



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FY 2023 HUD CoC Program –
Supplemental Application (Renewals, Renewal/
Expansions, New Bonus Projects)

On July 5, 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition.

The County of San Luis Obispo is requesting proposals for the FY 2023 Continuum of Care Program competition administered by HUD, and will be accepting applications for renewal projects, as well as new bonus funding projects.

All FY23 Continuum of Care Program applicants will need to submit a supplemental application in addition to the HUD application submitted in e-snaps.

Please note there may be additional questions once HUD releases the e-snaps application. These will be released on the County’s Homeless Services Funding Availability page:
<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Social-Services/Homeless-Services-Division/Funding-Availability.aspx>

Please submit Supplemental Applications by email to SS_HomelessServices@co.slo.ca.us or deliver to Erica Jaramillo at the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services, P.O. Box 8119, CA 93403. Both the e-snaps and Supplemental Application must be received no later than **Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 5pm.**

Additionally, additional documents described on page 13 of this RFP must be submitted by email or in person no later than August 16, 2023.

I. PRIMARY APPLICANT INFORMATION

Organization Name	Lumina Alliance
UEI Number	HM5TDHNPWQW3
Contact Person/Title	Kaitlin Goodpaster
Phone Number	805-781-6400
Email	kgoodpaster@luminaalliance.org
Address	51 Zaca Lane Suite 150
City, State, Zip	San Luis Obispo, California 93401

II. PROJECT

Project Name	2023 Renewal of Lumina Alliance's 2022 DV Bonus Project
Application Type	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Renewal <input type="radio"/> Renewal Expansion <input type="radio"/> New Bonus Project (Non DV Bonus Project)
If you are applying to consolidate this project with one or more other projects, please enter the grant number(s) for the other project(s): <i>You will need to complete an e-snaps application and supplemental application for all projects being consolidated.</i>	
N/A	

III. EXPERIENCE

<p>1. Describe the experience of the applicant and sub-recipients (if any) in working with the proposed population and in providing housing similar to that proposed in the application.</p>
<p>Lumina Alliance (LA) offers comprehensive, trauma-informed wraparound services for survivors of sexual assault (SA) and intimate partner violence (IPV) including: shelter, transitional housing, advocacy, clinical therapy for both adults and children, referrals for legal assistance (such as assistance in filing temporary restraining orders), case management, accompaniment, and crisis intervention. Please see Attachment E for our full answer.</p>
<p>2. Describe experience in effectively utilizing federal funds including HUD grants and other public funding, including satisfactory drawdowns and performance for existing grants as evidenced by timely reimbursement of subrecipients (if applicable), regular drawdowns, timely resolution of monitoring findings, and timely submission of required reporting on existing grants.</p>
<p>LA currently has one uniquely federal grant through the Office of Violence Against Women, the Transitional Housing Program, and approximately 20 other grants that incorporate federal and state funding, and Lumina Alliance is required to conduct an enhanced Single (or Yellowbook) Audit each year because the agency effectively manages and expends over \$750k in federal funding each year. LA successfully manages The Transitional Housing Program federal grant (\$675,000 over 48 months). LA regularly applies for new grants and renewals of existing contracts with federal funding sources. LA works closely with grant managers and program/project specialists designated by the grantor organizations to ensure appropriate and timely project implementation and outcomes. Our organization designates a Grants Manager to manage the application and reporting processes for all grants, overseen by the Chief Communications Officer (CCO) to ensure accuracy in our application and required reporting. Please see Attachment E for our full answer.</p>

3. What is the date of the organization’s most recent audit? (Attachment requirement)

Please submit a copy of the organization’s most recent audit by email (SS_HomelessServices@co.slo.ca.us) or by mail to Erica Jaramillo at DSS no later than August 16, 2023.

Our most recent audit was conducted for the 2021-2022 fiscal year, and we are in the process of finalizing the agency's annual audit for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

4. Housing First and/or Lower Barrier Implementation (Attachment requirement)

Describe experience with utilizing a Housing First approach. Include:

- 1) eligibility criteria;**
- 2) process for accepting new clients;**
- 3) process and criteria for exiting clients.**

Must demonstrate there are no preconditions to entry, allowing entry regardless of current or past substance use, income, criminal records (with exceptions of restrictions imposed by federal, state, or local law or ordinance), marital status, familial status, self-disclosed or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Must demonstrate the project has a process to address situations that may jeopardize housing or project assistance to ensure that project participation is terminated in only the most severe cases.

Existing projects should submit a copy of the project’s relevant policies and procedures by email (SS_HomelessServices@co.slo.ca.us) or by mail to Erica Jaramillo at DSS no later than August 16, 2023.

1) Housing First participants must be fleeing violence, link their housing instability to their experience with intimate partner violence, and reside in San Luis Obispo (SLO) County at the time of entry into the program. Applicants will not be excluded based on variables such as income level, employment, past or current substance abuse or mental health issues, criminal record, or citizenship status, nor will applicants be considered ineligible due to inability to provide paperwork, documentation or personally identifying information. Eligible survivors fall into one or more of the following tiers of support: low, medium, and high.
Low Level: Those who are safe, but not financially stable. Financial assistance will be provided to prevent eviction, including one month of rent, utilities and lock installation; to address supportive needs such as emergency food, clothing, transportation, medications, employment and educational expenses, and healthcare including traditional, culturally-specific and/or alternative healing.
Medium Level: Those who may not be safe and need assistance finding housing. Additional support will be provided to identify housing options, advocate with landlords, and safety plan. Support includes immediate, temporary housing within LA programs and through community resources.
High Level: Those with barriers to rapid rehousing. Additional support will be provided via long-term planning to address barriers such as lack of adequate or regular income. Counseling around employment and financial needs, budgeting and credit repair take place as appropriate and requested. Financial assistance with legal costs and relocation costs (i.e. application fees, moving expenses, security deposits, rental assistance, utilities and utility deposits and storage costs) are provided.

The Housing First model is necessary to survivors' rehabilitation locally as it prioritizes creating safety before survivors can focus on utilizing our array of wraparound services to heal and find independence. These funds would continue to relieve the immense stress of finding affordable housing locally among some of our most vulnerable homeless community members. LA plans to continue to offer safe and stable housing to victims via our empowerment-based emergency shelters, transitional housing, and housing first program. Emergency shelter will be available to survivors and their loved ones facing imminent danger and fleeing domestic violence. Survivors and their families may stay between 28 and 60 days while they look for more permanent housing. While our shelters hold 48 beds, they are full 95% of the time. If shelter is not available, advocates will connect survivors to other housing services in house or in the community.

Please see Attachment E for our full answer.

5. Describe how Housing First protocols will be incorporated into the proposed project and what will you do to ensure that people can succeed in programs that cannot have service participation requirements or prerequisites. *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). Transitional housing and supportive service only projects are considered using a Housing First model for the purposes of this application if they operate with low barriers, work to quickly move people into permanent housing, do not require participation in supportive services, and, for transitional housing projects, do not require preconditions for moving into the transitional housing (e.g., sobriety or minimum income threshold) but do provide or assist with access to such supportive services if needed and requested by program participants.*

LA employs the Housing First model, which "utilizes housing as a tool, rather than a reward," and involves offering wraparound services once survivors are housed as quickly as possible. Participation in services will continue to be voluntary, and eligibility will not be determined based on poor credit or rental history, "criminal convictions unrelated to tenancy, or behaviors that indicate a lack of 'housing readiness.'" Advocates will continue to employ empowerment- and evidence-based practices, including motivational interviewing and trauma-informed crisis counseling and intervention, all while honoring survivors' agency and tailoring services to individual needs. Drawing on their understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence, advocates will consider how abuse impacts other issues survivors experience by helping them safety plan, secure employment, legal assistance referrals, transportation, therapy, childcare services, case management, financial support, financial literacy and other social services. Finally, advocates will work with survivors to integrate them back into their community and support them while recovering from trauma and achieving social and emotional well-being.

IV. Design of Housing & Supportive Services

6. Describe the needs of the clients to be served.

LA is the only organization in the county providing shelter and housing to survivors of sexual assault (SA) and intimate partner violence (IPV). Due to the intersection of funding availability and the number of shelter or housing units available, we are unable to accommodate all survivors' needs at this time. Last year, LA received 144 unique unmet requests for shelter and services, and provided financial assistance to ensure 114 individuals and families entered or remained in permanent housing.

San Luis Obispo (SLO) County's high cost of living and lack of sufficient affordable housing present exceptional barriers to meeting the needs of all survivors. SLO County is considered the second least affordable small metro area in the country. According to SFGate.com, SLO County's cost of living is 9.4% above the national average, and the cost of housing is 51.7% higher than the national average. Survivors have a difficult time fleeing violence and often risk losing access to housing and financial stability, a risk that is compounded by SLO County's untenable housing market.

7. (PSH, RRH & Joint TH-RRH Projects) Describe the type and scale of all the supportive services that will be offered to program participants to ensure successful retention in or help to obtain permanent housing, regardless of funding source, meets the needs of clients to be served.

Support services offered will include financial literacy education, safety planning, case management, peer counseling, individual and group therapy, advocacy, legal assistance referrals, emergency and transitional housing, and financial assistance. Advocates will offer a voluntary, comprehensive financial literacy training to residents, which will include lessons on personal finance and credit. Safety planning is a critical service offered individually with every client. All safety plans will be comprehensive, meeting basic needs and providing a life plan, not just strategies to respond to physical violence. The safety plan will be re-evaluated and revised as needed. Case management assistance will also be offered with translating/interpreting, goal setting, providing referrals and transportation to needed community resources, assisting with employment searches, job readiness and educational/ vocational activities, permanent housing readiness, budgeting and financial counseling. Peer counseling and clinical therapy will be nonjudgmental and a safe place for survivors to talk about their experiences, fears, beliefs and goals in order to build rapport and trust. Advocacy will be provided in association with housing and social services (i.e. entitlement benefits such as SSI, CalFresh food stamps, WIC, and other programs), counseling, medical, banking support, job training and connection with workforce development agencies, as well as other community resources. All support services will be provided on a voluntary basis and offered repeatedly to housing program residents on an ongoing basis throughout their participation in the housing program.

8. (Coordinated Entry Projects) Describe how the proposed project will align with the County's existing Coordinated Entry System.

N/A

<p>9. For the proposed project, please estimate the expected % of households that will experience an increase in earned income from program start to program exit:</p>	<p>25 %</p>
<p>10. For the proposed project, please estimate the expected % of households that will experience an increase in non-employment income from program start to program exit:</p>	<p>55 %</p>
<p>11. For the proposed project, please estimate the expected % of households that will experience an increase in total income from program start to program exit:</p>	<p>80 %</p>

IV. Leveraging Housing Resources

12. For permanent housing applications (PSH) (RRH) (TH-RRH), describe how the project will utilize housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG programs. (Housing subsidies or subsidized housing units may be funded through any of the following sources: Private organizations; State or local government, including through the use of HOME funding provided through the American Rescue Plan; Public Housing Agencies, including through the use of a set aside or limited preference; Faith-based organizations; or Federal programs other than the CoC or ESG programs.)

Applicants must attach letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project. For a new permanent supportive housing project, provide at least 50 percent of the units included in the project; or for a new rapid re-housing project, serve at least 50 percent of the program participants anticipated to be served by the project.

LA will work closely with HASLO to utilize Set-Asides and Emergency Housing Vouchers, as well as local homeless shelters, nonprofit homeless service agencies, and the County of San Luis Obispo to coordinate housing resources and referrals through the Coordinated Entry System. Additionally, LA also participates in the Housing Consortium meetings and advocates for our clients to obtain permanent supportive housing through organizations such as Transitions Mental Health Association (TMHA) and People's Self-Help Housing. Finally, LA receives funding through the Office of Violence Against Women and the California Office of Emergency Services to fund emergency shelter and transitional housing programs, including rental and deposit assistance through our Housing First project.

13. For permanent housing applications (PSH) (RRH) (TH-RRH), describe the current strategy used to recruit landlords and show how well it works at identifying units across the entire CoC area, including areas where the CoC has historically not been able to find units.

LA maintains strong relationships with local landlords, and continuously reaches out to expand our recruitment efforts. Educational packets are distributed to local landlords, including information about IPV, Fair Housing, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and our services. We talk with landlords about how, with LA's support, survivors can be secure long-term tenants, all the while cultivating trust. Our staff also network with realtors, property managers and service organizations to build lasting relationships.

Because LA will be a new formal member of the Continuum of Care in SLO County, we will actively collaborate with existing CoC members to ameliorate barriers to recruiting landlords in historically challenging areas.

14. For permanent housing applications (PSH) (RRH) (TH-RRH), identify any new practices that have been implemented to recruit landlords in the past 3 years and the lessons learned from implementing those practices.

Due to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, many landlords declined in-person meetings over the last two years. LA has shifted toward recruitment practices that involve phone and email. We have found these methods allow for greater flexibility on the part of landlords and allow us to reach more potential landlords at once.

We work closely with the Housing Authority of SLO, the Paso Robles Housing Authority, and People's Self-Help Housing to find and maintain affordable housing for our survivors. We have existing relationships with landlords and with community partner agencies and organizations such as the Intimate Partner Violence Coalition, the Homeless Services Oversight Council, and the Supportive Housing Consortium to work to expand housing options locally. Staff also sit on the SLO County Family Self-Sufficiency Program Coordinating Committee, and at both the SLO and Arroyo Grande SAFE System of Care meetings.

Educational packets will be distributed to landlords and presentations will be held covering information about DV, Fair Housing, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and our services. We will talk with landlords about how survivors can be secure long-term tenants. Our staff network with realtors, property managers and service organizations to build lasting relationships.

15. For permanent housing applications (PSH) (RRH) (TH-RRH), describe how you will use data to update your landlord recruitment strategy.

Once actively participating in the CoC and once LA has gained access to countywide data on landlord recruitment numbers and strategies, we will offer more connections via electronic communications including our website, social media, and email, all targeted toward landlords in areas with historically low participation numbers or particularly high costs of living. LA has a track-record of continuously increased community engagement through our marketing and communications departments, and we aim to develop electronic newsletters, to maintain existing landlord relationships, and e-blasts to recruit new landlords.

IV. Leveraging Healthcare Resources

16. For permanent housing applications (PSH, (RRH) (TH-RRH), describe how the project will utilize healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness. (Sources of health care resources include: Direct contributions from a public or private health insurance provider to the project (e.g., Medicaid), and Provision of health care services, including mental health services, by a private or public organization (including FQHCs and state or local health departments) tailored to the program participants of the project, direct partnerships with organizations that provide healthcare services, including mental health services to individuals and families (including FQHCs and state and local public health departments) experiencing homelessness who have HIV/AIDS). Eligibility for the project must comply with HUD program and fair housing requirements. Eligibility criteria cannot be restricted by the eligibility requirements of the health care service provider).

Applicants must attach formal written agreements and must include the value of the commitment and dates the healthcare resources will be provided. In the case of a substance use treatment or recovery provider, it will provide access to treatment or recovery services for all program participants who qualify and choose those services; or the value of assistance being provided is at least an amount that is equivalent to 50 percent of the funding being requested for the project, which will be covered by the healthcare organization. In-kind resources must be valued at the local rates consistent with the amount paid for services not supported by grant funds.

LA partners with clients to identify physical and mental health needs as part of their healing process. Advocates regularly make referrals and accompany survivors to appointments with local hospitals, clinics, and care providers; County agencies including the Departments of Behavioral Health, County Mental Health, and Public Health; community providers such as the Community Health Centers of the Central Coast and the Noor Clinic; and mental health providers including private therapists and the Community Counseling Center.

LA has recently acquired a contract with the Holman Group to bill Cen-Cal for therapy provided in-house. We are in the process of setting up internal billing procedures and will launch this program in the coming months.

Finally, LA provides financial assistance to help clients cover the cost of medical bills and to provide transportation to and from medical appointments. LA does not base eligibility requirements for housing services on eligibility requirements set forth by health care service providers.

V. Addressing Severity of Needs

<p>17. Estimated percentage of participants to be served that are chronically homeless:</p>	<p>10 %</p>
<p>18. Estimated percentage of participants to be served that have low or no income:</p>	<p>93 %</p>

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19. Estimated percentage of participants to be served that have history of victimization/abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse:	100 %
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VI. Timeliness

20. Describe plan for rapid implementation of the program, documenting how the project will be ready to begin housing the first program participant. Provide a detailed schedule of proposed activities for 60 days, 120 days, and 180 days after grant award. Please also estimate the average time from a client’s program entry to housing placement.
<p>LA already implements a robust Housing First Program utilizing funds from the Office of Violence Against Women and the California Office of Emergency Services. This program serves clients utilizing a housing first and rapid re-housing model that prioritize housing survivors who are homeless or at-risk. This program includes emergency shelter, transitional housing units, and financial resources for rent, deposit, and utility assistance for housing guests as well as community clients.</p> <p>In the first 60 days after the grant award, LA will begin partnering with CAPSLO to enroll LA in the HMIS database for the first time. A dedicated staff person funded by CAPSLO will create a special account for LA clients to ensure other HMIS users will be blocked from seeing clients’ association with LA, ensuring their confidentiality. Existing LA housing staff will begin actively participating in CoC planning and collaborative meetings. As well, LA will begin recruitment for the new housing advocate position.</p> <p>In the first 120 days, LA will train the new Housing Advocate, and implement new protocols related to referring LA clients to other housing providers and resources, and collaborating and streamlining case management in partnership with CoC members. Additionally, the new Housing Advocate will begin the distribution to IPV survivors of TBRA funds through this grant and program enrollment.</p> <p>In the first 180 days, LA will continue to fine tune program operations, regularly assess client needs, recruit landlords, provide supportive services, and distribute rental and deposit assistance funds.</p>

VII. Project Effectiveness

21. Coordinated Entry Participation- Minimum percent of entries projected to come from CE referrals	N/A
22. Projected number of households to exit to permanent housing	50

VIII. Equity Factors

23. Project has under-represented individuals (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, etc) in managerial and leadership positions	YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/>
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<p>24. Project's organizational board of directors includes representation from more than one person with lived experience (per 24 CFR 578.75(g) Participation of Homeless Individuals)</p>	<p>YES <input checked="" type="radio"/></p> <p>NO <input type="radio"/></p>
<p>25. Describe how your organization has identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population.</p>	
<p>Gradually over time, our organization has identified barriers to participation among monolingual Mixteco-speaking populations who often do not know their rights or resources available to them, and are at higher risk of victimization. Calls to our crisis line by Mixteco-speakers have grown over the past several years, and language barriers have challenged our staff to provide these survivors with all the resources normally afforded Spanish and English speakers. No LA staff speak Mixteco, and to our knowledge, nor do any partner agency staff participating in the Coordinated Entry System or CoC. Additionally, monolingual Spanish speakers make up approximately 50% of LA's service recipients, and many are at greater risk of homelessness due to employment, education, and language barriers.</p>	
<p>26. Describe the actions the organization has taken or will take to eliminate the identified barriers.</p>	
<p>LA will continue to conduct outreach in rural areas, partnering with the Mixteco Indigena Community Organizing Project of Santa Maria (MICOP), to reach monolingual Mixteco-speakers, and we are in the process of applying for a state grant that would allow us to recruit, train, and hire Mixteco-speaking staff to serve this vulnerable population.</p> <p>LA will continue to offer all survivor services – including written and web-based informational materials – in both English and Spanish. 100% of our client-facing staff are bilingual in English and Spanish.</p> <p>In addition to working with individual survivors, our Housing Advocates and other LA staff engage in a variety of collaborative community efforts to hold offenders accountable, promote restorative justice, and provide adequate resources and opportunities for survivors. For example, LA has partnered with the District Attorney's office to offer education as part of a criminal diversion program, worked to help establish the SLO Legal Alternatives Corporation to increase free legal services in the county, and has been an active member of our local Supportive Housing Consortium since its inception.</p>	

27. Describe the actions the organization will take to serve subpopulations that the CoC has identified as being underserved.

The primary subpopulation served through this grant by LA will be survivors of IPV. LA will continue to serve all subpopulations identified under the CoC, particularly youth, families, and people with disabilities, and will not discriminate based on those identities. LA will continue to provide onsite childcare to clients residing in our emergency shelters and transitional housing units, as well as to service recipients at our offices throughout the county. LA will continue to partner with the Independent Living Resource Center to ensure our facilities, services and information is accessible to those living with disabilities. Our website will continue to operate with the Accessible App, which allows users with disabilities to tailor their navigation experience to their needs, and we will continue to partner with ALTA Language interpretation services and local sign language interpreters to break down language barriers.

28. How will your organization affirmatively market this project to ensure you reach all persons experiencing homelessness within the county?

LA offers outreach and education on the dynamics of SA and IPV, how to respond to disclosure and connect survivors with LA services, and the survivors' needs for safety that are unique to this population. Community partners include landlords and the Housing Authority of SLO, housing and homeless programs such as Peoples Self-Help Housing and 40-Prado Homeless Shelter, legal assistance providers such as California Rural Legal Assistance and SLO Legal Assistance Foundation, law enforcement, the District Attorney's (DA) Office and Victim/Witness, employment agencies such as Eckerd Workforce Development, the Department of Social Services, and others. Educational packets will be distributed to landlords, including information about DV, Fair Housing, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and our services. We will talk with landlords about how, with LA's support, survivors can be secure long-term tenants. Our staff also networks with realtors, property managers and service organizations to build lasting relationships.

29. Describe your plan to inform program participants of their rights and remedies available under federal, state and local fair housing and civil rights laws.

Our county maintains a robust, effective, and collaborative SART Advisory Board that regularly improves protocols to ensure SA survivors receive comprehensive care, are not required to recount their experience numerous times, and receive accurate information about the SART process and their rights. Our Client Advocate and Law Enforcement Liaison educates community partners about survivor rights, how to respond to disclosures, and how to contact an advocate.

30. Describe your plan to report conditions or actions your organization becomes aware of that impede fair housing choice for program participants.

When an advocate is made aware that a client feels they are not receiving fair housing, we typically turn to the experts in housing law to review the intricacies of each situation to ensure we are aware of new laws, etc. The experts in our state for Intimate Partner Violence are the Family Violence Appellate Project. They send frequent bulletins to us with updates and are available for phone consultations when we encounter this challenge.

IX. Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decision Making and Providing Professional Development and Employment Opportunities.

31. Describe and provide examples of Professional Development (e.g. internships, continuing education, skill-based training) and employment opportunities provided to individuals with lived experience of homelessness by your organization.

Currently, our agency does not directly or regularly provide job skills training, internships, or continuing education to individuals with lived experience of homelessness. However, LA regularly makes referrals to organizations who offer skill-based training, such as Eckerd Workforce Development, and Transitions Mental Health Association.

32. Do you have a mechanism for obtaining feedback from program participants? Please describe (e.g. annual focus groups, consumer advisory panels, etc.).

LA requests that program participants complete an anonymous survey which allows survivors to report on their experiences receiving services and their outcomes after participating in LA programs. Survey questions include the following:

1. Have the services you received improved your feelings of safety?
2. Have the services you received improved your feelings of self-sufficiency?
3. Cultural competency of the services offered
4. Have the services you received improved your feelings of emotional health?
5. I know more about community resources
6. I know more ways to plan for my safety
7. Did you feel heard in your interaction?
8. Overall, were the services received respectful of your culture and identity?

Finally, LA is in the planning process to develop and recruit for a Survivor Advisory Board, which will inform policies, practices, and programming throughout the agency.

X. Addressing the Needs of LGBTQ+ Individuals

33. Does your agency have anti-discrimination policies in place? (If so, please provide copy as an attachment)

LA has anti-discrimination policies in place. Please refer to the attachment.

34. Describe what actions your organization will you take to ensure that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination.

LA welcomes all families and individuals fleeing violence and/or who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless due to a recent incident of SA or IPV, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation. LA maintains a page on our website dedicated to information and resources for LGBTQ+ survivors and their loved ones, including: common feelings, how IPV manifests within the LGBTQ+ community, who perpetrates harm, and support services and resources. LA offers an LGBTQ+ specific clinical therapy group, and partners closely with the Gala Pride and Diversity Center to ensure our policies and practices align with best practices in the field. Finally, LA’s Diversity Equity and Inclusion Statement, which informs agency-wide policies and practices, asserts that “ All forms of oppression are connected. The sexism, homophobia, and transphobia that fuel power-based violence are interwoven with racism, xenophobia, ableism, and other types of oppression that devalue the lives of entire groups of people.” LA is committed to: "Creating a culture where discrimination is not tolerated in any form. Dismantling inequities in our policies, programs and services... [and] Pledging to stand with and advocate for all who seek racial justice, social justice, and liberation from violence and oppression."

XI. Alignment with the San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to address homelessness

35. Describe how the project will align with a Line of Effort to support the San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to address homelessness (2022- 2027).

This project will align with three Lines of Effort outlined in the San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to address homelessness (2022-2027) in the following ways:

Line of Effort 2: Focus efforts to reduce or eliminate the barriers to housing stability for those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, including prevention, diversion, supportive services, and housing navigation efforts.

Funding will be utilized to support case management efforts to identify and secure permanent housing for homeless and at-risk survivors of IPV. Advocates will support clients in navigating housing resources provided through the SLO County Continuum of Care, with which LA will become an active partner for the first time. The bulk of funding through this grant will be provided directly to clients in the form of financial assistance to cover the cost of rental and deposit assistance through our established Housing First Program.

Line of Effort 3: Improve and expand data management efforts through HMIS and coordinated entry system to strengthen data-driven operational guidance and strategic oversight.

LA is actively partnering with CAPSLO to become a formal member of the SLO County Continuum of Care, and to begin entering data into the HMIS for the first time. CAPSLO will designate a confidential data manager to ensure LA client data is not publicly associated with LA to ensure confidentiality, while streamlining the housing application and coordination process for individual LA applicants by offering a county-wide, universal intake process for all housing applicants.

Line of Effort 5: Strengthen regional collaboration.

Through participation in the Continuum of Care, LA will bolster and formalize existing relationships with Coordinated Entry System agencies, including CAPSLO, ECHO, 5 Cities Homeless Coalition, Transitions-Mental Health Association, the Housing Authority of SLO, The Link Family Resource Center, Family Care Network, and People's Self-Help Housing.

X. Attachments

Attachment A – Organizations most recent audit (Required)

Attach a copy of the organizations most recent audit no later than August 16, 2023

Attachment B – Project’s Policies and Procedures (Required)

Attach a copy of the project’s Housing First Policies and Procedures no later than August 16, 2023

Attachment C – Leveraging Housing Resources Commitment

PSH, RRH, Joint TH-RRH Applicants must attach letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project. For a new permanent supportive housing project, provide at least 50 percent of the units included in the project; or for a new rapid re-housing project, serve at least 50 percent of the program participants anticipated to be served by the project.

Attachment D – Leveraging Health Care Resources Commitment

PSH, RRH, Joint TH-RRH Applicants must attach formal written agreements and must include the value of the commitment and dates the healthcare resources will be provided. In the case of a substance use treatment or recovery provider, it will provide access to treatment or recovery services for all program participants who qualify and choose those services; or the value of assistance being provided is at least an amount that is equivalent to 50 percent of the funding being requested for the project, which will be covered by the healthcare organization. In-kind resources must be valued at the local rates consistent with the amount paid for services not supported by grant funds.

Attachment E – Supplemental Answers to Questions (Optional)

If you need more room to answer any of the application questions, please attach the additional information here. Include the question number for each question being answered.

For other additional or optional attachments, please label them clearly (e.g. Attachment E – “Title”).

XI. APPLICATION SUBMISSION:

Supplemental Applications will be due to Homeless Services Unit, County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services, August 16, 2023, 5PM.

Applicants may submit digital or hard copy applications to the locations below:

1. Soft Copy – email to SS_HomelessServices@co.slo.ca.us
Subject line: FY 2023 HUD CoC Program Competition Supplemental Application – (Applicant Name)
2. Hard Copies – Mail
Attn: Erica Jaramillo, Homeless Services Division
County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services
P.O. Box 8119

Attachment E - Supplemental Answers to Questions

1. Describe the experience of the applicant and sub-recipients (if any) in working with the proposed population and in providing housing similar to that proposed in the application.

Lumina Alliance (LA) offers comprehensive, trauma-informed wraparound services for survivors of sexual assault (SA) and intimate partner violence (IPV) including: shelter, transitional housing, advocacy, clinical therapy for both adults and children, referrals for legal assistance (such as assistance in filing temporary restraining orders), case management, accompaniment, and crisis intervention. These services are offered on a voluntary basis and have no bearing on eligibility for housing first financial support or housing programs. Each shelter and transitional housing unit has a dedicated advocate that conducts a comprehensive intake to assist survivors in identifying their own key areas of need.

LA's Transitional Housing Program began in 1993 and was successfully expanded in 2002 with the purchase of 6 [REDACTED] then again in 2011 with the purchase of four [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Fifteen families were housed in these [REDACTED] in FY 21-22 for a total of 8,752 bed nights. LA also has three emergency shelters located in [REDACTED]

Survivors are empowered to create an action plan in partnership with their advocate. For example, if a client identifies housing, legal and therapy as priority areas of need, a housing advocate will enroll them in therapy, assist with housing applications, and connect them to a legal advocate. Throughout this process the housing advocate maintains contact with the client and other staff to ensure clear communication. At any point during case management, clients may pause service participation or adjust their plans of action.

LA utilizes a strengths-based case management tool that is client-driven and focused on addressing needs ranked on a scale from "in crisis" to "thriving." Needs are assessed using this tool at 30 days, 60 days, and 90 days to show progress over time. Advocates actively partner with clients to cultivate their strengths, identify the goals and aspirations most important to them, as well as resources and options available. Case management is rooted in empowerment and evaluation is focused on outcomes over outputs. We believe survivors, and trust them to make the best decisions for themselves.

All staff are California State-Certified 65-Hour Trained IPV/SA Counselors and concurrently trained in the neurobiology of trauma, the impacts of IPV on children, health impacts of trauma and reproductive coercion, among other topics. Further, our agency employs trauma-informed practices, including empowerment-based programming, survivor-led case management and decision-making to ensure transparency and collaboration in the decision-making process and embrace a culture of humility and openness to feedback, criticism, and change. Finally, LA maintains up-to-date, accessible information about common survivor experiences and available resources on our website and in paper form at our offices.

2. Describe experience in effectively utilizing federal funds including HUD grants and other public funding, including satisfactory drawdowns and performance for existing grants as evidenced by timely reimbursement of subrecipients (if applicable), regular drawdowns, timely resolution of monitoring findings, and timely submission of required reporting on existing grants.

LA currently has one uniquely federal grant through the Office of Violence Against Women, the Transitional Housing Program, and approximately 20 other grants that incorporate federal and state funding, and Lumina Alliance is required to conduct an enhanced Single (or Yellowbook) Audit each year because the agency effectively manages and expends over \$750k in federal funding each year.

LA successfully manages The Transitional Housing Program federal grant (\$675,000 over 48 months). LA regularly applies for new grants and renewals of existing contracts with federal funding sources. LA works closely with grant managers and program/project specialists designated by the grantor organizations to ensure appropriate and timely project implementation and outcomes. Our organization designates a Grants Administrator to manage the application and reporting processes for all grants, overseen by the Chief Communications Officer (CCO) to ensure accuracy in our application and required reporting. Additionally, our Chief Finance Officer (CFO) ensures all grant drawdowns and invoices are submitted in a timely manner, and partners with the Budget Analyst and bookkeepers to manage and accurately code expenditures. Finally, the LA Executive Admin Team – including the CCO, CFO, Chief Executive Officer, Chief Program Officer, Chief People & Culture Officer, and Chief Operating Officer – collaboratively ensures resolution of any monitoring findings as necessary.

4. Housing First and/or Lower Barrier Implementation

(Attachment requirement) **Describe experience with utilizing a Housing First approach. Include:**

- 1) eligibility criteria;**
- 2) process for accepting new clients;**
- 3) process and criteria for exiting clients.**

Must demonstrate there are no preconditions to entry, allowing entry regardless of current or past substance use, income, criminal records (with exceptions of restrictions imposed by federal, state, or local law or ordinance), marital status, familial status, self-disclosed or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Must demonstrate the project has a process to address situations that may jeopardize housing or project assistance to ensure that project participation is terminated in only the most severe cases.

Existing projects should submit a copy of the project's relevant policies and procedures by email (SS_HomelessServices@co.slo.ca.us) or by mail to Erica Jaramillo at DSS no later than August 16, 2023.

1) Housing First participants must be fleeing violence, link their housing instability to their experience with intimate partner violence, and reside in San Luis Obispo (SLO) County at the time of entry into the program. Applicants will not be excluded based on variables such as income level, employment, past or current substance abuse or mental health issues, criminal record, or citizenship status, nor will applicants be considered ineligible due to inability to provide paperwork, documentation or personally identifying information. Eligible survivors fall into one or more of the following tiers of support: low, medium, and high.

Low Level: Those who are safe, but not financially stable. Financial assistance will be provided to prevent eviction, including one month of rent, utilities and lock installation; to address supportive needs such as emergency food, clothing, transportation, medications, employment and educational expenses, and healthcare including traditional, culturally-specific and/or alternative healing.

Medium Level: Those who may not be safe and need assistance finding housing. Additional support will be provided to identify housing options, advocate with landlords, and safety plan. Support includes immediate, temporary housing within LA programs and through community resources.

High Level: Those with barriers to rapid rehousing. Additional support will be provided via long-term planning to address barriers such as lack of adequate or regular income. Counseling around employment and financial needs, budgeting and credit repair take place as appropriate and requested. Financial assistance with legal costs and relocation costs (i.e. application fees, moving expenses, security deposits, rental assistance, utilities and utility deposits and storage costs) are provided.

The Housing First model is necessary to survivors' rehabilitation locally as it prioritizes creating safety before survivors can focus on utilizing our array of wraparound services to heal and find independence. These funds would continue to relieve the immense stress of finding affordable housing locally among some of our most vulnerable homeless community members. LA plans to continue to offer safe and stable housing to victims via our empowerment-based emergency shelters, transitional housing, and housing first program. Emergency shelter will be available to survivors and their loved ones facing imminent danger and fleeing domestic violence. Survivors and their families may stay between 28 and 60 days while they look for more permanent housing. While our shelters hold 48 beds, they are full 95% of the time. If shelter is not available, advocates will connect survivors to other housing services in house or in the community.

2) Our Housing Advocates identify eligible survivors currently experiencing significant housing insecurity and assess their housing needs. LA advocates are mobile and meet survivors where it is safe and convenient for them. Advocacy services can continue for up to 24 months, or as long as support is needed. Advocates tailor support services and flexible financial assistance to the unique needs of each individual. Following a client-centered approach, survivors determine the extent and type of services provided, and our advocates, who are trained in trauma-informed service provision, build relationships with survivors, helping them feel comfortable and safe while receiving services. LA provides additional support for clients seeking additional services to address needs related, but not limited to: language, social and cultural challenges, disability, and/or healthcare access, etc.

The most common "points of entry" into the Housing First Program are through LA's Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing programs, other LA programs (e.g., Therapy, Legal), and through direct referrals of domestic violence survivors from outside agencies. Advocates determine eligibility for the Housing First Project and gather data utilizing our HMIS-compliant database, while keeping all survivor data strictly confidential.

We also have two transitional housing locations that provide 48 beds among 7 two-bedroom units, 1 one-bedroom unit and 1 three-bedroom unit. Transitional housing residents can stay up to two years with prorated rent based on income. LA sets aside 10% of rent, which is returned to the client upon exit, contributing to the cost of a deposit and first month's rent for a new home.

3) A client may be exited from our Housing First Program due to the following:

- They reach their goals.
- They choose to end case management services.
- They exit emergency shelter and do not wish to continue with case management.
- They do not follow up with their advocate and there is no response after two attempts to contact, case management will be closed after three months.
- They are moving out of the county.
- They identify a new area of support and the current case management plan related to Housing First will be closed. The advocate will create a new initial assessment and plan of action.

Our Advocates will offer the following follow-up supportive services for at least three months after a survivor has secured stable permanent housing: Case management to create client driven goals, provide support in achieving those goals, and tools to promote safety and housing stability; connection to resources in the community to become established in their new home, including assistance with furnishings and new school enrollment; continued advocacy with partner agencies and landlords, as well as employment agencies to secure financial and social services that will ensure steady income and housing moving forward; safety planning which may include signing up for the Safe at Home confidential P.O. Box program, lock installation, or restraining order application support; offering other therapy and crisis support as needed.