

Humboldt Housing and Homelessness Coalition (HHHC) Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 28, 2025
1:30-3:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

In Attendance: Aaron Zell (DHHS), Cheryl Churchill (Eureka Housing Authority), David Eichenbaum (YAB), Lorey Keele (RCAA), Robert Ward (DHHS), Dian Pecora (SCHFA), Leah Lamattina (HCOE), Leigh Pierre-Oetker (CCRP), Devin Flynn (CCRP).

Agenda:

Executive Committee Agency Updates

- **DHHS:** (1) The CoC's YHDP Technical Advisor will be in town during the first week of June. If anyone is interested in meeting them, reach out to Aaron, (2) Over the last week, DHHS received communications from two of their federal agencies to draw down as much grant funding as possible while it is available, (3) DHHS identified the reason for discrepancies between the state's street outreach performance reports and their own calculations. The difference stemmed from how the state measures placements: it requires staff to document a person's current living situation in the database on the exact day they exit street outreach. This means staff must be present with the individual at the moment they enter a shelter in order to record the placement accurately. They are working with organizations that do street outreach to deal with this issue.
- **RCAA:** (1) Unfortunately, DOGE has eliminated RCAA's Assisting Families to Access Change Through Resources (AFACTR) AmeriCorp program. Members working at nine different Family Resource Centers (FRCs) were immediately told to not return. Fortunately, HCOE helped reinstate five of the AmeriCorp positions, until the end of June. The state has ensured that these members will receive their education award in full, regardless of the termination.
- **SCHFA:** (1) SoHum Housing Opportunities is working with the county regarding emergency permission to speed up orders for the development of the safe camp. The tiny houses have been ordered, including a portable kitchen, outhouse, and showers. There is still a push to spend 50% of the grant by June. Staff have been able to relocate some folks to local home rentals, but it is a rocky transition from camp to home. Staff are learning how to support people in the transition.

Vote on new HHHC EC Member:

- The Executive Committee has received an application from a representative from The City of Arcata. A motion to move forward with a vote was made and seconded (Pecora/Zell). Due to the EC not having a quorum, the EC will vote via email.

Federal "Skinny Budget" Proposal

Meeting Adjourned: 2:36 p.m. Next Executive Meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 over Zoom.

- The current proposal includes significant cuts to federal homeless assistance grants, effectively eliminating the CoC and Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) programs and shifting the money into the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program. This change would cut funding to permanent supportive housing, as ESG cannot be used for it.
- The president's budget proposes \$26 billion in cuts from HUD's rental assistance programs (primarily Section 8 housing). It would enact a two-year time limit on receiving rental assistance for able bodied adults, eliminate the home investment partnership and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs, among other changes.
- The Governor's Budget has seen some changes, as the state deficit is worse than initially projected. These projections show cuts to Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) and Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Funding.

CoC Builds NOFO Released

- HUD released a one time NOFO for CoC Builds last fall. The funding is for PSH, particularly around acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation projects. The Trump Administration seemingly canceled this funding stream, however it was recently reissued. HUD is asking those who applied before to reapply.
- DHHS wants to send out an email to the CoC asking interested parties to schedule a consultation. The grant is competitive considering it is a nationwide competition for a small pool of funding.
- The EC agrees to this process.

YHDP Applicant Selection Process

- DHHS has discussed with the YHDP management team a process to solicit applicants for YHDP funding. The plan is to send out an email around the funding competition and ask those interested in applying to fill out a Letter of Intent (LOI). This process needs to start soon, as applicants need to apply through e-snaps by June 30th, 2025.
- Robert will send out an email for the EC to vote on the process, which will end this Friday. The LOI will be due from interested organizations by Monday, June 9th.

Next Steps, Future Meeting Topics, Adjourn Meeting

- CCRP will be bringing the results of their survey about hosting a housing summit to the EC at the next meeting. As of now, they have received 59 responses.

Action Items:

- Aaron will send out an email for EC members to vote on approving the recent application for EC membership.
- Robert will send out information to the EC about the process to solicit LOIs for YHDP funding. The EC will have till Friday to vote on approving the process.

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