

**Regular Meeting of the
Housing Trust Fund and Homelessness Solutions Committee
(HTFHSC) Thursday, February 9, 2023, 1:30 p.m.
Teleconference**

AGENDA

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 the HTFHSC meetings will be held virtually until further notice. You may access the meeting by phone by calling (669) 254-5252. Meeting ID: 160 7175 3800, or online:

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/16071753800>

The Chair will give the public opportunities to comment on each agenda item over the phone.

If you are a person with a disability, and you need disability-related modifications or accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (707) 476-2384, or (707) 445-7299 (fax). Requests for such modifications or accommodations must be made at least three full business days before the start of the meeting.

I. Call to Order
II. Roll Call
III. Agenda Modifications
IV. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
V. Proposed Resolution of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Dissolving the Humboldt County Housing Trust Fund and Homelessness Solutions Committee
VI. Draft Approach to Local Housing Trust Fund Implementation- Andrew Whitney, Dept. of Planning and Building
VII. Announcements
VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
IX. Adjourn

Attachments:

- Proposed Resolution of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Dissolving the Humboldt County Housing Trust Fund and Homelessness Solutions Committee
- Staff Report Regarding Proposed Resolution Dissolving the Humboldt County Housing Trust Fund and Homelessness Solutions Committee

RESOLUTION NO. 23-xx

**RESOLUTION OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
DISSOLVING THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY HOUSING TRUST FUND AND
HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2018, the Board of Supervisors approved Resolution 18-14; Establishing a Housing Trust Fund and Homelessness Solutions Committee (HTFHSC);

WHEREAS, THE HTFHSC has dedicated a tremendous amount of time, energy, and expertise for over 4 years to the effort of working to find solutions for housing and Homeless solutions;

WHEREAS, due to the changes in funding and homeless and housing solutions the need to consolidate our efforts with less duplication has become apparent,

WHEREAS, State and Federal discretionary homelessness solutions funding available to Humboldt is awarded to the local Continuum of Care, known as the Humboldt Housing and Homeless Coalition, for which the County of Humboldt serves as the administrative entity;

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Housing and Homeless Coalition is a body open to public participation and input on spending priorities; and

WHEREAS, matching funding made available through the state for a Local Housing Trust Fund dictates the administration of such funds through guidelines and procedures that include public participation for recommendation of funding through the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the formation of a Regional Housing Trust Fund would require multijurisdictional coordination and a separate multijurisdictional process for recommendations on funding; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors encourages public participation in all funding decisions made by the Board through the regular agenda process.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

The Housing Trust Fund and Homelessness Solutions Committee is hereby dissolved.

I, _____, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a full, true, and correct copy of the original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California

To: Board of Supervisor
From: DHHS: Administration

Agenda Section: Consent

SUBJECT:

Resolution Dissolving the Housing Trust Fund and Homelessness Solutions Committee

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the attached Resolution No. 23-__ Dissolving the Housing Trust Fund and Homelessness Solutions Committee
2. Provide Certificates of Appreciation to all members of the committee for their service to our community

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

General Fund

DISCUSSION:

On May 24, 2022, your Board authorized a resolution authorizing the submittal of a Local Housing Trust Fund Program grant by the Planning & Building Department. On January 10, 2023 your Board Resolution authorized the submittal of a Regional Early Action Planning Grant Application to establish a Regional Housing Trust Fund, a Regional Housing Catalyst Fund and to Conduct Regional Housing and Transportation Planning, also by Planning & Building. These actions taken around Local Housing Trust Funds (LHTFs) and Regional Housing Trust Funds (RHTFs), and increased funding made available since 2018, necessitates an evaluation of the role of the Housing Trust Fund and Homelessness Solutions Committee (HTFHSC).

Before your Board today is the recommendation to dissolve the HTFHSC. This recommendation is made in recognition of changes in the State approach and funding, the roles of other advisory bodies, and consideration of the unpaid time citizens are providing without a clear return for the community or your Board. Some background is required to understand the basis for the recommendation to dissolve.

The Board wants to express its gratitude and appreciation for all the hard work and commitment by the many members of this committee in our efforts to help members of our community that are experiencing homelessness. Much work has been done and many changes have occurred over the past 4 years in funding and opportunities. We look forward to and encourage members of this committee to continue to participate in the Continuum of Care and help us continually improve our outreach and engagement.

The Continuum of Care

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program, introduced by the Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is designed to promote community-wide planning and strategic use of resources to address

homelessness. The CoC process was developed by HUD in 1994 to coordinate the distribution of several competitive homeless assistance programs. CoCs can be a single-jurisdiction or regional, and participants include private non-profits, agencies, jurisdictions, individuals, and other organizations and businesses interested in addressing affordable housing and homelessness solutions. CoCs are now a well-established nationwide structure for jurisdictions to use local expertise to improve coordination and integration with other programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness, improve data collection, and make funding decisions for the benefit of the entire community. The State of California now awards funding from non-HUD sources to CoCs, as well as requiring, under 2016's Senate Bill 1380 (Mitchell), that all housing programs adopt the Housing First model. Humboldt's CoC is known locally as the Humboldt Housing and Homelessness Coalition (HHHC), comprised of service providers, developers, government agencies, faith-based organizations and community members dedicated to increasing the availability of housing and ending homelessness.

Funding Since Establishment of HTFHSC

In 2017 Governor Brown signed a fifteen-bill housing package, and the 2018-2019 state budget and 2017 Senate Bill 2 (SB 2) created several new funding opportunities for housing and homeless services for CoCs; this was the beginning of multiple new funding sources including the Homeless Emergency Aid program (HEAP) and California Emergency Solutions and Housing program (CESH). Under Governor Newsom's administration, additional housing funding has come through, including Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) grants rounds 1, 2, and 3 with round 4 coming soon. These funds are administered through the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

Additional funding coming from the state has been intended for mid and long term solutions such as rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing and shelter supports, and development and construction of affordable housing. The county continues to support and fund larger projects that create affordable housing units. The No Place Like Home competitive application process, tax credit programs, HHAP, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and other funding sources, along with county commitment to guarantee occupancy through permanent supportive housing using various funding sources, have assisted developers who are able to navigate the prohibitive complicated regulations regarding funding affordable housing units. The Lodge, Arcata Bay Crossing, Bayview Heights, River Bluff, Samoa Town Homes, Providence Mother Bernard House and Pine Hill represent 189 added units. The County, through DHHS and Planning and Building, continues to support projects that increase regular housing stock as well as units that house specific demographics such as chronically homeless individuals, veterans, elderly individuals, and very low income families.

Prior State and Federal funding was limited both in uses of funding to these mid and long term solutions, as well as having barriers to application by smaller, less established organizations. The funding that has become available since 2018, such as HEAP, CESH, and HHAP, has been more flexible, and has been able to be used for more immediate services, street outreach, rapid rehousing and other supports for those experiencing homelessness, with uses as varied as a social worker in the Public Defender's office and rain ponchos. While there are still requirements such as data collection and insurance that must be navigated, smaller organizations with less administrative structure and support have been able to successfully apply for and receive funds.

At the time HTFHSC was formed, CESH, HEAP, HHAP and other monies had not yet been allocated or awarded to the County of Humboldt or the CoC, HHHC. From 2004 through 2018 the CoC was receiving from \$400,000 to \$931,00 most years. Starting in 2019, the CoC starting to receive the new money from 2017's housing package and other sources, including HEAP and CESH. Through the Request for Proposal (RFP) process, the CoC, "HHHC", with the County of Humboldt as its fiscal administrator, has awarded over twelve million in the last four years to organizations including: Arcata House Partnership; Redwood Community Action Agency; Affordable Homeless Housing Alternatives; Betty Kwan Chinn Foundation; DHHS's Housing, Outreach and Mobile Engagement division; the City of Eureka; the City of Arcata; and the Housing Authority. Projects support not only affordable housing but the ability to provide direct and immediate services to unsheltered individuals.

Original roles of HTFHSC

Original roles of the HTFHSC included two distinct but related functions: the trust fund portion, focusing on a housing trust fund and projects that would assist the county in meeting its affordable housing goals and the homelessness solutions portion, focusing on making recommendations to your board on potential shelter projects.

Resolution 18-73 provides that "The purpose of the Housing Trust Fund and Homelessness Solutions Committee (HTFHSC) is to recommend criteria for the receipt and use of Affordable Housing Trust Fund monies, which shall be subject to approval by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors." As stated in the May 24, 2022 Local Housing Trust Fund agenda item, Planning and Building staff will return to the Board with an item to establish the LHTF, and authorize the Planning and Building Department to disburse the funding according to the state's contract, program guidelines and procedures. The Planning and Building Department has extensive experience administering similar funding and all expenditures from the Fund must be made in the public process of board meetings. Disbanding the HTFHSC would not preclude its members from further participating in the public process associated with the LHTF. Meanwhile, the application of the County for Regional Early Action Planning Grant enables the county to pursue a Regional Housing Trust Fund, which, by definition, is a multijurisdictional fund, and the HTFHSC would therefore not be able to be the advisory body for these funds. Future efforts at building a Housing Trust Fund will most likely be multijurisdictional as an RHTF is pursued.

There was a perceived unmet need at the time of the establishment of the HTFHSC, with advocates wanting to ensure individuals experiencing homelessness were not forgotten as government entities pursued longer term housing. As funding has become more flexible, county departments have become more flexible, and Housing First is becoming better understood in the community and by organizations doing the work as a strategy that supports clients and choice rather than focusing on solely building houses. As housing funds under the purview of the CoC (and County) increase in both amount and scope, it becomes more appropriate for community involvement in homelessness solutions to be brought into HHHC discussions. Disbanding the HTFHSC and supporting transition to participation in the HHHC would ensure HTFHSC members with significant expertise have an ability to influence spending decisions on large amounts of dedicated housing and homelessness funding currently being received.

The recommendation for dissolution should likely have come before your board earlier. We are fortunate that committed members have dedicated so many hours to HTFHSC efforts and that has led to recommendations on funding utilization and other program improvements. We thank them for their efforts.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no impact on the General Fund.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework by providing community-appropriate levels of service

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board could choose to not authorize the resolution dissolving the Housing Trust Fund and Homelessness Solutions Committee. The alternative is not recommended, as most current housing funding is awarded to the Continuum of Care, and the current discussions about forming a Regional Trust Fund would require the forming of a new advisory body.

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution 23-xx of the Humboldt County Board Of Supervisors Dissolving The Humboldt County Housing Trust Fund And Homelessness Solutions Committee

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: H-1; C-4; F-1; H-4; I-1; D-28; D-23

Meeting of: 2/27/2018; 7/24/2018; 1/14/2020; 4/28/2020; 7/14/2020; 5/24/2022; 1/10/2023

File No.: [18-92](#); [18-904](#); [20-4](#); [20-440](#); [20-828](#); [22-605](#); [22-1713](#)