



SONOMA COUNTY
HOMELESS
COALITION

Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board
Agenda Report

Item No: 9
Subject: Local Homelessness Services Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
Recommendations
Meeting Date: March 27, 2024
Staff Contact: Michael Gause, Michael.Gause@sonoma-county.org

SUMMARY

In this item, staff and the Chair of the Funding and Evaluation Committee (F/E Committee) present final recommendations for funding under the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Local Homelessness Services Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA). Once approved, recommendations will go to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for inclusion in the County budget and for contract authority on June 4, 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

Discuss, review and approve final funding recommendations from the Sonoma County Homeless Coalition's F/E Committee.

OVERVIEW

On December 11, 2023 the 2024-2025 Local Homelessness Services NOFA was released by the Coalition Lead Agency, Sonoma County Department of Health Services (DHS). Responses to the NOFA were due by January 22, 2024. This NOFA included scoring tools designed by staff and approved by the F/E Committee over a series of meetings in late 2023. Priorities in this NOFA included core priorities in the Coalition's approved Strategic Plan:

1. Interventions that target chronic homelessness.
2. Permanent Supportive Housing (either for supportive services, capital construction, operations, or some combination of these).
3. Improving supportive services for existing projects, including ways to recruit and retain qualified staff and/or lower program case management ratios (to a level of 20:1 for permanent supportive housing interventions and 30:1 for rapid rehousing interventions).
4. Geographic gap-filling projects, such as street outreach and interim housing/emergency shelter.

5. Subregional Street Outreach models that also incorporate best practices in housing-focused street outreach.
6. Programs and projects that address racial disproportionality in Sonoma County's homelessness population and that attempt to achieve equitable provision of services and outcomes for Black, Native and Indigenous residents.
7. Evidence-based programs that are housing-focused and that include clear pathways to permanent housing.

Additionally, specific project types were outlined and approved under this NOFA:

- A. New and existing permanent supportive housing projects. Permanent supportive housing projects may include supportive services, capital costs, operating subsidies, operatins, and funds for master leasing.
- B. Permanent supportive housing projects that utilize Housing Choice Vouchers/Project Based Vouchers (if available).
- C. Existing interim and emergency shelter projects with an emphasis on non-congregate shelters (including capital projects that modify structures to increase client privacy in congregate settings). Per the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal-ICH) funding guidelines, new interim/emergency projects cannot be funded until the jurisdiction has proved it has dedicated sufficient resources to permanent housing. However, areas in geographic need of shelter may be funded with HHIP or Local funding.
- D. Renewing street outreach programs and funding for new street outreach programs aligned with Sonoma County's model for subregional street outreach. With the exception of street outreach for transition age youth (TAY), the Coalition will strive to avoid geographic overlap for outreach with the goal of funding one provider per sub-region. If appropriate, proposals should reflect integration with existig or planned city-funded street outreach contracts. Proposals may include the option to fund contracts managed by the cities, and cities may modify their contracts to ensure coverage in unincorporated areas in the sub-regions.
- E. Renewing Coordinated Entry projects.
- F. The determination of how or if and to what extent a proposal fills a gap in a service or program area will be made by Coalition staff, the Coalition's F/E Committee, and the Coalition Board.
- G. Rapid rehousing projects with demonstrated success and/or targeting specific populations (such as TAY, veterans, families, victims of domestic violence, and justice-involved individuals).
- H. Homelessness prevention programs may be limited to renewing projects. The County, Coalition and area partners are considering a coordinated pilot project to serve the entire Sonoma County region for homelessness prevention programs.
- I. Innovative/promising projects such as Safe Parking, Shared Housing, Host Homes, or other project types that are 100% homeless-dedicated and are housing-focused,

meaning that an essential component of case management is creating strong pathways to permanent housing.

The Coalition received over 40 applications totaling over \$12 million in both renewing and new projects. The total funding available is approximately \$7.9 million.

Review and Recommendations

The F/E Committee's non-conflicted members held a series of meetings to review the scope of projects and outline a process for reviewing and approving project proposals. Projects materials included an overall application, budget, Annual Performance Reports from FY 22-23 (for renewing projects), and a project questionnaire. The questionnaire included a description of core regulatory requirements, adherence to the [2023-2027 Homelessness Strategic Plan](#), and focus on lived experience and racial equity.

The F/E Committee held four meetings open to the public and to all applicants to discuss projects (by type) and staff presented up to 4 scenarios of funding recommendations taking into account system need, adherence to the Strategic Plan, and geographical need for outreach and shelter. On March 21, 2024, the F/E Committee made final deliberations on project proposals and voted to forward these to the Coalition Board for final approval.

Non-conflicted members of the F/E Committee sent funding recommendations to staff which were then averaged out for a final recommendation. Almost all renewal projects were funded with permanent supportive housing projects receiving almost full funding at their requested levels. Several new projects were recommended for funding, including a project focusing on permanent supportive housing for a tribal community and a street outreach proposal in the Sonoma Valley region.

Attachment A provides a breakdown of funding recommendations compared to the full request. Please note that the funding requests for renewing projects were higher than the previous year. In many cases, renewing projects are receiving more funding than FY 23-24 but less than their request.

Attachment A: FY 2024-2025 Funding Recommendations

F&E Committee Final NOFA Recommendation 032224

| Organization | Project Title | 2024-2025 Requested Amount | Funding & Evaluation Committee Final (03/21/24) |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| Catholic Charities | Caritas Family Center | \$ 236,250.00 | \$ 224,163.17 |
| Catholic Charities | Caritas Drop-In Center | \$ 190,575.00 | \$ 148,337.55 |
| Catholic Charities | Homeless Outreach Services Team | \$ 538,164.00 | \$ 455,678.38 |
| Catholic Charities | PSH Alternatives (PSH-A) | \$ 351,129.00 | \$ 347,320.79 |
| Catholic Charities | Palms Inn | \$ 152,052.00 | \$ 148,243.79 |
| Catholic Charities | Sam Jones Hall (SJH) | \$ 611,528.00 | \$ 578,424.55 |
| Community Support Network | Stony Point Commons/Sanctuary Villas | \$ 154,506.00 | \$ 150,697.79 |
| COTS | Kids First Family Shelter (KFFS) | \$ 81,576.00 | \$ 39,858.67 |
| COTS | Mary Isaak Center Emergency Shelter | \$ 572,094.00 | \$ 539,756.04 |
| COTS | COTS Permanent Supportive Housing | \$ 556,434.00 | \$ 552,625.79 |
| COTS | COTS Rapid Re-housing | \$ 236,206.00 | \$ 215,102.09 |
| Dry Creek Rancheria | Pomo Permanent Supportive Housing | \$ 300,000.00 | \$ 296,191.80 |
| HomeFirst Services | Coordinated Entry Program Assistant | \$ 87,582.00 | \$ 68,597.99 |
| HomeFirst Services | Labath Landing Community Engagement | \$ 37,400.00 | \$ 35,526.68 |
| HomeFirst Services | Scattered Site PSH | \$ 457,950.00 | \$ - |
| HomeFirst Services | Sonoma Valley Outreach | \$ 272,085.00 | \$ 125,734.17 |
| HomeFirst Services | HF (SAY) Rapid Re-housing | \$ 187,457.00 | \$ - |
| Homeless Action Sonoma | Home and Safe Center (HASC) | \$ 551,360.00 | \$ 328,751.67 |
| InterFaith Shelter Network | IFSN RRH | \$ 351,267.00 | \$ 321,112.00 |
| Petaluma, City of | Street Outreach & Mental Health Pgrm. | \$ 320,000.00 | \$ 290,872.57 |
| Legal Aid of Sonoma County | HOME | \$ 150,000.00 | \$ - |
| Russian Riverkeeper | Clean Camp Program | \$ 75,000.00 | \$ - |
| Reach for Home | RFH Rapid Re-housing | \$ 50,000.00 | \$ - |
| Reach for Home | RFH Permanent Supportive Housing | \$ 250,000.00 | \$ 246,191.80 |
| Reach for Home | RFH Street Outreach | \$ 120,000.00 | \$ 96,408.11 |
| Reach for Home | RFH Homeless Prevention | \$ 72,500.00 | \$ - |

F&E Committee Final NOFA Recommendation 032224

| Percentages Per Project type - Committee Member Recommendations | | |
|---|-----------|-------|
| Project Type | Requested | Final |
| Emergency Shelter | 27% | 35% |
| Street Outreach | 22% | 15% |
| Rapid Re-housing | 15% | 19% |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | 22% | 27% |
| Other Homelessness Services | 11% | 4% |
| Coordinated Entry | 1% | 1% |
| Homelessness Prevention | 3% | 0% |

| Funding Levels Per Committee Member Recommendations By Organization | | |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Organization | 2024-2025 Requested Amount | Final |
| Catholic Charities | \$ 2,079,698.00 | \$ 1,902,168.22 |
| Community Support Network | \$ 154,506.00 | \$ 150,697.79 |
| COTS | \$ 1,446,310.00 | \$ 1,347,342.59 |
| Dry Creek Rancheria | \$ 300,000.00 | \$ 296,191.80 |
| HomeFirst Services | \$ 1,042,474.00 | \$ 229,858.83 |
| Homeless Action Sonoma | \$ 551,360.00 | \$ 328,751.67 |
| Interfaith Shelter Network | \$ 351,267.00 | \$ 321,112.00 |
| City of Petaluma | \$ 320,000.00 | \$ 290,872.57 |
| Legal Aid of Sonoma County | \$ 150,000.00 | \$ - |
| Russian RiverKeeper | \$ 75,000.00 | \$ - |
| Reach for Home | \$ 589,500.00 | \$ 432,586.38 |
| Social Advocates for Youth | \$ 474,505.00 | \$ - |
| SHARE | \$ 1,036,514.00 | \$ 720,530.45 |
| Sonoma Applied Village Services | \$ 1,967,892.00 | \$ 116,221.98 |
| TLC Child & Family Services | \$ 432,664.00 | \$ 401,682.00 |
| West County Community Services | \$ 1,765,868.00 | \$ 1,354,241.72 |