



**Meeting Agenda
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
2:00pm – 3:30pm
Ventura County Office of Education
5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo**

Zoom Meeting ID: 871 1841 0223

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87118410223>

1. Call to Order
2. Board Comments
3. CoC Staff Comments
4. Public Comments: Public Comment is an opportunity for the public to participate in public meetings by addressing the Ventura County Continuum of Care Board in connection with one or more agenda or non-agenda items. This meeting is subject to the Brown Act and public comments may be submitted by using one of the following options:

Email in advance of the meeting: If you wish to make public comment on an agenda item via email, please submit your comment via email by 4:30pm on the day prior to the Board meeting. Send emails to: venturacoc@ventura.org Please indicate the agenda item you would like to speak on if relevant and whether you would like your message read by staff or you will be participating and would like to provide your comments during the live meeting.

During the meeting: Participants may use the chat function in zoom to indicate they would like to make a comment. Staff will call on participants during the public comment section of the meeting or during specific item following staff presentation of the item.

Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

5. Approval of Board Minutes from June 14, 2023.
6. Receive a presentation from Ventura County Behavioral Health on the State Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Grant.
7. Approval of the 2023 Rank and Review Policy for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Funding Competition and Authorization for Staff to Release the 2023 Letter of Intent for Continuum of Care Funded Projects and Release a Request for Proposals for New Projects.
8. Receive and file a report on progress to end homelessness among Veterans in Ventura County.
9. Receive and file a report on Ventura County CoC Committees, Workgroups and Staff updates.



Meeting Minutes
Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Wednesday, June 14, 2023
2:00pm – 3:30pm
Ventura County Office of Education
5100 Adolfo Road, Camarillo

- 1. Call to Order:** Dawn Dyer, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at **2:06pm**.
Board Members: Emilio Ramirez, Manuel Minjares, Jack Edelstein, Juliana Gallardo, Stefany Gonzalez, Paul Drevenstedt, Ingrid Hardy, Michael Nigh, Kevin Clerici, Dr. Sevet Johnson
Absent: Mara Malch, Pauline Preciado
Staff: Jennifer Harkey, Christy Madden, Felipe Flores, Morgan Saveliff
- 2. Board Comments:** No comments.
- 3. CoC Staff Comments:** Jenn Harkey, VC CoC Staff, shared that the YHDP application is in the final stages, however, we are still recruiting youth with lived experience for the Youth Action Board (YAB). Jenn further shared that the YAB is a requirement to apply for YHDP.
- 4. Public Comments:** No comments.

Continuum of Care Governance Board Business

- 5. Approval of Board Minutes from May 10, 2023.**
Kevin Clerici moved for approval, Dr. Sevet Johnson was second; Emilio Ramirez abstained; the balance of the Board was in favor.
- 6. Receive a presentation from U.S. VETS on the Ventura Springs Veteran Housing Project.**
Stephen Peck with U.S. VETS shared that, in partnership with A Community of Friends, they are developing the Ventura Springs Veteran Housing Project which will provide affordable housing for Veterans. Stephen presented on the project design and referral process. The project will have a total of 122 affordable housing units for homeless and low-income veterans and is anticipated to be ready for occupancy in November 2024.

Dr. Johnson expressed her support for the project and highlighted the community commitment and collaboration that make this project possible. Jenn Harkey shared that the CoC collaborates with VA partners to maintain the veteran by name list and the CoC will assist with placement once the project is ready for referrals. Michael Nigh asked if there will be preference for local veterans and Stephen shared that local veterans will be prioritized. The board thanked Stephen for the presentation and expressed excitement about the project.

7. Authorization to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the program interest accrued for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program.

Jenn Harkey requested board authorization to release an RFP for the program interest accrued for HHAP. Jenn explained that we have approximately \$90,000 in interest accrued as of March 21, 2023, and the RFP would only be for eligible applicants who were previously awarded HHAP Program funding in rounds I, II, and III. Jenn further requested that the board consider funding priorities for the RFP.

The board discussed funding priorities while taking into consideration the amount of funding available. The board discussed how permanent housing should not be a priority given the limited amount of funding available. Manuel Minjares mentioned that the funding could be used for operational subsidies and mentioned that the Spirit of Santa Paula specifically could benefit from these funds. Jack Edelstein motioned to approve the RFP and to prioritize the following funding priorities: 1) Operational Subsidies, 2) Prevention and Diversion, 3) Rapid Re-Housing; Manuel Minjares was second; all in favor.

8. Receive an update on the Ventura County Project Roomkey transition plan.

Felipe Flores provided an update on Project Roomkey. Felipe shared that since the start of Project Room Key in March 2020, over 800 people have participated in the program, and 478 of those people have transitioned to successful housing destinations. Felipe shared that the goal is for many of these clients to transition to PSH units that are coming onboard hopefully by the end of the year.

Kevin Clerici asked when the next extension for PRK is expected to be announced. CoC staff explained that extensions are being reviewed on a two-month basis and the next extension request for continuation will be either the end of June or early July. If granted, it would allow for a two-month extension from mid-July through mid-September.

Additional items not on the agenda: No further comment.

Next meeting set for July 12th, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.


July 12, 2023

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive a presentation from Ventura County Behavioral Health on the State Behavioral Health Bridge Housing Grant

BACKGROUND: In April 2023, Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH) applied to the State of California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) grant. The total allocation available to Ventura County is approximately \$13.3 million over a three year term. The target population includes those experiencing homelessness with a serious behavioral health condition. This funding is intended to serve CARE Court participants as authorized by Senate Bill 1338. The eligible activities include short term housing, interim housing up to two years, board and care, housing navigation and supportive services.

DISCUSSION: The VCBH proposal includes the expansion of non-congregate shelter, rental assistance for new Homekey units, scattered site rental assistance, housing navigation and supportive services with the addition of dedicated VCBH housing staff. CARE Court participants will be prioritized with referrals from the Coordinated Entry System. New Homekey Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units will be supported through this grant at various sites throughout the County.



**VENTURA COUNTY
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
A Department of Ventura County Healthcare Agency


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BRIDGE HOUSING (BHBH)

Susan White Wood, VCBH Housing Manager
July 2023

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What is BHBH?

State Funding & Oversight Agency	Dept of Health Care Services (DHCS)
County Eligible Agency	VCBH
Total Allocation for Ventura County	\$13,325,088
Applications Due to DHCS	April 28, 2023
Award Announcements	June 2023
Term	3 years (through June 30, 2027)
Target Populations	Homeless w/SMI; CARE Court Participants (SB 1338)



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BHBH RFA Funding Details

The focus of BHBH funds is “immediate” housing. BHBH funding cannot be used to acquire property or to supplant other efforts such as CalAim, MHSA, etc... 75% of the BHBH funding must be spent on supportive bridge housing in the following categories:

- Short-term housing (less than 90 days);
- Interim housing (90 days up to 2 years w/1 year extension)
- Board & Care “Patches”;
- Housing Navigation and Supportive Services.

“The primary focus of the BHBH Program is to help people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions that prevent them from accessing help and moving out of homelessness.”



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Community & Stakeholder Input

- VCBH conducted outreach to identify opportunities to fund short-term and interim housing.
- BHBH beds must be available within 1 year of award announcement (June 2023) and specifically identified Homekey Round 3 projects & existing shelter operators as obvious providers of such housing.
- CoC homeless market study in communities with Homekey Round 3 proposals.
- In April 2023 VCBH met with homeless individuals*, presented information on BHBH proposal and collected written surveys.

**Stakeholder input will be on-going.*



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VCBH BHBH Proposal Details

VCBH is proposing a tapestry of short-term and interim bridge housing options for people living with homelessness and diagnosed with SMI as follows:

- Short-term (up to 90 days): 20 new shelter beds county-wide (funding for both build-out and operations); motel rooms up to 3 weeks at 6 different locations throughout the county;
- Interim (90 days to 3 years): Site-specific rental assistance at Homekey locations for 70 studio apartments; Scattered-site rental assistance for 5-6 family apartments (2 and 3 BDRMS);
- Incentive payments for new ARF beds;
- 4.0 FTE VCBH dedicated housing staff to provide required navigation and supportive services.



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Target Population & Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility criteria for BHBH applicants:

- Homeless w/severe mental health diagnosis;
- Open to VCBH (treatment is voluntary);
- Referred through Coordinated Entry System (CES).


Additionally, CARE Court* participants will be prioritized and cities where Homekey sites are located will prioritize local residency.

**Ventura County may implement CARE Court in 2024 at the earliest. CARE Court is a court-ordered care plan for voluntary treatment of treatment resistant people with SMI. <https://www.chhs.ca.gov/care-act/>*



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THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

Susan.whitewood@ventura.org
(805) 981-3300



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July 12, 2023

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Approval of the 2023 Rank and Review Policy for the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Funding Competition and Authorization for Staff to Release the 2023 Letter of Intent for Continuum of Care Funded Projects and Release a Request for Proposals for New Projects.

Background: The County Executive Office serves as the Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC) Collaborative Applicant and facilitates the annual CoC funding competition. The FY23 Continuum of Care Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released on July 5, 2023 with the collaborative application due to HUD by Thursday, September 28, 2023. The final funding allocations have not yet been released by HUD for the 2023 program competition. The estimated annual renewal demand funding for VC CoC is \$3,305,977. HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities include the following:

- ❖ Ending homelessness for all persons by aligning strategies with the [ALL IN: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#)
- ❖ Use a Housing First approach to help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing. This should include landlord engagement, removing barriers to entry and adopting client-centered service methods.
- ❖ Reduce unsheltered homelessness by exploring all available resources. CoCs should work with law enforcement and local governments to eliminate policies and practices that criminalize homelessness.
- ❖ Improve system performance and use the Coordinated Entry process to make homelessness assistance open, inclusive and transparent.
- ❖ Partner with housing, health and service agencies to improve how all available resources are utilized to end homelessness. Partnerships with public and private healthcare organizations, public housing authorities, local workforce development centers and tribal organizations to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources.
- ❖ Address racial equity to ensure successful outcomes for all persons experiencing homelessness.
- ❖ Improve assistance to LGBTQ+ individuals by ensuring privacy, respect, safety and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation in projects.
- ❖ Include persons with lived expertise and experience in the local planning and decision-making process. CoC leaders and stakeholders should prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed.
- ❖ Increase the affordable housing supply by communicating with jurisdiction leaders about steps such as zoning and land use reform that would increase the supply of affordable housing.

Discussion: VC CoC Staff have updated a draft of the Rank and Review Policy by utilizing the HUD designed rank and review tools. This draft (Exhibit A) includes local policy for ensuring the VC CoC consolidated application and project level applications are aligned and consistent with best practices in delivering housing and services and strive to help the CoC achieve systemwide goals of preventing and ending homelessness. The policy includes scoring templates for currently funded projects that will be seeking renewal funding including Safe Haven, Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing projects. The policy details out the scoring of individual projects as well as the process for ranking these projects in the HUD required tiering system.

VC CoC Staff will release the Letter of Intent (LOI) for renewal projects to determine which programs elect to renew in the competition (Exhibit B). The LOI will be due in August 2023. The VC CoC Data Performance & Evaluation Committee will work with staff to review, score and rank the LOIs for new and renewal projects based on the scoring criteria contained within the 2023 Rank and Review Policy. The VC CoC Data Committee will bring recommended ranking of projects to VC CoC Board with recommendations of the preliminary ranking of projects and any proposed reallocation of funds that may be awarded to new projects.

Recommendations:

1. Approval of the 2023 Ventura County Continuum of Care Rank and Review Policy
2. Authorization for staff to release the 2023 Letter of Intent for CoC Renewal Projects
3. Authorization for staff to release a Request for Proposals for New Projects

**Ventura County Continuum of Care (VC CoC)
2023 Ranking and Selection Criteria
HUD Continuum of Care Program Competition**

The Ventura County Continuum of Care (VCCoC) will use the following process to rank all projects/applications in the 2023 HUD Continuum of Care Program Competition.

Section I: HUD CoC General Requirements and Policies

Section II: 2023 HUD CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Detail

Section III: Ventura County CoC Policy on Reallocation, Project Ranking, and Tiers

Section IV: Process and Criteria for Rating and Ranking Renewal Projects

Section V: Process and Criteria for Ranking New Projects

Section VI: Final Project Priority Listing and Notification to Applicants

Section VII: Appeal Process

Section I: HUD CoC General Requirements and Policies

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) publishes the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) annually for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. The NOFO establishes the available level of funds, identifies HUD national priorities, and describes the criteria and data needed in the competitive application.

HUD requires CoCs to conduct a local review process and to designate a Collaborative Applicant to submit requests for funds in the CoC Competition. HUD provisionally awards funds to CoCs based on the scoring of a CoC system-level application up to a maximum allocation established by an area pro-rata need. The CoC conducts a local process to determine needs within the system and to evaluate and select and prioritize project level applications to include in the annual application for funds.

Section II: 2023 HUD CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Detail

On July 3, 2023, HUD published the NOFO for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. Applications are due to HUD by September 28, 2023. Approximately \$3.13 billion is available for FY 2023. The VC CoC is eligible for \$3.3 million in annual renewal demand (ARD) funding plus and estimated \$165,299 in planning grant funds with the potential to apply for new bonus project funding.

Although the available amount of funding is expected to be sufficient to fund all eligible renewal projects in the FY 2023 funding process, HUD continues to require Collaborative Applicants to rank all projects in two tiers. **Tier 1 comprises 93% of the renewal funding available. Tier 2 is 7% of the CoC's ARD plus any amount available for bonus projects.** Additionally, there is an ongoing emphasis on project performance. 24 CFR Part 578.7 (6) requires CoCs to 'monitor recipient and subrecipient performance, evaluate outcomes, and take action against poor performers'. HUD encourages CoCs to reallocate under-performing projects to higher performing projects or to respond to community needs. The VC CoC responds to these factors by establishing policies, procedures, and criteria for reviewing and ranking each application for funding; for reallocation, and for selection of projects for inclusion in the CoC national competition. HUD also requires the CoC to meet requirements and guidelines specific to the annual NOFO.

- A. Threshold/ Eligibility Review:** The CoC is required to review all applications to verify eligibility for federal CoC funding. Applicants must meet HUD thresholds regarding eligibility to do business with the federal government; legal status; commitment to participation in HMIS and the Coordinated Entry System (CES); and fiscal capacity. Projects from applicants not meeting these requirements are ineligible to apply for HUD CoC funding.
- B. Ranking Requirements:** The CoC must assign a unique rank to each project that it intends to submit to HUD for FY 2021 funding except for the CoC planning grant. Ranking of renewal projects must incorporate scoring on project performance, system performance and effectiveness. Each CoC must comprehensively review both new and renewal projects within its geographic area, using CoC-approved scoring criteria and selection priorities, to determine the extent to which each project is still necessary and addresses the listed policy priorities. Funds for projects that are determined to be underperforming, obsolete, or ineffective should be reallocated to new projects that are based on proven or promising models.

C. Reallocation & Bonus: CoCs may use funds from part or whole existing grants to create new projects through reallocation. A CoC is eligible to apply for up to 6% of its Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN) and may apply for more than one bonus project provided it has demonstrated the ability to reallocate lower performing projects to create new higher performing projects. CoCs may submit new project applications under the bonus and reallocation process for the following project types:

1. **Permanent supportive housing (PSH) projects** where all beds are dedicated for chronically homeless individuals or families as defined in 24 CFR 578.3.
2. **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) projects** for homeless individuals or families that come directly from the streets or emergency shelters, including unaccompanied youth.
3. **Joint Transitional Housing (TH) and Permanent Housing (PH)-Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) TH-RRH:** projects that will serve homeless individuals or families who meet the HUD definition of homelessness or are residing in a TH program being eliminated.
4. **New Supportive Services Only (SSO)** for coordinated entry system.
5. **New dedicated HMIS projects** for costs at 24 CFR 578.37(a)(2) to be carried out by the HMIS Lead.

D. New Projects for Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus:

CoC's may create new DV projects. CoC's may apply for up to 10% of its Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) or a minimum of \$50,000 or a maximum of \$5 million. A CoC may apply for one of each of the following types of projects. Projects are limited to a 1 year funding request and must follow the Housing First approach:

1. Rapid Re-Housing (PH-RRH) projects
2. Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing (TH-RRH) projects.
3. SSO projects for coordinated entry (SSO-CE) to implement policies, procedures and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking (e.g. to implement policies and procedures that are trauma-informed, client-centered or to better coordinate referrals between the CoCs coordinated entry and the victim service provider system where they are different).

E. Tiers & Priority Order:

In the FY23 CoC Program Competition, Tier 1 will equal 93% of the CoC's ARD. Tier 2 is 7% of the ARD plus the amount available for the identified bonus project funding. Any new or renewal project may be placed in Tier 1. CoCs should carefully consider the priority and ranking for all projects in Tier 1 and Tier 2. Projects in Tier 1 will be conditionally selected if applications pass both HUD's eligibility and threshold review.

Projects placed in Tier 2 will be assessed for eligibility threshold and threshold requirements and funding will be determined using the CoC Applications score as well as factors listed in the NOFA. Projects in Tier 2 are evaluated on a project by project level across the CoCs nationally. As a result, selection for funding of projects in Tier 2 is more rigorous than in Tier 1.

F. CoCs should consider the policy priorities established in the NOFO in conjunction with local priorities to determine the ranking of new projects created through reallocation, CoC planning, and renewal project requests.

HUD CoC FY23 Policy and Program Priorities

- 1) **Ending homelessness for all persons** by aligning strategies with the [ALL IN: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#)
- 2) **Use a Housing First approach** to help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing. This should include landlord engagement, removing barriers to entry and adopting client-centered service.
- 3) **Reduce unsheltered homelessness** by exploring all available resources. CoCs should work with law enforcement and local governments to eliminate policies and practices that criminalize homelessness.
- 4) **Improve system performance** and use the Coordinated Entry process to make homelessness assistance open, inclusive and transparent.
- 5) **Partner with housing, health and service agencies** to improve how all available resources are utilized to end homelessness. Partnerships with public and private healthcare organizations, public housing authorities, local workforce development centers and tribal organizations to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources.
- 6) **Address racial equity** to ensure successful outcomes for all persons experiencing homelessness.
- 7) **Improve assistance to LGBTQ+ individuals** by ensuring privacy, respect, safety and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation in projects.
- 8) **Include persons with lived expertise and experience** in the local planning and decision-making process. CoC leaders and stakeholders should prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed.
- 9) **Increase the affordable housing supply** by communicating with jurisdiction leaders about steps such as zoning and land use reform that would increase the supply of affordable housing.

Ventura County Policy on Project Ranking and Tiering

(adopted and finalized on July 12, 2023 by VC CoC Board)

Section III: Ventura County Policy on Reallocation, Project Ranking and Tiering

A. Policy Objectives:

In developing our local policy governing project ranking, reallocation and tiering, Ventura County CoC's objectives are to align with the VC CoC mission, values and guiding principles:

- *Mission Statement:* The VC CoC Alliance is a collaborative group dedicated to promoting a safe, desirable and thriving community by ending homelessness in Ventura County.
- *Vision:* Homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring
- *Values:* We value the dignity of every human life, the well-being of the community and the power of the community to working together to solve community problems.
- *Guiding Principles:*
 - Collective Impact
 - Housing First
 - Strengths-Based and Trauma-Informed Care

- Harm reduction
- Centering Racial Equity in System Design
- Comply with HUD requirements.
- Preserve funding for high performing and effective projects.
- Fund programs that contribute positively to overall system performance.
- Shift investments from lower performing projects and ones which are at risk of losing HUD funding to new projects that help advance our community's goal of reducing homelessness and demonstrate effective approaches and best practices.

Rationale for Preliminary Rankings

- Closely followed HUD's priorities and guidelines for ranking projects.
- Positive contribution to System Level Performance will be heavily weighted when ranking projects including exits to permanent housing and housing retention.
- Examine under-performing projects and under-utilized projects and consider reallocation.
- Projects/agencies engagement in Continuum of Care efforts and participation in Coordinated Entry will be weighted when ranking projects.
- Projects that serve chronically homeless (CH) are ranked higher on the list than programs without dedicated CH beds. Programs that target chronically homeless for non-dedicated beds as they became available are ranked higher on the list.
- Projects implementing a Housing First model with policies and procedures to emphasize their practices rank higher.
- Projects serving vulnerable populations (chronically homeless, mentally ill, youth and persons fleeing domestic violence) will receive additional points when ranking projects.
- Cost efficiency and utilization will be considered when ranking projects within the project component (PH-RRH, PSH, TH).

B. Project Review and Ranking Policy:

The Ventura County CoC will invite submissions for new and renewal projects and will conduct a review and ranking following the procedures stated in Sections IV and V.

The general approach to rating and ranking will be to organize projects into groups:

- 1) renewal PH and RRH
- 2) renewal Safe Haven
- 3) new PH and RRH
- 4) new TH-RRH
- 5) new SSO CES
- 6) HMIS projects (Tier 1)

Within each type, projects will be scored using a score system specific to that program type and placed within their ranked order, with renewal PSH and RRH in the first group (ordered by score) and the new PSH and RRH in the second group (ordered by score). Renewal projects scoring less than 70 points will be considered for reallocation. If CoC decides to rank and submit project scoring below 70 points, it may be ranked in Tier 2. The CoC goal is to preserve funding for the entire community and will make ranking decisions to submit a competitive application and not put community-wide funding at risk.

C. Tiering Policy:

Once the rank order of projects has been determined the projects at the bottom of the list will fall into Tier 2 (7% of ARD).

As HMIS and Coordinated Entry are HUD mandated requirements in order to receive Continuum of Care funding, it is strongly recommended that these funded projects remain top priorities in Tier 1 in order to secure and maintain funding for this required activity.

The CoC Planning Grant is not ranked per HUD's guidance.

Section IV: Process for Rating and Ranking Renewal Projects

A: Rating and Ranking Process:

A Letter of Intent (LOI) was issued by the CoC on [Enter Date] to gather relevant performance and threshold documentation from each project identified as eligible for renewal. LOIs are due to CoC staff by (Enter Date)

All renewal projects will be ranked using an objective scoring system as approved as recommended by the VC CoC Data and Performance Committee and approved by the VC CoC Board. VC CoC Staff will use data provided through the LOI process (for both SH and PH renewals) to calculate a score for each renewal and use the results to develop the Project Priority Listing for review and approval by the VC CoC Board as recommended through the VC CoC Data and Performance Committee.

The LOI process is intended to assess agency's capacity to administer CoC projects while complying with HUD requirements. Additionally, the LOI helps staff and the CoC Committees review the following:

1. System Performance Data (project contribution)
2. Annual Performance Report (APR) timeliness and data quality
3. Vulnerabilities of populations served by projects including filling vacancies through coordinated entry
4. Financial commitment (match)
5. Alignment with best practices: Housing First/Low Barrier/Harm Reduction
6. CoC participation/VC CoC Partner Agency Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

VC CoC Staff and VC CoC Data and Performance Committee use data provided through the LOI process, HMIS reports (Annual Performance Reports and CoC System Performance Data) analysis to develop the Project Priority Listing for review and approval by the VC CoC Board. This process is conducted in open public meetings and all materials are posted on the VC CoC website: www.venturacoc.org

B. Scoring Criteria for Renewal Permanent Housing (PSH and RRH):

The scoring system will have a maximum of 100 points with points for project and system performance and threshold factors. Data to assess both performance and threshold criteria will be obtained from the information submitted by the applicants in their LOI response. System Performance Data will be pulled from HMIS; however, victim service providers must submit data generated from a comparable database for review.

The performance measures will be based on those established by HUD, VC CoC local performance targets and tracked through HMIS data:

- at least 85 percent of project participants either remained in permanent housing or exited to another permanent housing location.
- at least 55 percent of project participant increased their income from sources other than employment in an operating year.
- at least 90 percent of project participants obtained mainstream benefits

Some renewing projects will not have a full year of performance data to be considered in the review and rank process because they have not yet been operational for a full year. These projects will be reviewed on the data they have available but will not be penalized for not serving the full number of participants. If a new project does not have enough performance data to review, they will be reviewed for administrative and program compliance and be ranked at the bottom of Tier 1. Their overall score will place them in the bottom of the group of PSH and RRH renewals but they will be placed in Tier 1 because PH renewals as a group will be the first on the Project Priority List. If a project is poorly performing and lacks capacity, the committee may recommend the project for reallocation.

C. Scoring Criteria for Renewal Safe Haven:

The scoring system will have a maximum of 100 points with points for project and system performance and threshold factors. Data to assess both performance and threshold criteria will be obtained from the information submitted by the applicants in their LOI response. System Performance Data will be pulled from HMIS.

The performance measures will be based on those established by HUD, VC CoC local performance targets and tracked through HMIS data:

- at least 80 percent of project participants either exit to permanent housing, or a temporary placement progressing towards permanent housing.
- at least 55 percent of project participant increased their total income in an operating year.
- at least 90 percent of project participants obtained mainstream benefits, as eligible

D. HMIS Renewal:

Consistent with previous CoC applications, HMIS renewals will be exempt from the full Letter of Intent (LOI) but will be assessed for performance and spending in alignment with HUD requirements. As noted in Section II, the HMIS renewal will be placed in Tier 1.

Section V: Process and Criteria for Ranking New Projects

The VC CoC Board will examine recommendations from the VC CoC Data and Performance Committee and VC CoC staff to determine the amount of funding available for reallocation. New bonus funds and any reallocated funds will be awarded through a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for open competition for projects that provide Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) to chronically homeless individuals or Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) projects that serve single adults, families or youth.

An additional RFP process will be held for VC CoC Domestic Violence Bonus funding. This funding is eligible for the following project types that serve persons fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking: 1) PH-RRH; 2) TH-RRH; 3) CE-SSO. Applications will be scored the same as other new projects with additional points for projects that have a plan for promoting safety for the population served. Victim Service Provider applicants will provide data from a comparable database to demonstrate need, capacity and performance.

The RFP will be structured to award funds to projects that 1) meet Ventura County's CoC priorities; and 2) are most competitive in evaluating project capacity and past performance. In addition, projects must meet HUD's threshold and quality requirements. The RFP will require applicants to submit project narrative, applicant capacity and financial information sufficient to assess all of these factors. To evaluate whether projects meet the HUD threshold, quality standards, and performance standards, the projects will be reviewed by the VC CoC Data and Performance Committee.

To evaluate project quality and fit with Ventura County objectives and develop a ranked order, the CoC will convene an unbiased project review meeting to review each new project. Projects will be scored based on a 100 point system (Attachment A and B). The VC CoC Staff will then hold one meeting to review and score applications and arrive at a proposed final ranking for new projects, including a recommendation of which project should be submitted as the PSH bonus. The panel may also recommend that projects should either increase or decrease their funding request to maximize the use of available reallocated or bonus funds.

The final ranking of new projects as determined will be discussed and approved by the VC CoC Board on September 13, 2023 to determine the order on the Project Priority Listing.

Section VI: Final Project Priority List and Notification to Applicants

Once the rating and ranking processes for new and renewal applicants are complete, VC CoC staff will integrate the results of the scoring/ranking processes and create the final proposed Project Priority Listing for review by the VC CoC Board. This proposed list can include recommendations to adjust the placement of projects in Tier 2 in order to maximize the total funding award for Ventura County. The proposed final list will be approved, and notice sent to the applicants of the final results no later than September 15, 2023.

Section VII: Appeal Process

Applicants may appeal any of the following decisions of the VC CoC:

- 1) Placement of project into Tier 2
- 2) Reduction in funding
- 3) Project not included in final FY23 VC CoC consolidated application.

Appeals must be submitted to the Ventura County Collaborative Applicant no later than September 15, 2023. Appeals will be heard by the VC Data, Performance & Evaluation Committee. The decision of the appeal panel will be submitted to the VC CoC Board to make a final determination.

DRAFT

Attachment A

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) Performance Measures - Max. 100 Points with 40 points towards System Performance detailed below.

- at least 85 percent of project participants either remained in permanent housing or exited to another PH (up to 10 points)
- at least 55 percent of project participants increased their total income in a given operating year (up to 10 points).
- Demonstrate quickly moving persons into permanent housing from program entry to housing moving in date with goal of fewer than 30 days from program entry to move in (up to 10 points).
- fewer than 5% returns to homelessness within a year of exiting from PH/RRH program (up to 10 points).

Projects can receive an additional 10 points for maximizing utilization of their program vacancies with an average of no less than 95% utilization in the previous 4 quarters. HMIS Data Quality should reflect no more than 10% of any missing data element.

Underperforming projects will be discussed in detail with VC CoC Data and Performance Committee and recommendations will be made for reallocation to the VC CoC Board when appropriate.

Permanent Housing (PSH/RRH) Projects: **Applicant:** _____ **Project:** _____

Threshold Renewal Points	Source Document	Max Points	Total Scored
Compliance with Grants and Financial Management	Annual Performance Report submitted timely, HUD monitoring, eLOCCS, close-out certificates; new projects will provide relevant information on managing federal grants. 5 points for APR submittal timely; 5 points for 95% or greater expenditure of grant funds.	10	
Housing First/Low Barrier/Harm Reduction	Intake policy consistent with Housing First / Low Barrier / Harm Reduction (including the acceptance of criminal history, domestic violence history, and/or substance use disorders) = 10pts Commitment to Housing First with some exceptions, based on project type = 5pts No Housing First = 0 pts	10	
Best Practices/Supportive Services	LOI + supportive documentation (intake packets, lease agreements, service documents, staffing plan) consistent with Housing First, Low Barrier and local prioritization standards (<i>servicing the most vulnerable</i>), filling vacancies through coordinated entry = 10pts Missing document (-2pts) Inconsistency with documents, services and staff plan = 5pts Not aligned with best practices = 0 pts	10	

CoC participation, HEARTH compliance	Attendance records or commitment for new partners to participate in CoC meetings (up to 5); compliance with CoC Partner MOU (up to 5)	10	
Project Performance	Bed Utilization (95%+) (up to 5 points), HMIS Data Quality (up to 5 points)	10	
System Level Performance	>5%Returns to Homelessness (up to 10 points), Length of time Homeless, 55% of participants Increase Total Income (up to 10 points), 85% of participants with successful exits to Permanent Housing (up to 10 points)	40	
Cost Effectiveness - Successful housing outcomes	Cost per successful housing outcome – within project type (up to 10 points)	10	
TOTAL		100	

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Attachment B

The following will be applied for the performance measures scored for Safe Haven (SH) Projects renewals.
SH Performance Measures - Max. 100 Points with 40 points towards System Performance

- at least 80 percent of project participants exit to a permanent housing or other positive destination (up to 10 points).
- at least 55 percent of project participants increased their total income in a given operating year (up to 5 points).
- at least 90 percent of project participants obtained or maintained mainstream benefits (up to 5 points).
- fewer than 5% returns to homelessness within a year of exiting from SH program (up to 10 points).
- Average length of stay <180 days (up to 10 points)

Projects can receive an additional 10 points for maximizing utilization of their program vacancies with an average of no less than 95% utilization in the previous 4 quarters. HMIS Data Quality should reflect no more than 10% of any missing data element.

Underperforming projects will be discussed in detail with VC CoC Data and Performance Committee and recommendations will be made for reallocation to the VC CoC Board when appropriate.

Safe Haven (SH) Projects: Applicant: _____ **Project:** _____

Threshold Renewal Points	Source Document	Max Points	Total Scored
Compliance with Grants and Financial Management	Annual Performance Report submitted timely, HUD monitoring, eLOCCS, close-out certificates; new projects will provide relevant information on managing federal grants. 5 points for APR submittal timely; 5 points for 95% or greater expenditure of grant funds.	10	
Housing First/Low Barrier/Harm Reduction	Proposal and program design consistent with Housing First / Low Barrier / Harm Reduction (including the acceptance of criminal history, domestic violence history, and/or substance use disorders) = Up to 10pts Commitment to Housing First with some exceptions, based on project type = 5pts No Housing First = 0 pts	10	
Best Practices/Supportive Services	Project design and staffing plan consistent with Housing First, Low Barrier and local prioritization standards (<i>servicing the most vulnerable</i>), filling vacancies through coordinated entry, using HMIS and housing participants as quickly as possible = Up to 10pts Inconsistency with documents, services and staff plan = 5pts Not aligned with best practices = 0 pts	10	

CoC participation, HEARTH compliance	Attendance records or commitment for new partners to participate in CoC meetings (up to 5); compliance with CoC Partner MOU (up to 5)	10	
Project Performance	Bed Utilization (95%+) (up to 5 points), HMIS Data Quality (up to 5 points)	10	
System Level Performance	>5%Returns to Homelessness (up to 10 points), Length of time Homeless, 55% of participants Increase Total Income (up to 10 points), 85% of participants with successful exits to Permanent Housing (up to 10 points)	40	
Cost Effectiveness - Successful housing outcomes	Cost per successful housing outcome – within project type (up to 10 points)	10	
TOTAL		100	

New Projects: Applicant: _____ **Project:** _____

Threshold Points	Source Document	Max Points	Total Scored
Compliance/Experience with Grants and Financial Management	Provide relevant information on managing federal grants and demonstrate capacity for success. Financial capacity, staffing capacity, past performance in implementing grant funded programs. Demonstrates ability to meet match requirements. (Up to 10 points)	10	
Housing First/Low Barrier/Harm Reduction	Program design (housing and support services) and staffing plan consistent with Housing First / Low Barrier / Harm Reduction (including the acceptance of criminal history, domestic violence history, and/or substance use disorders) Services sufficient to support housing participants as quickly as possible and providing adequate support services to support housing stability. Project commits to utilizing HMIS, fill vacancies through CES and participate in systemwide coordination. (Up to 20pts)	20	
Timeliness for New Project Start Up	Proposed project timeline demonstrates ability to staff up, launch program and spend funds timely. Establish benchmarks at 60, 120, & 180 days post grant award. (Up to 10 points)	10	

Serving vulnerable populations	Proposal commits to serving highly vulnerable populations. Proposal details how program will provide services to meet unique needs of participants. (Up to 10 points)	10	
CoC participation, HEARTH compliance and collaboration	Commitment for new partners to participate in CoC meetings (up to 5); compliance with CoC Partner MOU (up to 5); Collaboration with other organizations and programs to address the needs of the target population, including mainstream benefits, social services, employment programs and other mainstream programs (up to 10)	20	
Project/System Performance	Proposed program aligns and demonstrates plans to achieve HUD and CoC project and system performance benchmarks (Up to 20)	20	
Cost Efficiency	The average cost per exit to permanent housing based on the total program costs.	10	
TOTAL		100	

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2023 Letter of Intent to Renew CoC Project

Instructions: Please complete one letter for each renewal application (*HUD approved consolidated grants may submit one LOI for the full consolidated project*).

Lead Agency Information

CCR #:					
DUNS # or EUI #:					
Agency Name:					
Agency Address:					
City, State ZIP:					
Phone:		Fax:		Email:	

Grant/Application Contact Person:

Name:				
Phone:				
Email:				

Agency Director:

Name:				
Phone:				
Email:				

HMIS Contact Person

Name:				
Phone:				
Email:				

Project Information:

Name of Project:			
Project Address:			
Grant Amount:			
Grant Term:			
Expiration Date:			
Program Type:			
Primary Population:			

Annual Renewal Amount for Project:	
Total Number of Units/Beds:	

Previously approved budget amounts by activity:

Activity:	Budget Amount:
Leased Units	
Leased Structures	
Rental Assistance	
Supportive Services	
Operations	
HMIS	
Administration	
Total:	

Name and Signature of Person who will complete the application:

--	--

Name and Signature of Person authorized to sign the HUD application:

--	--

I certify, on behalf of my agency that all information contained in this application is accurate and true, based on our current records for the project. I understand that falsifying information or failing to provide accurate information will have a negative impact on my overall review and may result in removal from the Continuum of Care Application to HUD. I also understand that projects not submitting their Letter of Intent by the deadline may be reallocated.

Executive Director/CEO/President

Date

Background Information:

The Continuum of Care (CoC) will consider the need to continue funding for projects expiring in 2023 as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). However, as noted by HUD, renewal projects must meet minimum project eligibility, capacity, timeliness, and performance standards identified in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) or they will be rejected from consideration for funding.

While considering the need to continue funding for projects expiring in 2023, the CoC Data, Performance & Evaluation Committee will review the information that HUD noted in the 2023 NOFO CoC Program Competition, which is as follows:

1. When considering renewal projects for award, HUD will review financial information; Annual Performance Reports (APRs); independent or 2-CFR-200 audit reports as applicable; and information provided from the local HUD CPD Field Office, including monitoring report and performance standards on prior grants; and will assess projects using the following criteria:
 - a. Whether the project applicant's performance met the plans and goals established in the initial application, as amended.
 - b. Whether the project applicant demonstrated all timeliness standards for grants being renewed, including those standards for the expenditure of grant funds that have been met.
 - c. The project applicant's performance in assisting program participants to achieve and maintain independent living and records of success, except HMIS-dedicated projects that are not required to meet this standard; and,
 - d. Whether there is evidence that a project applicant has been unwilling to accept technical assistance, has a history of inadequate financial accounting practices, has indications of project mismanagement, has a drastic reduction in the population served, has made program changes without prior HUD approval, or has lost a project site.
2. Although a project may be recommended for funding by the CoC, HUD reserves the right to reduce or reject a funding request from the project applicant for the following reasons:
 - a. Outstanding obligation to HUD that is in arrears or for which a payment schedule has not been agreed upon.
 - b. Audit/Monitoring finding(s) for which a response is overdue or unsatisfactory.
 - c. History of inadequate financial management accounting practices.
 - d. Evidence of untimely expenditures and unspent funds on prior award.
 - e. History of other major capacity issues that have significantly affected the operation of the project and its performance.

- f. History of not reimbursing subrecipients for eligible costs in a timely manner, or at least quarterly; and
- g. History of serving ineligible program participants, expending funds on ineligible costs, or failing to expend funds within statutorily established timeframes.

I. Recipient Compliance with Grants and Financial Management:

Per 24 CFR part 578 and the 2023 CoC Program Competition NOFO requires that Project Applicants specifically identify four benchmarks for grants and financial management that communities must reach to meet this standard, which are

1. *On-time APR submission.*
2. *Resolved HUD or Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audits, if applicable.*
3. *Monthly submission of claims; and*
4. *The full expenditure of awarded funds.*

The following questions are designed to inform HUD of the recipient’s performance related to these four statutory and regulatory requirements and to provide the recipient with an opportunity to explain their inability to meet the related standards.

1. Has the recipient successfully submitted the APR on time for the most recently expired grant term related to this renewal project request?

APRs are due within 90 days after the grant term expires. Select “**Yes**” to indicate that an APR has been submitted for the grant term that has most recently expired. Select “**No**” to indicate that an APR has not been submitted for the grant term that has most recently expired or if this is a first-time renewal for which the original grant term has not yet expired.

- Yes
- No
- This is a first-time renewal for which the original grant term has not yet expired

If you selected “**No**” above, provide a brief explanation for why the APR was not submitted on time in the box below (expand box as needed). For those first-time renewals for which the original grant term has not yet expired, please write, “First-time renewal and grant term has not yet expired” and provide the date by which the APR must be submitted.

2. Does the recipient have any unresolved HUD Monitoring and/or OIG Audit findings concerning any previous grant term related to this renewal project request?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Select **“Yes”** if there are any unresolved HUD Monitoring or OIG Audit findings, regardless of the funding year of the project for which they were originally identified. Select **“No”** if there are no unresolved HUD Monitoring or OIG Audit findings.

a. Date HUD or OIG issued the oldest unresolved finding(s):

If you selected **“Yes”** above, provide the date that the oldest unresolved finding was issued.

Date the oldest unresolved finding was issued: _____

b. Explain why the finding(s) remains unresolved:

If you selected **“Yes”** above, provide a brief explanation in the box below (expand box as needed) for why the monitoring or audit finding remains unresolved and the steps that have been taken towards resolution (e.g., responded to the HUD letter, but no final determination received).

3. Has the recipient maintained timely and consistent monthly submission of claims for the most recent grant terms related to this renewal project request?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

CoC Program recipients are required to submit claims on a monthly basis. Select **“Yes”** to indicate that you have maintained monthly submission of claims for the most recent relevant grant term. For some grants, the standard will be applied to the FY 2022 renewal, for others the FY 2021, and for some multi-year first-time renewals a grant awarded in an earlier fiscal year. Select **“No”** to indicate that the recipient has not maintained consistent monthly claim submission for the most recent relevant grant term, or if this is a first-time renewal for which less than one quarter has passed.

a. Explain why the recipient has not maintained timely and consistent monthly claim submission for the most recent grant terms related to this renewal project request.

If you selected **“No”** above, provide a brief explanation in the box below (expand box as needed) for why monthly claim submissions have not been maintained. Delays in draws due to a late HUD funding announcement and receipt of renewal grant agreement may be included in such an explanation.

4. Have any funds been recaptured by or returned to HUD for any of the three (3) most recently expired grant terms related to this renewal project request?

- Yes
- No
- Project has not yet completed a grant term

Select **“Yes”** to indicate that funds have been recaptured, meaning that not all awarded funds were expended during the three previous completed grant terms. Select **“No”** to indicate that no funds were recaptured or if this is a first-time renewal for which the original grant term has not yet expired.

a. If you selected “Yes” above, explain the circumstances that led to HUD recapturing/returning funds from any of the three (3) most recently expired grant term related to this renewal project request:

Provide a brief explanation in the box below (expand box as needed) for why the total awarded funds were not expended and were returned/recaptured. Include the amount returned for each year.

II. Housing First and Low Barriers Approach

Housing First is a model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). It is an approach to **1)** quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing. **2)** without barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements;

or **3**) related preconditions that might lead to the program participant’s termination from the project. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry; however, participation in supportive services is based on the needs and desires of program participants. For more information, review the 2023 CoC Program Competition NOFO and the Housing First in PSH brief at: www.hudexchange.info/resource/3892/housing-first-in-permanent-supportive-housing-brief/

1. Does the project quickly move participants into permanent housing?

- Yes
- No

Select **“Yes”** to this question if your project will quickly move program participants into permanent housing without additional steps (e.g., required stay in transitional housing before moving to permanent housing). If you are a domestic violence (DV) program you should select **“Yes”** if you will quickly move program participants into permanent housing after immediate safety needs are addressed (e.g., a person who is still in danger from a violent situation and would move into PH once the dangerous situation has been addressed). Select **“No”** if the project does not work to move program participants quickly into permanent housing.

2. Has the project removed the following barriers to accessing housing and services?

- Having too little or little income
- Active or history of substance abuse
- Having a criminal record with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions
- Fleeing domestic violence (e.g. lack of a protective order, period of separation from abuser or law enforcer involvement)
- None of the above

(Select ALL that apply): Check the box next to each item to confirm that your project has removed (or never had) barriers to program access related to each of the following: 1) Having too little or little income; 2) Active or history of substance abuse; 3) Having a criminal record with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions; and 4) Fleeing domestic violence (e.g., lack of a protective order, period of separation from abuser, or law enforcement involvement). If all of these barriers to access still exist, select “None of the above.”

3. Has the project removed the following as reasons for program termination?

- Failure to participate in supportive services
- Failure to make progress on a service plan
- Loss of income or failure to improve income
- Fleeing domestic violence
- Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found in the project’s

- geographic area
- None of the above

Check the box next to each item to confirm that your project has removed (or never had) reasons for program participant termination related to each of the following: 1) Failure to participate in supportive services; 2) Failure to make progress on a service plan; 3) Loss of income or failure to improve income; 4) Fleeing domestic violence; and 5) Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found in the project’s geographic area. If all of these reasons for program termination still exist, select “None of the above.”

Additional attachments: Please attach the following supporting documentation that shows that your agency provided staff training and policies and procedures so that staff fully understands how to implement the Housing First approach: a copy of the agency Policies and Procedures, staff training materials, and any forms or other related documents.

III. Supportive Services for Participants

Please identify whether the project includes the following activities:

1. Transportation assistance to clients to attend mainstream benefit appointments, employment training, or jobs?

- Yes
- No

Select “**Yes**” if the project provides regular or as needed transportation assistance to mainstream and community resources, including appointments, employment training, educational programs, or jobs. Select “**No**” if transportation is not regularly provided or cannot be provided consistently as requested.

2. Use of a single application form for four or more mainstream programs?

- Yes
- No

Select “**Yes**” if the project uses a *single application form that allows program participants to sign up for four or more mainstream programs. Select “**No**” if application forms cover 3 or fewer mainstream programs.

***Agencies utilizing *My Benefits CalWIN* meet this requirement.**

3. Regular follow-ups with participants to ensure mainstream benefits are received and renewed?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Select **“Yes”** if the project regularly follows-up with program participants at least annually to ensure that they have applied for, are receiving their mainstream benefits, and renew benefits when required. Select **“No”** if there is no or irregular follow-up concerning mainstream benefits.

4. Do program participants have access to SSI/SSDI technical assistance provided by the applicant, a subrecipient, or partner agency?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

Select **“Yes”** if program participants have access to SSI/SSDI technical assistance. The assistance can be provided by the applicant, a subrecipient, or a partner agency—through a formal or informal relationship. Select **“No”** if there is no or significantly limited access to SSI/SSDI technical assistance

5. Has the staff person providing the technical assistance completed SOAR training in the past 24 months?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

This question will only appear if **“Yes”** is selected to the previous question. Select **“Yes”** to indicate that the applicant, subrecipient or partner agency staff person who will be providing the SSI/SSDI technical assistance has completed SOAR training, online or in person, in the past 24 months. If more than one person will provide technical assistance, select **“Yes”** only if all persons have completed the training. Otherwise, select **“No.”**

IV. Outreach for Participants

Project Applicants are required to identify where their eligible program participants come from with respect to HUD’s homeless definition and must include percentages of program participants that are served using requested funds. Project Applicants must ensure that all persons served in renewal RRH projects meet the requirements found in 24 CFR part 578 and the 2022 CoC Program Competition NOFO.

1. Enter the percentage of homeless person(s) who will be served by the proposed project for each of the following locations: Indicate the percentage of homeless persons who will be admitted from each of the listed locations. Not all of the following locations are eligible locations for all project's types. For example, persons coming from transitional housing are not eligible for PH-RRH projects. Instead, renewal RRH projects must continue to serve individuals and families coming from the streets or emergency shelters. New RRH projects created through reallocation could also serve persons fleeing domestic violence Note: It is critical that you refer to 24 CFR part 578 and the current year CoC Program Competition NOFO to confirm the eligible locations for each type of project (please contact your local HUD field office if you are unclear as to which NOFO requirements take precedence). The total percentage must equal 100% in order to submit the project application.

%	Eligible Locations:
	Directly from the street or other locations not meant for human habitation.
	Directly from emergency shelters. (this includes domestic violence emergency shelters)
	Directly from safe havens.
	From transitional housing and previously resided in a place not meant for human habitation or emergency shelters, or safe havens.
	Persons fleeing domestic violence (or attempting to flee).
	Total of above percentages

Individuals coming from an institution where they have resided for 90 days or less AND have entered the institution from the streets, emergency shelter, or safe haven, maintain their homeless status during that time. Include these program participants in the percentages for streets, places not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, and safe havens accordingly.

Projects that have been approved to change from TH to PH-RRH should list residents who are remaining in the program from the previous grant term according to the place from which they originally entered. They should not be listed as entering from transitional housing simply because they were in the program during the previous grant term.

Refer to 24 CFR part 578, the 2023 CoC Program Competition NOFO, and the homeless definition at www.hudexchange.info/resource/1928/hearth-defining-homeless-final-rule/ for further guidance.

V. Participation in Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing: Continuum of Care (CoC) Program interim rule places a high emphasis on having a functioning and comprehensive HMIS in the CoC jurisdiction as it is critical to gathering unduplicated, aggregated data on homelessness in the community for both the CoC and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Programs.

- Does this project provide client level data to HMIS at least annually? Yes No

If the project is providing participant data in the HMIS – indicate the total number of participants served by the project, and the total number of clients reported in the HMIS.

Total number of participants served by the project: _____

Total number of clients reported in the HMIS: _____

If the project is not providing participant data in the HMIS – indicate one or more of the four (4) reason(s) for non-participation:

- Federal law prohibits (please cite specific law) State law prohibits (please cite specific law)
- New project not yet in operation Other (please specify prohibition)

Also, for those participant records that were reported in the HMIS, indicate the percentage of values that were missing (“Null or Missing Values”) and/or unknown (“Don’t Know or Refused”). If there were no unknown values, note a “0” value.

Data Collection Requirements

All CoC Program funded projects are required to collect all of the Universal Data Elements and a select number of Program-Specific Data Elements.

- * **Indicate the percentage of unduplicated client records with null or missing values during the last 10 days of January 2023**

Universal Data Element (Use HMIS Data Quality Report)	Records with no values (%)	Records where value is refused or unknown (%)
3.1 Name		
3.2 Social Security Number		
3.3 Date of Birth		
3.4 Race		
3.5 Ethnicity		
3.6 Gender		
3.7 Veteran Status		
3.8 Disabling condition		
3.917 Living Situation		
3.10 Project entry date		
3.11 Project exit date		
3.12 Destination		
3.15 Relationship to Head of Household		
3.16 Client Location		
Program Specific Data Element (From the most recent APR)	Records with no values (%)	Records where value is refused or unknown (%)
4.2 Income and Sources		
4.3 Non-Cash Benefits		
4.4 Health Insurance		
4.5 Physical Disability		
4.6 Developmental Disability		
4.7 Chronic Health Condition		
4.8 HIV/AIDS		
4.9 Mental Health Problem		
4.10 Substance Abuse		
4.11 Domestic Violence		
4.17 Residential Move-In Date (RRH only)		

VI. Participation in Coordinated Entry System

CoC funded projects are required to participate in the local Coordinated Entry System. As defined by HUD:

“Coordinated entry is a key step in assessing the needs of homeless individuals and families and prioritizing them for assistance. In addition to engaging people who are seeking assistance, Coordinated Entry processes should be integrated with communities’ outreach work to ensure that people living in unsheltered locations are prioritized for help”. Coordinated Entry should achieve several goals:

- Make it easier for persons experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis to access the appropriate housing and service interventions.
- Prioritize persons with the longest histories of homelessness and the most extensive needs.
- Lower barriers to entering programs or receiving assistance; and,
- Ensure that persons receive assistance and are housed as quickly as possible.²

The definition of Centralized or Coordinated Assessment can be found at 24 CFR 578.3. Provisions at 24 CFR 578.7(a)(8) detail the responsibilities of the CoC with regard to establishing and operating such a system. In addition to the definition, HUD also posted on the HUD Exchange the Coordinated Entry Policy Brief in February 2015 that helps inform local efforts to further develop CoCs’ coordinated entry processes.

1. How many households (a household can be a single individual or family) entered your program during the past 12 months? (July 1, 2022-July 1, 2023) _____

a. How many of the households that you stated in the question above entered your project through the coordinated entry system? _____

2. If any households entered your program during the past 12 months that were not referred through the coordinated entry system, please explain why in the box below (expand box as needed).

Note: this information will be verified through HMIS.

VII. Performance Measures

The purpose of the HUD’s System Performance Measures is to help communities gauge their progress in preventing and ending homelessness and provide a more complete picture of how well a community is achieving this goal. The performance of each project in the CoC is crucial in the overall performance of the CoC. The source data for performance measures include the APR and System Performance Measures

1. Bed Utilization for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

A bed utilization rate is equal to the total number of people served on any given day divided by the total number of beds available on that day. Bed utilization rates below 65 percent are usually attributed to the project not entering all their clients into the HMIS or the project was under-utilized. Bed utilization rates above 105 means the project did not capture exit dates for all their clients and/or the project offered overflow beds.

From your most recent APR, complete the table below on the point-in-time count of households served on the last Wednesdays in

	*Total # of Beds	Total # of Clients Served	Utilization Rate
January			
April			
July			
October			

*The total number of beds should equal the number of beds submitted in your application.

2. Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) provides short- or medium-term tenant-based rental assistance in community-based housing paired with necessary supportive services for homeless individuals and families (with or without a disability). RRH assistance usually begins prior to the client entering housing. Project performance is measured when client moves into permanent housing. Using data from HMIS during the past 12 months, answer the questions below:

- Proposed number of households: _____
- Total number of households served: _____
- Total number of households moved into permanent housing: _____
- If the total number of households that move into permanent housing is lower than the proposed number of households, please explain why in the box below (expand box as needed).

3. Employment and Income Growth

HUD’s System Performance Measure 2 – Change in employment income during the reporting period for program stayers. Meeting this criterion will be based on demonstrating that the percent of homeless adults being served in CoC Program projects increase their earned (i.e., employment) income. From your most recent APR, complete the table below to indicate the number of program stayers and leavers who increased employment or earned income.

	Total # of Adults in Program	# of Adults with increased employment/ earned income	% of adults with increased employment/ earned income
Program Stayers			
Program Leavers			

4. Obtain and Maintain Permanent Housing

HUD’s System Performance Measure 7b: Successful Placement in or Retention of Permanent Housing. Meeting this criterion will be based on demonstrating an increase in the percent of persons served in permanent housing projects who retain permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.

# of Persons in Permanent Housing*	# of Persons who remained in permanent housing	# of Persons who exited from permanent housing to permanent housing

*Permanent housing includes:

- Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy
- Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy
- Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy
- Rental by client, with VASH housing subsidy
- Rental by client, with GPD TIP housing subsidy
- Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy
- Staying or living with family, permanent tenure
- Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure

Additional attachments: Please attach the following system performance documentation for each project from the most recent complete grant term:

HMIS Report #700 - Length of Time Homeless (Safe Haven only)

HMIS Report #700.1b - Length of Time Homeless (all projects)

HMIS Report #701 - Exits to Permanent Housing with Returns to Homelessness

HMIS Report #703 - Employment and Income Growth

HMIS Report #706 - Permanent Housing Placement-Retention

VIII. HEARTH Act Compliance

This section of the Letter of Intent (LOI) asks questions of all renewal projects to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH Act): Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Interim Rule. (Please note, this section does not encompass all changes under the HEARTH Act, and it is recommended that all projects should review the Act in its entirety).

1. Participation of homeless individuals

The HEARTH Act CoC Program Interim Rule states that the recipient or subrecipient must document its compliance with the homeless participation requirements under § 578.75(g), which is as follows:

(g) Participation of homeless individuals.

(1) Each recipient and subrecipient must provide for the participation of not less than one homeless individual or formerly homeless individual on the board of directors or other equivalent policymaking entity of the recipient or subrecipient, to the extent that such entity considers and makes policies and decisions regarding any project, supportive services, or assistance provided under this part. This requirement is waived if a recipient or subrecipient is unable to meet such requirement and obtains HUD approval for a plan to otherwise consult with homeless or formerly homeless persons when considering and making policies and decisions.

(2) Each recipient and subrecipient of assistance under this part must, to the maximum extent practicable, involve homeless individuals and families through employment; volunteer services; or otherwise in constructing, rehabilitating, maintaining, and operating the project, and in providing supportive services for the project.

- a. **Does your agency provide for the participation of not less than one homeless individual or formerly homeless individual on the board of directors or other equivalent policymaking entity of the recipient or sub recipient, to the extent that such entity considers and makes policies and decisions regarding any project, supportive services, or assistance provided under this part. This requirement is waived if a recipient or sub recipient is unable to meet such requirement and obtains HUD approval for a plan to otherwise consult with homeless or formerly homeless persons when considering and making policies and decisions?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

If not, please provide an action plan/timeline on when your agency will be compliant with this requirement in the following box (expand box as needed).

b. Does your agency, to the maximum extent practicable, involve homeless individuals and families through employment; volunteer services; or otherwise in constructing, rehabilitating, maintaining, and operating the project, and in providing supportive services for the project?

- Yes
- No

If not, please provide an action plan/timeline as to when your agency will be compliant with this requirement in the box below (expand box as needed).

2. Faith-based activities

The HEARTH Act CoC Program Interim Rule states that the recipient or subrecipient must document its compliance with faith-based activities requirements under § 578.87(b), which is as follows:

(b) Faith-based activities.

(1) Equal treatment of program participants and program beneficiaries.

(i) Program participants. Organizations that are religious or faith-based are eligible, on the same basis as any other organization, to participate in the Continuum of Care program. Neither the Federal Government nor a State or local government receiving funds under the Continuum of Care program shall discriminate against an organization on the basis of the organization’s religious character or affiliation. Recipients and subrecipients of program funds shall not, in providing program assistance, discriminate against a program participant or prospective program participant on the basis of religion or religious belief.

(ii) Beneficiaries. In providing services supported in whole or in part with federal financial assistance, and in their outreach, activities related to such services, program participants shall not discriminate against current or prospective program beneficiaries on the basis of religion, a religious

belief, a refusal to hold a religious belief, or a refusal to attend or participate in a religious practice.

(2) Separation of explicitly religious activities. Recipients and subrecipients of Continuum of Care funds that engage in explicitly religious activities, including activities that involve overt religious content such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization, must perform such activities and offer such services outside of programs that are supported with federal financial assistance separately, in time or location, from the programs or services funded under this part, and participation in any such explicitly religious activities must be voluntary for the program beneficiaries of the HUD-funded programs or services.

(3) Religious identity. A faith-based organization that is a recipient or subrecipient of Continuum of Care program funds is eligible to use such funds as provided under the regulations of this part without impairing its independence, autonomy, expression of religious beliefs, or religious character. Such organization will retain its independence from federal, State, and local government, and may continue to carry out its mission, including the definition, development, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs, provided that it does not use direct program funds to support or engage in any explicitly religious activities, including activities that involve overt religious content, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization, or any manner prohibited by law. Among other things, faith-based organizations may use space in their facilities to provide program-funded services, without removing or altering religious art, icons, scriptures, or other religious symbols. In addition, a Continuum of Care program-funded religious organization retains its authority over its internal governance, and it may retain religious terms in its organization's name, select its board members on a religious basis, and include religious references in its organization's mission statements and other governing documents.

- a. Does your proposed renewal program use direct program funds to support or engage in any explicitly religious activities, including activities that involve overt religious content, such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization, or any manner prohibited by law?**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

3. Involuntary family separation

The HEARTH Act CoC Program Interim Rule states that the recipient or subrecipient must document its compliance with involuntary family separation requirements under § 578.93(e), which is as follows:

(e) Prohibition against involuntary family separation. The age and gender of a child under age 18 must not be used as a basis for denying any family's admission to a project that receives funds under this part.

- a. Does the project accept all families with children under age 18 without regard to the age of any child? In general, under the HEARTH Act, any project sponsor receiving funds to provide emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent housing to families with children under age 18.**

Note there is an exception outlined in the Act: Project sponsors of transitional housing receiving funds may target transitional housing resources to families with children of a specific age only if the project sponsor: (1) operates a transitional housing program that has a primary purpose of implementing evidence based practice that requires that housing units be targeted to families with children in a specific age group; and (2) provides assurances, as the Secretary shall require, that an equivalent appropriate alternative living arrangement for the whole family or household unit has been secured.

Yes. Project certifies that it accepts all families with children under age 18 without regard to the age of any child.

No. Project does not comply with this requirement. A narrative is attached explaining how the project will comply with this HEARTH Act requirement.

No. Project does not comply with this requirement but qualifies for an exception because it is implementing an evidence-based practice that requires housing units targeted to families with children in a specific age group. A narrative is attached explaining how the project will comply with the exception, including identification of the evidenced based practice being utilized.

N/A. Project does not serve families.

N/A. Project is new and has not started yet.

4. Discrimination Policy

Federal and California State laws note that discrimination can be based on race, color, national origin or gender. Discrimination can also be based on age, religion, disability, familial status or sexual orientation.

Does your program deny services to potential recipients based on any of the following?

- Age Yes No
- Color Yes No
- Disability Yes No
- Familial Status Yes No
- Gender Yes No
- Marital Status Yes No
- National Origin Yes No
- Race Yes No
- Religion Yes No
- Sexual Orientation Yes No

If you answered “yes” to any of the above, please explain why in the box below (expand box as needed).

5. Active participation in local Continuum of Care meetings

HUD states that a successful CoC will have involvement from a variety of organizations representing the public and private sectors, as well as interested individuals within the CoC jurisdiction(s). These organizations should have an active role in the CoC.

- a. Describe what local Continuum of Care committees, subcommittees, and/or working groups that your agency participates in on a regular basis in the box below (expand box as needed). Please include the names and titles of those participating as well as their level of involvement/participation.**

6. Housing Quality Standards (HQS)

The HEARTH Act CoC Program Interim Rule states that the recipient or subrecipient must document its compliance with housing quality standards requirements under § 578.75(b), which is as follows:

(b) Housing quality standards. Housing leased with Continuum of Care program funds, or for which rental assistance payments are made with Continuum of Care program funds, must meet the applicable housing quality standards (HQS) under 24 CFR 982.401 of this title, except that 24 CFR 982.401(j) applies only to housing occupied by program participants receiving tenant-based rental assistance. For housing rehabilitated with funds under this part, the lead-based paint requirements in 24 CFR part 35, subparts A, B, J, and R apply. For housing that receives project-based or sponsor-based rental assistance, 24 CFR part 35, subparts A, B, H, and R apply. For residential property for which funds under this part are used for acquisition, leasing, services, or operating costs, 24 CFR part 35, subparts A, B, K, and R apply.

(1) Before any assistance will be provided on behalf of a program participant, the recipient, or subrecipient, must physically inspect each unit to assure that the unit meets HQS. Assistance will not be provided for units that fail to meet HQS, unless the owner corrects any deficiencies within 30 days from the date of the initial inspection and the recipient or subrecipient verifies that all deficiencies have been corrected.

(2) Recipients or subrecipients must inspect all units at least annually during the grant period to ensure that the units continue to meet HQS.

a. Does your project meet applicable Housing Quality Standards?

- Yes
- No
- This is a new project and has not yet started

Please briefly explain your inspection process for HQS in the box below (expand box as needed).

b. Has your project received HQS corrective action plan in the last 2 years?

- Yes
- No
- This is a new project and has not yet started

If you selected Yes, explain the nature of the concerns/issues and how it was resolved in the box below (expand the box as needed).

IX. Cost Effectiveness

HUD states in the 2023 CoC Program Application that “CoCs should consider how much each project spends to serve and house an individual or family as compared to other projects serving similar populations.”

HUD states that the project must be cost-effective and not deviate substantially from the norm in that locale for the type of activity including case management and other supportive services.

1. Is your project cost-effective concerning case management and other supportive services?

- Yes
- No
- This is a new project and has not yet started
- Not applicable to this project

If you answered “yes” or “no” please explain your response in the box below (expand box as needed).

X. Miscellaneous Information

1. Match requirement

Match must equal 25 percent of the total grant request including Admin costs but excluding leasing costs (i.e., any funds identified for Leased Units and Leased Structures). Match must be met on an annual basis. HUD requires match letters to be submitted with the e-snaps application. Match contributions can be cash, in-kind, or a combination of the two; and, match must be used for an eligible cost as set forth in Subpart D of CoC Program interim rule.

For an in-kind match, the recipient may use the value of property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to the project, provided that, if the recipient or sub recipient had to pay for such items with grant funds, the costs would have been eligible. The full value of property or equipment can only be claimed once (i.e. renewal projects may only claim a portion of the value over the expected period of use – an ‘annual’ amount of the full value). If third party services are to be used as match, the third party service provider that will deliver the services must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) before the grant is executed documenting that the third part will provide such services and value towards the project. The MOU must contain specific information. Please note that the following requirements apply to in-kind match documentation:

- In-kind Contributions
 1. Grantees/subrecipients using in-kind contributions may use the value of any real property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to the project as match, provided that if the recipients/subrecipients would have to pay for them with grant funds, the costs would be eligible.
 2. During the term of the grant, the recipients/subrecipients must maintain and make available for inspection records documenting the value of real property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to the project as match.
 3. Grantees/subrecipients must adhere to the requirements of 2 CFR 200.306 **and must execute a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any third party that will provide services before grant execution per 24 CFR 578.73(c)(3)**. Services provided by individuals must be valued at rates consistent with those ordinarily paid for similar work in the recipient’s/subrecipient’s organization. If the recipient/subrecipient does not have employees performing similar work, the rates must be consistent with those ordinarily paid by other employers for similar work in the same labor market. It is the responsibility of the recipient to provide evidence of cost reasonableness.
 4. **For supportive services provided, an MOU must establish unconditional commitment, except for selection to receive a grant, by the third party to provide the services, including the following:**
 - i. **the specific service to be provided.**
 - ii. **the profession of the persons providing the service.**
 - iii. **the hourly cost of the service to be provided; and**
 - iv. **the total hours of service to be contributed to the project during the grant term.**
 5. During the term of the grant, the recipient/subrecipient must maintain and make available inspection records documenting the service hours provided.

HUD also notes that all CoC Program activities are subject to environmental review requirements 24 CFR 578.31 of the CoC Program interim rule. Specifically, the rule states that the recipient or subrecipient may not lease property for a project or commit or expend HUD or local funds for such eligible activities until HUD or the responsible entity (RE) has performed an environmental review of the project. HUD recommends a new review being conducted every five years, or sooner if environmental conditions have changed. Please review your environmental review record for the subject grant and ensure that the project is in compliance prior to expending any grant funds.

- Will your agency be able to provide the match requirement for your renewal project (including a commitment letter or MOU)?

Yes
 No

2. Exit Surveys

HUD encourages client surveys particularly exit surveys.

- Does your renewal program conduct exit surveys or interviews with clients?

Yes
 No
 This is a new project and has not yet started
 Not applicable to this project

If no, please explain why in the box below (expand box as needed).

XI. Attachments

Please note that all or a portion of the application can be denied if incomplete, if CoC Staff is unable to determine what applicant is proposing or whether the application does not meet minimum threshold requirements.

With your application, please make sure to include the following documentation:

- Printed copy of the most recent HUD CoC Annual Performance Report (APR)
- Printed copy of eLOCCS expenditure report/close out report for the most completed grant term
- Intake procedures and program policies for following Housing First and Best Practices
- Copy of sample lease agreement used for program
- Staffing plan for project
- Copy of full program budget, including all funding sources

July 12, 2023

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive and File a Report on Progress to End Homelessness Among Veterans in Ventura County.

VC CoC staff continue to host quarterly meetings with veteran service providers to discuss veteran focused street outreach, rapid re-housing and VASH Vouchers, review specific homeless veteran cases and focus on strategies for ending veteran homelessness in Ventura County. VC CoC staff and HMIS are collaborating on updating the current Veterans By Name List to include housing move in dates for those placed in Permanent Housing. This added data request will support Coordinated Entry System data quality. In addition to reporting, VC CoC staff and VA staff continue to meet to discuss and coordinate efforts on how to achieve Functional Zero, Ending Veteran Homelessness by 2024. Discussions include streamlining our process, capturing meaningful data for tracking purposes that meet functional zero outcome goals, and revising workflow for improved coordination amongst all Veteran Service Providers. VC CoC staff is working to obtain Service Excellence Support with County CEO office to address the needs of the committee and outreaching to resources such as Unite US for data support and tracking. The Veteran's Subcommittee is committed to process improvement and meeting regularly to support efforts toward achieving Functional Zero. VA staff and CoC Staff will be attending various Greater LA CES workgroups during the summer to learn more about their CES coordination One Team efforts (Veteran centric workgroups).

Here is the summary of current placements from 10/1/2022- 5/30/2023:

- **32** homeless veterans have been issued Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers and continue to *search* for affordable housing units (duplicated in SSVF count).
- **53** homeless veterans were placed in the SSVF Rapid Re-Housing. All of these veterans are working with the Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) team for permanent housing. Of the 53 Veterans, 7 have been placed with a VASH voucher, 13 rental by client and 1 with family and friends.
- **17** homeless veteran households have been staying in Project Roomkey motels for non-congregate shelter. These veterans are working with Gold Coast Veterans Foundation, the Whole Person Care team and Veteran Affairs to find permanent housing and apply for eligible benefits. Of the 17 Veterans, 2 have been placed in Permanent Housing.
- **6** homeless veterans have been placed in Salvation Army's VA GPD program. Of the 6 veterans, 3 have been placed in Permanent Housing. Salvation Army has increased capacity of emergency shelter beds for veterans with service animals/emotional support animals.
- **22** homeless veterans have been served in transitional housing at Turning Point Foundation while working on a housing plan. Of the 22, 3 have been placed with a VASH voucher and 2 have been placed in permanent housing and 1 with family and friends.
- **61** homeless veterans have been served by street outreach services with Gold Coast Veterans. Of the 61, 3 have been placed with a VASH Voucher, and 5 placed in permanent housing.

In sum, during the 2022-23 program year, 40 homeless veterans have been permanently housed through the efforts of SSVF, UWVC, Turning Point Foundation, Salvation Army, VASH and other service providers. Of those, 13 were housed with VASH vouchers, 14 in private rentals with assistance from SSVF security deposits and/or rental assistance and a total of 13 in permanent housing or living with family/friends. To date, there are 7 available VASH Vouchers with Oxnard Housing Authority, 25 available through Ventura Housing Authority and at capacity with Area Housing Authority. During the 2023-24 Fiscal year, more available resources will become available through resources such as US Vets with 122 units for Veterans with 54 units dedicated for homeless low income Veterans (30% and 50% AMI).

In order to end homelessness among Veterans in Ventura County, we must meet the following criteria based on HUD guidance:

- 1) The community has identified all Veterans experiencing homelessness.
 - *Our community utilizes a Coordinated Entry System with a no wrong door approach. The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) captures data on those reporting a veteran status and service providers make referrals to SSVF and/or Gold Coast Veterans Foundation for assistance.*
- 2) The community provides shelter immediately to any Veteran experiencing unsheltered homelessness who wants it.
 - *There has been an increase in the number of non-congregate shelter beds; however, the local shelters have been at full capacity. Project Roomkey has assisted with placement when there are no other available resources and Salvation Army has increased capacity.*
- 3) The community provides service-intensive transitional housing only in limited instances.
 - *Turning Point Foundation and the Salvation Army Grant Per Diem program continue to offer transitional housing to homeless veterans seeking a permanent housing placement.*
- 4) The community has the capacity to assist Veterans to swiftly move into permanent housing.
 - *VASH vouchers are still available through the public housing authorities; however, the number of vacant units within Fair Market Rate (FMR) are very limited. The United Way of Ventura County Landlord Engagement Program continues to focus on recruiting more landlords willing to accept housing vouchers.*
- 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.
 - *More comprehensive outreach services are being offered to actively engage those experiencing homelessness and make immediate referrals to services. Homelessness Prevention funding is available through various sources, including SSVF for Veterans and State of California grant funding.*

July 12, 2023

VC CoC Governance Board

SUBJECT: Receive and file VC CoC Committee, Workgroups and Staff updates

Housing & Services Committee: In April 2023, the VC CoC Board made a recommendation to leverage resources to prioritize or increase supportive services for housing retention. In response, VC CoC staff Released a Request for Qualifications to solicit technical assistance to 1) facilitate an assessment addressing the challenges around providing quality supportive services; 2) determine the appropriate caseload ratios based on different subpopulations; and 3) develop a Supportive Services Plan to include best practices for housing navigation and retention. The assessment would include a review of the current supportive services delivery system, identification of gaps and areas for improvement, as well as recommendations to enhance system performance and improve outcomes for persons recently housed. The plan should include the implementation of peer support and wrap around services by leveraging resources. RFQs are due July 15, 2023 and the CoC Data Performance and Evaluation Committee will review the RFQs on August 2, 2023. Final selection will be brought to the VC CoC Board and H&S Committee.

HMIS Steering Committee: Continuing to onboard programs onto HMIS, including Gold Coast Health Plan's CalAIM Care Management Team. VC CoC staff continue to review the onboarding requests to ensure priority is given to the appropriate programs. HMIS staff is developing new online training modules to allow newly licensed users the ability to complete training remotely.

Data, Performance & Evaluation Committee: The Data Committee will be reviewing and analyzing the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Income Funds RFP applications on August 2, 2023. Funding recommendations will be brought to the VC CoC Board in August 2023. VC CoC staff will be providing quarterly updates with system performance measures for the Data Committee to review. Data committee will review RFQs for Supportive Services, RFQs are due July 19, 2023 and VC CoC Data Performance and Evaluation Committee will review the RFQs on August 2, 2023. Final selection will be reviewed by the VC CoC Board and H&S Committee for consideration.

Public Information and Outreach Committee: Expanding outreach through VC CoC social media to educate the public and raise awareness on homelessness issues. This committee is incorporating people with lived experience this year. This committee will be meeting on a quarterly basis to provide additional time to work on developing community outreach projects. Recommended creative projects include:

- Special (in-person) Roundtable Session with Persons with Lived Expertise (PLE) – coming Fall 2023 with a topic film screening and discussion.

- YouTube Channel, Facebook and Instagram social media apps for dissemination of news.
- Next PIO meeting on July 26, 2023 at 1:30 pm.

Veterans Case Conference Workgroup: This workgroup is focused on ending Veteran homelessness in Ventura County by ensuring referrals are being made to the Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) and other local housing providers.

Youth Collaborative Workgroup: Over 20 youth providers participate in this workgroup. These providers ensured that unaccompanied homeless youth were counted in the 2023 Homeless Count and continue to work to establish a Youth Action Board (YAB) for policy development and planning.

Staff Update: VC CoC staff are currently working with Lesar Development Consultants on the countywide strategic plan which is in development following the quantitative and qualitative analysis of local homeless programs and services. Also, staff are working on the consolidated application for the HUD CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) that was released on July 5, 2023. This NOFO includes collaboration with partner organizations and the ability to demonstrate leveraging of other resources to reduce unsheltered homelessness, including healthcare and housing resources. VC CoC staff will be reaching out for letters of support and memorandums of understanding in support of the NOFO.