



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: January 21, 2014
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Herman D. Parker, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467
Director(s)
Contact Info: Dinah Lockhart, Deputy Director of HCD (805) 568-3523
SUBJECT: Application for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Fiscal Year
2013 Continuum of Care Program Competition

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Authorize the Director of the Community Services Department or designee to execute and submit an application to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for its Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition (Attachment A);
- B. Authorize the Director of the Community Services Department or designee to execute and submit all certifications, standard forms, and other related documents required for the submission of the application for the FY 2013 CoC Program Competition; and
- C. Determine that the submission and execution of the application and all certifications, standard forms, and other related documents required for submission of the application for the FY 2013 CoC Program Competition is 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 project is 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, and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE) (Attachment B).

Summary Text:

On November 22, 2013, HUD issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for its FY 2013 CoC Program Competition announcing the availability of approximately \$1.7 billion to support homeless assistance projects nationwide (Attachment C). The Community Services Department (CSD), on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara as the 'lead agency' of the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC, coordinates the preparation and submission of the CoC's annual application to HUD. The deadline to submit the CoC application is February 3, 2014.

HUD anticipates that the appropriation for the CoC Program is insufficient to fund all projects eligible for renewal in the FY 2013 CoC Program Competition. Additionally, unlike prior competitions, HUD is not offering communities bonus funds to create new permanent supportive housing projects. The only new projects for which CoCs may apply for funding include those created through reallocation, whereby funding for one or more projects eligible for renewal is reduced or eliminated to make available funds to develop new permanent supportive housing projects targeted to the chronically homeless, and for CoC planning. HUD requires CoCs to rank projects in a two-tiered approach, the purpose of which is for the CoC to clearly indicate to HUD which projects are prioritized for funding. HUD suggests that CoCs rank projects that are determined to be high priority and high performing in Tier 1; projects in Tier 1 stand a greater chance of being funded. Projects ranked in Tier 2 are determined to be lower performing or lower priority and, therefore, are at risk of not being funded.

For the FY 2013 CoC Program Competition, twelve projects in the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC are eligible for renewal funding totaling \$1,488,203. HUD has made available \$1,413,793 for projects in Tier 1, which is five percent less than the total renewal request amount. The CoC Review Committee, appointed by the Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness (C3H) Coordination Committee, recommended funding ten renewal projects at requested levels, reducing funding for one renewal project, and eliminating one renewal project. The elimination of one renewal project allowed the CoC Review Committee to recommend the creation of a new permanent supportive housing project for the chronically homeless through reallocation.

HUD has also made available \$18,800 for a CoC planning project. This amount plus the difference between the total renewal request amount (\$1,488,203) and the amount available for projects in Tier 1 (\$1,413,793), or \$74,410, for a total of \$93,210, constitutes the funding amount available in Tier 2. The total amount recommended for projects in the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC under the FY 2013 CoC Program Competition is \$1,413,793. The CoC Review Committee ranked all projects in Tier 1 and none in Tier 2 because of the unlikelihood that projects ranked in Tier 2 would be funded.

Background:

Authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act), the CoC Program is intended to reduce the incidence of homelessness in communities by assisting homeless individuals and families to quickly transition to permanent housing and self-sufficiency. Funding awarded through the CoC Program may support activities under the following program components: permanent housing (PH), transitional housing (TH), supportive services only (SSO), and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

The Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC is a county-wide planning network comprised of non-profit and government entities that plan for and provide housing and services for homeless individuals and families. The CoC is responsible for completing and submitting the consolidated application, which asks for information regarding the community's homeless issues and its responses. In order to be funded for specific projects, applicants must be associated with the CoC and complete a project application, which is incorporated into the consolidated application and submitted to HUD as a single package.

CSD, on behalf of the County as the 'lead agency' of the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC, prepares the consolidated application for the annual CoC Program Competition. In addition, the County, through CSD, applies for funding for individual projects. These include Clean and Sober Living, HMIS, and HMIS Expansion I. The County is applying for renewal funding for Clean and Sober Living on behalf of Good Samaritan Shelter. If awarded, the County will act as grantee and financial pass-through for Good Samaritan Shelter for Clean and Sober Living. The County is also requesting renewal funding for the HMIS and HMIS Expansion I projects to support the operation of the county-wide HMIS, a data collection and reporting software application required of all CoCs by HUD. For the remainder of the projects funded by the CoC Program, HUD has direct contractual relationships with the administering entities and thus CSD is not responsible for monitoring them for compliance with program requirements.

Project Review Process

CSD issued a Request for Proposals for the FY 2013 CoC Program Competition on October 8, 2013 to solicit proposals for renewal projects and letters of intent for new permanent supportive housing projects for the chronically homeless (Attachment D). Proposals for renewal projects and new permanent supportive housing projects for the chronically homeless were submitted to the County by October 22, 2013. Geoffrey Gilbert, Ph.D, the County's consultant, reviewed the proposals submitted for eligibility and prepared an analysis of the past performance of all applicable projects based upon HUD-established measures, such as lengths of stay in permanent housing, exits to permanent housing, improvements in income and employment, access to mainstream resources among project participants, and bed and unit utilization rates (Attachment E). This analysis was used to facilitate the review and ranking of each project by the CoC Review Committee, which consisted of representatives from the County, the City of Santa Barbara, the City of Santa Maria, the Human Services Commission, the Santa Barbara Foundation, the Santa Barbara Rescue Mission, and homeless/formerly homeless (Attachment F).

The CoC Review Committee met on October 31, 2013, December 13, 2013 and January 3, 2014 to review and rank all projects. In addition to the HUD-established measures mentioned above, the CoC Review Committee considered the geographic distribution of CoC Program-funded projects county-wide as part of its review. In an effort to maximize the number of projects funded under the FY 2013 CoC Program Competition, the CoC Review Committee recommended ranking all projects in Tier 1 and none in Tier 2.

Funding Recommendations

The County received proposals for twelve renewal projects requesting a total of \$1,488,203; one proposal for a new permanent supportive housing project for chronically homeless seniors was received requesting \$32,000. At its October 31, 2013 meeting, the CoC Review Committee recommended that eight projects be funded at requested levels on the basis of HUD's priority for permanent housing projects and functional HMIS implementations; its emphasis on high performance as evidenced by the projects' achievement of HUD-established measures; and geographic distribution. The eight projects

were Casa del Mural; Casa de Familia; Firehouse; HMIS; HMIS Expansion I; Riviera Dual Diagnosis Program; Shelter Plus Care, A Santa Barbara Partnership Serving the Homeless; and Supportive Services.

On December 13, 2013, the CoC Review Committee met to deliberate on the remaining projects and proposal: Clean and Sober Living, Willbridge Master Lease Project, Second Stage, Casa Esperanza Day Center, and Senior Homeless Project. The CoC Review Committee recommended funding for Clean and Sober Living and WillBridge Master Lease Project at requested levels with conditions related to performance improvements and reporting. The CoC Review Committee recommended reducing funding for the Second Stage project from \$65,489 to \$50,000 on the basis of low unit utilization rates as reported in its HUD Annual Performance Report for the 2012-2013 operating year (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013). In addition, the CoC Review Committee recommended eliminating the Casa Esperanza Day Center project as the Casa Esperanza Day Center itself was terminated by the project's original sponsor, Casa Esperanza Homeless Center, and no other sponsor came forward to provide the same types of services. The elimination of the Casa Esperanza Day Center project allowed the CoC Review Committee to recommend the creation of a new permanent supportive housing project for the chronically homeless through reallocation discussed above. Factoring in the amount of funds available in Tier 1, the reduction to the Second Stage project and elimination of the Casa Esperanza Day Center project made available \$65,923 for reallocation. With concerns about the feasibility of the Senior Homeless Project and in an effort to reallocate all available funds to one or more new permanent supportive housing projects for the chronically homeless, the CoC Review Committee directed staff to issue a second Request for Proposals (Attachment G).

The County received one proposal from Good Samaritan Shelter requesting \$65,923 for Pine Street Bungalows, a new permanent supportive housing project that will serve two homeless families in Santa Maria. At its January 3, 2014 meeting, the CoC Review Committee recommended funding the Pine Street Bungalows project at \$55,993 over a two-year term after eliminating an ineligible line item from the project budget and in an effort to address concerns about the project's cost reasonableness. The balance of funds available, or \$9,930, was used to partially restore funds to the Second Stage project, which was originally reduced by the CoC Review Committee at its December 13, 2013 meeting. The final recommendation for the Second Stage project is \$59,530.

The CoC Review Committee ranked projects recommended for funding in priority order at its January 3, 2014 meeting. These recommendations are reflected in Table 1 below.

CoC Planning Project

The County is submitting an application for CoC planning funds in the amount of \$18,800. These funds will be used to support the planning and operational activities required of CoCs by HUD, which include developing a coordinated assessment system, evaluating the outcomes of projects funded by the CoC Program, and preparing and submitting an application to HUD on behalf of the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County CoC.

Table 1				
Rank	Project	Applicant	Component	Amount Recommended
1	Shelter Plus Care, A Santa Barbara Partnership Serving the Homeless	Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara	PH	\$642,822
2	Riviera Dual Diagnosis Program	Santa Barbara Community Housing Corporation	TH	\$79,444
3	Firehouse	Transition House	TH	\$56,855
4	Casa del Mural	Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services	PH	\$115,315
5	Casa de Familia	Good Samaritan Shelter	PH	\$68,006
6	Pine Street Bungalows	Good Samaritan Shelter	PH	\$55,993
7	Supportive Services	Transition House	SSO	\$62,939
8	HMIS	CSD	HMIS	\$104,767
9	HMIS Expansion I	CSD	HMIS	\$64,283
10	Clean and Sober Living	CSD	PH	\$19,210
11	Second Stage	Domestic Violence Solutions for Santa Barbara County	TH	\$59,930
12	WillBridge Master Lease Project	Willbridge of Santa Barbara, Inc.	PH	\$65,429
13	CoC Planning Project	CSD	Planning	\$18,800
N/A	Casa Esperanza Day Center	CSD	SSO	\$0
N/A	Senior Homeless Project	Center for Successful Aging	PH	\$0
Total				\$1,413,793

Note: “PH” refers to permanent housing, “TH” to transitional housing, “SSO” to supportive services only, and “HMIS” to Homeless Management Information System.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

The County is submitting the application for HUD’s FY 2013 CoC Program Competition with recommendations totaling \$1,413,793 for 13 projects. If awarded by HUD, a portion of funds to be received from the HMIS and HMIS Expansion I projects will provide funding for up to 75 percent of one full-time employee in CSD. Twenty-five percent of the HMIS and HMIS Expansion I project budgets, up to \$42,263, must be matched by the County, which will be met through salary and benefits paid to CSD staff from the County’s General Fund.

Special Instructions:

Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to CSD, Housing and Community Development Division at HCD@co.santa-barbara.ca.us.

Attachments:

Attachment A: FY 2013 CoC Application

The FY 2013 CoC Application is available for review electronically at <http://www.countyofsb.org/housing>. A hard copy of the FY 2013 CoC Application is available at the Housing and Community Development Division office located at 105 E. Anapamu St., Suite 105, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

Attachment B: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Attachment C: Notice of Funding Availability for the CoC Program Competition

Attachment D: Request for Proposals for FY 2013 CoC Program Competition

Attachment E: Project Analysis

Attachment F: CoC Review Committee Members List

Attachment G: Second Request for Proposals for FY 2013 CoC Program Competition

Authored by:

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