



Sonoma County Community Development Commission

## **Sonoma County Homeless System of Care Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Background and Membership Application**

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Sonoma County’s Homeless System of Care will be the unified address for homeless services planning and funding throughout Sonoma County, and will serve as the HUD-mandated Continuum of Care program for the County of Sonoma, City of Petaluma, and City of Santa Rosa. The goal of the Homeless System of Care is the following: *To achieve functional zero homelessness in Sonoma County through utilization of a Housing First strategy.*<sup>1</sup> This document will provide background to this call for Technical Advisory Committee membership applications, and includes the application itself.

### ***Background***

Following more than a year of group meetings and individual discussions among County and City governments, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, individuals experiencing homelessness, and private sector stakeholders committed to ending homelessness, Sonoma County is implementing a unified Homeless System of Care that is designed to align efforts county-wide, eliminate duplication of effort, and yield positive results. To implement this redesigned Homeless System of Care, county partners have established a new leadership structure that will set a vision, make decisions, and measure results for ending homelessness throughout the region. As established by HUD, a Continuum of Care (CoC) leads a coordinated community-based process of identifying the needs of the population experiencing homelessness, and building a system of housing and services that meet those needs. In alignment with HUD CoC guidelines, the Sonoma County Homeless System of Care is designed to accomplish the following:

- Promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness;
- Provide funding for efforts to quickly re-house individuals and families who are homeless—efforts that minimize the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness;
- Promote access to and effective use of non-housing service programs (HUD calls these “mainstream programs”); and
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The Sonoma County Homeless System of Care leadership structure will act as the primary decision-making body with regard to funding from the HUD Continuum of Care Program, State

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<sup>1</sup> Functional zero homelessness is defined as when the number of individuals experiencing homelessness in a community is less than the number of individuals being connected with permanent housing each month.



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Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP), California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH), HUD entitlement funding (such as CDBG Public Services and local Emergency Solutions Grant funding), local City and County funding for addressing homelessness, and other funding streams to be designated. The Homeless System of Care will play a strategic planning and advisory role in Veterans Administration program funding, as well as other County Safety Net program funding.

Implementation of the Sonoma County Homeless System of Care will require engagement of County and municipal government agencies, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, homeless and formerly homeless individuals, and members of the private sector in all geographic areas of the county. When considered as a whole system of care, implementation will require coordinated entry, focusing on the most vulnerable, in every community; services aligned with evidence-informed practices; and performance measurement, per the federal HEARTH Act of 2009. In alignment with the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, *Opening Doors*, the Sonoma County Homeless System of Care will target designated special populations such as veterans, chronically homeless persons, homeless families, and homeless youth, providing immediate access to shelter and permanent housing. The Homeless System of Care will also need to align with existing strategies to achieve functional zero homelessness established by the all the HUD entitlement jurisdictions in Sonoma County.

### ***Leadership Structure of Sonoma County Homeless System of Care***

#### **Leadership Council**

Sonoma County's Homeless System of Care will have a nine-member, public-private primary decision-making body that will also serve as the county's Continuum of Care Board (a HUD requirement).<sup>2</sup> The nine members of the initial Leadership Council will include the following positions:

- Two elected officials from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
- Two elected officials from the City of Santa Rosa City Council
- One elected official from the City of Petaluma City Council
- One Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) member who has experienced homelessness within the past five years
- Three Technical Advisory Committee members elected by the TAC from a diversity of sectors

The Sonoma County Community Development Commission, the historic lead agency of the

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<sup>2</sup> HUD's CoC Program Interim Rule requires every Continuum of Care to establish a board to act on behalf of the Continuum. The board will be a subset of the membership that is established in accordance with the CoC regulations governing board composition. The CoC assigns the Board responsibilities in a written agreement called a Governance Charter.



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Continuum of Care, will serve as the interim lead agency until the Leadership Council officially selects an entity to serve as the lead agency.

**Technical Advisory Committee**

Sonoma County’s Homeless System of Care will include a 25-member Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), comprised of community experts who can make the Sonoma County Homeless System of Care’s vision a reality. The TAC’s 25 voting members will each serve on at least one of six standing and ad hoc Task Groups. TAC voting members should be high-level decision-makers from the following relevant organizations (as identified in the HUD regulations for establishing a Continuum of Care):

- Nonprofit homeless assistance providers
- Victim service providers
- Faith-based organizations
- Governments
- Businesses
- Advocates
- Public housing agencies
- School districts
- Social service providers
- Mental health agencies
- Hospitals
- Universities
- Affordable housing developers
- Law enforcement
- Organizations that serve veterans
- Homeless and formerly homeless individuals.

Additional community members beyond the 25 voting members, including elected officials, may serve as members of standing and ad hoc Task Groups. Currently planned Task Groups include:

1. Coordinated Entry (CE) and Housing First
2. Performance Measurement and Evaluation
3. Data Initiatives
4. Housing Unit Production/Rapid Re-Housing
5. System Funding
6. Emergent Issues

*A fuller description of these task groups appears in the application materials.*



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The Community Development Commission invites applications for membership on the TAC. A TAC Selection Committee, comprised of the Leadership Council’s 5 elected officials and 4 members of the prior Continuum of Care Board, will review and select applicants for the TAC. Once established, the TAC will appoint four members to the Leadership Council.

**Application Timeline**

October 3, 2018	Release of TAC Application
October 19, 2018	TAC Applications Due
Week of October 29, 2018	Selection Committee Meets to Review TAC Applications
November 2, 2018	TAC Selections Announced
November 13, 2018	First TAC Meeting & Appointment of 4 TAC Members to Leadership Council
Week of December 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 2018	First Leadership Council Meeting

If you are interested in joining the Technical Advisory Committee, please submit the following materials to Michael Gause, Continuum of Care Coordinator via email at [Michael.Gause@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Michael.Gause@sonoma-county.org) by **October 26, 2018**. The Selection Committee will review all applications by November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

The first TAC meeting is scheduled on **November 13, 2018 from 1-4pm** at the Sonoma County Community Development Commission offices, 1440 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa CA 95403. **Applicants should reserve this time now.**

A full application consists of:

1. A **Letter of Interest and Experience** (up to 500 words), describing the applicant’s expertise or experience to represent one or more of the organizations or perspectives listed on the previous page, the applicant’s previous experience in the Sonoma County Continuum of Care, and any relevant experience related to the six Task Groups.
2. Technical Advisory Committee **Application** (*the form follows this page*)



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## Continuum of Care Technical Advisory Committee Application

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Name:

Employer:

Position/Title:

Address:

Email:

Cell Phone:

Work Phone:

Fax:

### ***TAC Composition:***

What service area, jurisdiction, or special population do you represent? *(Check all that apply)*

- Homeless/Formerly Homeless
- Persons with substance use disorders
- Persons with HIV/AIDS
- Veterans
- Persons who are chronically homeless
- Families with children
- Transition age youth ages 18-24
- Persons who are seriously mentally ill
- Community based organizations serving veterans, victims of domestic violence, and persons living with HIV/AIDS
- Hospitals
- Faith-based organizations
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Businesses
- Public Housing Authority
- Nonprofit housing developers
- Education/Sonoma County Office of Education
- Homeless service providers
- Behavioral health care providers
- Community Health Centers
- Elected officials whose jurisdictions are not represented on the Leadership Council
- At-large Sonoma County residents interested in homelessness issues who are not elected officials
- Affordable Housing Developers
- Philanthropic community (includes United Way, Community Foundation Sonoma County, St. Joseph's, private foundations)
- Law Enforcement
- CoC Lead Agency



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**Task Groups**

Members of the TAC are required to serve on one or more focused Task Groups responsible for advising the Leadership Council on a specific component of the federally-mandated Continuum of Care. Additional ad hoc Task Groups can be established as authorized by the Leadership Council. The initial six standing Task Groups will consist of the following. Please select the Task Group(s) you are most interested in:

○ **Coordinated Entry and Housing First**

This group will ensure that the Homeless System of Care is compliant with HUD/State requirements for Housing First and that a countywide Coordinated Entry System is effective and responsive to real-time community needs.

○ **Performance Measurement and Evaluation**

This group will be responsible for monitoring overall system performance, Annual Performance Reports for individual projects, and the annual submissions of 7 System Performance Measures. This group will also evaluate and rate annual Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions Grant projects.

○ **Data Initiatives**

This group would be responsible for advising the Leadership Council on issues regarding Sonoma County's web-based Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), developing and maintaining the dashboard of metrics to achieve the vision of zero functional homelessness, and alerting the Leadership Council of providers whose data jeopardizes the overall system. This group also monitors the annual Homeless Count and Housing Inventory Chart.

○ **Housing Unit Production/Rapid Re-Housing**

This group will advise the Leadership Council on strategies for the development of new units and would require a mix of subject matter expertise to navigate the numerous impediments required to develop an ongoing pipeline of new units.

○ **System Funding**

This group would advise the Leadership Council on strategies for ensuring that adequate public and private funding is available to address Sonoma County's homeless needs and that funding is equitably distributed throughout the county, based on location of the impacted population.

○ **Emergent Issues**

This group would advise the Leadership Council on issues that are emerging with Sonoma County's homeless population's well-being, needs, and activities and recommend strategies for addressing them, based on best practices and evidence-based solutions. Examples of emergent issues would include geographic locations of new encampments, health-related findings, new trends among specific populations, etc.



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***Financial/Grant Disclosures:***

Does your organization currently receive funding or intend to apply for, any of the following grant programs:  
(Check all that apply) \*Receipt of, or application for, funding does not disqualify you from serving on the TAC.

- Continuum of Care Program
- Emergency Solutions Grant
- Department of Veterans Affairs SSVF
- County of Sonoma Homeless Services Grantee
- Private Foundation
  - Community Foundation Sonoma County
  - St. Joseph's Community Benefit
  - Other (please specify):
  
- HOPWA
- County of Sonoma
  - Sonoma County Behavioral Health
  - Sonoma County Human Services
  - Sonoma County Department of Probation
  
- CDBG
  - If yes, from what jurisdiction(s)?
    - County of Sonoma
    - City of Santa Rosa
    - City of Petaluma
  
- HOME
  - If yes, from what jurisdiction(s)?
    - County of Sonoma
    - City of Santa Rosa
    - City of Petaluma