



Commission to
**ADDRESS
HOMELESSNESS**
Office of Care Coordination

December 15, 2025

Chairman Doug Chaffee

Members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: Commission to Address Homelessness – Position on FY 2025 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity and Recommendation for One-Year Grant Renewals

Orange County Board of Supervisors,

The Commission to Address Homelessness (Commission) is writing to express its concerns regarding the current U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). As the Board appointed advisory body dedicated to providing and promoting an effective countywide response to addressing homelessness, the Commission's role is to offer guidance and coordination aligned with the County of Orange Homeless Service System Pillars. Given this advisory role, and with no independent authority to act on matters such as legislation, funding or lobbying, the Commission wishes to elevate to the Board significant concerns identified in the current CoC NOFO cycle.

As you are aware, the CoC Program remains one of the largest and most critical sources of federal funding for our local efforts in addressing homelessness, bringing approximately \$33 million in annual funding to Orange County, spread across 22 grants. These grants support the core infrastructure of the County's homelessness response system including CoC operations, the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), the Point In Time (PIT) Count, and the Coordinated Entry System (CES). However, the timing, requirements, and operational complexities of the current NOFO introduce considerable uncertainty for local providers and jeopardize the continuity of services funding through the CoC Program.

On November 13, 2025, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued a new Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY2025 funding for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. The NOFO introduced many new changes to priorities, and drastic adjustments to how funds would be awarded with very limited time to plan or adapt. Additionally, HUD anticipated releasing the FY2025 CoC Program awards no earlier than May 2026, significantly later than usual. Although the actual applications were not yet available from HUD, our community had been working to meet the required local competition deadline of December 15th.

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However, on December 8, 2025, HUD withdrew the NOFO to “make appropriate revisions” and subsequently reissue. Notably, there is no clear indication of when the NOFO could be reissued or what revisions could be made. This uncertainty has caused a pause in the planning conversations. Furthermore, the withdrawal of the NOFO extends delays in funding. It is far too late in the year for HUD to initiate a new grant process for funds that will begin to expire in January 2026, thus creating a funding gap for local programs that provide critical resources to our community. As a result of the delay, the following impacts are anticipated:

- 8 grants totaling \$11.2M will expire by June 30th
- 324 households are jeopardized

Congress has already authorized HUD, with strong bipartisan support, to run a two-year CoC Program for fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and communities already went through a robust two-year planning process. Changes to this process would not only undermine the authority of Congress, but also severely impact the programs and services that help our most vulnerable residents.

Therefore, to maintain stability within Orange County and prevent disruptions to programs with grant terms set to expire in 2026, the Commission urges the Board to formally request HUD to renew all existing CoC grants expiring during calendar year 2026 for one 12-month period. This extension would help protect against interruptions in housing and services, sustain our providers’ operations, and allow Orange County more time to navigate the NOFO process with greater clarity and operational continuity.

This request reflects the Commission’s responsibility to support a unified, countywide strategy for addressing homelessness and to advise the Board on policies and procedures that impact the effectiveness and stability of the homeless service system.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to strengthening the County’s homelessness response.

Sincerely,

Commission to Address Homelessness

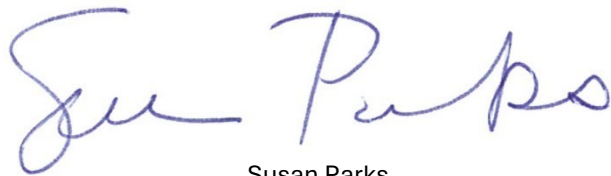


Vicente Sarmiento
Supervisor, Second District

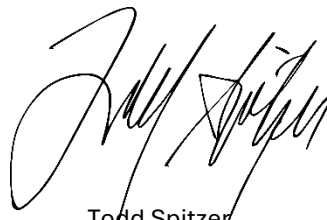
Chair, Commission to Address Homelessness



Gina Cunningham
Executive Director, HomeAid OC
Vice Chair, Commission to Address Homelessness



Susan Parks
President and CEO, OC United Way
Business Representative



Todd Spitzer
District Attorney Orange County
Orange County DA Representative



Nathaniel Shinagawa
Chief Operating Officer & Senior Vice President,
UCI Health
Hospital Representative




Veronica Kelley
Director, Orange County Health Care Agency
Behavioral Health Representative



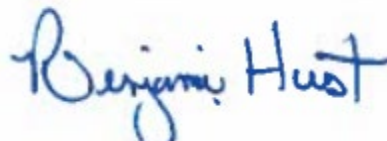
James Vanderpool
City Manager, City of Anaheim
North Service Planning Area Representative



Benjamin Vazquez
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Santa Ana
Central Service Planning Area Representative



Debra Rose
City Manager, City of Lake Forest
South Service Planning Area Representative



Benjamin Hurst
Managing Director, The Salvation Army
Philanthropic Leader



Virgil Asuncion
Commander, Orange County Sheriff's Department
Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department Representative



Ivan Pitts
Senior Pastor, Second Baptist Church
Faith-Based Community Representative



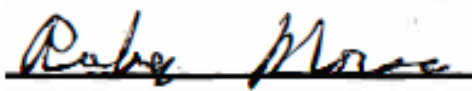
Kelly Bruno-Nelson
Executive Director, CalOptima Health
Medi-Cal Managed Care Health Plan Representative



Maricela Rios-Faust
CEO, Human Options
Continuum of Care Board Representative

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Handwritten signature of Robert Morse in black ink, written over a horizontal line.

Robert Morse
Continuum of Care Board Member
Continuum of Care Board Representative

Handwritten signature of Anthony Trejo in black ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a cursive 'e'.

Anthony Trejo
Program Manager, HIS-OC
Lived Experience Representative