



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: March 19, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

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

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding with Continuum of Care Required by State
Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program Round 5 Funding

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- a) Authorize the Community Services Director, or designee, until otherwise ordered by the Board, to take the following actions required for the acceptance and administration of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 5 funds allocated to the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC) and County of Santa Barbara:
 - i. Submit, by March 27, 2024, a joint funding application which includes a Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan, and execute all certifications, standard forms and a grant agreement required for disbursement of HHAP Round 5 funds. Such standard agreement shall be in a form substantially similar to the HHAP 4 Standard Agreement and subject to concurrence by County Counsel, Risk Management, and Auditor-Controller; and
- b) Approve and authorize the Community Services Director, or designee, to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the Santa Maria / Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care from the HHAP 5 Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan and their inclusion in the Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness, which are required for the application, acceptance, and administration of the HHAP Round 5 funds allocated to the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care and the County of Santa Barbara;

- c) Determine the above 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)(5), finding that the actions are organizational or administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

Staff is recommending authorization for the Community Services Director, or designee, to apply for Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) 5 funding including execution of the standard agreement substantially similar to HHAP Round 4 (Attachment A) and approval of the Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment B). The application includes key actions that will be added to the Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness and serve as a guide of the partnership and collaboration between the County of Santa Barbara and the Santa Maria/ Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC). The HHAP Regionally Coordinated Action Plan is required for the application, acceptance, and administration of Round 5 funds allocated to the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC and the County of Santa Barbara.

The State legislature appropriated funding for HHAP Round 5 through Assembly Bill 129. HHAP Round 5 allocations are made pursuant to the 2023 Point in Time Count. The state allocation percentages for HHAP 5 are 42% to the 13 largest cities, 30% to Continuums of Care, and 28% to Counties. The base allocation to the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care is \$2,713,487 and the County allocation is \$2,603,351, for a total allocation of \$5,316,838 to serve the county geographic region. The County allocation will continue to be focused on operations of interim housing. The CoC is finalizing their uses in order to continue the actions and strategies as identified in the Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness.

Background:

The County and CoC have received four previous rounds of State HHAP funding totaling \$16,268,249. Table 1 shows the allocation amounts and Table 2 shows how those funds will be or have been invested to address homelessness. As of December 31, 2023, HHAP funded programs have served 1,480 unduplicated persons experiencing homelessness, of which 507 have transitioned out of homelessness into permanent housing. Some of the HHAP funding has only been recently contracted as the new temporary interim supportive housing projects, Hope Village and La Posada prepare to open.

Table 1: Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program Allocations to CoC and County

	Continuum of Care Allocation	County Allocation	Total
HHAP-1	\$ 2,123,943	\$ 1,967,682	\$ 4,091,625
HHAP-2	\$ 1,004,973	\$ 899,512	\$ 1,904,485
HHAP-3	\$ 2,698,535	\$ 2,518,632	\$ 5,217,167
HHAP-4	\$ 2,608,054	\$ 2,446,918	\$ 5,054,972
<i>Totals</i>	\$ 8,435,505	\$ 7,832,744	\$ 16,268,249

Table 2: Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program Rounds 1-4 Uses

HHAP Rounds 1-4 Project Types and Uses	Amounts
New & Existing Interim Housing	\$ 7,200,546
Delivery of Permanent Housing (EHV Support Services)	\$ 2,217,238
Rapid Rehousing & Landlord Incentives	\$ 2,052,208
Street Outreach and Engagement	\$ 754,294
Shelter Diversion	\$ 250,000
Services Coordination - Housing Retention	\$ 1,562,460
Strategic Homelessness Planning, Infrastructure Development, Coordinated Entry System, Point in Time Count, and HMIS	\$ 1,153,533
Administration	\$ 1,077,970
HHAP 1-4 Funding Total	\$ 16,268,249

Staff is recommending Round 5 County allocated funding *not* set aside for administration (7%), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) costs (1%) and youth programs (10%) be used for operations of interim housing (\$2,134,749) at the Hope Village and La Posada temporary interim supportive housing projects. The CoC determined and approved the uses for the CoC allocation at their board meeting of March 7, 2024, deciding to focus on Rapid Rehousing and Services Coordination. A joint HHAP 5 application will be submitted to the State of California prior to the due date on March 27, 2024.

The California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) released the HHAP Round 5 Notice of Funding Availability on September 29, 2023 with a due date of March 27, 2024. The Application requires applicants to be a signatory to a Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan (HSC 50235(h)) as part of the application. The application package includes:

- A detailed plan for allocated funds
- Identifying roles and responsibilities
- Current system performance and key actions to improve performance
- Key action to ensure racial and gender equity
- Key actions to reduce exits to homelessness from institutional settings
- Explanation of utilization of all local, state and federal funding to end homelessness
- Key actions to connect people experiencing homelessness to all eligible benefit programs

The HHAP-5 application requires a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) committing each signatory to participation in and to comply with the HHAP 5 Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan described above and detailed in Attachment B. The MOU commits the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care (CoC) and County of Santa Barbara to uphold, participate in, and comply with the

actions, roles, and responsibilities in the region as described in the HHAP-5 Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan.

The Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan is different in structure from the County's Community Action Plan approved by the Board on February 23, 2021. Staff has aligned the HHAP 5 key actions with the previously approved plan and will be added as an addendum to the Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness.

The County serves as the Administrative Entity for the CoC. The CoC (per 24 Code of Federal Regulations 578) is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. The CoC has designated responsibilities through an elected governing Board including coordination of the housing and services system for persons experiencing homelessness, oversight of the Point in Time Count, the Homeless Management Information System and the Coordinated Entry System. These systems are required to comply with State of California and Department of Housing and Urban Development requirements demonstrating a regional planning process and adequate data collection.

The following key dates demonstrate the history of the CoC and partnership with the County to serve as the system lead.

- March 6, 2014 – Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness (C3H) assumes the role of lead agency for the CoC (United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County as fiscal agent).
- August 7, 2014 - First meeting of the inaugural CoC Board which voted to establish the County of Santa Barbara as the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Lead Agency and Collaborative Applicant
- October 14, 2014 - County of Santa Barbara executes Memorandum of Understanding with the CoC to become the Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead Agency
- March 13, 2018 - County assumes role of lead agency for the CoC from C3H
- July 31, 2021 – United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County opted not to renew their Coordinated Entry System (CES) contract, County becomes CES Lead Agency

Performance Measure:

Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan Outcome Goals are referenced in Table 3 as performance measures. These goals will be added to the Community Action Plan to Address Homelessness as an appendix. The system performance goals are set from review of baseline Calendar Year 2022 Santa Barbara County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data provided by the State of California. Community Services then reviewed multi-year trends and calculated the projected percent change during the funding period.

Table 3: HHAP Program Outcome Baseline Data

CA SPM Data Report: Calendar Years 2020-2022		
CA-603 Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC		
Measure #1a: Reducing the number of persons experiencing homelessness.		
Number of people accessing services who are experiencing homelessness.		
Performance Data		
CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022
3,164	3,436	3,958
Measure #1b: Reducing the number of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness on a daily basis.		
Estimated number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness on the CoC's Point-in-Time Count (on a single day in the last week of January).		
Performance Data		
CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022
1,223	-	1,367
Measure #2: Reducing the number of persons who become homeless for the first time.		
Number of people accessing services who are experiencing homelessness for the first time (defined as not accessing services while experiencing homelessness in the past two years).		
Performance Data		
CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022
1,650	1,809	2,076
Measure #3: Increasing the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.		
Number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing, including people who exited the homelessness response system to permanent housing and people who moved into permanent housing within the homelessness response system.		
Performance Data		
CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022
1,086	1,084	1,190
Measure #4: Reducing the length of time persons remain homeless.		
Average length of time (in number of days) that people were enrolled in street outreach (SO) or other non-residential projects (while experiencing homelessness), emergency shelter (ES), transitional housing (TH), and safe haven (SH) projects, as well as time during which people were enrolled in, but had not yet moved into, rapid rehousing (RRH), permanent supportive housing (PSH), and other permanent housing (OPH) projects.		
Performance Data		
CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022
113	118	124
Measure #5: Reducing the number of persons who return to homelessness after exiting homelessness to permanent housing.		
Percent of people who return to homelessness within 6 months of exiting homelessness response system to permanent housing.		
Performance Data		
CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022
7%	10%	10%
Measure #6: Increasing successful placements from street outreach.		
The number of people with successful placements from street outreach projects, which includes exits to an emergency shelter (ES), safe haven (SH), transitional housing (TH), or permanent housing (PH) destinations.		
Performance Data		
CY 2020	CY 2021	CY 2022
36	41	118
-PIT data are not included in the CY21 report due to COVID-related inconsistencies.		

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Approval of this Board action authorizes staff to submit a funding application and execute all certifications, standard forms, and grant agreements for HHAP Round 5. When combining the CoC and County allocations, Community Services will administer \$5,316,838 in HHAP funding to address homelessness in Santa Barbara County. The funds will be budgeted in FY 24-25. HHAP Round 5 is a multi-year grant of one-time funds. HHAP Round 5 fund recipients must obligate at least 75% of the funding allocation and expend at least 50% by June 30, 2026. All of these funds must be expended by June 30, 2028. Failure to expend will result in supplemental allocations to not be allocated.

Key Contract Risks:

The County assumes responsibility for the administration of funding in accordance with all State and federal requirements governing their use. No sub-recipient agreements or contracts are included in this Board Letter.

Staffing Impacts:

Staff costs directly related to implementing or carrying out activities funded by the program allocation are included in the existing Community Services budget. No additional staff is being considered.

Legal Positions:
N/A

FTEs:
N/A

Special Instructions:

- 1) Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to Kimberlee Albers at kalbers@countyofsb.org

Attachments:

- A. HHAP 4 Standard Agreement
- B. Memorandum of Understanding with Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC with Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan

Authored by:

Kimberlee Albers, Homelessness Assistance Program Manager