



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Community Services  
**Department No.:** 057  
**For Agenda Of:** May 24, 2022  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department George Chapjian, Community Services Director (805-568-2467)  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Dinah Lockhart, Deputy Director (805-568-3523)  
**SUBJECT:** Authorize Submission of FY 2021 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Application to HUD

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:** Risk Management

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the Community Services Director or designee, acting on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in its role as the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (“CoC”) Collaborative Applicant, to submit a Community Selection application and all certifications, standard forms, and other related documents to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) for the CoC geographic region to be selected for participation in the FY 2021 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP); and
- b) Determine that the recommended actions are not the approval of a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the projects are a creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), will provide funding to approximately 25 selected “YHDP Communities” nationwide to develop and implement a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth homelessness. The population to be served by this demonstration program is youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied and pregnant or parenting youth, where no member of the household is older than 24 years of age. The first stage of the grant program involves HUD selecting the 25 YHDP Communities. Here, the proposed Community Selection application is for the geographic region of the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC to be selected as a YHDP Community (Recommended Action a). The deadline for application submission is June 28, 2022.

**Background:**

HUD will award approximately \$72 million to the selected YHDP Communities, with grant awards ranging from \$1 million to \$15 million per community, based on the service area’s youth population size and poverty rate. Once the YHDP Communities are selected by HUD, they must develop and implement a coordinated community plan, which includes specific structural components, including: 1) statement of need; 2) list of community stakeholders, 3) discussion of vision and action steps; 4) potential new projects; 5) governance structure; and, 6) signatures of official representatives from key systems. YHDP funding is renewable under the Continuum of Care Program and requires cost sharing, matching, or leveraging matched with no less than 25 percent of funds or in-kind contributions from other sources as described in 24 CFR 578.73. Staff does not anticipate requiring any additional local funding for the match.

The Housing and Community Development Division of the Community Services Department (HCD/CSD), on behalf of the County, is the Collaborative Applicant for the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC. In that role, HCD/CSD applies for HUD funding to support the delivery of housing and services to homeless and formerly homeless individuals, administers the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which collects data submitted by homelessness assistance programs, and implements CoC Program activities in Santa Barbara County. HUD’s Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) instructions require the YHDP Community Selection application be submitted by the CoC Collaborative Applicant.

Using Point in Time (PIT) count and HMIS data, HCD staff will compile and submit the YHDP Community Selection application on behalf of the CoC. The California Department of Education reports that in the 2019-20 school year, 8,370 students met the McKinney Vento definition of a homeless youth (defines homeless children and youth as individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence) in Santa Barbara County school districts. After HUD announces the selected YHDP Communities, the Communities will have 6 months to submit the above-described coordinated community plan. During plan development, HUD will assign dedicated teams of technical assistance providers to assist selected communities in analyzing community strengths and needs, developing a coordinated community plan, implementing the plan, and then engaging in a process of continuous quality improvement. After the coordinated community plan is approved by HUD, the Collaborative Applicant (CSD/HCD) applies to HUD on behalf of project applicants up to the total amount made available to the community under the YHDP.

The demonstration has seven primary objectives:

- Build national momentum.
- Promote equity in the delivery and outcomes of homeless assistance.
- Highlight the importance of youth leadership.
- Evaluate the coordinated community approach.
- Expand capacity.
- Evaluate performance measures.
- Establish a framework for Federal program and Technical Assistance collaboration.

The FY 2021 YHDP Notice of Funding Opportunity was published on March 24, 2022. The CoC application due date into HUD is June 28, 2022. CSD/HCD staff, as the Collaborative Applicant, is working with the CoC, the Youth Action Board Committee, and local community groups to prepare an application for designation as an YHDP Community. The Youth Action Board Committee is a group of community leaders, between the ages of 14-24 who will be CoC participants, and have convened since 2018. The Collaborative Applicant is the only entity allowed to apply for the designation.

**Performance Measure:**

The total YHDP funding available to each selected community will be based on a formula that accounts for the number of youth in poverty in each community ages 12 to 24 (using data from the American Community Survey), the average number of unaccompanied youth up to age 24 plus the number of households headed by a youth up to age 24 who are experiencing homelessness as reported to HUD, and the 2-bedroom Fair Market Rent (FMR) for the geographic area listed in the community application. In addition, the formula ensures that the amount of funding communities receive is adjusted for the size and level of need in selected communities.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

If the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC is selected for YHDP designation, CSD/HCD would return to the Board for a budget revision during the community planning period.

**Key Contract Risks:**

The CoC Program is a federally funded program subject to associated federal requirements. As the Collaborative Applicant, the County is responsible for ensuring that CoC activities are carried out in accordance with grant requirements. CSD has experience administering CoC activities and funds awarded under HUD programs on behalf of the County.

**Special Instructions:**

Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Kimberlee Albers at [kalbers@co.santa-barbara.ca.us](mailto:kalbers@co.santa-barbara.ca.us)

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

**Authored by:**

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