

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2022 HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM SPECIAL UNSHeltered HOMELESSNESS SET ASIDE COMPETITION



San Luis Obispo County
Department of Social Services
August 10, 2022

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Overview

On June 22, 2022, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (FR-6500-N-25S). The NOFO can be found at <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC/Unsheltered-and-Rural-Homelessness-NOFO-FR-6500.pdf>

The County of San Luis Obispo is requesting proposals for the 2022 Continuum of Care Program Special Unsheltered Set Aside competition administered by HUD and will be accepting applications for new projects.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, Indian Tribes or tribally designated housing entities (TDHE's) as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103), and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

Any group or organization wishing to apply for grant funding must submit an application for a project meeting the criteria established by HUD for the CoC program. The competition is open to applicants seeking new funding for eligible activities per the NOFO.

If you are interested in learning more about the local CoC Competition and how to apply, please participate in the online CoC Special Unsheltered Set Aside Informational Meeting on Friday, August 19th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. Interested persons may attend the informational meeting via Zoom or by phone.

Zoom Link for informational meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88284318456?pwd=YnNpQlI2UEJqL1R6R0VNYjhtMlJxZz09>

Or call in (audio only):

+1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 882 8431 8456

Passcode: 668609

Applications are due Thursday, September 8th at 5pm. Applications must be submitted online through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's e-snaps electronic portal. Information on how to create an e-snaps account and submit an application are below.

3433 S. Higuera St | San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 | (P) 805-781-1896 |

SSHomelessServices@co.slo.ca.us

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Social-Services/Homeless-Services.aspx>

Applicants must contact HUD CoC Program Manager, George Solis, via email at gdsolis@co.slo.ca.us to become a registrant under the County of San Luis Obispo in e-snaps to submit an application. Please reach out as soon as you know your organization will apply.

Available Funding

CA-614 Maximum Unsheltered Homeless Set Aside amount: \$1,699,098**

Available for project applications: \$1,648,125

** The County of San Luis Obispo, which serves as the CoC Collaborative Applicant, is eligible to apply for Planning costs up to 3% of the total maximum award amount.

Please note that the grant term for the Unsheltered Homeless Set Aside is 3 years. This equates to \$549,375 per year for the 3-year grant term.

If awarded, the HUD CoC Unsheltered Homeless Set Aside funding would be available mid-year 2023.

The Program

The purpose of the Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Special NOFO) is to target efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness, particularly in communities with very high levels of unsheltered homelessness and homelessness in rural areas. Through the Special NOFO, HUD will award funding to communities to implement coordinated approaches - grounded in Housing First and public health principles - to reduce the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness, and improve services engagement, health outcomes, and housing stability among highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families. HUD expects applicant communities to partner with health and housing agencies to leverage mainstream housing and healthcare resources.

The Continuum of Care program provides grants to recipient agencies representing local Continuums of Care (CoCs). The County of San Luis Obispo is the recipient agency for the San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care. The County is issuing this Request for Proposals to agencies interested in providing eligible services consistent with the regulations, guidance and priorities established by HUD. The CoC regulations may be obtained at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule.pdf>.

HUD has established the following priorities for CoCs:

- 1. Unsheltered Homelessness.** Unsheltered homelessness is continuing to rise in many areas of the country and recent analysis of homelessness data shows that people experiencing unsheltered homelessness report significantly greater health challenges and experiences of trauma and violence than their sheltered peers. These challenges often begin before they lose their housing. The NOFO supports this highly vulnerable population by supporting CoCs in their efforts to identify people living in unsheltered situations, including encampments, and connects them with health and housing resources. It also supports CoCs in their efforts to enhance their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect more comprehensive data on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their geographic area.
- 2. Unsheltered Homelessness and Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs in Rural Areas.** Rural areas often lack the resources and infrastructure for providing homeless services and permanent housing. Additionally, rural areas often require unique strategies to solve challenges specific to their geography. To support CoCs in their efforts to end unsheltered homelessness in their rural areas, the NOFO targets resources to rural areas and provides additional eligible activities to address some of the unique needs of rural areas.
- 3. Providing Assistance on Tribal Lands.** Indian Reservations and Trust Lands may be all or part of a CoC's geographic areas, and Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities are eligible recipients of CoC Program funds. The NOFO provides additional incentives for creating projects that serve individuals and families in geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty, and are located where CoC services have until now been entirely unavailable, such as, for example, Trust Lands and Reservations.
- 4. Involving a Broad Array of Stakeholders in the CoC's Efforts to Reduce Homelessness.** Ending homelessness cannot be achieved by homeless service organizations alone. It requires coordination with a variety of other stakeholders, including affordable housing developers, mainstream service providers, the business community, victim service providers, political leaders, and healthcare providers. The NOFO supports and encourages CoCs to invite a variety of stakeholders to develop and implement a CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.
- 5. Advancing Equity.** In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color as well as individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address equity within CoCs through identifying and addressing the needs of subpopulations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness, such as the populations identified above, and other populations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness. CoCs should be reviewing their strategies to

support and serve underserved communities in their geographic area, identify barriers that led to any disparities in communities being served, and take steps to eliminate these barriers. This includes, in conjunction with people experiencing homelessness, reviewing local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address disparities affecting underserved communities experiencing homelessness.

- 6. Use a Housing First approach.** Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. Projects funded under the NOFO should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and the CoC should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness as well as ensure projects are correctly implementing a Housing First approach. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt service delivery methods that respond to the preferences and needs of the individual or family presenting for assistance.

Eligible Activities

Continuum of Care funds may be used to pay for the eligible costs listed in § 578.39 through §578.63 when used to establish and operate projects under five program components: permanent housing; transitional housing; supportive services only; Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS); and, in some cases, homelessness prevention.

All subrecipients, except agencies proposing projects to serve victims of domestic violence, will be required to enter client data into the San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care HMIS, a secure, web-based data system used by the County to report de-identified, aggregate data as required by HUD or as needed for local management of the CoC. All subrecipients must agree to abide by the standards required by HUD for HMIS (HMIS Data Standards Manual - <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3824/hmis-data-dictionary/>).

Although grant funds may be used by recipients and subrecipients in all components for the eligible costs of contributing data to the HMIS, only HMIS Leads may use grant funds for an HMIS component. Administrative costs are eligible for all components. All components are subject to the restrictions on combining funds for certain eligible activities in a single project found in § 578.87(c).

ELIGIBLE PROJECT TYPES:

- a. Permanent Housing (PH).** Permanent Housing is community-based housing, the purpose of which is to provide housing without a designated length of stay. Grant funds may be used for leasing, rental assistance, operating costs, and supportive services. PH includes:
 - a. Permanent Supportive Housing for persons with disabilities (PSH).** PSH can only provide assistance to individuals with disabilities and families in which one adult or

child has a disability. Supportive services designed to meet the needs of the program participants must be made available to the program participants.

b. Rapid Rehousing (RRH). Continuum of Care funds may provide supportive services, as set forth in § 578.53, and/or short-term (up to 3 months) and/or medium-term (for 3 to 24 months) tenant-based rental assistance, as set forth in § 578.51(c), as necessary to help a homeless individual or family, with or without disabilities, move as quickly as possible into Permanent Housing and achieve stability in that housing. When providing short-term and/or medium-term rental assistance to program participants, the rental assistance is subject to § 578.51(a)(1), but not § 578.51(a)(1)(i) and (ii); (a)(2); (c) and (f) through (i); and (l)(1).

b. Joint Transitional Housing (TH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH). The Joint TH and RRH component project combines two existing program components, Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing in a single project to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Applicants should prioritize those with the highest needs using an evidence-based approach designed to provide stable housing and services that, to the greatest extent possible, move the participant towards self-sufficiency and independence. Program participants may only receive up to 24 months of total assistance. For more information about Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects, see Section V.C.3 of the NOFO. If funded, HUD will limit eligible costs as follows, in addition to other limitations found in 24 CFR part 578:

- a) leasing of a structure or units, and operating costs to provide transitional housing;
- b) short- or medium-term tenant-based rental assistance on behalf of program participants to pay for the rapid rehousing portion of the project;
- c) supportive services;
- d) HMIS;
- e) and project administrative costs.

When a program participant is enrolled in a Joint TH and PH-RRH component project, the applicant must be able to provide both components, including the units supported by the transitional housing component and the tenant-based rental assistance and services provided through the PH-RRH component, to all participants. A program participant may choose to receive only the transitional housing unit, or the assistance provided through the PH-RRH component, but the applicant must make both types of assistance available. Additionally, if funds under the NOFO are not being requested for both TH and PH-RRH units, the project application must still describe the number of TH and PH-RRH units that will be utilized by the project, if selected for conditional award, and provide details in the project description of how TH and PH-RRH assistance will be provided.

c. Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry. Administers the CoC's centralized or coordinated entry process to coordinate assessment and referral of individuals and families seeking housing or services, including the use of a comprehensive and standardized

assessment tool. See CPD-17-01: Notice Establishing Additional Requirements for a Continuum of Care Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System (Coordinated Entry Notice) for full information and requirements.

- d. Supportive Services Only – Street Outreach.** Street outreach offers services necessary to reach unsheltered homeless individuals and families to connect them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services and provide urgent non-facility-based care to those who are unwilling or unable to access emergency shelter, housing, or an appropriate health facility.
- e. Supportive Services Only – Stand Alone Supportive Services.** Projects that will fund stand-alone support services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness or who have been homeless in the prior 6 months but are now residing in permanent housing (that is not PSH or RRH). This means the applicant is providing supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness for whom the applicant is not also providing housing or housing assistance. Examples of stand-alone supportive services include (1) housing navigation activities for people experiencing homelessness when the applicant is not also providing any ongoing housing assistance (e.g., rental assistance), (2) childcare services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness, (3) drop-in centers that provide supportive services to people experiencing homelessness, and (4) family reunification services to reunite people experiencing homelessness with their families.

PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY:

Projects funded through the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside must have the following eligibility criteria for program participants:

- a) meet the criteria of paragraph (1) of the definition of homeless at 578.3, except that persons coming from transitional housing must have originally come from places not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, safe havens, or institutions where they resided for 90 days or less and originally came from places not meant for human habitation, safe havens, or emergency shelters; or
- b) meet the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 578.3.

GRANT TERMS:

The initial grant term for all projects will be 3 years, including for CoC planning. Grant terms may be extended, consistent with 2 CFR 200.308 and 2 CFR 200.309. Therefore, all project applications will be prepopulated with a grant term of 3-years in e-snaps and all budgets will calculate accordingly.

CoC-Specific Requirements

- A. Coordinated Entry** - Both the CoC and ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) Program interim rules require use of the CoC's Coordinated Entry process.
- B. Match Requirements** – 24 CFR 578.73 provides the information regarding match requirements. All subrecipients must match all grant funds, except for leasing funds, with no less than 25 percent of funds or in-kind contributions from other sources. Project applicants that intend to use program income as match must provide an estimate of how much program income will be used for each match.
Projects submitting applications with healthcare resources will need to provide written commitment that 50% of the funding being requested for the project will be covered by the healthcare organization.
- C. SAM Registration Requirement.** Applicants must be registered with <https://www.sam.gov/SAM> before submitting their application. In addition, Applicants must maintain an active SAM registration with current information while they have an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by HUD.
- D. UEI Number Requirement.** Applicants must provide a valid UEI number, registered and active at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM> in the application.
- E.** Subrecipients must comply with non-discrimination, fair housing, and equal opportunity regulations as described in Section 578.93 and 24 CFR 5.105 and the Fair Housing Act.
- F. Housing First** – A Housing First approach is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. 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.
- G. Compliance with Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Rule** – Per 24 CFR 578.99(j) & 24 CFR 5 Subpart L, all permanent and transitional housing for which Continuum of Care program funds are used for acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, leasing, rental assistance, or operating costs must implement the requirements of VAWA for the protection of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- H. Fair Market Rents (FMR)** – HUD is required to adjust awards for leasing, operating, and rental assistance line items based on changes to the FMR. Funds awarded for rental assistance will be adjusted in all new projects and renewal projects requesting the FMR will be adjusted by applying the FMR in effect at the time of application submission to HUD.
- I. Affirmative Marketing and Outreach** - The CoC Program interim rule at 24 CFR 578.93(c) requires recipients of CoC Program funds to affirmatively market their housing and supportive services to eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion,

sex, age, familial status, or disability who are least likely to apply in the absence of special outreach, and maintain records of those marketing activities. Housing assisted by HUD and made available through the CoC must also be made available to individuals and families without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in accordance with 24 CFR 5.105 (a)(2).

- J. Section 3 (the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u))** – For Construction or rehabilitation projects, applicants are required to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons.
- K. Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200** - Applicants will be required to carry out all activities in accordance with federal laws, regulations, and guidance governing federal grants, including the Office of Management and Budget’s Uniform Guidance [2 CFR Part 200](#).

Application Procedures

Complete applications will be due by Thursday, September 8th, at 5PM. The process may be found in the “Timeline” section of the RFP on page 14. All applications must be submitted through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s e-snaps portal, available at <https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf>.

Detailed instructions on how to complete the application process can be found here:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>

The above link to the Detailed Instructions includes information about each question in the application and information about specific information that should be included in response to the question. All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Detailed Instructions before completing their applications.

Application Guides

New Project Application Guide:

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC/NEW-Unsheltered-DI-FINAL-7-14-22.pdf>

Supplemental Application

All 2022 Continuum of Care Program Special Unsheltered Set Aside applicants will need to submit a supplemental application in addition to the HUD application submitted in e-snaps. Supplemental applications can be found on the San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services website: [Funding Availability - County of San Luis Obispo \(ca.gov\)](#).

Please submit Supplemental Applications by email to SS_HomelessGrants@co.slo.ca.us or deliver to George Solis at the County Department of Social Services, 3433 S. Higuera, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93401. Both the esnaps and Supplemental Application must be received no later than **Thursday, September 8th at 5PM.**

Any updates to the application process will be posted on the San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services website: [Funding Availability - County of San Luis Obispo \(ca.gov\)](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Social-Services/Homeless-Services.aspx).

Project Review and Scoring

CoC Project Review and Ranking:

Project applications must be submitted to the CoC to be included on the CoC Priority Listing (see Section VI.F.3 on the NOFO for more information). CoCs must review and either accept and rank, or reject project applications submitted to them, including project applications for CoC Planning and Unified Funding Agency (UFA) Costs. All project applications approved by the CoC must be listed on the CoC Priority Listing in rank order.

Once an application has been submitted, a review will be undertaken to ensure the proposed project meets threshold requirements (see sections V.C.3.b and c of the NOFO). Applications submitted by the deadline that meet the threshold requirements will be considered by a non-conflicted ad hoc Grant Review Committee.

Scoring will be based on the factors listed in the County's CoC scoring rubric. These factors include:

- a) The performance of the applicant in administering projects funded with CoC, ESG, or other funding sources:
 - Experience operating the types of projects proposed
 - Quality of services proposed and likelihood that the project will be able to succeed in moving unsheltered persons into permanent housing
 - Cost effectiveness of services proposed
 - Timely draw down of funding
 - Bed utilization rate
 - Match leverage
 - Type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness)
 - Type of housing proposed
 - Leveraging housing resources – new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project applications will be scored if the proposed project utilizes housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG programs (letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project are required with the project application).

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- Leveraging healthcare resources - new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project applications will be scored if the proposed project utilizes healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness (formal letters of commitment that demonstrate the value of the commitment and dates the healthcare resources will be provided are required with the project application).
 - Alignment with the San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness (2022-2027)
- b) System performance criteria for the project application:
- Exits to permanent housing destinations
 - Retention of permanent housing
 - Length of time homeless
 - Returns to homelessness

Detailed scoring information is available in the County's Continuum of Care scoring rubric for each type of application. Scoring rubrics are posted on the County website, along with this RFP, and will also be distributed at the August 19 workshop.

Final Rankings and Submission:

Following the grant review committee's ranking process, all applicants will be notified as to their ranking, if they met threshold eligibility, or that they did not meet threshold review requirements. The Grant Review Committee may recommend less than the total amount of funding requested by the applicant. Prior to the meeting of the Grant Review Committee, applicants may be asked to provide an estimate of the impact to the program if funds were reduced by 20% or less and what the revised outcomes would be if funds were reduced by that amount.

The proposed rankings will be voted on at the by the County's Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) on September 21 and then forwarded on to the County Board of Supervisors for a final vote in October. Once the Board of Supervisors has voted on the final ranking, the County will submit the completed CoC application to HUD for its review.

HUD intends to fund all eligible CoC renewal projects for a 3-year grant term. Applications for funding are reviewed by HUD on a competitive basis. If funded by HUD, the County will enter into a contract with the subrecipients for implementation of the project.

Appeal Process

Applicants who wish to appeal a decision will have several opportunities to do so throughout the CoC Program Competition. On September 21, the HSOC will hold a meeting to review the Grant Review Committee's funding recommendation. In October, the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services will present the recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors on the Consent Agenda. If applicants remain unsatisfied with CoC recommendations

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following the Board of Supervisors hearing, they may appeal decisions directly to HUD. Applicants may appeal funding decisions only as provided in 24 CFR 578.35. See Section X of the NOFO regarding the CoC Program-specific process for appeals.

Types of Appeals - Provision at 24 CFR part 578 set forth the following types of appeals:

1. *Solo Applicants*. A process for eligible project applicants that attempted to participate in their CoC planning process and believe they were denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner.
2. *Denied or Decreased Funding*. A process for eligible applicants that are denied funds by HUD or that requested more funds than HUD awarded to them.
3. *Consolidated Plan Certification*. A process for eligible applicants whose jurisdiction refused to provide a Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan (form HUD2990).
4. *Competing CoCs*. A process when more than one CoC includes the same geographic area in their CoC Program Registration for eligible applicants of lower scoring CoCs, to appeal HUD's decision to fund the competing CoC. There were no competing CoCs for FY 2022 funds; therefore, this NOFO does not address the process for appealing HUD's decision to award funds to the competing CoC.

Information Session

If you are interested in learning more about the local CoC Competition and how to apply, please participate in the online 2022 HUD CoC Special Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside Competition Informational Meeting on Friday, August 19 from 10:00-11:30am. Interested persons may attend the informational meeting via Zoom or by phone.

Zoom Link for informational meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88284318456?pwd=YnNpQlI2UEJqL1R6R0VNyJhtMlJxZz09>

Or call in (audio only):

+1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 882 8431 8456

Passcode: 668609

Timeline

HUD NOFO RELEASED – June 22, 2022

COUNTY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) – August 10, 2022

RFP WORKSHOP FOR APPLICANTS – August 19, 2022

LOCAL APPLICATION DUE DATE – September 8, 2022

HSOC RECOMMENDATION MEETING – September 21, 2022

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING – October 2022

HUD COC APPLICATION DUE – October 20, 2022

Questions or Need More Information?

Contact George Solis, Program Manager, County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services at (805) 781-1866 or gdsolis@co.slo.ca.us