

**Merced County Community Action Agency (MCCAA)**  
**SB 2 Presentation Summary**  
**Recommendations for Local Implementation**



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**Mission:**

To serve, advocate and collaborate for those in need by developing innovative strategies for self-empowerment.

[www.mercedcaa.org](http://www.mercedcaa.org)

**Year founded**  
1964

**Number of Employees**  
174

**History of Homeless Services with MCCAA**

MCCAA has provided services to the homeless since 1989 and currently is the largest provider in Merced County. Our services include 60 beds of year-round emergency shelter, 17 units of permanent supportive housing, HMIS administration, Housing Opportunities for People with A.I.D.S. and occasionally housing placement funds.

**Problem/Opportunity**

Over the past 12 years the numbers of homeless that are visible, living on the street, has increased dramatically. Statistics show that the increase is due to the following factors:

- Failure of the housing market.
- Low-paying jobs/educational attainment.
- Lack of access to mental health services and street outreach.
- Increased number of parolees hitting the streets with few resources.
- Lack of adequate support to secure and maintain housing.
- In 2017 454 people were reported as homeless in Merced County, those numbers increased during the 2018 homeless count.

**Senate Bill 2 Authorization**

Senate Bill 2 will be an essential tool in addressing the needs of the homeless in Merced County and throughout the State of California. Consistent funding to address the increasing problem of homelessness will produce measureable outcomes that will be clearly visible in our communities.

**Strategy**

With over 28 years of experience in addressing the needs of the homeless we have a clear strategy on how to permanently get individuals and families experiencing homelessness off of the streets. Following HUD guidelines with a Housing First Model, the key to ending the cycle of homeless is to secure, permanent supportive housing.

Historically, one-stop centers, transitional housing, and shelters have not provided lasting solutions to homelessness. The new model of navigation (intense support) centers with low-barrier shelters for interim support, hand in hand with housing placement, and initial and continuing case management has provided needed outcomes in communities that have had the funding to implement it.

Merced County has been granted \$2.5 million to establish a navigation center and low-barrier shelter through Assembly Bill No. 97.

Together with SB 2 dollars, Merced County along with many other counties in the state can provide outreach and navigation services, needed housing placement funds, along with the construction of permanent supportive housing.

At the local level it is imperative that all services implemented coordinate with local Continuum of Care programs and align with best practice guidelines established by HUD.

### **Use of Funds**

- Convert existing homeless shelters or structures to navigation centers and low barrier shelter to reduce cost.
- Increase staffing for outreach and navigation services in the community.
- Designate Rapid Re-Housing dollars for deposit, placement assistance.
- Increase Supportive Services in housing for chronically homeless individuals and families.
- Leverage SB 2 dollars with other funds to construct permanent supportive housing.

### **Questions/Comments**