

Dear Community Member,

Thank you for your interest in the **Kern County Homeless Collaborative (KCHC)**. We are grateful for your spirit of community as you **work within the community, with your place of worship, and serve people in the community!** There are so many things we can collaborative together on and we so appreciate your spirit of teamwork. Without the voice of faith based agencies, your input, your expertise, your presence we are incomplete and have much to learn from you. Together we have an obligation to make sure everyone in our community knows about available resources to services and housing for those who are homeless and those who are at risk for homelessness – *Only together can we be an effective team!*

**WHEN “I” IS REPLACED WITH “WE” ... “ILLNESS” BECOMES “WELLNESS”!**

*We appreciate your interest in membership!* We need YOU to complete the complete system of care! A yearly, 12-month membership is \$500 (equaling just a little under \$42 per month) and the paid membership is required to fully participate in the Collaborative and truly provide wrap around homelessness resources for those challenged with homelessness or at risk. Membership begins October 1, and ends September 30. ***Prorated dues are available if joining mid-year.***

We recognize that you have been working in the area serving people in need. We would be honored to count on your expertise. Please join us 'formally' in this tremendous work, along with dozens of community partners.

Membership is a critical portion of KCHC's operating budget and crucial to achieving the mission ***...To put an end to homelessness in Kern County through collaborative planning and action.***

The benefits of membership include:

- Voting participation in the decision making and business of the KCHC (also the Continuum of Care for the US Housing and Urban Development funding) through committee activity and full membership meetings (which take place twice a year), and the election of a sixteen-member Governing Board who leads the work.
- Ongoing placement of your agency's logo, contact information and link on the Homeless Collaborative Website ([www.endkernhomeless.org](http://www.endkernhomeless.org)).
- Peer support through such events as “Getting to Know You” one-on-one introductions to other agencies, presentations to applicable staff about initiatives and opportunities for partnerships on identified projects, connections to funding through complimenting services (it's not uncommon for three or four agencies to group up on grant applications, federal or private).
- Networking and assistance in your: agency's work around homeless issues, pursuit of funding, and participation in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that supports a “community information” approach for resolving homelessness challenges; the 2017 Homeless Point in Time Count; SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery) a program of Social Security that helps streamline the application – and response – of SSI application. HMIS gives us a true snapshot of homeless conditions.
- Technical and case conferencing support for challenging situations with individuals and families who are homeless or at risk for homelessness.
- Your membership allows agencies – who are 501C3 entities - the opportunity to apply for consideration of the Consolidated Application for funding from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Program, a privilege available only to members (who are paid when the NOFA LOI is released locally).

Together we ...*Work to provide paths to housing and wellness for individuals and families – and we are ending homelessness by working with partners and residents for community solutions!*

**More than 7,000 people have been housed since 2007.  
97% of people placed in permanent housing  
through KCHC members remain housing stable.**

Because the issues associated with homelessness are complicated, the solutions require considerable time, energy and financial resources; and the often fragile lives we serve, depend on us, ***we truly cannot be effective without you!***

If you decide to join as members, and an invoice would be helpful for your fiscal department(s) please let me know. Checks made payable to United Way of Kern County (note: **2016-17 KCHC Membership Dues**; through September 30, 2017) – or as for the pro-rated dues amount - can be mailed or delivered to:

Christine Lollar - KCHC  
United Way of Kern County  
5405 Stockdale Highway 200  
Bakersfield, CA 93309

If you have any questions, please contact me at [Christine.L@UWKern.org](mailto:Christine.L@UWKern.org) or 661-834-2734.

Sincerely,



Christine Lollar  
Director of Homelessness Resources

CC: Gloria Martinez, Office Manager

**KERN COUNTY HOMELESS COLLABORATIVE at UNITED WAY OF KERN COUNTY**

5405 Stockdale Highway 200 | Bakersfield, CA 93309

Christine Lollar, Director of Homelessness Resources | 661 834 2734 | 661 834 2952 FAX

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