



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:** July 13, 2021  
**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)  
Kimberlee Albers, Homeless Programs Manager (805-560-1090)  
**SUBJECT:** Authorize Submission of FY 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP); and
- b) Determine that the recommended actions are not the acceptance and 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 50 selected “YHDP Communities” nationwide to develop and implement a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth homelessness. The first stage of the grant program involves HUD selecting the 50 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 7/27/2021.

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 California Department of Education reports that in the 2019-20 school year 8,370 students met the McKinney Vento definition of a homeless youth in Santa Barbara County school districts.

HUD will award approximately \$145 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; 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 the regulation at 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 2019 and 2020 Point in Time (PIT) count and HMIS data, HCD staff will compile and submit the YHDP Community Selection application on behalf of the CoC. Once 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 local CoC Rank and Review Committee will be convened to recommend projects for the collaborative application for submission to HUD for funding.

**Background:**

YHDP uses the funding appropriated for fiscal year (FY) 2019 on February 15, 2019 through the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6) ("FY 2019 Appropriations Act"), and funding appropriated for FY 2020 on December 20, 2019 through the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116-94) ("FY 2020 Appropriations Act"). The FY 2019 Appropriations Act and FY 2020 Appropriations Act appropriated this funding to HUD "to implement projects to demonstrate how a comprehensive approach to serving homeless youth, age 24 and under ... can dramatically reduce youth homelessness."

The demonstration has six primary objectives:

- Build national momentum. Motivate state and local homelessness stakeholders and youth services providers, including Runaway and Homeless Youth providers across the country to prevent and end youth homelessness by forming new partnerships, addressing system barriers, conducting needs assessments, testing promising strategies, and evaluating their outcomes;
- Promote equity in the delivery and outcomes of homeless assistance. Promote equity throughout the community's youth homeless response system for Black, Indigenous, Hispanic (non-white), and LGBTQ youth who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness than their white, straight, and gender conforming counterparts. Awarded communities will promote equity throughout their youth homeless response system and all YHDP projects will measure and demonstrate equitable delivery and outcomes.
- Evaluate the coordinated community approach. Evaluate coordinated community approaches to preventing and ending youth homelessness, including local and state partnerships across sectors and other planning operations;
- Expand capacity. Expand community capacity to serve youth experiencing homelessness (particularly by using a Housing First approach), pilot new models of assistance, and determine what array of interventions is necessary to serve the target population in their community;
- Evaluate performance measures. Evaluate the use of performance measurement strategies designed to better measure youth outcomes and the connection between youth program outcomes and youth performance measures on overall system performance for the Continuum of Care (CoC); and
- Establish a framework for Federal program and TA collaboration. Determine the most effective way for Federal resources to interact within a state or local system to support a coordinated community approach to preventing and ending youth homelessness.

The FY 2019-2020 YHDP Notice of Funding Opportunity was published on May 24, 2021. The CoC application due date into HUD is July 27, 2021. CSD 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 throughout this application process. The Collaborative Applicant is the only entity allowed to apply for the designation.

The FY 2019-2020 YHDP application references the Point in Time (PIT) Count to determine the number of youth experiencing homelessness in the CoC's geographic region. The table below shows the number of youth under the age of 24 counted during the Santa Barbara County 2019 and 2020 Point in Time Count.

**County of Santa Barbara Youth PIT Numbers**

	<b>2020 Total</b>	<b>2019 Total</b>
Unaccompanied Youth and Young Adults	98	93
Children with Parenting Youth	8	12
Total	<b>106</b>	<b>105</b>

**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 for years 2017 and 2019 of the 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 in Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) data submission tool (or most recent two counts submitted to HUD in HDX if the community does not have homelessness data from 2017 and 2019), and the 2- bedroom Fair Market Rent (FMR) for the geographic area listed in the community application (if there is more than one FMR for the geographic area, HUD will calculate a population weighted average (FMR)). 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 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:**

Lucille Boss, Housing and Community Development Division ([lboss@countyofsb.org](mailto:lboss@countyofsb.org))