

## **San Bernardino County Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2024-2025 Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus and CoC Bonus Projects Request for Applications (RFA)**

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The San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services (OHS), acting on behalf of the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership and the Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), is requesting applications from nonprofit and local government organizations aiding homeless populations within San Bernardino County. The San Bernardino County CoC is a Housing First Continuum of Care (CoC) and is accepting new housing project applications that meet the requirements of the Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Projects and CoC Bonus Projects as identified in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-2025 CoC Competition. The HUD NOFO FY 2024-2025 CoC Competition may be accessed at the following link: [HUD NOFO FY 2024-2025](#). Successful applicant(s) will submit an application in HUD's electronic CoC Program Application and Grants Management System (known as "e-snaps") that will be submitted with the CoC Consolidated Application to HUD.

**Coordination with Housing and Healthcare.** The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 directs HUD to provide incentives to create projects that coordinate with housing providers and healthcare organizations to provide permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing services. In the FY 2024 - 2025 CoC Program Competition, CoCs may receive up to 14 points on the CoC Application if the FY 2024 CoC Priority Listing includes new project applications created through reallocation or the CoC Bonus that utilizes housing vouchers and healthcare provided through an array of healthcare services providers. See Section V.B.6 of the HUD NOFO FY 2024-2025 for additional details

The CoC requires agencies to submit applications that demonstrate a partnership between housing, healthcare, and supportive services providers to expand housing options, such as permanent supportive housing, housing subsidies, and rapid rehousing.

**Leveraging Healthcare Resources -** A written Commitment from a healthcare organization with the value of the commitment and the date(s) healthcare resources will begin must be included with the application.

**Leveraging Housing Resources -** Agencies must attach letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project.

**Equity Factors –** In the project description of the CoC New Project Application, agencies should note if there are under-represented individuals (LGBTQ, Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), Veterans, and Persons with Lived Experience of Homelessness) in managerial and leadership positions in their agency. Agencies should attach internal policies and procedures which demonstrate equitable policies that do not impose undue barriers that exacerbate disparities and outcomes.

**IMPORTANT -** Applicants interested in applying in response to the San Bernardino County CoC FY 2024-2025 CoC DV Bonus and CoC Bonus RFA must prepare the application when it is available in e-snaps. On Wednesday, July 31, 2024, HUD announced that the Project Applications should be available in e-snaps- within the next few weeks. E-snaps is the electronic CoC Program Application and Grants Management System that HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) uses to support the CoC Program funding application and grant awards process for the CoC Program. Applicants must prepare the project application in e-snaps, create a PDF version of the e-snaps application and submit the PDF version of the application and attachments to [homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov](mailto:homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov).

**NEW TO E-SNAPS?** Detailed instructions on how to create an account in e-snaps and access a Project Application in e-snaps can be found at the following link: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/> The CoC strongly encourages agencies that do not have an account in e-snaps to create an account in e-snaps even if the CoC Project Application has not yet been made available in e-snaps.

The local deadline for electronic submission of the e-snaps PDF Application and attachments is no later than **2:00 p.m. (PDT) on Friday, September 6, 2024. Applicants must prepare their application in e-snaps, create a PDF version of the e- snaps application and submit the PDF version of the application and attachments to [homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov](mailto:homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov) by 2:00 p.m. (PDT) on Friday, September 6, 2024.**

# San Bernardino County Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2024-2025 Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus and CoC Bonus Projects Request for Applications (RFA)

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- I. **New Projects created through the CoC Bonus or Reallocation process. – An agency may apply for funding up to \$2,296,715 for New CoC Bonus projects.** Projects created through the CoC Bonus or Reallocation (if applicable) must meet the project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements established by HUD in Section III.C.4.a.and b.

The CoC strongly encourages agencies to submit applications that will provide Permanent Housing, as stated in Section I.B.3.c of the HUD NOFO FY 2024-2025, that coordinates with housing providers and healthcare organizations to provide permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing services.

Per Section III.B.4.a.(3) of the HUD NOFO FY 2024-2025 the following project components are eligible for New CoC Bonus Projects:

- Permanent housing-permanent supportive housing (PH-PSH) projects:
- Permanent housing-rapid rehousing (PH-RRH) projects:
- Joint Transitional Housing (TH) and Permanent Housing-Rapid/Re-housing (PH-RRH) component projects:
- Dedicated HMIS project for the costs at 24 CFR 578.37(a)(4) that may only be carried out by the HMIS Lead, which is the recipient or subrecipient of an HMIS grant and is listed on the HMIS Lead form in the CoC Applicant Profile in e-snaps. Additionally, if the CoC has organizations within its geographic area that are victim service providers, the HMIS Lead, or subrecipient, may request HMIS funds for a comparable database. Victim service providers may also request HMIS funds in their project application budgets to enter data into a comparable database: or
- Supportive services only coordinated entry (SSO-CE) project to develop or operate a centralized or coordinated assessment system.

- II. **New Projects created through the DV Bonus or DV Reallocation process – An agency may apply for funding up to \$2,870,894 for new DV Bonus projects.** Projects created through the DV Bonus or Reallocation (if applicable) must meet the project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements established by HUD in Section III.C.4.a.and b.

New Projects that want to be considered for the DV Bonus Project, are new projects that are dedicated to individuals and families of persons experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who qualify under the paragraphs (1) or (4) of definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3 or section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. New DV Bonus projects are subject to the limitation on new projects in Section I.B.3.a.(1) of the HUD NOFO FY 2024-2025.

Per Section B.2.b.(13) of the HUD NOFO FY 2024-2025, HUD is clarifying that persons who are fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking may qualify as homeless under paragraph (4) of the homeless definition at 24 CFR 578.3 or section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and may be eligible for certain forms of homeless assistance under the CoC Program, subject to other restrictions that may apply. HUD considers human trafficking, including sex trafficking, to be “other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member” under paragraphs (1) and (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3 and “other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation” under section 103(b) of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

# San Bernardino County Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2024-2025 Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus and CoC Bonus Projects Request for Applications (RFA)

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Per Section III.B.4.a.(4) of the HUD NOFO FY 2024-2025 the following project components are eligible for New DV Bonus projects:

- PH-RRH projects dedicated to serving individuals and families of persons experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless under 24 CFR 578.3 or section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act;
- Joint TH/PH-RRH component projects defined in section I.B.2.b.(18) of the HUD NOFO FY 2024-2025 dedicated to serving individuals and families of persons experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who are defined as homeless under 24 CFR 578.3 or section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act; or
- SSO-CE project to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of individuals and families of persons experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking

### III. Expansion Projects

HUD will allow project applicants to apply for new expansion projects to expand existing projects to increase the number of units, persons served, services provided to existing program participants, or to add additional activities to HMIS and SSO-CE projects. [see Sections I.B.2.b.(9) and III.B.4.a.(6) of the HUD NOFO FY 2024-2025 CoC Bonus, DV Bonus, CoC Reallocation (if applicable), and DV Reallocation funds (if applicable) may only be used to expand eligible CoC and DV Renewal projects.

An agency may apply for funding up to **\$2,296,715** if the New Expansion Project is created through the CoC Bonus. See Section I of this RFA for a list of eligible program components.

An agency may apply for funding up to **\$2,870,894** if the New Expansion Project is created through the DV Bonus Project. See Section II of this RFA for a list of eligible program components.

Project applicants intending to submit new project applications for the purposes of expanding an eligible renewal in the CoC Program must:

- Enter the grant number of the eligible renewal project, proposed for expansion, in the new project application,
- Indicate how the new project application will expand units, beds, services, persons served, or services provided to existing program participants, or in the case of HMIS or SSO-Coordinated Entry projects, how the current activities will be expanded for the CoC's geographic area, and
- Ensure the funding request for the expansion grant is within the funding parameters allowed under reallocation (if applicable), CoC Bonus, or DV Bonus available amounts.

The new expansion project application must meet the project eligibility and project quality thresholds in Section

III.C.4.a. and b of the HUD NOFO FY 2024-2025. If the new expansion project exceeds the amount of funding available under the reallocation (if applicable) or Bonus processes, HUD will reduce the funding request to the available amount, which could affect the activities of the new expansion project. If both the new expansion project and the CoC Program renewal project it expands are conditionally selected for funding, one grant agreement incorporating both approved project applications will be executed. If the renewal project application is not conditionally selected for funding, the expansion project application will not be selected.

If an expansion grant is recommended to HUD by the CoC, project applicants must submit separate renewal and new project applications, and both must be ranked by the CoC with unique rank numbers.

# San Bernardino County Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2024-2025 Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus and CoC Bonus Projects Request for Applications (RFA)

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## IV. Matching Funds

A competitive application should include at least 25% match funds from sources outside of this grant's funding request. The recipient or subrecipient must match all grant funds, except for leasing funds, with no less than 25 percent of funds or in-kind contributions from other sources. 24 CFR 578.73

## V. Application Requirements

E-snaps is the electronic CoC Program Application and Grants Management System that HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs uses to support the CoC Program funding application and grant awards process for the CoC Program. All CoC New Project Applications created in response to this RFA must be completed **but not submitted** in e-snaps (do NOT select the "Submit" button). **Instead, the CoC New Project Application must be exported from e- snaps as a PDF copy.**

**A separate CoC New Project Application for the CoCBonus, New Expansion and Reallocation Project is required. An agency may not apply for the DV Bonus, CoC Bonus, New Expansion and Reallocation Project on the same CoC New Project Application document.**

## VI. Application Submission

Submit the PDF copy of the completed CoC New Project Application created via e-snaps and attachments to the Office of Homeless Services at [homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov](mailto:homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov). CoC New Project Applications submitted on or before the submission due date noted in Section IX in this document will be reviewed by the San Bernardino County CoC Grant Review Committee (GRC). The GRC will make final recommendations to the ICH for submission to HUD.

## VII. DV and CoC Bonus Scoring Guidelines

The San Bernardino County CoC 2024 - DV Bonus and CoC Bonus Projects Scoring Guideline can be accessed at the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership (SBCHP) website at the following link: <https://sbchp.sbcounty.gov/>.

## VIII. Application Deadline

A separate Project Application, PDF version created in e-snaps, for each project must be submitted to [Homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov) no later than Friday, September 6, 2024 to be considered for recommendation to the ICH by the GRC.

## San Bernardino County Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2024-2025 Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus and CoC Bonus Projects Request for Applications (RFA)

### IX. 2024 RFA Submission Timeline:

San Bernardino County CoC 2024-2025 DV and CoC Bonus Program Announcement and RFA is released	Friday, August 23, 2024
San Bernardino County CoC 2024-2025 DV and CoC Bonus Project Workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attendance is optional.</li> <li>Please RSVP by email to: <a href="mailto:HomelessRFP@hss.sbcounty.gov">HomelessRFP@hss.sbcounty.gov</a></li> <li>Please note <b>“DV and CoC Bonus Project Workshop RSVP”</b> in the subject line.</li> <li>Include your name, phone number, and email address in the body of the email.</li> </ul>	August 20, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Questions - Deadline for submission of questions	*August 21, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Submit Questions to: <a href="mailto:homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov">homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov</a>
Questions and Answers will be posted as an Addendum to the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership (SBCHP) website at the following link: <a href="https://sbchp.sbcounty.gov/">https://sbchp.sbcounty.gov/</a>	* August 23, 2024 Time: 2:00 p.m.
<b>Deadline for Electronic Submission</b> for all CoC New Project Applications created in response to this RFA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Type “2024 CoC New Project Application” in the subject line.</li> <li>Include your name, phone number, and email address in the body of the email.</li> </ul>	*Date: September 6, 2024 Time: 2:00 p.m. (PDT) Submission: <a href="mailto:homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov">homelessrfp@hss.sbcounty.gov</a>

\*All dates are subject to change as deemed necessary by the OHS.

### X. Appeal Process

In the event an appeal arises concerning the application prior to the recommendation to the ICH, the applicant raising the appeal shall submit a request for resolution in writing to the OHS. Applicant may appeal the recommendation being made to the ICH to the GRC or an Ad Hoc Committee, provided the Appeal is submitted:

- In writing
- Submit the appeal via email to the OHS @ [HomelessRFP@hss.sbcounty.gov](mailto:HomelessRFP@hss.sbcounty.gov) on or before **3:00 on Monday, September 12, 2024.**
- Please note **“Appeal - DV Bonus and CoC Bonus Projects Request for Applications”** in the subject line of the email.

An Appeal can only be brought on the following grounds:

- Failure of the County to follow the selection procedures and adhere to requirements specified in the RFA or any addenda or amendments.
- Violation of conflict of interest as provided by California Government Code Section 87100 et seq.
- Violation of State or Federal law.

Appeals will not be accepted for any other reasons than those stated above.

Upon receipt of the formal Appeal, the GRC or Ad Hoc Committee will attempt to resolve the Appeal. An Appeal shall be disallowed when, in the judgment of the GRC or Ad Hoc Committee, it has been submitted: (1) as a delay tactic; (2) for the purpose of posturing the Applicant advantageously for future procurement; (3) in a form that deviates from the one prescribed; (4) without adequate factual basis or merit; or (5) in an untimely manner.

# San Bernardino County Continuum of Care (CoC) FY 2024-2025 Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus and CoC Bonus Projects Request for Applications (RFA)

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The GRC or Ad Hoc Committee shall decide concerning the appeal and notify the applicant submitting the Appeal within a reasonable timeframe prior to the tentatively scheduled date for the recommendation to the ICH on **September 25, 2024**. The decision of the GRC or Ad Hoc Committee shall be deemed final.

Alternatively, an appeal panel consisting of the GRC, or an Ad Hoc Committee shall hear the Appeal. The appeal hearing will be held on **September 17, 2024**. If an appealing applicant does not appear at the Appeal hearing as scheduled, the Appeal will be disallowed.

The hearing is informal, in that it is not subject to the strict rules of evidence or procedure, and live witnesses, if any, will not be sworn. All relevant evidence is admissible, including hearsay. It will be up to the Appeal Panel members to consider the credibility of the evidence and the weight to give it.

The Panel will determine by at least five (5) affirmative votes: 1) whether the Appeal was submitted timely; 2) whether the Appeal is based on at least one of the three designated grounds identified above; and 3) whether the grounds on which the Appeal are based have been substantiated.

If any of the grounds are determined to be valid, the Panel will also decide if the valid portion of the Appeal has so tainted the RFA process that it is unfair to the applicant or whether the valid grounds for the Appeal are in the nature of harmless error and that the RFA process was fair to the Applicant. The Panel will not re-evaluate the Applications.

The GRC or Ad Hoc Committee shall notify the Applicant making the Appeal of the decision within a reasonable timeframe prior to the recommendation to the ICH on **September 25, 2024**. The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be deemed final.

An Applicant appealing the results of any of the processes described herein must follow the procedures set forth. By submitting a "Letter of Intent to Appeal", the Proposer has agreed that the appeal procedures herein shall precede any action in a judicial or quasi-judicial tribunal regarding this application. Applicants that do not follow these procedures shall not be considered. The appeal procedures constitute the sole administrative remedy available to the Applicant under this RFA. Upon exhaustion of this remedy no additional recourse is available.

**XI. HUD Appeals Process**

See Section VII. Appeals of the FY 2024-2025 CoC NOFO. The FY 2024-2025 CoC NOFO can be accessed at the following link: [FY 2024-2025 CoC NOFO](#).

**XII. Modifications:**

The County reserves the right to issue addenda if the County considers that additional clarifications are needed.

**XIII. Projects Recommended for Funding:**

Agencies recommended for funding by ICH will be required to attend a mandatory final review meeting with OHS staff. The authorized representative must have a strong knowledge of the application and the authority to revise the approved project to strengthen the CoC's overall score. During this process OHS staff and the agency representative(s) will work together to finalize and enter project information into e-snaps for inclusion in the Partnerships final application to HUD. OHS will notify the authorized representative identified by the agency of all subsequent submission requirements and meeting dates and locations.