

October 27, 2026

Board of Supervisors
County Administrative Center
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**RESPONSE TO REFERRAL AND PROPOSED OPTIONS FOR PROVIDING FINANCIAL TRAVEL
ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL DETAINEES TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS**

Fiscal Impact: None

On October 13, 2026, your Board made a referral to the County Administrative Office (CAO) requesting information regarding current operations and potential options to support community organizations and volunteers currently working with federal detainees released into our community. Community organizations and volunteers have been working with detainees released in downtown Bakersfield, so they are able to safely return to their home destination. These groups have requested that your Board support their efforts in order to prevent homelessness.

Community providers have recently reported an increase in the number of detainees released in Bakersfield over the past year. Providers support individuals returning to their homes and families, reducing the risk they will become homeless in Bakersfield.

It is our understanding that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is not legally mandated to provide ongoing transportation assistance to detainees released into the United States. Released individuals are frequently dropped off at local transit hubs or offices with minimal support. As a result, non-profit organizations, charities and mutual aid groups often step in to provide assistance.

Since this matter was brought to the Board's attention in September, the CAO initiated several actions to better understand the issue and identify potential solutions. The Chief Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Officer contacted Kern's federal lobbyists to communicate local concerns and request support from federal legislators regarding the impacted detainees being released without resources necessary to return home. CAO staff also contacted providers to understand more about who is being served, the factors contributing to the increase in demand, the cost of services provided, and the circumstances surrounding its services.

At the Board's request, the CAO evaluated two options for the Board to consider.

The first option would utilize the entire \$50,000 in Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) Round 6 funding under the Prevention and Diversion category. These funds have been designated to support outreach and prevention activities conducted by Oildale Street Outreach to assist individuals living on the streets to have resources to support them moving into temporary or permanent housing. This portion of funds could be redirected to support and prevent homelessness. Strict program requirements would need to be followed to ensure individual assisted meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) definition of homelessness and all expenditures remain compliant with applicable state guidelines.

The second option would utilize \$50,000 from General Fund appropriations for contingencies.

If directed by the Board, under either option, the County would enter into an agreement with a service provider that would be responsible for coordinating with volunteers and detainees. The agreement would operate on a reimbursement basis and would provide funding for travel-related expenses incurred in assisting detainees with returning to their homes or designated communities. Reimbursements would require supporting documentation, including receipts, and would not include administrative costs.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board 1) receive and file the referral response; and 2) provide direction regarding the proposed options for preventing homelessness within Kern County.

Sincerely,



Nancy Anderson
County Administrative Officer