

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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## AGENCY DIVISIONS

Administration & Finance  
Behavioral Health  
Community Services  
Protective Services  
Public Health  
Self-Sufficiency

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### El Dorado County: Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach and Treatment Program (HMIOT) Grant Final Report

**Background:** Senate Bill 840 (2018) provided funding to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to provide counties with one-time funding for local activities involving individuals with serious mental illness and who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

On September 19, 2018, El Dorado County submitted a letter and a Board of Supervisors Resolution to DHCS, expressing interest in funding allocated for activities associated with the Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach and Treatment (HMIOT) Program Grant.

On October 2, 2018, DHCS approved El Dorado County's letter of interest and awarded the County an allocation of funds totaling \$100,000. The funding became available on December 31, 2018. The funding was to be expended by June 30, 2020.

El Dorado County rolled out the HMIOT program on June 24, 2019. At the end of June 30, 2020, El Dorado had dedicated \$99,682.86 towards assisting the target population, leaving only \$371.14 grant funds remaining. The final \$371.14 was held as a buffer to cover any unforeseen events with regards to payments to vendors. The average HMIOT funds expended per household served were \$2,848.08, with a range from \$113.19 to \$6,564.96. For purposes of this report, the term "household" refers to all individuals listed on one referral. The household size ranged from one to five individuals.

**Objective:** In the grant application, El Dorado County's Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) was designated as the Primary Contact for the HMIOT grant with the Behavioral Health Division administering the grant.

The objective was to identify individuals who were:

- Homeless or at risk of homelessness; and
- Believed to have a serious mental illness; and
- Ascertain that there were no other personal, federal, State, or local funds available to assist to the individual with housing or other urgent/emergency interventions to help stabilize the individual.

El Dorado County Behavioral Health partnered with the following entities to identify individuals who could benefit from the grant:

- El Dorado County HHSA Adult Protective Services staff;

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- El Dorado County Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT);
- Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless (a community-based provider specializing in services for those experiencing homelessness);
- Telecare Corporation (operations contractor for the El Dorado County Psychiatric Health Facility); and
- Only Kindness (a community-based provider specializing in services for those experiencing homelessness).

The approved interventions and activities to assist with stabilization included:

- Paying rent (single family residence rent and apartment rent);
- Providing for temporary living costs (e.g., motel stays);
- Transportation costs; and
- Utility payments (propane, water, electric) and cell phone charges to enable eligible individuals to stay connected to supportive service agencies and employment.

### **Homelessness and Mental Health in El Dorado County:**

Every two years, communities conduct counts of the local population experiencing homelessness. This is called a "Point-in-Time Count". For all jurisdictions that receive federal funding to provide housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, this count is required by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). El Dorado County conducted its Point-in-Time Count on January 28-29, 2019.

El Dorado County's 2019 Point-in-Time Count<sup>1</sup> identified 613 homeless individuals in the County. Of those individuals, 70 individuals (11%) were under the age of 18 while 543 individuals (89%) were age 18 or over. The 2019 Point-in-Time Count also identified that 42% of the individuals had a mental health disability.

### **HMIOT Grant Data:**

Fifty-two referrals for HMIOT assistance were received, with 45 (87%) of the referrals generated by El Dorado County Behavioral Health's partners:

<b>Referral Partner</b>	<b>Number of Referrals</b>	<b>Unduplicated Households</b>
El Dorado County HHSA Behavioral Health	6	3
El Dorado County HHSA Adult Protective Services	2	1
El Dorado County Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)	15	13
Tahoe Coalition for the Homeless	2	2
Telecare Corporation (Psychiatric Health Facility)	2	2
Only Kindness	25	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>52 referrals</b>	<b>36 Households</b>

<sup>1</sup> Available at: [https://6cb80729-440c-4afe-b99d-5ce53610bec0.filesusr.com/ugd/f089b3\\_c27be1a605434fd894ff1cd5cdcb5234.pdf](https://6cb80729-440c-4afe-b99d-5ce53610bec0.filesusr.com/ugd/f089b3_c27be1a605434fd894ff1cd5cdcb5234.pdf).

El Dorado County's HMIOT funding provided assistance for 51 of the referrals. One referral/ household (consisting of two adults) did not follow through with the referral.

Of the 35 unduplicated households served, the household composition consisted of 44 adults and 14 children, for a total of 58 individuals who received assistance from the HMIOT funding. The households ranged in size from one adult to five individuals. No household was referred by multiple agencies, and while the sample size is small, it is believed this demonstrates the "whole person" approach taken by providers in El Dorado County, helping their clients address all their needs rather than shuffling clients between provider silos, as well as the collaborative nature of the service providers.

The HMIOT-funded assistance consisted of:

<b>Goods / Services Category</b>	<b>Number of Households Served (Unduplicated per Category)</b>	<b>Number of Referrals Received</b>	<b>Results</b>
Motel Vouchers	30	39	748 nights of shelter paid
Rental Payments	8	9	825 nights of rent paid
Utilities (Propane, Sewer, Electric)	1	1	31 days of each utility, plus 30 additional days of sewer
Phone	1	1	30 days
Bus Passes	1	1	3 months

Some households received more than one type of assistance (e.g., both motel and rental payments, or both rental and utility payments), or the same type of assistance multiple times (e.g., rental payments for multiple months).

All households referred received motel vouchers or rental payments. Additionally, three households received other assistance as well. Payment of the utilities permitted the household to remain sheltered, versus facing eviction for not paying the utility fees required by their rental agreement, and the cell phone and bus transportation were pivotal to the households remaining connected to necessary services to maintain their housing.

#### **Summary:**

The HMIOT grant was crucial in providing shelter for some of El Dorado County's most vulnerable and at-risk individuals and their families. Anecdotal stories from referral sources include stabilization of individuals in crisis, stabilization of individuals until they could be transferred to a mental health (and sometimes a co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder) treatment center, and stabilization of individuals while waiting for mental and physical health appointments at the Veterans Administration. Some individuals just needed assistance while awaiting approval of their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Disability Benefits.

Once individuals were in a stable living situation, our partner agencies assisted them with locating housing, applying for public assistance benefits, applying for employment, and providing transportation to substance use disorder treatment facilities.

El Dorado County sincerely appreciates being awarded the HMIOT grant and our community greatly benefitted from the HMIOT funding.