

Ventura Social Services Task Force Minutes 9/3/2025

- I. **Call to Order and Introductions** (Judy Alexandre) Attending John Sanders Jones/ VSSTF/FS, Andrea Palmer/ City of Ventura, Judy Alexandre/ VSSTF, Anna Varela/ Mercy House, Kristia Nunez/ CAUSE, PW Robinson/ Community Member, Javier Solis Villa/Vta County HHS , Krina Lopez Saldana/United Way, Carie Bristow/United Way, Kevin Clerici/Downton Chamber & Ambassadors, Sue Brinkmeyer/ Ventura Homelessness Prevention, Kappy Paulson/ LUYV & VSSTF; Cathi Nye/ Ventura County Education, Jenn Harkey/ County CoC Later Ryyin Schumacher/Vta. City Council.
- II. **Approval of or changes to the agenda** for 9/3/25 Move/Jones; Second/ Clerici
- III. **Approval of or changes to the minutes** of 8/6/25. Move/Jones, Second/?
- IV. **Tenant Protections** update/ Andera Palmer
 - a) Important Stakeholders Meetings on Tenant Protections – 9/10/2025- 6:00-8:00 PM - Community Room; Comments & Feedback from on All effected
 - b) Harassment ordinance – Planning 9/25 5:30 Community Rm; H&H 9/30 3- 5:30 PM / Community Rm; Council mid Oct or Nov [*At this writing some dates have changed*]
 - c) Outreach & Education training- outreach to VC Assoc of Realtors, concerned about owner protections need Staff Report presented to H&H 9/30
 - d) HRC contract – Contract Went to Council 9/23/2025 - 80% of AMI Will be eligible for legal services. Other services open to all
- V. **Homeless Prevention** was the focus oof these presentations (qualifications, funding, applying, need, other information)
 - a) Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund (Sue Brinkmeyer) – Slides Below. See also [Homeless Prevention - Ending Homelessness in Ventura, CA](#) Grew out VSSTF, IF referral doesn't meet the criteria below, please refer client to County or another provider. Must have been paying rent for 3 months Don't assist with legal fees but has a referral list. Rapid rehousing is handled by county.
 - b) City of Ventura (Andrea Palmer) - Program is dormant now. Planning to submit grant proposals for new programs soon
 - c) United Way (Karina Lopez Saldana) Slides Below - Carrie Bristow commented, if undocumented client in city of Ventura first send to Sue first. Concern about using HAP funding and current administration. They are a crisis response – if have more than 14 days or a landlord that can wait send to County first. Will send Program flyer to Kappy Can help with rental assistance & Security deposit if at risk
 - d) County of Ventura (Javier Villa Solis) – Basic information is here <https://venturacounty.gov/human-services-agency/homeless-services-more/#HPRP>. Slides below. VC resident – up to 3 months or if have a Cal Works benefits. Carrie – adding usually a 90 day but if have a job, kids are in school, proof you are a resident of the county don't have to meet the 90 days for rapid rehousing and prevention
 - e) Jenn Harkey added – Thank you to the teams; HAP/ State grants are different than Federal grants. Trying to keep HAPs as flexible as possible. Federal AMI emergency

solutions is limited to 30% AMI; State HAP can go up to 50%AMI, Start with County HuSerAg since they have the largest budget then go to other agencies.

- f) Kappy will create a chart with contact info & criteria
- g) Future goal and needs
- h) Other

VI. **Discussion of City Council proposal** to send all released from jail to city of origin (Ryyn Schumacher) Proposal presented by Councilman Duran. Send all released from jail back to city of origin.

- a. Is that where they were arrested or where they live/address of record?
- b. Council asked Jim to bring back info from providers, public health & others. Develop MOUs.
- c. Consensus - most is it would be okay IF VOLUNTARY. / Client choice is paramount.
- d. Andrea - abstained from comments as a city employee.
- e. Kevin – Need authors to let us see proposal. From professional personal experience as part of his work, there have been occasions where people brought to jail, then released onto Victoria Ave, wander to the beach or downtown. Partners have assisted individuals to get home, even out of the county. How does a city employee direct a different agency (hospital or jail) to do something.? Need a joint program/warm handoff
- f. Carie – United Way starting to measure where people are coming from and going to; e.g. higher housing places to a less expensive regions to emphasize this is a WHOLE County issue. Also, her experience is that some folks do not feel Ambassadors helpful.
- g. Ryyn – Compos & Schumaker would like Community feedback. Needs H&H, VSSTF feedback. Cost? How does Sherrif feel about it? Goes back to Council at some point.
- h. PW - Wide range of Ambassadors. Mr. Duran is reacting to a wider community perception that these bad people are pouring out into the community.
- i. Ryyn – if we are not allowing the choice, some folks will go back into a bad situation
- j. Kevin – Invitation for all to shadow Ambassadors. Family reconnection program - 75 last year & 50 this year, to date. A warm handoff does not happen at the jail. Ambassadors finally encounter the person after several days of trauma and wandering around. Want to see *coordination at time of release*
- k. Judy would like to see case manager BEFORE release
- l. Carie accepts shadowing invitation. She clarifies, one reason, people aren't engaging with ambassadors because people have many times trusted case workers & helpers who move on or quit without continuity of care. People are wary & skeptical of offered help. Lost hope. Wants to end stigma that homeless folks are mentally ill. Many have PTSD BECAUSE they are homeless. A lot permanent supportive housing funding of going to behavioral health, but what about others e.g. cancer patients who can't get housing.
- m. Will ask Jim Duran to come on agenda next.

VII. **City of Ventura updates:** (Andrea Palmer)

- a) Foul Weather Shelter plan – One vendor bid/ River Community Church wone bid. Will 40 rooms; 65 & older & chronic medical will be priorities/ Contract will be at H&H 9/30; Council 10/14.
 - b) Safe Sleep plan- Several week RPF released, partnering with county @ ARCH Site
 - c) Council Housing & Homeless Subcommittee report (next mtg 9/30 at 2:00 to 5PM) Winter Shelter, Anti-Harassment, Safe Sleep, Tenant & Landlord Outreach & Education, Inclusionary Housing?
 - d) Other
- VIII. **VC Continuum of Care** updates (Jenn Harkey) \$5.5 M will be coming up applications for for rapid rehousing, prevention, youth programs (12-24), supportive services & supportive housing,
 - a. [Item-8-REVISED-HHAP-6-Grant-Funding-Recommendations.pdf](#)
- IX. **Housing Updates**
 - a) State Bond - - Affordable Housing Bond of 2026 – Homes for All & VSSTF Signed on plus several member orgs. Individuals can also sign on at: <https://housingca.org/news-media/statements/affordable-housing-bond-of-2026/>
- X. **Faith subcommittee** (John Sanders Jones)
 - a) Laundry Love – Need another site. Looking for community or church to sponsor & staff one time/Month. Cost is typically \$6-700/month
 - b) Storage – Sanders still working on it
 - c) RV Parking – Want a permanent site supervised place
 - d) Virtual Workshop ~February plan, idea, date for faith community primarily No Place for US & work of Dignity Moves (pop-up housing on sites cited for development focusing on young adults.
- XI. **Agency updates**
 - a. Cathi Nyre – Dept of Education – 9.000 students considered homeless in academic year 2024-2025; Gave out 3,000 backpacks in 2025-6 School Year, still has ~200 to distribute
- XII. **Victimization** to counter hate crimes of the Unhoused. – Contact PW if want to wok on this issue SongOfSantaPaula@gmail.com
- XIII. Motion to adjourn until 10/1/1/25 – Move/Sanders; Second/Harkey

Sue Brinkmeyer, President and Board Chair

VENTURA HOMELESS PREVENTION

- We are a non-profit here in Ventura and we do one thing: we provide rental assistance that keeps residents of the City of Ventura free from eviction and homelessness
- We were formed in 2007 as a committee of the Ventura Social Services Task Force; we incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 2010
- So far, we have prevented homelessness for 2,789 residents of the City of Ventura, 930 of them children; we are currently helping an average of 9 households each month



We came into being to help those not eligible for help elsewhere

- * Because we are a private charity, we can help any resident of Ventura who pays rent to stay housed, including those in
 - * Section 8 or other subsidized housing
 - * a group or sober living home
 - * a rented room or shared housing
 - * a mobile home, motel room, RV, or boat
- * Income or market rate housing caps and immigration status are not a barrier
- * No home inspection is needed
- * No eviction notice is required
- * We can mail or deliver a check the same day, if necessary
- * We can help those who need just a few hundred dollars without the cost of salaries and overhead



Each household we help provides evidence that they meet three criteria

- ☑ They have been paying rent on their own in the City of Ventura for at least the previous three months
- ☑ They cannot pay their rent just this one time because of a temporary loss of pay or an unusual major expense
- ☑ They'll be able to resume paying their own rent after our one-time assistance

And, ideally, we are a better fit for them than government programs



What we do prevents homelessness

- We pay rent of up to \$1,800 directly to housing providers once in a 12-month period to keep people facing eviction in their homes
- We work with clients on budgeting and help them take advantage of other assistance programs to ensure that those we help will be able to continue paying the rent themselves in the future
- We follow up after 90 days to be sure folks are doing okay
- Over 90% of the people we help are still housed when we follow up one year later
- We were recognized in 2010 by USICH as one of its top ten Innovative Programs, and in 2023 what we do was recognized as Best Practice in a report from UC Berkley

It does not cost much to make a huge difference in people's lives

- Less than \$1,200 per household
- Less than \$500 per person

Every penny donated or granted goes directly to rental assistance.

- We are an all-volunteer organization with no overhead
- We work in donated space
- Board members pay any necessary expenses like insurance & postage



Our funding comes from houses of faith, individuals, a few companies, and the occasional grant

- ☑ Houses of Faith who provide regular support include
 - Orchard Community Church,
 - Ventura Missionary Church,
 - Church of the Foothills,
 - Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura,
 - Ventura Church of Christ,
 - Temple Beth Torah
- ☑ We are currently keeping people housed with help from a \$10,000 grant from the City of Ventura

Thank you to our Board

Sue Brinkmeyer, President and Board Chair

John Jones: Webmaster & Vice President

Dave Schmutte, CPA, Treasurer

Debora Schreiber: Recording Secretary

Adele Fergusson, MSW, Client Outreach Officer

Albert Barosso, Development Officer

Karen Menzie, Corresponding Secretary

Judy Alexandre, MSW, VSSTF President



We welcome referrals and donations. Please help spread the word.

- ❑ **Ventura Homeless Prevention**
5654 Ralston Street, Ventura, CA 93003
- ❑ **805-626-0363**
- ❑ **venturahomelessprevention@gmail.com**
- ❑ **www.venturahomelessprevention.org**
- ❑ **All donations to Ventura Homeless Prevention are 100% tax deductible. Tax ID # 46-4846749**





HOME SAFE

Supporting low-income Ventura County residents that are at risk of homelessness.

Provides **financial assistance, case management, and housing stabilization services.**

Focused on preventing displacement and promoting long-term housing stability.



Who We Serve & Services Provided



Who We Serve:

- Families facing eviction or displacement
- Individuals with limited income and resources
- Community members experiencing financial hardship due to medical expenses, job loss, family separation, or other crises

Services Provided:

- Up to three-months of rental arrears
- Short-term rental assistance
- Security deposit assistance
- Utility assistance
- Case management and housing navigation
- Connection to supportive services
- Mediation with landlords

Eligibility & Documentation Requirements

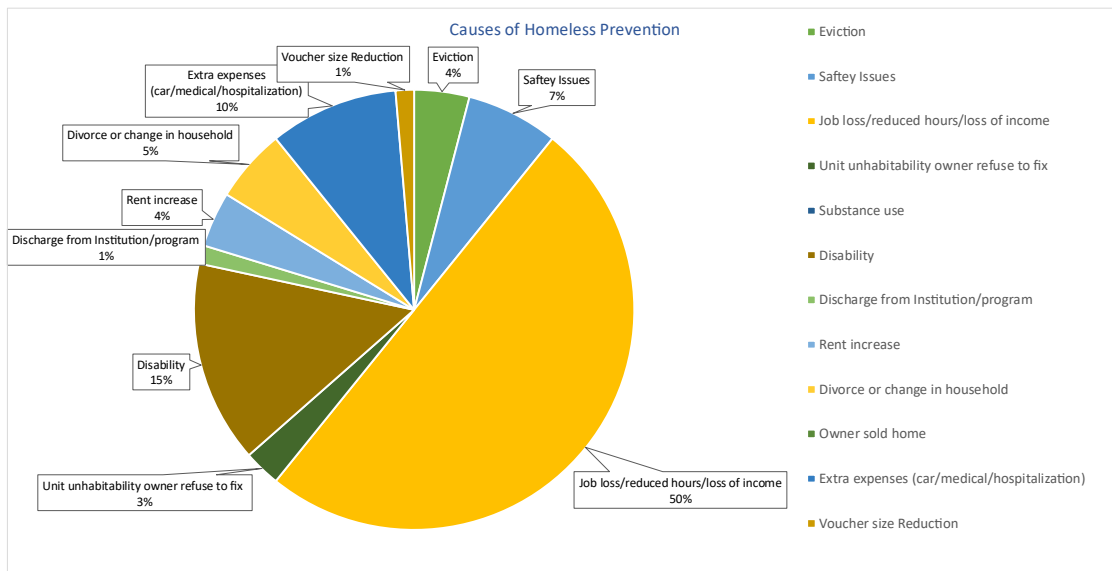


Eligibility:

- Imminent risk of homelessness due to a financial hardship
- Temporary Living Situations
- **Priority One** – Crisis response for those who are at or lower than 30% AMI of income and who spend 50% or more of their income on rent.
- **Priority Two** – We can serve up to 50% AMI if we have served all the priority-one referrals.

Documentation:

- Identification Documents
- Proof of Income
- Proof of Assets
- Proof of Financial hardship
- Legal Notice
- Rental Agreement



Home Safe Program Designed To Address System Gaps

Cashier's Checks/Credit Card

Primary Case Management

Training-For Our Partners

Crisis Response

How to Submit a Referral



Referrals can be submitted by:

Case managers
Social workers
Partner agencies
Self-referrals



Contact info for submitting referrals:

CES via HMIS
Directly to staff via email or phone
Email: LEPreferrals@vcunitedway.org
Call: 805-485-6288 to be transferred to
available onsite staff

Contact Information

Carie Bristow, LPCC
Director of Homelessness Initiatives
United Way of Ventura County
702 County Square Dr. #100
Ventura, CA 93003
805-485-6288, Ext. 235
carie.bristow@vcunitedway.org

Karina Lopez Saldana, MSW
Administrative Assistant & Housing Navigator
United Way of Ventura County
702 County Square Dr. #100
Ventura, CA 93003
805-485-6288, Ext. 254
karina.lopezsaldana@vcunitedway.org

[Landlord Engagement Program | United to End Homelessness \(unitedtoendhomelessnessvc.org\)](#)



Homeless Services Program (HSP) & Homelessness Prevention Services

JAVIER VILLA SOLIS
HUMAN SERVICES SUPERVISOR

SEPTEMBER 3, 2025

Who is At Risk of Homelessness?

- Received a notice from their landlord
Examples: 3 Day Pay or Quit, Eviction Notice (Unlawful Detainer), Notice to Vacate
 - Received written notice that they will lose their primary residence
 - Moved 2+ times in the past 60 days due to economic hardship
 - Living in a motel not paid for by a charitable organization or government agency
 - Exiting a publicly funded institution and will not have housing upon exit
Examples: transitional housing, correctional facility, hospital, etc.
- AND
- Does not have alternate housing options, financial resources, or support network available to prevent homelessness

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HSP Homeless Prevention Programs

Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP V)

- Income Limit: Under 30% AMI
- Household pays 50+% of their income towards housing costs
- Can provide short-term assistance

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing (HPRP)

- Income Limit: Under 50% AMI
- Limited to one-time assistance
- Household must be financially sustainable after one-time assistance

CalWORKS Housing Support Program (CHSP)

- Household member receives CalWORKS or Welfare-to-Work benefits
- Can provide medium term assistance

Housing Disability and Advocacy Program (HDAP)

- Household member with permanent disability but is not receiving disability benefits
- Person with a disability likely to be approved for disability benefits & needs help with application process
- Can provide medium term assistance

Additional Eligibility Criteria

Ventura County residency

No citizenship requirements

Valid lease agreement with all household members on lease

Rental unit appropriately sized for household

Rent is reasonable compared to other, similar units in area

Unit must pass housing habitability and lead-based paint inspection

Landlord/property manager willing to accept 3rd party payment

Homelessness Prevention Services

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Security deposit

Rent arrears

Short-term rent assistance

Legal fees to stop eviction

Utility assistance

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

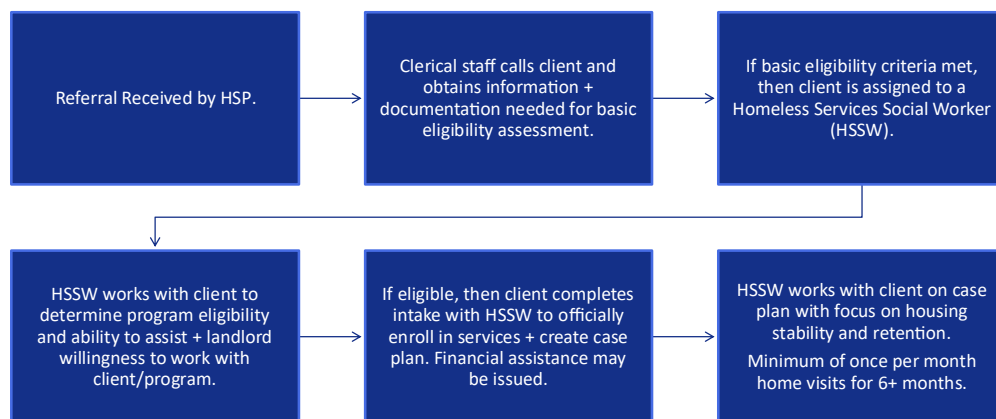
Case management

Housing navigation

Landlord mediation/advocacy

Linkage to resources

HSP Process for Clients



Questions?

Javier Villa Solis

Homeless Services Program Supervisor

Phone: 805.290.9135

Email: javier.villasolis@venturacounty.gov



How to Refer to HSP

HMIS CES Referral

Call: 805.385.1800

Email: HSA-HSP@venturacounty.gov
