



**Department of Health & Human Services
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

507 F Street
Eureka, California 95501
cbeck@co.humboldt.ca.us

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Request for Proposals No. DHHS2023-02

Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program

**Humboldt County, California
Issued: September 6, 2023**

Proposals Due: October 13, 2023 (received by 4:00 p.m.)

**Humboldt County Department of Health & Human Services
507 F Street
Eureka, California 95501**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – NO. DHHS2023-02_
HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM**

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HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM**

1.0 DEFINITIONS:

1.1 Terms:

- A. **Addenda.** As used herein, the term “Addenda” refers to an amendment or modification to this Request for Proposals.
- B. **County.** As used herein, the term “County” refers to the County of Humboldt, a political subdivision of the State of California, acting through its Department of Health and Human Services – Social Services Branch.
- C. **HHAP Agreements.** As used herein, the term “HHAP Agreements” refers to the professional services, construction, acquisition and other agreements between the County and the Successful Proposers regarding the implementation of various homelessness assistance projects as part of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program.
- D. **HHAP Statutes.** As used herein, the term “HHAP Statutes” refers to Sections 50216, *et seq.* of the California Health and Safety Code, and all other relevant provisions of California Assembly Bill 101 (2019), California Assembly Bill 83 (2020) and California Assembly Bill 140 (2021) all as may be amended from time to time.
- E. **Navigation Center.** As used herein, the term “navigation center” refers to a low-barrier, service-enriched shelter that provides temporary living facilities while case managers connect individuals experiencing homelessness to income, public benefits, health services, shelter and permanent housing
- F. **Proposal.** As used herein, the term “Proposal” refers to an offer submitted in accordance with this Request for Proposals to provide the implementation of various homelessness assistance projects as part of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program.
- G. **Proposer.** As used herein, the term “Proposer” refers to any agency or organization submitting a Proposal in response to this Request for Proposals.
- H. **Successful Proposer.** As used herein, the term “Successful Proposer” refers to an agency or organization that the County selects to enter into a final HHAP Agreement with after the evaluation, review and selection processes set forth in this Request for Proposals have been completed.
- I. **Target Population.** As used herein, the term “Target Population” refers to individuals and families who are homeless, as defined by Section 50216(h) of the California Health and Safety Code and Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and homeless youth, as defined by Section 50216(k) of the California Health and Safety Code and Section 11434a(2) of the United States Code.

1.2 Abbreviations:

- A. **C.F.R.** As used herein, the abbreviation “C.F.R.” refers to the United States Code of Federal Regulations.

- B. **HHAP**. As used herein, the abbreviation “HHAP” refers to the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program.
- C. **RFP**. As used herein, the abbreviation “RFP” refers to this Request for Proposals for the implementation of various homelessness assistance projects as part of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program.

2.0 **INTRODUCTION:**

2.1 **Statement of Purpose:**

The County of Humboldt (“County”), by and through its Department of Health and Human Services, is issuing this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) to solicit Proposals from qualified community organizations interested in working collaboratively with the County to implement various homelessness assistance projects as part of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (“HHAP”). This RFP is a non-binding solicitation and may be canceled by the County at any time prior to the award of an HHAP Agreement.

2.2 **Program Objectives and Local Funding Priorities:**

On September 30, 2022, the California Interagency Council on Homelessness announced the availability of an additional One Billion Dollars (\$1,000,000,000.00) in noncompetitive block grant funds for HHAP to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness, as defined by Section 50216(h) of the California Health and Safety Code and Section 578.3 of Title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“C.F.R.”), and homeless youth, as defined by Section 50216(k) of the California Health and Safety Code and Section 11434a(2) of the United States Code, (“Target Population”).

The HHAP program is designed to support regional coordination and expand or develop local capacity to address immediate homelessness challenges throughout the state, and requires grantees to expend funds on evidence-based solutions that address and prevent homelessness. As a result, HHAP funds may be used for a variety of purposes, including, without limitation: rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization, outreach, coordination, homelessness prevention and shelter diversion services that are designed to provide access to permanent housing and promote housing stability in supportive housing; operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters and navigation centers; security deposits, holding fees and other landlord incentives. HHAP funding may also be used to fund the conversion of hotels or motels to permanent housing and construction of new navigation centers and emergency shelters based on demonstrated jurisdictional need.

The County has allocated Two Million Thirty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Twelve Dollars and Seventy-Five Cents (\$2,037,312.75) in HHAP funding, after deducting administrative costs, for the implementation of various homelessness assistance projects. A minimum of Two Hundred Nineteen Thousand Sixty-Five Dollars and Eighty-Nine Cents (\$219,065.89) is set aside for projects assisting youth experiencing homelessness. In accordance with the applicable HHAP requirements, the County has identified priorities for the expenditure of HHAP funding, including, without limitation: projects that are designed to provide rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization, outreach, coordination, homelessness prevention and/or shelter diversion services that will allow members of the Target Population experiencing unsheltered homelessness to access affordable permanent housing; and projects that include construction, acquisition and/or rehabilitation of structures that will be used to provide permanent and/or interim housing to members of the Target Population.

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2.3 Overview of Selection Process:

At the conclusion of the evaluation, review, selection, contract development and approval processes set forth in this RFP, the professional services, construction, acquisition and other agreements related to the implementation of the proposed homelessness assistance projects (“HHAP Agreements”) will be awarded to each Successful Proposer. It should be noted that HHAP funds will be offered on a one-time basis and may be used to fund proposed projects in whole or in part. In addition, it is possible that Proposals for more projects than the County will be able to fund through the expenditure of HHAP funding will be submitted. Therefore, it is critical that Proposers submit only viable projects that are fully intended to be brought to completion.

3.0 REQUIREMENTS STATEMENT:

3.1 Legal Requirements:

HHAP furthers the purposes of Sections 50216, *et seq.* of the California Health and Safety Code and all other relevant provisions of California Assembly Bill 101, California Assembly Bill 83 and California Assembly Bill 140 (“HHAP Statutes”). Additional resources and new information, as it becomes available, can be accessed online at: https://bcsd.ca.gov/calich/hhap_program.html. In order for a Proposal to be considered for award of a HHAP Agreement pursuant to this RFP process, Proposers must be able to comply with the purpose, and any and all applicable requirements, of the HHAP Statutes, all as may be amended from time to time.

3.2 Organizational Requirements:

In order to be considered for award of an HHAP Agreement pursuant to this RFP process, Proposers, and all proposed subcontractors, must be: a local governmental agency, including, without limitation, federally designated Tribal governments; incorporated as a designated non-profit organization; or an eligible for-profit organization, at the time of contract execution.

3.3 Administrative Requirements:

A. Administrative and Program Controls. In order to be considered for award of an HHAP Agreement pursuant to this RFP process, Proposers must have all of the following administrative and program controls in place at the time of contract execution:

1. Written policies, procedures and/or best practices which demonstrate the Proposer’s ability to address the needs of the Target Population.
2. Written policies, procedures and/or best practices which demonstrate the Proposer’s ability to adhere to the County’s Housing First Principles which are attached hereto as Attachment C – Humboldt County Housing First Principles and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full.
3. Written conflict of interest, grievance, non-discrimination and accessibility policies and procedures which demonstrate the Proposer’s ability to comply with any and all applicable local, state and federal, laws, regulations and standards.
4. Written fiscal and accounting policies, procedures and/or other evidence which demonstrate the Proposer’s ability to track the services provided, and any and all costs and expenses incurred, as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project.

5. Written record retention policies, procedures and/or other evidence which demonstrate the Proposer’s ability to prepare and maintain project-related records and reports, including, without limitation participation in the County’s Homeless Management Information System in accordance with any and all applicable local, state and federal laws, regulations and standards.

B. Performance Standards. In order to be considered for award of a HHAP Agreement pursuant to this RFP process, Proposers must be capable of ensuring that the proposed homelessness assistance services will be provided by qualified, efficient and discreet employees in strict accordance with any and all applicable local, state and federal, laws, regulations, policies, procedures and standards, including, without limitation, any and all applicable confidentiality, privacy and data security requirements.

3.4 Licensure, Certification and Accreditation Requirements:

In order to be considered for award of a HHAP Agreement pursuant to this RFP process, Proposers must be in compliance with any and all applicable local, state and federal licensure, certification and accreditation requirements, including, without limitation, the business licensure requirements set forth in Section 811-6(b) of the Humboldt County Code, at the time of contract execution.

4.0 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

The following schedule of events represents the County’s best estimate of the schedule that will be followed with regard to this RFP process. Unless otherwise specified, the time of day for the following events shall be between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. **The County hereby reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to adjust this tentative schedule as it deems necessary, including, without limitation, extending the deadline for submission of Proposals.** Notification of any adjustment to the following schedule of events shall be provided to all Proposers.

EVENT	DATE
RFP Issued by County:	September 6, 2023
Deadline for Submission of Written Questions:	September 20, 2023
Deadline for Responses to Questions:	September 27, 2023
Deadline to Submit Proposals:	October 13, 2023
Completion of Proposal Evaluation Process:	October 20, 2023
Recommendation of Award to Board of Supervisors:	November 28, 2023
Contract Start Date:	To be determined

5.0 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION REGARDING PROPOSALS:

5.1 Proposal Submission:

Proposers shall prepare and submit one (1) electronic copy of their Proposal in PDF format on a flash drive, by **4:00 p.m. on September 6, 2023**. Proposals must be transmitted as an attachment to, or via a file transfer link contained in, an email with a subject line of “**RFP No. DHHS2023-02**” along with the name and address of the Proposer and the date and time for submission of Proposals. Proposals that are unsigned, or signed by an individual not authorized to bind the Proposer, will be rejected. Proposals submitted in response to this RFP shall be sent to the County at the following address:

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COUNTY: Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: Carol Martinez, Administrative Services Officer
Email: DHHS-ContractUnit@co.humboldt.ca.us

Proposals submitted to any other County office will be rejected and returned to the Proposer unopened. Additionally, time is of the essence, and any Proposal received after the above-referenced date and time for submittal will be rejected and returned to the Proposer unopened. It is the sole responsibility of the Proposer to ensure that its Proposal is received before the submittal deadline. However, nothing in this RFP precludes the County from extending the deadline for submission of Proposals, or from requesting additional information at any time during this RFP process.

5.2 Withdrawal of Submitted Proposals:

A Proposer may withdraw its Proposal at any time prior to the deadline for submission of Proposals by submitting a written notification of withdrawal signed by the Proposer's authorized representative. Proposals will become the County's property after the submission deadline has passed.

5.3 Proposal Modification:

Any Proposer who wishes to make modifications to a submitted Proposal must withdraw its initial Proposal as required by this RFP. It is the responsibility of the Proposer to ensure that modified Proposals are resubmitted before the deadline for submission of Proposals in accordance with the terms and conditions of this RFP. Proposals may not be changed or modified after the submission deadline.

5.4 Proposer Investigations:

Before submitting a Proposal, each Proposer shall make all investigations and examinations necessary to ascertain its ability to comply with the requirements, specifications and standards set forth in this RFP. Each Proposer shall verify any representations made by the County that the Proposer will rely upon. Failure to make such investigations and examinations will not relieve the Successful Proposers from the obligation to comply with all provisions and requirements set forth in this RFP. A Proposer's lack of due diligence will not be accepted as a basis for any claim for monetary consideration on the part of the Proposer.

5.5 Public Records and Trade Secrets:

Any and all Proposals and materials submitted in response to this RFP shall become the County's property, and are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act, California Government Code Sections 6250, *et seq.* This RFP, and all Proposals submitted in response hereto, are considered public information, except for specifically identified trade secrets, which will be handled according to any and all applicable local, state and federal laws, regulations and standards. Any portion of the Proposal that is deemed to be a trade secret by the Proposer *shall be clearly marked* "Proprietary Information" at the top of the page in at least one-half (0.5) inch letters. Specifically identified proprietary information, will not be released, if the Proposer agrees, in writing, to indemnify and defend the County in any action brought to disclose such information. By submitting such information, the Proposer agrees that the County's failure to contact the Proposer prior to the release of such proprietary information contained therein will not be a basis for liability by the County, or any employee thereof.

5.6 Conflict of Interest:

By submitting a Proposal in response to this RFP, each Proposer warrants and covenants that no official or employee of the County, nor any business entity in which an official or employee of the County has

an interest, has been employed or retained to solicit or assist in procuring an HHAP Agreement as a result of this RFP process, nor that any such person will be employed in the performance of such HHAP Agreement without immediate divulgence of such fact to the County.

5.7 Expenses Incurred in Preparing Proposals:

The County shall not accept any responsibility for, or pay any costs or expenses associated with, a Proposer's participation in this RFP process, including, without limitation, the preparation and presentation of a Proposal. Such expenses are to be borne exclusively by the Proposer.

5.8 Right to Reject Proposals:

The County reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals or to waive, at its discretion, any irregularity, which the County deems reasonably correctable or otherwise not warranting rejection.

6.0 REQUIRED FORMAT OF PROPOSALS:

6.1 General Instructions and Information:

A. **Content Requirements.** In order for Proposals to be considered for award of an HHAP Agreement pursuant to this RFP process, all of the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the standards and specifications set forth in this RFP and contain all required attachments.
2. Proposals must be submitted by a single Proposer. Collaborative and/or multi-agency Proposals will not be considered for award of an HHAP Agreement.
3. Proposals must be complete and specific unto themselves. For example, "*See Enclosed Manual or Brochure*" will not be considered an acceptable response.
4. Proposals must provide information which enables the County to evaluate the Proposer's ability to comply with the requirements, specifications and standards set forth in this RFP.
5. All information, statements, letters and other documentation and attachments required by this RFP must be included.
6. Receipt of all Addenda to this RFP must be acknowledged on the RFP Signature Affidavit sheet.

B. **Presentation Requirements.** In order for Proposals to be considered for award of an HHAP Agreement pursuant to this RFP process, all of the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. Proposals must be uniformly typed in twelve (12) point font on standard eight and one-half (8.5) by eleven (11) inch format, with each section and subsection clearly titled, each page consecutively numbered, including any and all attachments, and each page having one (1) inch margins.
2. Proposals must not be any more than fifty (50) pages in length. Proposals exceeding the above-referenced maximum page length may be rejected by the County.

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C. **Formatting Requirements.** In order to be considered for award of an HHAP Agreement pursuant to this RFP process, Proposals shall follow the format outlined herein. Failure to follow the format set forth in this RFP may result in the Proposal being rejected by the County as non-responsive. Each Proposal shall consist of the following sections and subsections:

- 1.0 Introductory Letter
- 2.0 Table of Contents
- 3.0 Signature Affidavit
- 4.0 Professional Profile
 - 4.1 Organization Overview
 - 4.2 Overview of Qualifications and Experience
- 5.0 Project Description
 - 5.1 Project Design
 - 5.2 Project Budget
- 6.0 Supplemental Documentation
- 7.0 Exceptions, Objections and Requested Changes
- 8.0 Required Attachments

6.2 Introductory Letter:

The introductory letter shall, in one (1) page or less, describe the Proposer’s vision for developing, implementing and maintaining the proposed homelessness assistance project. The letter shall summarize why the Proposal meets the requirements of this RFP. The introductory letter must also provide the Proposer’s contact information, including, without limitation, the name, address and telephone number of a representative that is authorized to communicate with the County on behalf of the Proposer.

6.3 Table of Contents:

Proposals shall include a comprehensive table of contents that identifies submitted material by sections 1.0 through 8.0 in the order listed above, and any subsections thereof, with sequential page numbers.

6.4 Signature Affidavit:

Each Proposal must contain a signed and completed Signature Affidavit, which is attached to this RFP as Attachment A – Signature Affidavit and incorporated herein by reference as if set forth in full. The Signature Affidavit must be signed by an authorized representative of the Proposer. Signature authorization on the Signature Affidavit shall constitute a warranty, the falsity of which shall entitle the County to pursue any and all remedies authorized by law. Receipt of all Addenda, if any, must be acknowledged on the bottom of the RFP Signature Affidavit.

6.5 Professional Profile:

Proposals shall include a clear and concise description of the Proposer’s ability to meet the program objectives, local funding priorities, requirements, specifications and standards set forth in this RFP.

A. **Organization Overview.** The professional profile must contain an overview of the structure and operation of the Proposer’s organization, which includes, at a minimum, all the following information:

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1. The Proposer's organization name, physical location, mission statement, legal organizational status and current staffing levels.
2. A detailed description of the Proposer's current and previous business activities, including, without limitation:
 - a. The history of the Proposer's organization, including the date when the organization was founded and how innovation and high-quality performance is fostered thereby.
 - b. The number of years the Proposer has been operating under the present organization name, and any other names under which the Proposer has provided services equivalent to those that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project.
 - c. The number of years the Proposer has been providing services equivalent to those that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project.
 - d. The number of government agencies for which the Proposer has provided services equivalent to those that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project.
3. A detailed description of any litigation regarding the provision of services equivalent to those that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project that has been brought by or against the Proposer, including the nature and result of such litigation, if applicable.
4. A detailed description of any fraud convictions related to the provision of services equivalent to those that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project, if applicable.
5. A detailed description of any current or prior debarments, suspensions or other ineligibility to participate in public contracts, if applicable.
6. A detailed description of any violations of local, state and/or federal regulatory requirements, if applicable.
7. A detailed description of any controlling or financial interest the Proposer has in any other organizations, or whether the Proposer's organization is owned or controlled by any other organizations. If the Proposer does not hold a controlling or financial interest in any other organizations, that must be stated.

B. Overview of Qualifications and Experience. The Professional Profile must contain an overview of the Proposer's qualifications and experience regarding the provision of services equivalent to those that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project, which includes, at a minimum, all the following information:

1. A detailed description of the Proposer's, and each subcontractor's, overall experience regarding the provision of services equivalent to those that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project, which includes specific examples of the outcomes and successes of such services, as applicable.

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2. A detailed description of the Proposer's, and each subcontractor's, knowledge of the legal

and procedural requirements pertaining to the provision of services equivalent to those that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project.

3. A detailed description of the relevant qualifications and experience of the members of Proposer's staff, and the members of each subcontractor's staff, that will be providing services as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project, including, without limitation, job titles, responsibilities, special training, licenses and certifications.
4. A detailed description of how the qualifications and experience of the members of Proposer's staff, and the members of each subcontractor's staff, that will be providing services as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project will help meet the program objectives, local funding priorities, requirements, specifications and standards set forth in this RFP.

6.6 **Project Description:**

Proposals shall include a clear and concise description of the proposed homelessness assistance project which identifies the Proposer's ability to comply with the program objectives, local funding priorities, requirements, specifications and standards set forth in this RFP.

A. **Project Design.** The Project Description must contain a description of the overall design of the proposed homelessness assistance project, which includes, without limitation, all of the following information:

1. A detailed description of the overall goals of the proposed homelessness assistance project, which includes without limitation, all of the following information:
 - a. How many individuals will be served by the proposed homelessness assistance project and for what period of time.
 - b. How the proposed homelessness assistance project will serve the entirety of Humboldt County.
 - c. How the proposed homelessness assistance project will assist in the County's effort to end homelessness in Humboldt County.
2. A detailed description of the sectors of the Target Population that the proposed homelessness assistance project will serve and how the project will benefit the individuals being served thereby.
3. A detailed description of any and all operating subsidies in new and existing affordable or supportive housing units, emergency shelters and navigation centers that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project which includes, without limitation, any and all other sources of financing that will be utilized to support the project, any and all applicable construction timelines and any and all applicable unit breakdowns and affordability levels, if applicable.
4. A detailed description of any and all rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization, outreach, coordination, homelessness prevention and/or shelter diversion services that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project which includes, without limitation, the process by which the level of services provided to members of the Target Population will be determined, how the County's Coordinated Entry System will be utilized

to match members of the Target Population to appropriate programs and services and the strategies that will be employed to maximize transition to permanent housing, if applicable.

5. A detailed description of any and all security deposits, holding fees and other landlord incentives that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project.
6. A detailed description of any and all operational support related to the creation and maintenance of a homeless services and housing delivery system that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project.
7. A detailed description of any and all construction and/or remodeling services, including, without limitation, conversion of hotels and motels to permanent housing and construction of new navigation centers and emergency shelters, that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project which includes, without limitation, any and all other sources of financing that will be utilized to support the project, any and all applicable construction timelines and any and all applicable unit breakdowns and affordability levels, if applicable.
8. A detailed description of how the proposed homelessness assistance project will be staffed which includes, without limitation, a summary of the process by which staffing levels will be determined and how such staffing will ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the proposed homelessness assistance project.
9. A detailed description of how the proposed homelessness assistance project will ensure that members of the Target Population are connected to other appropriate services and resources, including, without limitation, primary care, behavioral health, employment, benefits advocacy and legal assistance services.
10. A detailed description of the systems and processes that will be utilized to collect data related to, and evaluate the performance of, the services provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project which includes, without limitation, the process for collecting and analyzing program and client-level data, the process for entering program and client-level data into the County's Homeless Management Information System, the process for measuring the success of the services being provided and the steps that will be taken if identified performance targets are not met.
11. A detailed description of how the provision of the services that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project will continue past the period in which HHAP funding is available or, alternatively, how such activities will be phased out in a manner that does not disrupt access to other appropriate services, require relocation or impose other related hardships on members of the Target Population.
12. A detailed description of how the proposed homelessness assistance project adheres to the County's Housing First Principles, which includes specific programmatic examples, as appropriate.
13. A detailed description of how the proposed homelessness assistance project complies with, or is exempt from, the requirements of Article XXXIV of the California Constitution, as clarified by Sections 37000, *et seq.* of the California Health and Safety Code, if applicable.

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14. A detailed description of how the proposed homelessness assistance project complies with,

or is exempt from, any and all applicable prevailing wage requirements set forth in California Labor Code Sections 1770, *et seq.*

B. Project Budget. The Project Description must contain a project budget which includes an itemized list of all of the expenditures of HHAP funds associated with the proposed project in a form that is substantially similar to the budget template that is attached hereto as Attachment B – Proposed Budget. In addition to the above-referenced budget information, Proposals should also include a detailed explanation of how the costs and expenses in each budget line item were estimated and the justification for such costs and expenses. It should be noted that startup expenses, and administrative costs not to exceed seven percent (7%) of the overall cost of the proposed homelessness assistance project, may be included in the proposed project budget.

6.7 Supplemental Documentation:

Proposals shall include a list of any and all documents that will assist the County in evaluating the Proposer’s ability to comply with the program objectives, local funding priorities, requirements, specifications and standards set forth in this RFP, including, without limitation, any and all administrative policies, procedures and best practices that must be in place prior to execution of an HHAP Agreement, any and all required licenses and certification and/or accreditation documents, job descriptions and evidence of prior program performance, including, but not limited to, copies of any local, state or federal reports filed for projects similar to the proposed homelessness assistance project which contain data that has been entered into the County’s Homeless Management Information System. If applicable, Proposals shall also include a legal opinion letter which demonstrates that the Proposer has considered both the legal requirements of Article XXXIV of the California Constitution, as clarified by Sections 37000, *et seq.* of the California Health and Safety Code, and the relevant facts of the proposed homelessness assistance project. Any conclusion that the proposed homelessness assistance project is exempt from Article XXXIV must include a specific legal theory and project-specific facts which supports such a conclusion.

6.8 Exceptions, Objections and Requested Changes:

Proposers should carefully review the terms, conditions, local funding priorities, requirements, specifications and standards set forth in this RFP prior to submitting a Proposal in response hereto. Any exceptions, objections or requested changes to any portion of this RFP shall be clearly identified and explained in the Proposal. Descriptions of any exceptions, objections or requested changes should include the page and paragraph number of the referenced portion of this RFP. Protests based on any exception, objection or requested change shall be considered waived and invalid by the County, if the exception, objection or requested change is not clearly identified and explained in the Proposal as set forth herein.

6.9 Required Attachments:

In order to be considered for award of a HHAP Agreement pursuant to this RFP process, Proposals must contain all of the following attachments:

- **Attachment 1 – RFP Signature Affidavit** (See Section 6.4 of this RFP)
- **Attachment 2 – Project Budget** (See Section 6.6(B) of this RFP)
- **Attachment 3 – Supplemental Documentation** (See Section 6.7 of this RFP)

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7.0 MODIFICATION AND CORRECTION OF PROPOSALS:

7.1 Requests for Clarification or Correction:

Proposers shall be responsible for meeting all of the program objectives, local funding priorities, requirements, specifications and standards set forth in this RFP. If a Proposer discovers any ambiguity, discrepancy, omission or other error in this RFP, a written request for clarification or correction should be immediately submitted to the County at the following address:

COUNTY: Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: Carol Martinez, Administrative Services Officer
Email: cmartinez@co.humboldt.ca.us

All requests for clarification or correction and any other questions pertaining to this RFP must be received by the County on or before **September 20, 2023**. All responses to such requests for clarification or correction and written questions received by the County will be posted on the County's Purchasing Website (<http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/purchase>) on or before **September 27, 2023**.

7.2 Addenda:

Any and all modifications to this RFP shall be made and distributed by written Addenda. Addenda to this RFP, will be distributed via mail or email to all Proposers and will be posted on the County's website. Addenda interpreting or modifying any portion of this RFP shall be incorporated into any and all Proposals, if possible. The Addenda cover sheet shall be signed and dated by the Proposer and submitted with the Proposal. Any oral communications concerning this RFP by County personnel are not binding on the County and shall in no way modify the obligations of the County or any Proposer.

8.0 EVALUATION CRITERIA AND REVIEW PROCESS:

After the Proposals are received and opened by the County, the County will review and evaluate all Proposals for responsiveness to this RFP, in order to determine whether the proposed homeless assistance project meets the program objectives, local funding priorities, requirements, specifications and standards set forth herein. In evaluating the Proposals, the County shall employ a one hundred (100) point competitive evaluation system with consideration given to each of the following categories:

- **Organizational Experience and Capacity – 10 Points:** The Proposer's experience in providing services equivalent to those that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project.
- **Project Design and Expected Outcomes – 40 Points:** The Proposer's ability to provide services that will benefit members of the Target Population in accordance with the HHAP program objectives, requirements, specifications and standards set forth in this RFP.
- **Project Budget – 10 Points:** The Proposer's ability to provide services that will benefit members of the Target Population in a cost-efficient manner.
- **Alignment with Local Funding Priorities - 30 Points:** The Proposer's ability to provide services that promote the local funding priorities set forth in this RFP.
- **Alignment with Community Needs - 10 Points:** The Proposer's ability to provide services that best meet the needs of the community, as evidenced by the County's Homeless Strategy and

Implementation Plan, in accordance with the objectives, requirements, specifications and standards set forth in this RFP.

All Proposals will be evaluated by an impartial RFP Evaluation Committee comprised of County Staff members and/or other parties that have expertise or experience with the HHAP program objectives and eligibility requirements. The RFP Evaluation Committee may directly request clarification of Proposals, and/or interviews with, one (1) or more Proposers. The purpose of any such requests for clarifications or interviews shall be to ensure the RFP Evaluation Committee's full understanding of the Proposer's ability to perform the services that will be provided as part of the proposed homelessness assistance project. If clarifications are made as a result of such discussions, the Proposer shall put such clarifications in writing, as appropriate. Any delay caused by a Proposer's failure to respond to such a request for clarification or interview may result in the rejection of the Proposal.

All contacts made with the County during the evaluation, review and selection process shall be through Administrative Services Officer, Carol Martinez (see Section 7.1 for contact information). Attempts by the Proposer to contact any other County representative during the review and selection process may result in rejection of the Proposal. Conflict resolution shall be handled by County staff upon receiving a written statement from the Proposer about this RFP process.

9.0 CONTRACT DEVELOPMENT:

9.1 Contract Negotiation Process:

Once the evaluation, review and selection processes set forth in this RFP has been completed, the County will notify each Proposer of the final rankings and negotiate the terms and conditions of the final HHAP Agreements with the highest-ranking Proposers. The highest-ranking Proposers shall participate in the contract negotiation process in accordance with direction from the County. Any delay caused by a Proposer's failure to participate in good faith negotiations may lead to rejection of the Proposal.

9.2 Scoping Meetings:

The highest-ranking Proposers may be asked to attend a scoping meeting to ensure that the Proposers have a full understanding of the terms, conditions and requirements that will be included in the HHAP Agreements. The Scoping meeting will also provide the highest-ranking Proposers with an opportunity to ask technical questions regarding implementation of the proposed homelessness assistance project.

9.3 Award of HHAP Agreements:

If the County determines, after the completion of the contract negotiation process, to award contracts for implementation of the proposed homelessness assistance projects, HHAP Agreements shall be sent to the Successful Proposers for signature. Once signed copies have been returned to the County, the HHAP Agreements will be submitted to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors for review and approval. It should be noted that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors may, at its sole discretion, choose to approve, reject or modify any or all of the HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process. The County hereby reserves the right to award HHAP Agreements to the Proposers which, in the sole judgment of the County, serves the best interests thereof. No Proposal shall be binding upon the County until an HHAP Agreement is signed by duly authorized representatives of both the Successful Proposers and the County.

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9.4 Contractual Requirements:

- A. **Term.** Any and all HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process shall begin upon execution thereof. The County shall have the right to extend the term of, and increase the maximum amount payable under, any HHAP Agreement resulting from this RFP process based on the availability of HHAP funds.
- B. **Termination for Cause.** If, in the County’s opinion, a Successful Proposer fails to adequately implement the proposed homelessness assistance project within the agreed upon timelines, fails to adequately provide the agreed upon services or otherwise fails to comply with the terms and conditions set forth in any HHAP Agreement resulting from this RFP process, or violates any local, state or federal law, regulation or standard applicable to the performance thereof, the County may immediately terminate the HHAP Agreement or reduce the amount of compensation to be paid to the Successful Proposer pursuant to the terms and conditions thereof.
- C. **Termination without Cause.** The County may terminate any HHAP Agreement resulting from this RFP process without cause upon thirty (30) days advance written notice.
- D. **Termination due to Non-Appropriation of Funds.** The County’s obligations under any and all HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process shall be contingent upon the availability of local, state and/or federal funds. In the event such funding is reduced or eliminated, the County shall, in its sole discretion, have the right to terminate any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process upon seven (7) days advance written notice.
- E. **Reporting Requirements.** In connection with the execution of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process, the Successful Proposers will be required to provide the County with any and all reports that may be required by any and all local, state and/or federal agencies. Any and all reports required pursuant to the terms and conditions of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process must be prepared using the format required by the State of California, as appropriate, and be submitted in accordance with any and all applicable timeframes and accessibility requirements.
- F. **Preparation and Maintenance of Financial and Performance Records.** In connection with the execution of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process, the Successful Proposers will be required to prepare accurate and complete financial, performance and payroll records, documents and other evidence relating to the implementation of the proposed homelessness assistance projects, and to maintain and preserve said records for at least three (3) years from the date of final payment under the HHAP Agreements, except that if any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit or other action is pending, the records shall be retained until completion and resolution of all issues arising therefrom.
- G. **Inspection of Financial and Performance Records.** In connection with the execution of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process, the Successful Proposers will be required to make any and all financial, performance and payroll records, documents and other evidence relating to the implementation of the proposed homelessness assistance projects available during normal business hours to inspection, audit and reproduction by the County and any other duly authorized local, state and/or federal agencies, including, without limitation, the California State Auditor’s Office. Successful Proposers will also be required to allow interviews of any of its employees who might reasonably have information related to such records by the County and any other duly authorized local, state and/or federal agencies.

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- H. Project Monitoring.** In connection with the execution of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process, the County shall have the right to monitor all activities related to implementation of the proposed homelessness assistance projects, including, without limitation, the right to review and monitor the Successful Proposers' records, policies, procedures and overall business operations, at any time, in order to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the HHAP Agreements. The Successful Proposers will be required to cooperate with corrective action plans, if deficiencies in their records, policies, procedures or business operations are identified by the County. However, the County will in no way be responsible, or held accountable, for overseeing or evaluating the adequacy of the Successful Proposers' performance.
- I. Disclosure of Confidential Information.** In connection with the execution of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process, the Successful Proposers will be required to protect all confidential information obtained pursuant to the terms and conditions thereof in accordance with any and all applicable local, state and federal laws, regulations, policies, procedures and standards, including, without limitation: Division 19 of the California Department of Social Services Manual of Policies and Procedures – Confidentiality of Information; California Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 827, 5328, 10850 and 14100.2; California Health and Safety Code Sections 1280.15 and 1280.18; the California Information Practices Act of 1977; the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act; the United States Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act; the United States Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and any current and future implementing regulations promulgated thereunder, including, without limitation, the Federal Privacy Regulations contained in 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164, the Federal Security Standards contained in 45 C.F.R. Parts 160, 162 and 164 and the Federal Standards for Electronic Transactions contained in 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 162, all as may be amended from time to time.
- J. Non-Discrimination Compliance.** In connection with the execution of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process, the Successful Proposers will be required to comply with any and all applicable provisions of: Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Food Stamp Act of 1977; Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; the California Fair Employment and Housing Act; California Civil Code Sections 51, et seq.; California Government Code Sections 4450, et seq.; California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 10000; Division 21 of the California Department of Social Services Manual of Policies and Procedures; United States Executive Order 11246, as amended and supplemented by United States Executive Order 11375 and 41 C.F.R. Part 60; and any other applicable local, state and/or federal laws, regulations and standards, all as may be amended from time to time.
- K. Nuclear-Free Humboldt County Ordinance Compliance.** In connection with the execution of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process, the Successful Proposers will be required to certify that it is not a Nuclear Weapons Contractor, as that term is defined by the Nuclear-Free Humboldt County Ordinance. The County shall have the right to immediately terminate the HHAP Agreement if it is determined that a Successful Proposer falsified the above-referenced certification or subsequently becomes a Nuclear Weapons Contractor.
- L. Indemnification Requirements.** In connection with the execution of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process, the Successful Proposers will be required to hold harmless, defend and indemnify the County and its agents, officers, officials, employees and volunteers from and against any and all claims, demands, losses, damages, liabilities, expenses and costs of any kind or nature, including, without limitation, attorney fees and other costs of litigation, arising out of, or in connection with, the Successful Proposers' negligent performance of, or failure to comply with, any of the obligations contained in the HHAP Agreements, except such loss or

damage which was caused by the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the County or its agents, officers, officials, employees and volunteers.

- M. **Insurance Requirements.** In connection with the execution of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process, the Successful Proposers will be required to maintain in full force and effect, at its own expense, any and all appropriate comprehensive general liability insurance, comprehensive automobile insurance, workers' compensation and professional liability policies. The Successful Proposers shall furnish the County with certificates and original endorsements effecting any and all required insurance coverage prior to the County's execution of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process.
- N. **Compliance with Applicable Laws and Licensure Requirements.** In connection with the execution of any HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process, the Successful Proposers will be required to comply with any and all local, state and federal laws, regulations, policies, procedures and standards applicable to the implementation of the proposed homelessness assistance projects, including, without limitation, California Welfare and Institutions Code Sections 8255, et seq. In addition, Successful Proposers will be required to comply with any and all applicable local, state and federal licensure, certification and accreditation requirements.
- O. **Jurisdiction and Venue.** Any and all HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process shall be governed by the laws of the State of California. Any disputes regarding the HHAP Agreements shall be litigated in the State of California and venue shall lie in the County of Humboldt unless transferred by court order pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Sections 394 or 395.
- P. **Assignment.** Any and all HHAP Agreements resulting from this RFP process shall not be assignable by the Successful Proposers without prior approval from the County.

10.0 CANCELLATION OF THE RFP PROCESS:

The County hereby reserves the right to cancel this RFP process, at any time after the issuance of this RFP, if the County determines that cancellation is in the County's best interest for any reason, including, without limitation: the Proposals did not independently arrive in open competition, were collusive or were not submitted in good faith, or the County determines, after review and evaluation of the Proposals, that the County's needs can be satisfied through an alternative method.

The County reserves the right to amend or modify this RFP as necessity may dictate, and to reject any and all Proposals received in response hereto. This RFP does not commit the County to fund any proposed homelessness assistance projects, nor to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of any Proposals.

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – NO. DHHS2023-02
HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM
ATTACHMENT A – SIGNATURE AFFIDAVIT
(Submit with Proposal)**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – NO. DHHS2023-02 SIGNATURE AFFIDAVIT	
NAME OF ORGANIZATION/AGENCY:	
STREET ADDRESS:	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
CONTACT PERSON:	
PHONE #:	
FAX #:	
EMAIL:	

Government Code Sections 6250, *et seq.*, the “Public Records Act,” define a public record as any writing containing information relating to the conduct of public business. The Public Records Act provides that public records shall be disclosed upon written request, and that any citizen has a right to inspect any public record, unless the document is exempted from disclosure.

In signing this Proposal, I certify that this firm has not, either directly or indirectly, entered into any agreement or participated in any collusion or otherwise taken any action in restraint of free competition; that no attempt has been made to induce any other person or agency to submit or not to submit a Proposal; that this Proposal has been independently arrived at without collusion with any other Proposer, competitor or potential competitor; that this Proposal has not been knowingly disclosed prior to the opening of Proposals to any other Proposer or competitor; that the above statement is accurate under penalty of perjury.

The undersigned is an authorized representative of the above-named organization and hereby agrees to all the terms, conditions and specifications required by the County in Request for Proposals No. DHHS2023-01 and declares that the attached Proposal and pricing are in conformity therewith.

Signature

Date

Name

Date

This agency hereby acknowledges receipt / review of the following Addendum(s), if any)
 Addendum # [] Addendum # [] Addendum # [] Addendum # []

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – NO. DHHS2023-02
HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM
ATTACHMENT B – PROPOSED BUDGET
(Submit with Proposal)

A. Personnel Costs	
<i>Formula for salary calculations and any benefits should be clearly identified</i>	
Title: Salary Calculation: Duties Description:	\$
Title: Salary Calculation: Duties Description:	\$
Total Personnel Costs:	\$
B. Operational Costs	
Item: Description:	\$
Item: Description:	\$
Total Operational Costs:	\$
C. Supplies	
Item: Description:	\$
Item: Description:	\$
Item: Description:	\$
Total Supply Costs:	\$
D. Transportation/Travel <i>(Travel expenses must follow Humboldt County Travel Policy Limits)</i>	
Item: Description:	\$
Item: Description:	\$
Total Transportation/Travel Costs:	\$
E. Other Costs	
Item: Description:	\$
Item: Description:	\$
Item: Description:	\$
Total Other Costs:	\$
Grand Total:	\$

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – NO. DHHS2023-02
HOMELESS HOUSING, ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION PROGRAM
ATTACHMENT C – HUMBOLDT COUNTY HOUSING FIRST PRINCIPALS

1. Participants are moved into permanent housing as quickly as possible, with no service or program readiness requirements.
2. The project’s rules are limited to participant safety, and do not try to change or control participants or their behaviors.
3. The project uses a trauma-informed approach.
4. The project does not require detox treatment and/or days of sobriety to enter.
5. The project does not conduct drug testing.
6. The project does not prohibit program entry on the basis of mental illness diagnosis and does not have a policy requiring medication and/or treatment compliance to enter.
7. The project does not bar participants based on past, non-violent rules infractions.
8. The project accepts all participants regardless of sexual orientation or gender identification and follows all fair housing laws.
9. The project does not exclude participants with zero income and/or limited to no work history.
10. If the project is short-term or time-limited, the services provided to enrolled participants should be focused primarily upon securing permanent housing and enhancing housing stability upon exit, as opposed to building “housing readiness,” attaining sobriety, or adherence to treatment.
11. The project does not terminate program participants for any of the above listed reasons. The project also does not terminate participants for:
 - a. Low or no income;
 - b. Current or past substance use;
 - c. History of domestic violence;
 - d. Failure to participate in supportive services;
 - e. Failure to make progress on a service plan; and
 - f. Criminal records, with the exceptions of restrictions imposed by federal, state or local law or ordinance.
12. If the project entails housing placement and/or housing stability services, program staff treat eviction and/or termination of housing as a last resort. Before termination/eviction, staff should engage as many other alternative strategies as are applicable and reasonable, including, without limitation:

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 - a. Conflict resolution;

- b.** Landlord mediation;
- c.** Support with rental/utility arrears;
- d.** Tenancy skills building; and
- e.** Relocation.