



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: October 15, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Jesús Armas, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director(s)
Contact Info: Joe Dzvonik, Deputy Director 805-568-3523

SUBJECT: Authorization of the HUD 2024-2025 Continuum of Care Competition
Consolidated Application

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 County's Community Services Department (CSD) Director, or his designee, to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the Continuum of Care (CoC) Collaborative Application totaling \$3,657,943, which includes selected CoC community project applications and CSD project applications (collectively, the "CoC Projects") for 2024-2025 CoC Homeless Assistance Program Competition.
- b) Authorize the CSD Director to execute 2024-2025 CoC Program grant agreements and scope of work documentation with HUD for the three CSD project applications that are part of the CoC Collaborative Application, in a form substantially similar to the previously approved and executed 2023 CoC grant agreements, in the following estimated amounts:
 - i. \$169,050 for operation of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS),
 - ii. \$130,675 for operation of the Coordinated Entry System (CES), and
 - iii. \$138,266 Santa Barbara County CoC Planning;and written commitments of General Fund estimated match in the amount of \$109,499, and all certifications, standard forms, and other related documents.
- c) Determine that the above 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.

Summary Text:

The HUD CoC Homelessness Assistance Program Competition is one of the few sources of ongoing funding to address homelessness. The Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (“Local CoC”) Collaborative Application will include a prioritized list of applications and result in the availability of up to \$3,657,943 in federal funding for operating a combination of renewal and new homeless assistance projects. The projects in the Preliminary Prioritized List (see Table 1) are selected using a formal Review and Rank Panel process in accordance with HUD rules and guidelines. This list also includes unscored (non-competitive) project funds to be administered by CSD, as the Local CoC Lead Agency, for systemwide operations as follows: \$169,050 (HMIS); \$130,675 (CES); and \$138,266 (planning and implementation). They are included in Table 1 with an asterisk. All other project funding is community-based and will go directly to the selected provider from HUD.

As the Collaborative Applicant for the CoC, CSD coordinates the Local CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (“Local NOFO”) and submits all community-based project applications as part of the Local CoC Collaborative Application to HUD. For the first time, HUD is including a non-competitive renewal option for a second annual term. CSD staff is recommending that the Board authorize the CSD Director to submit the HUD CoC Competition Collaborative Application, sign a General Fund commitment of \$109,499 in required County matching funds for CSD projects (25% of the HUD-funded total for these projects, \$437,991); and execute CoC Grant Agreements upon acceptance and confirmation of awards by HUD for both the 2024 and 2025 annual grant periods.

Background:

The HUD CoC Program provides funding to support the delivery of permanent housing, transitional housing, and supportive services for persons experiencing homelessness throughout Santa Barbara County. In order to receive funds under the CoC Program, communities must maintain an active CoC, which is a local homeless assistance planning network composed of various stakeholders, such as nonprofit homeless service providers, faith-based organizations, governments, businesses, advocates, school districts, hospitals, and law enforcement.

Authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009, the CoC Program is designed to assist homeless individuals and provide them with the services needed to help them move into transitional and permanent housing with the goal of long-term stability. Funds awarded through the CoC Program may be used to pay for the costs of establishing and operating projects under five program components: permanent housing, transitional housing, supportive services, coordinated entry, and HMIS. Additionally, CoC Program funds may be used to support CoC planning activities, such as evaluating outcomes of projects funded by the CoC Program and monitoring and enforcing compliance of recipients and subrecipients of CoC Program funds.

While the Local CoC and its board are responsible for administering the CoC Program in Santa Barbara County, CSD performs tasks that are critical to the local implementation of the CoC Program, including preparing the Collaborative Application for the annual CoC Program Competition, and evaluating outcomes of projects funded through the CoC Program. CSD also acts as the Lead Agency for the HMIS, administers CES, and functions as the administrative entity for all CoC activities and

grants.

2024-2025 CoC Program Competition

The 2024-2025 HUD CoC Homelessness Assistance Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity was published on July 31, 2024. Table 1 is the Local CoC Preliminary Priority Listing to be submitted to HUD after approval by the CoC Board. Projects are recommended first by the Local CoC and then awarded and administered at the national level by HUD. A Local CoC Review and Rank panel reviews, scores, ranks, or rejects applications for projects. Ranked applications will be included in the Collaborative Application and Project Priority Listing with all project applications and submitted to HUD by the October 30, 2024 deadline.

Table 1: 2024-2025 Local CoC Preliminary Priority Listing

2024-2025 Local CoC Preliminary Priority Listing				
New / Renewal	Project	Applicant	Type	Grant Amount
New	3055 De La Vina (Quality Inn acquisition)	Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara	PSH	\$192,500.00
Renewal	Oak Street	Good Samaritan Shelter	Joint TH & RRH	\$124,675.00
Renewal	Marks House	Good Samaritan Shelter	Joint TH & RRH	\$141,197.00
Renewal	New Beginnings RRH	New Beginnings Counseling Center	RRH	\$233,488.00
New	New Beginnings RRH Expansion	New Beginnings Counseling Center	RRH	\$276,013.00
Renewal	Rapid ReHousing Consolidated	Good Samaritan Shelter	RRH	\$212,852.00
Renewal	Artisan and Bradley Consolidation	Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara	PSH	\$137,015.00
Renewal	Buena Tierra	Good Samaritan Shelter/HASBARCO	PSH	\$183,236.00
Renewal	New Scattered Site Housing	Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County	PSH	\$203,376.00
Renewal	Coordinated Entry Renewal*	County of Santa Barbara	CES	\$130,675.00
Renewal	HMIS Consolidated Renewal*	County of Santa Barbara	HMIS	\$169,050.00
Renewal	PATH Santa Barbara	PATH	PSH	\$1,093,072.00
New	CityNet New Housing Project	Kingdom Causes, d.b.a. CityNet	Joint TH & RRH	\$422,528.00
Renewal	2024 Planning Grant*	County of Santa Barbara	Planning	\$138,266.00
* County CSD Projects subject of Recommended Action b.				\$3,657,943.00

Table 1 legend: PSH – Permanent Supportive Housing RRH -Rapid Rehousing TH- Transitional Housing HMIS – Homeless Management Information System CES – Coordinated Entry System

Current County Roles and Responsibilities for the Continuum of Care

Collaborative Applicant and Administrative Entity

In partnership with homeless service providers, community groups, and government agencies, CSD facilitates local planning efforts in regards to homelessness. Critical among them is being the administrative entity and collaborative applicant for funding, as the CoC is not a legal entity. Though most funds awarded locally under the HUD CoC Program flow directly to the operators of homeless assistance projects, CSD plays a central role in coordinating and writing the Collaborative Application on behalf of the Local CoC.

CSD also performs critical administrative functions for the Local CoC, such as aggregating and submitting shelter and housing inventory data to HUD annually, conducting the Point in Time Count, facilitating evaluations of CoC Program-funded projects, administering State funding (including the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program, or HHAP funding), providing technical assistance, and coordinating the review and evaluation of local Emergency Solutions Grants Program applications to the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development.

HMIS Lead Agency

HUD requires all CoCs to implement a single HMIS within their geographic areas that is capable of storing client-level information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless persons and persons at risk of homelessness. Since 2005, the County has been the lead administrator of the Santa Barbara County HMIS. In this role, CSD oversees day-to-day system administration, provides technical support and training, and ensures system integrity and availability. CSD also applies annually for funds under the CoC Program to partially finance system and staff costs. CSD receives \$169,850 in CoC Program funds annually, specifically for staff costs and licenses. There are currently 322 active end users and 47 agencies participating in HMIS.

Coordinated Entry System Lead Agency

The Coordinated Entry System (CES) is the process that facilitates the gathering of client information and referral to housing resources. CES has grown to 16 physical access points, including three youth-focused and three family-focused access points, and covers six cities and Isla Vista within the county. Recently capabilities for language interpretation have been added at each entry point to ensure equitable assistance. In addition to the physical access points, outreach teams are also trained to input data into HMIS.

Performance Measures

The Local CoC evaluates the performance of CoC Program-funded projects that provide housing and/or services to homeless and formerly homeless individuals according to the following measurement areas: project performance (e.g., number of persons exiting to or remaining in permanent housing and number of adults with earned income at follow-up or project exit), utilization and cost effectiveness, and timely expenditure of funds. In addition, HUD and State-defined system performance measures are monitored annually and submitted as part of the evaluation for competitive funding. Measures include the:

- Number of persons experiencing homelessness
- Number of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Number of persons who become homeless for the first time
- Length of time persons remain homeless
- Successful placements from street outreach
- Number of persons exiting homelessness to permanent housing
- Number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			\$ 109,499
State			
Federal			\$ 437,991
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 547,490

Recipients and subrecipients of CoC Program funds must provide cash or in-kind match that is no less than 25 percent of the award amount. For HMIS Consolidation, CES, and Local CoC Planning, \$109,499 in General Fund contributions are budgeted in the FY 2024 Adopted Budget to satisfy the match requirement. Funds will be used to support CSD staff costs incurred for HMIS, CES, and CoC Planning activities.

Key Contract Risks:

The CoC Program is a federally-funded program subject to associated federal requirements. As the recipient of federal funds, the County is responsible for ensuring that CoC Program funds are used in accordance with CoC Program requirements. CSD has experience administering CoC Program funds and funds awarded under other HUD programs on behalf of the County.

Special Instructions:

- 1) Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Kimberlee Albers at kalbers@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

- A. Match Commitment Letters for Planning, HMIS, and CES grants
- B. 2023 Continuum of Care Grant Agreement

Authored by: Matthew Rector, Housing Program Specialist Sr. (Interim), Housing and Community Development Division