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**Arizona Balance of State Continuum of Care (AZBOSCOC) Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) as**

**United Funding Agency and Collaborative Applicant LCEH Request for Information (RFI)**

**The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, Indian Tribes or tribally designated housing entities (as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103) (TDHEs)), and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.**

**To this end, the purpose of this document is to gather information from Local Continuums/Coalitions to End Homelessness (LCEH) that will be used to complete the narrative portion of the 2023 AZBOSCOC Collaborative Application for the HUD CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). This document is a requirement of the LCEH Lead Agency Contract.**

**We understand that this document is lengthy. Please remember its context--$5 million + is at stake to fund housing projects for persons experiencing homelessness in the AZBOSCOC. The LCEH input ensures that the collaborative application questions receive well informed answers. The NOFO is a competitive process among 400+ Continua of Care throughout the United States and potential AZBOSCOC funding increases and decreases are based on how the AZBOSCOC Collaborative Application including the narrative scores among all of the continuums nationwide.**

**The due date for the RFI is August 29, 2023, by 5:00 pm. Please send the completed Word document (please do not PDF) to** **Candee.Stanton@gmail.com****. If you have any questions, please call or email Candee. Her telephone number is 602.881.6606.**

**The LCEH answers to the following questions helps us enhance our responses to the Collaborative Application narrative. Responses can be in bullet form or simple, straightforward narrative. If your LCEH does not have information to answer the question—indicate information not available and move to the next question. Please refer to the RFI from last year. In some cases, narratives from last year can be pasted into this document and updated to reduce the need to start from the beginning.**

Local Continuum/Coalition to End Homelessness (LCEH) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

**Note: for the purposes of this document—households means both individuals and families**

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| **Name of LCEH** | **Contact Name**  |
| **Contact Phone Number** | **Contact EMAIL** |
| **Date Completed** | **County**  |

1. **What strategies does the LCEH use to recruit new members? (e.g., regular emails, personal contact, website announcements, social media, community events)**
2. **How often does the LCEH recruit new members? (annually, quarterly, monthly)**
3. **What strategies does the LCEH use to communicate with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats? Does the format you use for virtual meetings include a captioning function?**
4. **What strategies does the LCEH use to outreach to persons currently experiencing homelessness or persons with lived experience and encourage them to join the LCEH?**
5. **What strategies does the LCEH use to engage with organizations serving culturally specific communities (e.g., African Americans, tribal communities, Latinos/Hispanic, faith-based, LGBTQ+, persons with disabilities) to enhance the equity of the LCEH?**
6. **How does the LCEH solicit and consider community opinions from a broad array of organizations?**
7. **How is information communicated during public meetings, town halls or other public forums? In those settings how is communication solicited?**
8. **Provide one or two examples where an idea was discussed in a LCEH meeting(s) that later resulted in a change or enhancement in process/es to prevent homelessness or help households move quickly out of homelessness.**
9. **Check all the types of organizations that the LCEH coordinates/collaborates with related to planning services and activities related to the continuum of services and operations of current AZBOSCOC RRH/PSH projects that are a part of the LCEH.**

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|  | **Entities or Organizations Your LCEH Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects** | **Coordinates with Planning or Operations of Projects** |
| **1.** | **Funding Collaboratives** |  |
| **2.** | **Head Start Program** |  |

|  | **Entities or Organizations Your LCEH Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects** | **Coordinates with Planning or Operations of Projects** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **3.** | **Housing and services programs funded through Local Government** |  |
| **4.** | **Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-LCEH)** |  |
| **5.** | **Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations** |  |
| **6.** | **Housing and services programs funded through State Government** |  |
| **7.** | **Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)** |  |
| **8.** | **Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)** |  |
| **9.** | **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)** |  |
| **10.** | **Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)** |  |
| **11.** | **Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color** |  |
| **12.** | **Organizations led by and serving LGBT persons** |  |
| **13.** | **Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities** |  |
| **14.** | **Private Foundations** |  |
| **15.** | **Public Housing Authorities** |  |
| **16.** | **Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)** |  |
| **17.** | **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** |  |
|  | **Other:(limit 50 characters)** |  |

1. **Did the LCEH arrange/facilitate/inform about workshops related to HUD’s Equal Access to Housing regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity? (Refer to the Equal Access Final Rule link below)** [**https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1991/equal-access-to-housing-final-rule/**](https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1991/equal-access-to-housing-final-rule/)
2. **Based on the LCEH’s interaction with the PHA(s) in the county, were there discussions generally about whether the PHA has written priorities for a homeless admission preference, specifically related to Housing Choice Vouchers. Was the LCEH coordinated entry policy revised to reflect the new relationship with the PHA?**
3. **How does the LCEH facilitate outreach (including street outreach) to identify and engage with individuals experiencing homelessness? Examples could include engagement events, engagement at congregate meal locations, food banks, community connection events, partnering with health fair events, Veteran Stand Downs, working with forest rangers.**
4. Provide a brief summary of how street outreach coordinates with the LCEH continuum of services. (focus should be on referral, assessment, case conferencing, meetings)
5. **What actions has the LCEH taken to reduce the criminalization (through policies, practices, regulations, local standards) of homelessness in your communities? Address each of the following:**

a. Engage/educate local policymakers b. Engage/educate law enforcement

c. Engage/educate local businesses

d. Implemented community-wide plans to address criminalization

e. Other

1. **Does the LCEH set aside meeting time for agencies to provide information concerning programs? Specifically indicate whether updates have been provided in the meeting about mainstream resources including Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, or substance abuse programs.**
2. **How does the LCEH’s Coordinated Entry and Case Conferencing system, in addition to the use of the VI-SPDAT, ensure that people most in need are a priority and receive assistance in a timely manner? How does Case Conferencing ensure that a variety of information is considered in addition to VI-SPDAT scores?**
3. **How is the LCEH implementing VAWA requirements within the context of Case Conferencing/Coordinated Entry? Provide information specifically about safety planning and transition planning. Does the LCEH Coordinated Entry Policy have specific information related to survivors of domestic violence? This is the VAWA link which outlines the changing requirements that occurred with the 2022 VAWA legislation.** [**https://www.hud.gov/VAWA**](https://www.hud.gov/VAWA)
4. **Please answer yes or no if the LCEH, including member organizations, is/has implemented any of the following strategies.**

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|  |  | **Yes or No** |
| **1.** | **The LCEH’s board and decision making bodies are representative of the population served in the LCEH.** |  |
| **2.** | **The LCEH has identified steps it will take to help the LCEH board and decision making bodies better reflect the population served in the LCEH.** |  |
| **3.** | **The LCEH is expanding outreach in geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups.** |  |
| **4.** | **The LCEH has communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups.** |  |
| **5.** | **The LCEH is training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness.** |  |
| **6.** | **The LCEH is establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector.** |  |
| **7.** | **The LCEH has staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness.** |  |
| **8.** | **The LCEH is educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national nonprofit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity.** |  |
| **9.** | **The LCEH reviewed coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness.** |  |
| **10.** | **The LCEH is collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system.** |  |
| **11.** | **The LCEH is conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness.** |  |

1. **Please answer the following questions about LCEH members who are persons with lived experience. We know that the LCEHs have not been in existence for seven years so please answer as best you can. Indicate unknown as applicable.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Level of Active Participation** | **Number of People with Lived Experience Within the Last 7 Years or Current Program Participant** | **Number of People with Lived Experience Coming from Unsheltered Situations** |
| **1.** | **Included and provide input that is incorporated in the local planning process.** | 3 | 3 |
| **2.** | **Review and recommend revisions to local policies addressing homelessness related to coordinated entry, services, and housing.** | 3 | 3 |
| **3.** | **Participate on LCEH committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.** | 3 | 3 |
| **4.** | **Included in the decision making processes related to addressing homelessness.** | 3 | 3 |

1. **As we discussed at the last LCEH meeting, and as was required for the Special NOFO, there is a required attachment for the 2023 NOFO application. This is the requirement:** *Letter Signed by Working Group Comprised of Persons with Lived Experience of Homelessness. The letter must be signed by either (1) at least three members involved in the working group (e.g., advisory committee, subcommittee) comprised of individuals with lived experience or (2) an authorized representative of the workgroup (e.g., a working chair) along with evidence that the person is authorized to represent the group; and the letter must demonstrate support of the priorities for serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness with severe service needs in the CoC’s geographic area.*

**If you continue to have individuals with lived experience who are a part of your active membership, would they be willing to sign a letter? They could use their initials if they did not wish to be identified. If you have individuals who are willing to be included in a letter**, **please call Candee at 602.881.6606 so we can make arrangements for the letter. Some of the LCEHs have peer organizations that are actively involved in the LCEH, these organizations and their staff would be great for these letters.**

1. **This question is under the category of volunteerism and community service. Based on LCEH activities—answer yes or no if this strategy is taking place.**

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|  |  | **Yes or No** |
| **1.** | **The LCEH informs provider organization staff about training on connecting program participants and people experiencing homelessness with education and job training opportunities.** |  |
| **2.** | **The LCEH informs provider organization staff about training on facilitating informal employment opportunities for program participants and people experiencing homelessness (e.g., babysitting, housekeeping, food delivery, data entry).** |  |
| **3.** | **The LCEH works with organizations to create volunteer opportunities for program participants.** |  |
| **4.** | **The LCEH works with community organizations to create opportunities for civic participation for people experiencing homelessness (e.g., townhall forums, meeting with public officials).** |  |
| **5.** | **Provider organizations within the LCEH have incentives for employment and/or volunteerism.** |  |
| **6.** | **Other:(limit 500 characters)** |  |

1. Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+ Individuals–Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training.—Please answer yes or no and any additional information if possible.

a. Did the LCEH implement a written anti-discrimination policy ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination?

b. Did the LCEH conduct/facilitate training with providers on how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access Final Rule)?

c. Did the LCEH conduct/facilitate annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs (Gender Identity Final Rule)?

d. How does the LCEH collaborate with LGBTQ+ individuals and other organizations to update

anti-discrimination policy, as necessary to ensure all housing and services provided in the LCEH geographic area are trauma-informed and able to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and families?

1. The following questions are about how the LCEH has reviewed its System Performance Measures (SPMs) and what actions have taken place to positively impact the situations addressed by the measure. Data for this question may come from the Solari dashboard. Here is the link if the LCEH has not had the opportunity to review SPM at the LCEH level. [https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/hmisaz/viz/BOS-](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/hmisaz/viz/BOS-SystemPerformanceMeasures/CountyComparison) [SystemPerformanceMeasures/CountyComparison](https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/hmisaz/viz/BOS-SystemPerformanceMeasures/CountyComparison)

This link provides guidance about the SPM including how performance can be impacted and enhanced.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/system-performance-measures/#guidance>

This link is an introduction to the SPM.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3894/system-performance-measures-introductory-guide/>

a. First time homeless—what risk factors does the LCEH use to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time?

b. How are households at risk of homelessness identified?

c. Reduce the length of time households are homeless—What strategies is the LCEH implementing to reduce the length of time households remain homeless?

d. How does the LCEH identify households with the longest length of time homeless?

e. What strategies is the LCEH and/or member agencies implementing that will increase the rate that households residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing (if applicable in your LCEH communities), and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations?

f. What strategies are the LCEH and/or member agencies using to ensure that households in permanent housing projects retain that permanent housing or exit to other permanent housing destinations?

1. **Describe how the LCEH is collaborating with health care and behavioral health care networks. Are there potential projects that include AZBOSCOC rental assistance housing units leveraged with rental assistance housing units paid through a health care/behavioral health care network. Are there any projects where housing units could be leveraged between multiple funding sources? If yes, provide a brief description.**
2. **Is the LCEH coordinating any activities to prevent criminalization of homelessness such as educating local policy makers, educating law enforcement, educating local businesses, implementing community wide plans?**
3. **Has the LCEH continued relationships with Public Health agencies related to infectious diseases?**
4. **Is the LCEH active in any activities(e.g., planning, collaboration) that will result in an increased inventory of affordable housing? If yes, provide a description of the activities.**
5. **Please refer to your attendance information for the following question. This is part of the scoring for the sub-recipients:**

**a. Do the subrecipients that serve your county/community attend the LCEH meetings?**

**Yes or No**

**b. If yes has a staff person(s) from the subrecipient agency attended 75% of the LCEH membership meetings? (the focus is your membership meeting and not any committees that you may have. If you have quarterly meetings, agency staff (could be different people) attended three of the four meetings).**

1. **Collaboration related to children and youth—Provide an example about how the LCEH collaborates with the following:**

a. Youth Education Providers

b. Local Education Agencies—e.g., school districts, homeless liaisons and other school systems

**c. What strategies does the LCEH and/or member agencies use to work with education systems to ensure that individuals and families experiencing homelessness are informed about services and their eligibility?**

**d. Does the LCEH or any LCEH member agencies have written/formal agreements with the following? Indicate if it is an MOU or other Formal agreement and what agencies have these agreements. An MOU template was attached to the email with this RFI template. If you have any agencies that the LCEH could sign an MOU with, feel free to use the template. Any MOUs will help with the Collaborative Application score.**

|  | **Childhood focused Service Providers** | **MOU/MOA** | **Other Formal Agreement** | **Name of Agency(ies) that has the agreement** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | **Birth to 3 years** |  |  |  |
| **2.** | **Child Care and Development Fund** |  |  |  |
| **3.** | **Early Childhood Providers** |  |  |  |
| **4.** | **Early Head Start** |  |  |  |
| **5.** | **Federal Home Visiting Program–(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and****Visiting or MIECHV)** |  |  |  |
| **6.** | **Head Start** |  |  |  |
| **7** | **Healthy Start** |  |  |  |
| **8.** | **Public Pre School** |  |  |  |
| **9.** | **Tribal Home Visting** |  |  |  |
|  | **Other** |  |  |  |