



COUNTY *of* VENTURA

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SEVET JOHNSON, PsyD
County Executive Officer

Mike Pettit
Assistant County Executive Officer

Scott Powers
County Chief Financial Officer

Danielle Keys
County Human Resources Director
Labor Relations

September 20, 2024

Mr. Bill Ayub
City Manager
City of Ventura
501 Poli St.
Ventura, CA 93002

Dear Mr. Ayub:

In response to rapidly rising costs associated with operating year around emergency shelters, we invite your jurisdiction to engage with the newly appointed Homelessness Solutions Director in discussing ways to maximize efficiency, minimize cost, and improve outcomes for persons participating in our jointly funded emergency shelter programs.

As a partner in developing the [Updated Ventura County Homelessness Plan](#) your community is well aware of imbalances in the system to prevent and end homelessness. With efforts to rebalance the homeless services system to prioritize prevention and permanent housing development, the length of stay for shelter participants can be reduced. Without such rebalancing, lengths of stay increase and fewer people can be served by these shelter programs thus delaying participants' stability and reintegration into our communities.

The Board of Supervisors has requested that County staff work with your city to effectuate new cost-share agreements, and corresponding shelter operations contracts, that commits County funding to cover baseline operations and incentivizes, through an outcomes-based contract, improved year around emergency shelter operations by defining benchmarks for length of stay in shelters and exits to permanent housing.

Please notify me as soon as possible who your designee is to participate in these critical conversations. Together we can develop a system structure that is designed to both promote efficiency and improve access to shelter. Thank you for your participation and commitment to addressing the pressing issue of homelessness.

Sincerely,

Sevet Johnson, PsyD.
County Executive Officer