**Part 1: Implementation Unit Structure and Capacity**

UPLIFT Eureka is a one of a kind municipal social services program within the City of Eureka’s Economic Development Department focused directly on serving the homeless population of the greater Eureka area. Created in 2018, with the goal of improving the quality of life of community members experiencing homelessness by connecting them with services, resources and housing opportunities. UPLIFT Eureka is a comprehensive program designed to directly guide individuals to vital resources, and ensure they are in a position to take advantage of those resources, by providing support and programming to help empower themselves to a better quality of life. UPLIFT Eureka is comprised of a variety of components including a job skills training program, an employment program, a rapid re-housing program and street-based homeless outreach.

UPLIFT Eureka’s Homeless Outreach Workers conduct ongoing outreach at encampments throughout the greater Eureka area, working to engage community members experiencing homelessness and bridge system gaps through providing connections, referrals and warm hand offs to numerous community resources and services, distributing food and essential supplies. As a result of this outreach taking place over the course of years, the outreach workers have built strong relationships and trust amongst the community of people residing in local encampments, which aid in their transition to permanent housing.

UPLIFT Eureka has developed an expansive network of community partnerships that work closely to serve community members experiencing homelessness. The ongoing expansion of UPLIFT Eureka continues to propel the development of new partnerships. Three integral partners are the Betty Kwan Chinn Homeless Foundation, Eureka Police Department’s Community Safety and Engagement Team (CSET) and the Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

The Betty Chinn Homeless Foundation is an organization which serves the homeless population, providing direct responses to immediate needs and services including employment assistance, emergency and transitional housing, and meals. The mission of the Betty Kwan Chinn Foundation is to honor all of humanity by providing direct responses to immediate needs by helping the destitute achieve the dignity needed to return to society as contributing members. The City of Eureka and UPLIFT Eureka have worked closely with the Betty Chinn Homeless Foundation for years, seeing tremendous success in serving community members experiencing homelessness through joint programming. Betty’s Day Center is an accessible resource hub for community members experiencing homelessness and hosts a variety of UPLIFT Eureka programs. Additionally, the Betty Chinn Homeless Foundation and UPLIFT Eureka utilize their existing partnership and collaborate on several programs throughout the year including the Pathway to Payday Employment Workshop series and food distribution events. UPLIFT Eureka’s staff work directly with Betty’s emergency shelters to provide access to community members residing in encampments while Betty refers individuals in her shelters to UPLIFT Eureka’s rapid rehousing program.

Established in 2018, The Eureka Police Department CSET’s mission is to proactively address quality of life, crime and disorder problems in Old Town, along the waterfront, and in City parks while developing strategies to ultimately improve upon or eliminate these issues. CSET has daily interactions with Eureka homeless community through accountability actions, but also through proactive outreach, and most often through daily human connection. UPLFT Eureka staff and CSET work closely together, utilizing a progressive and collaborative approach to serve community members experiencing homelessness.

Humboldt County DHHS, whose mission is to reduce poverty and connect people and communities to opportunities for health and wellness, is a key community partner. UPLIFT Eureka and DHHS work collaboratively on multiple joint programs to provide seamless case management services to community members experiencing homelessness. This partnership has been utilized to enhance existing programs and also create and implement new resources and services.

The City of Eureka’s established structure, including Human Resources and Finance Departments, provides a built-in capacity to support rapid program growth. This allows UPLIFT Eureka to expand efficiently and effectively without burdening program staff with additional administrative responsibilities. Every Department in the City of Eureka has contributed to the success of UPLIFT Eureka. The City Attorney’s Office, City Manager’s Office, Community Services, Development Services, Finance, Human Resources, Police and Public Works Departments have been working on the design and implementation of the proposed project. City leadership is committed to assisting Eureka residents to obtain and maintain safe, decent, and affordable housing within their community. UPLIFT Eureka has a proven ability to identify community needs and service gaps and has demonstrated the capacity to design, develop and implement innovative programming and establish new partnerships to address these needs.

UPLIFT Eureka’s structure offers diverse programs and the ability to bridge service gaps and coordinate an individual’s needs across sectors. This is supported by the dynamic established network of existing community partnerships, creating a foundation on which efficient and effective implementation of the proposed ERF program will emanate.

**Part 2: Prioritized Encampment Site and Population to be Served**

Eureka is a distinct and independent City shaped by its scenic Northern California coastal setting and nearby redwood forests, rich timber and maritime heritage, unique deep-water shipping port, extensive waterfront and historic core area, architecturally-rich residential neighborhoods, and desirable small town sense of community. Situated 270 miles north of San Francisco on Humboldt Bay, Eureka is the largest coastal City between San Francisco and Portland and serves as the hub of government, health care, commerce and the arts for the surrounding region.

The City of Eureka has a significantly high rate of homelessness in comparison to other cities in the nation. According to the 2019 Point-In-Time Count, on any given night in Eureka, an estimated 653 people experience homelessness, a per capita rate of 2.4%, in comparison to a national per capita rate of approximately .17%. Homelessness directly impacts the quality of life within the City of Eureka, compromising public health and safety and causing environmental degradation.

The Waterfront Trail is located along the shore of Humboldt Bay, stretching 6.5 miles on the western edge of the city. It offers recreation to City of Eureka residents and Greater Humboldt Area residents, as well as recreation for tourists. The Waterfront Trail hosts many different wildlife species and has a rich cultural history, most notably amongst The Wiyot Tribe.

This project focuses on encampments along a 3.5 mile stretch of The Eureka Waterfront Trail, from “B Dock” near Marina Way, to Herrick Avenue, that has been disproportionately negatively impacted by a closely linked community of encampments. Along this stretch of trail, there are multiple encampments varying in size from single individuals to encampments of 6-8 individuals. Inhabitants are using pallets, tarps, tires, shopping carts and tents to create make shift structures on environmentally sensitive wetlands. The landscape has been modified in areas to divert surface water and there has been major ground disturbances due to reckless vegetation removal, impacting the local flora and fauna. These camps also contain hazardous materials that are environmentally damaging including butane canisters, gasoline generators, car batteries, batteries, and various liquid hazardous materials. Public health and safety hazards including human waste, syringes, trash and debris are also prominent on this section of the trail.

This project proposal will serve 50 individuals. The closely linked community of encampments proposed are dynamic, with ever changing numbers of individuals and demographics. But while the camp is fluid, the in-flow/out-flow of individuals residing there appears to be fairly consistent, with individuals moving out quickly replaced with others. Demographic information was collected through the 2019 homeless survey administered by UPLIFT Eureka homeless outreach workers and members of the proactive policing unit. Among the results, the survey indicated a disproportionately high number of Native Americans were experiencing homelessness in Eureka. This is an area where significant improvement must/can be made. New and strengthened partnerships with local tribes and development councils have been identified as a project goal. Although the next survey is not planned until March 2022, there have not been significant demographic fluctuations observed.

**Part 3:** **Core Service Delivery and Provision of Housing Options**

The City of Eureka’s proposal will provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness in a closely linked community of encampments, restore the encampment sites to their original state and fund the development of new interim and permanent housing units with the capacity to shelter up to 40 individuals at any given time. The health, safety, and well-being of the individuals who have been living in the encampments will be prioritized through cross-systems collaborations and service strategies with the ultimate goal of transitioning them to permanent housing and providing innovative supportive services to enable them to maintain their housing.

UPLIFT Eureka’s Enhanced Homeless Outreach Team will be conducting outreach services at the designated encampment sites to provide mental health and medical services on-site and provide warm hand-offs to partnering service providers. This innovative response team is comprised of trauma-informed Homeless Outreach Workers (“H.O.W.s”), Behavioral Health Specialists, and medical professionals. This strategy, which builds upon the established relationships between the UPLIFT Eureka H.O.W.s and the inhabitants of the encampment, integrates new team members from multiple service sectors and utilizes the existing network of community partners to address the complex needs of the individuals they encounter. The Enhance Homeless Outreach Team will simultaneously connect individuals to interim and permanent housing programs including the housing built through this proposal, providing a barrier-free transition to housing aligned with Housing First principles.

Health and safety challenges of the encampments are numerous and intertwined. Those challenges include tens-of-thousands of pounds of trash, hypodermic needles, and human waste. Drug use is prevalent among the campsite’s occupants. Within the past six months, at least one individual died from an overdose in this encampment while others who overdosed were revived with the use of Narcan. Open drug use, physical health challenges, and mental health challenges are among the immediate needs that must be addressed. The intersectionality of some of the residents, having overlapping and interdependent systems of disadvantage, is an added consideration.

UPLIFT Eureka currently partners with The Eureka Police Department’s (“EPD”) Community Safety Engagement Team (“CSET”) to address issues of drug use and overdose amongst those in the encampment. The addition of The Enhanced Homeless Outreach Team will connect more individuals to appropriate treatment facilities, while ensuring that their physical and mental health needs are also being met. This proactive approach will prioritize health and wellness by addressing many health and mental health issues on-site before they escalate to emergency situations.

In partnership with the Humboldt Trails Council, volunteer trail stewards will work to sustainably restore and maintain the sites of the previous encampments along the Waterfront Trail, conducting invasive species removal and planting native flora. Project participants will have the opportunity to work side by side with the trail stewards to reclaim the land for its intended use and purposes. H.O.W.s will conduct proactive engagements with individuals in the area to ensure that new encampments are not established while providing individuals access to resources and services.

The proposed housing project will be comprised of an interim housing complex and six permanent housing structures. UPLIFT Eureka & the Betty Kwan Chinn Homeless Foundation will partner to provide staffing and programming, serving at least 50 individuals. A variety of comprehensive and innovative services and programs will be offered on-site, tailored to effectively meet the specific needs of the residents, directly address health, mental health and safety challenges while promote housing stability. Case management and trauma services will be available to residents to support the transition to permanent housing while medical and mental health services will also be available to address health concerns.

Multiple employment opportunity programs will be available to residents. The UPLIFT Eureka Job Skills Training Program will be accessible to all residents, offering work experience and promoting job readiness. In addition to the regular city beautification projects conducted throughout the city, this program will also work in conjunction with the City of Eureka Facilities Department performing ongoing maintenance for the proposed housing project, offering participants hands on experience. The Pathway to Payday Employment Workshop Series will also be accessible, giving residents the opportunity to engage in preparatory workshops, mock interviews and interview for open positions with local business.

Should residents need off-site services, such as outpatient or inpatient SUD treatment, or more intensive mental health services, referrals will be made to partnering service providers and assistance with scheduling and transportation will be provided.

**Part 4: Coordination of Services and Housing Options**

The proposed project is centered around coordination of services, bridging system gaps and coordinating resident’s needs across multiple sectors such as housing, mental health, physical health and wellness, SUD services, quality of life, and employment. In addition to partnerships with The Betty Kwan Chinn Homeless Foundation, EPD’s CSET and Humboldt County DHHS, UPLIFT Eureka works closely with Waterfront Recovery Services, Saint Vincent de Paul’s Society, Marshall Family Resource Center, Eureka City Schools, Humboldt County Office of Education, Express Employment Professionals, Open Door Community Health, Providence St. Joseph’s and many more.

An enhanced partnership will develop with The Betty Kwan Chinn Homeless Foundation, a philanthropic organization, which will provide case management services to project residents, as well as providing an on-site trauma therapist. This long-standing partnership between The Betty Kwan Chinn Homeless Foundation and The City of Eureka, and more recently UPLIFT Eureka, will continue to grow by adding case management services to the residents that embodies Housing First and is trauma-responsive and person-centered, using motivational interviewing techniques to elicit service plans developed with and not for residents.

An enhanced partnership will develop with Providence St. Joseph Health. This partnership will allow Social Workers (MSW) and Social Workers (BSW) to accompany UPLIFT Eureka’s Homeless Outreach Workers into the field and conduct outreach services and preventative services at encampment sites.

A new partnership with Humboldt Mediation Services has developed that will provide training opportunities to UPLIFT Eureka staff and program participants. Established in 1983, Humboldt Mediation Services is a non-profit organization that promotes

the peaceful resolution of conflicts in our community by providing the best possible services in mediation and facilitation with individuals and groups. Additionally, Humboldt Mediation Services foster education and training in communication and conflict resolution skills. As trained volunteers working with a general manager and case managers,

they provide effective, affordable services. Their vision is that peaceful conflict management and resolution will be accessible to all members of Humboldt County's diverse communities.

The California Department of Rehabilitation will be sought out to provide ADA awareness and inclusion training for staff at the project. Risk will be mitigated by providing services to encampment residents from initial contact, ensuring that all those who wish to take advantage of mental and physical health services are able to do so. Risk will continue to be mitigated by providing services on-site, referring out those who may need more intensive services. Access to public transportation will be provided for residents referred out. Safety concerns will be addressed by surveying encampment residents to find out their safety concerns, and addressing them immediately. The allowance of pets will meet a vital need, as there is currently only one shelter in Eureka that allows animals, posing a common barrier for individuals with pets being willing to accept shelter. Laundry services will be available on the premises.

UPLIFT Eureka’s continued relationship with CSET will be enhanced as the two entities partner for the CSET’s Homeless Survey, which aims to collect accurate descriptions of Eureka community members experiencing homelessness. While the survey is for those who wish to self-report only and is non-punitive and not compulsory, the relationships and rapport which have been built with those individuals ensures that the vast majority of Eureka’s homeless population participates in the survey. The next survey is scheduled to take place in March 2022, giving an accurate overall picture of the current population and climate. Having accurate, current data will aid in ensuring that services are taken advantage of and not duplicated, and also ensuring that future outcomes can be measured as a point of reference will be available. Eureka Police Department’s 2020 Homeless Survey and Report can be found at <https://new.ci.eureka.ca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=17711> and <https://new.ci.eureka.ca.gov/civicax/filebank/blobdload.aspx?BlobID=17712>.

In addition to on-site housing options, participants will also have the option of entering UPLIFT Eureka’s Housing Assistance Program (HAP), a rapid rehousing program giving individuals the choice of housing and supportive services that follows Housing First Principles. Upon entry into the proposed program, participants will be entered into the Coordinated Entry System, giving them further options of permanent housing solutions, including options of other rapid rehousing programs as well as options for permanent supportive housing.

**Part 5: Ensuring Dignity, Safety, and Wellness**

People with lived experience were consulted in the planning of this project and will continue to be consulted throughout its entirety. CSET, HOWs, and other UPLIFT Eureka staff conducted a survey of the encampment residents in preparation of this application to gather numbers of individuals, demographics, safety and cultural needs, and housing needs. They also took personal testimonials from encampment residents to learn what ideal housing supports and services look like for them. Particular notice was taken of multi-marginalized individuals and the intersectionality of disadvantages they experience.

Particular notice was taken of testimonials of three encampment residents, all of whom are female, one of whom is disabled, and one of whom is native. All three residents are in their 40s and have resided in the encampment for longer that 6 months. These residents were asked if given the opportunity for interim and/or permanent housing, what the ideal housing situation would be for them. They were also asked what services and opportunities they would like to see at such a project, what has kept them from getting housed thus far, and what their safety needs would be should they participate in such a project. The common theme throughout all of these women’s’ stories: trauma. More specifically the trauma that is associated with getting housed, only to be rendered homeless again be it because of lack of financial stability, lack of privacy, or lack of affordable housing. Services that they would like to see at such a project: crisis/trauma counselors, mental health services, peer mentorship and opportunities to give back to the project, social services, SUD services such as Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous meetings on-site, life skills training, and the ability to bring their pets with them. These services and activities are foundational to offering an innovative service model to encampment residents, and vital to the project’s success.

This project will be barrier-free with no income or program participation requirements and will provide supportive services.This project exemplifies Housing First in a number of ways, notably in consumer choice and self-determination. Consumer choice is exemplified in the multiple housing choice options given encampment residents, which are interim on-site housing, permanent on-site housing, and permanent off-site housing. Self-determination, a core principle of Housing First, is what will drive the project and its ultimate success. This project will have participant input throughout the entire project, beginning before the grant application is submitted. Regular meetings will be held for the project’s entirety. At these meetings, resident input and feedback will be sought. Suggestion boxes will be in place. Service plans will be written with participants and not for participants. Exit interviews will be conducted for those who move on. An open-door policy, where residents are free to approach management with concerns and comments, will be policy. The open-door policy, in addition to all other interactions with all staff, will be non-punitive, judgement-free, and free from retaliation. Problems and concerns will be handled promptly.

This proposed project is committed to embodying trauma-informed practices. The core principles of Trauma-Informed Care are acknowledgement, safety, trust, compassion, collaboration, choice, and empowerment. By having a Behavioral Health Specialist conduct outreach with the Enhanced Homeless Outreach Team from the moment this project begins is an acknowledgement of the trauma associated with homelessness. Safety is a priority, from encampment to permanent housing. UPLIFT Eureka is founded on trust, and the rapport that staff currently has with community members experiencing homelessness is exemplary. This rapport will only continue to grow with the development and implementation of this project. Compassion is vital to all stages of this project and UPLIFT Eureka recognizes the task that lies ahead for participants. Only everything will be changed for them. Staff and the service providers with which UPLIFT Eureka partners will be there to support residents every step of the way. Choice is given to program participants immediately. No program will be successful if participants are told what to do instead of asked how to do it, as they are the experts in their lives. Empowerment of these individuals will not only advance them in their lives and with their goals but will catapult the community at large to success as these humans are supported towards their goals.

This project will be culturally appropriate by encouraging feedback and input from all participants, encouraging them to bring forth their differences, as their shared experiences are what bind them together, but their individual genders, ethnicities, and cultures are what make the project unique. Space will be held to ensure that cultures and differences are celebrated.

Resolution No.2020 Is a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Eureka, California, amending Resolution No.2017-61 declaring the existence of a shelter crisis in accordance with Government code sections 8698-8698.2. This Resolution designated the City owned property know as the Crowley Property (APN 019-271-004) as a designated site for the proposed interim and permanent housing in this proposal.

Eureka Municipal Code 93.02 prohibits camping in specific areas within the City of Eureka. These prohibited areas include areas along the Humboldt Bay, which includes the proposed encampment. Individual’s wellness, safety, and dignity will be maintained while simultaneously honoring the Eureka Municipal Code by having HOW’s partner with CSET to provide outreach and resources to campers who are in violation of the code. Having compassionate and non-punitive interactions with the campers will build rapport while jump-starting the referrals to new and existing community partners.

Their mental health, physical health, and well-being are prioritized by offering services immediately to address their needs, and having access to those services consistently throughout their participation in the project.