

The Department of Workforce Services (DWS) Housing and Community Development Division (HCD), Homelessness Programs Office (HPO) is soliciting proposals for projects that serve homeless persons according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) definition of homelessness.

### **Funding Priorities**

Funding priority is placed on moving people experiencing homelessness from shelters and off the streets into decent, safe, and affordable housing or providing supportive services to promote housing retention and improve or maintain quality of life. Additionally, the State Homeless Coordinating Committee is committed to prioritizing projects that address goals, best practices and mandates aligned with:

- [Home, Together](#), the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.
- [Working Together to Make Homelessness in All of Utah Rare, Brief & Non-Recurring](#), The State of Utah Strategic Plan on Homelessness
- The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), which together focus on a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness.

### **Homelessness Funding Grant Sources**

- Federal Emergency Solutions Grant (CFDA# 14.231)
- Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (CFDA# 93.558)
- Homeless to Housing (Utah Code 35A-8-505, 604, and 605)
- Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust (Utah Code 35A-8-602 and 603)

### **Funding Purposes**

Homelessness Funding will emphasize diversion, emergency housing and shelter, distinct housing needs and client self-sufficiency, including placement in meaningful employment, occupational training activities, and/or special services to meet the unique needs of the homeless including:

- Families with children
- Transitional-aged youth
- Single men or single women
- Veterans
- Victims of domestic violence
- Individuals with a disability, behavioral health disorders, including mental health or substance use disorders
- Individuals who are medically frail or terminally ill
- Individuals exiting prison or jail, or
- Individuals who suffer from other serious challenges to employment and self-sufficiency

### **The DWS Housing and Community Development, Homelessness Programs Office will:**

- Support high-performing projects based on established performance measures and other supporting data sources in order to strengthen Utah's homeless service system;

- Require coordination with local homeless systems, Continuum of Care (CoC) priorities, local municipalities, and local homeless coordinating committees (LHCCs) to strengthen system support; and
- Provide data quality training and support to ensure homelessness data is used effectively and efficiently to coordinate services and resources.

## **HOMELESSNESS FUNDING PROJECT TYPES**

DWS, HCD Homelessness Funding can be used to provide a wide range of services and supports under **ten project types**. Funding aligns with the federal HUD policies, procedures, measurements and system outcomes for the project types listed below. Exceptions may be made upon approval by HCD and dependent on the actual funding source of the grant contract. Please refer to the “Allowable Activities by Project Type” document for detailed activities allowed under each project type.

**Diversions** activities are designed to fund HCD grant recipients’ and sub-recipients’ to administer diversion assessments to clients who present at an emergency shelter “front door”, another program or system entry point where individuals or families are seeking a place to stay.

**Emergency Shelter** activities are designed to increase the quantity and quality of temporary shelters provided to homeless people, through the renovation of existing shelters or conversion of buildings to shelters, paying for the operating costs of shelters, and providing essential services. Emergency Shelter includes Day Shelter programs and medical respite care for individuals staying 90 days or less.

**HMIS Comparable Database** activities are designed to fund HCD grant recipients’ and sub-recipients’ participation in a HMIS Comparable Database by agencies who are legally prohibited from entering data into the Utah HMIS as a result of VOCA or VAWA Federal Funding.

**Homelessness Prevention** activities are designed to prevent an individual or family from moving into an emergency shelter or living in a public or private place not meant for human habitation through housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and medium-term rental assistance.

**Permanent Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities (PSH)** Community-based housing without a designated length of stay for individuals with disabilities and families in which one adult or child has a disability. To be permanent housing, the program participant must be the tenant on a lease for a term of at least one year, which is renewable for terms that are a minimum of one month long, and is terminable only for cause. Homeless end-of-life care would qualify as PSH.

**Rapid Re-Housing** activities are designed to move homeless people quickly to permanent housing through housing relocation and stabilization services and providing short- and medium- term rental assistance. §576.104

**Single Room Occupancy** provides rental assistance in connection with the moderate rehabilitation of residential properties that, when renovations are completed, will

contain upgraded single occupancy units for individuals who are homeless.

**Street Outreach** activities are designed to meet the immediate needs of unsheltered homeless people by connecting them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical health services. §576.101

**Transitional Housing** - Housing where all program participants have signed a lease or occupancy agreement, the purpose of which is to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families into permanent housing within a 24 month period. The program participant must have a lease or occupancy agreement for a term of at least one month that ends in 24 months. Transitional Housing is prioritized for domestic violence and youth projects. Homeless respite care for individuals staying more than 90 days will also be categorized as transitional housing.

**Other** Projects that benefit people experiencing homelessness that absolutely do not fall under any of the other project categories listed above, including warming stations.

## **PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND OUTCOMES**

DWS, HCD Homelessness Funding provides statewide support of project services and interventions that focus on making episodes of homelessness **rare, brief, and nonrecurring**. The three key system measurements of progress in alignment with *Home, Together* and the HEARTH Act for HCD Homelessness Funding are to:

- 1. Reduce the rate of first time homelessness;**
- 2. Reduce the time individuals and households remain homeless; and**
- 3. Reduce returns to homelessness.**

Project proposals must exhibit data quality; report performance measures quarterly and annually; exhibit improvement and progress towards outcomes; demonstrate community coordination; have an evidence based approach to services; clearly delineate funding gaps and plans for sustainability; and show leveraging from other funding sources.

## **CONTRACT PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Contract performance measures were developed by DWS HCD. These measures were reviewed and approved by the State Homeless Coordinating Committee. Performance measures are largely influenced by the HUD System Performance Measures. Funded projects must set individualized targets based on project specifics. Measures are reported quarterly throughout the contract year, and in a final annual report.