



Merced City and County Continuum of Care Board Meeting

Date: October 5, 2023
Times: 11:00am – 12:30pm
Location: Virtual Conference via Microsoft Teams
 Phone Number: 1 (323) 676-6251
 Meeting ID: 265 547 213 892 #
 Passcode: UXuTN7
This meeting will be recorded

AGENDA

- | | |
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| I. Call to Order | Matt Serratto |
| II. Roll Call | Collaborative Applicant |
| III. Notice to Public
At least 48 hours prior to each regular Board/General membership meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review on the Merced CoC website at www.mercedcoc.org . | Collaborative Applicant |
| IV. Public Comment
Matters under the jurisdiction of the CoC and not on this posted agenda may be addressed by the general public at this time. The CoC governance charter prohibits the CoC from taking any action on a matter that is not on the posted agenda unless it is determined to be an emergency by the CoC. Any member of the public wishing to address the CoC during the “Public Comment” period is permitted to be heard once for up to three minutes, per person. Please state your name for the record. | Matt Serratto |
| V. Consent Agenda Items
A. Approval of Agenda
B. Approval of Minutes: September 7, 2023 | Matt Serratto |
| VI. Presentation
A. Homebase | Julie Silas & Alicia Weiss |
| VII. Community Projects
A. Merced Navigation Center
B. Emergency Housing Vouchers
C. Distributive Housing
D. Homeless Court
E. Housing Developments | Jennifer Carr
Jesenia Aguilar
David Carr
David Carr
Maribel Baron |
| VIII. Chair Comments | Matt Serratto |
| IX. Action Items
A. Board Vote
1. 2024 Homeless Summit
2. Emergency Solutions Grant Applications Recommended
3. Racial Equity Improvement Plan
4. Mission, Vision, Values

B. General Membership Vote – None | Collaborative Applicant |

X. Board Information & Possible New Action Items

- A. HHAP 5 Application
- B. Housing Support Program Presentation

Collaborative Applicant
Monica Valenzuela

XI. Collaborative Applicant Report Out

- A. HUD Consolidated Notice of Funding Opportunity
- B. October Monitoring

Collaborative Applicant

XII. CoC Committees Report Out

- A. HMIS
- B. CES
- C. Youth
- D. Health
- E. Faith

Christy McCammond
Christy McCammond
Lucia Tejada
Donna Chin/Linda Dash
Lee Greenawalt

CoC Committees with Vacant Chair/Vice Chairs – No Report Out

- F. Sustainability
- G. Planning and Development
- H. Outreach
- I. Lived Experience

XIII. CoC General Membership Comments

Matt Serratto

XIV. Adjournment

Next meeting: November 2, 2023, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm via Microsoft Teams

Matt Serratto



Merced City and County Continuum of Care Board Meeting

Date: September 7, 2023
Times: 11:00am – 12:30pm
Location: Virtual Conference via Microsoft Teams
Phone Number: 1 (323) 676-6251
Meeting ID: 294 694 828 #

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Merced City and County Continuum of Care (CoC) was called to order at 11:05am on September 7, 2023, via Microsoft Teams by Matt Serratto.

II. Roll Call

Continuum of Care Board Members in Attendance:

Candice Adam-Medefind, Jennifer Mockus, Josh Pedrozo, Margaret Simmons, Matt Serratto, Ray Reyna, and Steve Roussos.

Continuum of Care Members in Attendance:

ACE Overcomers, Aspiranet, California Central Valley Journey for Justice, Central California Alliance for Health, City of Los Banos, Healthy House, Love Focus International Association, Merced County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, Merced County Community Action Agency, Merced County Human Services Agency, Merced County Office of Education, Mission Merced Inc., Resources for Independence - Central Valley, Salvation Army, Sierra Saving Grace, The Dr. Jennifer Jones Foundation, Turning Point, Valley Crisis Center, and Westcare- San Joaquin Valley Veterans.

Non-Member Community Organizations in Attendance:

Central CA Legal Services, Golden Valley Health Center, Merced Social Security Administration, and Fresh Start Recovery Homes.

III. Notice to Public – Read by the Collaborative Applicant.

IV. Public Comment - None

V. Consent Agenda Items

Approval sought for this meeting's agenda and August 3, 2023, minutes. Motion from Josh Pedrozo, second from Jennifer Mockus. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously at 11:12 am.

VI. Community Projects

A. **Merced Navigation Center**

Jennifer Carr stated the Navigation Center currently housed 65 individuals since opening. Served 739 and currently have 76 participants in the center at full capacity. 19 dogs currently and the CAP is 20.

B. **Emergency Housing Vouchers**

Jesenia Aguilar stated there are currently 55 housed, 9 applications pending approval or denial, 5 pending vouchers, 1 unexpired voucher in hand.

C. **Distributive Housing**

David Carr served 323 people in four (4) Distributive Housing. Housed 46 people. One bed available in Merced and two beds available in Los Banos.

D. **Homeless Court**

19 total graduated. David Carr stated that when someone graduates from the Homeless Court, it means the individual has been approved by the court to get their fines reduced. The graduate also completed many hours of community service to get their fines reduced and the judge grants fine dismissal. That is what is considered a graduate.

E. **Housing Developments**

Maribel Baron stated 1213 V Street project is anticipating a late October opening date with a November 1st leasing date. The Developer has already met with 51 individuals to do their intakes. Individuals are a mixture from the Navigation Center, D St. Shelter, and directly off the street. In regard to the units, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services is working with 45 of the units with their clients, 30 individuals through our rapid rehousing (RRH) contract with Healthy House and 5 individuals within the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program. We will be within the 90% occupancy rate and more after. The individual prioritized through this program are through the Coordinated Entry System (CES). All referrals for these units come from CES. The prioritization is first based on the VI-SPDAT score. Pending on that score, you're put into a prioritization list, and then matched with funding. Again, 51 intakes have been completed but that doesn't mean guarantee for the projects, but that means you have been matched up to a funding source and eligibility for prioritization. Intakes will start slowing down to ensure all intakes are not done months in advance of opening and do around five (5) a day compared to the amount they currently conducting daily now. All of the units are at Fair Market Rate (FMR). The units cannot exceed 30% AMI. The clients are not currently receiving income, so we need to match them with Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) funding. BHRS has RRH funding for 45 individuals. After two years we will need to explore other funding sources.

We have been collaborating with the Housing Authority since the application. A developer cannot submit an application to Homekey unless they have collaboration with Housing Authority. Housing Authority is also in attendance in meetings on discussions on how we can make these projects successful and permanent. Housing Authority let us know they will be releasing a request for proposal for project-based vouchers. The goal is to get project-based vouchers to ensure the success of all these projects. The developer is anticipating the proposal to come out and apply for a certain number of vouchers to ensure we can successfully help these individuals, not just for the length of the funding, but for that project-based voucher. The goal is over the next four (4) to five (5) years to make the entire project completely project-based vouchers.

No response yet on the three (3) Homekey applications that were submitted. Shangri-La put in an application for the Motel 6 for 80 units. The City of Los Banos submitted an application for conversion of 60 units motel in Los Banos. 915 Custom Containers submitted proposal for 57 units on Child's Ave for Tiny Homes. All of them were submitted by the July 28th date. Anticipated time to hear back from the state is between October and November. There was no definite date provided.

VII. **Chair Comments** – None

VIII. **Action Items**

A. **CoC General Membership Vote**

Two applications from Second Chance for Women and Fresh Start Recovery Program were proposed for approval to join the CoC General Membership. No comments or

concerns were shared by any in attendance. Motion from Yvonnia Brown, second from Jennifer Mockus. None opposed. Motion passed unanimously at 11:32 am.

B. Board Vote

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Recommended Project Applications were brought forward to the Board along with the request for authorization for Collaborative Applicant to submit the CoC application, CoC Planning Grant, and Tiered Applications to HUD via e-snaps portal by September 28, 2023. Motion from Steve Roussos. Second by Josh Pedrozo. None opposed. Vote passed unanimously at 11:41 am.

IX. Board Information & Possible New Action Items – None

X. Collaborative Applicant Information Report Out

- A. NOFO RFP - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grants applications have been ranked and completed. Next step, the Collaborative Applicant will be submitting into E-snaps by September 15, 2023.
- B. NOFA RFP - 2023 Emergency Solutions Grants Program Balance of State Allocation Notice of Funding Availability is still open until Friday, September 22, 2023. All applications will need to be submitted into eCivis by Monday, October 16, 2023.
- C. Outreach RFP Awardee - RFP was launched back in July and received only one application from Turning Point Community Programs. The one application was reviewed and awarded. The award letter has been sent out. Contract negotiations started with Turning Point.
- D. 1213 V St. Rapid Rehousing RFP Awardee- RFP was launched back in July and received only one application from Healthy House Within a Match Coalition. The one application was reviewed and awarded. The award letter has been sent out. Contract negotiations started with Healthy House.

XI. CoC General Membership Comments

A. HMIS

- 1. Christy McCammond shared that HMIS submitted a committee report. The first meeting occurred on April 26, 2023 and the committee meets every two weeks. The committee has committed to reviewing the 2022 Data Standards. Understanding the HUD requirements for data standards. Doing this to better support the HMIS Lead MCCA. New Data Standards are going to be released for 2024. The committee will be releasing a HMIS charter for review and feedback.
- 2. Iris Gunther-Battles. We have someone from HUD that is a part of the committee which is very helpful.

B. CES

- 1. Christy McCammond shared that CES committee is an advisory to the CES Lead which is MCCA. The reports that you will see in October's packet will include a charter. This committee has made recommendations. There are 11 recommendations in total. The advisory committee is ready to support the CES Lead. The last meeting was in August 2023.
- 2. Iris Gunther-Battles shared new training was completed on how to support and prioritize individuals on the CES listing. This is something that we need to look at asap to understand how individuals are being prioritized within the Merced CoC. We would like to make sure that we are not Ad Hocking clients and following the proper prioritization procedure.

C. Youth

1. Lucia Tejada shared that Youth committee is meeting once per month. Youth met on July 22, and August 25. Discussing reports that we can use to make things better.
2. Jacqueline Villicana - We would like to see additional resources for youth. Like the cube, it is a place where Youth can hang around. The Cube has changed into more of an office setting and feels less inviting to the Youth. This committee has questions if individuals are not attending meetings, who do we go about removing member. There is a process to do this within the Governance Charter. The committees are individual entities and can remove individuals, but it has to follow the Charter.

D. Health – No Report

E. Faith

1. Lee Greenawalt. Meet once per month. The next meeting will be September 11, 2023 at the Methodist Church. Have a network of 58 organizations that we in contact with to coordinate our efforts. Journey for Justice meets at 6 pm.

F. Outreach

1. Sargeez Teimoorshahi shared Outreach committee first meeting was on September 6th at 10am. Had a total of 14 participants. The committee is to coordinate to utilize all of our efforts to our community. Have another meeting in two weeks. Coordinating with healthcare, DART, and different agencies. One discussion will be HMIS utilization. Would love to grow and add additional participants. Pending nominations for Chair and Vice Chair.

G. Sustainability – No Report

H. Planning and Development – No Report

I. Live Experience – No Report

XII. General Membership Comments

- A. Stephen Marshall, District Manager for Merced Social Security Administration. Introducing as a new to Merced service area and planning to participate in the Merced CoC meeting more frequently.
- B. Gloria M Sandoval shared that an article was published about rent control. The assumption of the cause of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing and rental units. This is something we should all take a look at and take action on.
- C. Jesse Ramirez, Program Coordinator for WestCare at the Stockton Branch, introduced himself. The Fresno office contact information is (559) 251-4800.

XIII. Adjournment

This meeting was adjourned at 12:09 pm. The next CoC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 11:00 am.



BOARD AGENDA ITEM

BOARD DATE: October 5, 2023
TO: Board of the Continuum of Care
FROM: Collaborative Applicant/Administrative Entity
SUBJECT: Homeless Summit 2024

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- 1) Approve and authorize Collaborative Applicant/Administrative entity to host the Homeless Summit Event in April 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

During the June 2023 Board only meeting, the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board expressed their interest in having the Collaborative Applicant/ Administrative Entity (CA/AE) host a homeless summit. After extensive research, meetings, and evaluations, the CA/AE will be anticipating a summit date of April 2024 for a total cost up to \$16,000. The summit event will be funded with HHAP I & II accrued interests as this event will be hosted for client benefit and would be a great way to bring the community together. Following approval from the CoC Board, the CA/AE will seek out a qualified vendor to contract for services in operations of a summit event.

This summit will focus on the geographical area of the CoC which is Merced County. The goal is to bring together community-based organizations as well as individuals experiencing homelessness to focus on public perception of homelessness as well as how to change that negative perception. Hosting a summit focused on topics that surround homelessness issues in our community, we can prevent and ultimately work together to end homelessness.

STAFFING IMPACT: None by this action.

FISCAL IMPACT: None by this action.

ATTACHMENTS: None

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Maribel Baron, Program Manager (209) 385-3000 Ext. 5210,
collabapp@countyofmerced.com

FOR COLLABORATIVE APPLICANT STAFF USE ONLY



BOARD AGENDA ITEM

BOARD DATE: October 5, 2023
TO: Board of the Continuum of Care
FROM: Collaborative Applicant
SUBJECT: Merced CoC Emergency Solutions Grant Balance of State Application Responses

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- 1) Review and approve all recommended applications to the California Department of Housing and Community Development for the 2023 Emergency Solutions Grant Program Balance of State Allocation Notice of Funding Availability.
- 2) Authorize the Collaborative Applicant on behalf of the Merced City and County Continuum of Care CA-520 to submit the Non-competitive and the Regional Competitive funding applications to HCD via the eCivis portal by October 16, 2023.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Each year, the Collaborative Applicant (CA), on behalf of the Merced City and County Continuum of Care (CoC), is required to administer the responsibilities for the annual California Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) funding application. On July 28, 2023, HCD released the 2023 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program Balance of State (BoS) Allocation Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Non-competitive and Regional Competitive applications. The CoC is responsible for recommending a maximum of two applications for the noncompetitive funding and a maximum of two applications for the regional competition funds.

The CA launched the Merced CoC Request for Proposal (RFP) on August 25, 2023, for both the Non-competitive application in the amount of \$178,825.00 and the Regional Competitive application in the maximum amount of \$1,139,024 for the Central and Imperial Region.

The RFP had a clarification period from August 25th - September 1st and a due date of September 26, 2023. The Scoring Committee reviewed and scored all submitted responses. The CA must provide all scored responses to the Merced CoC Board for review and approval. All applications must be submitted to HCD prior to October 16, 2023, by 3:00 pm PDT.

STAFFING IMPACT: None by this action.

FISCAL IMPACT: None by this action.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – ESG BoS Recommendations

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Maribel Baron, Program Manager (209) 385-3000 Ext. 5210,
collabapp@countyofmerced.com

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Matthew Serratto
Merced CoC Chair

Collaborative Applicant
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**Merced City and County Continuum of Care
FY 2023 Emergency Solutions Grant Balance of State Recommendations**

Non-competitive Funding Application(s):

	Organization Name	Project Name	Project Type	Project Amount
1	Healthy House Within a MATCH Coalition	ESG UPHILL V	RRH/SO/HP	\$178,825.00

Competitive Funding Application(s):

	Organization Name	Project Name	Project Type	Project Amount
1	Turning Point Community Programs	ESG UPHILL V	SO	\$117,100.00

Rejected Funding Application(s):

None



BOARD AGENDA ITEM

BOARD DATE: October 5, 2023
TO: Board of the Continuum of Care
FROM: Collaborative Applicant/Administrative Entity
SUBJECT: Racial Equity Improvement Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- 1) Approve the Racial Equity Improvement Plan for presentation at the October 26, 2023 California Racial Equity Action Lab Community Of Practice (COP) Session.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The California Racial Equity Action Lab (CA REAL) is a three-year initiative to eliminate racial disparities in community homelessness systems throughout the state of California. Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) assists California cities, counties, and Continuums of Care (CoC) in developing racial equity goals and provides intensive support to a smaller cohort of communities. CA REAL fosters transformative learning grounded in racial equity best practice; creates an integrative and transformative space that supports California's Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) grantees in translating best practices into action; lifts up community-led racial equity strategies; and promotes collaboration to reduce racial disparities in homelessness systems while centering those who experience the greatest impact.

Each jurisdiction has been tasked by TAC to develop a Racial Equity Improvement Plan. These plans will be presented to the CA REAL team on October 26, 2023, and will begin implementation in November 2023. All goals outlined in the Racial Equity Improvement Plan must be realized by May 2024.

STAFFING IMPACT: None by this action.

FISCAL IMPACT: None by this action.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Racial Equity Improvement Plan

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Maribel Baron, Program Manager (209) 385-3000 Ext. 5210,
collabapp@countyofmerced.com

FOR COLLABORATIVE APPLICANT STAFF USE ONLY

CA-REAL Racial Equity Improvement Plan: MERCED

Grand Challenge

North star or holistic focus?

Advance racial and intersectional equity in the Merced homeless response system and increase the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.

Vision

Long-term impact?

Address racial and ethnic disparities in the number of individuals and families exiting homelessness into permanent housing and increase the number of individuals and families exiting homelessness into permanent housing in Merced.

Strategy - SMARTIE Goal

By May 15, 2024, apply a Racial Equity Analysis Tool for utilization by programs to compare Merced homeless service level data to racial and ethnic data for the community (Merced City, County, CoC jurisdiction) and identify disparities, particularly in the number of people exiting homelessness into permanent housing.

Diverse Co-Creators

Partners needed to achieve SMARTIE Goal?

- Community's CA-REAL Core Team
- Merced County Human Services Agency
- Diverse representation of (Black, Indigenous, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, Latine/x, and Asian) individuals experiencing homelessness or with lived experience of homelessness.
- City and County CoC Governance Board and connecting committees, taskforces, workgroups.
- Partners in the Coordinated Entry System
- California Interagency Council on Homelessness
- Office of Housing and Urban Development
- Local Cross System Collaboration Partners (agencies, programs, service providers, etc.)

Transformation/Focus Areas

Specific focus areas connected to the goal?

1. Organize a core team including people with lived experience of homelessness and diverse racial, ethnic, gender and intersectional representation.
2. Examine current data systems including *CoC Analysis Tool: Race and Ethnicity* from the HUD Exchange to apply a Racial Equity lens on Merced.
3. Using available data and this co-constructed tool, review the racial and ethnic makeup of those located within the Merced City & County CoC jurisdiction.
3. Review the racial and ethnic makeup for homeless services provided within HMIS.
4. Identify racial and ethnic disparities in exits to permanent housing
5. Train programs on how to use this tool and accompanying Excel spreadsheet to report racial and ethnic outcomes.



BOARD AGENDA ITEM

BOARD DATE: October 5, 2023
TO: Board of the Continuum of Care
FROM: Collaborative Applicant/Administrative Entity
SUBJECT: Adoption of Mission, Vision, and Values

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- 1) Approve and adopt the Merced Continuum of Care Mission, Vision, and Values.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 2018, Merced County was asked by the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board to take on the role and responsibilities of the Collaborative Applicant Administrative Entity (CA/AE). Since then, the CA/AE has been occupied with learning, maintaining, and implementing the Merced CoC comprising of grant management and CoC planning through the Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) for the County of Merced. The CA/AE has been since developing the objectives tailoring to the work of the CoC. Currently CA/AE is progressing and bringing forward the mission, vision, and values of the Merced CoC.

The Collaborative Applicant/Administrative Entity (CA/AE) is seeking Merced CoC Board approval and adoption of the Merced CoC Mission, Vision, and Values. The Merced CoC mission is to engage, align, and connect community partners to ensure safe and supportive housing for all. The Merced CoC vision is to collaborate effective partnerships to aid in preventing and ending homelessness. The values the Merced CoC will carry are Innovation, Collaboration, Compassion, Diversity, and Inclusion.

STAFFING IMPACT: None by this action.

FISCAL IMPACT: None by this action.

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment A – Mission, Vision, and Values

DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Maribel Baron, Program Manager (209) 385-3000 Ext. 5210,
collabapp@countyofmerced.com

FOR COLLABORATIVE APPLICANT STAFF USE ONLY

Merced City and County Continuum of Care
Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission:

The Merced Continuum of Care engages, aligns, and connects community partners to ensure safe and supportive housing for all.

Vision:

The Merced Continuum of Care collaborates effective partnerships to aid in preventing and ending homelessness.

Values:

Innovation | Collaboration | Compassion | Diversity and Inclusion