



A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE RICHMOND/CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE AND THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HEALTH, HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES DIVISION

PARTIES

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is by and between the Contra Costa Council on Homelessness (“Council” or “CoH”) on behalf of the Richmond/Contra Costa County Continuum of Care (“CoC”), and the Contra Costa County Health, Housing and Homeless Services Division (“H3” or “the County”).

BACKGROUND

The State of California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) announced the availability of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program round five (“HHAP-5”) grant funding on September 29, 2023. HHAP-5 is a \$1 billion block grant program designed to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges throughout the state. HHAP-5 funding is divided into three categories for distribution: CoC, City, and County. Cal ICH made HHAP allocations available to jurisdictions in Contra Costa County as follows:

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Richmond/Contra Costa County CoC:	\$3,410,912.96
Contra Costa County:	\$3,272,468.82

For allocations made to counties, the county is the administrative entity. For allocations made directly to a CoC, the administrative entity means a unit of general purpose local government or nonprofit that (1) has previously administered federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) CoC funds as the collaborative applicant, and (2) has been designated by the CoC to administer program funds. H3 serves as the collaborative applicant on behalf of the CoC, as designated by the CoH governance charter. Therefore, H3 is the administrative entity for both the CoC and County allocations of HHAP funding.

AGREEMENT

To maximize administrative efficiency of HHAP funding, the CoC agrees to redirect its entire HHAP program allocation to the County. As both jurisdictions cover the same geographic region, all redirected funds will serve the population living in the jurisdiction entitled to the funds (i.e., residents of Contra Costa County).

H3 agrees to submit one HHAP application to Cal ICH for the combined total of the CoC and County HHAP allocations. H3 agrees to comply with the expenditure deadlines as stated in Health and Safety Code § 50220(a-e). This MOU will be submitted as evidence of a binding agreement that redirects the funds from the CoC to the County.

REGIONAL COORDINATION

In September 2023, the California Interagency Council on Homelessness released the Notice of Funding Announcement (“NOFA”) outlining requirements for application to HHAP-5. This NOFA requires an MOU committing to the Regionally Coordinated Action Plan (Action Plan) and signed by each participating applicant. The finalized Action Plan outlines efforts to address homelessness, identifies roles and responsibilities, and key actions to improve system performance as well as racial and gender equity. These efforts are as follows and adhere to guidance provided by Cal ICH. The Action Plan has six key sections outlining the roles and responsibilities of the County and the CoC listed below. As an addendum to this application we included the regional action plan with specific roles and responsibilities.

SECTION 2.1 PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS’ ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A description of the roles and responsibilities of both the County and CoC for (1) Outreach and site coordination, (2) Siting and use of available land, (3) Development of interim and permanent housing options, and (4) Coordination and connection to the delivery of services for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness within the region.

SECTION 2.2 SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Outlines the key actions, collaborators, timeframe, and success measurement method that the County or CoC will take for each of the System Performance Measures for the region.

SECTION 2.3 EQUITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Outlines the key actions, collaborators, timeframe, and success measurement method that the County or CoC will take for each to ensure racial and gender equity in (1) Service delivery, (2) Housing placements, and (3) Housing retention, as well as steps the County and CoC will take to identify changes to procurement and other means to achieve equitable access to housing and services for groups overrepresented among residents experiencing homelessness for the region.

SECTION 2.4 PLAN TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS UPON EXITING AN INSTITUTIONAL SETTING

Outlines the key actions that the County and CoC will take to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness upon exiting a (1) Jail, (2) Prison, (3) Hospital, and (4) Other institutional settings (such as foster care, behavioral health facilities, etc.).

SECTION 2.5 PLAN TO UTILIZE LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL FUNDS TO END HOMELESSNESS

Explains how the region intends to utilize local, state, and federal funding programs to end homelessness.


SECTION 2.6 PLAN TO CONNECT PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS TO ALL ELIGIBLE BENEFIT PROGRAMS

Outline how the County and CoC are connecting or will connect people to all eligible federal, state, and local benefit programs.

TERM AND CONDITIONS

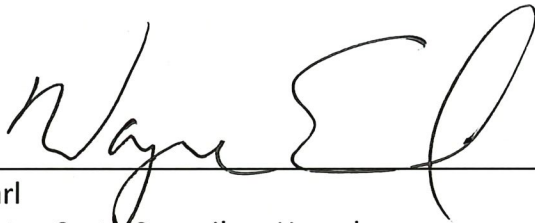
This MOU becomes effective on the date it is signed by representatives of both parties and will end June 30, 2028, the state's deadline to expend HHAP program funds. This MOU is an expression of the commitments of the County and CoC to each other; it is not intended to create any legal obligations enforceable by the County, the CoC, or any third party.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed.

Signed: 

Date: 3/18/2024

Christy Saxton
Director, Health, Housing and Homeless Services
Contra Costa Health Services

Signed: 

Date: 3/19/2024

Wayne Earl
Chair, Contra Costa Council on Homelessness
On behalf of the Richmond/Contra Costa County CoC