



# Continuum of Care Funding Under the HEARTH Act

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# Background

- Continuum of Care originally authorized by the federal McKinney-Vento Act (1987)
- Reauthorized 2009 through the HEARTH Act: three funding streams consolidated as Continuum of Care program
- Provides federal funding of local homeless assistance through a national competition
  - Hosted by the So. Co. CDC, but separate from its entitlement funding process
- Goal of the Continuum of Care program:  
End homelessness via 6 core strategies

Ensure at-risk don't become homeless

Get people into services safely & quickly

Stabilize doubled-up families & disabled

End homeless episodes quickly

END HOMELESSNESS

Make sure people don't become homeless again

Establish/increase income

# Continuum of Care Funding Cycles

- Spread over several years:
  - Apply 2012 for a contract for 2013-14
  - Report for 2013-14 at end of that year
  - It's common to report on contracts applied for two or more years ago
- Application opens late October for both renewals and new Permanent Housing projects.
  - Local RFP will be issued shortly after the federal Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is published.

# Eligible Beneficiaries

- Homeless by definition issued December 2011 – see handout
- Limited “populations considered homeless under other federal definitions,” (children, or adults with disabilities, who are couch-surfing)
- Keep in mind:
  - *New Homeless, At Risk, Disabled, and Chronically Homeless* definitions are in effect with contracts beginning 2012
  - *New Continuum of Care Program* regulations in effect with contracts beginning 2013

# Eligible Activities

- Permanent housing (PH)
  - Permanent supportive housing (PSH) for people with disabilities
  - Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
- Transitional housing
- Supportive Services, e.g. street outreach/coordinated intake
- Homeless Management Information System - HMIS
- *(Prevention only for high-performing communities)*

# END HOMELESSNESS

Get people into services safely & quickly

- Coordinated Intake
- Street Outreach

End homeless episodes quickly

- Rapid Re-Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Transitional Housing

Establish/increase income

- Vocationalizing Homeless Services
- SOAR

Make sure people don't become homeless again

- Trauma-Informed EBPs
- Case management

# Special Requirements & Changes

- Participation in Coordinated Intake, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Homeless Count, development of system-wide formal program standards
- Prohibition against involuntary family separation
  - Age/gender of a child <18 cannot be used as a basis for denying admission to a project that receives CoC funds.
- Supportive Services may be required as a condition of continued participation, as long as they are not disability-related
  - Disability-related services must be voluntary: mental health services, outpatient health services, and provision of medication
  - Exception: substance abuse treatment, *if this is the program purpose*
  - Assessment of services needed, documented at least annually



# Special Requirements & Changes

- Rent: no more than 30% of monthly adjusted income
  - Rent contributions reviewed annually and with any major change (e.g., addition of family member, loss of job)
- Termination for cause: grantee must provide a formal process that recognizes due process
  - Written notices, opportunity to appeal to higher authority
  - Termination only in the most severe cases
- Participants may remain in transitional housing for >24 months, if permanent housing for the individual or family has not been located
  - HUD will discontinue assistance if more than half of participants remain in the project >24 months.
- Each grantee must provide for participation of at least one homeless or formerly homeless individual on its governing body

# Eligible Costs

- Acquisition/Rehabilitation/New construction
- Leasing (lease is between provider and landlord)
- Rental assistance (lease is between resident and landlord)
  - Tenant, Sponsor, or Project-based
  - Short, medium or long-term
  - Only administered by a housing authority
- Housing Operating Expenses
- Supportive services
- Homeless Management Information System - HMIS
- Project administration at 7% of program cost

# Budget Requirements

- Renewal budgets with approved/changed new administrative expense will be forwarded
- \$316,291 available for new projects, 1 year term, ongoing renewal possible
  - 1 Permanent Housing Bonus Project to focus on chronically homeless: up to \$124,283
    - \$116,153 for program + \$8,130 admin expense = \$124,283
      - Includes up to \$23,230 for case management
      - Balance of program budget for leasing, rental assistance, or housing operations
  - Reallocated funds: \$192,008
    - Up to \$166,756 available for coordinated intake
    - At least \$25,252 must be used as above: PH for chronically homeless
- Applicants must contribute cash match equivalent to 25% of total project budget in most line items.

# Budget Example #1

## Rental Assistance

### *with 25% Soft Match*

	CoC Request	Required Cash Match	Total Budget	Required 25% Soft Match (services)
Supportive Services				
Housing Operations				
Leasing				
Rental Assistance	\$116,153	\$ 0	\$116,153	\$ 38,718
Program subtotal	\$116,153	\$ 0	\$116,153	\$ 38,718
Administrative allowance (7%)	\$ 8,130		\$ 8,130	
Total Project Budget	\$124,283	\$ 0	\$124,283	\$ 38,718

# Budget Example #2

## Services & Housing Operations *with 25% cash match*

	CoC Request	Required Cash Match (25%)	Total Budget
Supportive Services	\$ 23,230	\$ 7,744	\$30,974
Housing Operations	\$ 92,923	\$ 30,975	\$ 123,898
Leasing			
Rental Assistance			
Program subtotal	\$116,153	\$ 38,719	\$ 154,872
Administrative allowance (7%)	\$ 8,130		\$ 8,130
Total Project Budget	\$124,283	\$ 38,719	\$ 163,002

# Budget Example #3

## Services and Leasing

### *25% cash match except leasing*

	CoC Request	Required Cash Match (25%)	Total Budget
Supportive Services Housing Operations	\$ 23,230	\$ 7,744	\$30,974
Leasing Rental Assistance	\$ 92,923	\$ 0	\$ 92,923
Program subtotal	\$116,153	\$ 7,744	\$ 123,897
Administrative allowance (7%)	\$ 8,130		\$ 8,130
Total Project Budget	\$124,283	\$ 7,744	\$ 132,027

# END HOMELESSNESS

Get people into services safely & quickly

- Coordinated Intake
- Street Outreach

- ✓ % street outreach contacts entering shelter/other housing
- ✓ # days from first screening to placement

End homeless episodes quickly

- Rapid Re-Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Transitional Housing

- ✓ % of exits going to permanent housing
- ✓ # days from shelter entry to PH

Establish/increase income

- Vocationalizing Homeless Services
- SOAR

- ✓ % exits with earned income
- ✓ Income change from program entry to exit

Make sure people don't become homeless again

- Case management
- Trauma-Informed EBPs

- ✓ Retain PH for at least 6 months
- ✓ No shelter re-entry within 12 months of PH exit

# Moving the Dial:

## Performance Measure

## Baseline (2011 data)

- % street outreach contacts entering shelter/other housing
- # days from first screening to placement
- % of exits going to permanent housing
- # days from shelter entry to PH



*In development*



*In development*



27% shelter exits,  
70% transitional  
housing exits  
(65% nat'l benchmark)



*In development*



# Moving the Dial:

## Performance Measure

- % exits with earned income
- Income change from program entry to exit

## Baseline (2011 data)

 40% (20% national benchmark)

## 13% increase overall:

- Family Shelter ↑53%
- Family TH ↓27%
- Single adult shelter ↑7%
- Single adult TH ↑49%

- Retain PH for at least 6 months

 81% (77% national benchmark)

- No shelter re-entry within 12 months of PH exit

 85% (national benchmark in development)

# Resources

- Regulations for the new CoC program published July 31, 2012, in effect as of August 30, 2012. Comment period extended to November 16, 2012. Available at [www.hudhre.info](http://www.hudhre.info)
- Continuum of Care wiki: <http://sonoma-county-continuum-of-care.wikispaces.com/>
- Technical Assistance on getting your Annual Performance Report from EtO into *e-snaps*: Friday October 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-4:00 pm
- Training on the HMIS project, its purpose & requirements, how it relates to performance measures etc. - October 25<sup>th</sup> 2:00-5:00 pm
- Stay tuned for application TA and training on definitions, documentation and fund accounting over the winter