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March 7, 2019

TO: Home Sonoma County Performance Measurement & Evaluation Task Group

FROM: Jenny Abramson, Homeless Services Manager

RE: Staff Report for FY2019-20 Home Sonoma County Consolidated NOFA

This memo will provide evaluators with critical guidance for the process of making funding recommendations on March 15, 2019. This guidance includes a summary of applications received; a review of funds in this competition and their best uses; a summary of federal and state mandates and how proposals can (or must) address those mandates; an update on system needs and priorities; guidance towards building a regionally equitable system of care; and the funding recommendations made prior to the Performance Measurement and Evaluation Task Group’s meeting.

Applications received

Home Sonoma County staff received 23 capital project applications, including 5 City projects, and 49 homeless services requests. Two applications to provide Fair Housing-Related services were redirected for review by the Community Development Committee. Home Sonoma County staff had promised to encourage creative approaches for any eligible use of Homeless Emergency Aid Program dollars, so staff gave emerging organizations the opportunity to correct technical deficiencies. Newly submitted documents were reviewed to determine if they addressed the identified deficiencies, and staff made an eligibility determination. Following this process, nine applications with technical deficiencies were added to the eligible project list. Fifteen applications were determined ineligible. A listing of all projects reviewed is attached (this is updated from one published on February 25th). The ineligible projects are available here: <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/Homeless-System-of-Care-Redesign/Summary-of-Requests/>

Funds in This Competition and Their Best Uses

The funds available in the following chart have been updated with current funding availability, since they were published in the Funding Policies (January 8, 2019). Staff will track the various funding mandates and best uses throughout our evaluation session; the information below is offered as background to our work together.

Source	Funds Available	Best and Other Eligible Uses
CDBG Public Services	\$ 118,355	Operating support for services to literally homeless persons; best use is in shelters or street outreach. (The Fair Housing set-aside has been subtracted.)
Federal and State ESG	\$ 355,000	At least 40% must be used for Rapid Re-Housing; may also be used for Shelter, Street Outreach, Homelessness Prevention

Source	Funds Available	Best and Other Eligible Uses
Community Services Fund (CSF)	\$610,000	Permanent supportive housing, shelters, prevention, Coordinated Entry, and Other Homeless Services.
LMIHAF-Services	\$250,000	Rapid Re-Housing; also may be used for Homelessness Prevention
Winter Shelter Expansion Grants	\$210,000	Winter Shelters Only
California Emergency Services & Housing	\$ 380,000	Rapid Re-Housing; Coordinated Entry; also may be used Homelessness Prevention. <i>(One-time funds)</i>
Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)	\$11,505,727*	Best uses: Rapid Re-Housing; Capital Permanent Supportive Housing and Shelter if funds can be expended timely; Permanent Supportive Housing operations, shelters, street outreach, other capital needs, and other homeless services. Because of the time involved in pre-development, <i>HEAP capital funds are best used in acquisition and rehab projects that will quickly make new housing available.</i> <i>(One-time funds)</i>
Sonoma Valley Homeless Initiative	\$250,000	A range of services and housing to build the system of care in Sonoma Valley <i>(one-time funds, already allocated)</i> .
Partnership HealthPlan of California Grants	\$400,000	Permanent housing serving Partnership HealthPlan members <i>(one-time funds)</i> .
Total Available	\$14,079,082	

**This number increased with the requirement that cities also compete for HEAP funds.*

Investing to Achieve Mandates: Serving the Most Vulnerable First

Funding mandates: The Sonoma Valley funds, HEAP youth projects, Partnership HealthPlan funds, Rapid Re-Housing, and Winter Shelters have either dedicated funding or minimum spending amounts. The Sonoma Valley Homelessness Initiative Task Force made recommendations on Sonoma Valley awards on March 1, 2019. The Performance Measurement and Evaluation Task Group will take up the remaining four funding mandates in the order above, prior to other uses.

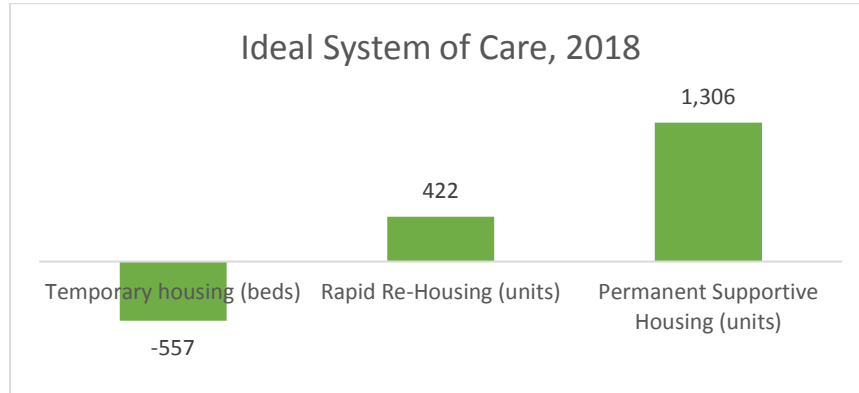
System mandates: Home Sonoma County is working to implement several federal and state mandates. Funded projects must work to lower barriers to entering housing, ***using Housing First principles and practices***. Homeless systems of care must also develop a single front door to homeless services, thus all projects funded with Home Sonoma County dollars must ***accept referrals only from the Coordinated Entry system***, or act as point of access to enable homeless persons to access Coordinated Entry. Lastly, the local Coordinated Entry implementation follows federal mandates to use a standardized assessment tool that ***prioritizes housing resources to the persons who have been homeless the longest and who have the greatest health vulnerabilities***. These mandates inform all staff reports for individual projects.

Investing Towards Functional Zero: System Needs and Priorities

Staff understand that evaluators and the Leadership Council desire a data-informed process, but have not had time to learn what data we have. Below we will summarize some of what we know based on successive Homeless Counts and the Homeless Management Information System's year-round data.

An estimate of housing needed to end homelessness. Based on the 2018 Homeless Count, utilization of our current system's resources, and the assessments conducted by Coordinated Entry since 2015, an

ideal system of care would have 1,306 more units of Permanent Supportive Housing than we have currently, and the capacity to serve 422 more households at any given time in Rapid Re-Housing than we now have. When our system of care has enough permanent housing options, we might be able to convert some of our existing shelter capacity to permanent housing. *We must be careful not to convert those resources too quickly, and to ensure they are equipped to effectively serve the most vulnerable people living outside, until permanent housing is created.*



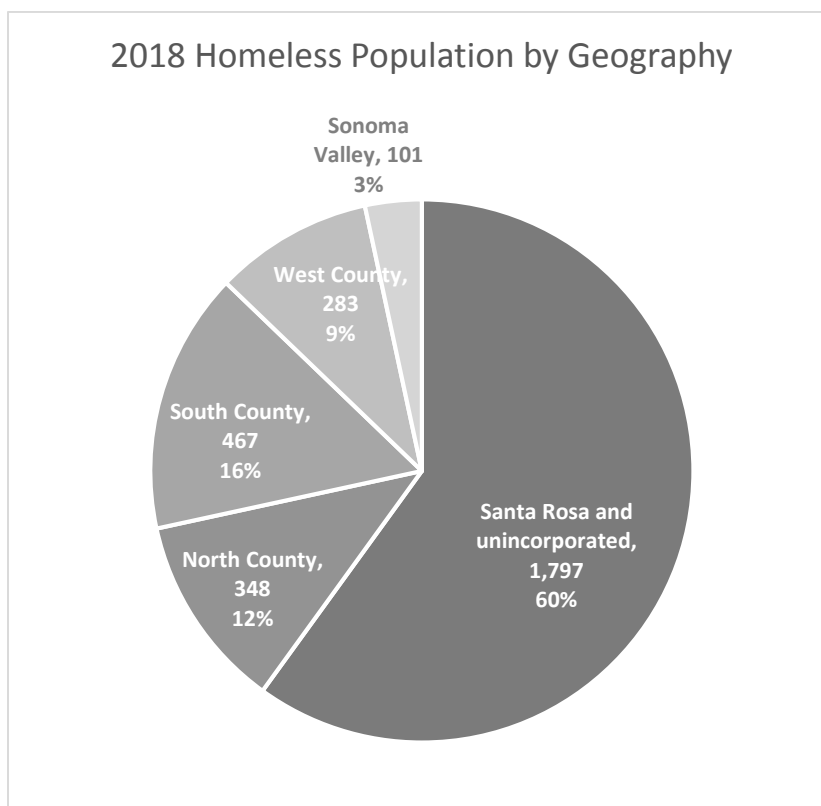
Reaching functional zero. As the chart below demonstrates, since 2011 our system of care has reduced the number of veterans experiencing homelessness on any given night by almost half (from 402 to 207), and the number of families experiencing homelessness by 45% (from 190 families to 104 families). The number of homeless youth has similarly dropped 54%, from 1,128 in 2013 to 515 in 2018.



Strategic investments in permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless persons and for transition-aged youth –and rapid re-housing for youth, families, and other single adults—can make an enormous difference in reaching functional zero for these populations. *Functional zero is when enough permanent housing and outreach services are available, that people newly becoming homeless have options to end their housing crisis within 30 days.*

Building a Regionally Equitable System of Care

This pie chart below shows homeless persons were found during the 2018 Homeless Count. The HEAP “City set-asides” are based on this distribution. As the Task Group works through its recommendation, we will use a spreadsheet that calculates the geographic distribution of recommended funding.



Recommendations to Date

Lastly, the Performance Measurement and Evaluation Task Group will want to know that on March 1, the Sonoma Valley Homeless Initiative Task Force finalized recommendations for \$839,750 in Valley-designated funds. This included the \$250,000 of County general funds designated for this purpose, and the \$589,750 designated for the Valley in the funding policies for this NOFA. The recommendations are:

Organization	Project	Recommendation
Catholic Charities	Coordinated Entry Expansion (countywide)	\$50,000 combined
Catholic Charities	HOST Expansion (countywide)	
Interfaith Shelter Network	Coordinated Entry Access Point	\$18,000
Sonoma Overnight Support	Winter Shelter	\$94,873
City of Sonoma	Rehab & Site Search	\$245,000
Social Advocates for Youth	Street Outreach (countywide)	\$50,000 over 2 years
Interfaith Shelter Network	Housing First Sonoma Valley	\$223,877
SHARE	SHARE Sonoma Valley	\$91,528
		\$773,278
<i>Due diligence on transportation options & shared operational costs – if not approved, funds to be split between youth outreach, rapid re-housing and shared housing.</i>		\$66,472
TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS		\$839,750