

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA HOMELESSNESS ROUNDTABLE

DISCHARGE PLANNING FOR COORDINATED ENTRY

WEST SACRAMENTO COMMUNITY CENTER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017 | 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

- 9:30 AM** Welcome & Introductions
- 9:45** *Legislative & Budget Updates & Actions*
- ❖ Federal Updates by Talia Gilbert, HomeBase
 - ❖ HCD Updates by Zack Olmstead, HCD
 - ❖ State Updates by Joe Boniwell, Housing California
- 10:30** **SESSION 1: Building Partnerships with Primary Health Care, Mental Health, & Substance Abuse Providers**
- Mary McGrail, HomeBase
- 11:15** Break
- 11:30** **SESSION 2: Collaborating with Corrections**
- Ian Evans, Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency
- 12:15 PM** CoC Roll Call
- 12:45** Lunch
- 1:45** **SESSION 3: Supporting Youth Exiting Foster Care**
- Janice Montgomery & Adan Zubiato, Volunteers of America
 - Kate Hutchinson, Lutheran Social Services
 - Laura Foster, Bill Wilson Center
- HMIS BREAKOUT: Navigating Privacy Concerns**
- Robert Groth, Social Interest Solutions
- 2:30** *HUD Updates by John Burke, HUD*
- 2:45** *Funding Opportunity Announcement by Sasha Drozdova, HomeBase*
- 3:00** Adjourn

Northern California Homelessness Roundtable History

(If no location is noted, the meeting was held in Sacramento/West Sacramento)

- **How to Develop Local Homeless Policy**, Placer Consortium on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (PCOH), Roseville, CA, 4-29-04
- **The Housing First Model**, Yolo County Homeless Coalition, Woodland, CA, 7-29-04
- **Discharge Planning to Prevent Homelessness**, Sacramento County & Cities Board on Homelessness, Sacramento, CA, 10-26-04
- **Local Corrections Systems**, HUD Sacramento Field Office and California HCD, in Sacramento, CA, 2-24-05
- **Housing First Model, 10 Year Plans, Prop 63**, Butte CoC, Oroville, CA, 5-5-05
- **Homeless Counts; Engaging Law Enforcement**, Merced Continuum of Care Collaborative, Merced, CA, 7-28-05
- **Interacting with Media, MHSA, Medical Care**, City of Redding & Shasta CoC, Redding CA, 10-21-05
- **Advocacy Issues; Paul Boden & Megan Schatz**, Stanislaus Housing and Supportive Services Collaborative, Modesto, CA, 2-23-06
- **HMIS Best Practices & Input on 10 Year Plan**, San Joaquin Continuum of Care, Stockton, CA, 7-27-06
- **Role & Enhancement of Roundtable Infrastructure**, Planning Committee Retreat, Sacramento, CA, 10-24-06
- **Housing Models & Their Application in Member CoC**, Kings/Tulare CoC, Visalia, CA, 10-19-06
- **10-Year Strategic Planning, Extreme Weather Preparedness**, Yolo County Homeless Coalition, 2-15-07
- **Continuum Improvement & Development**, Chico/Paradise/Butte Continuum of Care, 5-17-07
- **Advocacy; Federal, State & Local Levels**, Fresno-Madera Continuum of Care, 8-16-07
- **Hospital Discharge Planning**, Redding/Shasta County Continuum of Care Council, Redding, CA, 11-15-07
- **SSI Advocacy**, HUD Sacramento Field Office, California HCD and HomeBase 2-21-08
- **Housing Development 101: Focus on PSH**, Central Sierra CoC, Jackson, CA, 5-22-08
- **RRH for Families, Housing Operations 101**, HUD Sacramento Field Office, via Conference Call, 8-28-08
- **Project Homeless Connect, Homeless Count**, Sacramento CoC, 12-4-08
- **Homeless Programs: Surviving and Thriving**, Yolo County Housing and Poverty Action Coalition, 2-26-09
- **How Do We Capitalize on What's Happening Now?** Fresno-Madera CoC, Fresno, CA, 5-28-09
- **HMIS Data Standards**, Roundtable Planning Committee, via Conference Call, 8-27-09
- **Regional Coordination**, Placer County Continuum of Care, 11-19-09
- **HEARTH and Foundation Funding**, 2-25-10
- **Roundtable Retreat**, 4-16-10
- **HMIS as a Planning Tool**, 5-27-10
- **Federal Strategic Plans and CoC Coordination with Federal Mainstream Systems of Care**, 8-26-10
- **Community-wide Performance Measurements**, 12-2-10
- **Connecting Homeless Persons to Employment**, 2-24-11
- **Targeting - How do we best match need to service?** 5-26-11
- **Food Security, 100,000 Homes, Corrections Realignment, and Healthcare Reform**, 8-11-11
- **Linking Homeless Veterans to Housing and Services**, 11-4-11
- **Serving Homeless Youth; Innovations in SSI Advocacy**, 2-23-12
- **Coordinated/Centralized Assessment; Working with PHAs**, 5-24-12
- **Interim Continuum of Care Regulations**, 8-23-12
- **Opening Doors Revisited; Bringing Law Enforcement to the Table**, 12-6-12
- **Implementing 211, Coordinating with ESG**, 2-28-13
- **Definition of Rural, RHSP regulations**, 5-23-13
- **Federal Agencies Responding to Homelessness; Serving Vehicularly Housed**, 8-22-13
- **Adapting Transitional Housing; Rural Data; Extreme Weather**, 12-5-13
- **Emergency Shelters: Increased Use and Decreased Funding**, 4-27-14
- **Using Medi-Cal for Services in Supportive Housing**, 5-22-14
- **Then and Now: Homelessness in Our Communities from 2004-2014**, 8-28-14
- **Homelessness Crisis Response System**, 12-4-14
- **Promoting Landlord Partnerships to Overcome Housing Attainment Barriers**, 2-26-15
- **Building Positive Relationships with Law Enforcement**, 5-28-15
- **Fair Housing & Alternative Housing Models**, 9-3-15
- **Ending Veteran Homelessness: Progress & Strategies**, 12-3-15
- **Building CoC Capacity**, 2-25-16
- **Criminal and Public Records; Data Sharing in Coordinated Entry Environment**, 5-26-16
- **Housing and Health Care**, 9-29-16
- **Harnessing Data Interventions & System Performance Measures**, 12-1-2016

Northern California/Central Valley Homeless Roundtable Acronym List

Acronym	Definition
AB	Assembly Bill
ACA	Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)
ADAP	AIDS Drug Assistance Program
AHAR	Annual Homeless Assessment Report
AI	Analysis of Impediments (to fair housing), a part of Consolidated Plans
AOD	Alcohol and Drug Dependency
APR	Annual Performance Report (for HUD homeless programs)
CA	Collaborative Applicant
CalFresh	California's SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) (formerly Food Stamps)
CalWORKs	California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant (CPD program – federal)
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CDVA	California Department of Veterans Affairs
CH	Chronically Homeless
CSBG	Community Services Block Grant (Federal program that flows from US Department of Health and Human Services to the California Department of Consumer Services and Development to California counties)
CHDO	Community and Housing Development Organization. Non-profit housing provider receiving minimum of 15% of HOME funds
CoC	Continuum of Care approach to assistance to the homeless
Continuum of Care	Federal grant program stressing permanent solutions to homelessness
Con Plan	Consolidated Plan, a locally developed plan for housing assistance and urban development under CDBG and other CPD programs
CPD	Community Planning and Development (HUD Office)
CY	Calendar Year
Davis Bacon	Statutory requirement that persons working on Federal assisted projects be paid at least minimum prevailing wage rates.
DHHS	Department of Health and Human Services (State Office)
DV	Domestic Violence
EHAP	Emergency Housing and Assistance Program Operating Facility Grants (State program. Obsolete.)
EHAPCD	Emergency Housing and Assistance Program Capital Development (State program). Not open to new applications
ESG	Emergency Solutions Grants (CPD – federal program. Flows to entitlement jurisdictions and HCD)
e-SNAPS	Electronic grants application and management system for HUD Homeless Assistance Programs
FESG	Federal Emergency Shelter Grants (obsolete program – replaced by ESG)
FHEO	Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (HUD Office of)
FMR	Fair Market Rent (maximum rent for many HUD housing programs)
FQHC	Federally Qualified Health Center
FTE	full-time equivalent (employee) (2080 hours of paid employment)
FY	Fiscal Year
GAO	Government Accountability Office
GA/GR	General Assistance/General Relief (county assistance)
HAP	Housing Assistance Payments

Acronym	Definition
HAP	Housing Assistance Plan; Housing Plans required by CDBG
HCD	Housing and Community Development (California Department of)
HCV	Housing Choice Voucher Rental Assistance (formerly Section 8)
HEARTH Act	Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009, S. 896
HIC	Housing Inventory Chart (inventory of housing for the homeless conducted annually in January for same night as the PIT)
HPRP	Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (obsolete)
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
HOME	Home Investment Partnerships (CPD program)
HOPWA	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (CPD program)
HPC	High Performing Community
HQS	Housing Quality Standards (required before move in for HUD programs)
HRSA	Health Resources and Services Administration (division of US HHS)
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (federal)
HUD-VASH	HUD Vouchers through Veterans' Affairs Supportive Housing
IDIS	Integrated Disbursement and Information System (CPD system)
IHSS	In-Home Supportive Services
LEA	Local Education Agency
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning
LOCCS	Line of Credit Control System
MHSA	Mental Health Services Act
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAEH	National Alliance to End Homelessness
NAMI	National Alliance on Mental Illness
NIMBY	Not In My Back Yard
NOFA	Notice of Funding Availability
OneCPD	Resource Exchange and email notice system for HUD CDP
PHA/ HA	Public Housing Authority
PIT Count (PITC)	Point-In-Time Homeless Count (unsheltered count conducted biennially, every odd numbered year; sheltered count, every January)
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing
RFP	Request for Proposals
RFQ	Request for Quotations. Used to solicit price quotes under the simplified acquisition procurement method.
SA	Sexual Assault Or Substance Abuse
SB	Senate Bill
SAMHSA	Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
S + C	Shelter + Care (obsolete – replaced by CoC Program)
Section 8	Housing Assistance Payment Program (Housing and Community Development Act of 1974)
Section 202	Loans for construction/rehab of housing for the elderly or handicapped
Section 202/811	Programs for housing assistance to the elderly and people with disabilities
SHP	Supportive Housing Program (obsolete – replaced by CoC Program)
SMI	Serious Mental Illness or Seriously Mentally Ill
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamps)
SNAPS	Special Needs Assistance Program (HUD Division that deals with homelessness)
SOAR	SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SSI/SSDI Application program)

Acronym	Definition
SRO	Single-Room Occupancy housing units
SSA	Social Security Administration
SSDI	Social Security Disability Income
SSI	Supplemental Security Income
SSO	Supportive Services Only (Type of CoC grant providing services only)
SSVF	Supportive Services for Veterans Families (but can serve single adults)
TA	Technical Assistance
TANF	Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
TAY	Transition Age Youth
UFA	Unified Funding Agency
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
VA	Veterans Affairs (U.S. Department of)
VASH	Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing

*Thanks to Nevada/Placer CoC for use of their acronym list.

OREGON



CALIFORNIA'S 58 COUNTIES

PACIFIC OCEAN

MEXICO

FEDERAL UPDATE

FEDERAL BUDGET

A continuing resolution passed December 9, 2016 currently funds government expenses, and will end on April 28, 2017. On January 12, 2017, the Senate passed a fiscal year (FY) 2017 budget resolution, introduced by Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi (R-WY) on January 3rd. The spending levels reflect the current law baseline for all spending and revenue; not intended to have an impact on FY 2017 spending, the budget resolution is instead focused on and is considered just the first step in repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Notably, it exempts future health care legislation replacing the ACA from certain budget rules meant to impose fiscal discipline. Though Fiscal Year 2017 is well underway, Congress is able to consider a budget resolution for FY 2017 because it failed to pass a budget resolution last year; Congress will still need to pass a full FY 2018 budget resolution later this year.

Federal government staff have indicated that it is still too early to tell what policy priorities or funding opportunities the current administration may emphasize this year and beyond. Nonetheless, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the U.S. Department of Education (ED) have published a handful of notices relevant to regional CoC's work to address homelessness. These releases provide a glimpse as to what communities might expect to see in the 2017 Continuum of Care Competition. In particular, they emphasize coordinated entry, data quality, and the unique needs of youth and families with children.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

H.R. 418 - EARLY INTERVENTION FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES ACT

Introduced by Representative Brenda Lawrence [D-MI] in the House of Representatives on January 10, 2017, this bill would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a pilot program to improve access to supportive services and community coordination for families of disabled veterans.

The 3 year pilot program would consist of awards of roughly \$2 million per year for multi-service site grants to test service delivery methods for wraparound wellness services including mental health awareness and treatment, financial counseling, domestic violence awareness and prevention, employment assistance, and housing counseling, to name a few. A report would then be generated by the Secretary that would detail the findings of the pilot program, including mitigation of risks of becoming homeless, and recommended best practices for improving access to supportive services and coordination of care for disabled veteran families.

On February 3, 2017, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

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H.R. 161 – SERVICES FOR ENDING LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS ACT

Introduced in the House of Representatives on January 3, 2017, by Representative Alcee Hastings [D-FL], this bill would amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide supportive services in permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and families.

Based on outcomes following the implementation of *Opening Doors: the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness*, the Act would amend the section on “Duties of Administrator of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration” to require the Administrator to “collaborate with Federal departments and programs that are part of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, particularly the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and with other agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services . . . to design national strategies for providing services in supportive housing that will assist in ending chronic homelessness and to implement programs that address chronic homelessness.” Definitions for “chronic homelessness” and other terms correspond with those used by HUD.

On January 25, 2017, this bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

FEDERAL RESOURCES

RESOURCES FROM HUD

On January 23, 2017, HUD published a notice (CPD-17-01) establishing additional requirements for a Continuum of Care’s (CoC) coordinated entry system. Overall, the Notice focuses on requiring the development and documentation of numerous policies and procedures for the Coordinated Entry system, ensuring that the system is accessible and fair, protects privacy, and prioritizes CoC resources.

The full notice can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2lcPdVW>. Selected highlights are below.

NEW REQUIREMENTS

ACCESSIBILITY. CoCs must maintain written standards that prohibit the coordinated entry process from screening people out due to perceived barriers related to housing or services, including people with disabilities or Limited English Proficiency. Marketing for the coordinated entry process must ensure the process is available to all.

ACCESS POINTS. The coordinated entry process must offer the same assessment approach at all access points and all access points must be usable by all people who may be experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The process may, but is not required to, include separate access points and variations in assessment processes for the following five populations:

- Adults without children;
- Adults accompanied by children;
- Unaccompanied youth;

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- Households fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions (including human trafficking); and
- Persons at risk of homelessness.

Notably, the Notice clarifies that the CoC may not establish a separate access point and assessment process for veterans. However, a coordinated entry process may allow Veterans Administration (VA) partners to conduct assessment and make direct placements if they are part of the CoC's Coordinated Entry policies.

STREET OUTREACH. Street outreach efforts funded under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) or CoC programs must be linked to the coordinated entry process.

EMERGENCY SERVICES. The coordinated entry process must allow emergency services (e.g. emergency shelter or domestic violence services) to operate with as few barriers to entry as possible and independent of the operating hours of the coordinated entry's intake and assessment processes.

ESG. Persons must be able to access homelessness prevention services funded with ESG Program funds through the coordinated entry process.

SAFETY. The coordinated entry process must have written policies establishing protocols to protect the safety of the individuals and families seeking assistance.

CLIENT CHOICE. The coordinated entry process must allow participants autonomy to freely refuse to answer assessment questions and to refuse housing and service options without retribution or limiting their access to assistance.

TRAINING. The CoC must provide training protocols and at least one annual training opportunity to participating staff at organizations that serve as access points or otherwise conduct assessments.

COMMUNITY INPUT. The CoC must facilitate ongoing planning and stakeholder consultation concerning the implementation of coordinated entry.

ADDITIONAL BEST PRACTICES

In addition, the Notice strongly encourages CoCs to include the following elements in their coordinated entry process. We expect them to play a role in the 2017 NOFA competition:

60-DAY WAIT LIST. CoCs should keep the time spent on their single, prioritized list for housing resources at 60 days or less. If a community cannot offer a housing resource to every prioritized household experiencing homelessness in 60 days or less, then the CoC should tighten its prioritization standards to more precisely differentiate and identify for resources those households with the most needs and highest vulnerabilities.

CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC COMPETENCY. All staff administering assessments should use culturally and linguistically competent practices, and CoCs are strongly encouraged to incorporate cultural and linguistic competency training into the required annual training protocols for participating projects and staff members.

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ASSESSMENT. Assessments should be performed using standardized tools that gather only the information necessary to determine the severity of need and eligibility for housing and related services, and that can provide meaningful recommendations to persons being assessed. They may be done in phases.

MAINSTREAM SERVICES. The CoC should include relevant mainstream service providers in the coordinated entry system.

RESOURCES FROM FEDERAL PARTNERS

SANCTUARY JURISDICTIONS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EXECUTIVE ORDER 13768 (FACT SHEETS)

President Trump has signed Executive Order No. 13768, Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States. While little is known about its interpretation or any accompanying guidance, here is some information on how Section 9 of the order could restrict federal funding to sanctuary jurisdictions and impact their efforts to serve people experiencing homelessness. To view the Fact Sheets, please visit the link at <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/sanctuary-jurisdictions-what-you-need-to-know-about-executive-order-13768>

IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR COCS, GPD PROGRAMS, AND VA PARTNERS IN THE 2017 GPD NOF (WEBINAR)

For the first time, the Department of Veterans Affairs GPD Program released a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), due April 4. The NOFA requires that all GPD providers re-apply for funding, allows for GPD programs to substantially re-design their programs, as well as provides unprecedented opportunities for better integration between GPD Programs and CoCs.

This webinar from February 15, 2017, presents an overview of the GPD NOFA, which reflects the transformation of the GPD Program to better reflect the needs and resources of communities working towards an effective end towards veteran homelessness. The NOFA re-focuses GPD programs and resources to better serve the homeless Veteran population, including a call to lower barriers and use a combination of housing and service models, such as bridge housing, to better serve the needs of veterans in the community. To access the webinar, please follow the link: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/important-opportunities-for-cocs-gpd-programs-and-va-partners-in-the-2017-g>



California Legislative Update
February 23, 2017

Important Dates:

February:	Bill introduction deadline
March 8:	Housing California Lobby Day
March 9-10:	Housing California Conference
April 6-17:	Spring Recess
June 15:	Budget bill passed by midnight

Legislative Priorities:

SB 2 (Atkins): Building Homes and Jobs Act

SB 2 would enact the Building Homes and Jobs Act, generating hundreds of millions of dollars annually for affordable housing through a \$75 fee (capped at \$225) on real estate recorded documents, excluding those documents associated with real estate sales. 50% of collected fees will be distributed directly to local governments to address local needs. The remainder will be allocated by the state on a competitive basis. 20% of overall funds must be allocated to affordable homeownership needs for a growing workforce and 10% of overall funds must be used to meet the affordable housing needs of farmworkers and their families. This Act would ensure a sustainable, ongoing infusion of funds into tried-and-true programs.

SB 3 (Beall): Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018

SB 3 would enact the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2018, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$3 billion. Proceeds would be used to finance various existing housing programs, as well as infill infrastructure financing and affordable-development matching grant programs. The proposal uses permit fees on vacation rentals by owner to offset the budget impact of bond repayment. This would ensure a one-time infusion of funds into tried-and-true programs that have created homes affordable to those struggling to make ends meet.

AB 71 (Chiu): Bring California Home Act

AB 71 provides an ongoing state funding source for affordable housing by eliminating the state mortgage interest deduction on vacation homes. This deduction results in a revenue loss to the state of approximately \$300 million annually. The funds saved as a result of eliminating the deduction would then increase the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program by \$300 million per year.

AB 74 (Chiu): Housing for a Healthy California

AB 74, identical to the 2016 bill AB 2821, creates a Rental Assistance Program to house individuals that are chronically homeless, Medi-Cal beneficiaries receiving SSI. Conceptually, the program aligns with care coordination provided through Whole Person Care and the Health Home Benefit, or other county coordinated services. The goal is to end homelessness, improve healthcare delivery and outcomes, while achieving cost savings to the healthcare system by targeting frequent service users. Housing gives people the stability to stick to a medical regimen, keep in contact with a primary care doctor, and live a healthy lifestyle that will help keep them housed and reduce the expensive costs to our public systems. AB 74 goes one step further, by capturing the cost-savings of moving a person from the street into housing and redirecting those cost-savings back into more life-saving housing.

AB 1406 (*Gloria*): Homeless Youth Advocacy and Housing Program

AB 1408 creates the Homeless Youth Advocacy and Housing Program under the Department of Housing and Community Development to administer grants to CoCs to fund housing and advocacy related services for youth experiencing homelessness. Building off the groundwork laid through HUD Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, AB 1406 requires CoCs to create a local plan to reduce youth homelessness (ages 25 and under) that offers housing opportunities and advocacy services related to foster care, CalWORKs, and disability benefits. The program would be funded through a \$15 million continuous general fund appropriation.

AB 1644 (*Bloom*): Like-Kind Exchange Exemption Elimination

Removes the capital gains exemption from real estate investment property sales under section 1031 of the Internal Revenue Code and redirects these taxes to affordable housing. Under section 1031, when an investment property is sold and a capital gain is realized, no tax is paid on the profit if it is rolled into another “like-kind” investment property. Investors can keep rolling over capital gains and not pay tax until they cash out the property. California law conforms to section 1031 and loss of revenue in California from this exemption is estimated to be \$750 million annually. AB 1644 proposes eliminating this exemption for companies or individuals with total assets over \$10 million and out-of-state purchases and redirecting the taxes paid to a state housing trust fund.

Contact Information

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FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

FEBRUARY 23, 2017

PLEASE NOTE: This is a collection of funding opportunities that HomeBase has seen become available recently. These may not be appropriate for all applicants, and any summaries may not be fully accurate. Please refer to the original grant materials or original source for additional information.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMPREHENSIVE HOUSING COUNSELING

Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Description: The purpose of HUD's Housing Counseling Grant Program is to provide funds that shall be used for providing counseling and advice to tenants and homeowners, both current and prospective, with respect to property maintenance, financial management and literacy, and such other matters as may be appropriate to assist program clients in improving their housing conditions, meeting their financial needs, and fulfilling the responsibilities of tenancy or homeownership. Funding provided under this NOFA is intended to support HUD approved housing counseling agencies to respond flexibly to the needs of residents and neighborhoods, and deliver a wide variety of housing counseling services to homebuyers, homeowners, renters, and the homeless. This NOFA plays an integral role in the continued stabilization of our nation's housing market by helping individuals and families obtain housing and stay in their homes through responsible homeownership or affordable rental housing. Traditionally underserved populations, such as minorities, the elderly, veterans, persons with disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency and residents of rural areas, face unique housing and economic challenges. HUD's Comprehensive Housing Counseling Grant Program funds housing agencies that provide expert, unbiased guidance and information to help families and individuals meet their housing needs and improve their financial situations. Moreover, HUD grant funding supports housing counseling agencies that act as an important safeguard in the prevention of housing scams and discrimination. These housing counseling agencies can act as an important gateway to local, state, federal and private housing assistance and resources.

Eligibility: All housing counseling agencies (including LHCAs, Intermediaries and MSOs) that are directly approved by HUD prior to the NOFA issue date and were not awarded FY 2016 comprehensive housing counseling funds through the FY 2016 – 2017 NOFA as a direct grant from HUD or as a sub-grant from an SHFA or Intermediary are eligible for this NOFA. SHFAs that were not awarded FY 2016 funds through the FY 2016 – 2017 NOFA as a direct grant from HUD or as a sub-grant from an Intermediary are also eligible.

Anticipated Total Program Funding: Congress has not yet appropriated funds for this program. Therefore, the amount of available funding is not known and is contingent on future Congressional action.

Due: March 17, 2017

Link: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=291525>