

Purpose Statement:

C3H will harness all resources available to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness, as well as minimize the impacts of homelessness in Santa Barbara County.



Strategies:

*Housing First
*Housing Ready
*Family/Employer Reunification

Pillars/Goals:

- ♦ Prevent homelessness
- ♦ Support the expansion of housing for the homeless
- ♦ Build a results- and data-driven culture
- ♦ Elevate community dialogue, support, and collaboration regarding homelessness
- ♦ Encourage commitment and self-sufficiency

March 21, 2014

Chair Steve Lavagnino
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Chair Lavagnino and Supervisors:

Pursuant to changes mandated by the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Interim Rule (Interim Rule) issued by the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) at 24 CFR Part 578, Santa Barbara County is required to designate a CoC Lead Agency, Collaborative Applicant, and a Housing Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Agency by August 30, 2014. Santa Barbara County will be required to comply with all directives attendant to these designations per the Interim Rule by that same date.

Compliance with all provisions of the Interim Rule is required for Santa Barbara County to remain eligible and competitive for HUD CoC funding, which constitutes millions of dollars affecting numerous essential providers within the homeless services continuum. Santa Barbara County's capacity to maximize HUD funding received stands to be increased if all functions under the Interim Rule (CoC Lead Agency, Collaborative Applicant, and HMIS Lead Agency) function effectively and have the appropriate level of staff and resources allocated. Conversely, without a fully functioning CoC, Santa Barbara County stands to lose millions of dollars in HUD funding. Funding allocations must be made by Santa Barbara County to enable C3H and the Housing & Community Development (HCD) Division of the Community Services Department (CSD), to function effectively and enter into compliance with the Interim Rule by August 30, 2014.

In accordance with the unanimous vote of the Policy Council of the Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness (C3H), it is recommended that C3H be designated as the Lead Agency for Santa Barbara County's Continuum of Care (CoC), conditioned on the following:

1. The Santa Barbara County CSD, through its HCD Division serve as the Collaborative Applicant for HUD CoC funding;
2. CSD, through HCD, will serve as the Lead Agency for the HUD-required Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

3. Additional County resources are required in order for both CSD/HCD and C3H (aka, the CoC) to function and carry out the mandates outlined below.

Specifically, CSD/HCD would be responsible for submitting the annual CoC Consolidated Application for funding on behalf of the CoC, as approved by C3H. CSD/HCD would also be responsible for the ongoing operation of HMIS, to ensure it is administered in compliance with HUD requirements; that privacy, security, and data quality plans are in place; and that CoC funding recipients and sub-recipients participate consistently. (It should be noted that to perform these duties adequately, comparable counties have already allocated approximately 2-3 times the professional resources currently allocated by Santa Barbara County.)

As the CoC Lead Agency for Santa Barbara County, C3H will be required to: serve as the planning body to identify the needs of the County in addressing homelessness, build a system of housing and services to meet those needs, and engage in system-wide evaluation of the County's response to homelessness; establish and implement decisions affecting the provision of homeless services in Santa Barbara County, including decisions related to funding; and facilitate collaboration between the diverse entities that represent stakeholders county-wide, on issues related to homelessness. (It should be noted that communities similar in size to Santa Barbara County also have approximately 2-3 times more staffing and professional resources allocated to perform these CoC Lead functions.)

Given the unanimous support of the C3H Policy Council, we respectfully recommend that the Board of Supervisors work in cooperation with C3H by designating it as the CoC Lead Agency, contingent upon County CSD/HCD serving as the Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead Agency. In so doing, it is required that the County Board of Supervisors assures that needed resources and staffing are allocated for the CoC to function effectively.

Respectfully,



Rob Fredericks,
Chair, C3H Executive Oversight Committee
Co-Chair, C3H Coordination Committee



Angela Antenore,
C3H Facilitator