

# Future of the Continuum of Care Program in Santa Barbara County

---

**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

Housing and Community Development Division

Board of Supervisors

April 1, 2014



# Recommended Actions

- A) Receive and file an update on the Continuum of Care Program (CoC Program) and its implementation in Santa Barbara County;
- B) Consider the County of Santa Barbara's possible roles:
  - 1) Act as the Collaborative Applicant, and/or
  - 2) Act as the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Agency, and/or
  - 3) Continue serving as the Grant Administrator for the Clean and Sober Living and Lompoc Transformative Housing projects, which entails applying for and administering funding through the CoC Program on behalf of Good Samaritan Shelter;
- C) If the Board of Supervisors decides to adopt a role(s), provide direction to staff to implement;



## Recommended Actions (continued)

- D) If the Board of Supervisors decides not to adopt a role(s), provide direction to staff assist the CoC with transitioning that role(s), including soliciting proposals from organizations to assume that role(s); and
- E) Determine that the recommended actions do not constitute a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), as the actions are organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption.

# Purpose of CoC Program

- Provide homeless individuals and families with the services needed to help them move into permanent housing with the goal of long-term stability
- Establish local homelessness planning bodies, or CoCs
- Implement comprehensive planning, data collection and analysis, and performance measurement locally
- CoCs should include broad stakeholder representation (e.g., service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, and public housing agencies)
- Competitively award funds to communities annually



# CoC Program Funding

- Approximately **\$1.4 million** is awarded annually to local projects

Project Name	Recipient
Casa de Familia	Good Samaritan Shelter
Casa del Mural	Santa Barbara County ADMHS
Clean and Sober Living	Santa Barbara County CSD
Firehouse	Transition House
HMIS	Santa Barbara County CSD
HMIS Expansion I	Santa Barbara County CSD
Riviera Dual Diagnosis Program	Santa Barbara Community Housing Corporation
Second Stage	Domestic Violence Solutions
Shelter Plus Care	Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara
Supportive Services	Transition House
Willbridge Master Lease Project	WillBridge of Santa Barbara, Inc.

- Projects leverage an additional **\$1.1 million** in other resources



# Major Changes to CoC Program

- HEARTH Act overhauled HUD's homelessness assistance programs
- Interim Rule establishes the regulatory framework for the CoC Program
- Interim Rule requires CoCs to establish a board by **August 30, 2014**
  - Specific compositional requirements (e.g., inclusion of a homeless or formerly homeless person)
  - CoC Board acts on behalf of the CoC and carries out the responsibilities delegated to it by the CoC
- Designate a Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead Agency
- Failure to make changes may affect competitiveness of local CoC in obtaining future funding



# Overview of CoC Program in Santa Barbara County

- **County**

- Has acted as CoC Lead Agency since 1998
- Currently performs a number of major responsibilities on behalf of the local CoC

Primary Decision-Making Group

Collaborative Applicant

HMIS Lead Agency

Grant Administrator

- **C3H**

- Formed in 2012 to coordinate homeless service delivery systems and take an active role in policy planning
- Established an organizational framework to implement objectives
- Positioned to be the local CoC



# Impact of Major Changes

- The Board of Supervisors can no longer serve as the **Primary Decision-Making Group** for the local CoC
- The CoC must formally designate a **Collaborative Applicant** and **HMIS Lead Agency**
- At the discretion of the Board, the County can serve no role, one role, or multiple roles

**Collaborative  
Applicant**

**HMIS Lead  
Agency**

**Grant  
Administrator**

- C3H took action at a Special Policy Council meeting to serve as the CoC Lead Agency under certain conditions





# Roles and Responsibilities

## Collaborative Applicant

Current Role: **Yes**

Future Option: **Yes**

*If County continues role...*

Proposed Additional Staffing: **0.75 FTE**

Proposed Additional Staffing Cost: **\$102,750**

### Current Responsibilities:

- Prepares and submits application for funding on behalf of the local CoC
- Carries out other planning and administrative functions
- All responsibilities must be documented
- One-time fund balance subsidized costs, but now is limited

### Requirements:

- Must be a private nonprofit organization, State, local government, or instrumentality of State and local government



# Roles and Responsibilities

## HMIS Lead Agency

Current Role: **Yes**

Future Option: **Yes**

*If County continues role...*

Proposed Additional Staffing: **0.00 FTE**

Proposed Additional Staffing Cost: **\$0**

### Current Responsibilities:

- Oversees day-to-day system administration
- Provides technical support and training to participating organizations and end users
- HUD funding plus required County contributions can currently support one FTE position in CSD

### Requirements:

- Must be a private nonprofit organization, State, local government, or instrumentality of State and local government



# Roles and Responsibilities

## Grant Administrator

Current Role: **Yes**

Future Option: **Yes**

*If County continues role...*

Proposed Additional Staffing: **0.25 FTE**

Proposed Additional Staffing Cost: **\$34,250**

### Current Responsibilities:

- Administers 'pass through' grants under contract with Good Samaritan Shelter
- Performs grant management and compliance oversight activities
- One-time fund balance subsidized costs, but is limited

### Requirements:

- Must be a private nonprofit organization, State, local government, or instrumentality of State and local government
- If County discontinues role, HUD must approve a significant grant amendment



# Roles and Responsibilities

- CSD currently has less than one FTE dedicated to direct program activities for all roles
- **If all roles adopted...**
  - CSD requests one additional FTE at an estimated annual cost of \$137,000
  - Additional staffing and resources needed to allow CSD to carry out roles at optimal levels on behalf of the County
  - This request can be discussed further at the budget workshops
- **If any roles are not adopted...**
  - The Board may direct staff to assist the CoC with transitioning that role, including seeking out other eligible entities to carry out that role
  - It is not the County's responsibility to secure an entity for that role



# CoCs in Benchmark Counties

- County agencies/departments serve in major roles in most CoCs surveyed
- Full-time equivalents (FTE) dedicated to CoC-related activities are at least 1.0 per role
  - Average Collaborative Applicant Staffing: **1.5 FTE**
  - Average HMIS Lead Agency Staffing: **1.2 FTE**

CoC Name	County is Collaborative Applicant	Collaborative Applicant Staffing (FTEs)	County is HMIS Lead Agency	HMIS Lead Agency Staffing (FTEs)
Santa Rosa/Petaluma/Sonoma County	Yes	1.0	Yes	1.0
Salinas/Monterey, San Benito Counties	No	2.0	No	1.0
Watsonville/Santa Cruz City and County	Yes	1.0	Yes	1.0
Vallejo/Solano County	No	1.0	No	1.0
San Buenaventura/Ventura County	Yes	1.5	Yes	2.0
San Luis Obispo County	Yes	2.8	Yes	1.0



# Summary

- A) Receive and file an update on the CoC Program and its implementation in Santa Barbara County;
- B) Consider the County's possible roles:
  - 1) Act as the Collaborative Applicant, and/or
  - 2) Act as the HMIS Lead Agency, and/or
  - 3) Continue serving as the Grant Administrator for the Clean and Sober Living and Lompoc Transformative Housing projects; and
- C) If the Board decides to adopt a role(s), provide direction to staff to implement; and
- D) If the Board decides not to adopt a role(s), provide direction to staff to assist the CoC with transitioning that role(s), including soliciting proposals from organizations to assume that role(s).

