

Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2023 – Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus and CoC Bonus Projects Request for Applications (RFA)

The San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services (OHS), acting on behalf of the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership and the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), is requesting applications from nonprofit and local government organizations aiding homeless populations within San Bernardino County. The County of San Bernardino is a Housing First Continuum of Care (CoC) and is accepting new housing project applications that meet the requirements of the Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Projects and CoC Bonus Projects as identified in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 CoC Competition. The HUD NOFO FY 2023 CoC Competition may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=349091>. Successful applicant(s) will submit an application in HUD's electronic CoC Program Application and Grants Management System (known as "e-snaps") that will be submitted with the CoC Consolidated Application to HUD.

Coordination with Housing and Healthcare. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 directs HUD to provide incentives to create projects that coordinate with housing providers and healthcare organizations to provide permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing services. In the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition, CoCs may receive up to 14 points on the CoC Application if the FY 2023 CoC Priority Listing includes new project applications created through reallocation or the CoC Bonus that utilizes housing vouchers and healthcare provided through an array of healthcare services providers. See section V.B.6.a and b of the NOFO for additional details.

The CoC requires agencies to submit applications that demonstrate a partnership between housing, healthcare, and supportive services providers to expand housing options, such as permanent supportive housing, housing subsidies, and rapid rehousing.

Leveraging Healthcare Resources - A written Commitment from a healthcare organization with the value of the commitment and the date(s) healthcare resources must be included with the application.

Leveraging Housing Resources - Agencies must attach letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project.

IMPORTANT - Applicants interested in applying in response to the San Bernardino CoC FY 2023 CoC DV Bonus and CoC Bonus RFA must prepare the application when it is available in e-snaps. On Wednesday, July 5, 2023, HUD announced that the Project Applications should be available in e-snaps within the month. E-snaps is the electronic CoC Program Application and Grants Management System that HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) uses to support the CoC Program funding application and grant awards process for the CoC Program. Applicants must prepare the project application in e-snaps, create a PDF version of the e-snaps application and submit the PDF version of the application and attachments to homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov.

NEW TO E-SNAPS? Detailed instructions on how to create an account in e-snaps and access a Project Application in e-snaps can be found at the following link: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/> The CoC strongly encourages agencies that do not have an account in e-snaps to create an account in e-snaps even if the CoC Project Application has not yet been made available in e-snaps

The local deadline for electronic submission of the e-snaps PDF Application and attachments is no later than **2:00 p.m. (PDT) on Friday, August 11, 2023**. Applicants must prepare their application in e-snaps, create a PDF version of the e-snaps application and submit the PDF version of the application and attachments to homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov by **2:00 p.m. (PDT) on Friday, August 11, 2023**.

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- I. **New Projects for CoC Bonus. – An agency may apply for funding up to \$1,148,351 for new CoC Bonus projects.** Projects created through the CoC Bonus must meet the project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements established by HUD in Sections III.C.5.b and c of the NOFO. The CoC strongly encourages agencies to submit applications that will provide Permanent Housing, as stated in Section I.B.3.d of the NOFO, that coordinates with housing providers and healthcare organizations to provide permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing services. New CoC Bonus projects are subject to the limitation on new projects in Section III.B.4.b.3 of the NOFO. The following project components are eligible for New CoC Bonus Projects:
- Permanent housing-permanent supportive housing (PH-PSH) projects:
 - Permanent housing-rapid rehousing (PH-RRH) projects:
 - Joint Transitional Housing (TH) and Permanent Housing-Rapid/Re-housing (PH-RRH) component projects:
 - Dedicated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) project for the costs at 24 CFR 578.37(a)(4) that can only be carried out by the HMIS Lead: or
 - Supportive services only coordinated entry (SSO-CE) project to develop or operate a centralized or coordinated assessment system.

- II. **New Projects for DV Bonus – An agency may apply for funding up to \$1,640,501 for new DV Bonus projects.** Projects created through the DV Bonus must meet the project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements established by HUD in Sections III.C.5.b and c of the NOFO. The CoC strongly encourages agencies to submit applications that will provide Permanent Housing, as stated in Section I.B.3.d of the NOFO, that coordinates with housing providers and healthcare organizations to provide permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing services. New Projects that want to be considered for the DV Bonus Project, are projects that are dedicated to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who qualify under paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3 and subsequent HUD amendments as noted in Section I.A.3.f of the NOFO.

As described in Section I.B.2.b.13 in the NOFO, survivors of human trafficking may qualify as homeless under paragraph (4) of the homeless definition at 24 CFR 578.3 or section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and subsequent HUD amendments as noted in Section I.A.3.f of the NOFO because they are often also victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; however, **a DV Bonus project may not exclusively serve people fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking.**

New DV Bonus projects are subject to the limitation on new projects in Section III.B.4.b.4 of NOFO. The following project components are eligible for New DV Bonus projects:

- Permanent Housing-Rapid re-housing projects dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3 and subsequent HUD amendments as noted in Section I.A.3.f of the NOFO),
- Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects defined in Section III.B.2.r of the NOFO dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3 and subsequent HUD amendments as noted in Section I.A.3.f of the NOFO) or
- Supportive services only coordinated entry project to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

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III. New Expansion Projects – HUD will allow project applicants to apply for a new expansion project (see Section III.B.4.b.7 of the NOFO) through reallocation (if applicable), CoC Bonus, and DV Bonus processes to expand existing projects that will increase the number of units, persons served, services provided to existing program participants, or to add additional activities to HMIS and SSO-Coordinated Entry projects. If the new expansion project will expand an existing eligible CoC Program renewal project HUD will not fund capital costs (i.e., new constructions, rehabilitation, or acquisition) and will only allow 1-year funding requests.

An agency may apply for funding up to **\$1,148,351** if the New Expansion Project is created through the CoC Bonus. See Section I of this RFA for a list of eligible program components.

An agency may apply for funding up to **\$1,640,501** if the New Expansion Project is created through the DV Bonus Project. See Section II of this RFA for a list of eligible program components.

Project applicants intending to submit new project applications for the purposes of expanding an eligible renewal in the CoC Program must:

- Enter the grant number of the eligible renewal project, proposed for expansion, in the new project application,
- Indicate how the new project application will expand units, beds, services, persons served, or services provided to existing program participants, or in the case of HMIS or SSO-Coordinated Entry projects, how the current activities will be expanded for the CoC's geographic area, and
- Ensure the funding request for the expansion grant is within the funding parameters allowed under reallocation (if applicable), CoC Bonus, or DV Bonus available amounts.

Project applicants may expand an existing renewal project that is not currently dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that meet the definition of homeless (24 CFR 578.3 and subsequent HUD amendments as noted in Section I.A.3.f of the NOFO) to dedicate additional beds, units, persons served, or services provided to existing program participants to this population.

The new expansion project application must meet the project eligibility and project quality thresholds in Section III.C.5.b. and c of the NOFO. If the new expansion project exceeds the amount of funding available under the reallocation (if applicable) or Bonus processes, HUD will reduce the funding request to the available amount, which could affect the activities of the new expansion project. If both the new expansion project and the CoC Program renewal project it expands are conditionally selected for funding, one grant agreement incorporating both approved project applications will be executed. If the renewal project application is not conditionally selected for funding, the expansion project application will not be selected.

To apply for an expansion grant, project applicants must submit separate renewal and new project applications, and both must be ranked by the CoC with unique rank numbers.

IV. Matching Funds

A competitive application should include at least 25% match funds from sources outside of this grant's funding request. The recipient or subrecipient must match all grant funds, except for leasing funds, with no less than 25 percent of funds or in-kind contributions from other sources. 24 CFR 578.73

V. Application Requirements

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e-snaps is the electronic CoC Program Application and Grants Management System that HUD’s Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) uses to support the CoC Program funding application and grant awards process for the CoC Program. All applications created in response to this RFA must be completed **but not submitted** in e-snaps (do NOT select the “Submit” button”). Instead, the application must be exported from e-snaps as a PDF copy. A separate application for the CoC Bonus, New Expansion and Reallocation Project is required. An agency may not apply for the DV Bonus, CoC Bonus, New Expansion and Reallocation Project on the same application document.

VI. Application Submission

Submit the PDF copy of the completed Project Application created via e-snaps and attachments to the Office of Homeless Services @ homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov.

Applications submitted on or before the submission due date noted in Section IX in this document will be reviewed by the San Bernardino County Grant Review Committee (GRC). The GRC will make final recommendations to the ICH Board for submission to HUD.

VII. DV and CoC Bonus Scoring Guidelines

The San Bernardino County CoC 2023 - DV Bonus and CoC Bonus Projects Scoring Guideline can be accessed on the San Bernardino County Partnership website at the following link: <https://sbchp.sbcounty.gov/coc-grants/coc-competition-2023/>

VIII. Application Deadline

A separate Project Application, PDF version created in e-snaps, for each project must be submitted to the Homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov no later than **August 11, 2023, 2:00 p.m. (PDT)** to be considered for an award by the GRC.

IX. 2023 RFA Submission Timeline:

Submission Timeline:

San Bernardino County CoC 2023 DV and CoC Bonus Program Announcement and RFA is released	*Date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023
San Bernardino County CoC 2023 DV and CoC Bonus Project Workshop (Attendance is optional. Please RSVP by emailing homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov . Type “DV and CoC Bonus Project Workshop RSVP” in the subject line and include your name, phone number, and email address in the body of the email.)	*Date: Thursday, August 3, 2023 Time: 9:00 a.m.
Deadline for submission of questions PLEASE NOTE – ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA THE HOMELESSRFP@HSS.SBCOUNTY.GOV. OHS STAFF WILL NOT ANSWER INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONS	*Date: Friday, August 4, 2023 Time: 2:00 p.m. Submit Questions to: homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov

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PLEASE NOTE - Questions and Answers will be posted as an Addendum on the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership at the following link: https://sbchp.sbcounty.gov/	*Date: Tuesday, August 8, 2023 Time: 2:00 p.m.
Deadline for Electronic Submission for local Application Materials	*Date: Friday, August 11, 2023 Time: 2:00 p.m. (PDT) Submission: homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov

*All dates are subject to change as deemed necessary by OHS.

X. Appeal Process

In the event an appeal arises concerning the application prior to the recommendation to the ICH, the applicant raising the appeal shall submit a request for resolution in writing to the Office of Homeless Services (OHS). Applicant may appeal the recommendation being made to the ICH to the Grant Review Committee (GRC) or an Ad Hoc Committee, provided the Appeal is submitted:

1. In writing.
2. By email to the HomelessRFP@hss.sbcounty.gov on or before **3:00 p.m. on August 16, 2023**

An Appeal can only be brought on the following grounds:

1. Failure of the County to follow the selection procedures and adhere to requirements specified in the RFA or any addenda or amendments.
2. Violation of conflict of interest as provided by California Government Code Section 87100 et seq.
3. Violation of State or Federal law.

Appeals will not be accepted for any other reasons than those stated above. All Appeals must be sent to:

OHS by email to HomelessRFP@hss.sbcounty.gov on or before **3:00 p.m. on August 16, 2023**

Upon receipt of the formal Appeal, the Grant Review Committee or Ad Hoc Committee will attempt to resolve the Appeal. An Appeal shall be disallowed when, in the judgment of the Grant Review Committee or Ad Hoc Committee, it has been submitted: (1) as a delay tactic; (2) for the purpose of posturing the Applicant advantageously for future procurement; (3) in a form that deviates from the one prescribed; (4) without adequate factual basis or merit; or (5) in an untimely manner.

The Grant Review Committee or Ad Hoc Committee shall make a decision concerning the appeal and notify the applicant submitting the Appeal within a reasonable timeframe prior to the tentatively scheduled date for the recommendation to the ICH on August 23, 2023. The decision of the Grant Review Committee or Ad Hoc Committee shall be deemed final.

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Alternatively, an appeal panel consisting of the GRC committee or an Ad Hoc Committee shall hear the Appeal. The appeal hearing will be held on August 18, 2023. In the event that an appealing applicant does not appear at the Appeal hearing as scheduled, the Appeal will be disallowed.

The hearing is informal, in that it is not subject to the strict rules of evidence or procedure, and live witnesses, if any, will not be sworn. All relevant evidence is admissible, including hearsay. It will be up to the Appeal Panel members to consider the credibility of the evidence and the weight to give it.

The Panel will determine by at least five (5) affirmative votes: 1) whether the Appeal was submitted timely; 2) whether the Appeal is based on at least one of the three designated grounds identified above; and 3) whether the grounds on which the Appeal are based have been substantiated.

If any of the grounds are determined to be valid, the Panel will also decide if the valid portion of the Appeal has so tainted the RFA process that it is unfair to the applicant or whether the valid grounds for the Appeal are in the nature of harmless error and that the RFA process was fair to the Applicant. The Panel will not re-evaluate the Applications.

The Grant Review Committee or Ad Hoc Committee shall notify the Applicant making the Appeal of the decision within a reasonable timeframe prior to the recommendation to the ICH on August 23, 2023. The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be deemed final.

An Applicant appealing the results of any of the processes described herein must follow the procedures set forth. By submitting a “Letter of Intent to Appeal”, the Proposer has agreed that the appeal procedures herein shall precede any action in a judicial or quasi-judicial tribunal regarding this application. Applicants that do not follow these procedures shall not be considered. The appeal procedures constitute the sole administrative remedy available to the Applicant under this RFA. Upon exhaustion of this remedy no additional recourse is available.

XI. HUD Appeals Process

See Section VII. Appeals of the HUD FY 2023 CoC NOFO. The HUD FY 2023 CoC NOFO can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349091>

XII. Modifications:

The County reserves the right to issue addenda if the County considers that additional clarifications are needed.

XIII. Projects Recommended for Funding:

Agencies recommended for funding by ICH will be required to attend a mandatory final review meeting with OHS. The authorized representative must have a strong knowledge of the application and the authority to revise the approved project to strengthen the CoC’s overall score. During this process OHS and the agency representative(s) will work together to finalize and enter project information into e-snaps for inclusion in the Partnerships final

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application to HUD. OHS will notify the authorized representative identified by the agency of all subsequent submission requirements and meeting dates and locations.