



**SONOMA COUNTY  
HOMELESS  
COALITION**

**Sonoma County Homeless Coalition**

**Board Special Meeting Agenda**

**October 09, 2024**

**1:00pm-2:30 pm Pacific Time**

**Public Zoom Link:**

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/93751903649?pwd=jpoEIUEBuY3DaUNdG8cMJo7guHta6I.1>

**Phone:** +16694449171 **Webinar ID:** 937 5190 3649 **Passcode:** 697008

	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Packet Item</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Time</b>
	Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions		Board Chair	1:00pm
1.	9/25/24 Agenda (Consent Calendar)	Draft Agenda	Staff	1:05pm
2.	Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition Overview and New Project Proposal Review (ACTION ITEM)	Staff Report	Staff	1:05pm
3.	2024 CoC Competition Final Priority Listing Recommendation New and Renewal projects (ACTION ITEM)	Staff Report Final Priority Listing	Staff	1:35pm
4.	Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda		Board Chair	2:25pm

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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



**SONOMA COUNTY  
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**Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Board  
Agenda Item Summary**

**Item No:** 2  
**Subject:** Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition Overview and New Project Proposal Review  
**Meeting Date:** October 09, 2024  
**Staff Contact:** Karissa White, Continuum Care Coordinator, [Karissa.White@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karissa.White@sonoma-county.org)

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### Summary

On July 31<sup>st</sup>, Sonoma County Department of Health Services staff released the [2024 & 2025 Continuum of Care Competition Request for Proposals](#) for new projects to apply for potential funding from the Continuum of Care Program.

Three Technical Assistance (TA) sessions were held, along with several one-on-one meetings to discuss ideas for this potential funding. New project applications were due on September 20<sup>th</sup> by 5:00 pm. Renewal projects were previously scored by the CoC Competition Evaluation (CCE) Workgroup and approved by the Homeless Coalition Board during its meeting in June of 2024.

The CCE Workgroup reviewed and scored the five new project applications that applied during their final meeting on September 27, 2024. The Funding and Evaluation Committee were notified of the meeting and were invited to provide public comment on project applications due to the timing of the competition. The following are the scores approved by the workgroup for each project application:

1. COTS Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Expansion, score 87.6, CoC Bonus Funding
2. COTS Rapid Rehousing (RRH) project, score 95.66, CoC Bonus Funding
3. Family Justice Center (FJC) Domestic Violence (DV) RRH, score 86.8, DV Bonus
4. FJC Domestic Violence RRH, score 86.8, DV Reallocation
5. St. Vincent de Paul Gravenstein Commons PSH, score 75.1

As required of the CoC Program, the Homeless Coalition Board must either accept, reject or reduce project applications. The Homeless Coalition has the following sources of potential funding to apply for through bonus funding and reallocated funding:

1. CoC Bonus- total possible \$526,166
2. DV Bonus- total possible \$410,479

### 3. DV Reallocation- total possible \$271,008

Applications received exceeded the total amount of CoC Bonus funding possible. Therefore, it is being recommended that all projects be accepted by the Homeless Coalition, with the St. Vincent de Paul Gravenstein Commons PSH project reduced by the amount exceeded of CoC Bonus funding of \$35,933 to come to a total of \$267,737.

### Recommended Action(s)

Accept the five new project applications for funding on the Priority Listing with the reduction of the St. Vincent de Paul Gravenstein Commons PSH project, as recommended and scored by the CCE Workgroup on September 27, 2024. The decisions on the Final Rating and Ranking of all new projects will be approved during the next agenda item, the Final Priority Listing recommendation.

### Discussion

On July 31, 2024, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued the [Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for the 2024 and 2025 Continuum of Care Program Funds. Within the NOFO, HUD lays out specific scoring criteria in which CoC's are scored on how we rate and rank our projects, our CoC's System Performance, and the overall full CoC Application submitted by staff as the Collaborative Applicant.

After a review of the NOFO, staff determined the priorities from last year's New Project Scoring tool remained the same. However, two separate scoring tools were included this year to account for PSH projects, and RRH and Joint Transitional RRH project types. The CCE Workgroup approved the New Project scoring tools, with some adjustments on weight of scoring, for this year's competition on August 21, 2024.

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

1. The Family Justice Center
2. Hanna Boys Center
3. The Living Room
4. Committee on the Shelterless (COTS)
5. St. Vincent de Paul

Organizations that did not apply:

The Hanna Boys Center expressed interest in applying for a youth serving Joint Transitional RRH project but decided not to apply this year.

The Living Room decided not to apply for funding directly but has been identified as a subrecipient in the Family Justice Center's Domestic Violence Rapid Re-Housing Project for the DV Reallocated funds.

## CoC Bonus Applications

The County of Sonoma's Department of Health Services received three new projects that applied for CoC Bonus funding:

1. COTS PSH Expansion: The agency applied for \$44,000 to enhance supportive services for its existing Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project funded through the CoC Program. Currently, most of the budget is allocated to leasing 18 units, with only \$28,968 per year designated for supportive services. Following the implementation of Coordinated Entry, which prioritizes more vulnerable populations, the need for increased supportive services has become clear. This proposal, while not adding new units, aims to expand the services available to current and new residents, aligning with the Strategic Plan and the higher level of service needs of those served. The workgroup discussed the need for increased funding in response to the evolving needs of the more vulnerable populations being served. COTS has successfully managed their current CoC-funded project, ensuring their grants are spent down, and have scored in the top 5 in the last 3 funding competitions. The project's approved score was 87.6 out of 97 points.
2. COTS RRH: The agency applied for a new RRH project through the CoC Program in the amount of \$214,429, with a budget that includes rental assistance, supportive services, and admin. This proposal will serve individuals and families, with 37 individuals proposed to be served. The agency has identified funding to leverage its general fund to provide subsidies and healthcare commitments, which are HUD priorities. As mentioned, COTS has demonstrated experience in effectively managing CoC awards. The project's approved score was 95.6 out of 97 points.
3. St. Vincent de Paul Gravenstein Commons PSH: Applied for CoC Bonus funding for a new PSH project with a requested amount of \$303,670 for 21 SRO units. The project application includes a budget for supportive services, operation costs, and admin. The provider has confirmed the site will have on-site medical services through health care partnerships. The provider just started to receive CoC funds, and their other project will be working on a Corrective Action Plan with staff to improve performance due to their inability to serve participants during the first HUD award due to delays in construction. However, it was confirmed that this project is expected to be completed in November of 2025. Given its lower score, possible future funding opportunities, and placement on the priority listing (which will be covered in the next item), the workgroup decided to reduce funding from this project. The total amount of the application is being recommended to be reduced to \$267,737, as the CoC cannot apply for more funding than is possible through the bonus amount. The project's approved score was 75.1 out of 97 points.

## Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Funding

The County of Sonoma's Department of Health Services received one new project that applied for DV Bonus funding:

1. FJC Rapid Rehousing: Applied for the maximum amount possible for the DV Bonus funding from HUD in the amount of \$410,479. The project has identified Victims Empowerment Support Team (VEST) as a sub-recipient of this grant, including a housing matching commitment from SHARE Sonoma County, and also has a written commitment from SANE-SART to provide in-kind mental health services of individual counseling and crisis stabilization. The proposal is to serve 8 households with 29 individuals. The budget includes funding for rental assistance, supportive services, VAWA-related transfer costs, and administrative expenses. Although this provider has not yet received CoC Program funding, they have experience managing federal and state awards. In addition, their proposal was strong regarding the number of established relationships they have within the community to connect participants to various mainstream resources and support groups. HUD may consider the DV Bonus project outside the Priority Listing based on the Collaborative Application's DV sections. In the coming weeks, staff will collaborate with the FJC to develop and enhance these sections, with the goal of providing sufficient information for our application and HUD to select this project as a bonus initiative. The project's approved score was 86.8 out of 97 points.

## Domestic Violence (DV) Reallocated Funding

The County of Sonoma's Department of Health Services received one new project that applied for DV Bonus funding:

1. FJC Rapid Rehousing: Applied for the full amount of funding that was previously reallocated by the YWCA for their DV RRH project of \$271,008. The funding request since it is considered reallocation dollars, is included within the Homeless Coalition's Annual Renewal Demand amount. The project has identified Victims Empowerment Support Team (VEST) and the Living Room as a sub-recipient of this grant, including a housing matching commitment from SHARE Sonoma County, and also has a written commitment from SANE-SART to provide in-kind mental health services of individual counseling and crisis stabilization. The proposal is to serve 5 households with 18 individuals. The budget includes funding for rental assistance, supportive services, VAWA-related transfer costs, and administrative expenses. Although this provider has not yet received CoC Program funding, they have experience managing federal and state awards. As mentioned, the agency's application was strong in terms of committed services and access to resources for program participants. The project's approved score was 86.8 out of 97 points.

## Optional Materials to Review

All application materials can be located using the following link (optional review, not required):

<https://share.sonoma-county.org/link/t9BOKi6PP5s/>



# SONOMA COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION

## Sonoma County Homeless Coalition Agenda Item Summary

**Item No:** 3

**Subject:** 2024 CoC Competition Final Priority Listing Recommendation New and Renewal projects

**Meeting Date:** October 09, 2024

**Staff Contact:** Karissa White, Continuum of Care Coordinator, [Karissa.White@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Karissa.White@sonoma-county.org)

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### Summary

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

The CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup met on September 27<sup>th</sup> to review new project applications submitted for potential bonus and reallocated funding for this year's competition. Given the quick turnaround with the HUD CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) deadlines, the Funding and Evaluation Committee was invited to participate in the process through public comment. The Committee approved the workgroup to provide recommendations directly to the Homeless Coalition Board.

During the meeting, the workgroup scored each of the five new projects based on the approved scoring criteria and discussed the order to rank the new project applications with existing projects (renewals). The Workgroup is requesting that the Homeless Coalition (HC) Board approve the recommended Final Priority Listing. Project applicants will be notified of their rank on or before October 14<sup>th</sup> to meet the required HUD deadline.

### Recommended Actions

1. Approve the CoC Final Priority Listing for renewal and new projects as recommended by the CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup or as adjusted.

### Discussion

HUD's Tier 1 and Tier 2 Submission Process

Funds in tier 1 are ultimately guaranteed if the project passes HUD's basic threshold requirements. This year, HUD put \$438,471, or 10%, of our Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) of \$4,384,714 at risk and categorized it as tier 2. The total amount in tier one this year is \$3,946,243.

Tier 2 funding includes the total ARD at risk, or \$438,471, \$526,166 available for new CoC Bonus project funding, and a total of up to \$410,479 in DV bonus funding. Thus, the total amount possible for funding in tier 2 is \$1,375,116 (which would include the total amount of ARD at risk and potential CoC Bonus and DV Bonus funding).

HUD awards tier 2 projects based on several factors. These include the score in the overall collaborative application, the process for reallocating underperforming projects, system performance, the described need for the project for the CoC and community, the project's commitment to housing first, where it is ranked on the list, HUD's available funding for the competition, and our rating/ranking process for reviewing projects.

#### Reallocated Funding, Reduced Funding, and Ranking

The Homeless Coalition (HC) may reallocate (either part of the award or the full amount to another provider) and/or reject an underperforming project. In addition, the Coalition may also place a new project above an existing project if the new project scores well, is better suited for our community needs, and/or is more in line with HUD priorities.

All projects in tier 2 are at risk of potentially losing funding. If our CoC, as the HC, loses any of renewing projects, projects will still have the remaining contract term of 2024-2025 to wind down their projects or look for a new funding source to remain in operation.

Currently, the combined CoC Bonus funding applications exceed the maximum possible award by \$35,933. HUD advised CoC Staff that one of the CoC Bonus projects must be reduced so as not to exceed the total possible amount. Although all new projects are being recommended for funding, the Workgroup has recommended that the amount exceeding be reduced from the St. Vincent de Paul's (SVDP) Gravenstein Commons project as described in item two of the agenda packet.

HUD may choose new DV Bonus project applications that meet eligibility and quality requirements in one of two ways:

1. For DV Bonus funds, they will consider the CoC Application score, collaboration with victim service providers, the project's need, and how the provider includes survivors with lived experience in developing policies and programs. These selected applications will not go through the Tier 1 and Tier 2 ranking process.
2. If not selected for the DV Bonus, HUD will award the project based on its ranking in tier 1 or tier 2.

Although the Workgroup could have placed a new project above renewals in tier one, the group decided that they did not want to put an existing project at risk. Discussions were made of



placing the COTS PSH Expansion project below its renewal project at number five due to its need to expand supportive services and its ability to successfully manage CoC awards. However, the group ultimately decided that it would place the SVDP Commons project further into tier 2 and increased the possibility of losing its award. The SVDP Commons project was approved for performance corrective action during the renewal project evaluation. The numerical score given to the project was much lower than any other project due to delays in the project start date during their first contract term. The Workgroup wanted to give the project time to work on its performance with the understanding that CoC staff would work with them to improve performance issues and provide the new project with additional time to monitor the performance of the project before placing it further into tier 2. Finally, the group decided to place the Family Justice Center’s DV Bonus project above all other new projects. This was with the understanding that their proposal was strong (especially as it relates to the services and partnerships attached to the project), the current lack of domestic violence housing projects, and its potential to be taken out of the priority listing as a DV Bonus project.

Final Priority Listing as recommended for new and renewal projects:

Rank	Project	Type	Amount	Amount in tier 2	Score
1	CoC Rental Assistance HIV/AIDS SCHA	PSH-R	721,918	-	76.08
2	Mill Street Supportive Housing-WCCS	PSH-R	106,744	-	71.60
3	Community Based PSH-COTS	PSH-R	320,575	-	69.78
4	Stony Point Commons-CSN	PSH-R	63,666	-	69.41
5	PSH-2 Catholic Charities	PSH-R	806,167	-	67.45
6	Sonoma SCIL-Buckelew	PSH-R	289,012	-	64.64
7	CSN Sponsor Based Rental Assistance	PSH-R	327,217	-	57.45
8	WCCS-Elderberry Commons (auto-renewed)	PSH-R	290,828	-	NA
9	County of Sonoma-Coordinated Intake Grant (auto-renewed)	SSO-CES	549,993	-	NA
10	County of Sonoma- HMIS Grant (auto-renewed)	HMIS	327,157	-	NA
11	St. Vincent de Paul Commons	PSH-R	310,429	167,463	55.40
12	Family Justice Center RRH Bonus Project	PH-N	410,479	410,479	86.8

13	COTS Community Based PSH Expansion	PSH-N	44,000	44,000	87.6
14	COTS Rapid Rehousing	RRH-N	214,429	214,429	95.66
15	Family Justice Center RRH DV Reallocation	RRH-N	271,008	271,008	86.8
16	SVDP Gravenstein Commons PSH	PSH- N	267,737	267,737	75.1
		Total	5,321,359	1,375,116	

Renewal Project Notes

The Coordinated Intake and Homeless Management Information System grants are system mandates and evaluated outside this process. They are automatically placed into tier 1.

The West County Community Services Elderberry Commons project just received its grant from HUD and had not yet started to serve clients; thus, they were given a pass this year and placed into tier 1.

This year, the YWCA decided to reject their award from HUD for the domestic violence (DV) rapid rehousing (RRH) grant. Given this information, there is \$271,008 available for a new DV project through DV restricted reallocation funds. The Family Justice Center applied for the full amount for a new RHH DV project for the total possible amount of reallocated funds.

With the sudden closure of Social Advocates for Youth, Community Support Network (CSN) took on operations of their Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance project. While sorting through a lengthy transfer process, CSN was able to find funding outside the CoC Program to keep the youth in housing. Although this project is a renewal project, it is new to CSN this year. Part of the project score was based on SAY data and performance.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Commons project scored the lowest due to its inability to start serving participants during the first year of its award. There was no Annual Performance Report (APR) data to review for the award in 2022-2023. The Workgroup approved the scoring for a partial APR submission for the contract term 2023-2024. This project was automatically placed on a performance Corrective Action Plan due to its lack of performance.