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\$10.3 million coming to San Bernardino County to fight homelessness

By Joe Nelson, The Sun

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More than \$10 million is coming to San Bernardino County agencies and nonprofits from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The \$10.3 million in funds were allocated through HUD's Continuum of Care program, designed to aid agencies in rehousing and providing services to the homeless. The money will go to more than 20 San Bernardino County groups.

The Housing Authority of San Bernardino County received the largest chunk of funding — \$3.5 million.

“We are very excited that we were able to attain renewal funding and extremely proud that we were able to expend every single cent of those grants that expired this year,” Maria Razo, housing authority executive director, said in a statement released Tuesday.

The county has been making a [concerted effort to house its homeless](#) veterans and families in the last two years, partnering with various agencies and nonprofits to provide housing and wraparound services.

Among the agencies the county has partnered with is the nonprofit Knowledge & Education for Your Success, or KEYS, which received two grants totaling \$526,501.

KEYS acting executive director Lisa Jones said one grant for \$241,021, which was actually a renewal of a grant from July 2015, will be used to rehouse and provide services for up to 45 homeless families, while a new \$285,480 grant will be used to expand those services for an additional 35 to 40 homeless individuals.

“Rather than just serving families with children, we can also serve single individuals as well,” Jones said Wednesday.

Additionally, the housing and support services provider Step Up, which has expanded its services into San Bernardino County, received grants totaling \$1.9 million for continued funding of 112 units for homeless individuals, plus new funding for an additional 19 units, according to director Kimberlee Albers.

Editor's note: This story has been updated from a previous version to correct information in the last paragraph regarding the number of housing units being funded.

URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20161221/103-million-coming-to-san-bernardino-county-to-fight-homelessness>

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