



**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)
Meeting Agenda**

January 17, 2024, 1pm

Committee members must participate in person (except for just cause reasons or personal emergency reasons approved by the HSOC):

Room 101, County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services,
3433 South Higuera St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

The public may participate in person or by Zoom video call:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87072358894?pwd=A07CfaQPjtbv4XGTYRnTpW3x1FrrMl.1>

Or dial in:

+1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 870 7235 8894

Passcode: 708611

1. Call to Order and Introductions (5 minutes*)
2. Public Comment (10 minutes*)
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes (3 minutes*)
4. Action/Information/Discussion
 - 4.1. HSOC Administration
 - 4.1.1. Action Item: Elect HSOC Leadership Positions for 2024 (10 minutes*)
 - 4.1.1.1. Committee Questions
 - 4.1.1.2. Public Comment



4.1.1.3. Committee Discussion and Vote

4.2. Implementing Five-Year Plan 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

4.2.1. Information Item: Report on HMIS conversion and upgrade process, including updating the housing prioritization tool (5 minutes*)

4.2.2. Action Item: Approve the Updated HMIS Policies and Procedures Document to Go Into Effect With the Implementation of BitFocus Clarity Human Services in 2024 (5 minutes*)

4.2.2.1. Committee Questions

4.2.2.2. Public Comment

4.2.2.3. Committee Discussion and Vote

4.2.3. Information Item: 2024 Homeless Point in Time Count Update (5 minutes*)

4.2.3.1. Committee Questions

4.2.3.2. Public Comment

4.2.3.3. Committee Discussion

4.3. Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 4 – Create, Identify, and Streamline Funding and Resources

4.3.1. Action Item: Recommend Allocation of County Community Development Block Grant - Public Services funding (\$111,247), Home Investment Partnerships Program (\$81,531) Emergency Solutions Grant (\$138,431), County General Fund Support (\$379,000), and Permanent Local Housing Allocation funds (\$261,796) for county-wide homeless services programs as part of the 2024 Action Plan. (20 minutes*)



- 4.3.1.1. Committee Questions
- 4.3.1.2. Public Comment
- 4.3.1.3. Committee Discussion and Vote
- 4.3.2. Action Item: Vote to Recommend Funding Priorities for the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Round 3 and 4 Request for Proposals (15 minutes*)
 - 4.3.2.1. Committee Questions
 - 4.3.2.2. Public Comment
 - 4.3.2.3. Committee Discussion and Vote
- 4.3.3. Action Item: Approve Letters of Support for CAPSLO's and Good Samaritan's Applications for SSVF (Supportive Services - Veteran Families) Grants (10 minutes*)
 - 4.3.3.1. Committee Questions
 - 4.3.3.2. Public Comment
 - 4.3.3.3. Committee Discussion and Vote
- 4.4. HSOC Administration
 - 4.4.1. Action Item: Vote to Change Times of Future Meetings from 1-3 p.m. to 9-11 a.m. (5 minutes*)
 - 4.4.1.1. Committee Questions
 - 4.4.1.2. Public Comment
 - 4.4.1.3. Committee Discussion and Vote
- 4.5. Discussion Item: Committee Updates (10 minutes*)



- 4.6. Discussion Item: Updates from the Homeless Services Division (7 minutes*)
5. Future Discussion/Report Items (5 minutes*)
6. Updates and Requests for Information (5 minutes*)
7. Next Regular Meeting: March 20, 2024
8. Adjournment

The full agenda packet for this meeting is available on the SLO County HSOC web page:

[https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Social-Services/Homeless-Services/Homeless-Services-Oversight-Council-\(HSOC\).aspx](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Social-Services/Homeless-Services/Homeless-Services-Oversight-Council-(HSOC).aspx)

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC) MEETING MINUTES

Date

November 15, 2023

Time

1:00pm-3:00pm

Location

Conference Room, Family Care Network,
1255 Kendall Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Members (those approved with just cause/ emergency reasons) and the public were able to participate via Zoom.

Members Present:

Allison Brandum
Amelia Grover
Brenda Mack
Christy Nichols
Clint Weirick
Jack Lahey
Jeff Smith
Kathy McClenathen
Kristen Barneich
Luke Dunn
Marcia Guthrie
Michelle Shoresman
Rick Gulino
Rick Scott
Rochelle Sonza
Star Graber
Susan Funk
Susan Lamont
Wendy Blacker
Wendy Lewis
William Crewe

Members Absent:

Jessica Thomas
Jim Dantona

Mark Lamore
Shay Stewart
Steve Gregory
Zara Landrum

Staff & Guests:

Amy Wyatt
Erica Jaramillo
George Solis
Isaiah (Thurmond)
Kari Howell
Kristin Ventresca
Laurel Weir
Lauryn Searles
Michael Azevedo
Merlie Livermore
Morgan Torell
Russ Francis
Sarah Hayter
Scott Thurmond
Skylar Caldwell
Suzie Freeman

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Susan Funk called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Morgan Torrell introduced herself as the newly appointed Homeless Services Division Manager.

2. Public Comment

Rick Gulino of People's Self-Help Housing reported that they recently opened a few projects. He first mentioned a project on Broad Street in San Luis Obispo, wherein they ended up moving 12 homeless Veterans and 25 homeless individuals. Three months ago, they also opened Templeton Place, a senior project and moved in 10 homeless individuals. In December, Pismo Terrace will be opening and will be renting 50 units, 24 units of which will be No Place Like Home units with County Behavioral Health and 5 TMHA (Transition-Mental Health Agency) units. Rick also shared that a year from now, a project on Tiburon Way in San Luis Obispo will have 25 units for No Place Like Home plus 10 THMA units. Rick also shared that they are working with SLO County and HASLO to get a Homekey project in San Luis Obispo which would produce 75 homeless units.

Kathy Mclenathen from San Luis Obispo County Housing Trust Fund shared that they just received some additional funds from an existing investor. She shared that they have funding for any short-term projects (from 5-7 years) for land acquisition, pre-development, or gap funding needs.

Wendy Lewis of ECHO (El Camino Real Homeless Organization) reported that the Board of Supervisors approved ECHO for funding for three years of operating to add 20 additional beds at their Paso Robles location. She shared that a week after Thanksgiving they will open some beds, bringing a total of 130 beds within their services. Wendy also mentioned as of this year, they have helped 168 individuals and children find housing. Lastly, Wendy shared an invite to the annual ECHO Turkey Trot event on Thanksgiving morning at the Atascadero Lake.

Jack Lahey shared that Prado Day Center will have their warming center open this evening through Saturday. According to Jack, this is the only warming center operating now, so they are expecting a lot of guests. The Prado Day Center has a capacity of 40-50 beds. He shared the invite for volunteers to help.

Wendy Blacker shared that her non-profit, 805 Street Outreach will now be offering shower services in Morro Bay every other week. She mentioned that she wants to bring shower services to areas where Shower the People does not go.

3. Consent: Approval of Minutes

Rick Gulino moved the minutes to be approved, seconded by Kathy Mclenathen. Minutes passed by voice vote.

4. Action/Information/Discussion

4.1. HSOC Administration

4.1.1. Action Item: Vote to Recommend Ten Persons for Appointment to Vacant or Expiring Seats on the Homeless Services Oversight Council

Laurel Weir presented the list of names recommended by the Nominating Committee for HSOC membership's new appointments, and re-appointments. Kristen Barneich moved the motion to approve the nominations, Rick Gulino seconded the motion. Roll was called, motion passed. The list will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

4.2. Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 1 - Create Affordable and Appropriately Designed Housing Opportunities and Shelter Options for Underserved Populations

4.2.1. Information Item: Presentation on Results of Community Survey for the 2024 Action Plan for the Community Development Block Grant, Emergency Shelter Grant, and HOME Grant programs

George Solis shared that in preparation for the 2024 Action Plan, the Homeless Services Grants staff were required to gather community input to help determine housing funding priorities. He reported that they received 348 community responses compared to 54 responses in 2022. The survey was also translated into Spanish language. George reported that the responses to this report highlighted the lack of affordable housing options in the area.

4.3 Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 2: Reduce or Eliminate Barriers to Housing Stability

4.3.1 Information Item: Update on the Behavioral Health Gaps Analysis report and County Behavioral Health Initiatives

Star Graber, County Behavioral Health Director, presented the initial report recently put out by Capstone. This report covered the adult system of care getting feedback on where the gaps are. The main gap is the lack of beds in existing facilities. Currently, there are only 16 available beds in the locked Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) and 4 beds available in the Crisis Stabilization Unit, both located in San Luis Obispo. The report also covered other needs such as: Behavioral Health Urgent Care clinic, Partial Hospitalization Programs, Full-Service Partnership programs, creation of more crisis services in the North County (Paso Robles). The Youth (under 26 years old) report will be issued in the next couple of weeks.

4.4 Implementing Five-Year Plan 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

4.4.1. Information Item: 2024 Homeless Point in Time Count Presentation

Amy Wyatt from Thurmond Consulting explained what Point-in-Time Count is and its methodology. The SLO County PIT Count is scheduled for January 23, 2024.

4.4.2. Action Item: Vote to use 1) a Census Methodology for the 2024 Homeless Point in Time Count of Unsheltered Persons; and 2) an Observational Count combined with a survey and extrapolation for obtaining demographic and other information for unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness

Kathy Mclenathen made a motion to approve the methodology, and Brenda Mack seconded the motion. Roll was called. Motion passed.

4.5 Discussion Item: Committee Updates

Jack Lahey shared that they started the process of creating an Ad Hoc Committee for Coordinated Entry as discussed in the Coordinating and Services Committee.

Kari Howell shared that the last Finance and Data Committee meeting was focused on the HMIS migration project. For the next meeting in December, the team will be presenting the first draft of the PIT Count Survey.

Susan Funk reported for the Executive Committee. She mentioned that she authorized the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Coordinated Entry.

4.6 County Homeless Services Division Updates

Kristin Ventresca provided the update for the County Homeless Services Division.

George Solis also announced that Kristin Ventresca will be leaving the Division as she has accepted the position of Deputy Director for the County Health Department.

5. Next Regular Meeting: January 17, 2024

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC)

January 17, 2024

HSOC Leadership Roles and Committees

Chair

The HSOC Chair presides at all full HSOC and Executive Committee meetings, and represents the HSOC at other functions or before area jurisdictions. The Chair calls special meetings and establishes special ad hoc committees as necessary, in conjunction with County staff. The Chair may delegate representation as appropriate.

Vice Chair

The HSOC Vice Chair acts as Chair in the Chair's absence, assuming the duties of Chair whenever the Chair is not available. The Vice Chair works with the Chair to coordinate the work of the HSOC.

Committee Chairs

Committee Chairs preside at all meetings of their Committees, and coordinate activities of their respective Committees, in conjunction with County staff. All Committees help to support implementation of the Five-Year Plan. Frequency of meetings will be determined by Committee Chairs.

Finance and Data Committee

The Finance and Data Committee reviews data from sources such as the annual Point in Time (PIT) Count, the State's Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS) and local project Annual Performance Reports, to make data driven recommendations and reports to the full HSOC. This Committee provides updates to the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), reviews policies and procedures to ensure legal compliance and improve coordination between agencies, and reviews data to assess the Continuum of Care's grant performance.

Housing Committee

The Housing Committee provides an opportunity for local Housing Developers to provide updates and coordinate on housing and homelessness related programs, including Emergency

Agenda Item 4.1.1

Housing Vouchers and Homekey. This Committee is a forum for developers, nonprofit agencies, cities and the County to share information on plans for affordable housing and homelessness prevention, such as ADU (Accessory Dwelling Unit), Inclusionary Housing programs and sanctioned encampments.

Homeless Services Coordinating Committee

The Homeless Services Coordinating Committee discusses service needs in the community. This Committee provides opportunities for provider agencies to share information and work together on particular issues, such as Coordinated Entry, coordination of services and new grant opportunities.

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)
ACTION ITEM
January 17, 2024**

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4.2.2

ITEM: Approve the updated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Policy and Procedure document to go into effect with the implementation of BitFocus Clarity Human Services in 2024.

ACTION REQUIRED: Vote to approve the updated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Policy and Procedure document to go into effect with the implementation of BitFocus Clarity Human Services in 2024.

SUMMARY NARRATIVE:

A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is the information system designated by a local Continuum of Care (CoC) to comply with the requirements of CoC Program interim rule 24 CFR 578. It is a locally implemented data system used to record and analyze client, service, and housing data for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. The San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services (DSS) serves as the HMIS Lead Agency and assumes responsibility for HMIS operation on behalf of the CoC.

Line of Effort 3 of the San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness focuses on the improvement and expansion of HMIS. In order to achieve these goals, a new HMIS vendor, BitFocus, was selected along with a services vendor, Institute for Community Alliances (ICA). DSS staff, alongside the vendors, have conducted a review and are providing updates to the governance and operational documentation to align with the future operations in Clarity Human Services.

The HMIS Policies and Procedures are a HUD-required document that are intended to outline the scope and uses of HMIS within the CoC. On August 22, 2023 HSOC Finance & Data Committee voted to approve revisions to this document in order to reflect the FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards that went into effect October 1st. Additional revisions to implement the processes in Clarity Human Services were approved by HSOC Finance & Data on January 9, 2024. These revisions are listed below:

Attachment 4.2.2

-Roles and responsibilities have been clarified and a section added for HMIS Agency Administrators to act as a liaison between the HMIS Lead staff and other HMIS end users at the Partner Agencies.

-The HMIS Privacy Notice and Release of Information (ROI) documents have been added as appendices to the Policy and Procedures. The Privacy Notice and ROI documents were previously updated and approved by HSOC Finance & Data on December 19, 2023.

-In section 5.4, Security, additional language was added to clarify new agency site visit requirements. Site visits were previously described as only occurring as staff were available. The HMIS Lead will now include site visits as part of regular and rotating HMIS monitoring of all Partner Agencies.

-In the *Data Breach* portion of section 5.4, Security, language was added noting HIPAA compliance requirements for applicable agencies.

-Section 5.7. Training, was updated to align with new learning management system process for new and existing HMIS end users.

-Description of the new HMIS Office Hours was added to Section 5.8 Technical Support

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no financial impacts to HSOC if the updated HMIS Policy and Procedures are approved.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff recommend the approval of the Privacy Notice updates to align with the functionality of BitFocus.

San Luis Obispo County HMIS Policies & Procedures

Continuum of Care:

CA-614 San Luis Obispo County

HMIS Lead Agency:

County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Social Services
PO Box 8119
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403
Telephone: (805) 781-1600

Contents

1. Revision History.....	3
2. Introduction.....	4
3. Governing Principles.....	5
3.1 Confidentiality	5
3.2 Data Quality.....	5
3.3 System Availability.....	5
4. Roles and Responsibilities	6
Homeless Services Oversight Council	6
HMIS Lead Agency	6
HMIS Partner Agency	7
HMIS End User.....	7
5. Operating Procedures	8
5.1 Agency Participation.....	8
<i>Assign Participating Agency HMIS Administrator.....</i>	8
<i>Minimum Participation Standards</i>	8
5.2 New Project Set-Up.....	8
5.3 New User Enrollment	9
5.4 Security.....	9
5.5 Collection and Entry of Client Data	11
5.6 Release and Disclosure of Client Data.....	13
5.7 Training.....	14
5.8 Technical Support	15
6. Changes to The Policies and Procedures and Other Governance Documents	15
7. Other Obligations and Agreements.....	15
8. Glossary of Terms.....	16

1. Revision History

These Policies and Procedures shall be reviewed and, if necessary, revised at least annually by the Continuum of Care. See Section 6.10 for Policies and Procedures related to changes of this and other documents.

Date	Author	Description
11/27/2012	County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building	Full revision referencing all HUD standards and 2011 HEARTH HMIS Proposed Rule
1/6/2014	County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building	Revisions referencing designations
10/27/2016	County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building	General revisions
7/21/2021	County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services	General revisions and updates
08/22/2023	County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services	Formatting update and revisions to reflect the FY 2024 HUD Data Standards
1/9/2024	County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services And the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA)	Revisions to reflect the migration and functionality in BitFocus Clarity Human Services, including privacy policy updates for the new implementation.

2. Introduction

The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a longitudinal database to assist in the service of homeless populations throughout the United States. It is designated by a local Continuum of Care (CoC) to comply with the requirements of the CoC Program Interim Rule 24 CFR 578. The San Luis Obispo Continuum of Care (CoC) has implemented this system since 2010. It has undergone several instances of change since the initial implementation. With this version of Policies and Procedures the Homeless Services Division within the Department of Social Services hopes to see further expansion of participating agencies and streamlined delivery of homeless services. The Homeless Services Division is undergoing a multi-year effort to grow and improve the system.

HMIS Data and Technical Standards Final Notice, published by HUD in July 2004, and revised in March 2010. As described in the March 2010 HMIS Data Standards Revised Notice, an HMIS is an electronic data collection system that stores longitudinal person-level information about persons who access the homeless services system in a Continuum of Care. HMIS is a valuable resource because of its capacity to integrate and deduplicate data from all homeless assistance and homeless prevention programs in a Continuum of Care.

Aggregate HMIS data can be used to understand the size, characteristics and needs of the homeless population at the local, state, and national levels.

The following HUD HMIS Standards were referenced in the creation of this document:

- 2004 HMIS Data and Technical Standards Final Notice
- Guidance on HPRP Subgrantee Data Collection and Reporting for Victim Service Providers
- 2010 HMIS Data Standards Revised Notice
- 2011 HMIS Requirements Proposed Rule

HMIS is used by the federal partners and their respective programs in the effort to end Homelessness, which includes:

- US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA)

Partners with funding from the State of California may be required to participate in HMIS under Title 42. Programs with other sources of funding are not required to participate in the HMIS, but they are strongly encouraged to participate to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of homelessness in the region.

Comparable databases are required for use by providers of services for survivors of domestic violence, as described in the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). It is the San Luis Obispo County CoC HMIS Lead's responsibility to ensure the compliance of comparable databases. Other federal and state partners also require HMIS participation for grantees and subrecipients.

The HMIS and its operating policies and procedures are structured to comply with the most recently released [HMIS Data Standards](#). Recognizing that other Federal, State, and local laws may further regulate agencies, the San Luis Obispo County CoC may negotiate its procedures and/or execute appropriate business agreements with Partner Agencies so they are in compliance with applicable

laws.

3. Governing Principles

Described below are the overall governing principles upon which all decisions pertaining to HMIS are based. Participants are expected to read, understand, and adhere to the spirit of these principles.

3.1 Confidentiality

Policies regarding client data are founded on the premise that a client owns his/her personal information. Everyone will have the right to grant informed consent, limit data sharing, or revoke consent related to his/her PPI at any time. Policies are in place to protect client, agency, and the SLO County CoC's interests. Collection, access and disclosure of client data through HMIS will only be permitted by the procedures set forth in this document.

The protection of clients' rights and privileges is crucial to the successful operation of HMIS. These policies and procedures are intended to ensure clients' privacy without impacting the delivery of services. Security and confidentiality will be prioritized by System Administrators and End Users at all times.

3.2 Data Quality

All End Users will strive for the highest possible degree of data quality. Complete and accurate data recording will help improve service coordination and data-driven decision making.

3.3 System Availability

The availability of a centralized data repository is necessary to achieve an aggregation of unduplicated homelessness statistics. The San Luis Obispo County CoC will strive for broad deployment and availability of the HMIS by human service agencies that adopt the aforementioned governing principles.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Homeless Services Oversight Council

The Continuum of Care, through its Governing Board the Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) is responsible for the governance of the San Luis Obispo HMIS. In all HMIS governance decisions, the Continuum of Care will balance the interests and needs of all HMIS stakeholders, including clients, service providers, and policy makers. Through this role it will provide the following:

- Oversight to the HMIS Lead
- Approval of HMIS policy forms and documentation
- Ensure Agency participation and feedback
- Approve and facilitate HMIS Funding
- Compliance with HMIS Policies & Procedures

HMIS Lead Agency

The San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services (DSS) will serve as the HMIS Lead Agency, known informally and interchangeably as HMIS Lead or HMIS Lead Agency. The HMIS Lead Agency provides day-to-day management of system participation, operations, and security. Through this role, DSS staff will be the primary contact for both HUD and the HMIS vendor. HMIS Lead staff will bring in additional subcontractors to fulfill these tasks as necessary. In addition, they will be responsible for the following:

- Negotiate software vendor contracts
- Evaluate potential Partner Agencies for HMIS Participation
- Ensure Compliance with HMIS Policies & Procedures
- Authorized agent for Agency Participation Agreements
- Creation of Project forms and documents
- Maintain up to date information on the HMIS website
- Monitoring end user licenses
- Point of contact with software vendor
- Add & Remove user rights
- Develop and administer training curriculum
- Ensure documentation of training
- Provide confidentiality training
- Provide initial software training for Agency Administrators and end users
- Provide end user support
- Review security of Participating Agencies via site visits
- Monitor data quality and timeliness
- Assure vendor adherence to HMIS Data and technical Standards

- Application Customization
- Aggregate data reporting and extraction per agency needs
- Assist Partner Agencies with agency-specific data collection and reporting needs
- Manage User licenses

HMIS Partner Agency

- An HMIS Partner Agency is an entity that has agreed to uphold these Policies and Procedures by executing an HMIS Participating Agency Agreement with the County of San Luis Obispo. Representatives from HMIS Partner Agency are responsible for the actions of the HMIS End Users within their agency workgroups. Serve as Authorizing Agent for Partner Agency
- Designates 1-2 Agency Administrators
- Notify HMIS Lead Agency of departure of any HMIS user, before or on the date of their departure in order to maintain site security and client confidentiality
- Designate individual for Agency Technical support
- Monitor Agency compliance with Policies & Procedures
- Hold executed Client Informed Consent forms
- Serve as Authorizing Agent for user ID requests
- Ensure compliance with HMIS Policies & Procedures
- Ensure data quality and timeliness
- Ensure data is corrected on monthly data quality reports or per request of HMIS Lead
- Attend monthly HSOC Finance and Data Committee meetings
- Monitor security of staff workstations
- Maintain their agency's internet connectivity
- Ensure virus protection and spyware detecting software is installed on all computers that access HMIS and ensure a virus scan is run at least once a week
- Run data integrity reports, run down discrepancies and make corrections

HMIS Agency Administrator

- Serves as main point of contact between HMIS Lead and Partner Agency
- Enrolls HMIS users in New User Training
- Serves as first level in evaluating and addressing any HMIS data entry questions

HMIS End User

All HMIS End Users are required to read and comply with the most recent HMIS Data Standards Manual. Failure to comply with the HUD standards warrants the same consequences as failure to comply with SLO CoC HMIS Policies and Procedures. In any instance where these Policies and Procedures are not consistent with the HUD Standards, the HUD Standards take precedence. Should any inconsistencies be identified, the end user and Partner Agency are expected to immediately notify the HMIS Lead Agency.

- Sign HMIS User Agreement
- Attend and participate in HMIS training provided by the County of San Luis Obispo
- Safeguard client privacy through compliance with confidentiality policies
- Collect data as specified in end user training and as directed in compliance with the HMIS Policies and Procedures
- Adhere to the HMIS Policies & Procedures

5. Operating Procedures

5.1 Agency Participation

Agencies participating in HMIS shall commit to abide by the governing principles of HMIS and adhere to the terms and conditions of this partnership as detailed in the HMIS Participating Agency Agreement.

Participating agencies must have a signed HMIS Participating Agency Agreement prior to project set up, entry of client data or requesting HMIS end users. This document allows agencies to specify if they would like their client data shared with other agencies in the database. Data sharing is encouraged, with appropriate client consent, to help facilitate referral of services between agencies. This will also help reduce the number of duplicate entries. New Agencies interested in participating in HMIS must enter into an HMIS Participating Agency Agreement, which the HMIS Lead Agency reserves the right to approve, deny, or seek additional information thereof. Upon receipt of completed and subsequently approved Agency Agreement, HMIS Lead staff will begin the New Project Set- Up and New User processes detailed below. Once a new agency is granted access to HMIS by the HMIS Lead, the new agency will be added to the list of participating agencies posted to the HMIS website.

Assign Participating Agency HMIS Administrator

Each Partner Agency shall designate a primary contact for communications regarding HMIS. This individual will receive regular updates regarding any changes in HMIS and monthly Data Quality reports. They will be expected to respond to any direct inquiries on data quality issues and assist in overall compliance and training new users at their agency. For Partner Agencies that do not designate an HMI Agency Administrator, the HMIS Lead reserves the right to assign one

Minimum Participation Standards

HMIS partner agencies and users must collect all of the universal data elements, as defined by HUD, for all clients receiving services in programs participating in the San Luis Obispo County HMIS. Additionally, all participating agencies are responsible for ensuring that Common Program Specific Data Elements, as defined by the [HMIS Data Standards](#), are collected from all clients that are served by applicable HUD funded programs.

Other data elements may also be required for certain programs, local funders, the CoC and/or Coordinated Entry. Any optional or custom data elements will be developed in partnership with stakeholders and approved by the Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC).

5.2 New Project Set-Up, Project Closures and Project Changes

Participating agencies in HMIS are expected to submit a New Project Request Form for all new projects within the HUD recommended timeframe of 90 days prior to serving clients or spending funds specific to HMIS compliance. Agencies must be in compliance with and have a current Agency Agreement with HOMELESS SERVICES to submit new projects. The New Project Form can be retrieved online at the HMIS Knowledge Base website, <https://slocounty.helpscoutdocs.com/> or by emailing the HMIS Support inbox at: ss_hmissupport@co.slo.ca.us. It is the responsibility of the HMIS participating agency to ensure projects are set up correctly and timely.

Projects entered into HMIS, unless specifically determined otherwise, are subject to the San Luis

Obispo CoC HMIS Data Quality Plan. HMIS Agency Administrators are responsible for informing HMIS Lead staff when a project is no longer serving clients. The HMIS Lead will deactivate the project in HMIS so no new enrollments can be added to the project. Data from deactivated projects will remain available in HMIS for 7 years per HUD requirements.

Agency Administrators interested in requesting changes to current projects in HMIS must reach out directly to the HMIS Lead by emailing the HMIS Support inbox at: ss_hmissupport@co.slo.ca.us, or an otherwise determined support ticket process.

5.3 New User Enrollment

Any agency that is a provider of homeless services to clients in San Luis Obispo County is encouraged to participate in contributing data to HMIS. Participation may be required depending on funding source. The HMIS Lead will determine if there are available user licenses. New Users will only be enrolled in HMIS after an HMIS Participating Agency Agreement is in place.

A detailed New User Enrollment Process can be found at the HMIS Knowledge Base at slocounty.helpscoutdocs.com. New Users must be enrolled in training by an Agency Administrator. It is the responsibility of the Agency Administrators and individual users to ensure timely and accurate completion of HMIS End User Training as outlined in the HMIS Knowledge Base and the training website.

User access is agency and project specific and at the discretion of the HMIS Lead Agency. User access level will be determined based on the information provided in the “Sign Up” section of the HMIS training website.

User IDs are individual, and passwords are confidential. No individual should ever use or allow use of a User ID that is not assigned to that individual, and user-specified passwords should never be shared or communicated in any format.

HMIS Partner Agencies must notify HMIS Lead staff of relevant personnel changes. Additional details regarding change of user status can be found in the section for Deactivating Accounts below.

5.4 Security

Assessment

For new agencies accessing HMIS, the Partner Agency's Administrator(s) will meet with HMIS Lead staff to review and assess the security measures in place. They will assess agency information security protocols. This review shall in no way reduce the responsibility for agency information security, which is the full and complete responsibility of the Partner Agency and its staff.

Annual Security Audit

Existing HMIS Participating Agencies may be subject to additional security assessments during Annual HMIS Project Monitoring. Site visits will be held to confirm security at participating HMIS Partner Agencies during this monitoring. Agencies will be notified in advance of any site visit

Workstation Security

Each HMIS user is required to utilize the following at their workstation:



- Anti-spyware software and virus protection properly installed
- A full-system scan has been performed within the last week
- Each workstation has and uses a hardware or software firewall
- Screens that “go to sleep” after 5 minutes of inactivity and require a password to re-activate
- Screens positioned or equipped so that data is not visible to others
- Does not have usernames and/or passwords posted in visible locations

Prior to access, Partner Agencies will confirm that any workstation accessing HMIS has and uses a hardware or software firewall and that anti-virus software performs frequent full-system scans.

Unencrypted PPI may not be stored or transmitted in any fashion—including sending file attachments by email or downloading reports including PPI to a flash drive, to the End User’s desktop or to an agency shared drive. All downloaded files containing PPI must be deleted from the workstation temporary files and the “Recycle Bin” emptied before the End User leaves the workstation.

Access Rights

Access to the HMIS will only be approved for those staff members that require access for business purposes only. The user's access rights will be determined by the Partner Agency Administrator and the HMIS Lead.

If a user changes roles within a Partner Agency or needs to access new Projects within HMIS, the Partner Agency Administrator should contact HMIS Lead staff to modify those permissions. It is important that the Partner Agency Administrator notifies the HMIS Lead of these changes as soon as possible so that rights can be added and removed as appropriate. Further details for Agency Administrators regarding removing access, personnel changes, and consequences for data breach found in the Deactivating Accounts section.

Password and User ID Assignment

Upon completion of training and signing the [User Agreement](#), the user will be assigned a unique ID and password to access the rights assigned that user within the HMIS. Users should not allow anyone else use of their assigned unique user ID. A user should never use an ID that is not assigned to them nor should passwords be shared and or communicated in any format. To do so is considered a breach of security and users may have their HMIS access revoked at the discretion of the HMIS Lead.

Changing Passwords

When the user logs onto the system for the first time they will be prompted to change their password to a password only they know. Passwords must consist of at least 8 characters, a combination of at least one upper case letter, at least one lower case letter, and at least one special character.

Passwords must be changed every 90 days. If they are not changed within that time period, they will expire and the user will be locked out of the system. Three consecutive unsuccessful attempts to login will disable the User ID until the HMIS Lead or Partner Agency Administrator reactivates the account.

In the event a user's password has expired, or the user forgets their password, users may use the “Forgot Password” feature on the website to reset their password. If a user still cannot access the site, they should contact HMIS Lead staff at ss_hmissupport@co.slo.ca.us for assistance.

Deactivating Accounts

It is important that a user account be deactivated in the system when they leave the agency or otherwise becomes inactive. It is a breach of security to have unused user accounts active. It is the responsibility of the Partner Agency Administrator to notify the HMIS Lead within two (2) business days if a staff member leaves the Agency. In the event that HMIS account access is not revoked for any reason, the former HMIS user is required to act with integrity and not attempt to access HMIS if their job duties no longer include HMIS or if they leave their HMIS participating agency.

Access may be immediately rescinded when any HMIS user is suspected of breaching the [Partner Agency User Agreement](#), violating the Policies & Procedures, or breaching confidentiality or security, while an investigation by the HMIS Lead and the Partner Agency is conducted. If the user is found to have breached or violated the above, and the Partner Agency does not otherwise permanently inactivate the user from the system (termination of employment, reassignment of duties) the HMIS Lead has the right to permanently inactivate the account thereby denying access to the system for that user.

Data Breach

A data breach is the unauthorized access or acquisition of data that compromises the security, confidentiality, or integrity of data in HMIS. Data may be in any format (electronic, hardcopy or verbal) and may consist of a single piece of data and/or an entire data system. Breaches to the HMIS servers are managed by the HMIS vendor. If a breach to the HMIS servers occurs, the HMIS vendor will notify the HMIS Lead, and the CoC. Should a data breach occur through a Partner Agency, the Partner Agency is required to notify the HMIS Lead immediately. The HMIS Lead and CoC reserve the right to revoke access to HMIS to any individual or Partner Agency because of a data breach. Additionally, HIPAA covered entities and their business associates are required to provide notification of a breach to the affected individuals, the US Secretary of Health and Human Services, and in some instances the media per the HIPAA Breach Notification Rule, 45 CFR Section 164.

5.5 Collection and Entry of Client Data

Each participating agency is responsible for their clients' data. Participating agencies must obtain informed consent prior to sharing any client protected personal information (PPI) in the San Luis Obispo HMIS. These policies and procedures are intended to provide the minimum level of consent and accompanying documentation. Participating agencies may develop more stringent policies to fit their organizational needs.

For agencies or programs where HIPAA applies, HIPAA requirements take precedence over both the HUD HMIS Data Requirements (as specified in those requirements) and these Policies and Procedures. Agencies and programs are responsible for ensuring HIPAA compliance.

Victim service providers and legal service providers that are recipients of funds requiring participation in HMIS, but do not directly enter data into an HMIS, must use a comparable database. A comparable database allows the collection of the aggregate data needed for reporting while respecting the sensitive nature of the client-level information if it complies with all HMIS data, technical, and security standards.

HMIS-participating Agencies will be given data entry access, but this does not necessarily include data sharing with other agencies. Law enforcement agencies and legal service providers receiving

funding that requires HMIS participation will be given data entry access only.

The HMIS Lead Agency reserves the right to remove HMIS Access if the access is not being used to improve service provision for clients or contributing meaningful data to the CoC. Examples of unacceptable uses of HMIS include but are not limited to:

- a. Using HMIS data to monitor the whereabouts or service utilization of participants for purposes outside of housing-focused case management
- b. Using HMIS data outside of a business need
- c. Using data in HMIS as a reason to not serve a client that is not related to eligibility criteria (i.e. substance use history, mental health issues, etc.)
- d. Sharing client identifying data with persons or groups that don't have access HMIS

Client Informed Consent and Confidentiality

Client Data will only be shared with Partner Agencies if the Client consents, has signed the [Release of Information Authorization \(Appendix II\)](#), and the signed Informed Consent & Release of Information Authorization is available on record. All Universal and Common Program Specific Data Elements from the current [HMIS Data Standards](#) should be collected, subject to client consent.

Additional data may also be collected to support other programs. Client confidentiality is further detailed in the HMIS Privacy Notice (Appendix I).

Client Enrollment Data (Entry and Exit Data)

Client program entry and exit dates should be recorded for all program participants. Entry dates should record the first day of services or program entry with a new program entry date for each period/episode of services. Exit dates should record the last day of residence in a program's housing before the participant leaves the shelter/housing or the last day a service was provided in a program. Note: Emergency Shelter Night-by-Night projects record bed nights in addition to Entry and Exit dates.

Data Timeliness

Per the [San Luis Obispo County CoC HMIS Data Quality Plan](#), HMIS data must be entered into HMIS in real time or within three (3) business days from the point of the event (intake/enrollment, service delivery, annual assessments, or exit/discharge).

Data Quality Plan

A Data Quality plan is a systematic approach for the CoC to establish and define data quality expectations. Data quality is a key component for HUD reporting purposes such as the System Performance Measures (SPM), Longitudinal Systems Analysis Report (LSA), Annual Performance Report (APR), Point-In-Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC), as well as reporting purposes for federal and state partners. In addition, HUD ties data quality to overall CoC competitiveness for funding.

In order to qualify as "participating in the HMIS," all HMIS Participating Agencies must meet the data quality benchmarks as described in the [San Luis Obispo County CoC HMIS Data Quality Plan](#). These benchmarks apply to all HMIS Participating Agencies, whether or not the agency provides the data directly into the HMIS or submits it to the HMIS Lead Agency for input into HMIS, including the following mandated projects: HUD Continuum of Care (HUD CoC) & Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), US Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Services for Veterans Families (VA SSVF), and US Department of Health and Human Services Runaway and Homeless Youth (HHS RHY) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Projects for Assistance in Transition from



Homelessness (SAMHSA PATH).

Data Quality Monitoring

The HMIS Lead will perform monthly data integrity checks on the HMIS data, which will include the following steps:

- Run latest version of the HUD Eva Data Quality Tool
- Notify Partner Agency Administrator of findings and timelines for correction;
- Re-run reports for errant agencies/programs, as requested. Follow up with Partner Agency Administrators if necessary;
- Notify Agency Executive Director if Partner Agency Administrators are not responsive to required corrective actions; and
- Notify HSOC Finance and Data Committee regarding any uncorrected data quality issues.

5.6 Release and Disclosure of Client Data

Client-specific data from HMIS may be shared with Partner Agencies only when the sharing agency has secured informed consent authorizing such sharing, as demonstrated by a signed HMIS Release of Information Authorization form, and only during such time that Client Informed Consent and Release of Information Authorization is valid (before its expiration). Other non-HMIS inter-agency agreements do not cover the sharing of HMIS data. Sharing of client data may be limited by program specific confidentiality rules.

The HMIS Release of Information Authorization (ROI) must constitute informed consent. The burden rests with the Partner Agency End User or intake counselor to inform the client about the purpose and function of HMIS data before asking for consent. As part of informed consent, a Privacy Posted Notice must be posted in the intake area explaining the reasons for collecting the data, the client's rights regarding data collection, and any potential future uses of the data. An example of such a sign may be found on the HMIS website.

Partner Agency End Users must obtain a new signed ROI and enter it into HMIS if the client's original release has expired.

No client-specific data will be released or shared outside of the Partner Agencies unless the client gives specific written permission or unless withholding that information would be illegal. Note that services may NOT be denied if client refuses to sign Release of Information Authorization or declines to state any information. Regulation specific to law enforcement and legal data sharing is provided in the section for Collection and Entry of Client Data.

Aggregate data that does not contain any client-specific identifying data may be shared with internal and external agents without specific permission. Demographic thresholds will be considered to ensure that subpopulation breakouts do not inadvertently identify a household or individual. This policy should be made clear to clients.

HMIS Privacy Posted Notice

HUD's HMIS Privacy and Security Standards specify the guidelines for the privacy and security of personal information collected and stored in an HMIS. The standards require each covered HMIS Participating Agency to publish a [HMIS Privacy Posted Notice](#). The standards establish baseline privacy requirements for the HMIS Participating Agencies. A HMIS Participating Agency must post



a sign at each intake desk (or comparable location) that explains generally the reasons for collecting this information. Consent of the individual for data collection may be inferred from the circumstances of the collection.

HMIS Privacy Notice

The [HMIS Privacy Notice](#) applies to all San Luis Obispo County CoC HMIS Participating Providers and addresses how information about clients may be used and disclosed at Providers as well as client rights over their information. The HMIS Privacy Notice may be amended at any time, and amendments may affect information obtained before the date of the amendment. The agency will provide copies of the privacy notice to any client upon request. The agency should also include a copy of the HMIS Privacy Notice on their organization website.

Clients' Rights to Data

A client shall have the right to receive a copy of HMIS data relating to their individual profile upon request.

Grievance Policy

Per the SLO County HMIS Privacy Notice, the client has the right to ask questions of, or submit grievances to, the provider regarding privacy and security policies and procedures.

The [HMIS Grievance Form](#) will be used for clients who feel their privacy rights have been violated by an HMIS Participating Agency. The form is to only be used after the client has worked with the agency to resolve an HMIS issue. The client will submit the form to the HMIS Lead and will be reviewed by the HSOC Finance and Data Committee to recommend resolution between client and agency.

5.7 Training

HMIS Orientation

All users accessing HMIS must first complete the San Luis Obispo CoC HMIS training. Training includes videos, written material, and quizzes located on the Homeless Services training website. The CoC and HMIS Lead Agency reserve the right to improve and innovate training procedures so long as reasonable and ample notice is provided for HMIS Partner Agencies and end users. Users will receive a link to access this site once they have been enrolled by and Agency Administrator as described in the New User Enrollment section of this document.

Training for privacy and security measures will occur annually, and all participating agencies and users must participate. Additionally, users must attest to their knowledge and application of the privacy and security measures.

Live Training

The Partner Agency Administrator will coordinate with the HMIS Lead to schedule any additional live trainings with the HMIS vendor and/or HMIS Lead Staff. Live, virtual training will also be coordinated for any HUD Data Standard updates or other system changes. All users will be expected to attend these trainings or view a recording if one is made available.

5.8 Technical Support

Technical support includes issue reporting, requests for enhancements (features), or other HMIS-related requests. The HMIS Lead will only provide support for issues specific to the HMIS software and systems, not for technical support of hardware being used by HMIS users.

Request for Support

End Users should submit support requests to their Partner Agency HMIS Administrator, who may escalate the request to the HMIS Lead Agency, who may in turn escalate the request to the HMIS software vendor as appropriate. Under no circumstances should End Users submit support requests directly to the HMIS software vendor.

The user should evaluate the immediacy of the issue. If the user needs immediate resolution of the issue because the issue is hindering the user from being able to enter the data into the system, the user should contact the HMIS Lead at ss_hmissupport@co.slo.ca.us. When submitting a request to the HMIS Support inbox, only one issue should be contained per email. This will allow Support staff to more efficiently assign or escalate items.

Most common emergent issues are a forgotten password, a password that is not working, or the user is trying to access the system from a computer that an individual has not accessed the system from before. Forgotten passwords can be resolved using the “Forgot Password” button on the software landing screen.

HMIS Office Hours

HMIS End Users and Agency Administrators are encouraged to attend monthly HMIS Office Hours. These will be held virtually and will be an opportunity for users to bring questions or concerns to the HMIS Lead. Calendar invitations will be sent to new and existing users through the ss_hmissupport email.

6. Changes to The Policies and Procedures and Other Governance Documents

Revisions

The HMIS Lead will seek approval for revisions of all HMIS documents in consultation with the HSOC Finance and Data Committee. Final approval of changes to the HMIS Policies and Procedures will be granted by a vote at the Full HSOC Committee.

Distribution

A copy of the revised Policies and Procedures document will be distributed to the partner agencies. Partner Agencies will be asked to sign a receipt acknowledging they have received the revised Policies and Procedures. It is the agency’s responsibility to make sure everyone participating in the HMIS has access to a copy of the document, reads it, understands it, and agrees to comply with it. If anyone participating in the HMIS has issue with any revision, they may contact the HMIS Lead and voice their concern. They must, however, comply with the revisions or stop using the system until the issue is resolved.

7. Other Obligations and Agreements



The San Luis Obispo County CoC will decide funding responsibilities for additional licenses as the needs arise. While it may not be possible to meet every Partner Agency's request for End User licenses with the existing funding, the HMIS Lead Agency, in partnership with the Continuum of Care, will endeavor to ensure that every Partner Agency will have its minimum requirements met.

Appendix I- Privacy Notice

San Luis Obispo County HMIS Privacy Notice

This Privacy Notice applies to all San Luis Obispo County HMIS-Participating Providers and addresses how information about you (client) shall be used and disclosed by Providers as well as rights over your information. This notice establishes minimum standards by which the Providers must follow. Providers may implement more stringent rules and procedures. This Notice may be amended at any time, and amendments may affect information obtained before the date of the amendment.

1. HMIS DATA COLLECTION & PURPOSE

A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a local information technology system used to collect data on the housing and services provided to individuals and families experiencing homelessness and persons at risk of homelessness. This information is critical to better understand the extent and nature of homelessness at a local level, evaluate program effectiveness, and improve future housing and service provision. Providers may also be required by their funders to obtain certain additional information to determine eligibility, and to monitor outcomes.

This agency is an HMIS-participating homeless service provider (“HMIS Provider”). We collect information about the persons we serve in the shared County HMIS (HMIS) database. The agency shall only collect information deemed appropriate and necessary for program operation or information that is required by law or by the organizations that fund this program.

2. CONSENT

Through HMIS, we share your name, date of birth, age, gender, veteran status, and partial SSN (“Standard Information”) with other HMIS Providers, unless you indicate that you do not want your Standard Information to be visible or tell an agency to mark your “Profile/Name” as private. You are still eligible for services if you refuse to have your standard information shared in HMIS.

Personal and Health Information: If you choose to sign the HMIS Consent for Release of Information (ROI), we will also share your enrollment information, which may include personal health information and information about your race, ethnicity, disabling conditions, previous residence history, employment history, substance abuse, sexual orientation, educational history and more. Your Standard Information and any information you release in your ROI is referred to as your Personally Identifiable Information (PII). This information will be visible in HMIS and may also be exchanged on paper, verbally or electronically based on uses and disclosures below.

Written consent to share your data in HMIS should be obtained at your first in-person meeting with the provider. Written consent may be obtained using the Electronic HMIS Consent for Release of Information, which indicates your consent to share your information.

Verbal consent to share your PII may only be obtained if the interaction meets the following criteria:

- The visit is not in person or not in a place conducive to paper or electronic signature.
- Agency staff reviews (or reads, if not in person) the Privacy Notice with you (posted at intake desk, on clipboard, via electronic methods or comparable location). An electronic link to the privacy notice can be found here ([link](#)).
- You verbally agree to provide and share personal information.
- Agency staff complete the Verbal Consent record in HMIS, attesting to their compliance with the procedure above.

3. PERMITTED USES AND DISCLOSURES

HMIS is designed to protect the confidentiality of personal information while allowing for reasonable, responsible, and limited uses and disclosures of data, including Personally Identifying Information Once collected, we (as an HMIS Provider) have obligations about how these data may be used and disclosed (**uses** are internal activities for which providers interact with your PII; **disclosures** occur when providers share PII with an external entity). **We may use and disclose your PII only for the following purposes:**

To fulfill HUD Requirements:

- (1) To allow you to access to your information; and
- (2) Disclosures for oversight of compliance with HMIS privacy and security standards.
- (3) To provide or coordinate services to an individual or household;
- (4) For functions related to payment or reimbursement for services;
- (5) To carry out administrative functions, including but not limited to legal, audit, personnel, oversight and management functions;
- (6) For creating de-identified reporting from PII;

Additional Uses and Disclosures: We may use or disclose your Personally Identifying Information for other reasons, even without your permission. Subject to applicable federal or state law, we are permitted to disclose your Personally Identifying Information without your permission for the following purposes:

- (7) Uses and disclosures required by law;
- (8) Uses and disclosures to avert a serious threat to health or safety;
- (9) Uses and disclosures about survivors of abuse, neglect or domestic violence;
- (10) Uses and disclosures for research purposes; and
- (11) Uses and disclosures for law enforcement when a subpoena is provided.

HMIS Providers must also ensure that **any use or disclosure does not violate other applicable local, state, or federal laws**. Therefore, some HMIS Providers **may have more restrictive privacy policies**, often dependent upon funding source or the nature of a projects. Specific, per-project information regarding data use and disclosure can be obtained upon request. This can include agencies that must comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). In these instances, the more restrictive policies take precedence.

4. UNDERSTANDING YOUR RIGHTS

HMIS recognizes every independent legal adult (person over 17 years of age) as the owner of all information about themselves, and any parent, legal guardian, or legal power of attorney as the designated owner of all information about any household members under their guardianship (all minors and any incapacitated/disabled adults).

By seeking assistance from this HMIS Provider and consenting to your personal information being shared within the HMIS, you transfer governance responsibility over your HMIS record to us, and we are responsible for handling your record in accordance with HMIS privacy policies and any applicable federal, state, or local requirements. You retain ownership of your information within your HMIS record, and as owner **you have the following rights, in general:**

- Your refusal to share information will not be used to deny you services at this agency.
- You have a right to see your information, request to change it, and have a copy of your information from the servicing agency by written request. You may also request assistance from this agency in documenting your history of homelessness to qualify for certain programs. An agency can refuse to change information but must provide you with a written explanation of the refusal within 60 days of the request¹

¹ We can deny a request to inspect or copy your PII for the following reasons: (1) *Provider Right to Deny Review: if information is compiled in reasonable anticipation of litigation or comparable proceedings;* (2) *if information about another individual other than the participating provider staff would be disclosed;* (3) *if information was obtained under a promise of confidentiality other than a promise from this provider and disclosure would reveal the sources of the information;* or (4) *if the disclosure of information would be*

- Any information you provide related to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, familial status, and actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status will not be used in any way that would discriminate against you or prevent you from receiving services or housing assistance. You have the right to file a complaint if you feel that you have been discriminated against.
- You may request a copy of this Privacy Notice and other agency policies that explain HMIS and your rights associated with how information is kept and shared through HMIS.
- You may request that a provider mark your personal data as private (not shared) within HMIS; and
- You may withdraw your consent to share at any time by writing to the staff identified in our Agency Privacy Notice. However, any information already shared with another agency cannot be taken back. Your request to discontinue sharing will have to be coordinated between sharing partners. You should tell each agency that you work with when you withdraw your consent.
- The confidentiality of your records is protected by law. This agency will never give information about you to anyone outside the agency without your specific written consent through this release or as required by law (The regulations are the Federal Law of Confidentiality for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patients, (42 CFR, Part 2) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA), 45 CFR, Parts 160 & 164) and applicable California laws.
- **You should expect to provide additional, prior written consent for any use or disclosure of HMIS PII not included in the permitted uses and disclosures above.**

5. Requests and Grievance Policy

Agency Requests and Grievance

If you feel your privacy rights have been violated, or to request changes or copies of your records, please submit a written request to this agency:

INSERT AGENCY NAME and ADDRESS C/O
Or Via Email to: [INSERT AGENCY EMAIL](#)

Escalated Grievance Policy

The [HMIS Grievance Form](#) or a similar written format can be used if you feel your privacy rights have been violated by an HMIS Participating Agency. An escalated grievance is to only be used after you have worked with the agency to resolve an HMIS issue and that resolution was not satisfactory.

You will submit this form to the HMIS Lead and will be reviewed by the designated Homeless Services Oversight Council Committee to recommend resolution between you and the agency.

It is against the law for any agency to take retaliatory action against you if you file this grievance. You can expect a response within 30 days via the method of your choice.

Grievances may be submitted in writing to:

County of San Luis Obispo Dept of Social Services
Attn: HMIS Lead
3433 S. Higuera St San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Or
Via Email to: SS_HMISSupport@co.slo.ca.us

reasonably likely to endanger the physical safety of any individual; and we can reject repeated or harassing requests for access or correction.

Appendix II- Consent for Release of Information

San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care Homeless Management Information System

Consent for Release of Information

The San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a secure database used to collect data on the housing and services provided to individuals and families experiencing homelessness and persons at risk of homelessness. Providers participating in a HMIS are required to collect universal data elements from all clients, including Personally Identifying Information, demographic characteristics, and residential history. This information is critical for providers and communities to better understand the extent and nature of homelessness at a local level, evaluate program effectiveness, and improve future housing and service provision. Some providers are also required by their funders to obtain certain additional information to determine eligibility, and to monitor outcomes. Most federally-funded homeless service providers are required to participate and record the clients they serve in an HMIS. This Agency participates in HMIS and shares information with other HMIS Participating Agencies to help coordinate the most effective services for you and your household members.

What information is shared in HMIS?

Standard Information	Personal and Health Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name • Date of Birth • Age • Gender • Veteran Status • Partial SSN • Race and Ethnicity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabling Conditions, including substance use disorder and mental health conditions • Health Insurance • Homeless History • Employment Status • Sexual Orientation • Educational History • Domestic Violence Survivor data, if applicable.

How your information will be used?

- To provide or coordinate services on behalf of an individual or household;
- For payment or reimbursement for services;
- To carry out administrative functions, including but not limited to oversight and management functions; or
- For creating summary reports without identifying you or confusing you with someone else
- For additional, specific uses defined in the HMIS Privacy Policy.

Who can have access to your information?

Your information will be shared with other San Luis Obispo CoC HMIS Participating Agencies that agree to maintain the security and confidentiality of the information. A list of HMIS Participating Agencies is available upon request.

How is your personal information protected?

The information that is collected in HMIS is protected by limiting access to the database and by limiting with whom the information will be shared, in compliance with the standards set forth in federal, state and local regulations governing confidentiality of client records. Each person and agency that is authorized to read or enter data into HMIS has signed an agreement to maintain the security and confidentiality of the information. HMIS data is secured by passwords and encryption technology.

By signing this form, you understand and agree that:

- Your refusal to share information will not be used to deny you services at this agency.
- You have a right to see your information, request to change it, and have a copy of your information from the servicing agency by written request. You may also request assistance from this agency in documenting your history of homelessness to qualify for certain programs. An agency can refuse to change information but must provide you with a written explanation of the refusal within 60 days of the request.
- Any information you provide related to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, familial status, and actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status will not be used in any way that would discriminate against you or prevent you from receiving services or housing assistance. You have the right to file a complaint if you feel that you have been discriminated against.
- You may request a copy of this Privacy Notice and other agency policies that explain HMIS and your rights associated with how information is kept and shared through HMIS.
- You may request that a provider mark your personal data as private (not shared) within HMIS; and
- You may withdraw your consent to share at any time by writing to the staff identified in our Agency Privacy Notice. However, any information already shared with another agency cannot be taken back. Your request to discontinue sharing will have to be coordinated between sharing partners. You should tell each agency that you work with when you withdraw your consent.
- The confidentiality of your records is protected by law. This agency will never give information about you to anyone outside the agency without your specific written consent through this release or as required by law (The regulations are the Federal Law of Confidentiality for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patients, (42 CFR, Part 2) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPPA), 45 CFR, Parts 160 & 164) and applicable California laws.
- **You should expect to provide additional, prior written consent for any use or disclosure of HMIS PII not included in the permitted uses and disclosures above.**

SIGNATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Your signature indicates that you have read (or been read) this client consent form, have received answers to your questions, and you willingly consent to have your information, and that of your minor children or dependents (if any), entered into the HMIS database. You also consent to share your information with other participating organizations as described in this consent form.

CLIENT NAME

SIGNATURE OF CLIENT

DATE

SPOUSE NAME

SIGNATURE OF SPOUSE

DATE

Signature of guardian or authorized-representative (when required): _____

Relationship to client: _____ Date signed by guardian/authorized representative: _____

This release of information also applies to the following dependents:

Last Name	First Name	Date of Birth

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)
ACTION ITEM
January 17, 2024**

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4.3.1

ACTION ITEM: Recommend Allocation of County Community Development Block Grant - Public Services funding (\$111,247), Home Investment Partnerships Program (\$81,531) Emergency Solutions Grant (\$138,431), County General Fund Support (\$379,000), and Permanent Local Housing Allocation funds (\$261,796) for county-wide homeless services programs as part of the 2024 Action Plan.

ACTION REQUIRED: Vote to establish the 2024 homeless services projects funding recommendations, to be presented at the Board of Supervisors, in April 2024 as part of the 2024 HUD Action Plan.

SUMMARY NARRATIVE:

Background

Allocation Determinations

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

The County of San Luis Obispo receives annual entitlement allocations of CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). These funds are awarded to states and other eligible jurisdictions to support community development and create more resilient communities. The County of San Luis Obispo and six participating cities (Arroyo Grande, Atascadero, Pismo Beach, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles) make up the Urban County of San Luis Obispo. HUD defines an urban county as a county that has a population of 200,000 or more with a preponderance of persons of low and moderate income.

Both CDBG, HOME, and ESG program funds are governed by the Urban County's five-year 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan (Con Plan). The Con Plan identifies the Urban County's goals and priorities which could be addressed through the award of the annual entitlement funds over a five-year period. The Con Plan is divided into five one-year Action Plans for the Urban County to address the Con Plan goals and needs. Established goals for the current (2020-2024) Consolidated Plan are as follows:

- Increase and Maintain Affordable Housing Stock
- Decrease Homelessness

Agenda Item 4.3.1

- Create Suitable Living Environments for Low to Moderate Income Persons through Public Facilities and Infrastructure Improvements
- Create Suitable Living Environments for Low to Moderate Income Persons through Public Services
- Invest in Economic Growth and Workforce Development

2024 HUD Entitlement funding estimates are established by averaging the last 3 years' allocations and reducing that average by 5%. Final funding allocation amounts are typically announced in the spring by HUD prior to the start of the upcoming Program Year. Funding recommendations will be allocated proportionately upwards or downwards based on the final HUD allocations.

General Fund Support

A total of \$379,000 in County General Fund Support (GFS) has been made available for homeless services operating costs, including warming centers and safe parking activities, as well as affordable housing development. All GFS awards are contingent on budget approval by the Board of Supervisors in June 2024 as part of the County's FY 2024-25 Annual Budgeting process.

Permanent Local Housing Allocation

This year's PLHA funding represents the fourth year of PLHA Program's 5-year Plan, as an ongoing State funding source from Senate Bill (SB) 2 "*Building Homes and Jobs Act*" for cities and counties to address their highest priority housing and homelessness needs. The State Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) estimates the County (on behalf of eligible agencies in the region) will receive \$747,789 in Year 4 PLHA funds in FY 2024-25. Of these funds, \$261,796 are reserved for homelessness services. The County's 5-year PLHA allocation totals \$5,235,012. The County has been awarded \$3,721,028 through year three. There is only \$1,513,984 in PLHA to be allocated for the remaining two years of the 5-year plan. The two remaining PLHA allocations will impact both FY2024/25 and FY2025/26 funding availability as there is a reduction of \$260,539 available for homeless services projects for FY2024/25 from the FY2023/24 PLHA award amount.

Applications Received

The 2024 Action Plan Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was released to potential applicants on October 6, 2023. A total of 12 applications were received for Public Services projects totaling \$4.8 million in requests. Per the funding estimates in the 2024 Action Plan NOFA \$1.0 million was available for applications for Public Services projects.

Agenda Item 4.3.1

Applicant	Project	Summary	# of persons to be served	Funding Request
5Cities Homeless Coalition	San Luis Obispo County Rapid Re-Housing/Homeless Prevention	5CHC's Housing Program braids available funding sources and with multiple sources of funds, 5CHC is able to target funds with differing eligibility criteria in order to maximize their use to serve those with the highest needs and greatest number possible. 5CHC's housing and stabilization services including landlord cultivation, case management support, and subsistence payments for rent, application fees and deposits to individuals, following a coordinated entry assessment and progressive engagement model. With these activities 5CHC will work to quickly identify and resolve barriers to gaining or maintaining housing.	62/ HH	\$ 407,358.00

Agenda Item 4.3.1

<p>5Cities Homeless Coalition</p>	<p>5CHC Outreach Program</p>	<p>People living on the streets are more than likely to suffer from poor health conditions that are generally neglected as far as treatment is concerned due to issues of poverty and ignorance. Increased prevalence of substance use in this population further adds to the concern of poor treatment outcomes. Unmet needs such as poverty, job concerns, and poor access to food supply add to mental stress and burden which lead to poor immunity, in the background of poor hygienic conditions. 5CHC engages to help clients overcome system complexities, provide basic necessities, and access appropriate service interactions.</p>	<p>300/ ppl</p>	<p>\$ 229,928.00</p>
<p>5Cities Homeless Coalition</p>	<p>5CHC Emergency Shelter Program</p>	<p>Those who experience homelessness face multiple barriers to securing permanent housing, including limited or no income. Working with 5Cities Homeless Coalition, guests receive a clean, safe place and support. This enables them to change their focus from crisis survival</p>	<p>317/ ppl</p>	<p>\$ 1,984,105.00</p>

Agenda Item 4.3.1

		to addressing their barriers to permanent housing and identifying opportunities. Guests will have the opportunity to meet regularly with their case manager and attend educational sessions to develop life-skills, money management, job training, improve their health, as well as qualifying for disability (if appropriate) and any appropriate entitlements.		
City of Atascadero	Youth Scholarships	The City of Atascadero has established a youth scholarship fund designed to assist low-income families to allow children to participate in organized recreation, social and cultural activities. The population served would be otherwise unable to afford the activity fees to participate in the activities of choice. The city applies the income guidelines published by HUD adjusted for family size, as qualifying criteria to decide scholarship awards.	50/ ppl	\$ 12,500.00

Agenda Item 4.3.1

<p>Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc.</p>	<p>Prado Homeless Services Center</p>	<p>The Prado Homeless Services Center (Prado HSC) in San Luis Obispo offers an access center and emergency shelter services, meals, showers, health screenings at the CHC on-site clinic, services to dual-diagnosed individuals, recuperative care for those recently released from the hospital, animal kennels, a community garden, laundry, internet access, and a mail and message center to facilitate job and housing searches. Case managers and staff assist clients in creating individualized plans with set goals and objectives to obtain housing and self-sufficiency.</p>	<p>700/ ppl</p>	<p>\$ 891,985.00</p>
<p>Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County, Inc.</p>	<p>Adult Day Center</p>	<p>The Adult Day Center (ADC) in Paso Robles provides a quality, stimulating environment to assist low-income adults with early stage Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and other cognitive impairments to maintain their highest level of cognitive functioning. Open Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM and provides</p>	<p>30/ ppl</p>	<p>\$ 14,500.00</p>

Agenda Item 4.3.1

		a social model day program with activities that are designed to maximize the living skills and abilities of participants based upon a sliding fee scale. ADC also offers caregiver respite and conducts community outreach and education regarding Alzheimer’s disease, aging, and caregiving issues.		
El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO)	ECHO Atascadero and ECHO Paso Robles Shelter Services	ECHO operates two Navigation Centers with overnight shelters, ECHO Atascadero and ECHO Paso Robles, to house residents from throughout San Luis Obispo County. Requested funds from CDBG, ESG, PLHA, and GFS will support shelter services at both sites, including shelter and outreach case management, shelter coordination, and volunteer coordination for 950 clients during the 2024-25 year. In addition to providing shelter, ECHO's Navigation Centers operate 90-day programs that support people experiencing homelessness in finding	950/ ppl	\$ 310,680.00

Agenda Item 4.3.1

		permanent housing. With this support, over 50% of clients find a home.		
Lumina Alliance	Emergency Shelter and Supportive Services for Sexual Assault and Intimate Partner Violence Survivors in San Luis Obispo County	The County of San Luis Obispo's GFS funding has supported Lumina Alliance's Emergency Shelter Program for more than a decade. ESG funding will allow our organization to bridge the growing gap between the countywide need for emergency support for SA/IPV survivors and our capacity to provide the necessary shelter and services. Our agency operates three emergency shelters in safe, confidential locations in Paso Robles, Atascadero, and SLO for survivors escaping SA or IPV.	228/ ppl	\$ 70,000.00

Agenda Item 4.3.1

<p>Mission Community Services Corp - Women's Business Center SLO</p>	<p>Small Business Impact Project</p>	<p>The 'Small Business Impact Project' is an inclusive and empowering way to raise the economic, educational, and social levels of aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners, with a focus on women, low to medium-income individuals (LMI), minorities, veterans, active military and their families and all underserved communities. Through our technical assistance programing courses, workshops, and one on one consulting sessions, we will prepare small businesses to start, grow and thrive with resources and business resiliency. We will host a showcase for our clients to promote them to the community.</p>	<p>600/ ppl</p>	<p>\$ 65,000.00</p>
<p>Peoples' Self-Help Housing Corporation</p>	<p>Supportive Housing for San Luis Obispo residents</p>	<p>PSHH will provide clinical social services and case management of the Supportive Housing Program (SHP) to residents of PSHH's 28 affordable rental properties in San Luis Obispo County. The vast majority of households are classified as very-low</p>	<p>500/ ppl</p>	<p>\$ 76,743.00</p>

Agenda Item 4.3.1

		income, earning 50% or less AMI. Services are being held virtually and onsite at the properties where residents live, weekdays between 9 am and 6 pm. Services are free, confidential, always optional, and are provided by licensed and associate clinical social workers (LCSWs and ACSWs) reducing homelessness and building household resiliency and security.		
Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County	No-Cook Bags for Residents Experiencing Homelessness	"No Cook Bags" are bags of healthy, portable foods designed for the diverse homeless population of San Luis Obispo County. The name of the bags refers to the ability of their contents to be safely enjoyed without access to a stove, refrigerator, or kitchen equipment. Each No Cook Bag is carefully curated to contain a full day's supply of foods that meet the unique nutritional and dental challenges experienced by homeless residents, including shelf stable proteins, snack items, and nutritious drinks. These bags are distributed by community	3400/ ppl	\$ 20,000.00

Agenda Item 4.3.1

		<p>partners throughout San Luis Obispo County who work directly with people experiencing homelessness, including nonprofits, faith-based organizations, law enforcement agencies, and social service providers. Each No Cook Bag costs \$5.50 and contains one day's worth of food, enough for three meals and three snacks. We plan to distribute 3,400 bags per month in 2024 to meet increased demand from community partners and ensure that our unhoused neighbors have the food they need to survive.</p>		
<p>WeeCare, Inc. (DBA Upwards)</p>	<p>BOOST (Business Operation & Optimization Support Tools)</p>	<p>The BOOST Program provides business and technical assistance to childcare providers who run in-home daycares. They serve children ages 0-5 and up to age 13 with before/after school care. The program's goal is to expand economic opportunities for daycare providers by digitizing their entire operation, helping them reach maximum capacity through Upwards' centralized family</p>	<p>1400/ hh</p>	<p>\$ 800,000.00</p>

Agenda Item 4.3.1

		network, training them to use essential tools to make their operations more efficient, and more. This enables these microenterprise owners to reach their full revenue potential and stabilize their jobs in the childcare industry.		
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Selection Procedure:

Applications were considered and scored by a grant review committee in December 2023. The grant review committee considered the completeness of an application and how well the application meets the needs of the County per the (2020-2024) Consolidated Plan and the San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness (2022-2027). Evaluations were based on the following criteria:

PUBLIC SERVICES APPLICATIONS

Selection Criteria – NOFA	Points Available
Performance Outcomes and Improved Capacity	25
Applicant's Demonstrated Expertise and Understanding	25
Understanding of scope of work	15
Cost Effectiveness	10
Project Feasibility	10
Financial Feasibility and Long-Term Sustainability	10
Alignment with the San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to Address Homelessness	5
Total Points Available Per Application	100

The grant review committee also took into consideration the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan priorities identified from public feedback solicited from the Community Development Needs Assessment survey and public hearings at the County Board of Supervisors on December 12, 2023.

Agenda Item 4.3.1

Respondents from the online Community Development Needs Assessment survey ranked the priorities in order of importance as identified in the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan:

1. Create Housing Opportunities for Residents
2. Reduce the Number of Individuals/Families Experiencing Homelessness
3. Create Suitable Living Environments Through Public Services
4. Stabilize and Revitalize Neighborhoods Through Infrastructure Projects
5. Improve Education and Job Readiness

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

There were six applications for the County's portion of CDBG Public Services funds, totaling \$1,043,288 in requests. \$111,247 was available for application. Of the requests received, CAPSLO and ECHO are recommended for funding for emergency shelter operations.

Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME)

There was one application for HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance totaling \$81,531. The balance of HOME funding is recommended for affordable housing development. 5CHC is recommended for funding for a countywide Tenant Based Rental Assistance program.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Five applications were received for ESG, totaling \$352,625 in requests. \$138,431 was available for application. Of the requests received, CAPSLO and ECHO are recommended for funding for emergency shelter operations.

General Fund Support (GFS)

There were eight applications for the General Fund Support (GFS) grants, totaling \$2,495,977 in requests. \$379,000 was available for application. Recommended projects include 5CHC street outreach, CAPSLO, ECHO and Lumina for emergency shelter operations and the SLO Food Bank's No-Cook Bags program.

Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA)

Four applications were received for PLHA funding, totaling \$646,216 in requests. \$261,796 was available for application. Recommended projects include 5CHC street outreach, 5CHC, CAPSLO, and ECHO for emergency shelter operations.

The HSOC recommendations for these funds will go to the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors as a public hearing item in April 2024 for final approval of the 2024 Action Plan to be submitted to HUD.

Agenda Item 4.3.1

Recommended Projects

PROJECT	CDBG		ESG	HOME	General Fund Support	PLHA	Total Recommendation	% diff from 2023 to 2024	2023 Award
	Cities	County							
40 Prado (CAPSLO)	\$47,887	\$76,247	\$87,751		\$135,036	\$40,545	\$387,466	-17%	\$469,549
Atascadero & Paso Robles Shelter Services (ECHO)	\$17,591	\$35,000	\$50,680		\$72,500	\$94,580	\$270,351	-11%	\$304,260
Countywide Homeless Prevention, Rapid Re-Housing, Subsistence payments (5CHC)	\$46,380			\$81,531			\$127,911	3%	\$123,838
Street Outreach (5CHC)					\$114,964	\$66,456	\$181,420	-20%	\$226,880
Emergency Shelter (5CHC)						\$60,215	\$60,215	-3%	\$61,907

Agenda Item 4.3.1

ES & Supportive Services for Domestic Violence Survivors (Lumina)					\$39,000		\$39,000	-13%	\$45,000
No Cook Bags (SLO Food Bank)					\$17,500		\$17,500	-13%	\$20,000
	\$111,858	\$111,247	\$138,431	\$81,531	\$379,000	\$261,796	\$1,083,863	-13%	\$1,251,434.07

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This will have no financial impact on the HSOC. Should the Board approve the HSOC’s recommendations, it will result in approximately \$1,083,863 being made available for homeless services through these funding sources.

STAFF COMMENTS:

As there was a reduction of \$260,539 available for homeless services projects for FY2024/25 from the FY2023/24 PLHA award amount, none of the recommended projects are equal to FY2023/24 award amounts. Of the applications recommended by the grant review committee, FY2023/24 awards were taken into consideration for an equitable distribution of funding with the goal of making the projects viable with the reduction in funding. The grant review committee was supportive of People’s Self Help Housing Supportive Housing for San Luis Obispo residents project, however the small amount that was determined available for allocation of this project based on FY2023/24 awards, was allocated to the shelter projects to offset the reduction of available funding.

The County will release the Draft Funding Recommendations via social and printed media, including a publication in the Tribune. A 30-day public review and comment period will ensue upon the release of the draft funding recommendations and

Agenda Item 4.3.1

will allow staff to receive public comments on the draft recommendations. Following the 30-day public comment and review period, the participating cities will consider and approve their CDBG recommendations at their respective city council meetings. Then recommendations will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for inclusion in the 2024 Action Plan. The Action Plan is then submitted to HUD for approval.

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)
ACTION ITEM
January 17, 2024**

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4.3.2

ITEM: VOTE TO RECOMMEND FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR THE HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM ROUND 3 AND 4 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ACTION REQUIRED:

1. Vote to recommend the Homeless Housing, Assistance Prevention Program Round 3 funding be prioritized for:
 - a. Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers
 - b. Delivery of permanent housing and innovative housing solutions, such as hotel and motel conversions.
 - c. Prevention and Shelter Diversion
 - d. Interim Sheltering
2. Vote to recommend the Homeless Housing, Assistance Prevention Program Round 4 funding be prioritized for:
 - a. Delivery of permanent housing and innovative housing solutions, such as hotel and motel conversions.
 - b. Prevention and Shelter Diversion
 - c. Interim Sheltering

SUMMARY NARRATIVE:

HHAP-3

In 2022, the County was notified that the County and the San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care (CoC) would receive funding under Round 3 of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program from the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. Per the HHAP-3 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), HHAP-3 provides funding to Counties and CoCs “to continue to build regional coordination and a unified regional response to reduce and end homelessness informed by a best-practices framework focused on moving homeless individuals and families into permanent housing and supporting the efforts of those individuals and families to maintain their permanent housing.” HHAP-3 differed from prior rounds in that it required communities to set performance goals and submit performance data from HMIS that will be used to determine eligibility for a performance bonus in 2024 for communities that meet the goals set out in their applications.

Agenda Item 4.3.2

HHAP-3 funds were distributed to County and CoC jointly and are administered by the County as a single grant. A combined total of \$4,291,214.20 was awarded for the joint County/CoC grant and was distributed in two disbursements - an initial distribution of \$1,072,803.54 (or 25% of the total funds) was awarded in March 2022 and a second distribution of \$3,218,410.62 was awarded in November 2022. The initial disbursement was intended for grantees to utilize for systems improvements.

In September of 2022, the full HSOC authorized a set aside of up to \$5,000 of the initial disbursement to be used for training on trauma-informed care for local homeless services agencies, in partnership with the First Five of San Luis Obispo's Health Access Project.

In July 2023, the full HSOC authorized an allocation of up to \$1,067,804 of the initial disbursement be used for Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Improvements.

At least 10% of the total funds must be spent on homeless youth populations and no more than 7% of the total funds may be used by the County to administer the HHAP-3 program.

\$2,918,025.63 is available for project applications.

Eligible HHAP-3 uses include:

- Rapid rehousing, including rental subsidies and incentives to landlords, such as security deposits and holding fees.
- Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers. Operating subsidies may include operating reserves.
- Street outreach to assist persons experiencing homelessness to access permanent housing and services.
- Services coordination, which may include access to workforce, education, and training programs, or other services needed to promote housing stability in supportive housing.
- Systems support for activities necessary to create regional partnerships and maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system, particularly for vulnerable populations including families and homeless youth.
- Delivery of permanent housing and innovative housing solutions, such as hotel and motel conversions.
- Prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing, including rental subsidies.
- New navigation centers and emergency shelters based on demonstrated need.
- Improvements to existing emergency shelters to lower barriers and increase privacy.

The County prioritized the following eligible uses at application:

1. Operating subsidies
2. Systems Support
3. Delivery of Permanent Housing
4. Prevention and Shelter Diversion
5. Interim Sheltering

Agenda Item 4.3.2

HHAP-4

The State of California has established the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program Round 4 (“HHAP-4” or “Program”) pursuant to Chapter 6 (commencing with Health and Safety Code (HSC) section 50216) of Part 1 of Division 31 of the Health and Safety Code. (Amended by Stats. 2021, Ch. 111, Sec. 4. (AB 140) Effective July 19, 2021.) HHAP-4 provides flexible block grant funds to Continuums of Care, large cities (population of 300,000+) and counties to build on the regional coordination created through previous Cal ICH grant funding and support local jurisdictions in their unified regional responses to reduce and end homelessness.

The general purpose of the Program is to (1) reduce homelessness by expanding or developing local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges informed by a best-practices framework focused on moving homeless individuals and families into permanent housing and supporting the efforts of those individuals and families to maintain their permanent housing; and (2) continue to build on regional coordination developed through previous rounds of HHAP funding (Chapter 6 (commencing with HSC section 50216)).

Under Round 4, the County of San Luis Obispo was eligible to receive \$1,805,880.62 and the San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care (CoC) was eligible to receive \$1,924,802.21.

A public hearing was held on November 16, 2022, with the HSOC to review the HHAP-4 outcome goals, strategies, and funding priorities. On November 29, 2022, the Homeless Services Division submitted a joint application for HHAP-4.

HHAP-4 will be provided in two disbursements. On March 29, 2023, the County received an award letter for the initial disbursement in the amount of \$1,865,341.41. The initial disbursement was 50% of the total HHAP-4 allocation. The remainder of the disbursement will be disbursed upon confirmation of having contractually obligated 75% AND expended 50% of the funds already received (the first disbursement) by May 31, 2025.

At least 10% of the total funds must be spent on homeless youth populations and no more than 7% of the total funds may be used by the County to administer the HHAP-4 program.

\$1,734,767.51 is available for project applications.

Eligible HHAP-4 uses include:

- Rapid rehousing, including rental subsidies and incentives to landlords, such as security deposits and holding fees.
- Operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters, and navigation centers. Operating subsidies may include operating reserves.

Agenda Item 4.3.2

- Street outreach to assist persons experiencing homelessness to access permanent housing and services.
- Services coordination, which may include access to workforce, education, and training programs, or other services needed to promote housing stability in supportive housing.
- Systems support for activities necessary to create regional partnerships and maintain a homeless services and housing delivery system, particularly for vulnerable populations including families and homeless youth.
- Delivery of permanent housing and innovative housing solutions, such as hotel and motel conversions.
- Prevention and shelter diversion to permanent housing, including rental subsidies.
- Interim sheltering, limited to newly developed clinically enhanced congregate shelters, new or existing noncongregate shelters, and operations of existing navigation centers and shelters based on demonstrated need.
- Improvements to existing emergency shelters to lower barriers and increase privacy.

The County prioritized the following eligible uses at application:

1. Delivery of Permanent Housing
2. Prevention and Shelter Diversion
3. Interim Sheltering

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Approval of this item would allow the County to solicit Requests for Proposals to allocate \$4,652,793.14 for use to assist persons at-risk of/ or experiencing homelessness.

STAFF COMMENTS:

The County will release a Request for Proposals for HHAP-3 and HHAP-4 at the end of January. Staff will bring back funding recommendations to the HSOC at the March 2024 meeting. Final funding recommendations will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in April 2024.

January 17, 2024

Ms. Adrienne Nash Melendez
Supportive Services for Veteran Families
Program Office National Center on
Homelessness Among Veterans
4100 Chester Avenue, Suite 201
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Subject: CoC Letter of Cooperation and Support for the Community
Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County application for a
Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program Grant.

Dear Ms. Melendez,

I write on behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC), which is the Continuum of Care (CoC) advisory body for our community. On January 17, 2024, the HSOC voted to support the application from the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County (CAPSLO) for a Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program Grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs. This grant would be used to continue to provide low-income Veterans and their families with supportive services, including housing assistance, case management, healthcare navigation, benefits assistance and other "wraparound" services, which will ultimately result in their obtaining and/or maintaining successful permanent housing.

CAPSLO is a leading service provider to over 30,000 low-income individuals and families in 11 counties. Their mission fits well with the goals of the SSVF Program - to empower low-income individuals and families to achieve self-sufficiency through a wide variety of community-based services. CAPSLO's current SSVF Program has provided vital services to over 690 Veterans and their families over the past 9 years. This includes securing permanent housing for approximately 410 Veteran households and assisting over 150 Veteran households to remain in their homes through homeless prevention assistance. Their average time to house a Veteran household is well within the 90-day benchmark criteria set by USICH. This average time to house a Veteran household positively contributes to our community's progress towards ending Veteran homelessness in San Luis Obispo County.

CAPSLO's SSVF program has been a key part of our Continuum's effort to end veteran homelessness. In addition to the direct provision of assistance to homeless veterans as noted above, they played a critical role in helping our Continuum of Care to develop and maintain a master list of homeless Veterans that has helped us to better serve the Veterans in our community. They facilitate the monthly meeting of Homeless Veteran Service Providers to update the By Name List (BNL) and provide monthly outcomes to providers and the CoC. CAPSLO SSVF receives referrals from the CES and has adapted their screening and intake process to include the county's designated assessment tool to streamline services to individuals. CAPSLO SSVF has been an active participant in the

Point in Time (PIT) Count. Their knowledge of unsheltered homeless locations as a result of their targeted outreach efforts has been useful during the PIT count. The CAPSLO SSVF Program Manager sits on two committees for our CoC's Homeless Services Oversight Council, the Data and Finance Committee and the Homeless Services Committee. CAPSLO SSVF also provided input during our 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness process that was specific to the Homeless Veteran population.

It is vital to the Veterans in our county that CAPSLO's SSVF program continues without interruption. The San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care supports CAPSLO's application and if they are funded, will continue to work with them towards the goal of ensuring that Veteran homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring in our County.

Sincerely,

(Insert Name)

San Luis Obispo County Homeless Services Oversight Council Chair



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Devin Drake *Director*

January 17, 2024

Mr. John Kuhn
Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program Office
National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans
4100 Chester Avenue, Suite 201
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Subject: CoC Letter of Cooperation and Support for the Good Samaritan Shelter/5Cities Homeless Coalition application for a Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program Grant.

Dear Mr. Kuhn,

I write on behalf of the San Luis Obispo County Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC), which is the Continuum of Care (CoC) advisory body for our community. On January 17, 2024, the HSOC voted to support the Good Samaritan Shelter/5Cities Homeless Coalition (5CHC) application for a Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Program Grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs. This grant would be used to continue to provide low-income Veterans and their families with supportive services, including housing assistance, case management, and other "wraparound" services, which will ultimately result in their obtaining and/or maintaining successful permanent housing.

The Good Samaritan/5CHC SSVF project has been an important partner in the CoC's efforts to end veteran homelessness. In the last grant year, Good Samaritan/5CHC SSVF exceeded its service goals by a significant margin. With 80 Veteran households set as the target outcome, Good Samaritan/5CHC SSVF served 115 veteran households which would otherwise have no housing resources or support in our area. In the past fiscal year, Good Samaritan/5CHC SSVF has drastically increased outreach resulting in a large increase of referrals and Veterans being housed.

Good Samaritan/5CHC's SSVF project has instrumental in the CoC's effort to build a Master List of homeless veterans and coordinate the efforts of Veteran services providers. Through their efforts and those of their partners San Luis Obispo County is close to achieving functional zero for Veteran homelessness. It is vital to our CoC's effort to end veteran homelessness that Good Samaritan/5CHC's SSVF program be renewed without interruption, to maintain the momentum and progress made towards ending veteran homelessness.

The San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care supports Good Samaritan/5CHC's application and if they are funded, will continue to work with them towards the goal of ensuring that Veteran homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring in our County.

Sincerely,

HUD CoC Program Manager
County of San Luis Obispo