



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

July 22, 2019

Karen Fies, Director
Sonoma County Human Services Department
P.O. Box 1539
Santa Rosa, CA 95402-1539

Dear Director Fies,

The Budget Act of 2019 (Assembly Bill 74, Chapter 23, Statutes of 2019) appropriated \$24.4 million General Fund (one-time) to continue and expand funding for the Bringing Families Home (BFH) Program, which was established in 2016 by Assembly Bill (AB) 1603 (Chapter 25, Statutes of 2016). These additional funds appropriated in the Budget Act of 2019 are available over a three-year period beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022.

The purpose of this letter is to inform counties who were already operating a BFH program of the release of a planning allocation to support continued programming for families enrolled in BFH, as well as new enrollees to the extent that current case management capacity allows. **Your county's planning allocation is \$200,000 General Fund and was available for use effective July 1, 2019.** As a reminder, unspent funds from your county's initial BFH allocation were re-appropriated and are also available for use by your county in FY 2019-20.

Counties are required to continue to match state BFH funds allocated on a dollar-for-dollar basis. For the purpose of compliance with program guidelines including the need to document match amounts over the period of the award, the original award period has been extended from three years (ending on June 30, 2019) to six years (ending on June 30, 2022). Guidance related to the reconciliation of county matching funds claimed that will be used to drawdown the state BFH funds will be released in a forthcoming county letter.

Funds requested beyond the planning allocation listed above will be allocated on a competitive basis, subject to completion of a program application, which will be released later this calendar year. Regardless of whether additional competitive funds are requested by your county, by accepting the funds designated in this letter, your county will be required to submit an application with updated program information. In the application, counties will be required to demonstrate the need for funding through June 30, 2022.

By accepting these funds, your county agrees to administer the BFH program pursuant to the conditions set forth by the CDSS, including but not limited to compliance with:

- the dollar for dollar match requirements, as specified in County Fiscal Letter [CFL No. 17/18-79](#) and [\(CFL\) No. 18/19-25](#),
- data collection requirements, including monthly data report submissions,
- Housing First, as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code section 8255, and
- evaluation requirements, as requested by CDSS, including the requirement for Data Use Agreements, as needed.

Counties will continue to use the existing claiming instructions, as specified in [CFL No. 17/18-79](#) and [CFL No.18/19-25](#). For questions pertaining to claiming instructions, please contact the Fiscal Policy and Analysis Bureau at fiscal.systems@dss.ca.gov.

If you have program questions or questions regarding the information provided in this letter, please contact the Housing and Homelessness Bureau at housing@dss.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 651-5155. We look forward to your continued partnership in the Bringing Families Home Program.

Sincerely,

Ali Sutton

ALI SUTTON, Chief
Housing, Homelessness and Civil Right Branch