



## Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board Executive Summary

**Item:** Rating & Ranking Approval: 2021 Continuum of Care Competition Renewal and New Projects Priority List

**Date:** October 4, 2021

**Staff Contact:** Karissa White, Continuum of Care Coordinator, [Karissa.white@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karissa.white@sonoma-county.org)

Agenda Item Overview: The FY 2021 CoC Competition Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee has met several times since the local CoC Competition Renewal Evaluations began in March of 2021. The Ad Hoc Committee and staff met on October 1<sup>st</sup> to review new project applications, and to compile a final priority list for the FY2021 CoC Program Competition.

### Tier 1

Rank	Project	Type	Request Amount
1	Mill Street Supportive Housing	PSH - R	\$ 96,255.00
2	Sponsor Based Rental Assistance	PSH - R	\$ 253,256.00
3	PSH 2	PSH - R	\$ 632,281.00
4	Samaritan FACT	PSH - R	\$ 107,138.00
5	Chronically Homeless Persons with Mental Illness	PSH - R	\$ -
6	Community Based PSH	PSH - R	\$ 287,899.00
7	Youth with Disabilities	PSH - R	\$ 79,226.00
8	Sanctuary Villas	PSH - R	\$ 62,324.00
9	Rental Assistance – Persons with HIV/AIDS	PSH - R	\$ 643,414.00
10	Homeless with Chronic Health Problems	PSH - R	\$ -
11	Stony Point Commons	PSH - R	\$ 58,562.00
12	Sonoma SCIL	PSH - R	\$ 262,217.00
13	RRH for Vulnerable Survivors of DV	RRH - R	\$ 257,952.00
14	Reach for Home North County RRH	RRH - N	\$ 86,539.00
15	Coordinated Intake Expansion Project	CE- R	\$ 349,991.00
16	HMIS Expansion Project	HMIS - R	\$ 187,907.00
17	HMIS Expansion 2019	HMIS – N Exp	\$ 139,250.00
18	CCDSR PSH2 Exp	PSH – N Exp	\$ 143,000.00
19	SAY PSH	PSH – N Exp	\$ 47,273.00
20	SVDP Commons	PSH - N	\$ 302,100.00
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$ 3,996,584.00</b>

Ad Hoc Committee and Staff Recommendations:

Accept the 2021 Continuum of Care Competition Renewal and New Projects Priority List. All projects, including three new projects, are being recommended for full funding.



October 2, 2021

TO: Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board

FROM: Karissa White, Continuum of Care Coordinator and FY21 CoC Competition Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee

RE: Rating & Ranking Approval: 2021 Continuum of Care Competition Renewal and New Projects Priority List

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### **Overview**

On August 16, 2021, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) opened the FY 2021 Continuum of Care Competition. The full application is due to HUD on November 16, 2021. Local new and renewal projects were initially due to the Continuum of Care Coordinator on September 24, 2021, and extended with an addendum to the local Request For Proposals to September 28, 2021. Per the FY 2021 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), CoC's may apply for 5% of the Annual Renewal Demand (ARD equals \$3,996,584) for new Bonus Projects for Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Rehousing, Transitional Housing-Rapid Re-Housing, Coordinated Entry, or HMIS. As in 2019, HUD also released funding for Domestic Violence Bonus Projects, reflecting HUD's priority on serving victims of domestic violence. The Sonoma County Continuum of Care has received two (2) Domestic Violence projects in previous years, both awarded to the primary victim services provider, YWCA of Sonoma County. The amount available for 2021 is \$199,829 for Bonus Projects; the amount available for DV Bonus Projects is \$368,435. Additionally, new funding in the amount of \$ 503,912 is available for new projects created through reallocation of existing CoC Program funding. This funding was created as a result of the voluntary reallocation from two of the Sonoma County Community Development Commission's (SCCDC) projects Renewal Rental Assistance - Chronically Homeless Persons with Mental Illness (\$116,337) and Renewal Rental Assistance - Homeless with Chronic Health Problems (\$252,098), and through Reach for Home's North County RRH project partial reallocation (\$ 123,938).

This year, HUD is not requiring any funding to be placed at-risk and has confirmed that 100% of the ARD is available for applications. Thus, the total amount of funding available for tier one is 3,996,584, and the total amount in tier two includes the total amount of bonus funding not guaranteed to the community.

### **FY 2021 CoC Competition Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee & HUD Priorities**

As in years past, HUD requires local CoC's to rank and rate projects submitted in our annual consolidated application. In the Sonoma County CoC, these project priorities are generated by a scoring system, site visits, and interviews by an impartial CoC Competition Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee. Our local process took place from March – June 2021. Draft scores were generated during this time period for all renewal projects. Initial renewal scores were presented to the CoC Board at its meeting on June 23, 2021.

A Rating and Ranking Committee comprised of members of the CoC Board met on Friday, October 1st, to review all new projects and make recommendations to the CoC Board.

The Rating and Ranking Committee was staffed by Ending Homelessness Manager Michael Gause, CoC Coordinator Karissa White, HMIS Coordinator Daniel Overbury-Howland and Department Information Systems Technician II Adam Siegenthaler, Administrative Aide Madison Murray, and was comprised of the following CoC Board members:

- Ludmilla Bade, Lived Experience Representative
- Angela Struckmann, Department of Human Services (on vacation October 1<sup>st</sup>)
- Tom Schwedhelm, City of Santa Rosa
- Kevin McDonnell, City of Petaluma

Scoring was based on HUD's Priority on Ending Chronic Homelessness; HUD System Performance Measures (including length of time individuals/families remain homeless, increasing income, exiting to/retaining permanent housing); Budget & Cost Effectiveness; Project Design & Description; commitment to Housing First and Coordinated Entry; and Organizational Capacity & Experience. Additionally, the Ad Hoc Committee factored in Local Needs and Priorities such as prioritizing individuals experiencing chronic homelessness, collaboration with mainstream resource partners and corrections partners, serving core subpopulations such as transition age youth, veterans, and victims of domestic violence, and identified partnerships with health care organizations and Public Housing Authorities for new projects (as outlined in the NOFO). Scoring factors were also adjusted to ensure that agencies serving victims of domestic violence were treated equitably; for example, as agencies that serve survivors of domestic violence are prohibited from entering data into HMIS, the CoC Coordinator requested comparable data without identifying client information to analyze.

### **Bonus Project Applications**

No applications were submitted for Bonus Project funding.

The CoC Coordinator and Ending Homelessness Manager provided outreach to Renewal Applicants and potential new applicants, noticing via CoC Listserv, an internal homeless services providers email list, and extended the local deadline for submissions to attempt to receive additional new project applications.

### **New Projects Created Through Domestic Violence Bonus**

No applications were submitted for Bonus Domestic Violence Project funding.

The CoC Coordinator and Ending Homelessness Manager spoke with YWCA, a victim services provider already receiving CoC awarded through the Domestic Violence Bonus funding. The organization confirmed they were not interested in applying for additional funding at the moment. The YWCA has received two new projects within the last two competitions (2018 and 2019), with a combined total of \$257,952. The YWCA confirmed they are not interested in increasing funds this year. No other local victim services provider showed interest in this funding opportunity.

### **New Projects Created Through Reallocation**

Three applications were submitted for new projects through reallocated funding:

Catholic Charities Permanent Supportive Housing Santa Rosa 2 Expansion- Project Request \$143,000

Project Score: 88.95/100

Catholic Charities proposes to expand its current Permanent Supportive Housing Santa Rosa 2 (PSH 2) project to provide enhanced support services through a part-time Mental Health Clinician. This .5FTE will provide a

higher level of support to its current 38 residents located at the Palms Inn in Santa Rosa and their scattered sites in Guerneville and unincorporated County near Santa Rosa.

This project will expand services as there is a demand for a higher level of mental health service needs of individuals referred to the project through the Coordinated Entry System. This project will streamline access to behavioral health needs for residents of the PSH 2 project. The Ad Hoc Committee agreed with the project proposal to expand much-needed services on-site as providers serve the most vulnerable in the community.

The Committee was unanimous in supporting this project as the highest-ranked new project in the new project rankings, given the need for mental health supportive services.

SAY Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance Expansion- Project Request \$47,273

Project Score: 87.9/100

Social Advocates for Youth proposes to expand its current SAY Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance project to increase staffing support to provide an increased level of Staff to Client ratio. Additional staff will allow for increased time and decreased lapses in any client contact if the primary case manager is unavailable, which can be detrimental to the continuity of care for the youth.

The Ad Hoc Committee agreed with the project proposal to increase supportive services on-site as providers are serving the most vulnerable in the community.

The Ad Hoc Committee was unanimous in supporting this project as the second-highest ranked new project in the new project rankings.

St. Vincent de Paul Commons PSH- Project Request \$302,100

Project Score: 60.4/100

St Vincent de Paul proposes to provide 12 units of permanent supportive housing out of 54 total units at the Commons, a converted hotel project located in Santa Rosa. Through this proposal, the organization will provide supportive services to the individuals residing in 12 of the units at the Commons project and operational support.

St Vincent de Paul does not currently have CoC funding, though the CoC Coordinator has been providing technical assistance to the agency to assist them in learning the HUD CoC funding stream. Though the Ad Hoc Committee noted the need for additional PSH units in our homeless system of care, the application scored lower due to having a lack of details in several areas regarding project services, measurable outcomes, and conflicting information with the housing first model. Initially, the agency applied for a higher number of units, requiring only individuals being referred over with subsidized housing vouchers. Staff has reached out to the HUD SNAPS office on several occasions in terms of the eligibility requirements of this project, specifically having a voucher at the time of referrals.

Staff received conflicting information, but the SNAPS office did confirm the voucher requirement could be considered a precondition upon entry. Thus, the project would not be in line with housing first (required of this funding stream). The Ad Hoc Committee discussed the possibility of losing part of the CoC funds if this project was accepted and directed to staff to follow up with the agency. St Vincent confirmed they could manage their mortgage by reducing the number of units to 12 instead of 20. The agency hopes to identify

funding in the future to increase the number of units available to the CoC Program. Given this update, the project now meets Housing First requirements.

The Ad Hoc Committee confirmed their support for this project if the project could remove the requirement of having a subsidized housing voucher as an eligibility requirement. As noted above, staff received confirmation that the project could operate with 12 beds and meet eligibility requirements.

### **Recommendation for Rating and Ranking**

There is enough funding for all new projects created through reallocation this year to meet Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) and accept the three new projects, with \$11,539 remaining. The Ad Hoc Committee discussed several options to ensure the \$11,539 did not remain unallocated. The possibility of reaching out to providers with new projects to increase their funding amounts was also discussed. Since St Vincent de Paul was ranked last, if the other two projects increased their funding request to meet the bonus funding amount, this could result in a significant cut in their requested amount if Sonoma County CoC did not receive the bonus funding award. Since St Vincent de Paul was the only agency that applied with a new project, adding additional units to our CoC, the Ad Hoc Committee shared an interest in seeing this project accepted. The Ad Hoc Committee addressed concerns about this project's potential to lose its funding request, of approximately \$300,000, with strict eligibility requirements. The Ad Hoc Committee directed staff to confirm eligibility requirements with St Vincent de Paul and contact Reach for Home staff to see if they would reduce their amount of unallocated funding by \$11,539. As St Vincent de Paul adjusted their eligibility requirements and Reach for Home accepted an additional \$11,539 of their total request, the total ARD is met with the following recommendation. No new projects applied for bonus funding in this competition, which is not guaranteed funding.

### **The Ad Hoc Committee recommends:**

Fully fund the Catholic Charities Permanent Supportive Housing Santa Rosa 2 Expansion and place it in Tier 1, above the SAY Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance Expansion project for full funding in the FY 2021 CoC Competition.

Fully Fund SAY Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance Expansion, placing it into Tier 1, above the St. Vincent de Paul Commons PSH project for full funding in the FY 2021 CoC Competition.

Fully fund St. Vincent de Paul Commons PSH project as the lowest scoring new or renewal project and ranked last in Tier 1 for full funding in the FY 2021 CoC Competition.

The attached Rating and Rankings Document reflects the proposed final rating and rankings.



## Proposed FY 2021 Sonoma County Continuum of Care Ranking List

### Tier 1

Rank	Project	Type	Request Amount
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Total: \$ 3,996,584.00

Difference to Tier 1+Tier 2 Total: **\$199,829.00**

**Tier 1 Amount:** \$3,996,584.00

**Tier 2 Amount:** \$199,829.00

**Tier 1 + Tier 2 Total** \$4,196,413.00