

Appendix 5: Homeless Encampment Template

Subchapter 6.6 Prohousing Designation Program requires applicants to confirm that its treatment of encampments on public property complies with and will continue to comply with the constitutional rights of persons experiencing homelessness. An application must include a one-page summary demonstrating how the applicant has enacted best practices in their jurisdiction related to the treatment of unhoused individuals camping on public property, consistent with the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness' "7 Principles for Addressing Encampments (June 17, 2022). The following template and certification are included to help jurisdictions meet this threshold.

- ***Principle 1: Establish a Cross-Agency, Multi-Sector Response to Encampments*** – Describe how system partners (name partners) work together to prioritize health and safety both for residents and unsheltered individuals.

The Humboldt County CoC consists of several members organizations including the County, the City of Eureka, Arcata House Partnership and Redwoods Rural Health Center, and Redwoods Action Agency. CoC member organizations including the City of Arcata, the City of Eureka, the County of Humboldt and community-based organizations have been coordinating on citing services, shelters and interim and permanent housing in the region since 2004. The County coordinates with other local governments and community-based organizations on the citing of services, shelters and interim and permanent housing in the region. Humboldt County has operated street outreach programs since at least 2005 that seek to identify people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Since 2015, we've collectively developed over 300 units of housing that are dedicated to people experiencing homelessness, as well as operating shelters, transitional housing, and programs that provide rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing to people coming from unsheltered situations.

- ***Principle 2: Engage Encampment Residents to Develop Solutions*** – Describe street outreach efforts to engage with encampment residents to find alternative shelter, housing, and service options using the housing first approach before an existing encampment is closed.

Humboldt County HHS, the City of Eureka, Arcata House Partnership and Redwoods Rural Health Center operate street outreach programs that attempt to engage all unsheltered residents throughout, including those living in encampments. Engagement efforts generally target those with the most severe needs since we lack the capacity to serve everyone in need, to attempt to triage the target population.

Encampments on public property are generally not closed by the County because Humboldt County has no law prohibiting camping on public property.

CoC member agencies Arcata House Partnership, Redwood Community Action Agency, the City of Eureka, SoHum Housing Opportunities and the Betty Kwan Chinn Homeless Foundation provide emergency shelters, permanent housing, and supportive services funded by HHAP, Homekey and CalAIM.

The City of Eureka has an ERF Round 1 grant that helped pay for a new 40-bed transitional housing facility that opened last year.

The Humboldt County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) proposed an update to their policy and procedure manual to align their practices with the Cal ICH principles. HCD has approved that draft in connection with the County and CoC's HHAP Round 6 application.

- ***Principle 3: Conduct Comprehensive and Coordinated Outreach – Describe multidisciplinary connection strategies and linkages to resources and permanent housing solutions that is customized to individual needs. If applicable, describe how the jurisdiction uses the coordinated entry system to connect individuals to resources and permanent housing.***

Our street outreach programs span the entire county and work to connect people in encampments with appropriately customized housing and services as much as possible given that these systems have no spare capacity. Street outreach programs provide Coordinated Entry System access directly to people in encampments. The County administers the Humboldt County Homeless Information System, which is utilized by all of our street outreach programs and helps the various programs to coordinate. The Coordinated Entry Case Conference meets on a weekly basis to match those most in need with appropriate supportive housing as opportunities arise. Street outreach teams also work to help people access housing and shelter resources that do not flow through the Coordinated Entry System.

- ***Principle 4: Address Basic Needs and Provide Storage – Describe efforts to meet basic needs, health, safety, and access to storage (timeframes) for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness while creating clear pathways to permanent housing.***

The County has a project planned for downtown Eureka that was inspired by Loaves and Fishes in Sacramento that would provide a place where people can go for assistance with basic needs, health and safety including access to homelessness, as well as connecting with housing navigation services, and that will include permanent housing for people exiting homelessness on the second floor. We're hoping to open sometime in the second half of 2027. HHAP-5 funding is allocated for this project.

Street outreach teams attempt to identify people with health needs who are unsheltered and connect them with appropriate services.

CoC member organization Open Door Community Health Centers has a mobile medical program that travels to locations throughout the county where people are unsheltered and may find it difficult to come to a clinic.

St. Vincent de Paul provides a hot lunch to anyone that needs it at their dining facility in Eureka.

CoC member Arcata House Partnership delivers bag lunches to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the Arcata area.

Humboldt County HHS operates a mobile outreach that travels to locations throughout the county to assist with basic needs and to connect people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to services. The mobile outreach schedule is posted here: [Mobile Outreach Program | Humboldt County, CA - Official Website](#). This work is funded through a combination of outreach funds to assist participants to enroll in CalFresh, Medi-Cal and CalWORKs.

Community partners also operate street outreach programs, including the City of Eureka UPLIFT program in Eureka, Arcata House Partnership in Arcata (ESG funded), and Redwoods Rural Health Center in Redway and Garberville (HHAP).

DHHS administers the CalFresh, CalWORKs, General Relief and Medi-Cal programs, and conducts and funds outreach to increase participation rates in those programs, especially among people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

- ***Principle 5: Ensure Access to Shelter or Housing Options – Describe how low barrier resources & housing and supportive services are communicated to encampment residents. Include how strategies involve alternative measures to criminalization, focusing on service engagement and harm reduction.***

This information is communicated to people in encampments primarily via in person visits from street outreach staff. We also provide this information via printed materials such as resource cards, via the 2-1-1 Humboldt Information and Resources Call Center, and on the web.

Humboldt County has no law that prohibits camping on public property and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) reports that as a result, when they are called on to clear an

encampment, it involves people trespassing on private property. Camping on public property is not criminalized in the unincorporated areas of the County.

- ***Principle 6: Develop Pathways to Permanent Housing and Supports – Describe Housing First strategies emphasizing low barriers, a harm-reduction model, and services to support people obtaining permanent housing more efficiently. Identify efforts to align federal, state, and local funding/programs to provide clear pathways to permanent housing.***

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors adopted Housing First as County policy in February 2016, before the State passed its first Housing First law. We have developed our own Humboldt County Housing First Principles document which is aligned with WIC § 8255 and is intended to provide additional clarity to all County-funded homeless services providers, and we include these principles as an attachment in all of our contracts. These principles require our providers to implement low barrier programs that use a harm reduction model. We explicitly require all of our contractors to provide services to support people obtaining and retaining housing. All of these efforts are intended to align the entire homelessness response system with Housing First in order to maximize low barrier pathways to permanent housing.

We still need more low barrier Housing First housing and services to meet the needs of the target population, so the County and CoC continue to make every effort to secure state and federal resources toward this end.

- ***Principle 7: Create a Plan for What Will Happen to Encampment Sites After Closure – Describe plans for former encampment spaces (long-term solutions to prevent encampments from reoccurring). Include efforts to emphasize safety, accessibility, and inclusivity that improve infrastructure. Example: Communities can include curb cuts to increase mobility access and enhanced lighting to encourage safety.***

The only way to prevent encampments from recurring in a large rural county like Humboldt that is mountainous and densely forested is to grow our homelessness response system to an appropriate scale and that offers an appropriate range of permanent and interim housing options that include appropriate services relative to the needs of the population. Most encampments in Humboldt County are found in wooded areas rather than sidewalks, so curb cuts, lighting, fencing and hostile architecture would not be appropriate or effective. To that end we are doing whatever we can to bring in as much funding as we can, and to use what we have as efficiently as possible, including activities such as applying for prohousing status. We have been particularly focused on increasing our permanent housing capacity, since shelter is extremely expensive on a per person per night basis, and there are precious few opportunities for people to exit shelter successfully due to the shortage of low barrier

permanent housing, so increasing our permanent housing capacity is the key to reducing the bottlenecks that we see in street outreach and emergency shelters.

Humboldt County's encampment and post-closure strategy is grounded in adopted housing policy, coordinated service delivery, and constitutional compliance. Implementation is led by the Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS), in coordination with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office and the Humboldt County Planning & Building Department, aligned with the County's adopted Housing Element and homelessness response framework.

Appendix 6: Public Participation Checklist

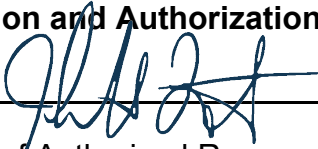
Pursuant to Sections 6601, 6602, and 6605, applicants are required to demonstrate how they have engaged in a “Diligent Public Participation Process.”

Please complete this checklist, and sign, to confirm that the applicant has complied with this requirement. Attach and reference any comments you received during the process.

Regulation Text	Explanation	Yes	No
Outreach through a variety of methods and languages to ensure access to the public process and provide opportunities for public input.	Applicant should use methods such as newspaper ads, email, social media, fliers, etc., to inform the public that an application has been drafted and posted for public comment. Language access should reflect languages spoken in your local community and should be available in multiple languages in print media or upon request for digital media.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specific effort to engage all segments of the community, including individuals or representatives of lower-income and special needs households, for-profit and non-profit developers, and special needs service providers.	Individuals and organizations representing lower-income and special needs households, for-profit and non-profit developers, and special needs service providers should be engaged, informed of, and offered an opportunity to comment on the application. Outreach lists utilized for Housing Element compliance would suffice.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of the draft document to the public, including notification to interested parties and all segments of the community, for thirty (30) calendar days and subsequent versions for seven (7) calendar days.	Applicants should post the application in print and digital forms, collect comments, and incorporate those comments into the application if necessary. Making the application available to the public could be satisfied by posting the application online and/or announcements through other mediums (e.g., local newspapers) so long as these forums include diverse segments of the community, including individuals or representatives of lower-income and special needs households, for-profit and non-profit developers, and special needs service providers.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Public hearings and informative meetings.	For the purposes of satisfying this requirement, a City Council or Board of Supervisors meeting informing the public of the jurisdiction's intent to submit a Prohousing Designation Program application, in addition to any subsequent meetings necessary to make revisions in response to public comment, will satisfy this requirement.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consideration of comments, including incorporation of comments into a jurisdiction's application and Prohousing Policies as appropriate.	Provide all comments received with a description of how the comment was incorporated into the application. If the comment is not appropriate for incorporation, please describe why.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Certification and Authorization:



 Signature of Authorized Representative

_____ 03/02/2026
 Date

