



Sonoma County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board
Special Meeting
Agenda for September 06, 2023
2:00pm-3:30pm Pacific Time

Public Zoom Link:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/99261791880?pwd=djc0b1ZsU1FpOU1kbjJ0UDNOcUhfQT09>

Phone: 1 (669) 900-9128 **Webinar ID:** 992 6179 1880

Passcode: 650935

	Agenda Item	Packet Item	Presenter	Time
	Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions		Board Chair	1:00pm
1.	8/23/23 Agenda (Consent Calendar)	Draft Agenda	Staff	1:05pm
2.	CoC Program Competition Overview and New Project Scored (ACTION ITEM)	-Staff Report: CoC Competition & New Project Proposal Review	Staff	
3.	Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition Final Priority Listing Approval (ACTION ITEM)	-Staff Report: CoC FY 2023 CoC Competition Final Priority Ranking	Staff	
4.	Public Comment on Items not on the agenda		Board Chair	4:30pm

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment may be made via email or during the live zoom meeting. To submit an emailed public comment to the Board email Araceli.Rivera@sonoma-county.org. Please provide your name, the agenda number(s) on which you wish to speak, and your comment. These comments will be emailed to all Board members. Public comment during the meeting can be made live by joining the Zoom meeting using the above provided information. Available time for comments is determined by the Board Chair based on agenda scheduling demands and total number of speakers.

**Sonoma County CoC Board
Agenda Item Summary**

Item No: 3

Subject: Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition Overview and New Project Proposal Review

Meeting Date: August 30, 2023

Staff Contact: Karissa White, Continuum Care Coordinator, Karissa.White@sonoma-county.org

SUMMARY

On August 2nd, Sonoma County Department of Health Services staff released the [2023 Continuum of Care Competition Request for Proposals](#) for new projects to apply for potential funding from the Continuum of Care Program.

Three Technical Assistance (TA) sessions were held, along with several one-on-one meetings to discuss ideas for this potential funding. New project applications were due on August 23rd by 5:00 pm. Renewal projects were previously scored by the CoC Competition Evaluation (CCE) Workgroup and approved by the CoC Board.

The CCE Workgroup reviewed and scored the only new project applicant who applied during their final meeting on August 29, 2023. A numerical score of 89.39 was given for the application based on the new project scoring tool.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

1. Accept the West County Community Services Elderberry Commons new project into the funding competition as recommended and scored by the CCE Workgroup on August 29, 2023. The decisions on the Final Rating and Ranking of all new projects will be approved during the next agenda item, the Final Priority Listing recommendation.

DISCUSSION

On July 05, 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued the [Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for the 2023 Continuum of Care Program Funds. Within the NOFO, HUD lays out specific scoring criteria in which CoC's are scored on how we rate and rank our projects, our CoC's System Performance, the Homeless Count, the overall full CoC Application submitted by staff as the Collaborative Applicant.

After a review of the NOFO, staff determined the priorities from last year's New Project Scoring tool remained the same. There are specific sections in the NOFO in which certain criteria are weighted higher

than others. The CCE Workgroup approved the New Project scoring tool for this year's competition on July 25, 2023.

Staff held three separate TA sessions and had multiple phone calls with organizations interested in applying for new projects. Organizations interested in applying for new projects included:

2. Social Advocates for Youth
3. The Living Room
4. Committee on the Shelterless (COTS)
5. West County Community Services (WCCS)

Organizations that did not apply:

The Living Room expressed interest in applying for a Joint Transitional/Rapid Rehousing Project. However, after several emails and meetings, it was determined that the funding did not fit their current programming model. This included the requirement to utilize the Coordinated Entry System (CES) referral process, Housing First, and serving only women and children.

Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) expressed interest in expanding a current Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project. However, these funds are nationally competitive to receive bonus funding to fit the needs of the community, and we currently do not have many chronically homeless youth on the CES by-names list. Current Transitional Aged Youth PSH projects are having challenges filling their units with chronically homeless individuals from ages 18-24; thus, the project would not have been competitive to meet the needs of our community.

Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) was interested in the Joint Transitional/Rapid Rehousing Project. However, the agency reported that they were not currently ready to apply for another project.

The County of Sonoma's Department of Health Services received one new project that applied for CoC Bonus funding. WCCS submitted a PSH Project for the full amount of CoC Bonus funding to provide additional needed supportive services for the Elderberry Commons project. This project, located in Sebastopol, has 29 units to be dedicated to serving the chronic homeless population.

Because WCCS had already gone through the renewal evaluation process, certain materials had already been scored during the renewal process.

All application materials can be located using the following link (optional review, not required): <https://share.sonoma-county.org/link/aSblOo7afkU/>

The CCE Workgroup rated this proposal highly and confirmed that these supportive services align with the strategic plan to enhance services for our PSH projects. In addition, the CCE Workgroup noted that WCCS has ranked in the top 5 for the last 3 funding competitions and

scored at second this year, highlighting their ability to manage these complex HUD funds while being competitive.

While staff are still trying to work with the provider on the match submission for final applications (if accepted by the CoC Board), the agency has committed partnerships with Burbank, the property manager, who will also be providing security on site. Peer mental health supportive services are available to clients on-site and will also be working in partnership with the West County Health Center for medical care, all of which are outlined in HUD priorities for the last several years.

The CCE Workgroup and staff believe this project will be a competitive project for our Continuum of Care during this year's priority listing submission.



**Sonoma County CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup
Agenda Item Summary**

Item No: 3
Subject: Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition Final Priority Listing
Meeting Date: September 6, 2023
Staff Contact: Karissa White, Continuum of Care Coordinator, Karissa.White@sonoma-county.org

SUMMARY

As a requirement of the Continuum of Care Competition, CoC's are required to competitively rate and rank all projects applying for funds. This ranked list, which includes all renewing projects and new projects, is also known as the Final Priority Listing.

During the CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup meeting on 8/29/2023, the workgroup discussed the order in which to rank the new project Application with existing projects (renewals). The Workgroup approved the following Final Priority Listing for final approval by the CoC Board. Project applicants will be notified of their rank on or before September 11th to meet the required HUD deadline.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S)

1. Approve the CoC Final Priority Listing for renewal and new projects.

DISCUSSION

HUD's Tier 1 and Tier 2 Submission Process

Funds in Tier 1 are ultimately guaranteed if the project passes the basic threshold requirements of HUD. This year, HUD will put 7% of our Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) at risk and categorized as Tier 2. The total amount in Tier one this year is \$3,863,861.

Tier 2 funding includes the total ARD at risk, or \$290,828, and another \$290,828 available for new CoC Bonus project funding. Thus, the total amount possible for funding in tier 2 is \$581,656 (which would include the total amount of ARD at risk and potential CoC Bonus funding).

HUD awards Tier 2 projects based on several factors, including: the score in the overall collaborative application, the process for reallocating underperforming projects, system

performance, the described need for the project for the CoC and community, HUD's available funding for the competition, and our rating/ranking process for reviewing projects.

Projects at risk in Tier 2 include:

1. Buckelew Program Sonoma SCIL (Renewal Project)
 - a. Sonoma SCIL is partially at risk, meaning part of their funding is in Tier 1 and the other part of their funding is in Tier 2. Projects straddling tiers are typically funded at the full amount.
2. West County Community Services Elderberry Commons (New Project)
3. Buckelew Programs Samaritan FACT (Renewal Project)
4. Community Support Network's Sanctuary Villas (Renewal Project)

Reallocated Funding

On August 24th, Social Advocates for Youth decided not to accept a transfer of the Sonoma County Housing Authority (SCHA) Youth with Disabilities grant after initially agreeing to a transfer. The SCHA then decided to release the grant as it no longer has the capacity to administer the grant. This means that the total amount of funding for reallocation will be adjusted to \$80,666. Because new project applications have already been submitted, and we only received one application, the new project will revise its application during the review process to include a total of \$80,666 in reallocated funding and a total of \$210,162 in CoC Bonus funding. Only new projects can apply for the reallocated funding in the e-snaps application submission system. This reallocation of the project will increase our chances of receiving our full amount of ARD and make our new bonus project more competitive.

All projects in Tier 2 are at risk of potentially losing funding or not being funded. If our CoC loses any of these renewing projects, projects will still have the remaining contract term of 2023-2024 to wind down their projects or look for a new funding source to remain in operation. The current SCHA Rental Assistance Youth with Disabilities project will have a full year to wind down and has committed to assisting clients with other placements.

Ranking of the Final Priority Listing

During the CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup meeting on 8/29/2023, the workgroup recommended that the new project application be ranked at number 12. The workgroup noted the need for supportive services at the new Elderberry Commons project but did not want to risk losing the Buckelew Sonoma SCIL project, with 12 units dedicated to serving those with mental health conditions.

In addition, the workgroup emphasized the new project's provision of 29 units and the much-needed supportive services to ensure the project can operate effectively, which is aligned with the current strategic plan goals. This led to the recommendation to place the new project right after the Sonoma SCIL project. With this placement, the new project will still fall completely

into tier 2 funding but will be prioritized over the Buckelew Samaritan FACT and Community Support Network’s Sanctuary Villas project. These projects, ranked at 13 and 14 below, only have a total of 10 units combined, Samaritan FACT with six and Sanctuary Villas with four. Placing the new project ahead of these projects would still provide the CoC with a net gain of units with this placement, even if these two projects are not funded.

Final Priority Listing Recommendation

Rank	Project	Type	Request Amount	AMOUNT IN TIER 2
1	CoC Rental Assistance HIV/Aids SCHA	PSH - R	\$ 655,414	\$0
2	Mill Street Supportive Housing- WCCS	PSH - R	\$ 97,842	\$0
3	Community Based PSH-COTS	PSH - R	\$ 292,843	\$0
4	PSH 2- Catholic Charities	PSH - R	\$ 784,961	\$0
5	SAY Sponsor Based Rental Assistance	PSH-R	\$ 305,329	\$0
6	YWCA RRH for Vulnerable Survivors of DV	RRH-R	\$ 260,040	\$0
7	Stony Point Commons- CSN	PSH-R	\$ 59,334	\$0
8	St. Vincent de Paul Commons	PSH-R	\$ 303,360	\$0
9	County of Sonoma- Coordinated Intake Grant	SSO- CES	\$ 549,993	\$0
10	County of Sonoma- Homeless Management Information System Grant	HMIS	\$ 327,157	\$0
11	Sonoma SCIL- Buckelew	PSH-R	\$ 266,270	\$38,682.00
12	WCCS- Elderberry Commons	PSH-N	\$ 290,828	\$329,510.00
13	Samaritan FACT- Buckelew	PSH-R	\$ 108,926	\$438,436.00
14	Sanctuary Villas- CSN	PSH-R	\$ 62,554	\$500,990.00

Notes:

- PSH- permanent supportive housing
- SSO-CES- supportive services only for coordinated entry system
- HMIS- Homeless Management Information System
- R- renewal project (projects already in existence)
- N- new project

The Coordinated Intake and Homeless Management Information System grants are system mandates and evaluated outside this process. They are automatically placed into tier one.

The St. Vincent de Paul Commons project just received its grant from HUD and had not yet started to serve clients; thus, they were given a pass this year and placed into tier 1.