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Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) Awarded \$5 Million Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to Help Kern County Families Find Safe Shelter, Housing and Stability

Fund grants \$117.55 million to 38 nonprofits across the U.S. making measurable progress on reducing family homelessness

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. – (Nov. 21, 2023): Today, Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK), the official anti-poverty agency for Kern County serving 94,000 clients system-wide annually, announced that it has received a \$5 million grant from the Bezos Day 1 Families Fund. This is the sixth round of annual Day 1 Families Fund grants, which recognize leading organizations doing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families experiencing homelessness secure housing and achieve stability.

“We are deeply grateful for the Day 1 Families Fund grant, and we’re excited to partner with the County of Kern and the Housing Authority of Kern County to make a meaningful impact,” said Jeremy T. Tobias, Chief Executive Officer of CAPK. “With this opportunity, CAPK is committed to providing stable, supportive housing to the resident families of Kern County, addressing the root causes of homelessness through a comprehensive approach. This partnership exemplifies our mission to empower individuals and transform lives. Together, we will ensure that the housing project is a place of hope and transformation for those in need.”

This one-time, uniquely flexible grant will support CAPK in serving as a critical lifeline to children and adults in families experiencing homelessness, who represent more than a quarter of the homeless population nationally. In partnership with the County of Kern and the Housing Authority of the County of Kern, CAPK plans to use its Day 1 Families Fund grant to support the development and operation of a 31-unit permanent home community, which will include one- and two-bedroom units and space for offices, services and community gatherings. The site will be in an unincorporated area of Bakersfield. Households experiencing homelessness with an income-level less than 30 or 40 percent of the area median income will occupy the units. CAPK will be the service provider for housing navigation, stabilization and enhanced case management services. Additional services for families including mental health counseling, addiction treatment, and job training will be embedded within the housing program to address the underlying issues that contribute to homelessness.

CAPK was selected as a Day 1 Families Fund grant recipient by a group of national advisors who are leading advocates and experts on homelessness and service provision. National advisors brought expertise on housing justice, advancing racial equity and helping programs employ resources effectively to assist families out of homelessness.

Over the past six years, the Day 1 Families Fund has provided 208 grants totaling more than \$630 million to organizations around the country working on the frontlines to identify unsheltered families, help families regain housing and connect families experiencing homelessness to vital services. A selection of more than half of the Day 1 Families Fund grantees who received funding between 2018 through 2021 report that, to date, they have used their grants to divert more than 28,000 families from experiencing homelessness, connect more than 30,000 unsheltered families with safe shelter and help more than 75,000 families access the services they need.

This year, the Fund issued a total of \$117.55 million in grants to 38 organizations. The Day 1 Families Fund has now granted this award to organizations in 48 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. New states this year include Arkansas, Vermont and Wyoming. The other organization receiving grants in California are Abode Services, Interfaith Community Services and Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority. The full list of awardees is available at bezosdayonefund.org/day1familiesfund.

Launched in 2018, the Bezos Day One Fund made a \$2 billion commitment to focus on making meaningful and lasting impacts in two areas: funding existing nonprofits that help families experiencing homelessness, and creating a network of new, nonprofit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The Bezos Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to help families experiencing homelessness—including those who are unsheltered or staying in shelters—regain safe, stable housing, and achieve well-being. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit www.BezosDayOneFund.org/Day1FamiliesFund.

About Community Action Partnership of Kern

Community Action Partnership of Kern (CAPK) was established in 1965 and administers 19 programs aimed at meeting children, families and individuals at their point of need. CAPK is one of more than 1,000 Community Action agencies nationwide and is one of Kern County's largest nonprofit 501(c) (3) corporations. We work in collaboration with other human services agencies and organizations to help low-income residents pursue their educational goals, secure and retain employment, maintain adequate housing, access medical services, obtain utility bill payment subsidies and residential weatherization assistance, counteract hunger and food insecurity, obtain child care and preschool education, and engage in personal and family development opportunities to build and achieve individual and family self-sufficiency. For more information, please visit www.capk.org or search for Community Action Partnership of Kern on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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