provides short term transitional shelter/housing to DHHS-referred families experiencing homelessness. If DHHS-CWS receives the BFH grant, CWS will be able to refer BFH clients to PACT under our current agreement. PACT staff will work with BFH participants that are staying at our shelters, and with DHHS-CWS staff to help families obtain permanent housing as quickly as possible. RCAA-PACT has many years of experience providing these types of services under grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and we look forward to this opportunity to partner with DHHS-CWS in ending homelessness for some of the most vulnerable families in Humboldt County.

Sincerely,

Lorey Keele

Lorey Keele,
Acting Executive Director



10/31/19

California Department of Social Services
Bringing Families Home Application Review Panel
Housing and Homelessness Bureau

Re: Bringing Families Home Grant application

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is offered in support of the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, Child Welfare Services division (DHHS-CWS) application for the Bringing Families Home (BFH) grant. Obtaining and maintaining housing has been a barrier for many of Humboldt's most vulnerable families, and DHHS-CWS often works with families experiencing the destabilizing effects of homelessness or near-homelessness.

Based on the Point in Time (PIT) count, from 2017 to 2019 the numbers of persons experiencing homelessness in Humboldt increased 2.24 times, from 759 to 1,702. While the 2019 number is not yet HUD certified, there is no doubt that homelessness is an increasing problem in Humboldt. Families often have multiple stressors that have led to CWS involvement, including homelessness or inability to maintain housing. Under the Housing First model, obtaining and maintaining housing is critical for the family to be able to address other issues including employment, behavioral health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, and regular school attendance for children. The housing market in Humboldt necessitates both working with landlords and rental subsidies, and First 5 Humboldt endorses this approach to housing CWS-involved families.

First 5 Humboldt works closely with DHHS including DHHS-CWS in order to provide effective services and supports to the many families involved with both agencies. First 5 Humboldt recognizes DHHS as a collaborator working with agencies, organizations, Tribes and other partners to problem-solve as a community. The goals of the BFH Grant align with the goals of DHHS: providing housing-related services to families receiving child welfare services, increasing the number of families reunifying, and preventing foster care placement.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Hansen, Executive Director



HUMBOLDT COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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California Department of Social Services
Bringing Families Home Application Review Panel
Housing and Homelessness Bureau

October 30, 2019

Re: Bringing Families Home Grant application

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is offered in support of the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services, Child Welfare Services division (DHHS-CWS) application for the Bringing Families Home (BFH) grant. Obtaining and maintaining housing has been a barrier for many of Humboldt's most vulnerable families, and DHHS-CWS often works with families experiencing the destabilizing effects of homelessness or near-homelessness.

Based on the Point in Time (PIT) count, from 2017 to 2019 the numbers of persons experiencing homelessness in Humboldt increased 2.24 times, from 759 to 1,702. While the 2019 number is not yet HUD certified, there is no doubt that homelessness is an increasing problem in Humboldt. Families often have multiple stressors that have led to CWS involvement, including homelessness or inability to maintain housing. Under the Housing First model, obtaining and maintaining housing is critical for the family to be able to address other issues including employment, behavioral health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, and regular school attendance for children. The housing market in Humboldt necessitates both working with landlords and rental subsidies, and the Humboldt County Probation Department endorses this approach to housing CWS-involved families.

The Humboldt County Probation Department works closely with DHHS including DHHS-CWS in order to provide effective services and supports to the many families involved with both agencies. Probation recognizes DHHS as a collaborator working with agencies, organizations, Tribes and other partners to problem-solve as a community. The goals of the BFH Grant align with the goals of DHHS: providing housing-related services to families receiving child welfare services, increasing the number of families reunifying, and preventing foster care placement.

Sincerely,


Shaun Brenneman
Chief Probation Officer
Humboldt County Probation Department