

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA/CENTRAL VALLEY HOMELESS ROUNDTABLE

WEST SACRAMENTO COMMUNITY CENTER

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2015 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

- 9:00 a.m. Gathering and Networking**
- 9:30 Welcome & Introductions**
- 10:00 Ending Veteran Homelessness: Progress and Strategies**
- Becca Bettis, Volunteers of America – Northern California & Northern Nevada
 - Jason Henry, Veterans Resource Centers of America
 - Reed Walker, Department of Veterans Affairs
 - Tracy Cascio, Department of Veterans Affairs
- 10:45 Break**
- 11:00 Ending Veteran Homelessness Continued**
- 11:45 CoC Roll Call**
- 12:15 Lunch**
- 1:15 Announcements, Funding Roundtable**
- 1:20 HUD Updates**
- 1:30 Legislative and Budget Updates and Actions**
- Federal Updates: HomeBase
 - State Updates: Shamus Roller, Housing California
- 2:00 Serving People with Pets**
- Emily Halcon, City of Sacramento
 - Meghan Marshall, Sacramento County
 - Robin Tripp, Chico Homeless Animal Outreach
- 2:00 HMIS Breakout: Law Enforcement & Health Services: Data Sharing Issues**
- 3:00 Adjourn**

The Northern/Central Valley Homeless Roundtable

Roundtable Goal and History

Goal: The Northern/Central Valley Homeless Roundtable is led by delegates in homeless continuums of care in the California Northern and Central Valley communities. Its goal is to create regular opportunities for homeless continua participants to foster an exchange of information and to build community between continuum communities.

History

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

- **How to Develop Local Homeless Policy**, hosted by Placer Consortium on Homelessness and Affordable Housing (PCOH), in Roseville, CA, on April 29, 2004
- **The Housing First Model**, hosted by Yolo County Homeless Coalition, in Woodland, CA, on July 29, 2004
- **Discharge Planning to Prevent Homelessness**, hosted by Sacramento County & Cities Board on Homelessness, in Sacramento, CA, on Oct. 26, 2004
- **Local Corrections Systems**, hosted by HUD Sacramento Field Office and California HCD, in Sacramento, CA, on Feb. 24, 2005
- **Housing First Model, 10 Year Plans, Prop 63**, hosted by Greater Chico Homeless Task Force/Butte Continuum of Care, in Oroville, CA, on May 5, 2005
- **Homeless Counts; Engaging Law Enforcement**, Merced Continuum of Care Collaborative, in Merced, CA, on July 28, 2005
- **Interacting with Media, MHSA, Medical Care**, hosted by City of Redding & Shasta County Homeless Continuum of Care, in Redding CA, on Oct. 21, 2005
- **Advocacy Issues; Paul Boden & Megan Schatz**, hosted by Stanislaus Housing and Supportive Services Collaborative, in Modesto, CA, on Feb. 23, 2006
- **HMIS Best Practices & Input on 10 Year Plan**, hosted by San Joaquin Continuum of Care, in Stockton, CA, on July 27, 2006
- **Role & Enhancement of Roundtable Infrastructure**, Planning Committee Retreat, in Sacramento, CA, on Aug. 24, 2006
- **Housing Models & Their Application in Member CoC**, hosted by Kings/Tulare CoC, in Visalia, CA, on Oct. 19, 2006
- **10-Year Strategic Planning, Extreme Weather Preparedness**, hosted by Yolo County Homeless Coalition on Feb. 15, 2007
- **Continuum Improvement & Development**, hosted by Chico/Paradise/Butte Continuum of Care on May 17, 2007
- **Advocacy; Federal, State & Local Levels**, hosted by Fresno-Madera Continuum of Care on Aug. 16, 2007
- **Hospital Discharge Planning**, hosted by Redding/Shasta County Continuum of Care Council, in Redding, CA, on Nov. 15, 2007
- **SSI Advocacy**, hosted by HUD Sacramento Field Office, California HCD and HomeBase on Feb. 21, 2008
- **Housing Development 101: Focus on PSH**, hosted by Central Sierra (Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne) CoC, in Jackson, CA, on May, 22, 2008
- **RRH for Families, Housing Operations 101**, hosted by HUD Sacramento Field Office, via Conference Call, on Aug. 28, 2008
- **Project Homeless Connect, Homeless Count**, hosted by Sacramento CoC on Dec. 4, 2008
- **Homeless Programs: Surviving and Thriving**, hosted by Yolo County Housing and Poverty Action Coalition on Feb. 26, 2009
- **How Do We Capitalize on What's Happening Now?**, hosted by Fresno-Madera CoC, in Fresno, CA, on May 28, 2009
- **HMIS Data Standards**, hosted by Roundtable Planning Committee, via Conference Call, on Aug. 27, 2009.
- **Regional Coordination**, hosted by Placer County Continuum of Care, on Nov. 19, 2009
- **HEARTH and Foundation Funding** on Feb. 25, 2010
- **Roundtable Retreat** on March 16, 2010
- **HMIS as a Planning Tool** on May 27, 2010
- **Federal Strategic Plans and CoC Coordination with Federal Mainstream Systems of Care** on August 26, 2010
- **Community-wide Performance Measurements** on December 2, 2010
- **Connecting Homeless Persons to Employment** on February 24, 2011
- **Targeting- How do we best match need to service?** on May 26, 2011
- **Food Security, 100,000 Homes, Corrections Realignment, and Healthcare Reform** on August 11, 2011
- **Linking Homeless Veterans to Housing and Services** on November 4, 2011
- **Serving Homeless Youth; Innovations in SSI Advocacy** on February 23, 2012
- **Coordinated/Centralized Assessment; Working with PHAs** on May 24, 2012
- **Interim Continuum of Care Regulations** on August 23, 2012
- **Opening Doors Revisited; Bringing Law Enforcement to the Table** on December 6, 2012
- **Implementing 211, Coordinating with ESG** on February 28, 2013
- **Definition of Rural, RHSP regulations** on May 23, 2013
- **Federal agencies responding to Homelessness; Serving vehicularly housed** on August 22, 2013
- **Adapting Transitional Housing; Rural Data; Extreme Weather** on December 5, 2013
- **Emergency Shelters: Increased Use and Decreased Funding** on March 27, 2014
- **Using Medi-Cal for Services in Supportive Housing** on May 22, 2014
- **Then and Now: Homelessness in Our Communities from 2004-2014** on August 28, 2014
- **Homelessness Crisis Response System** on December 4, 2014
- **Promoting Landlord Partnerships to Overcome Housing Attainment Barriers** on February 26, 2015
- **Building Positive Relationships with Law Enforcement** on May 28, 2015

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.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

DECEMBER 3, 2015

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.

CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT

Agency: US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Description: Choice Neighborhoods is designed to address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public housing or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Local leaders, residents, and stakeholders, such as public housing authorities, cities, schools, police, business owners, nonprofits, and private developers, come together to create a plan that transforms distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood. The program helps communities transform neighborhoods by revitalizing severely distressed public and/or assisted housing and investing and leveraging investments in well-functioning services, high quality public schools and education programs, high quality early learning programs and services, crime prevention strategies, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs. Choice Neighborhoods ensures that current public and assisted housing residents will be able to benefit from this transformation, by preserving affordable housing or providing residents with the choice to move to affordable and accessible housing in another existing neighborhood of opportunity. Choice Neighborhoods is focused on three core goals:

1. **Housing:** Replace distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing that is well-managed and responsive to the needs of the surrounding neighborhood;
2. **People:** Improve educational outcomes and intergenerational mobility for youth and supports delivered directly to youth and their families; and
3. **Neighborhood:** Create the conditions necessary for public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods to offer the kinds of amenities and assets, including safety, good schools, and commercial activity, that are important to families' choices about their community.

To achieve these core goals, successful applicants must develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or "Transformation Plan." This Transformation Plan will become the guiding document for the revitalization of the public and/or assisted housing units, while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and positive outcomes for families. By focusing resources in targeted places, and by drawing on the compounding effect of well-coordinated actions, HUD believes Choice Neighborhoods will support local organizations building neighborhoods of opportunity.

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Eligibility: County governments, City or township governments, Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities, Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments), Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher Education, Nonprofits without 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher Education.

Available Funds: \$10 million

Award Ceiling: \$2 million

Expected number of awards: 8

Due: February 9, 2016

Link: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail/nofa2015/cnpg

JUVENILE RE-ENTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Agency: Department of Housing and Urban Development

Description: This Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) announces the availability of approximately \$1.75million for the Juvenile Re-entry Assistance Program (JRAP) to support successful transition to the community by reducing barriers to public housing, employment, and/or educational opportunities. This NOFA provides funding for Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) who have established a partnership with a legal aid organization, university legal center, public defender's office, or other legal service organization that is a non-profit and has experience providing legal services to juveniles (including expungement and/or sealing the juvenile and/or adult criminal records) for 1) current public housing resident youth up to 24 years old who have a criminal record and/or 2) former household members (who are youth up to 24 years old) of current public housing residents who, but for their criminal record, would be living in public housing. These services must be in accordance with state law. In this program, expunging/sealing/correcting is not allowed for criminal records of makers of methamphetamine on public housing property, for criminal records of sex offenders on the lifetime sex offender registry, and for criminal records where the crime was domestic violence or a Part I Violent Crime (defined in Section I.A.3).Further, other services eligible under this program are prohibited for individuals who were convicted of the same criminal violations listed in the NOFA.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are only Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) who have established a partnership with a legal aid organization, university legal center, public defender's office, or other legal service organization that is a non-profit and has experience providing legal services to juveniles.

Available Funds: \$1,750,000

Minimum Award Amount: \$10,000 Per Project Period

Maximum Award Amount: \$100,000 Per Project Period

Due: Monday, January 4, 2016

Link: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail

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PAY FOR SUCCESS PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING DEMONSTRATION

Agency: US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Description: DOJ and HUD are partnering to advance Pay for Success (PFS), one promising model for financing services that can attract additional, non-traditional sources of funding. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (Pub .L . 113-76) and the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub . L . 113 -235) authorized DOJ to make funds available for a PFS initiative implementing the PSH model for a population continuously cycling between the criminal justice system and homeless services. DOJ and HUD entered into an interagency agreement that designates HUD as the agency responsible for implementing the PFS Demonstration, and through this NOFA, HUD is making \$8,679,000 available.

Eligibility: Applicants are applying to fulfill the role of intermediary advisor. An Intermediary Advisor is an entity with substantial PFS experience that agrees to serve as the grantee's mentor for purposes of the PFS Demonstration. An Intermediary Advisor is only required for those grantees without direct experience in performing PFS activities, including conducting a Feasibility Analysis, structuring a PFS Contract, managing a third-party evaluator, and/or facilitating Success Payments.

A successful applicant should demonstrate its, or its mentor's, knowledge of and experience in carrying out a PFS model as well as the capacity to implement a PSH Intervention by working with partners and identifying the resources necessary to manage and operate the demonstration. Competitive applicants will meet some or all the following criteria:

- a. High-performing with a consistently successful record of past performance;
- b. Experience in completing a PFS Feasibility Analysis; structuring a PFS Contract that successfully closed; or other relevant experience with social finance or social innovation;
- c. Experience in facilitating partnerships between public and private entities;
- d. Advanced knowledge of and experience with the PSH model using a Housing First approach;
- e. Knowledge of the research base for PSH;
- f. Expertise and experience in the operationalization of research methods. Individuals, foreign entities, and sole proprietorship organizations are not eligible to compete for, or receive, awards made under this announcement.

Total Program Funding: \$8,679,000

Maximum Award Amount: \$1,300,000

Due: February 12, 2016

Link: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=279652>

GRANTS TO EXPAND CARE COORDINATION TARGETED CAPACITY EXPANSION (TCE) THROUGH THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSISTED CARE (TAC) IN TARGETED AREAS OF NEED

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Agency: US Department of Health & Human Services: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Description: The purpose of the program is to enhance and/or expand the capacity of substance use disorder treatment providers to serve youth and adults with substance use disorders or co-occurring substance use and mental disorders who have been underserved and/or have special needs (e.g., elderly, ethnic and racial minorities, criminal justice involved individuals, etc.). This is referred to as the “population of focus.” For the purposes of this FOA, underserved is defined as a individuals that lack access to treatment due to the rural location, transportation challenges in the community, an inadequate number of behavioral health providers including shortages of primary medical care and substance use disorder treatment and mental disorder treatment providers, and/or financial constraints that impact the ability of these clients to access needed behavioral health treatment services. The use of technology, including web-based services, smart phones, and behavioral health electronic applications (e-apps) will expand and/or enhance the ability of providers to effectively communicate with persons in treatment and to track and manage their health to ensure treatment and services are available where and when needed. The technology may also be used by grantees to support recovery and resiliency efforts and promote wellness.

Eligibility: Eligible applicants are domestic public and private nonprofit entities.

Total Program Funding: \$3.6 million

Maximum Load per project: Up to \$280,000

Anticipated Number of Awards: Up to 13

Due: Monday, January 4, 2016

Link: <http://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ti-16-001>

VETERANS HOUSING AND HOMELESS PREVENTION GRANT

Agency: California Department of Housing and Community Development

Description: The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), in collaboration with the California Housing Finance Agency and California Department of Veterans Affairs, is announcing the availability of approximately \$75 million in funding for the development of affordable multifamily rental housing containing permanent Supportive Housing units, Transitional Housing units or affordable housing units for veterans and their families under the Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Program (VHHP), Funding for this NOFA is provided pursuant to AB 639 Perez (2013) and Proposition 41 (2014).

“Veteran” means any person who served in the active military, naval, or air service of the United States, or as a member of the National Guard who was called to and released from active duty or active service, for a period of not less than 90 consecutive days or was discharged from the service due to a service-connected disability within that 90-day period. This includes all Veterans regardless of discharge status.

Eligibility: Any individual, joint venture, partnership, limited partnership, trust, corporation, limited liability

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company, local public entity, duly constituted governing body of an Indian reservation or Pancheria, or other legal entity, or any combination thereof. A Sponsor shall be organized on a for-profit, including limited profit, or nonprofit basis.

Available Funds: \$75 million

Maximum Loan per Project: \$10 million

Due: December 14, 2015

Link: <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/vets/>

HOUSING-RELATED PARKS PROGRAM

Agency: California Department of Housing and Community Development

Description: The Department of Housing and Community Development (Department) is pleased to announce the release of a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the 2015 funding round of the Housing-Related Parks (HRP) Program. The HRP Program is an innovative Program designed to reward local governments that approve housing for lower-income households and are in compliance with State housing element law with grant funds to create or rehabilitate parks and/or recreational facilities.

The 2015 NOFA will award Program funds to eligible jurisdictions on a per-bedroom basis for each residential unit affordable to very low- and low-income households permitted during the Designated Program Year (DPY) as defined below. In addition, units substantially rehabilitated, converted from market-rate to affordable (multifamily rental units only), and preserved with certificates of occupancy issued during the DPY are also eligible to receive funding provided they meet the requirements of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of Section 65583.1 of the Government Code. Base and bonus fund award amounts per bedroom are set forth in the Program Guidelines, Sections 105 and 106.

Eligibility: Cities, counties, and cities and counties that, by the date set forth in the applicable NOFA, have adopted housing elements that HCD has found to be in substantial compliance with housing element law, and have submitted to HCD the annual progress report required by Section 65400 of the Government Code.

A city, county, or city and county that receives funds may subcontract through a recreation and park district or nonprofit organization that has among its purposes the conservation of natural or cultural resources.

Available Funds: \$30 million

Due: February 4, 2016 (Thursday) by 5:00 p.m.

Link: <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/housing-policy-development/housing-related-parks-program/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

DECEMBER 3, 2015

FEDERAL BUDGET

The federal fiscal year ended on September 30, 2015, and a continuing resolution was passed to keep federal funding at the current levels until midnight on December 11, 2015. It is expected that an omnibus package will be approved before the continuing resolution expires.

The FY 2016 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill (otherwise known as T-HUD appropriations), which governs HUD funding for the 2016 fiscal year, is currently stalled in the Senate. The bill, as passed in the House of Representatives in June, would increase funding for tenant-based and project-based rental assistance programs that fund Section 8 housing, and would decrease Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funding. The Senate is expected to debate the bill in the coming weeks.

LEGISLATION

S.2267 Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act

On November 10, 2015, U.S. Senator Patty Murray (D-WA) introduced the Higher Education Access and Success for Homeless and Foster Youth Act, which would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the financial aid process for homeless children and youth and foster children and youth. This Act would increase access and remove barriers to student loan programs, Federal TRIO programs, Upward Bound and other student support services programs for homeless and foster children and youth. This Act would also designate a staff person as a single point of contact to assist homeless and foster care youth in accessing and completing postsecondary education

The bill was assigned to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on November 10, 2015, which will determine whether the bill moves past the committee stage.

H.R. 3970 Housing Our Heroes Act

Representative Steve Israel (D-NY) introduced the Housing Our Heroes Act on November 5, 2015. The bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to begin a three-year pilot program to assess the feasibility of awarding grants to purchase and renovate abandoned homes for homeless veterans. Eligible recipients of grant funds include

veterans service organizations, homeless organizations, and other nongovernmental organizations.

The bill was assigned to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs on November 5, 2015.

S. 2774 A bill to provide for rental assistance for homeless or at-risk Indian veterans

Introduced on November 10, 2015, by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT), this bill would amend the United States Housing Act of 1937 to authorize HUD, in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, to carry out a rental assistance and supportive housing program for the benefit of Indian veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness and who reside on or near Indian areas. The rental assistance would be made available for recipients eligible for housing assistance block grants under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996.

The bill was assigned to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. The Committee will determine whether the bill should be sent on to the House or Senate as a whole.

S. 1885 Veteran Housing Stability Act of 2015

On July 29, 2015, U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced the Veteran Housing Stability Act, which would increase safe and affordable housing for veterans by improving and expanding upon the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)'s programs to prevent and end homelessness among veterans. This Act would modernize several existing VA housing programs for homeless and at-risk veterans to increase access to safe, affordable, and permanent housing options. Specifically, this act would require the VA to collaborate with HUD and other entities to conduct more robust landlord outreach and encourage more landlords to rent to veterans. This Act would also authorize the VA to issue case-management only grants to transitional housing providers that convert their facilities into permanent housing. In addition, it will expand access to a VA program that provides critical savings to veteran housing providers, allowing groups to spend limited funding to provide high quality services instead of retiring the debt they would take on to acquire a facility for housing homeless veterans. The Act would also require VA to set national performance targets for transitional housing providers and utilize them to determine whether the grantee's performance merits continued funding.

The bill was assigned to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs upon introduction. On October 6, 2015, hearings were held in the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

RESOURCES FROM HUD

HUD has recently released several resources, tools, and guidance documents to help Homeless Assistance Programs:

CoC System Performance Measures Videos: HUD released a video series to assist CoC leaders, System Administrators, and other community stakeholders in understanding system performance measures and facilitating conversations about how to effectively use HUD-required system performance measures. The videos describe the purpose of the measures, how to calculate them, and how to use data to inform local system planning.

See more at: <https://tinyurl.com/zntgukt>

Determining Homeless Status of Youth: This guide is intended to help providers understand how youth meet HUD's definition of homelessness and what documentation is needed to establish homeless status for youth. The guide is meant to assist providers in understanding the definition of homelessness for ESG and CoC programs, so that youth are not turned away in error from the housing and services they need.

See more at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Determining-Homeless-Status-of-Youth.pdf>

Opening Doors Through Multifamily Housing: Toolkit for Implementing a Homeless Preference: HUD published a toolkit of step-by-step guidance for bringing service providers and multifamily property owners together to serve the needs of persons experiencing homelessness. It is intended for affordable housing owners, property management companies, and CoCs who are partnering to address homeless individuals and families' housing and service needs. The toolkit includes specific steps to provide more housing opportunities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

See more at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Opening-Doors-Through-Multifamily-Housing-Toolkit-for-Implementing-a-Homeless-Preference.pdf>

RESOURCES FROM FEDERAL PARTNERS

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) released resources for community-based partners:

Achieving the Goal of Ending Veteran Homelessness – Criteria and Benchmarks:

This document outlines USICH, HUD, and the Department of Veterans Affairs' collective vision and specific criteria and benchmarks for ending Veteran homelessness in order to guide communities as they plan and take action to achieve that goal. The guide seeks to further define the agencies' vision for ending Veteran homelessness and align local efforts in support of that vision.

See more at:

http://usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Achieving_the_Goal_Ending_Veteran_Homelessness_v3_10_01_15.pdf

HMIS PRIVACY AND DATA-SHARING

OPEN AND CLOSED SYSTEMS

Before determining whether to share information with outside agencies, a CoC must decide whether to share information with each other. A closed HMIS—one where data is not shared outside of an agency—is the most secure way to satisfy HUD’s data collection requirements, but it results in client duplication that makes it difficult or impossible to track a client’s history and progress through the system, and cannot be used for coordinated assessment.

An open HMIS, in contrast, is a community information system that allows coordination of services, better performance measurements, and coordinated assessment and entry systems by allowing providers to see data entered by other providers (with the possibility of a few exceptions, such as case notes). However, as information is shared more widely, data protection and security become more important, and clients may be more reticent to allow use of their information.

SHARING DATA WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

With many cities discovering the benefits of having a homeless outreach team as part of their law enforcement operations, and CoCs working to integrate these teams into coordinated entry and provision of services, the question of how law enforcement will interact with HMIS will inevitably arise. Significant privacy and safety concerns attend this question. It is not hard to imagine a scenario where police access to HMIS records could lead to abuse—using the data to locate a suspect or an individual with an outstanding warrant, for example. Disclosing that police will have access to HMIS data could also have a chilling effect on data collection.

Discussion Questions:

- Has your community encountered problems between law enforcement and people experiencing homelessness in the past?
- Are there currently efforts to integrate law enforcement with HMIS? If so, what barriers are you encountering? If not, what barriers do you anticipate?

SHARING DATA WITH HEALTH PROVIDERS

Less controversial than law enforcement, opening an HMIS to mental and physical health providers has many benefits for providers and clients. Including such services in HMIS allows providers to obtain a more thorough knowledge of their clients’ needs. In addition,

Coordinated Entry systems can identify particularly vulnerable people by cross-referencing hospital data with homeless services data to identify patients who are frequent users of emergency rooms and in-patient care.

However, there are also difficulties in this type of data-sharing. Health providers are subject to HIPAA and state privacy laws that a homeless services provider is not. Determining the appropriate security protocols, and then imposing them on all providers, may be more complex or burdensome than a CoC is willing to accept. In addition, medical providers generally have their own data systems that are not compatible with HMIS and may be unwilling to take on the burden of duplicating data entry.

Discussion Questions:

- What are relationships like between your CoC and local hospitals/health care providers? How likely are they to work with you on developing an HMIS partnership?
- Can you think of any less burdensome ways to achieve the same goals? Are there advantages to using HMIS over these alternative methods?

Feedback Please!
Northern California/Central Valley Homeless Roundtable
December 2015

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US – WE USE IT TO DEVELOP AGENDAS FOR FUTURE
ROUNDTABLES**

PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO RESPOND! THANK YOU!!!

What was the best part about today?

What can we improve for next time?

Topics you'd like on the agenda for upcoming Roundtables:

Other comments/suggestions about this meeting: