

## **PHIL: Pool for Homeless Initiatives Locally**

### **OVERVIEW**

PHIL is a new interagency effort co-developed by Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency that provides a streamlined, one-stop-shop platform to access homeless funding.

### **CHALLENGE**

As nearly all jurisdictions across the state can acknowledge, addressing homelessness is an enormously challenging endeavor. Adding to the complexity is the wide range of programs that homeless service providers must seek to fund local efforts. Because these programs frequently fund different types of services (e.g. permanent supportive housing vs. outreach), have different sources (i.e. federal vs. state), and have different administrators (e.g. Continuum of Care vs. County Behavioral Health Department), project applications to these programs are typically narrow in focus (e.g. each local project has only one funding program). But because of the complex dynamics of homelessness, the strongest projects are often those with integrated components that offer a wide range of services for participants. However, without a mechanism to streamline integration of funding programs, local homeless programs in Tulare County traditionally lack the type of funding layering that could maximize efficiency, effectiveness, and overall reach.

### **INNOVATIVE SOLUTION**

In an effort to streamline access to a wide range of homeless funds, the Tulare County Health & Human Services Agency and Kings/Tulare Homeless Alliance (the local Continuum of Care) collaborated to create PHIL, or the Integrated Pool for Homeless Initiatives Locally. PHIL makes available funds from several sources through a one-stop application for interested stakeholders. This format easily allows applicants to layer a number of different funding sources for a single project, which promotes more robust, efficient, and comprehensive efforts. Because of the potential to increase overall impact of homeless projects through more robust projects, PHIL encouraged integration of funds through allocating bonus points for projects utilizing more than one funding source.

### **RESULTS**

PHIL has allowed for the creation of projects more comprehensive and integrated than has ever been possible in Tulare County. For example, through PHIL, two brand new bridge housing projects (the first of their kind in the County) were funded using money from the state (i.e. CESH & HEAP programs) as well as money earmarked to the Health & Human Services (i.e. Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach & Treatment program). Health & Human Services would not have been able to fund a bridge housing project unilaterally with its Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach & Treatment allocation (~\$300,000). Similarly, the two bridge housing projects would have had a significant funding shortfall without the Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach & Treatment funding. However, through PHIL, local applicants were able to easily identify available funding sources and conceptualize projects - like these bridge housing projects - that integrated a wide range of funding sources unlike ever before in Tulare County. Essentially,

PHIL fostered higher quality homeless projects by clearly emphasizing to applicants the role that leveraging limited resources has in creating new and vital community projects.

Additionally, Health & Human Services has used this platform to push forward its own internal priorities. For example, as part of an organizational commitment to promoting racial equity, all applicants to PHIL were eligible for bonus points for completing a racial equity analysis; further, all awardees will be required to complete a “Racial Equity 101” training as a condition of funding. Overall, PHIL has provided a tremendous opportunity for Health & Human Services Agency to try to implement systems-level changes in a way never attempted before in the County.

## **REPLICABILITY**

This program is easily replicable by other counties. Counties merely have to maintain regular working relationships with administrative entities (e.g. the Continuum of Care) to develop a similar platform that allows for streamlining and leveraging of local homeless funding programs.

## **CONTACT**

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## **ATTACHEMENT**

PHIL NOFA & Funded Program Matrix