



**SACRAMENTO
STEPS FORWARD**

Ending Homelessness. Starting Fresh.

October 4, 2019

Sacramento County Superior Court
David De Alba, Presiding Judge
720 Ninth Street, Department 47
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Sacramento County Grand Jury Report: Addressing Homelessness in Sacramento County: An Extraordinary Community Challenge

Dear Judge De Alba:

Sacramento Steps Forward concurs with the recommendation to work toward an improved organizational model that increases capacity and authority to meet the challenge of homelessness in our community.

Finding 1. There is no formal organization model being used by the community of organizations that will ensure the most effective use of the critical resources available to be used to address homelessness in Sacramento County.

Response to Finding 1: *SSF agrees with this finding.*

Finding 2. The leaders and workers in the community of organizations actively working to address the challenges presented by homelessness in Sacramento County have demonstrated an impressive level of both dedication and competence in assisting and supporting the County's homeless population.

Response to Finding 2: *SSF agrees with this finding.*

Finding 3. A County of Sacramento Homeless Plan to secure NPLH funds was recently developed by the County and adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The plan presents a significant initial strategic direction for addressing homelessness in Sacramento County and many of the organizations providing services and programs for the homeless collaborated with the County on the plan's development and support its direction and implementation.

Response to Finding 3: *SSF agrees with this finding.*

Recommendation 1. The community of organizations working to address homelessness in Sacramento County should initiate a process during Fiscal Year 2019/20 to identify an



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organizational model that will be responsive to needs expressed by the community. This process should be coordinated by the five primary organizations providing resources to the homelessness effort. They are:

- County of Sacramento
- City of Sacramento
- Continuum of Care Advisory Board
- Sacramento Steps Forward
- Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

Response to Recommendation 1: *This recommendation has not yet been implemented and Sacramento Steps Forward is committed to supporting this critical strategy of a unified approach between the “community of organizations” and the broader Sacramento region in addressing homelessness.*

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Lisa Bates
Chief Operating Officer
Sacramento Steps Forward

Cc: Sacramento Steps Forward Board of Directors
Sacramento Continuum of Care