



**Meeting Agenda
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
1:00pm-2:30pm**

Ventura County Office of Education,
Administration building
5189 Verdugo Way
Simi Room
Camarillo, CA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of, Minutes of the meeting of Governance Board held Wednesday, August 14, 2019.
3. Board Comments
4. CoC Staff Comments
5. Public Comments: public comments regarding CoC matters NOT appearing on this agenda.

Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

6. Approval of recommendations from the CoC Data, Performance & Evaluation Committee on new projects for CoC Bonus and CoC Domestic Violence Bonus funding and the final rankings of new and renewal projects to be included in the FY19 CoC Consolidated Application. Direct staff to notify all applicants of final rankings and if projects were accepted or rejected for the final submission.
7. Receive a recommendation for adoption of CoC Moving On Strategy through partnership with Ventura County Public Housing Authorities and Permanent Supportive Housing Providers to Assist in the transition of persons no longer in need of intensive supportive services to
8. Receive a report on racial disparities in homelessness in Ventura County to be included in the FY19 CoC Consolidated grant application.
9. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the Ventura County Continuum of Care and the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County to enhance partnerships and improve linkages to employment services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
10. Receive a report on efforts to end Veteran Homelessness in Ventura County.

September 11, 2019

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Approval of CoC funding recommendations from the CoC Data, Performance & Evaluation Committee including recommendations for new projects including CoC Bonus and Domestic Violence Bonus funding and the final rankings of new and renewal projects to be included in the FY19 Consolidated Application. Direct staff to notify all applicants of final rankings and if projects were accepted or rejected for the final submissions.

BACKGROUND: CoC Data, Performance & Evaluation Committee met on August 29, 2019 to review the scoring and ranking of renewal CoC funded projects for the FY19 NOFA. In addition, the committee reviewed all new project applications. All project applications were reviewed and scored with the 2019 Ventura County CoC Ranking and Selection Policy tool and ranked by highest score and local priorities in accordance with HUD's emphasis on the importance of performance-based decisions in the prioritization and reallocation process. The scoring factored in scores associated with the following categories:

- 1) Compliance and Experience with Grants and Financial Management including HUD threshold criteria for new & renewal projects (20 points);
- 2) Housing First/Low Barrier Practices (10 points);
- 3) Best Practices including Services (transportation, access to mainstream benefits, income), serving vulnerable populations and receiving referrals/filling vacancies through coordinated entry (10 points);
- 4) CoC Participation including attending meetings, trainings and compliance with CoC Partner MOU (10 points);
- 5) Project Performance including data quality, timeliness and utilization rates (10 points);
- 6) System Performance including: Returns to Homelessness (10 points); Employment & Income Growth (10 points); Obtain and Maintain Housing (10 points); Length of Time Homeless (10 points)

The committee reviewed and discussed the priorities that the CoC Board approved on June 12, 2019 before making a final recommendation and discussed strategies to utilize all CoC funding for maximum community benefit.

Renewal/Reallocation

All renewal projects scored above 75 points which is the adopted threshold below which a project would be considered for reallocation. All renewal projects continue to meet community needs and priorities.

Per the locally adopted policy, projects are ranked in order of their scores from highest to lowest. The HMIS and Coordinated Entry projects are ranked in Tier 1 to fulfill the HUD mandates of those systemwide services. Projects in their first-year renewal (a Salvation Army Permanent Supportive Housing project and a Salvation Army Rapid Rehousing project) are also not scored until they have had a full year to demonstrate performance.

DV Bonus Funding

The FY19 NOFA included a second year of Domestic Violence (DV) bonus to assist survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking through Rapid Re-Housing, Supportive Services for Coordinated Entry, or a Joint Transitional Housing / Rapid Re-Housing (TH-RRH) project. Two applications were received through the RFP process, A Rapid Re-Housing project proposal (\$367,434) was received from the Human Services Agency aiding clients of the new Family Justice Center and an application was received for the Supportive Services Only for Coordinated Entry project type (\$371,641) from The Coalition for Family Harmony. The committee discussed each applicant's prior experience, proposed outcomes, eligible expenses and budget in order to make an informed decision in recommending that the Human Services Agency RRH project be included in the Consolidated Application. This project proposal includes a dedicated social worker who is trained in trauma informed domestic violence services to assist with housing navigation, rental assistance and case management.

CoC Bonus Funding

The Ventura County CoC is eligible to compete for bonus funding which is dependent on HUD's final allocation for all Continuums of Care. Two applications were received through the RFP for CoC bonus funding or reallocation. Following discussion and assessment of the benefits of each proposal, the Committee is recommending that HMIS expansion application for \$161,853 and a Mercy House application for Rapid Rehousing serving single adults transitioning out of shelter for \$222,098 be included in this year's consolidated application. Mercy House originally applied for the full bonus amount, but the committee recommended including both the HMIS expansion and the Mercy House application resulting in Mercy House reducing their request for CoC Bonus funds. The committee recommends considering Mercy House for other funding sources to connect shelter residents to housing as quickly as possible. The HMIS expansion application includes expanded staff support to focus on serving the growing HMIS provider community including training, quality assurance and reporting needs.

Final Ranking

The Committee discussed the scoring and ranking of projects and location of ranking in Tier 1 and Tier 2. 6% or \$130,836 plus the CoC Bonus amount of \$383,951 totaling \$514,787 must be included in Tier 2. Staff presented to the Committee that the HMIS expansion application was required to be ranked with the HMIS renewal project. This statement was only partially correct based upon recent information obtained by staff after the committee meeting. An expansion project is considered unranked in the competition and the new HMIS or another project can be ranked in Tier 1 or Tier 2. The committee

developed the recommended rankings without full understanding of the process for ranking an expansion project application.

Historically, the VC CoC has ranked new projects in Tier 2. This strategy is conservative in preserving renewal funding but not reliably effective in obtaining new bonus funding. The VC CoC has not lost renewal funding ranked in Tier 1 or 2 in over 5 years.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Data Committee formulated the following recommendations for CoC Board consideration in preparing for the FY19 CoC NOFA.

1. Approve HMIS Expansion and Mercy House RRH applications for CoC Bonus funding;
2. Recommend funding Human Services Agency for DV Bonus Rapid Re-Housing application;
3. Approve final ranking of new and renewal projects.

FY19 CoC Preliminary Ranking of New Renewal Projects

Total Renewal Demand (ARD) for 2019	\$2,180,607		Tier 1= (94%) \$2,057,711	Tier 2= \$122,896 + 383,951	CoC Bonus= \$383,951/ DV Bonus= 367,434				
Planning Funds	\$111,492			506,847	CH = Chronically Homeless		HF =Housing First		
Grantee Name	Project Name	Project Type	Grant Amount	# Beds / Served	Population Served	HF?	CH ?	Project Location	LOI Score
Tier 1									
Many Mansions	MM Supportive Housing	PSH	\$128,714	27 beds/45 persons	chronically homeless singles/families	Yes	Yes	Simi Valley	98
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	Choices PSH	PSH	\$359,979	25	CH singles	Yes	Yes	Countywide	98
Many Mansions	MM Supportive Housing TO	PSH	\$166,945	38	Chronically Homeless singles/TAY	Yes	Yes	Oxnard, TO	93
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	HMIS Project	HMIS	\$90,778	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Countywide	
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	HMIS Expansion (BONUS)	HMIS	\$161,853	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Countywide	
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	HMIS for Pathways to Home	HMIS	\$150,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Countywide	
Turning Point Foundation	Stephenson Place Permanent Housing	PSH	\$30,280	9	chronic homeless singles	Yes	Yes	Ventura	89
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	Rapid Re-Housing	RRH	\$81,829	48	families	Yes	No	Countywide	88
Turning Point Foundation	Wooley House I Permanent Housing	PSH	\$39,566	7	chronically homeless	Yes	Yes	Oxnard	88
Turning Point Foundation	Rapid Re-Housing	RRH	\$140,044	48	singles	Yes	Yes	Countywide	87
Turning Point Foundation	Wooley House II PSH	PSH	\$34,234	8	chronic homeless singles	Yes	Yes	Oxnard	87
Ventura County Behavioral Health	East County / Oxnard Shelter Plus Care	PSH	\$334,865	25	CH singles and families	Yes	Yes	Countywide	87
Salvation Army	Rapid ReHousing	RRH	\$42,990	12	families	Yes	No	Countywide	First Year
Salvation Army	TSA PSH Leasing	PSH	\$132,374	7	chronically homeless	Yes	Yes	Ventura/Oxnard	First Year

FY19 CoC Preliminary Ranking of New Renewal Projects

Lutheran Social Services	It's a New Day RRH Project	RRH	\$155,290.00	25	families/singles	Yes	Yes	East County	86
Tier 2			\$2,049,741						
Lutheran Social Services	It's a New Day RRH Project	RRH	\$25,573	25	families/singles	Yes	Yes	East County	86
Turning Point Foundation	Our Place Safe Haven	SH	\$168,977	10	disabled, mental illness	Yes	Yes	Ventura	83
Hsg Authority of the City of San Buenaventura	Shelter Plus Care	PSH	\$98,169	10	chronically homeless	Yes	Yes	Countywide	82
Mercy House	Rapid Rehousing Bonus	RRH	\$228,098	10	singles			Oxnard/Ventura	93/100
County of Ventura Human Services Agency	RRH for DV	RRH	\$367,434	14	families		Yes	Countywide	87/100
Planning Grant									
County of Ventura Executive Office	Planning Grant	N/A	\$111,492	N/A	N/A	N/A		Countywide	NEW



September 11, 2019

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive a report on racial disparities in homelessness in Ventura County.

DISCUSSION: HUD continues to encourage communities to assess whether there are racial disparities in the provision of services or outcome of homeless assistance, and if present, demonstrate a plan to address such disparities. The FY19 CoC NOFA includes a question to indicate whether the CoC has assessed racial disparities. HUD has increased the maximum points in the CoC application from 3 points in FY18 to 5 points in FY19. In order to receive the maximum points, a copy of the racial disparities summary must be uploaded with the application. The CoC's assessment should include whether people of different races or ethnicities are more or less likely to receive homeless assistance. If the data is inconclusive, HUD suggests that the CoC conduct additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness.

CoC staff have collected demographic data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the 2019 Point-In-Time Homeless Count, the Coordinated Entry System (Pathways to Home) and local data from the U.S. Census. The attached summary includes an overview of the analysis to be included with our CoC application.

September 11, 2019

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive a report on adoption of Moving On Strategies with Public Housing Authority Partners and Authorize Staff to include Letters of Support from Public Housing Authorities in the FY19 CoC Consolidated Grant Application

BACKGROUND: Individuals and families with complex needs that become homeless, are often best served by Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), a housing and service-rich environment. Over time, as mental health, physical health or other challenges lessen, the supportive service needs of PSH participants may be better met through mainstream services rather than the intensive supportive services provided in PSH. HUD recognizes that helping these households move on to less service intensive permanent housing assistance is an important strategy that can be beneficial to the participants and communities working to end homelessness.

DISCUSSION: The Ventura County partners and service providers recognize Moving On as a strategy to support stable transitions from Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) to other affordable housing opportunities. A Moving On strategy includes PSH participants, who no longer require intensive services, moving from PSH Program to other housing assistance in order to free up PSH beds to be used for persons who are homeless and would benefit from the intensive service-rich environment of PSH.

A Moving On Strategy should support choice. Some PSH participants may want to live in a different neighborhood, move closer to family or friends, or seek housing in an area that is more convenient for work or educational opportunities. Alternatively, participants who live in tenant-based PSH may wish to transition-in-place, using a Housing Choice Voucher or other assistance to provide a housing subsidy. Both options allow participants to maintain stable housing without receiving intensive supportive services.

Ventura County's three largest housing authorities have articulated their commitment to ending homelessness and their willingness to participate in developing and implementing Moving On strategy through letters of support that will be included in the CoC grant application. The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura (HACSB) has embraced the Moving On strategy at its Training for Independent Living (TIL) property, by providing subsidized

housing and supportive services with the ultimate program goal of assisting participants in successful independent living. The Oxnard Housing Authority intends to amend its Administrative Plan to incorporate a Moving On preference. This preference would assist PSH program participants who no longer require intensive supportive services to move to more independent housing, thus freeing up Permanent Supportive Housing beds in its jurisdiction. The Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura (AHA) is partnering with CoC staff in its development of a pilot program in its Housing Choice Voucher program to incorporate a Moving On preference which would provide a path to more self-sufficient and independent living options to its Permanent Supportive Housing participants. AHA is currently reviewing its Housing Choice Voucher Administrative Plan to determine the necessary adjustments needed to implement such a preference.

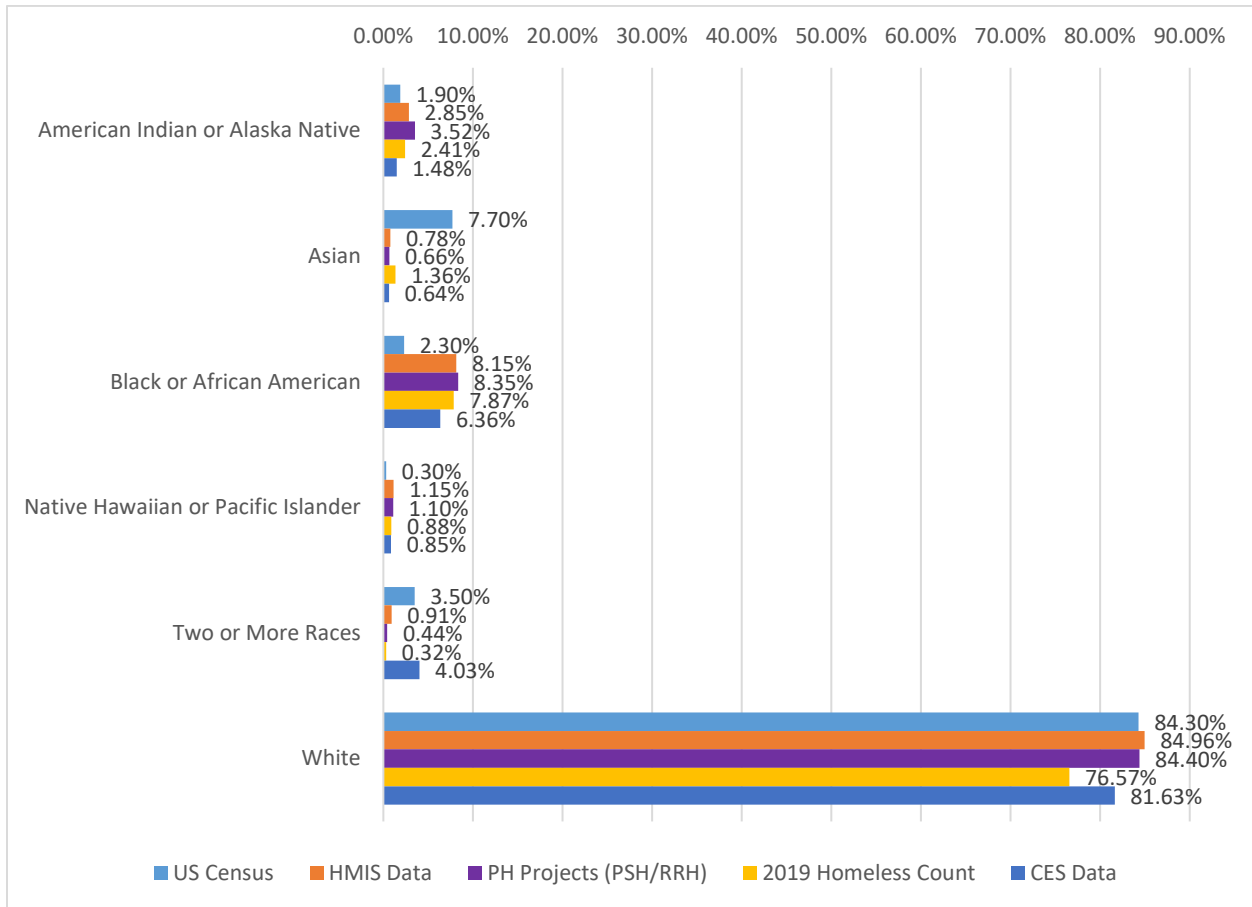
RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Receive a report on development of a Moving On Strategy with Ventura County Public Housing Authority partners;
- 2) Authorize Staff to include Letters of Support from Public Housing Authorities in the FY19 CoC Consolidated Grant Application

2019 Racial Disparities Assessment

The Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC) recognizes that affordable housing and homeless service programs should eliminate disparities by monitoring outcomes and ensuring equitable access to housing and services. The latest Ventura County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data shows approximately 3,830 people are seeking homeless services in our community. Based on the demographic data, 8.15% are Black or African-American, 2.85% are American Indian or Alaska Native, 0.78% are Asian, 1.15% are Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 0.91% are two or more races, and 84.96% are white. In comparison to local data from the U.S. Census data, the most disproportionate racial disparity in Ventura County is the number of African Americans receiving homeless services and placed in permanent supportive housing (see table 1).

Table 1:



Also, the percentage of Hispanic/Latinos served by programs in VC CoC HMIS is slightly higher than the overall census data, with 49% Hispanic/Latinos receiving homeless services in comparison to 43% according to the census data for Ventura County.

According to a study completed by the Center for Social Innovation's Supporting Partnerships for Anti-Racist Communities (SPARC), there are five major themes among minorities experiencing homelessness: a lack of financial resources combined with a lack of social support; high housing costs; criminal backgrounds; mental health challenges; and family disintegration. Based on these barriers, there is a significant need for more low-barrier affordable housing, behavioral health interventions and educational/employment opportunities.

The VC CoC has been developing partnerships with landlords and property managers for supportive housing placements. One recent initiative is the hiring of a dedicated Housing Location Coordinator, contracted with the Salvation Army, through State of California Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) grant funding. This coordinator will receive training on fair housing, racial disparities and make referrals to the Housing Rights Center as needed.

VC CoC staff have recently formed a partnership with the local Workforce Development Board to ensure clients are linked to educational and/or employment opportunities offered through Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding and the local America's Job Centers.

HUD has encouraged communities to address any racial disparities through various strategies, based on each communities' specific needs. According to the FY18 CoC NOFA responses, the top three recommendations employed by California Continuums of Care include the following:

- 1) CoC Board and decision-making bodies that are representative of the population served in the CoC;
- 2) Expansion of outreach in geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups; and
- 3) Communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups.

The VC CoC has a diverse Board to represent various populations, including the Hispanic/Latino community. Over the past two years, the VC CoC has expanded outreach through the Whole Person Care program, Street Outreach teams and the implementation of Interface 2-1-1 for remote access to assist those who are least likely to access services. Also, the CoC staff have been collecting data in HMIS and CES to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities. This data will be used to determine the training needs for staff working in the homeless services system and the education required for the organizations dedicated to ending homelessness.

September 11, 2019

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the Ventura County Continuum of Care and the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County to enhance partnerships and improve linkages to employment services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness

BACKGROUND: In the FY19 CoC NOFA there is a strong emphasis on creating employment opportunities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. HUD has encouraged communities to develop partnerships with employment services and Workforce Development Boards because sustainable employment and income can make a significant difference in an individual or family's ability to pay for housing. A partnership with the local Workforce Development Board is scored in the grant application.

DISCUSSION: CoC Staff met with Workforce Development staff to develop a draft MOU to articulate how our organizations may enhance our partnerships to better serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Staff have also engaged with the Human Services Agency as the HMIS and Coordinated Entry lead to discuss how employment services could be matched through the coordinated entry process. The MOU establishes the commitment for the partner agencies to establish a system for improved linkages to employment services.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Direct staff to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ventura County Continuum of Care and the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County and include the signed MOU in the CoC Consolidated application.



**Memorandum of Understanding between the Ventura County Continuum of Care Alliance
and Workforce Development Board (partner agency)**

PURPOSE

The CoC Program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to individuals, families and communities by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

This memorandum of understanding (MOU) is entered into by the Ventura County Continuum of Care (VCCoC)'s lead agency and the Workforce Development Board (partner agency). The purpose of this MOU is to set forth expectations and responsibilities of the VCCoC and its partnering organizations.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

VCCoC Lead Agency will:

- 1) Serve as the CoC Lead responsible for the coordination and oversight of the CoC planning efforts and has the authority to certify and submit the CoC homeless assistance funding application(s).
- 2) Complete and submit the activities associated with the annual HUD Continuum of Care funding cycle and Emergency Solutions Grant funding.
- 3) Serve as staff to the VC CoC Board, the Alliance and its subcommittees.
- 4) Complete the Annual Strategic Plan update
- 5) Work with the CoC Board and subcommittees to develop an advocacy agenda to inform policies in order to better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Ventura County.
- 6) Coordinate with the HMIS Lead to facilitate using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as a database, to capture client-level, system-wide information over time on the characteristics and service needs of the homeless persons to be served within the CoC geography.
- 7) Provide technical assistance and training to provider agencies to ensure compliance with HUD CoC, ESG and other funding regulations, standards and guidelines.
- 8) Monitor provider agencies' programmatic and financial management to ensure compliance with HUD CoC, ESG and other regulations, standards and guidelines.
- 9) Coordinate, integrate and leverage resources to maximize impact of services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- 10) Submit reports to HUD and other funding entities including (PIT, HIC, AHAR, System Performance and others) with input from providers and partner agencies.
- 11) Prioritize access to employment and training opportunities for people experiencing homelessness through referrals to the appropriate partnering organizations.

VC CoC Partner Agency will:

- 1) Participate in CoC meetings including VC CoC Alliance and its subcommittee meetings, VC CoC sponsored trainings and other VC CoC initiatives.
- 2) Participate in CoC planning, policy and strategic activities.
- 3) Participate in Gaps Analysis and Needs Assessment as directed by CoC Board.
- 4) Support the VC CoC Alliance Strategic Plan by aligning participation in CoC workgroup or subcommittee activity with the goals, action items and timelines agreed upon in the strategic plan
- 5) Provide training and resource connections to CoC Homeless Service Providers to improve linkages to employment services.
- 6) Collaborate with CoC Lead and HMIS/CES Lead to build workforce and employment services referrals into the coordinated entry process.
- 7) Prioritize access to employment and training opportunities for people experiencing homelessness by receiving referrals from VC CoC partnering organizations.
- 8) Promote outreach with private employers, employment organizations and staffing agencies to increase access to employment opportunities and workforce training programs.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT:

This MOU shall be effective upon adoption by each signatory agency and entity.

This MOU shall be reviewed and revised as needed to further implementation of strategic and long-term goals.

This MOU can be expanded, modified or amended as needed by the consent of both agencies.

This MOU shall be in effect for the duration of the VC CoC organization unless terminated by mutual agreement in writing prior to this project end date.

Workforce Development Board (Partner Agency)

Ventura County Continuum of Care

Name: _____

Name: _____

Sign: _____

Sign: _____

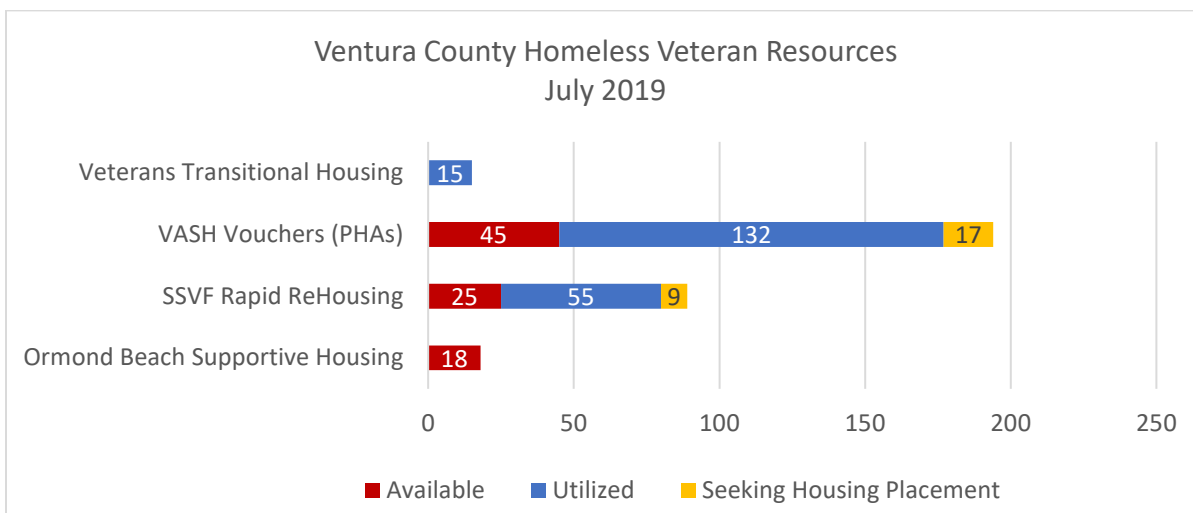
Date: _____

Date: _____

September 11, 2019

CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive and file a report on ending homelessness among veterans in Ventura County.

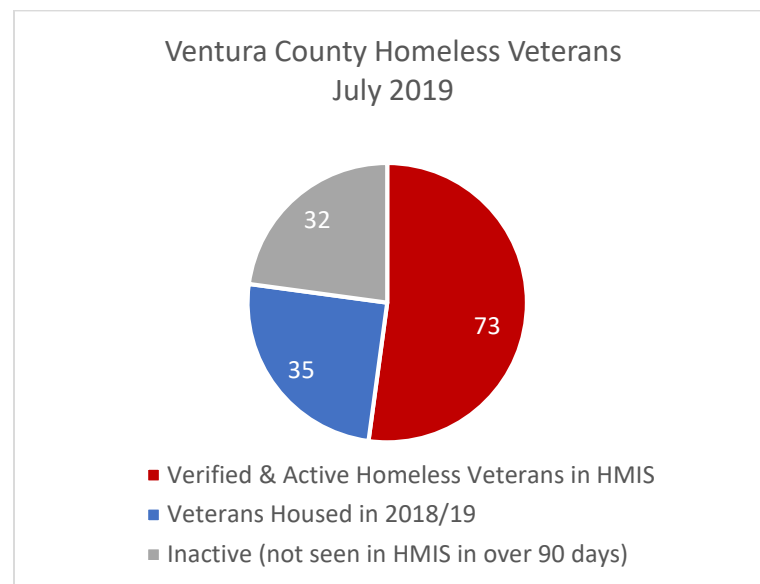


As of July 2019, the housing authorities of Oxnard and Ventura had 45 unutilized Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers and 17 homeless veterans were out searching for a unit to lease with an approved VASH voucher. The homeless services providers continue to screen potentially eligible veterans for referrals to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), Transitional Housing and the VASH program. SSVF continues to receive referrals through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and assists veterans with rental assistance, security deposits and VASH applications.

The newest housing resource for veterans is the Ormond Beach Villas project which has dedicated 18 supportive housing units for homeless veterans. Many Mansions and the Oxnard Housing Authority has been working with the Coordinated Entry System, Pathways to Home, to prioritize the most vulnerable homeless veterans for these units. As of August 2019, 23 homeless veterans have been prioritized and referred for the interview and approval process. Additional veteran housing is in the pipeline in the City of Ventura, developed by Community of Friends. The housing developer reached out to CoC staff regarding the homeless veteran population and housing needs. CoC staff have communicated the need for studio and one-bedroom units for single adult households. Additionally, in evaluating the compatibility of State funding like No Place Like Home, there are 13 homeless veterans with a severe mental health disability who could qualify for this type of housing placement. Based on feedback from our homeless service providers, the majority of homeless veterans have a chronic health condition.

As of July 2019, there were 73 homeless veterans with a “category 1” (highest priority) homeless status in need of housing or shelter. This number includes those who have been referred to Ormond Beach, SSVF and VASH programs for housing placement. The CoC staff uses the VA SQUARES tool to determine if the client has an active veteran status for potential VASH eligibility. The greatest barrier to VASH placements continues to be a limited number of one-bedroom rental units and landlords

willing to accept VASH. CoC Housing Consultant, Amy Duganne, continues to refer any potential housing leads to the SSVF and VASH staff.



The CoC staff have been following the HUD guidelines for ending Veteran homelessness and will continue to measure progress on the federal benchmarks. The CoC staff, VA case managers, SSVF staff, Veterans Transitional Housing staff and the housing authority staff continue to meet on a monthly basis to discuss the next steps and strategies moving forward. In order to end homelessness among Veterans in Ventura County, we must meet the following criteria:

- 1) The community has identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness.
 - More privately funded homeless service providers are participating in HMIS and making referrals to Interface 2-1-1 which has increased the number of homeless veterans seeking services. Also, HMIS participation from the RISE team, VCBH clinics and Whole Person Care team has improved street outreach engagement.
- 2) The community provides shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it.
 - We anticipate many homeless Veterans will seek shelter when more beds become available; however, our emergency shelters are typically at full capacity.
- 3) The community provides service-intensive transitional housing only in limited instances.
 - Turning Point Foundation and the Salvation Army offer transitional housing dedicated to homeless veterans. These programs are assisting with the connection to SSVF and VASH programs for permanent housing placement.
- 4) The community has the capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.
 - VASH vouchers and SSVF rental assistance funds are available; however, there are very few housing units available for lease.
- 5) The community has resources, plans, and system capacity in place should any Veteran become homeless or be at risk of homelessness in the future.