

# Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) Request For Application (RFA) Overview and Requirements

## DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this Request for Application (RFA) is to solicit program proposals that work within the framework of the Clark County Homeless Crisis Response System (HCRS) toward preventing and ending homelessness in Clark County in alignment with the Clark County Homeless Action Plan 2019-2022. Requested applications are available for the following programs: permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, transitional housing, new shelter capacity and services, homeless outreach, and targeted prevention assistance, or core system program, Rent Well.

## NEED

Homelessness is a growing challenge. Over 3,972 unduplicated households experienced homelessness in 2020, including 1,661 children under 18. The issue and numbers of individuals experiencing homelessness has increased considerably up and down the West Coast. On any given day, approximately 516 people in Clark County are experiencing unsheltered homelessness, according to the 2020 Point-in-Time Count. Hundreds more are at-risk of losing their homes due to income instability, physical and behavioral health issues, domestic violence situations and more.

## ABOUT THIS FUNDING

Local Homeless Document Fees (RCW 36.22.179 - 1791): Funding locally collected from real estate transactions for programs which directly accomplish the goals of the County's local homeless housing plan.

Local Affordable Housing Fee (RCW 36.22.178): Funding locally collected from real estate transactions for housing activities that serve very low-income households with incomes at or below fifty percent of the area median income.

Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG): Combination of state homeless resources for county governments under the administration of the Washington State Department of Commerce, authorized by RCW 43.185c Homeless Housing and Assistance. System Demonstration Grant (SDG) has several fund sources, including state general fund and document recording fees. Throughout the SDG Guidelines the funding sources are referred to as CHG Standard, Housing and Essential Needs (HEN), and Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Families (PSH CHF). Each of the funds has different income and eligibility requirements. The CHG/SDG funds support an integrated system of housing assistance to prevent homelessness and secure permanent housing for households who are unsheltered or in temporary housing, aligned with the State of Washington Homeless Housing Strategic Plan and the Clark County Homeless Action Plan. More information about the CHG/SDG program can be found at <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/homelessness/consolidated-homeless-grant>.

All proposed programs must directly contribute to the goals of the of the Clark County Homeless Action Plan.

## FUNDING CATEGORIES

Clark County anticipates allocating approximately \$2,574,000 for each of the next two years from the funding sources described above. Funding amounts and percentages are approximate and subject to change. The minimum request, per program type, for these funds is \$50,000 and the maximum request is \$500,000. Definitions of each category can be found in the Housing Definitions document in the Library. Available funding, by program type, is listed in the below table.

Program Type	Available Funds
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$850,000
Rapid Re-Housing	\$606,000

Transitional Housing	\$250,000
Shelter Capacity Increase (new applicants only)	\$300,000
Current Shelter Capacity Increase (current subgrantees only)	\$141,000
Homeless Outreach	\$200,000
Targeted Prevention	\$150,000
Core System Program (Rent Well)	\$50,000

## APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications must be submitted through Bonfire.

The application process is as follows:

1. All applicants are required to submit a pre-application by the end of the day October 31, 2021.
2. County staff will review the information provided and may ask applicant for additional information about the proposed program or the agency. All correspondence will be conducted through Bonfire.
3. Once pre-applications are reviewed, staff will notify applicants in Bonfire that they may proceed with the full application.
4. Full applications must be completed by the end of the day January 5, 2022.
5. County staff will review all applications and may ask applicant for additional information about the proposed program or the agency. All correspondence will be conducted through Bonfire.
6. The Community Action Advisory Board will start reviewing applications once all clarifying questions have been answered.
7. Applicants will be invited to provide program presentations at the Community Action Advisory Board. Presentations to the Community Action Advisory Board will be at the March and April 2022 meetings.
8. Application recommendations will be made by the CAAB at their May meeting. Applications are scored on a 100-point scale including both objectively scored components completed by county staff and subjectively scored questions completed by the (CAAB).
9. County Councilors will make final program application funding decisions in May 2022.
10. County staff will work with awarded programs to draft contracts to begin July 1, 2022.

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All proposals submitted in response to this RFA must follow the below general requirements. Additional requirements specific to Program types solicited (permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, transitional housing, new shelter capacity and services, homeless outreach, and targeted prevention assistance, or core system program: Rent Well) are included in the Library.

All applicable requirements will be incorporated into the performance contracts of selected proposals.

Applications submitted in response to this RFA agree to:

- The contract period will start July 1, 2022, and continue through June 30, 2024, with an option to renew the contract for one additional year ending June 30, 2025. Amount requested should be an annual amount.
- Contract performance will take place in Clark County.
- Follow all requirements in the Clark County Community Services General Terms and Conditions located at <https://clark.wa.gov/community-services/announcements-and-general-terms-and-conditions>.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Questions regarding this RFA must be submitted through the Opportunity Q&A in Bonfire. Responses will be posted within two business days. Deadline to submit questions is December 29, 2021 5pm PST.

**GRIEVANCE PROCESS**

If an applicant has a grievance about the outcome of their application through this request for application, they are encouraged to discuss their concerns with Clark County Community Services Program Manager Michael Torres at [Michael.torres@clark.wa.gov](mailto:Michael.torres@clark.wa.gov). If this discussion does not result in a satisfactory outcome, the applicant may request the grievance be considered by Clark County Community Services Director, Vanessa Gaston who has final decision in all grievances.

I have read and understand the above request for application requirements and restrictions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_