

Application Narrative Template

1. SUMMARY OF HOMELESSNESS IN THE CoC, LARGE CITY, OR COUNTY

To successfully complete this section, applicants must:

A. Submit Their CoC's Complete HUD Longitudinal System Assessment (LSA) from October 1, 2017 to Sept.30,2018

HOUSING FIRST SOLANO CoC Longitudinal System Assessment Oct 1, 2017 – Sept 30, 2018	
1. Total Number of Households Served	
(1) Emergency shelter, safe haven, and transitional housing	141
(2) Rapid rehousing	189
(3) Permanent supportive housing	85
Type of Household	
2. Disabled households	284
3. Households experiencing chronic homelessness	95
4. 55+ households	139
5. Unaccompanied youth	17
6. Veteran households	106
7. Gender	
(1) Female	253
(2) Male	206
(3) Transgender	1
(4) Gender non-conforming	0
8. Race	
(1) White, non-Hispanic/non-Latino (only)	148
(2) White, Hispanic/Latino (only)	31
(3) Black or African American (only)	197
(4) Asian (only)	5
(5) American Indian or Alaska Native (only)	22
(6) Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander (only)	11
(7) Multiple races	39

Please note:

- Per HHAP program guidance, CoCs are expected to share the LSA with their regional co-applicants (i.e., applicable large cities and counties that overlap the CoC's jurisdiction). Each entity will submit a copy of the LSA for their CoC.
- Acknowledging that there may be differences in demographics and characteristics within a region, large city, and county, applicants may also include additional information that is specific to their geography.

2. DEMONSTRATION OF REGIONAL COORDINATION

To successfully complete this section, applicants must provide:

1. Coordinated Entry System (CES) Information

For CoC applicants:

1. Describe how your CES functions, including:
 - a. What entity is responsible for operating your CES?
 - b. What is the process for assessment and identification of housing needs for individuals and families that are experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness in your community?
 - c. How are people referred to available housing through CES?
2. How do you promote the utilization of your CES? Specifically:
 - a. What outreach do you conduct to ensure all individuals experiencing homelessness, including those with multiple barriers, are aware of the CES assessment and referral process?
 - b. What is the grievance or appeal process for customers?
 - c. How do you provide culturally responsive services to people experiencing homelessness?
3. What, if any, are the current challenges preventing successful CES operation in your jurisdiction, and how do you plan to address these challenges?

For Large City and County applicants:

1. How do you coordinate with your CoC's CES?

Solano County is an active member of Housing First Solano, the CoC in Solano County, and is a participant in Resource Connect Solano—the CES for Housing First Solano. Resource Connect Solano is administered by Caminar, a community-based nonprofit. Caminar administers the CES according to the Coordinated Entry

Policies and Procedures designed with the support of HomeBase consulting and approved by the Housing First Solano Board. As a participant in the CES, Solano County adheres to the Housing First Solano CES policies and procedures. This includes accepting all eligible referrals from the CES both to homeless-specific programs as well as mainstream benefit programs. As a member of the Housing First Solano Board, the county participates in the annual evaluation and update of the CES.

2. What, if any, are your jurisdiction's current challenges related to CES, and how do you plan to address these challenges?

We are not aware of any specific challenges at this time. A significant amount of effort and resources have been allocated during the last 2 years to launching Housing First Solano CES, including the expertise and ongoing support from HomeBase consulting and Caminar. This effort has resulted in a comprehensive and responsive countywide CES system. Solano County has been a participant and supporter of this effort throughout.

3. How do you promote the utilization of your CES? Specifically, what outreach do you conduct to ensure all individuals experiencing homelessness in your jurisdiction, including those with multiple barriers, are aware of the CES assessment and referral process?

Solano County provides written information for the public regarding the CES in all of its offices' locations. There are multiple outreach strategies in place in Solano County, many of them a partnership between County Behavioral Health and local law enforcement in each jurisdiction. For example, mental health staff for the MHSA-funded ARCH homeless outreach program engages the chronically homeless and specifically those with mental health conditions, and provides them with a choice to enter the CES system through any one of the designated contract locations throughout the county. This is primarily for homeless individuals who are interested in entering an emergency shelter or applying for permanent supportive housing.

2. Prioritization Criteria

1. What are the criteria used to prioritize assistance for people experiencing homelessness in your jurisdiction?

As part of the Housing First Solano CoC, Solano County prioritizes assistance in accordance with agreed-upon protocols. Individuals and families are prioritized for a full continuum of housing and service interventions. This is according to Housing

First Solano's CoC and ESG Written Standards, which prioritize those who are most vulnerable and with the most immediate needs for referral and placement into appropriate housing interventions. Those with the highest VI-SPDAT scores are prioritized for longer-term housing solutions. The CoC uses the coordinated entry process to prioritize homeless individuals within the CoC's geographic area for access to housing and supportive services.

2. How is CES, pursuant to 24 CFR 578.8(a)(8) used for this process?

The CES is central to that process. The coordinated entry prioritization process combines the individual's assessment results with the CoC's prioritization policies and procedures to determine that person's level of vulnerability. The person's assessment will establish his or her level of priority for resources and lead to identification of vacancies at housing and supportive services for referral.

3. Coordination of Regional Needs

1. How have you coordinated with your partnering CoC, large city (if applicable), and/or county to identify your share of the regional need to address homelessness?

The 2019 Solano County PIT count showed the distribution of the homeless population between the cities in the county. This has not been a factor in funding allocation for homeless services either at the CoC or county level. A survey of board meetings from January 2018 to January 2020 does not show evidence of any discussion of the Housing First Solano CoC regarding the share of regional needs in addressing homelessness. Costs incurred by local municipalities for homeless services are recognized in the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Homeless Strategic Plan, but there is no mention of identifying regional need.

Solano County is a medium sized county with a population of 445,458 and no city with a population greater than 114,000; therefore, this issue may not have the same priority as an area with a larger population.

2. What is your identified share of this need, and how will the requested funds help your jurisdiction meet it?

As share has not been discussed or identified, this is not a factor in the county's fund request.

4. Creating Sustainable, Long-Term Housing Solutions

1. How is your jurisdiction involved in the efforts to create sustainable, long-term housing solutions for people experiencing homelessness across your region?

Affordable housing solutions are in progress in the three largest cities in the county. County Behavioral Health is a formal partner in two of the three, and the third project is still in its early stages. In 2018, Solano County submitted a successful application to the No Place Like Home (NPLH) State Housing and Community Development Department's Deferred Loan Program for \$3,026,167 for new construction of 24 permanent supportive housing units. The application was in collaboration with Mid-Peninsula Housing in Fairfield. Additionally, Solano County recently submitted a \$12 million NPLH competitive application in collaboration with Eden Housing for 35 permanent supportive housing units in Vallejo. Additionally, the city of Vacaville is developing an affordable housing community that may partner with the County for a future NPLH application.

The Solano County Community Action Board also received a \$4,913,964 grant from Partnership HealthPlan to address homeless housing issues in Solano County. Of these funds, \$3,535,135 was allocated for permanent supportive housing, including \$1,535,921 for an Eden Housing project in Vallejo, \$1,126,732 for an Eden Housing project in Vacaville, and \$872,482 for the Mid-Peninsula Housing project in Fairfield for the deferred loan program.

The county has provided a donation of land for the supportive housing project for the requested HHAP funds. The county general services staff is working with the city of Fairfield to ensure that all appropriate entitlements are in place for the project to proceed.

3. RESOURCES ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

To successfully complete this section, all applicants must answer the following questions:

1. Existing Programs and Resources

- 1. Provide an exhaustive list of all funds (including the program and dollar amount) that jurisdiction currently uses to provide housing and homeless services for homeless populations.**

The majority of HUD and state HCD homeless funds are administered by the Housing First Solano CoC. County homeless services are primarily through county sources such as CalWORKs and MHSA.

These services, programs, and funding for the 2019-20 fiscal year are as follows:

- CalWORKs Housing: \$2,784,726
- MHSA Full-Service Partnership Permanent Supportive Housing: \$850,000
- MHSA Full-Service Partnership Housing Flex Funds: \$250,000
- Emergency Shelter Contract with Shelter Solano MHSA: \$500,000
- Sober Living Supportive Housing Prop 47: \$400,000
- MSHA Mobile Homeless Outreach: \$300,000
- Respite Beds for Crisis Services MHSA: \$350,000

2. How are these resources integrated or coordinated with applicants from overlapping jurisdictions (i.e., CoC, large city, and/or county)?

As an active member of Housing First Solano CoC, county services are integrated and coordinated with CoC services. This coordination is detailed in the Neighbors Helping Neighbors 5-Year Regional Strategic Plan to Respond to Homelessness in Solano County.¹ This strategy was developed and funded by the Community Action Partnership of Solano County Joint Powers Authority. The focus of county homeless services is primarily on homeless CalWORKs families serviced by Solano County Health and Social Services, and homeless individuals with a severe mental illness, served by Solano County Behavioral Health.

3. What gaps currently exist in housing and homeless services for homeless populations in your jurisdiction?

According to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Strategic Plan, there is a need for 731 additional year-round permanent housing beds to accommodate the number of people currently experiencing homelessness. According to the 2019 Solano County PIT count, there are 932 unsheltered homeless people.² The number of emergency shelter beds available in Solano County during the PIT count was 240.³ Three main goals were proposed in the Strategic Plan in response to the identified gaps in services: improve system

¹ Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Forward Together, the 5-Year Regional Strategic Plan to Respond to Homelessness in Solano County. Community Action Partnership of Solano County. March 2017. Page 10.

² Solano County Homeless Census and Survey 2019 Executive Summary.

³ 2019 Housing Inventory Count and Sheltered Point in-Time Count Homeless Base 2019.

navigation, increase affordable and deeply affordable housing stock, and strengthen the support system available to help residents maintain housing.⁴

2. HHAP Funding Plans

1. **Explain, in detail, how your jurisdiction plans to use the full amount of HHAP funds (including the youth set-aside) and how it will complement existing funds to close the identified gaps in housing and homeless services for the homeless population in your jurisdiction.**

Solano County proposes to use the full amount the HHAP funds to be utilized in the construction of 16 beds of permanent supportive housing for seriously mentally ill homeless individuals, provided in a board and care environment. The facility will be part of a planned campus to be located on county land adjacent to the Solano County Health and Social Services service center and the Department of Behavioral Health offices in Fairfield, the county seat. The campus will also include an adjacent 16-bed Licensed Residential Care for Mentally ill facility, for a total of 32 beds when complete. The campus will have a common area with a dining room, lounge, group and individual therapy rooms, staff offices, commercial kitchen, laundry, and storage. Two of the 16 beds or 13% will be set aside for homeless youth, exceeding the 8% requirements for HHAP Youth set-aside.

As indicated above, the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Strategic Plan states that there is a gap of 731 year-round permanent housing beds to accommodate the number of people currently experiencing homelessness. The proposed 16 beds of permanent supportive housing for homeless, mentally ill individuals contributes to closing this identified gap.

2. **How will you ensure that HHAP-funded projects will align and comply with the core components of Housing First as defined in Welfare and Institutions Code §8255(b)?**

As a member of Housing First Solano, Solano County is committed to the principles the CoC is named for and will align with the core components of Housing First. All of those entering the proposed program will be provided housing first and then offered the

⁴ Neighbors Helping Neighbors: Forward Together, the 5-Year Regional Strategic Plan to Respond to Homelessness in Solano County. Community Action Partnership of Solano County. March 2017. Page 18.

necessary services to maintain their housing. By stabilizing homeless, mentally ill individuals in the board and care, the county will provide regular nutritious meals as well as an opportunity for them to access a full range of treatment and socialization services. Services will not be conditional but will occur through interpersonal engagement. Also, as a county agency, Solano County will need to observe all local, state, and federal laws, including board and care licensing regulations.

4. PARTNERS ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

To successfully complete this section, all applicants must answer the following questions:

A. Collaborating Partner Efforts

Please note: per [Program Guidance](#), page 9, collaborative partners, at a minimum, should include representatives of local homeless service providers, homeless youth programs, law enforcement, behavioral health, county welfare departments, city and county public officials, educators, workforce development, community clinics, health care providers, public housing authorities, and people with lived experience. If any of these partnerships are not currently active in your jurisdiction, please address in question #3 below.

1. Describe, in detail, the collaborative partners who will be working with you on identified HHAP projects and how you will be partnering with them.

CoC CES will refer clients to the program. The county will issue an RFP for the operation of the facility, but that contractor is not selected at this time. There will be no other formal partners required to establish and operate the facility. The project will be included as one of the projects the CoC includes in their service system, and therefore have collaboration from local homeless services providers, homeless youth program, law enforcement, community clinics, health care providers and people with lived experience. The County will of course have collaboration with other County Departments such as public health and employment/eligibility. This is a project of County Behavioral Health.

2. Describe any barriers that you experience in partnering, and how you plan to address them.

We do not see any at this time.

3. **If no collaborative partners have not been identified at time of application, describe the collaborative process of how you intend to include new and existing partners on HHAP projects.**

The process for securing an operator for the board and care will be conducted according to county procurement guidelines.

5. **SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS**

To successfully complete this section:

Applicants that Submitted a Strategic Plan for CESH must:

- **Identify the measurable goals set in your CESH Strategic Plan and explain, in detail, which of these goals HHAP funding will directly impact and by how much.**

As a member of the Housing First Solano CoC, the county participated in the creation of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Strategic Plan that was included with the CoC CESH application.

The plan proposed 3 goals and 15 core strategies.⁵ The proposed use of HHAP funding meets the following goals and strategies:

Goal: Increase affordable and deeply affordable housing stock
Strategy

Through the development of the board and care, the project will provide 16 beds of permanent supportive housing for very low income mentally ill individuals on SSI, which will increase the stock of deeply affordable housing in Solano County. Sixteen individuals will be served through their placement in this board and care. Two of these, or 8% will be homeless youth. All 16 will be successfully placed in permanent housing, as the board and care is permanent supportive housing. Assuming a turnover rate of 25% a year, or 4 beds, an additional 8 will be served, from the project opening date in 2022, and the end of the HHAP contract period December 31, 2023. This will result in a total of 24 homeless mentally ill individuals provided with permanent supportive housing through the proposed project.

Goal: Increase affordable housing and deeply affordable housing to fill gaps

The Strategic Plan shows a need for at least 731 additional year-round permanent housing beds.⁶

Strategy

The proposed project works to fill that gap with the addition of 16

⁵ Ibid. Page 12.

beds.

Goal: Strengthen the support system available to help residents maintain housing

Strategy

Supportive services will be provided in the housing environment in a board and care model. Increased access to behavioral health treatment services will occur as this project is on the Solano County Health & Social Services campus.

Goal: Expand the stock of mental health and substance abuse treatment beds.⁷

Strategy

Our proposed project will increase the number of mental health treatment beds.

Please note: Per HSC §50219(a)(6), all applicants' measurable goals must include the number of individuals they intend to serve, and the number of individuals they intend to successfully place in permanent housing with HHAP funding.

¹⁰ Ibid. Page

¹¹ Ibid. Page



HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM (HHAP) ANNUAL BUDGET TEMPLATE

APPLICANT INFORMATION

CoC / Large City / County Name:	County of Solano	Receiving Redirected Funds? Y/N	No
Administrative Entity Name:	N/A	Total Redirected Funding	\$ -

HHAP FUNDING EXPENDITURE PLAN*

ELIGIBLE USE CATEGORY	FY20/21	FY21/22	FY22/23	FY23/24	FY24/25	TOTAL
Rental Assistance and Rapid Rehousing		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Operating Subsidies and Reserves	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Landlord Incentives	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Outreach and Coordination (including employment)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Systems Support to Create Regional Partnerships	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Delivery of Permanent Housing	\$ -	\$ 584,100.24	\$ 584,100.24	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,168,200.48
Prevention and Shelter Diversion to Permanent Housing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
New Navigation Centers and Emergency Shelters	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Strategic Homelessness Planning, Infrastructure Development, CES, and HMIS (up to 5%)						
Administrative (up to 7%)	\$ -	\$ 43,964.53	\$ 43,964.53	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 87,929.06
TOTAL FUNDING ALLOCATION						\$ 1,256,129.54
Youth Set-Aside (at least 8%)						
	\$ -	\$ 50,245.18	\$ 50,245.18	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,490.36

*Narrative should reflect details of HHAP funding plan

COMMENTS:

Housing First Solano

Vallejo/Solano County Continuum of Care



February 6, 2020

Birgitta Corsello
County Administrator
County of Solano
675 Texas Street, Suite 6500
Fairfield, CA 94533

RE: County of Solano Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Application

Dear Mrs. Corsello,

On behalf of Housing First Solano, the Vallejo/Solano Continuum of Care, I am writing to express our support of the County of Solano's (Solano County) application to the State of California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency for the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP).

On January 22, 2020, Housing First Solano held a regularly scheduled board meeting as well as facilitated a community meeting to obtain input on how HHAP funds should be prioritized. On January 23, 2020, Community Action Partnership Solano Joint Powers Authority (CAP Solano JPA), which includes a representative for Solano County in its membership, held its regularly scheduled monthly board meeting. CAP Solano JPA is the Administrative Entity for Housing First Solano. CAP Solano JPA's board reviewed input obtained during the community meeting and set and approved funding priorities. Representatives for Solano County attended all three meetings and provided input on Solano County's proposed funding priorities for consideration. Housing First Solano has reviewed and agrees with Solano County's HHAP spending plan.

Housing First Solano acknowledges and agrees to regional coordination and partnership, per Health and Safety Code 50219(a)(1). Housing First Solano will continue to ensure representatives for Solano County continue to serve on the Board and within the general membership of Housing First Solano and attend all regularly scheduled meetings. CAP Solano JPA will continue to solicit input from Solano County through representative members on CAP Solano JPA's Board during regularly scheduled board meetings. These meetings will provide Housing First Solano and Solano County the opportunity to jointly plan and evaluate HHAP spending and projects funded within the overlapping jurisdictions.

Sincerely,



Colleen Berumen, Chair
Housing First Solano