

## Before Starting the Special CoC Application

You must submit both of the following parts in order for us to consider your Special NOFO Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application, and
2. the CoC Priority Listing.

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The Special NOFO Continuum of Care (CoC) Application Detailed Instructions for Collaborative Applicants which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachment are provided.

CoC Approval is Required before You Submit Your CoC's Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on behalf of your CoC.
- 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit the Consolidated Application into e-snaps.

Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You must upload the [Specific Attachment Name] attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

- Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.

- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

# 1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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**1A-1. CoC Name and Number:** CA-608 - Riverside City & County CoC

**1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name:** County of Riverside

**1A-3. CoC Designation:** CA

**1A-4. HMIS Lead:** County of Riverside

1A-5.	<b>New Projects</b>	
	Complete the chart below by indicating which funding opportunity(ies) your CoC applying for projects under. A CoC may apply for funding under both set asides; however, projects funded through the rural set aside may only be used in rural areas, as defined in the Special NOFO.	
1.	<b>Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside</b>	Yes
2.	<b>Rural Homelessness Set Aside</b>	No

## 1B. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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<b>1B-1.</b>	<b>Web Posting of Your CoC Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. (All Applicants)</b>	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for project application submission for your CoC's local competition.	08/02/2022

<b>1B-2.</b>	<b>Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. (All Applicants)</b>	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.a.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected new project applications during your CoC's local competition:	
	1. Established total points available for each project application type.	Yes
	2. At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH).	Yes
	3. At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness).	Yes

<b>1B-3.</b>	<b>Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)</b>	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	1. Did your CoC reject or reduce any project application(s)?	Yes
	2. Did your CoC inform the applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced?	Yes
	3. If you selected yes, for element 1 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	10/05/2022

1B-3a.	<b>Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)</b>	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	10/05/2022
1B-4.	<b>Web Posting of the CoC-Approved Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application. (All Applicants)</b>	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC posted its Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or affiliate’s website–which included: 1. the CoC Application, and 2. Priority Listings.	10/18/2022

## 2A. System Performance

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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<b>2A-1.</b>	<b>Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors.</b>	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.b.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC determined which risk factors your CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;	
	2. how your CoC addresses individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time or to end homelessness for individuals and families.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1) The 2022 Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count reflects that 21% of all households experiencing unsheltered homelessness are experiencing homelessness for the first time. Reasons for homelessness include: loss of income, mental health condition, physical disability, chronic health, substance abuse, debt/poor credit. The CoC collects information from the PIT, HMIS and CES to identify people becoming homeless for the first time. 2) Households experiencing homelessness for the first time are screened and participate in an assessment to determine the most appropriate intervention. Diversion is first used as a crisis resolution strategy to navigate other options before utilizing an emergency shelter (ES); minimal financial assistance is housing such as rapid rehousing (RRH) for which they are eligible for. In addition, the CoC leverages resources from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program and the Emergency Solutions Grant for homeless prevention to prevent new entries into homelessness. CoC membership body, and its Board of Governance worked with Lesar Development Consultants to finalize it's Homeless Action Plan in 2022 and developed strategies to assist individuals/families at-risk of becoming homeless. This plan consists of: a) Working with the local PHA, developers, and other affordable housing partners to create additional affordable housing units to address the 2.6% county-wide rental vacancy rate, b) Implementing a robust Homeless Prevention System to identify those most likely to become homeless and ensure they receive necessary resources to prevent homelessness; c) Creating a Shelter Diversion System to divert households from entering ES through RRH; 3) The Organization responsible for overseeing the strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time is the CoC Lead, HWS.

2A-2.	<b>Length of Time Homeless–Strategy to Reduce. (All Applicants)</b>	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.c.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
2.	how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and	
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1) Riverside County CoC continues to implement strategies that will reduce the LOTH by: prioritizing the most vulnerable populations; adopting a countywide standard limiting emergency shelter stay to not exceed 90 days with a focus on exiting to a PH destination (CoC Written Standards approved 3/24/21); utilizing new state funding (CESH, HHAP & ESG-CV) for flexible housing subsidies, housing vouchers and RRH; partnering with the local PHA to refer clients through CES and in to permanent housing with EHV; increasing the supply of bridge housing to provide temporary shelter to facilitate housing placement for individuals & families awaiting lease-up; creating a Housing Locator team who solely focus on landlord relationship building, education and securing apartment stock for the CoC funded projects; coordinating street outreach teams for better countywide coverage and smaller caseload with an emphasis on relationship building and starting support services' linkages at engagement and increasing frequency of contact; and reorganizing the Housing Crisis System to include a BH Crisis Response Team in all areas of the County to ensure that outreach teams have adequate support for severe needs engagements. 2) Individuals and persons in families with the longest LOTH are identified through the CES VI-SPDAT triage tool at all entry points/no wrong door. CoC approved LOTH displays criteria in prioritizing chronic and literally homeless for housing. CES Policies and Procedures and CoC Written Standards explain the requirement to prioritize literally homeless & chronic homeless individuals based on vulnerability, with longest lengths of time homeless and score on the community assessment tool. LOTH is also a criterion in scoring renewal project applications. 3) The organization responsible for implementing strategies is the CES Lead (RUHS Behavioral Health).

2A-3.	<b>Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention. (All Applicants)</b>	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.d.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC will increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in:	
1.	emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and	
2.	permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1) The CoC has implemented the following strategies to increase the efficiency in which individuals and families exit emergency shelter, transitional housing and rapid rehousing programs which include a) working with a fully functional CES that ensures access to housing/resource referrals, along with providing landlord supports; b) increasing supply of PSH and affordable housing countywide. The County’s Housing Authority is partnering with cities to create new affordable housing and has implemented a Moving On Strategy for households that no longer need supportive services to graduate to the HCV program; c) utilizing state funding to increase PH units; d) increasing the number of housing navigators to increase exits to PH & housing locators to identify available units for CES; improving housing navigation services that include developing a housing plan at engagement that addresses housing barriers; and e) enrolling eligible CH persons in new Housing Disability Advocacy Program that assists CH obtain SSI/SSDI benefits and housing. 2) Strategies to increase the rate individuals/families in PH retain their housing include: a) implementation of Housing First to create a stable environment for clients; b) focus on rental counseling and tenants’ rights & obligations prior to move-in; c) intensify home- based case management for mainstream benefits linkage and encourage self- sufficiency activities around SAT, BH and employment to help individual/families stabilize & remain in housing (especially within 1st six months) after RRH assistance ends; c) Improve access to healthcare and mainstream benefits by establishing a countywide team to support case managers who will work with a benefits specialist lead at each homeless provider agency to educate recipients on how to maintain their benefits & what to do if benefits are lost or denied, link participants to Workforce Development provide vocational training and job training that will assist client with employment income. 3) Organization that is responsible for overseeing the CoCs strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to and retain permanent housing is the CoC lead, HWS.

2A-4.	Returns to Homelessness–CoC’s Strategy to Reduce Rate. (All Applicants) Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.e.	
Describe in the field below:		
1.	how your CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness;	
2.	your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness; and	
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) CoC & HMIS Lead Agency generate reports with outcomes on number of individuals & families who return to homelessness across different interventions. These reports are included in a monthly CoC Staff Report which provide the community with a summary of projects & impact reports with dashboards & infographics, so they are easier to interpret by community. HMIS participating agencies use a more detailed report to get info about clients who have exited or are newly enrolled, so they can track enrollments & status. 2) Strategies to reduce rate of returns to homelessness include: a) Homeless Prevention System to identify persons most likely to return to homelessness after being in permanent housing and ensure they receive necessary resources to remain housed. Both EFSP& ESG funds for rental/mortgage assistance to prevent evictions; b) Increase employment opportunities in collaboration with Workforce Development Division & CoC to establish a workforce team to prevent fragmented employment services; c) Develop coordinated discharge planning system with Whole Person Care for those leaving institutions (hospitals, jails, acute/long term facilities, etc.); d) Develop proactive strategies to end the cycle of homelessness including coordination with law enforcement, county agencies/cities to address underlying causes of homelessness, specifically criminalization policies & recidivism, & include countywide encampment response protocol; e) Create a shelter diversion system to divert households from entering emergency shelter; f) Fostering landlord engagement with new Housing Search Team operated by CoC housing provider using ESG funds to support housing locators that focus on identifying affordable housing & cultivating new/existing landlord relationships; & g) Improve access to healthcare/mainstream benefits, including a new state funded Housing & Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) for eligible chronically homeless individuals to obtain SSI/SSDI with housing assistance. 3) Organization responsible is the CoC Lead, HWS.

<b>2A-5.</b>	<b>Increasing Employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)</b>	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase employment cash sources;
2.	how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their cash income; and
3.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to increase income from employment.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**



1) The CoC makes a concerted effort to work with service providers to access workforce training, resume building, and linkages to employers to create internships, job shadowing, and entry level jobs. CoC also works to increase its resource capacity and ensure ease of access of job placement training by partnering with private agencies and service providers. In the last 24 months, the CoC has utilized new state funding to pilot Employment Service Programs targeting homeless with severe barriers to employment. 2) The CoC has established an agreement with the Riverside County Workforce Development Division, a Workforce Innovation Opportunity Agency (WIOA) which provides a full-range of employment services under the Workforce Investment Act program including career assessment and planning assistance, vocational training, and on-the-job training for job seekers. The agreement outlines a broad vision that supports an integrated service delivery system within the CoC. The CoC supports service provider partnerships with employment agencies such as the Goodwill Riverside WorkSource Center which offers one-on-one career counseling, job-search assistance, resume writing, computer skills training, and interview workshops. CoC also works in connection with the Workforce Development Division to strengthen partnerships with local employers to increase access & placement in sustainable jobs. This strategy provides supportive employment work environments that includes personal support, case management, job readiness, recruiting, and working with employers to hire hard-to-serve individuals with nontraditional backgrounds. Efforts include working with small localized employers and building partnerships with the faith-based communities, community colleges & adult education providers on developing homeless job training programs. Service providers take their clients to job fairs and hiring events and assist in completing application and required documents. 3) The organization responsible is the CoC Lead, HWS.

2A-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income—Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase non-employment cash income;	
2.	your CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources; and	
3.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC has implemented effective strategies to access employment cash sources by partnering with the Riverside County Workforce Development to connect clients with employment and vocation training programs. Also, by funding employment programs through local non-profits such as Path of Life Ministries Employment Program which provides direct linkages to employers. 2) The CoC has implemented effective strategies to access non-employment cash income for its program participants & makes these services available to non-CoC funded providers. The CoC executed a new agreement with DPSS's Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP), which trains certified specialists to assist homeless individuals who are disabled and needing assistance applying for SSI/SSDI. HDAP specialists are readily available to take referrals from CES, street outreach and housing teams & other CoC providers. In addition to providing assistance with completing SSI/SSDI applications, HDAP also financially assists participants with temporary housing until their benefits are approved and/or permanent housing can be identified. CoC partners are also strongly encouraged to participate in the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Training, to increase the number of staff providers in-house to assist disabled adults with applying for SSI/SSDI. CoC partners with DPSS to access cash benefits for individuals experiencing homelessness. These programs are: Cash Assistance Programs for Immigrants (CAPI), Cal-Fresh, General Assistance and other safety net programs such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). CoC also works closely with Veteran Service Office to determine and maximize financial benefits for homeless veterans. Training is made available regularly to countywide street outreach & housing teams on the various non-employment and cash benefits available to ensure they have the tools to successfully facilitate these linkages. The CoC also partners with the Riverside University Health System – Population Health to implement the state-funded, Whole Person Care Program (WPC) which provides targeted services to help link individuals experiencing homelessness and existing jails to benefits and housing. 3) CoC Lead Agency, HWS, is the organization responsible for overseeing the strategy to increase non-employment cash income.

## 2B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

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2B-1.	<b>Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry. (All Applicants)</b>	
	Special NOFO Sections VII.B.3.a.(1)	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022:	
	1. select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted—including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC’s coordinated entry system; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC’s geographic area:	

	Organization/Person	Participated in CoC Meetings	Voted, Including Electing of CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Agencies serving survivors of human trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	CoC-Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	No	No	No
13.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

20.	Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	Non-CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)			
33.	Faith Based Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
34.	Veteran Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes

2B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(2), V.B.3.g.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	communicated the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2.	ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;
3.	conducted outreach to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join your CoC; and
4.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC has a year-round, open invitation process for soliciting members. Invitations are sent to over 2,000 contacts on its listserv and the community such as those who serve and represent special minority groups like Black, Latino, and Indigenous persons through email, public meeting announcements, letters, website, recruitment flyers, and social media networks. The CoC’s “Join the Riverside CoC” webpage provides a link to its membership application. New members that meet attendance requirements are granted as voting members of the CoC. Regular membership, subcommittees, and Board of Governance meetings are publicly announced and posted to the website, are open to the community, and are held virtually. During community events, anyone interested in becoming a COC member can complete a sign-in sheet. 2) Individuals with disabilities can receive information via email, the CoC website, and HHPWS’s social media pages. CoC Meetings are recorded using the Teams’ platform to accommodate anyone unable to attend. Meeting documents are provided in downloadable formats on the website and are accessible to view and preserve accessibility features. CoC staff are available to assist potential members with the electronic application process. Hard copy applications are also available. 3) The CoC has 2 BoG members for persons with lived experience. Homeless persons are recruited and encouraged to participate. Additionally, Homeless Service Providers are encouraged to hire persons with lived experience. 4) Participation from providers such as Catholic Charities who serve undocumented and Latinx individuals, in addition to providers like QueerWorks and TruEvolution serving LGBTQ, Black, persons with disabilities and other special populations, has proven to increase reaches to all individuals to help address and ensure equity.

2B-3.	CoC’s Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(3)	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;
2.	communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information; and
3.	took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC engages in multiple strategies to solicit feedback from a broad range of audiences. They held several planning retreats and conducted online surveys to gather feedback. The CoC invited persons that represent racial/ethnic groups that are overrepresented in the local homeless population, persons with lived experience, the public, private organizations, and CBOs to examine the CoC's performance and to guide the development of a Strategic Action Plan, Assessment and Gaps Analysis, and 5-year Homeless Action Plan. In Aug. 2020, the CoC launched its Multidisciplinary Approaches to Ending Homelessness Webinars for experts to share on topics impacting homelessness such as: Accessing Mainstream Benefits, Family Homelessness, Serving Justice-Involved Persons, Developing Affordable Housing, DV Programs, & City-focused Efforts to address homelessness. 2) Riverside CoC has 4 FTE Planning Staff directly responsible for promoting planning activities. All meetings are inclusive of agendas which provide an opportunity for public comments, are recorded, and support the use of visuals and other accessible electronic formats to engage a diverse range of individuals. 3) Planning Staff coordinate, facilitate and utilize CoC, subcommittee, and BoG meetings to discuss homelessness issues, solicit feedback, and use suggestions to improve services and implement approaches. The Planning Team also participates in non-CoC coordinated community meetings to solicit expertise and knowledge on a variety of topics impacting homelessness including economic, workforce, healthcare, and educational sectors. The CoC engages in multiple mediums to successfully solicit information from the public. This includes developing surveys, participating in listening sessions, facilitating focus groups inclusive of providers and persons with lived experience, and obtaining feedback directly from providers who engage with these types of individuals.

2B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(4)	

Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:	
1.	that your CoC's local competition was open and accepting project applications;
2.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;
3.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications;
4.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and
5.	how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The local RFP was posted to Public Purchase and on the CoC website on August 30, 2022. We made formal announcements by email. The project applications were due on September 20, 2022. 2) During presentations in public meetings, it's emphasized that all interested organizations are encouraged to apply whether they are existing CoC funded agencies or new to CoC Program. On RFP Bid-Notification that was emailed to 400+ CoC Members & posted on NOFO website, it states "All interested organizations are encouraged to submit a proposal including those that have not previously received CoC Program funding." 3) On RFP Bid Notification, it states, "Proposals must be prepared through the Esnaps portal and your agency's downloaded PDF copy must be emailed to CoC@rivco.org." Live demonstration of Esnaps was conducted as part of the virtual pre-bid workshop. 4) On RFP Bid Notification, it states, "Proposals are evaluated by a neutral panel with expertise in homeless, housing, and/or government funded programs. Selected proposals were ranked together with all renewal projects & approved by CoC Board of Governance for inclusion in FY2022 CoC Program Competition application." All materials of RFP & virtual pre-bid workshop recordings are posted on CoC NOFO website to ensure accessibility by public, especially people with disabilities. 4) On RFP Bid Notification, it states, "The County may provide an alternative format of RFP within 3 business days." All materials of RFP & virtual pre-bid meeting recordings are posted on CoC NOFO website to ensure accessibility by public, especially people with disabilities.

## 2C. Coordination / Engagement—with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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- Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	<b>Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. (All Applicants)</b>	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	
	In the chart below:	
	1. select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC’s coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC’s geographic area.	

	Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects	Coordinates with Planning or Operations of Projects
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Yes
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Yes
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Yes
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		



2C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG funds;
2.	participated in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients;
3.	provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area; and
4.	provided information to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions to address homelessness within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in Consolidated Plan update.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1) The Housing & Workforce Solutions Department (HWS) as the CoC Collaborative Applicant, Administrative Lead, and HMIS Lead Agency consults with State, County, and City ESG Program recipients on an ongoing basis to discuss priorities, coordinate planning and funding allocations for ESG and ESG-CV funds. In collaboration with other ESG Program recipients, written standards have been developed within Riverside County, including HWS, the City of Riverside, City of Moreno Valley, and Continuum of Care (CoC) Membership. Regular collaboration with ESG Program recipients ensures written standards are reviewed and updated as needed. 2) Program Recipients regularly participate in CoC Meetings and provide updates to the larger CoC membership body on ESG funding opportunities and obtain feedback to make determinations on how funding should be allocated. Emails soliciting this information are sent to members through the CoC's listserv. Program recipients also work together to recruit members across each entity to assist with developing and evaluating applications. HWS also prepares regular HMIS data collection and performance reports for all ESG Program recipients and program sub-recipients. 3) In addition, Annual Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT), Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data, HMIS, and CES is made available on the CoC's website and made available upon request to jurisdictions for their Consolidated Plans. 4) HWS and CoC Staff assists ESG Program recipients with preparation of Consolidation Plans as needed. In addition, it provides data and information surrounding priorities and local strategies to address homelessness. It also participates in interviews with appropriate jurisdictions to answer questions to ensure plans are reflective of community needs, identify strengths and gaps within it's existing homelessness delivery system, and are consistent with the County and CoC's Homeless Action Plan.

2C-3.	Discharge Planning Coordination. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.c.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the systems of care listed to ensure persons who have resided in them longer than 90 days are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs.		
1.	Foster Care	Yes
2.	Health Care	Yes
3.	Mental Health Care	Yes

	4. Correctional Facilities	Yes
--	----------------------------	-----

2C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:

	1. Youth Education Provider	Yes
	2. State Education Agency (SEA)	Yes
	3. Local Education Agency (LEA)	Yes
	4. School Districts	Yes

2C-4a.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts–Formal Partnerships. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

Describe in the field below:

	1. how your CoC collaborates with the entities checked in Question 2C-4; and
	2. the formal partnerships your CoC has with the entities checked in Question 2C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC established formal and collaborate partnerships with key educational providers to better support youth experiencing homelessness. The Youth Advisory Council (YAC), a sub-committee of the CoC was developed to raise awareness of the issues surrounding youth homelessness and bring together partner agencies, such as youth educational partners who specialize in youth services to address the issue. These relationships are inclusive of the Riverside County Office of Education (RCOE), who serves as the Local Education Agency for Riverside County. RCOE is connected with the State Education Agency for California and provides educational, financial, legislative, and leadership services to support all K-12 school districts in Riverside County. RCOE staff participate in CoC meetings, and both facilitate and streamline communication with each of the McKinney-Vento Liaisons in all 23 school districts countywide. In addition, the CoC has established formal relationships with local colleges, including their Guardian Scholar and Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) divisions to better support youth who historically are underserved and focus on helping them achieve success in college and beyond. Additionally, RCOE and local colleges, such as the Riverside Community College and University of California, Riverside provide data, collected, and reported annually, which includes youth homeless status, frequency of homelessness, living situation, impacts of homelessness on students' education and needed supportive services. This relationship has resulted in the successful submission of grant applications submitted by educators and the CoC alike, in addition to strengthening reach to youth who experience homelessness. RCOE, School Districts, and partnering colleges work closely with the CoC's Homelessness Youth Coordinator and utilize the CoC meetings and Coordinated Entry System's 24/7 HomeConnect Hotline to coordinate initiatives and services for at-risk and homeless youth.

2C-4b.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for educational services
---

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC policies and procedures require service providers to inform homeless individuals and families of their eligibility for education services as required by the McKinney-Vento Act. Families with children that enter a shelter are provided with McKinney-Vento policies and advised of their eligibility for educational services and local school enrollment. Additionally, they are connected to community resources that will help children stay in school and on track. CoC and ESG funded service providers are required to have a designated staff person to ensure that children are enrolled in school; connected into Head Start, Early Head Start and other preschool programs, as needed; connected to educational resources; and have policies and process consistent with the laws related to providing education services to individuals and families. CoC and ESG projects assisting families with children must address the educational needs of children when the families are placed in housing not to disrupt the children’s education by selecting a housing location as close as possible to the school of origin. These requirements included in the agency monitoring tool and are tracked and verified during the on-site monitoring visits. Providers are required to address education needs of children and youth in Domestic Violence programs by advocating for them to be home schooled or enrolled locally in school with transportation provided by the district to safely get them to and from school. School district liaisons work with CoC and ESG funded programs to identify homeless children and youth through the Coordinated Entry System. They also work together to inform homeless families of eligibility for McKinney-Vento education services which includes ensuring that families are aware of educational rights, their eligibility for services, their right to receive transportation to their school and their rights as parents and students to receive educational services.

2C-5.	Mainstream Resources–CoC Training of Project Staff. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains project staff annually on the following mainstream resources available for program participants within your CoC’s geographic area:

	Mainstream Resource	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI–Supplemental Security Income	No
3.	TANF–Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
4.	Substance Abuse Programs	Yes
5.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
6.	Other	Yes

2C-5a.	Mainstream Resources–CoC Collaboration with Project Staff Regarding Healthcare Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance;
3.	provides assistance to project staff with the effective use of Medicaid and other benefits; and
4.	works with projects to promote SOAR certification of program staff.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1) CoC maintains a listserv and keeps all partners up to date on federal, state and local resources available. Informational emails and local TA webinars through its Multidisciplinary Approaches to Ending Homelessness Series regularly make information on employment services such as education and training, access to job search assistance, skills assessment, job placement, and career/vocational counseling, and mainstream resources (e.g. CalFresh, SSI, General Assistance, health care, and other benefit assistance) available. 2) The CoC maintains relationships with healthcare partners: Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) to provide SS for PSH clients; DPSS/TANF to provide food stamps, Medi-Cal enrollment, General Relief program and short-term housing assistance for CalWORKS eligible families; Whole Person Care Program (WPCP) provides supportive services and housing and benefits linkage to medical recipients who are experiencing or are at-risk of homelessness and are discharged from institutional care and coordinates health services to improve health and well-being. 3) Provide training to providers project staff on Medical/Medicade through webinars and linkages to the departments that administer these programs. 4) The CoC works to inform the community of SOAR certification and training opportunities in addition to the CES lead agency informing community member of staff training opportunities. The SAMSHA website is given to provide links to online courses so that upon completion of the course, program staff can receive a certificate of completion. The CoC will also work to inform the community either through webinar trainings and/or public meetings, any updates to training and also keep online resources for training opportunities.

### 3A. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects. (Rural Set Aside Only).  Special NOFO Section VII.A.	
If the answer to the question below is yes, you must upload the CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.		
Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project(s) under the Rural Set Aside for housing rehabilitation or new construction costs?		No

### 3B. Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	

Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?	No
--	----

3B-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
	You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below:	
	1. how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and	
	2. how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

## 4A. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

Please read the following guidance to help you successfully upload attachments and get maximum points:

- |  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
|  | 1. | You must include a Document Description for each attachment you upload; if you do not, the Submission Summary screen will display a red X indicating the submission is incomplete.  |
|  | 2. | You must upload an attachment for each document listed where 'Required?' is 'Yes'   |
|  | 3. | We prefer that you use PDF files, though other file types are supported—please only use zip files if necessary. Converting electronic files to PDF, rather than printing documents and scanning them, often produces higher quality images and reduces file size. Many systems allow you to create PDF files as a Print Option. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you should consult your IT Support or search for information on Google or YouTube. |
|  | 4. | Attachments must match the questions they are associated with.  |
|  | 5. | Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process.  |
|  | 6. | If you cannot read the attachment, it is likely we cannot read it either.<br>- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).<br>- We must be able to read everything you want us to consider in any attachment.                           |
|  | 7. | Open attachments once uploaded to ensure they are the correct attachment for the required Document Type.  |

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1B-1. Local Competition Announcement	Yes	Local Competition...	09/22/2022
1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes	Local Competition...	10/13/2022
1B-3. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes	Notification of P...	10/13/2022
1B-3a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes	Notification of P...	10/13/2022
1B-4. Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application	Yes		
3A-1. CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs	No		
3B-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment	No	New Housing Units...	10/17/2022
P-1a. PHA Commitment	No	PHA - Letter of C...	10/17/2022
P-3. Healthcare Leveraging Commitment	No		
P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter	No	Lived Experience ...	10/17/2022
Plan. CoC Plan	Yes	RivCo CoC Serving...	10/17/2022



## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Local Competition Announcement

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Local Competition Scoring Tool

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Notification of Projects Accepted

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:**

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:**

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:**

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** New Housing Units - Letter of Commitment

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** PHA - Letter of Commitment

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:**

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Lived Experience Advisory Workgroup - Letter of Support

## Attachment Details

**Document Description:** RivCo CoC Serving Persons with Severe Service Needs

## Submission Summary

Ensure that the Special NOFO Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	08/08/2022
1B. Project Review, Ranking and Selection	10/17/2022
2A. System Performance	10/06/2022
2B. Coordination and Engagement	10/13/2022
2C. Coordination and Engagement–Con't.	10/06/2022
3A. New Projects With Rehab/New Construction	No Input Required
3B. Homelessness by Other Federal Statutes	10/06/2022
4A. Attachments Screen	Please Complete
Submission Summary	No Input Required

**From:** CoC <CoC@rivco.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 30, 2022 2:39 PM

**Subject:** Bid Notification - Request for Proposals for FY2022 HUD CoC Supplemental to Address Unsheltered Homelessness

Dear Riverside County Continuum of Care Members,

We are excited to announce that the Housing and Workforce Solutions (HWS) Department – Continuum of Care Division has released its Request for Proposal (RFP) inviting applicants to apply for funding under the **2022 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Supplemental to Address Unsheltered Homelessness**. Under this funding opportunity there is \$13,724,977 as part of the 2022 Supplemental Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Application. Attached is the Bid Notification with links to the RFP application. Additionally, a non-mandatory Bidders Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2022 at 1 p.m. All project proposals must be created and completed electronically in e-Snaps, with a downloaded PDF version submitted to [CoC@rivco.org](mailto:CoC@rivco.org) and are subject to threshold reviews, evaluation, and scoring by a neutral Independent Review Panel (IRP). Selected proposals will be ranked together for Riverside County CoC Board of Governance approval for inclusion in the Riverside County FY2022 Supplemental to Address Unsheltered Homelessness consolidated application.

Proposals are due by **5:00pm Tuesday, September 20, 2022**. Click [here](#) to access a copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP). The purpose of the Supplemental to Address Unsheltered Homelessness is to target efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness, particularly in communities with very high levels of unsheltered homelessness and homelessness in rural areas. All interested organizations are encouraged to apply, including those that have not previously received CoC Program funding.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



**Jesus Cedillo**

Administrative Services Assistant

[Continuum of Care \(CoC\)](#)

Housing & Workforce Solutions  
(HWS)

Email: [JCedillo@Rivco.org](mailto:JCedillo@Rivco.org)

Phone: (951) 201-8776

July 19, 2022	<a href="#">Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Available in e-Snaps</a>
August 1, 2022	<a href="#">Local Competition Announcement</a>
August 2, 2022	<a href="#">Local Competition Announcement - Notification to Community</a>
August 30, 2022	<a href="#">Riverside County Request for Proposal (RFP) for FY22 HUD CoC Supplemental to Address Unsheltered Homelessness Competition</a>
August 30, 2022	<a href="#">Bid Notification</a>
August 30, 2022	<a href="#">Local Bid Notification</a>
August 31, 2022	<a href="#">Addendum to RIVCO-COARC-RFP-0009 for 2022 HUD Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Program Competition</a>

Category 1*	Experience of Applicant, Subrecipient(s), and Other Partners	Meets Criteria	20 Point Maximum
	2B.1. Describe your organization's (and subrecipient(s) if applicable) experience in effectively utilizing federal funds and performing the activities proposed in the application.	Over 5 years = 5 pts 3-5 Years = 3 pts 1-2 years = 1 pt Less Than One Year or No Experience = 0 pts	5 Points Max
	2B.2. Describe your organization's (and subrecipient(s) if applicable) experience in leveraging Federal, State, local and private sector funds.	Over 5 years = 5 pts 3-5 Years = 3 pts 1-2 years = 1 pt Less Than One Year or No Experience = 0 pts	5 Points Max
	2B.3. Describe your organization's (and subrecipient(s) if applicable) financial management structure.	Details Financial Structure = 5 pts General Description of Financial Structure = 3 pts Does Not Address Financial Structure = 0 pts	5 Points Max
	2B.4. Are there any unresolved HUD monitoring or OIG audit findings for any HUD grants (including ESG) under your organization.	No Findings = 5 pts Findings with Correction = 3 pts Findings with No Correction - 0 pts	5 Points Max

\* Evaluators can find this information in Section 2B (starting on pg. 26) of the project application

Category 2*	Experience of Applicant, Subrecipient(s), and Other Partners	Meets Criteria	15 Point Maximum
3B.1. Provide a description that addresses the entire scope of the proposed project.		<p><b>Details Entire Scope of Project = 5 pts</b> Includes language that demonstrates project is providing new, separate, but coordinated services (i.e., enhancements, and augmenting services). Includes language about serving individuals with severe service needs. Includes language that demonstrates linkages with healthcare providers.</p> <p><b>General Description of Scope of Project= 3 pts</b> Includes <i>some</i> language that demonstrates project is providing new, separate, but coordinated services (i.e., enhancements, and augmenting services). Includes <i>some</i> language about serving individuals with severe service needs. Includes <i>some</i> language that demonstrates linkages with healthcare providers.</p> <p><b>Does Not Address Scope of Project = 0</b> Proposals that identify project as a continuation of services or supplantation of past/existing services. For Example, adding an additional position to an existing Street Outreach team would not qualify under this NOFO.</p>	5 Points Max
3B.1a. Describe how the proposed project is consistent with the plan described by the CoC in response to Section VII.B.4 of the NOFO ( <i>Detailed description can be found in pgs. 26-31 in RFP</i> ).		<p>Does propose project align with sections 1-7 of the plan and address how persons with severe services needs will be served?</p> <p><b>Section 1</b> - Leveraging Housing Resources  <b>Section 2</b> - Leveraging Healthcare Resources  <b>Section 3</b> - CoC's Current Strategy to Identify Shelter, and House Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness  <b>Section 4</b> - Updating the CoCs Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness with Data and Performance.  <b>Section 5</b> - Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness  <b>Section 6:</b> Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Decision Making.  <b>Section 7:</b> Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Community Development</p>	5 Points Max
3B.2. For each primary project location, or structure, enter the number of days from the execution of the grant agreement that each of the following milestones will occur if this project is selected for conditional award.		<p>Meets Criteria = 5 pts Does Not Meet Criteria = 0 pts</p>	5 Points Max
3B.4. Will your project participate in the CoC's Coordinated Entry (CE) process or recipient organization is a victim service provider, as defined in 24 CFR 578.3 and uses an alternate CE process that meets HUD's minimum requirements?		<p>Yes = Pass No= Fail</p>	Pass/Fail
3B.5d. Will the project follow a "Housing First" approach?		<p>Yes = Pass No= Fail</p>	Pass/Fail
3B.5a. Will the project quickly move participants into permanent housing?		<p>Yes = Pass No= Fail</p>	Pass/Fail
3B.5b. Will the project enroll program participants who have the following barriers? ( <i>Select all that apply</i> ).		<p>None of the Above =Pass Select "Yes" on one or more options=Fail</p>	Pass/Fail
3B.5c. Will the project prevent program participation termination from the project for the following reasons (Select all that apply).		<p>None of the Above =Pass Select "Yes" on one or more options=Fail</p>	Pass/Fail

\* Evaluators can find this information in Section 3B (starting on pg. 28) of the project application



Category 3*	Supportive Services for Participants	Meets Criteria	30 Point Maximum
4A.1. Describe how program participants will be assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing.		Details How Participants Will Obtain and Remain in PH = 5 pts Describes only 1 (Obtain or Remain) in PH= 3 pts Does Not Address How Participants Will Obtain and Remain in PH = 0 pts	5 Points Max
4A.2. Describe the specific plan to coordinate and integrate with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which program participants may be eligible.		Details Specific Plan that Includes Mainstream Programs <u>and</u> How Agency Will Connect Clients to those Services = 5 pts General Description of Specific Plan Describes only 1 (Mainstream Programs <u>or</u> How Agency Will Connect Clients to those Services) = 3 pts Does Not Address Specific Plan that Includes Mainstream Programs and How Agency Will Connect Clients to those Services = 0 pts	5 Points Max
4A.3. For all supportive services available to program participants, indicate who will provide them and how often they will be provided.		Details Who Will Provide <u>and</u> How Often Supportive Services Will Be Provided = 5 pts Describes only 1 (Who or How Often) Supportive Services Will Be Provided = 3 pts Does Not Address Who Will Provide and How Often Supportive Services Will Be Provided = 0 pts  HUD Requires Provider Selection: Applicant, Sub-recipient, Partner, Non-Partner HUD Requires Frequency Selection: Daily, Weekly, Bi-weekly, Monthly, Bi-monthly, Quarterly, Semi-annually, Annually, As needed	5 Points Max
4A.4. Transportation assistance to clients to attend mainstream benefit appointments, employment training, or jobs.		Will Provide Transportation = 5 pts Will Not Provide Transportation = 0 pts	5 Points Max
4A.5. Annual follow-ups with program participants to ensure mainstream benefits are received and renewed		Will Conduct Annual Follow-ups With Participants = 5 pts Will Not Conduct Annual Follow-ups With Participants = 0 pts	5 Points Max
4A.6. Will program participants have access to SSI/SSDI technical assistance provided by this project the applicant, a subrecipient, or partner agency		Participants Will Have Access to SSI/SSDI Technical Assistance = 5 pts Participants Will Not Have Access to SSI/SSDI Technical Assistance = 0 pts	5 Points Max

\* Evaluators can find this information in Section 4A (starting on pg. 33) of the project application

Category 4*	System Performance Measures	Meets Criteria	20 Point Maximum
	<p>1. Up to 20 points will be based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness).</p>	<p>Proposal mentions goals for the following system performance criteria:            -Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations (5 points)            -Retention of Permanent Housing (5 points)            -Length of Time Homeless (5 points)            -Returns to Homelessness(5 points)</p>	<p>20 Points Max</p>

\* Please reference Project Description section 3B

Category 5	Experience of Applicant, Subrecipient(s), and Other Partners	Meets Criteria	15 Point Maximum
6A.1 Will it be feasible for the project to be under grant agreement by September 15, 2024?			Pass/Fail
6I.1. Is the match no less than 25 percent of the total request, including Administration costs, but excluding Leasing costs (i.e., Leased Units and Leased Structures)?			Pass/Fail
Cost Effectiveness: Project cost/number of persons served within a program year. Is the project cost effective.			15 Points Max

CoC Fiscal to Evaluate. Leave Blank



## FY 2022 Continuum of Care Program Competition

10/05/2022

City of Murrieta  
Brian Ambrose

Dear Mr. Ambrose,

We are pleased to inform you that the Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) Independent Review Panel (IRP) is recommending your agency's project proposal(s) for inclusion in Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2022 CoC Program Competition Priority Listing.

Project Name	Accepted Y/N	Rank	Project Type	# of Units or Individuals	# of Beds	Requested Amount	Reduced/Awarded Amount	Reason for Reduction
Murrieta Street Outreach Project	Y	8	SO	50-100	N/A	\$805,860.00	\$225,000.00	Insufficient funding; prioritized funding for PSH and RRH activities.

There were a total of 10 project applications reviewed and ranked by the CoC's IRP. **These projects were all accepted and ranked in the CoC's Priority Listing and will be recommended for inclusion in the CoC's Consolidated Application during a Special Board of Governance Meeting the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>.** You can visit our website to view the full Priority Listing report by clicking [here](#).

Our team will be working with you to finalize your project application to meet HUD's application submission deadline on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Award announcements from HUD are anticipated in early 2022 and you will be notified of HUD's decision at that time.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [CoC@rivco.org](mailto:CoC@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Tanya Torno  
Deputy Director  
Continuum of Care



## FY 2022 Continuum of Care Program Competition

10/05/2022

Coachella Valley Rescue Mission  
Darla Burkett  
Executive Director

Dear Ms. Burkett,

We are pleased to inform you that the Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) Independent Review Panel (IRP) is recommending your agency's project proposal(s) for inclusion in Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2022 CoC Program Competition Priority Listing.

Project Name	Accepted Y/N	Rank	Project Type	# of Units or Individuals	# of Beds	Requested Amount	Reduced/Awarded Amount	Reason for Reduction in Award
CVRM 2022	Y	4	RRH	84	84	\$2,201,067.00	\$1,075,000.00	Insufficient funding; prioritized funding for PSH activities.
2022 CVRM Street Outreach	Y	6	SO	100-200	N/A	\$1,536,000.00	\$450,000.00	Insufficient funding; prioritized funding for PSH and RRH activities.

There were a total of 10 project applications reviewed and ranked by the CoC's IRP. **These projects were all accepted and ranked in the CoC's Priority Listing and will be recommended for inclusion in the CoC's Consolidated Application during a Special Board of Governance Meeting the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>.** You can visit our website to view the full Priority Listing report by clicking [here](#).

Our team will be working with you to finalize your project application to meet HUD's application submission deadline on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Award announcements from HUD are anticipated in early 2022 and you will be notified of HUD's decision at that time.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [CoC@rivco.org](mailto:CoC@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Tanya Torno  
Deputy Director  
Continuum of Care



## FY 2022 Continuum of Care Program Competition

10/05/2022

Jewish Family Services of San Diego  
Mike Phillips  
Senior Director of Housing Services

Dear Mr. Phillips,

We are pleased to inform you that the Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) Independent Review Panel (IRP) is recommending your agency's project proposal(s) for inclusion in Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2022 CoC Program Competition Priority Listing.

Project Name	Accepted Y/N	Rank	Project Type	# of Units or Individuals	# of Beds	Requested Amount	Reduced/Awarded Amount	Reasons for Reduced Amount
2022 JFSSD Street Outreach	Y	5	SO	200-250	N/A	\$1,186,822.00	\$600,000.00	Insufficient funding; prioritized funding for PSH and RRH activities.

There were a total of 10 project applications reviewed and ranked by the CoC's IRP. **These projects were all accepted and ranked in the CoC's Priority Listing and will be recommended for inclusion in the CoC's Consolidated Application during a Special Board of Governance Meeting the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>.** You can visit our website to view the full Priority Listing report by clicking [here](#).

Our team will be working with you to finalize your project application to meet HUD's application submission deadline on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Award announcements from HUD are anticipated in early 2022 and you will be notified of HUD's decision at that time.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [CoC@rivco.org](mailto:CoC@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Tanya Torno  
Deputy Director  
Continuum of Care



## FY 2022 Continuum of Care Program Competition

10/05/2022

QueerWorks  
Jacob Rostovsky  
Executive Director

Dear Mr. Rostovsky,

We are pleased to inform you that the Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) Independent Review Panel (IRP) is recommending your agency's project proposal(s) for inclusion in Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2022 CoC Program Competition Priority Listing.

Project Name	Accepted Y/N	Rank	Project Type	# of Units or Individuals	# of Beds	Requested Amount	Reduced/Awarded Amount	Reason for Reduction
2022 Queer Works Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Program	Y	7	SO	100-200	N/A	\$1,080,000.00	\$450,000.00	Insufficient funding; prioritized funding for PSH and RRH activities.

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Our team will be working with you to finalize your project application to meet HUD's application submission deadline on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Award announcements from HUD are anticipated in early 2022 and you will be notified of HUD's decision at that time.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [CoC@rivco.org](mailto:CoC@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Tanya Torno  
Deputy Director  
Continuum of Care



## FY 2022 Continuum of Care Program Competition

10/05/2022

Mr. Cannon,

We are pleased to inform you that the Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) Independent Review Panel (IRP) is recommending your agency's project proposal(s) for inclusion in Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2022 CoC Program Competition Priority Listing.

Project Name	Accepted Y/N	Rank	Project Type	# of Units	# of Beds	Requested Amount	Reduced/Awarded Amount	Reason for Reduction
2022 RUHS – BH Unsheltered Homelessness PSH	Y	1	PSH	43	43	\$2,752,850.00	\$2,752,850.00	Not Applicable
2022 RUHS – BH Unsheltered Homelessness SSO CES	Y	10	CES	N/A	N/A	\$1,256,565.00	\$1,256,565.00	Insufficient funding; prioritized funding for PSH and RRH activities.

There were a total of 10 project applications reviewed and ranked by the CoC's IRP. These projects were all accepted and ranked in the CoC's Priority Listing and will be recommended for inclusion in the CoC's Consolidated Application during a Special Board of Governance Meeting the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>. You can visit our website to view the full Priority Listing report by clicking [here](#).

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If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [CoC@rivco.org](mailto:CoC@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Tanya Torno  
Deputy Director  
Continuum of Care



[to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Program Competition](#)

September 1, 2022 [FY 2022 HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homeless Workshop and Presentation](#)

September 12, 2022 [FY 2022 HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness Q & A Log](#)

September 20, 2022 Riverside County CoC Deadline for FY 2022 HUD CoC Supplemental to Address Unsheltered Homelessness Project Applications

October 3, 2022 FY 2022 HUD CoC Supplemental Competition Independent Review Panel: Review & Rank Committee Evaluation Meeting

October 5, 2022 [2022 HUD CoC Supplemental Unsheltered NOFO Priority Listing](#)

October 5, 2022 Riverside County CoC Notification of Agencies on Projects:

[Accepted & Ranked](#)

[Reduced & Ranked](#)

October 20, 2022 FY 2022 HUD CoC Supplemental Competition Application Deadline to HUD



## FY 2022 Continuum of Care Program Competition

10/05/2022

Riverside University Health System  
Marcus Cannon  
Deputy Director

Dear Mr. Cannon,

We are pleased to inform you that the Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) Independent Review Panel (IRP) is recommending your agency's project proposal(s) for inclusion in Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2022 CoC Program Competition Priority Listing.

Project Name	Accepted Y/N	Rank	Project Type	# of Units	# of Beds	Requested Amount	Reduced/Awarded Amount	Reason for Reduction
2022 RUHS – BH Unsheltered Homelessness PSH	Y	1	PSH	43	43	\$2,752,850.00	\$2,752,850.00	Not Applicable
2022 RUHS – BH Unsheltered Homelessness SSO CES	Y	10	CES	N/A	N/A	\$1,256,565.00	\$1,256,565.00	Insufficient funding; prioritized funding for PSH and RRH activities.

There were a total of 10 project applications reviewed and ranked by the CoC's IRP. **These projects were all accepted and ranked in the CoC's Priority Listing and will be recommended for inclusion in the CoC's Consolidated Application during a Special Board of Governance Meeting the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>.** You can visit our website to view the full Priority Listing report by clicking [here](#).

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If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [CoC@rivco.org](mailto:CoC@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Tanya Torno  
Deputy Director  
Continuum of Care



## FY 2022 Continuum of Care Program Competition

10/05/2022

Department of Public Social Services  
Erin Wolbeck  
Admin Services Manager II

Dear Ms. Wolbeck,

We are pleased to inform you that the Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) Independent Review Panel (IRP) is recommending your agency's project proposal(s) for inclusion in Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2022 CoC Program Competition Priority Listing.

Project Name	Accepted Y/N	Rank	Project Type	# of Units	# of Beds	Awarded Amount
2022 DPSS Rapid Rehousing	Y	3	RRH	150	150	\$4,315,624.00

There were a total of 10 project applications reviewed and ranked by the CoC's IRP. **These projects were all accepted and ranked in the CoC's Priority Listing and will be recommended for inclusion in the CoC's Consolidated Application during a Special Board of Governance Meeting the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>.** You can visit our website to view the full Priority Listing report by clicking [here](#).

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If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [CoC@rivco.org](mailto:CoC@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Tanya Torno  
Deputy Director  
Continuum of Care



## FY 2022 Continuum of Care Program Competition

10/05/2022

Mercy House  
Allison Davenport  
Chief Strategy and Compliance Officer

Dear Ms. Davenport,

We are pleased to inform you that the Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) Independent Review Panel (IRP) is recommending your agency's project proposal(s) for inclusion in Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2022 CoC Program Competition Priority Listing.

Project Name	Accepted Y/N	Rank	Project Type	# of Units	# of Beds	Awarded Amount
2022 Mercy House Unsheltered PSH	Y	2	PSH	34	34	\$2,599,938.00

There were a total of 10 project applications reviewed and ranked by the CoC's IRP. **These projects were all accepted and ranked in the CoC's Priority Listing and will be recommended for inclusion in the CoC's Consolidated Application during a Special Board of Governance Meeting the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>.** You can visit our website to view the full Priority Listing report by clicking [here](#).

Our team will be working with you to finalize your project application to meet HUD's application submission deadline on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Award announcements from HUD are anticipated in early 2022 and you will be notified of HUD's decision at that time.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [CoC@rivco.org](mailto:CoC@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Tanya Torno  
Deputy Director  
Continuum of Care



## FY 2022 Continuum of Care Program Competition

10/05/2022

Attention: Housing and Workforce Solutions

We are pleased to inform you that the Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) Independent Review Panel (IRP) is recommending your agency's project proposal(s) for inclusion in Riverside County's Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2022 CoC Program Competition Priority Listing.

Project Name	Accepted Y/N	Rank	Project Type	# of Units or Individuals	# of Beds	Requested Amount	Reduced/Awarded Amount
Planning Grant	Y	10	Planning	N/A	N/A	\$411,749.31	\$411,749.31

There were a total of 10 project applications reviewed and ranked by the CoC's IRP. **These projects were all accepted and ranked in the CoC's Priority Listing and will be recommended for inclusion in the CoC's Consolidated Application during a Special Board of Governance Meeting the week of October 11<sup>th</sup>.** You can visit our website to view the full Priority Listing report by clicking [here](#).

Our team will be working with you to finalize your project application to meet HUD's application submission deadline on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Award announcements from HUD are anticipated in early 2022 and you will be notified of HUD's decision at that time.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at [CoC@rivco.org](mailto:CoC@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Tanya Torno  
Deputy Director

[to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Program Competition](#)

September 1, 2022 [FY 2022 HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homeless Workshop and Presentation](#)

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September 20, 2022 Riverside County CoC Deadline for FY 2022 HUD CoC Supplemental to Address Unsheltered Homelessness Project Applications

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[Reduced & Ranked](#)

October 20, 2022 FY 2022 HUD CoC Supplemental Competition Application Deadline to HUD



**HWS** HOUSING AND  
WORKFORCE  
SOLUTIONS  
ENGAGE. ENCOURAGE. EQUIP.

October 17, 2022

Riverside County Continuum of Care (CoC)  
3403 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

Re: Letter of Commitment for the 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness application

The Riverside County's Department of Housing and Workforce Solutions (HWS) Department is pleased to provide this letter of commitment to the Riverside County Continuum of Care (CoC) for the 2022 Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness application.

HWS serves as the Collaborative Applicant and Administrative Entity for the Riverside County CoC and is also responsible for planning new affordable housing which includes permanent supportive housing units earmarked for persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. There are currently 403 Project Based Vouchers (PBV) linked to units under construction that are scheduled to be complete between 2023 – 2024. Additionally, there are 563 PBVs that have been set-aside for developments in the planning stage and have a completion date by 2026.

We would like to recognize the unique partnership between HWS and the Riverside County CoC, which has better positioned the county to align and leverage federal, state, and local housing and homeless resources. This partnership will continue through the implementation of the 2022 HUD CoC Supplemental to Address Unsheltered Homelessness program and increase our homeless delivery system's capacity to serve unsheltered individuals with the most severe service needs in the region.

If you have any additional questions regarding our housing production efforts and partnership with the Riverside County CoC, please feel free to reach out to our Community & Housing Development Director, Mike Walsh at [mfwalsh@rivco.org](mailto:mfwalsh@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Heidi Marshall  
Director



# HOUSING AUTHORITY of the County of Riverside

*Main Office*  
5555 Arlington Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92504-2506  
(951) 351-0700  
FAX (951) 354-6324  
TDD (951) 351-9844

October 17, 2022

Riverside County Continuum of Care (CoC)  
3403 10th Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

*Indio Office*  
44-199 Monroe, Ste. B  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 863-2828  
(760) 863-2838 FAX  
TDD (760) 863-2830

**Website:** [harivco.org](http://harivco.org)

Re: Letter of Commitment for the 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness application

The Housing Authority of the County of Riverside (HACR) is pleased to provide this letter of commitment to the Riverside County Continuum of Care (CoC) for the 2022 Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness application. As the County's Public Housing Agency, HACR's goal is to transform and promote healthy, thriving communities, and restore human dignity through the creation and preservation of high quality and innovative housing and community development programs within the CoC's geographic area.

HACR commits to collaborating with the CoC to 1) Pair Stability Vouchers with CoC funded supportive services; and 2) To work with the CoC and other stakeholders to develop a prioritization plan for a potential allocation of Stability Vouchers targeting unsheltered persons with the most severe service needs. The Stability Vouchers Program will expand and ensure equitable access to permanent housing in our communities and will create additional housing opportunities for the more than 3,300 individuals and families with severe service needs who are experiencing homelessness in Riverside County.

If you have any additional questions regarding the Housing Authority's partnership with the Riverside County CoC, please feel free to reach out to me at 951-343-5428 or by email to [CHui@rivco.org](mailto:CHui@rivco.org).

Sincerely,

Cindy Hui  
Deputy Director  
Housing Authority of the County of Riverside



**Leveraging Housing Resources**

**4a. (1) Development of new units and creation of housing opportunities**

The shortage of housing, especially affordable housing, is a core driver of the County of Riverside's homelessness crisis. According to the Poverty in the Inland Empire Report published October 29, 2021, by the UCR School of Public Policy, the vacancy rate for the Inland Empire-inclusive of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties- is 2.6%. This alarming figure represents all available housing in the IE, not just affordable housing units. Our Lived Experience Committee members shared that, "We don't have enough housing. They've experienced clients that qualify for housing on their VI-SPDAT, are document ready, and willing to be housed but can't find housing." For this reason, CoC is working to expand capacity to meet the needs of single adults, families, and youth. Based on the 2022 HIC, Riverside County has 1,476 emergency housing beds (of which, 1,109 are shelter beds, 342 are motel vouchers, and 25 are DV beds), 240 Transitional Housing (TH) units, 309 Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) units, and 1506 Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units available to meet the need of families experiencing homelessness. Based on the number of unsheltered individuals identified during the 2022 PIT Count, 1,980 additional units are needed to help resolve homelessness for every unsheltered person in Riverside County. For this reason, CoC is exploring ways to create and streamline permanent supportive housing and promoting a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness by convening stakeholders (housing developers, planning departments, service providers, cities, regional governments). By partnering with developers 472 affordable housing units have been set aside to serve low-income households and households experiencing homelessness and will be ready to occupy between 2023-2026. CoC is focusing on increasing its PSH capacity partnering with local government jurisdictions to leverage general funds for the creation of permanent housing programs. Mercy House will be partnering with the Cities of Corona and Norco to master lease 34 units in scattered sites within these cities to house adults without children who represent the largest subpopulation of the unsheltered homeless in the region. Corona had the third largest unsheltered populations in the entire county during the 2022 PIT count. Mercy House intends to serve those with severe service needs and will partner with Medico Community Clinic to quickly link these individuals to medical care. They will also partner with the Riverside County University Health Systems-Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH) for mental health services. In the same vein, RUHS-BH will create 43 PSH units to serve unsheltered single adult households. Their target population is unsheltered chronically homeless households with severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders. These households could also be Veterans, families, youth, LGBTQIA+, and/or BIPOC populations. RUHS-BH will leverage Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to support the creation of these scattered site units. RUHS-BH links all clients with the medical benefits and any other entitlement programs participants can avail of. CoC is also focusing on increasing its PSH capacity by partnering with developers to optimize utilization of Housing Choice Voucher (HCV). CoC partners with its local public Housing Authority of the County of Riverside (HACR), to establish homeless admission preferences for the HCV Program. Up to 15% of annual admissions are targeted for an extraordinary local preference and support referrals from CES, and for those who are not eligible for HUD funded long-term housing through CoC and are able to live independently with minimal support. The HACR has strong partnerships with developers and cities, to project base HUD-VASH and HCVs. This effort further enhances the number of actual housing units available resulting in 196 new HUD-VASH vouchers and set aside for homeless veterans. The HACR has a total of 1,452 PBVs committed to units county-wide. Of those, 630 are new PSH units. The HACR is also partnering with cities to create new affordable housing and has implemented a "moving on" strategy, targeting up to 20% of current PSH residents, who no longer need supportive services, for transition to general population affordable housing, thus freeing up PSH for new tenants. The HACR, in partnership with CoC and HWS-CHD, will use Stability Vouchers to project base up to 5 units to be used with the HOME ARP program. CoC, in partnership with the Housing and Workforce Solutions- Community and Housing Development (HWS-CHD), has secured an allocation of \$7,499,635 in HOME ARP funds to target the most vulnerable: 1.) Homeless, 2) At-risk of Homelessness, 3) Fleeing, or Attempting to Flee, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking, or Human Trafficking, and 4) Veterans, the County will preference homeless. A preference will be added within this population for individuals chronically homeless referred through CES. The HWS-CHD will release an RFP on October 21, 2022, for 250 PBV which will create an additional 12 new PSH units set-aside for unsheltered homeless. The project will be in the City of Corona at a project-based site but will be open to CES referrals county-wide. HWS-CHD co-sponsored this project for HOME Key funds and provided \$2 million in ARPA funds for this development. The efforts detailed above, CoC plans to create 77 new PSH units in Riverside County to serve unsheltered homeless persons with severe service needs with the Unsheltered Set-Aside funding opportunity. CoC further plans to create 843 new PSH units using PBV, including Stability Vouchers, and general HCVs, as well as the leveraging of HOME ARP, ARPA, HomeKey and local funds. These units will serve unsheltered households with severe service needs which could include veterans, families, youth, LGBTQIA+, and/or BIPOC populations. CoC has taken advantage of participating in both competitive and non-competitive funding opportunities to increase the number of PSH units available. This has included applying for funding available directly through HUD such as the Emergency Solutions Grant, HOME funds, HUD Continuum of Care Program, CoC Supplemental to Address Unsheltered Homelessness, Emergency Housing Vouchers, HUD-VASH, Family Unification Program (FUP), Foster Youth to Independence (FYI), Mainstream vouchers, and HOPWA. Additionally, CoC has applied for funding from California's Housing and Community Development Department which includes No Place Like Home, Homekey, NPLH, ARPA, and the state's Interagency Council on Homelessness' CESH, HHAP, and Encampment Resolution. The HACR, in partnership with CoC, will use Stability Vouchers to project base up to 5 units to be used with HOME ARP program. CoC, in partnership with the Housing and Workforce Solutions- Community and Housing Development (HWS-CHD), has secured an allocation of \$7,499,635 in HOME ARP funds to target the most vulnerable. HWS-CHD received two HomeKey awards-one for 53 units

and one for 80 units to serve unsheltered homeless with severe service needs. The RUHS-BH has 10 NPLH projects awarded for a total of 336 beds that will come on-line between October 2022-August 2026.

#### **4a. (2) Landlord Recruitment**

Beginning in 2020, CoC launched a Landlord Incentive Program through state ESG-CV RRH dollars. This incentive program allows landlords to receive a bonus equal to 3 times the rent for every family that moves into one of their units. The program is promoted through 18 subrecipients who are widely dispersed throughout the county and have relationships with landlords who they can entice to the program. In early 2022, CoC was successful in acquiring a sponsorship through Anthem Managed Care Plan in partnership with Padmission to support a housing search assistance program. The HACR uses HUD CARES Act funding to create and sustain affordable housing options by gaining the interest of landlords, owners, and investors skeptical about leasing Housing Choice Voucher participants, or those who may have been thinking about leasing to fair market clients through the Housing Choice Voucher Program. Recruitment strategies include providing a one-time \$2,500 incentive payment to new landlords and \$500 per unit payment to existing landlords who lease a unit to a Housing Choice Voucher participant. Landlords can also benefit from a one-time rent affordability payment when rent must be negotiated down for the unit to be affordable for the voucher holder. To attract new landlords, the HACR markets the HCV program in innovative ways via social media, mass emails, billboards, and radio commercials and a direct landlord contact in office. Promotion of the program includes addressing myths and stereotypes associated with the HCV Program and unsheltered homeless population. The HACR refers a predetermined number of voucher holders directly to the landlord, to secure new leads immediately. This process is enticing to landlords because it offers a way to maximize profit by leasing a vacant property sooner than a general listing with dozens of clients calling. Within two months of implementing the program, requests for tenancy approvals doubled. Within 6 months funding supported 162 lease ups: 53 New Landlord Payments, 71 Existing Landlord Payments, and 38 Affordability Payments. Starting Over, a CoC voting member and partner agency that serves justice involved unsheltered homeless individuals in Riverside County, uses a Licensed Realtor to identify units for their clients, who are some of the hardest to serve sub-population within the homeless community. They have successfully leveraged their RRH ESG-CV funding to provide landlord incentives and master lease an apartment complex to house their clients. In 2019, CoC entered into an agreement with Path of Life Ministries (POLM). Through HEAP funding, POLM received \$500K to implement Housing Locator services. As a primary objective, POLM developed a web-based database to promote the housing locator program within the community to allow landlords to sign-up and list available units. The POLM landlord recruitment plan included designing, hosting, and operating a web-based affordable rental housing listing and apartment locator. Housing locators actively identified, engaged, recruited, and maintained relationships with landlords, including property managers and property owners to participate in Housing First activities with agencies in CoC by making units available for the placement of homeless individuals and families and participating in permanent and RRH subsidy programs. This included identifying housing options for homeless individuals and families with a criminal history, imperfect credit, mental health, or other barriers to housing. A positive outcome of the Housing Locator Services run by POLM was that providers were engaged and demonstrated an interest in a model where housing locator services were centralized. A significant lesson learned from the Housing Locator services provided by POLM, was that the system was not user friendly for both providers and landlords because it wasn't tied to a landlord incentive program. Also, POLM was operating the program during a time of low-available rental units which was extremely challenging. Anthem Blue Cross awarded funds to HWS to support a housing search assistance program in partnership with the County of Riverside CoC. Funds cover costs towards vendor user and agency licenses from Padmission, LLC. Padmission is a Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) database used for landlord engagement and housing search assistance by homeless housing program participants, landlords, and community partners in making the housing location and search process simpler and faster. Padmission will provide a proprietary web-based housing search platform for landlord engagement and housing search assistance. Funds will be used to address critical gaps in services and housing for homeless seniors, families, and individuals in Riverside County. A proactive, affirmative landlord engagement system is one of the most efficient means of increasing access to available rental units throughout Riverside County. Additionally, funds support costs towards staffing for a two-year period for project monitoring, data quality reviews, compliance; and to implement and coordinate activities related to landlord engagement and landlord services. The four populations that will benefit or have access to the server are: 1. HWS – Site Administrator, 2. Landlords – List vacancies, 3. Providers – Add vacancies, special notes and utilize the list for clients they are assisting into housing, and 4. Clients/residents who are being assisted through a homeless assistance program. HWS-CoC will serve as the lead Housing Locator Agency as we are best positioned to act in this role to support CoC subrecipient agencies. There are plans to hire a real estate agent and housing navigators who will be dedicated to engagement of landlords and identifying units. During the Lived Experience Committee focus group, it was shared that based on our current inability to house individuals that are doc ready, we should consider, “Doing community landlord meetings ... The [Desert] Access Center is trying to have quarterly meetings for the providers and [landlords] to make sure they know there is a support system behind them. Include other landlords that have been working with Section 8 or other providers to share their experience and successes.” The anecdotal sentiment is that we have a housing inventory shortage. To support anecdotal evidence, we look to our current situation with the Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV). Our County received 380 EVHs; as of October 2022, we have issued 80% of total vouchers received. However, we've only successfully leased 100 vouchers due to the shortage of available units in Riverside County. Even with our landlord incentive efforts, we are still unable to lease-up at a rate that will house all persons eligible and ready to be housed. This is the main reason our CoC is making such heavy investments in development of affordable housing units. This is just one example of many shared by our providers at our CoC meetings. We had 50% of our RRH subrecipients for ESG-CV request to move significant amounts of funding from RRH to other activities because of their inability to find units. To decrease the amount of time spent unsheltered, CoC recognizes we must have units readily available for clients to transition into immediately. Our Lived Experience Committee shared that we must, “Minimize the amount of time between street and unit. Secure units on stand-by to house immediately. Something in between getting

them into a permanent unit. Cease the opportunity.” We know there are very few units available which makes capturing these units much more important. For this reason, CoC has partnered with Padmission, a landlord engagement and housing search assistance web-based platform which centralizes landlord relationships, tracks performance with analytics and reports, reduces housing search times, and expands opportunities for housing options. Padmission’s unique features include Landlord Engagement report for properties and units added to the database, Unit reservations feature and tracking of signing bonuses or hold fees, and Housing Locator staff retain full control of all data to manage status and availability. CoC has heavily encouraged master leasing units, so agencies have an active inventory at any given moment to house clients. On October 20th, CoC will host a webinar for all CoC partner agencies on master leasing. The webinar speaker will be from Jewish Family Services of the Desert (JFSSD) who has several years’ experience master leasing units for their clients. CoC has also encouraged its 13 RRH agency providers who were funded through ESG-CV to master lease units. HACR has implemented a Landlord Incentive Program to incentivize landlords by 1) Receiving timely, dependable, and full rental payments directly from the HACR; 2) Being able to request annual reasonable rent increases; 3) Filling a vacancy in rental unit with a tenant who provides greater assurance of being able to afford the unit; and 4) If a participant’s income decreases the HA may be able to increase payments to make allowance for the decrease. The City of Riverside has also implemented a Housing First Landlord Incentive program aimed at providing rental assistance to help prevent and end homelessness in their city.

**Leveraging Healthcare Resources 4.b. Propose to develop permanent housing projects, including permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing projects, that utilize health care resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness**

Meeting the health needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness requires increased behavioral health, mental health, and substance use disorder services and housing support from Riverside County and its partners. The Riverside County CoC is developing new, and enhancing existing, partnerships between behavioral health and social service providers, neighborhood associations, cities, and regional governments, including law enforcement and other first responders. CoC works to engage partners in proactive strategies that link individuals who are homeless with housing and services with the additional goal of reducing criminal justice system involvement. By partnering with mental health service providers, CoC is increasing the number of mobile crisis teams with clinical staff and expanding their hours to support individuals experiencing severe mental health and substance use crises. The two new PSH projects included in the consolidated application include direct linkages and both physical and mental health on-site services. Mercy House has a formal established partnership with Medico Community Clinic and RUHS-BH; RUHS-BH is a direct mental health provider with partnerships and linkages to the RUHS-PH hospitals and public health clinics. They also have licensed mental health practitioners on their outreach teams to assist with mental health interventions and services while conducting street outreach as part of their PSH/RRH efforts. RUHS-BH has a RRH award for \$1.3 million through ESG-CV. Additionally, there are two new RRH programs in the consolidated application which include Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) and the Department of Public Social Services- Adult Services Division (DPSS-ASD). These two agencies will be serving individuals with severe service needs, mental health conditions, and substance abuse disorders. They proposed to connect clients to medical and mental health services in partnership with the Riverside University Health Systems-Public Health (RUHS-PH) and the RUHS-BH. CoC is increasing the number of beds available for substance use treatment and providing the follow-up supportive services needed to prevent relapses. In partnership with CoC, RUHS-BH launched a new program in November of 2021 which involved the creation of a 15 bed Sobering Center which allows individuals to be linked directly from the street to detox. From the Sobering Center, clients are connected to a residential program, and moved onto RRH or PSH. Since the beginning of the program, street outreach teams have been able to connect 34 unsheltered homeless persons to the Sobering Center. Data demonstrates 35% of individuals referred to the Sobering Center have moved into a residential program. To ensure appropriate responses to persons living in vehicles and to ensure adequate safe zones for people to park and receive services while working towards housing, CoC is engaging regional stakeholders. CoC will participate in the development of CalAIM initiatives that seek to extend a whole person care approach through the Enhanced Care Management and In Lieu of Services to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. CalAIM initiatives will provide medically necessary recuperative care placements for unhoused people who are exiting acute inpatient facilities and/or were recently hospitalized. CoC has developed communication, procedures, processes among hospitals, substance use treatment centers, mental health facilities, health plans, and the homeless system to improve care coordination, early identification, and effective discharge planning for people experiencing homelessness. CoC currently has 96 recuperative care beds in the east (18) and west (78) county in partnership with Molina, and the Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) managed care plans. These programs provide medical and mental health services and housing wraparound services (housing education and permanent housing options). Through the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) funds, CoC will expand on these programs to provide a broader array of medical supportive services to unsheltered homeless with severe service needs. Riverside County has partnered on several projects with RUHS-BH. Through this partnership, RUHS-BH provides Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding for the construction of those projects, see below. In return a certain percentage of units were restricted for their MHSA clients and onsite supportive services were provided by BH for clients housed at those projects. More recently a project in Coachella, Inland Regional Center provided funding for the construction of Pueblo Viejo Villas and in return 10 units were set aside for their clients. Discussions with IEHP and Kaiser have begun on potential partnerships. CoC has a longstanding history working with local public and private health care systems to strengthen connections to housing including 1) In 2018, Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) partnered with CoC to provide a match towards permanent supportive housing. IEHP is a health plan for Medi-Cal recipients in Riverside County and through this partnership, two agencies (1) Lighthouse Social Services and (1) Step up on Second were able to double the number of units or persons assisted. CoC also partners with IEHP to SS for PSH clients. 2) The CES Lead Agency is the county’s Riverside University Health System (RUHS). The County’s health facilities, integrated as RUHS, include an academic medical center, an inpatient psychiatric facility and 13 federally qualified health care clinics. Because our County/Public Healthcare System takes on the CES Lead Agency role there are many advantages including: CES

HomeConnect Housing Navigators and Street Outreach Teams also support county hospitals. They triage persons ready to be discharged from hospitals and facilitate housing and social services linkages. Outreach teams can leverage RUHS Homeless Housing Opportunities, Partnership & Education Program (HHOPE) staff who are behavioral health specialists (e.g., clinical social workers, certified drug abuse counselors, and others), who help support responses coming into the HomeConnect Hotline. RUHS is not only CES Lead, but an active CoC member and retains voting rights, and is also a subrecipient and administers homeless assistance projects. 3) COVID-19 Public Health Response – CoC recently worked closely with the County’s Public Health Department to launch Project Roomkey and to create a specialized program to provide interim/bridge housing to seniors and persons with severe service needs. Public Health designated nurses who responded and provided medical support as needed. 4) The Whole Person Care (WPCP) Initiative focuses on improving whole person care for probationers who are typically high users of multiple county facilities and programs. WPCP provides supportive services and housing and benefits linkage to medical recipients who are experiencing or are at-risk of homelessness and are discharged from institutional care and coordinates health services to improve health and well-being. 5) CoC is currently partnering with both IEHP and Molina Healthcare on developing the Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP). Both IEHP and Molina Healthcare are active CoC members. CoC partners with our County hospital system, RUHS which also operates Federally Qualified Health Centers (locally known as Community Health Care Centers), RUHS-PH Department has designated nurses to triage vulnerable populations for medical services and coordinates specialized vaccination clinics/events for unsheltered and sheltered populations, and University of Riverside, School of Medicine provides mobile medical services such as vaccines and participates in outreach and engagement events at encampments and areas where large numbers of homeless persons congregate. Emergency Shelters have partnered with hospitals to launch respite care beds. Martha’s Village and Kitchen’s Homeless Recuperative Care program is designed specifically to care for homeless individuals who do not have a place to recuperate after hospital discharge. The program ensures unsheltered individuals with high service needs have a place to stay off the streets to recover and avoid returning to the emergency room. They have an RN onsite to provide medical care to their clients. Coachella Valley Rescue Mission (CVRM) has beds designated for homeless residents discharged from hospitals. Respite care beds allow unsheltered individuals to receive care from nurses who are at the shelters, until they are ready to be transitioned into a mainstream sheltering option. Additionally, the City of Riverside, a CoC member entity, recently partnered with the Illumination Foundation, (also a CoC member) to have set-aside respite care beds for homeless patients discharged from hospitals in the area. RUHS-BH HHOPE team manages, coordinates, and monitors programs providing housing support services to chronically homeless persons with severe mental health needs. Permanent support housing includes HUD grants, shelter plus care, men’s grant, women’s grant, The Path, The Place and the MHSA projects Rancho Dorado and Vintage at Snowberry. “The PATH,” and “The Place” are outreach and engagement programs for chronically homeless adults who, due to a serious mental health disorder, have rejected housing and resisted support. These programs within CoC provide a drop-in center that operates 24 hours a day and on-site low demand permanent supportive housing for 25 adults. The drop-in centers use peer-to-peer outreach and engagement to engage to a wide range of community resources. RUHS-BH has several new PSH projects set aside for clients with a 1) severe mental illness and 2) homeless. They don’t have to be clients of RUHS-BH per se, they must meet the qualifying criteria. Therefore, any homeless service provider in Riverside County can refer their clients to these housing programs. In total, between late fall 2023 through April 1, 2026, there will be 312 new PSH units for persons with severe mental health needs. Expand alignment and engagement of healthcare, behavioral health, mental health, and substance use disorder resources in efforts to address health disparities and service needs among people experiencing unsheltered and homelessness. CoC partners with multiple agencies that provide mental health and healthcare linkages to homeless persons living with HIV/AIDS: 1.) Housing Authority receives HOPWA funding to administer supportive services, PH/RRH placement including health, mental health, assessment, case management, and drug and alcohol treatment for individuals with HIV or related diseases, 2.) Catholic Charities HOPWA funding to administer rapid rehousing and case management services, 3.) Desert AIDS Project (HOPWA) is a federally qualified health center that serves people in the Coachella Valley who are living with HIV/AIDS and provides comprehensive, primary medical care, and compassionate care, 4.) True Evolution (HOPWA) promotes health equity and racial justice to advance the quality of life and human dignity of LGBTQ+ people and offers direct services including HIV care, Emergency Housing Program, a Behavioral Health Clinic, and linkages to care, and 5.) Foothill AIDS Project aims to improve the lives of PLWH by offering comprehensive support services. Services include case management, housing services for PLWH, and increasing availability of affordable housing for low-income PLWH. CoC is committed to engaging persons of all severe needs regardless of their health care service providers, and the goal is to maximize the number of health care sector relationships (public and private) to help coordinate linkages that are appropriate to each client need. CoC utilizes a “No wrong door approach,” to link individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. HomeConnect, is a county-wide coordinated response system for those in a housing crisis. Our network of agencies collaborates to help support individuals in a housing crisis by linking them to services and resources. Any resident of Riverside County who is homeless or at risk of losing their housing can call our toll-free number for connection to resources, housing navigation, and referrals to available community assistance. Individuals can also engage with a provider directly if they so choose. The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) Housing First Program as well as Jewish Family Services of San Diego, both CoC members, partner with Coachella Valley Volunteers in Medicine and UCR in street medicine outreach and services to the homeless population in the Coachella Valley. CVAG also partners with CSUSB for psychiatric services for their homeless clients. RUHS Behavioral Health has medical street outreach teams, Community Behavioral Assessment Teams (CBAT) that are embedded with law enforcement, and Mobile Crisis Management Teams. Additionally, RUHS has recently opened the Arlington Recovery Center in Riverside that provides immediate access to a sobering center and inpatient/outpatient referral system for substance abuse and behavioral health treatment. Two more recovery centers are being planned for the Hemet/San Jacinto area and the Coachella Valley.

#### **4.c. CoCs Current Strategies to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness**

CoC's current strategies to regularly engage individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness include strengthening coordination among SOTs, increasing their coverage to 100% of geographic areas, ensuring teams target marginalized populations such as LGBTQAI+ persons and other disproportionately served race and minority groups, and implementing strategies to reduce the risk of infectious diseases. CoC utilizes data from its Homeless PIT Count, By-Name List, and funding distribution reports to enhance investments. Based on 2022 unsheltered PIT (1,980), there are approximately two FTE outreach staff for every 35 unsheltered persons, providing 7-days a week bilingual coverage across 100% of the geographic area. This level of coordination enables mobile reaches and a no wrong door approach to all unsheltered residents. A CES 24/7 hotline ensures residents seeking assistance directly are linked to designated SO teams in their areas. Areas with higher concentrations of unsheltered residents and impacted by emergency incidents related to natural disasters and evacuations such as encampments are also targeted. Both CoC & CES Lead Agencies are aligned with the CES P&P's, coordinate outreach services and work alongside CBOs, public safety teams such as law enforcement, code enforcement, and probation, in addition to emergency management services, public health, medical/health and other specialized mobile teams (e.g., vets, youth, BH, foster youth, and others). There are 30 multi-agency outreach teams, made of 60 FTE staff countywide including 1) the Santa Ana River bottom (SAR) Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) made up of HA, BH, and Parks staff who visit the SAR regularly and lead the effort in developing encampment management and resolution policies; 2) 20 service providers funded to conduct street outreach to targeted groups with a goal of engaging and rapidly re-housing unsheltered individuals and families; and 3) the Riverside County Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) committed to assisting the community with issues related to homelessness by conducting assessments of housing, substance abuse, and behavioral health needs and collaborating with CoC partners. CoC prioritizes housing, such as PSH (75%) for persons coming from the streets and are most vulnerable with the highest severity of needs. As part of the development of Homeless Street Outreach Protocols, the Riverside County CoC will develop a Countywide Encampment Management Protocol. This will include best practices in encampment management and person-centered approaches. Enhance coordination between agencies engaging people living in encampments to ensure consistent and humane approaches to encampment resolution across the county. Coordinate between departments and agencies to create a coordinated encampment management strategy. As part of CoC Homeless Street Outreach Protocol, establish guidance on Encampment Management and Resolution Protocols Engage cities and other local government entities to utilize encampment guidance of CoC Homeless Street Outreach Protocol.

#### **4.c. (1) Street Outreach Strategy**

The Riverside County CoC includes a unified approach centered around engagement, connection to services, harm reduction strategies, and addressing the health, safety, and service needs for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. CoC works to establish a proactive, nonpunitive, engagement focused, countywide response to homeless street outreach that focuses on reducing entries into chronic homelessness and increasing street to housing placements. The Riverside County CoC homeless response system addresses the inflows into homelessness through cross-sector collaboration, discharge planning, and early identification of individuals at-risk for homelessness. Cross-sector collaboration with mainstream system providers, such as healthcare, behavioral/mental health, substance use disorder, criminal justice, child welfare, juvenile justice, education, immigration, employment, land use and code enforcement, are necessary to create aligned strategies and policies centered on preventing people from falling into homelessness. For example, Path of Life Ministries (POLM) -Mobile SO teams engage with the homeless at encampments, in cars, community service locations, etc. and provide needs assessments, housing navigation, behavioral healthcare and employment support once trust is established. The mobile team provides transportation and moving support to housing as needed. SO teams collect specific data for each individual and input information into the Riverside County HMIS data system which has recently been enhanced by the HMIS Lead to include an encamping mapping heat map which allows us to visually see where encampments and "hot-spots" are located. ESG-CV funding has increased street outreach capacity by funding 13 agencies resulting in 100% coverage of Riverside County's geographical area. SO teams integrate a "whole community approach" to elevate the continuum of homeless response services available to sheltered and unsheltered residents of Riverside County. This funding has allowed Riverside County to Expand the number of outreach teams and staff to ensure appropriate coverage to all sub-regions, with specific emphasis on under-resourced communities. SO teams also use technological strategies to enhance street outreach coordination such as encampment mapping. CoC funds a Santa Ana River bottom (SAR) Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) made up of Housing Authority, Behavioral Health, and Parks members who visit the SAR regularly. Outreach teams focus on engaging residents, providing linkages to housing and social services, and providing intensive support to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. SO teams also document where residents relocate when they move to another area (e.g., another area in the SAR, emergency shelter, with family, etc.). The MDT also leads the effort to develop encampment management and resolution policies. New street outreach teams with mobile units through QueerWorks and CVRM will be able to drive to where individuals reside to provide case management, showers, clean clothing, housing navigation, rapid COVID testing, Rapid HIV testing, and healthcare referrals. CoC continues to improve its system performance across street outreach efforts by strengthening coordination among teams, increasing coverage to 100% of geographic areas, targeting marginalized populations such as LGBTQAI+ persons and other disproportionately served race and minority groups, and implementing strategies to reduce the risk of infectious diseases. CoC utilizes data from its Homeless PIT Count, By-Name List, and funding distribution reports to enhance investments. 2) Based on 2022 unsheltered PIT (1,980), there are approximately two FTE outreach staff for every 35 unsheltered persons, providing 7-days a week bilingual coverage across 100% of the geographic area. This level of coordination enables mobile reaches and a no wrong door approach to all unsheltered residents. A CES 24/7 hotline ensures residents seeking assistance directly are linked to designated teams in their areas. Areas with higher concentrations of unsheltered residents and impacted by emergency incidents related to natural disasters and evacuations such as encampments are also targeted. 3) Both CoC & CES Lead Agencies in alignment with the CES P&P's, coordinate outreach services and work alongside CBOs, public safety teams such as law enforcement, code enforcement, and probation, in addition to emergency management services, public health, medical/health and other specialized mobile teams



(e.g., vets, youth, BH, foster youth, and others). There are 30 multi-agency outreach teams, made of 60 FTE staff countywide. 4) CoC prioritizes housing, such as PSH (75%) for persons coming from the streets and are most vulnerable with the highest severity of needs. Coordination of SO teams is ensured during the all district ESG-CV bi-monthly meetings where agencies and outreach teams collaborate, and problem solve to get the most vulnerable into shelter. As needed, SO teams are deployed to identify individuals when appropriate housing and services become available. During meetings, SO teams provide coverage schedules to ensure 100% coverage of Riverside County's geographical area. Meetings allow for resource sharing to ensure that SO teams have adequate resources available for proactive and consistent outreach efforts. ESG-CV bi-monthly meetings require SO providers to share planned outreach dates and location and to complete and update their weekly SO team schedule to ensure outreach is conducted consistently on a weekly basis. By funding new street outreach teams through QueerWorks, Jewish Family Services, and Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, we will be able to serve an expanded target area and will have weekly coordinated outreach county-wide. Data demonstrates that when clients are connected to homeless street outreach services, Riverside's percent of successful outcomes is in alignment or exceeds neighboring CoCs: 1) SO teams follow similar strategies to increase the efficiency in which individuals and families exit unsheltered homelessness. a) working with a fully functional CES that ensures access to housing/resource referrals, along with providing landlord supports b) increasing the number of housing navigators to increase exits to PH & housing locators to identify available units for CES; improving housing navigation services that include developing a housing plan at engagement that addresses housing barriers; and c.) enrolling eligible CH persons in the Housing Disability Advocacy Program that assists CH to obtain SSI/SSDI benefits and housing. Centering our homeless response system on the needs of those most vulnerable and overrepresented within the homeless population builds the capacity of the system to better respond to the needs of all people experiencing homelessness. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) are significantly overrepresented in the homeless population. CoC is centering race equity on its homeless response and looking upstream at the inflows and structural roots of homelessness. CoC believes in the strengths of people experiencing homelessness and adopts person-centered approaches that account for past trauma, personal strengths, and individual choice. Participation from service providers such as Catholic Charities who serve undocumented and Latinx individuals, in addition to providers like Queer Works and TruEvolution serving LGBTQAI+, Black, persons with disabilities and other special populations, has proven to increase reaches to all individuals to help address and ensure equity. Alongside these strategies, we are applying a targeted universalism approach, which sets universal goals pursued by targeted processes for specific groups to achieve those goals. Through these strategies, we are building our homeless response system to be anti-racist, without prejudice, and equitable, ensuring that our outcomes begin to dismantle these historical and contemporary legacies. Riverside County SO established goals include engaging unsheltered individuals and families and rapidly re-house them. SO efforts are tracked and reported through HMIS and include the number of persons/households opened to every SO program, number of households/persons placed into PH/diverted from SO, and number of households/persons placed in emergency shelter or other temporary placement. Riverside recognizes that integrating the voices of those with lived experience in decision making processes is necessary to developing an effective, person-centered system. CoC is working to develop opportunities for persons with lived experience to participate in the development and implementation of regional and sub-regional plans. CoC encourages the hiring of people with lived experience in regular staff positions (not just peer support roles) and promotes leadership development for people with lived experience. CoC encourages service providers to modify requirements for specific positions to allow the substitution of lived experience in place of education or work experience. CoC recognizes the benefits of creating a Lived Experience Advisory Board and has designated two seats for persons with lived experience on the BoG. Additionally, CoC lead agency has recently hired 4 persons with lived experience to serve in leadership and staff capacities. There is currently a surgery tool being drafted to determine how many agencies. Trained SO teams employ evidence based best practices such as Motivational Interviewing, Housing First Principles, Compassion-based techniques, and Trauma Informed Care with the families and individuals experiencing homelessness. These practices are vetted through the RFP process when an agency is being evaluated for funding through CoC.

#### **4c. (2) Current Strategy to Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Shelter and Temporary Housing for Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness**

The Riverside County CoC currently utilizes a hybridized "No Wrong Door Approach," meaning that a homeless individual or family can present at any homeless housing and service provider in the geographic area or by accessing a mobile hotline. The Riverside County CoC continues to refine its hybridized "No Wrong Door Approach," establishing access centers across the region to serve as key nodes, or front doors, within the system. CoC also employs a Harm Reduction approach that aims to minimize negative health, social and legal impacts associated with drug use, Progressive Engagement Approach which tailors assistance to each individual or household's needs and assessing what works best for them, with their specific strengths, and in their specific situation, and a Trauma-Informed Approach. The Riverside County CoC works to establish system access that is radically accessible to all. Project RoomKey, which was launched at the onset of COVID Pandemic, served 12,019 individuals, 607 placed into permanent housing (296 were seniors) in non-congregate shelters. CoC funds non-congregate sheltering through the CalWorks Housing Stabilization Program for families eligible for CalWorks, DPSS-ASD works with senior and disabled adults, and BUHS-BH works with persons with mental health and substance use disorders to link them to non-congregate emergency housing. Those that are willing to go to a shelter are quickly connected to Path of Life Ministries, Valley Restart Shelter, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission or Martha's Village and Kitchen. A challenge that most shelters face is bed availability for single men. To increase capacity during last year's winter season, CoC funded a motel cold weather shelter through POLM. The region was able to leverage state-level resources, like Project Roomkey and Project Homekey, to secure hotel and motel rooms for vulnerable people experiencing homelessness. Because of these innovative programs, providers noted that there was an increase in the capacity of low barrier non-congregate shelter options for people experiencing homelessness. With the threat of the pandemic on people experiencing homelessness, there was increased collaboration and problem solving between various agencies to get those most vulnerable into shelter.

#### **4.c (3) Current Strategy to Provide Immediate Access to Low Barrier Permanent Housing for Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness**

To meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness, the Riverside County CoC will need to develop additional Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units, including site-based, scattered site, and tenant-based. Not only will the Riverside County CoC work towards increasing the total number of units but will also focus on increasing PSH capacity by optimizing utilization, refining system-wide guidelines, and supporting moving on strategies. 1. Identify costs associated with developing adequate supply of permanent supportive housing, 2. Increase access to tenant-based, scattered site Permanent Supportive Housing programs, 3. Assess coordinated entry, referral patterns to identify regional gaps, and under resourced PSH capacity, 4. Ensure that PSH programs access is equitable through review of data, 5. Expand partnerships with behavioral health treatment services through Riverside County and local behavioral health providers to ensure that PSH units are paired with adequate supportive services, 6. Implement a “moving on” strategy, targeting up to 20% of current PSH residents for transition to general population affordable housing, thus freeing up PSH for new tenants, 7. Convene stakeholders (housing developers, planning departments, service providers, cities, regional governments) to explore ways to create and streamline permanent supportive housing within the context of local housing elements, 8. Leverage a wide array of private, local, state, and federal funding, including CalAIM and Project Homekey, to support the expansion of a Permanent Supportive Housing, 9. Improve PSH service quality and fidelity by refining community standards, facilitating training, and creating learning collaboratives, and 10. Advocate for the local conditions to develop enough permanent supportive housing to meet the need in our community. Housing ends homelessness. The Housing First Model is an evidenced-based practice that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing without service participation requirements or preconditions for entry (such as sobriety, minimum income requirements, criminal record, completion of treatment, participation in services or other conditions that create barriers to entry). Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness. Participation in these services is voluntary and based on the needs and desires of each person. We adhere to and promote the Housing First philosophy in our work to end homelessness. We believe that housing should never be preconditioned, and that, ultimately, a person is no longer homeless when they have a home. CoC monitors and evaluates the performance of funded projects to ensure their commitment to a Housing First (HF) approach. HF Requirements are outlined in all bidder applications and provider agreements to ensure alignment with HUD CoC Program Guidelines and the USICH’s Housing First Checklist. Additionally, all funded agencies provide CoC with Policies and Procedures that include the Housing First approach. 2) CoC recruits a committee of members who have direct knowledge in administering homeless programs and are responsible for updating its HUD CoC Program Competition Scorecard which is used as part of its review and ranking tool for both renewal and new projects each year. Project performance is weighted heavily on compliance with Housing First which includes measuring the rate in which agencies successfully place individuals into permanent housing, average number of tenants that remain in or obtain housing stability and average percentages in returns to homelessness. For renewal projects, the scorecard also incorporates points based on Annual Site Visit Reviews and Annual Performance Reports to further ensure performance and compliance of HF. 3)The following methods are used to measure performance and compliance: a) Annual Monitoring Site Visits, b) Annual Performance Reports and c) HUD CoC Program Competition Project Scorecard. Annual Monitoring Site Visits and review of Annual Performance Reports are tools used by staff to review case files and program documents such as Intake, Annual and Exit Assessment Tools and Individual Service Plans (ISPs) to confirm projects are not making access contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, participation in services, or other conditions that place barriers in accessing housing and services. CoC staff also review ISPs and interview clients to ensure service plans are client-centered and inclusive of client driven goals. P&Ps developed by each project are also reviewed to ensure avenues for clients to access the program, request any needed support and accommodations, and address any grievances that exist. By partnering with developers 472 affordable housing units have been set aside to serve low-income households and households experiencing homelessness and will be ready to occupy between 2023-2026. CoC is focusing on increasing its PSH capacity partnering with local government jurisdictions to leverage general funds for the creation of permanent housing programs. Mercy House will be partnering with the Cities of Corona and Norco to master lease 34 units in scattered sites within these cities to house adults without children who represent the largest subpopulation of the unsheltered homeless in the region. Corona had the third largest unsheltered populations in the entire county during the 2022 PIT count.

#### **4.d. Updating the CoCs Strategy to Identify, Shelter and House Individuals Experiencing Homelessness with Data and Performance**

CoC utilizes data from the Homeless PIT Count, CES By-Name List, and HMIS reports to enhance its sheltering strategies and outreach efforts. All PIT count unsheltered data is collected using the geolocation of surveyed individuals enabling CoC to coordinate outreach by informing service and outreach agencies exact locations of difficult to reach subpopulations like veterans and individuals living in encampments. Using PIT data, CoC is able to identify areas with high homeless concentrations and determine the need for shelters, outreach and housing services. The CES 24/7 hotline ensures residents with high service needs seeking assistance are directly linked to designated outreach teams in their areas. Areas with higher concentrations of unsheltered residents and impacted by emergency incidents related to natural disasters and evacuations such as encampments are also linked to outreach teams. CES coordinates with 30 multi-agency outreach teams using the By-Name List to link the most vulnerable individuals with the highest services needs to housing services. CoC reviews client-level data from HMIS to determine project and system-level performance. CES also provides information about service needs and gaps to aid CoC when allocating resources. All contracts that fund services to address homelessness require participation in HMIS protocol, training, monitoring, and procedures. CoC is working to expand system and program level reporting to inform funding and policy decisions and will continue to expand services and programs in HMIS so that HMIS is the main repository for all programs addressing homelessness. CoC works to refine mechanisms for improving HMIS data entry and data quality, especially for front-line staff at shelters, day centers, and access centers where client turnover creates challenges for data quality. CoC is also working to use HMIS to track real-time availability of shelter and housing

units within the system and report on key data indicators at sub-regional and at a city-specific level. CoC continues to establish processes that allow CoC to govern and improve data collection practices and evaluation system wide to improve sheltering strategies and outreach efforts. Riverside County's CES is fully integrated within HMIS. This integration provides HMIS county-wide users including all outreach teams, a centralized virtual platform in which specialized assessments for subpopulations such as individuals, families, and transitional age youth are accessible. The integration of CES into HMIS allows outreach team housing connections to be directly facilitated through HMIS further increasing efficiency and management of a client's progress towards permanent housing. This integration has enhanced outreach services by creating a unified approach centered around engagement, connection to services, and addressing the service needs for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Weekly meetings are facilitated to coordinate intensive and daily outreach with teams that serve a specific region and/or are countywide. This ensures all households can be referred to dedicated housing and/or services for which they are eligible across the entire CoC geographic area. CoC incorporates new members into its outreach strategies by disseminating information about best practices related to street outreach. CoC utilizes multiple platforms such as its weekly CES Community Partnership Meetings and monthly Multidisciplinary Approaches to Ending Homelessness Webinars to provide a space where direct new and current service providers, stakeholders, and other community partners can learn about best practices around addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. In the last two years, CoC expanded the supply and number of persons accessing shelter services by 83% partly due to non-congregate sheltering. A plan consisting of coordinating various federal, state and local funding sources was created to increase permanent housing rental assistance, extend rapid rehousing rental assistance from 6 to 12 months to up to 24 months, and increase housing navigator capacity. Federal funding sources include HOME-ARPA and ESG-CV. State funding sources include HHAP, CESH, Roomkey, and Homekey. Eligible use for Roomkey includes rental of hotel/motel units and eligible uses for Homekey include developing a broad range of housing types including hotels/motels, multi-family apartments and commercial facilities. Eligible uses of HHAP and CESH funds include rapid rehousing, including rental subsidies and incentives to landlords and to create regional partnerships to cultivate and maintain a delivery system for vulnerable populations. These four sources have created a collaborative effort between CoC, non-profit agencies, and local businesses, including hospitality industry to increase the number of non-congregate shelter units as an alternative to other shelter options. CoC coordination with local public and private health care and mental health care funding and resources have boosted capacity to meet acute chronic health needs, mental health conditions, limited mobility, visual and hearing impairment, and memory issues to successfully transition to housing. CoC has ensured close coordination between CE prioritization policies and expedited assessment and matching processes for clients with pre-conditions and most vulnerable to illness and death. Analyzing data is done from an equity perspective, and the strategy is helping BIPOC and other marginalized groups, such as LGBTQ+ identifying people, to overcome housing barriers. In the past year, CoC has significantly scaled the number of multi-agency outreach teams available to respond to referrals received through CES. Teams have designated response areas through the county's five supervisorial districts to ensure they are knowledgeable about the resources available in the region. As referrals are received through the CES hotline or any other access point, screenings help determine which teams are most appropriate to respond to ensure a quick service strategy and a housing plan can be implemented to meet the person's needs as rapidly as possible.

#### **4.e. Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness**

The CES is part of CoCs cohesive and integrated housing crisis response system and is designed to coordinate program participant intake, assessment, prioritization, and matching/referrals to ensure that the system is connecting the highest need, most vulnerable persons in the community to available housing and supportive services. The CES includes easy access for individuals seeking housing services, a comprehensive and standardized tool, addresses the needs of individuals who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The CES process is intended to help identify and prioritize persons for access to housing and services based on severity of need and vulnerability. CES is designed to ensure that people who are experiencing a housing crisis the longest and/or are the most vulnerable have priority access to scarce permanent housing resources. CoC service providers, stakeholders, and community partners are dedicated to implementing coordinated approaches grounded in Housing First and public health principles. CoC has been successful in reducing unsheltered homelessness demonstrated by PIT Count trends (2022 PIT Count showed an 8% decrease, from 2020, in unsheltered homelessness). Collected HMIS data allows CoC to identify gaps in services and evaluate program outcomes to improve service management, health outcomes, and housing stability among highly vulnerable individuals and families. CoC demonstrates strong partnerships with RUHS-BH, local managed care health plans, and the Public Health Department, which are committed to providing valuable health care resources to program participants. Healthcare organizations committed to partnering with CoC include organizations that serve people living with HIV/AIDS and provide substance abuse treatment or recovery. The HACR has committed to working with CoC and other stakeholders to develop a prioritization plan for potential allocation of Stability Vouchers. CoC partners with the Community and Development division to continuously leverage mainstream housing resources. CES demonstrates a comprehensive coordinated entry process that includes specialized outreach teams knowledgeable about housing resources countywide with a goal of meeting needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. CoC will continue to promote hiring and retention practices to further diversify system staff at all levels to better reflect populations served. Ending homelessness in the County requires coordinated efforts from multiple systems and sectors. CoC prioritizes multisystem, cross-sector regional collaboration to address the inflows, service delivery, and outflows relevant to ending homelessness. Partnering with community leaders is the key to developing capacity and infrastructure around county-level governance, strategic planning, and systems change to support the work toward ending homelessness. CoC will continue to support service provider expansion to strengthen regional deficiencies and will partner with cities to leverage city resources and collaborate on grant opportunities. CoC will continue to develop provider, city, and regional government partnerships to fill gaps and enhance services and will emphasize the use of progressive engagement and Housing First practices that are flexible and responsive to the needs and priorities of individuals. CoC will continue to strengthen provider tables/forums and create learning collaboratives for more frequent capacity



building opportunities. Partner agencies and organizations will be encouraged to create diverse Encourage organizations to ensure that diverse staff are not limited to entry-level positions but can access the full range of organizational leadership positions. CoC will maintain communication, procedures, processes among hospitals, substance use treatment centers, mental health facilities, health plans, and the homeless system to ensure care coordination, early identification, and effective discharge planning for people experiencing homelessness. Ending homelessness in the County requires coordinated efforts from multiple systems and sectors. CoC recognizes that an effective homeless response prioritizes multisystem, cross-sector regional collaboration to address the inflows, service delivery, and outflows relevant to ending homelessness. CoC collaborates and has established strong partnerships with hospitals, healthcare clinics, state agencies, public health departments, mental health clinics, FQHC, drug treatment facilities. These organizations have made a commitment to prioritize families with severe service needs to ensure they receive the comprehensive housing services they deserve. CES serves CoC's goal to end homelessness and endeavors to streamline the process of prioritizing and connecting persons experiencing housing instability with appropriate housing interventions in a manner that respects client choice in housing and client self-determination. The CES process is intended to help communities identify and prioritize persons for access to housing and services based on severity of need and vulnerability. The CES follows established policies and procedures that guides its operation to establish program eligibility for persons with severe service needs including those individuals with physical, mental, developmental, or behavioral health disabilities that require significant level of support to maintain permanent housing. Unsheltered individuals who demonstrate high utilization of crisis or emergency services to meet basic needs will also be eligible for services. Individuals who are currently unsheltered and living in encampments, are experiencing vulnerability to illness or death, are at risk of continued or repeated homelessness, and are vulnerable to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking or sex work will be served. CoC funded outreach teams ensure appropriate coverage to all sub-regions throughout the county, with specific emphasis on under-resourced communities. Mobile outreach teams develop a strategic approach when canvassing their service region that includes encampments, parks and other areas where homeless individuals tend to congregate. Outreach teams collaborate with service providers, homeless liaisons, and public safety to initiate a field assessment and determine eligibility to services and level of intervention needed. Most outreach teams provide transportation to individuals in need of immediate assistance and services. Outreach teams are knowledgeable and familiar with housing resources and programs available in their area and can access CES when specific services are needed. As part of developing service provider, city, and regional government capacity, the Riverside County CoC supports person-centered, housing-focused case management with enhanced training in evidence based best practices such as: trauma-informed care, nonviolent crisis intervention, peer supports, strength-based case management, critical time intervention, motivational interviewing, progressive engagement, racial equity, and housing first strategies. Households experiencing homelessness will be assessed to determine the most appropriate intervention.

#### **4f. Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Decision Making**

The experiences of clients and people with lived experience are legitimate and important primary data sources, and their voices are included in the planning and system design. CoC strives to open the dialogue for regular feedback and partnership in planning and decision-making. By designing with the end-user in mind, centering client experiences as important primary data sources, including those most overrepresented in the system, and increasing client agency in decisions, we are able to create a more effective, person-centered response. CoC has diversified ways it engages persons with lived experience and has two dedicated residential boards fully composed of persons with lived experience. The Youth Action Board (YAB) is a group of transitional age youth between the ages of 18-24 who have lived experience and advocate within CoC's continuum of services for homeless youth. The Residential Panel (RP) or Lived Experience Advisory Group includes three members, who review and support the Homeless Action Plan. This group meets on an as needed basis to review grant applications and other items related to service delivery and provide feedback regarding services and housing strategies. CoC gathers feedback from persons who have received assistance through CoC and ESG programs in CoC facilitated meetings, trainings, and surveys. Participants assisted through CoC funded projects participate in exit surveys which help drive suggestions for program improvement and have resulted in flexible housing subsidies, increased sheltering opportunities for persons with pets, and more peer-to-peer opportunities. Agencies receiving CoC funds receive additional points for hiring staff with lived experience. Lived experience staff attend CoC meetings, standing committees, adhoc workgroups, and are represented on the BoG. The CES lead agency directly onboards persons with lived experience who serve as peer specialists and "Community Champions" and are paired with a behavioral health specialist to provide housing navigation and outreach services. CoC lead agency recruits interns and other temporary positions creating entry-level positions for persons with lived experience to support the annual PIT Count and homeless assistance planning efforts; many of these team members transition into permanent positions. Homeless assistance providers have histories of onboarding persons with lived experience and many staff progress into supervisory/management positions. Leading by example, CoC has hired a Homeless Youth Coordinator who is a former foster youth and formerly homeless who participates in trainings and conferences such as the National Alliance to End Homelessness to further professional development and knowledge. The BoG has two permanent seats for persons with lived experience including a youth and general seat. CoC markets its need for individuals with lived experience at all COC-related meetings, through emails sent to nearly 500 members on its listserv, website page, and social media pages, distribution of lived experience group recruitment flyers, and scheduled presentations by staff and group members to various community agencies and partners. CoC hosts webinars and meetings that allow attendees to share personal stories on their experience navigating the continuum of care (e.g., receiving assistance with housing navigation, emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing and others). This information is used by both local projects and CoC administrative bodies to help address barriers and develop processes that lead to greater reach and placements into permanent housing. Individuals who self-identify as having lived experience are contacted by staff and invited to participate in the Youth Action board or lived experience advisory group. Also, staff who work for CoC funded agencies and providers and have lived experience regularly attend CoC meetings, standing committees, adhocs, and/or are represented on CoC's BoG. The two BoG

designated and permanent seats for persons with lived experience are positions voted on by CoC. Once in their role, representatives have full voting rights and provide feedback on CoC related policies and funding recommendations. The Lived Experience Advisory group (Residential Panel) lends their expertise and unique perspective by being involved in responding to funding opportunities, reviewing the Homeless Action Plan and providing ongoing feedback regarding gaps and progress towards achieving goals.

#### **4.g. Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Community Development**

CoC continues to strengthen a race equity focused response. CoC utilizes the HUD CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool and the California's Homeless Data Integration System to review demographic characteristics and compare trends across the general population and people experiencing homelessness. In the last 12 months, CoC has taken considerable action and steps to address disparities identified in the provision of homeless assistance. This has included the onboarding of a Racial & Equity Officer who has helped recruit and develop CoC's Lived Experience Group. The R&E Officer and CoC's Advisory Group work with the HMIS team to evaluate client data on a project and system-level to strengthen equity-focused strategies, programs, and partnerships. The use of GIS technology in conjunction with HMIS and other data sources has helped map and analyze local demographic, output, and outcome data trends. CoC's R&E Officer meets regularly with homeless assistance providers to determine gaps and obtain feedback on steps needed to create equitable responses. Agencies receiving CoC funds are required to submit a plan for addressing racial disparities and receive additional points for having staff on their teams with lived experience and represent communities of color disproportionately impacted by homelessness. CoC's Advisory Group works with CoC to review its Homeless Action Plan and provides feedback regarding gaps and progress towards achieving goals. Partnerships with the local justice system and groups that represent justice-involved individuals such as District Attorney's Office, Sheriff Department, Probation Department and CBOs like Starting Over, Inc., allow CoC to support individuals transitioning out of jail into housing that best meets their needs. CoC has a strong relationship with the Fair Housing Council which allows for residents and providers to receive needed tenancy and housing support. The County and CoC work with local governments to implement new housing and land use policies to reverse longstanding housing disparities. These actions have enhanced CoC's advocacy for more funding and steps to equitably allocate resources, prioritize investments, and advance proactive, targeted strategies to end and prevent racial inequity. CoC applies a targeted universalism approach to develop the homeless response system to be anti-racist, to ensure all people, especially people of color, have equitable access and opportunity. Multiple data sources are used to assess the scope of community needs and gaps in services including CES and HMIS. Victim- service agencies utilize comparable databases and provide aggregate data to CoC that is used to track demographic and other service delivery information. Local data shows that people experiencing significant mental illness and homelessness are accessing services at a decreasing rate of 34%, while all persons accessing services are increasing at a 20% rate. The goal is to increase behavioral health, mental health, substance use disorder services, and housing supports through cross-departmental/cross-sector supports by continuing to collaborate with RUHS and the Cal Aim Initiative. Outreach teams target marginalized populations such as LGBTQ persons and other disproportionately served race and minority groups and work with CBOs, public safety, probation, in addition to emergency management services, public health, medical/health, and other specialized mobile teams (e.g., vets, youth, BH, foster youth) to determine appropriate housing intervention and services. Providers specializing in serving specific subpopulations such as veterans, seniors, youth, and families or have clients that do not meet criteria still assist them in obtaining access to screening and referral through a more suitable provider. Annual PIT Count data yields valuable information about the characteristics of the region's unsheltered population. Data shows that Black or African American people make up approximately 26% of all persons who become homeless for the first time each year on a-daily-basis even though they represent 7% of the general population. The goal is to reduce the number of Black or African American individuals becoming homeless for the first time annually by 10% by incorporating a focus on racial equity data, analysis, and planned activities when submitting and reviewing applications for funding. The goal is to increase the number of Black or African American individuals exiting homelessness into permanent housing by 10% by embedding a racial equity lens into all homelessness and housing decisions. There are specific subpopulations of unsheltered people that need additional considerations and resources to address their health, safety, and service needs. This includes unsheltered chronically homeless, individuals with severe mental illness, substance use disorder, transitional aged youth, high utilizers of emergency services, survivors fleeing domestic violence, families, and seniors. CoC works to ensure housing services are accessible to all individuals by working with providers such as Catholic Charities who serve undocumented and Latinx individuals, in addition to providers like QueerWorks and TruEvolution serving LGBTQ, Black, persons with disabilities and other special populations. Outreach teams work to ensure full coverage of their areas to identify unsheltered residents and the CES 24/7 hotline ensures residents are linked to designated teams in their areas. CoC engages persons that represent racial/ethnic groups overrepresented in the local homeless population, persons with lived experience, and CBOs when determining funding allocations to discuss priorities and ensure housing resources meet the needs of their communities. The 2022 PIT Count reflects that 21% of all households experiencing unsheltered homelessness are experiencing homelessness for the first time. CES markets HomeConnect access by presenting at public gatherings of housing and service providers and community events. The CES 800 number is printed on products (e.g. bracelets, lanyards, bags) and distributed to the public at public places such as libraries, hospitals, websites, public housing authorities, and social media. CoC staff attend community resource fairs to inform the community of available housing services, distribute HomeConnect flyers, and link interested individuals to appropriate resources. CoC has significantly scaled the number of multi-agency outreach teams available to respond to referrals received through CES. CES works with county-wide housing navigation, outreach teams, and providers who serve as access points to reach people least likely to apply for assistance. Access points cover 100 percent of CoC's geographic area and are easily accessible by people seeking assistance. Screenings help determine which outreach team is most appropriate to respond to ensure a quick service strategy and housing plan can be implemented to meet the person's needs as rapidly as possible. Weekly meetings are facilitated to coordinate intensive and daily outreach with teams that serve a specific region or are countywide. Households are referred to dedicated housing and/or services for which

they are eligible across the entire geographic area within Riverside County. Additionally, to reduce burdens on people using coordinated entry, CoC provides training to providers, so they are prepared to skip-logic for unnecessary, repetitive, or irrelevant assessment questions. In the last two years, CoC has expanded the number of CoC-funded resources available which includes emergency shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, rapid rehousing projects, and other housing assistance programs. For the first time in six years, the annual homeless PIT count revealed a decrease (8%) in the number of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This decrease may be attributed to large investments made to fund homeless street outreach teams which increased referrals to emergency shelters and other housing assistance programs. CoC values the work of mobile outreach teams since they reach and engage individuals who may be encountering barriers to access or are not actively seeking assistance and brings them to the attention of service providers. All outreach contacts and housing placements are documented by outreach teams that have access to HMIS. Outreach teams prioritizes housing, such as PSH for persons coming from the streets since they are most vulnerable and demonstrate the highest severity of needs. SO established goals include engaging unsheltered individuals with severe service needs and moving them quickly into permanent housing.