

ORANGE COUNTY
CONTINUUM OF CARE BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, July 30, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Location:

**County Administration North (CAN) Building
Multipurpose Room 101
400 West Civic Center Dr.
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599
[Click Here](#) for parking information.**

Virtual Meeting Option*:

**Zoom Meeting Link: [Click here for meeting link](#)
Join by phone: +1 669 444 9171
Webinar ID: 962 1991 3559**

****Listen-in option only***

AGENDA

Board Members

Judson Brown, City of Santa Ana
Dr. Kelly Bruno-Nelson, CalOptima Health
Andrew Crowe, Scholarship Prep
Dr. Shelby Feliciano-Sabala, Project Hope Alliance
Kelita Gardner, Second Baptist Church of Santa Ana
Nichole Gideon, Individual
Becks Heyhoe-Khalil, OC United Way
Marisol Johnson, Dayle McIntosh Center
Sandra Lozeau, City of Anaheim

Melanie McQueen, PATH
Dr. Tiffany Mitchell, Orangewood Foundation
[Secretary]
Nishtha Mohendra, Friendship Shelter [Vice Chair]
Robert “Santa Bob” Morse, Individual
Jason Phillips, Individual
Maricela Rios-Faust, Human Options [Chair]
Tim Shaw, Individual
Dr. Shauntina Sorrells, Individual

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and County Language Access Policy, those requiring accommodation and/or interpreter services for this meeting should notify the Office of Care Coordination 72 hours prior to the meeting at (714) 834-5000 or email CareCoordination@ceo.oc.gov. Requests received less than 72 hours prior to the meeting will still receive every effort to reasonably fulfill within the time provided.

Supporting documentation is available for review by the public at least 72 hours prior to regular meetings and at least 24 hours prior to special meetings of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board. Those wishing to review supporting documentation can visit the CoC Webpage [here](#) or the lobby of the County Administration North

(CAN) Building, located 400 West Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana, CA 92701-4599, and request a copy of the meeting materials from the Office of Care Coordination during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

Call to Order – Maricela Rios-Faust, Chair

Board Member Roll Call – Dr. Tiffany Mitchell, Secretary

Public Comments: Members of the public may address the CoC Board on items listed within this agenda or matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the CoC Board. Members of the public may address the CoC Board with public comments on agenda items in the business calendar after the agenda item presentation. Comments will be limited to three minutes. If there are more than five public speakers, this time will be reduced to two minutes. Members of the public utilizing interpreter services will be given double the amount of time to provide public comment.

To address the CoC Board, members of the public who are attending in person are to complete a Request to Address the CoC Board form prior to the beginning of each agenda item and submit it to CoC Board staff. Staff will call your name in the order received.

Members of the public, including those listening in via the virtual meeting option, may also submit public comment by emailing CareCoordination@ceo.oc.gov. All comments submitted via email at least 24 hours before the start of the CoC Board meeting will be distributed to the CoC Board members for their consideration and all comments submitted prior to the meeting will be added to the administrative records of the meeting. Please include “CoC Board Meeting Comment” in the email subject line.

Board Member Comments: Members of the CoC Board may provide comments on matters not appearing on the agenda so long as the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the CoC Board.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

1. **Youth Homelessness Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)** – Zulima Lundy, Director of Operations and Timothy Kirkconnell, CoC Manager, Office of Care Coordination
 - a. Approve the selection of proposals submitted in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Projects for inclusion in the Orange County Continuum of Care’s (CoC) Application in response to the Youth Homelessness NOFO for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY 2025.
 - (1) Covenant House California’s Transitional Housing project proposal called Covenant House California’s YHDP Transitional Housing for Orange County for \$1,962,694, or an amount not to exceed the maximum eligible funding.
 - (2) Orangewood Foundation’s Transitional Housing project proposal called Orange Bridge Housing Program for \$2,427,747, or an amount not to exceed the maximum eligible funding.
 - (3) Access California Services’ Supportive Services Only project proposal called Youth Bridge: Culturally Responsive Housing Stability and Support Services for \$2,000,000, or an amount not to exceed the maximum eligible funding.
 - (4) Orange County United Way’s Supportive Services Only project proposal called WelcomeHomeOC Foster Youth Voucher Initiative for \$3,370,666, or an amount not to exceed the maximum eligible funding.
 - b. Approve the YHDP Project Ranking and Tiering Policy as recommended by the YHDP Review Panel.

- c. Approve the YHDP Project Priority Listing, including the CoC Planning, Supportive Services Only - Coordinated Entry, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and selected new project proposals, to be included in the Orange County CoC's YHDP Application for the Youth Homelessness NOFO for FY 2024 and FY 2025, as recommended by the YHDP Review Panel.
- d. Approve the Office of Care Coordination as the Collaborative Application to provide a Letter of Support to the YHDP Project Proposals as included in the YHDP Project Priority Listing in response to the Youth Homelessness NOFO for FY 2024 and FY 2025.

Next Meeting: Special Meeting on Friday, August 7, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Date: July 30, 2026

Subject: Youth Homelessness Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Recommended Actions:

- a. Approve the selection of proposals submitted in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Projects for inclusion in the Orange County Continuum of Care's (CoC) Application in response to the Youth Homelessness NOFO for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY 2025.
 - (1) Covenant House California's Transitional Housing project proposal called Covenant House California's YHDP Transitional Housing for Orange County for \$1,962,694, or an amount not to exceed the maximum eligible funding.
 - (2) Orangewood Foundation's Transitional Housing project proposal called Orange Bridge Housing Program for \$2,427,747, or an amount not to exceed the maximum eligible funding.
 - (3) Access California Services' Supportive Services Only project proposal called Youth Bridge: Culturally Responsive Housing Stability and Support Services for \$2,000,000, or an amount not to exceed the maximum eligible funding.
 - (4) Orange County United Way's Supportive Services Only project proposal called WelcomeHomeOC Foster Youth Voucher Initiative for \$3,370,666, or an amount not to exceed the maximum eligible funding.
- b. Approve the YHDP Project Ranking Policy as recommended by the YHDP Review Panel.
- c. Approve the YHDP Project Priority Listing, including the CoC Planning, Supportive Services Only - Coordinated Entry, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and selected new project proposals, to be included in the Orange County CoC's YHDP Application for the Youth Homelessness NOFO for FY 2024 and FY 2025, as recommended by the YHDP Review Panel.
- d. Approve the Office of Care Coordination as the Collaborative Application to provide a Letter of Support to the YHDP Project Proposals as included in the YHDP Project Priority Listing in response to the Youth Homelessness NOFO for FY 2024 and FY 2025.

Background

On April 22, 2026, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) posted the Youth Homelessness NOFO for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY2025 (Youth Homelessness NOFO) as a forecasted opportunity on Grants.Gov.

At the May 27, 2026, meeting, the CoC Board approved a recommended action to "Approve the Orange County CoC to apply for YHDP and Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) funding as the NOFO states and allow the CoC Board Officers to make a decision on the lead applicant following the NOFO guidance."

On June 10, 2026, HUD released the Youth Homelessness NOFO on Grants.Gov, making \$193,000,000 in competitive funding available. The deadline to submit applications is August 10, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). The Youth Homelessness NOFO will provide competitive awards to eligible applicants under two different programs: 1. YHSI grants and 2. YHDP.

Under the YHSI grants, HUD will make awards to selected communities to support them in establishing and implementing a response system for youth homelessness or improving their existing response system. HUD will select approximately 49 communities for YHSI grants. Under the YHDP, HUD will provide funding to communities to implement housing and supportive services projects. HUD anticipates selecting between 24 and 50 communities, with a priority for communities with substantial rural populations. The minimum YHDP award for a YHDP Community recipient is \$500,000 and the maximum YHDP award for a YHDP Community Recipient is \$15,000,000. The Orange County CoC is eligible to apply for a maximum of \$15,000,000, in YHDP funding.

Following the release of the Youth Homelessness NOFO, the Office of Care Coordination met with the CoC Board Officers and representatives from Orange County United Way United to End Homelessness to discuss the funding opportunity. It was agreed that Orange County United Way United to End Homelessness would submit a YHSI application and the Office of Care Coordination, acting as the Collaborative Applicant for the Orange County CoC, would facilitate the local application process and submit a YHDP application on behalf of the Orange County CoC.

On June 24, 2026, the Orange County CoC Board took action to authorize the Office of Care Coordination, as the Collaborative Applicant for the Orange County CoC, to facilitate a local application process for the YHDP funding opportunity and prepare the Orange County CoC's YHDP application in response to the Youth Homelessness NOFO. The CoC Board also authorized its support for Orange County United Way to apply for the YHSI funding opportunity and submit a letter of endorsement.

As such, the Office of Care Coordination released the FY 2026 Request for Proposal (RFP) for YHDP Projects on July 1, 2026, to solicit proposals from qualified organizations for new Transitional Housing (TH) and Supportive Services Only (SSO) projects to be funded through the Youth Homelessness NOFO. The RFP had a submittal deadline of July 14, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time (PT). On July 13, 2026, the Office of Care Coordination posted an addendum to the RFP to clarify the submission deadline on page 16 of the Detailed Description.

During this time, the Office of Care Coordination hosted and recorded a webinar, provided technical assistance through appointments-only office hours, and facilitated a question-and-answer period so interested applicants could have an opportunity to ask clarifying questions about the local competition process. Additional information about the YHDP local competition process can be found on this webpage: <https://ceo.oc.gov/yhdp>.

The Office of Care Coordination received six (6) proposals by the submittal deadline for the FY2026 RFP for YHDP Projects totaling approximately \$7,000,000, including three (3) SSO project proposals and three (3) TH project proposals.

Given that the total funding request from the recommended proposals is less than the maximum amount that the Orange County CoC can apply for under YHDP, the Office of Care Coordination recommended to the Orange County CoC Board that the Orange County CoC also apply for Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS), SSO-Coordinated Entry, and Planning grants as on July 22, 2026. The CoC Board approved these recommendations which support increasing capacity and enhancing infrastructure support for the operation of YHDP projects.

On July 23, 2026, the Office of Care Coordination convened an RFP Review Panel which was comprised of four non-conflicted members with expertise in youth programming and services and two Youth Action Board (YAB) members to score and rank the proposals. The RFP Review Panel used the YHDP Projects Scoring Criteria as detailed in the (Attachment A) to support the evaluation process.

The RFP Review Panel established the following YHDP Ranking Policy in support of developing the YHDP Project Priority Listing.

1. Proposals must at minimum score 70 points to be included in the YHDP Project Priority Listing.
2. Selected proposals would be ranked from the highest score to the lowest score.
3. Project applications for HMIS, SSO-CE and Planning would be ranked below the selected proposals.

The RFP Review Panel recommended four proposals for inclusion in the Orange County CoC's application, and two proposals were rejected. Using the above-mentioned YHDP Ranking Policy, the RFP Review Panel finalized YHDP Project Priority Listing (Attachment B). Attachment C provides brief summaries of the recommended YHDP Project Applications.

Approval of the recommended actions will support the Orange County CoC submitting an YHDP application in response to the Youth Homelessness NOFO and provide an opportunity to increase and operate youth-specific programming to assist youth in ending their homelessness. Upon approval of the recommended actions, the Office of Care Coordination will coordinate with the YAB to provide letters of support for the recommended proposals and will also provide a letter of support on behalf of the Orange County CoC (Attachment D).

Attachments

Attachment A – RFP for YHDP Projects Scoring Criteria

Attachment B – YHDP Project Priority Listing

Attachment C – Proposed YHDP Project Application Summaries

Attachment D – CoC Board Letter of Support for YHDP Project Application

Request for Proposals for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Projects Scoring Criteria

All proposed projects in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) projects were scored on a 100-point scale using the following criteria:

	Criterion	Points	Description of Basis for Assigning Points
1	Administrative Capacity of Agency	Up to 10 points	• Current relevant experience in providing services related to those outlined in this solicitation, including evaluation of current and similar project types (5 points) • Past and Current relevant experience in effectively utilizing federal funds and performing the activities proposed in the application, including administrative, financial and programmatic components. (5 points)
2	Service Experience and Approach	Up to 15 points	• Applicant has demonstrated experience working with youth experiencing homelessness to secure housing and stability. (5 points) • Applicant has demonstrated experience implementing similar or comparable project types to the services being proposed. (5 points) • Applicant has demonstrated a data-driven approach to program design and implementation. (5 points)
3	Youth Leadership and Lived Experience	Up to 15 points	• Applicant demonstrates how youth with lived experience are involved with the design and implementation of programs, including how lived experience will be integrated into the proposed project. (10 points) • Applicant demonstrates how youth with lived experience are provided opportunities for leadership and decision-making roles. (5 points)
4	Proposed Project Design	Up to 50 points	• Applicant demonstrates how positive youth development and trauma-informed care models will be incorporated to support the social and emotional well-being of youth. (5 points) • Applicant describes the strategies to promote economic independence, self-sufficiency, personal responsibility, resilience-building, character development, and prevent long-term dependency on social services. (5 points) • Applicant demonstrates how the proposed project will build connections between at-risk youth and school, life skills training, job attainment skills, or employment opportunities. (5 points) • Applicant demonstrates how the proposed project will foster community coordination with housing agencies and providers, residential care facilities, and educational institutions. (5 points)

Item 1. Attachment A

			• Applicant demonstrates how the unique needs of youth with disabilities will be addressed to foster self-sufficiency and long-term stability. (5 points) • Applicant demonstrates strategies to assist youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing any form of trafficking, sexual exploitation or similar traumatic experiences. (5 points) • Applicant demonstrates how the proposed project will address the needs of youth with mental health conditions and/or substance use disorders. (5 points) • Applicant demonstrates how the proposed project will promote and encourage supportive services participation. TH projects must describe how they will implement supportive service agreements with residents. (5 points) • Applicant demonstrates how the proposed project will prioritize family reunification and preservation. (5 points) • Applicant demonstrates effective screening and assessment tools to identify: Pregnant or parenting youth; Youth exiting the foster care or justice systems; Labor or sexually exploited or trafficked youth; Youth in need of substance abuse or mental health services. (5 points)
5	Outcomes	Up to 10 points	• Applicant demonstrates the proposed performance outcomes (not outputs) that will be achieved by the project and how data will be used to measure those outcomes and determine success. This includes the strategy to measure and achieve self-sufficiency and stability outcomes including long-term stability and stable housing; education, employment, increased income, and career growth; permanent social connections; and social and emotional well-being.
Total Points		100 Maximum Points Possible	

Item 1. Attachment B

Orange County Continuum of Care Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Project Priority Listing

Total YHDP Funding Available: \$15,000,000

Project Ranking	Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Component	Total Funding Requested*	Average Score
1	Covenant House California	Covenant House California's YHDP Transitional Housing for Orange County	TH	\$1,962,694	86.8
2	Orangewood Foundation	Orange Bridge Housing Program	TH	\$2,427,747	85.7
3	Access California Services	Youth Bridge: Culturally Responsive Housing Stability and Support Services	SSO	\$2,000,000	84.8
4	Orange County United Way	WelcomeHomeOC Foster Youth Voucher Initiative	SSO	\$3,370,666	78.8
5	Orange County United Way	YHDP HMIS Expansion Project	HMIS	\$500,000	N/A
6	County of Orange	YHDP CES Expansion Project	SSO	\$500,000	N/A
7	County of Orange	YHDP Planning Project	Planning	\$250,000	N/A
			Total	\$ 11,011,107	

Abbreviations:

- TH – Transitional Housing
- SSO – Supportive Services Only
- HMIS – Homeless Management Information System
- CES – Coordinated Entry System

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Project Application Summaries

Transitional Housing (TH) Projects

Covenant House California – YHDP Transitional Housing for Orange County
Amount Requested: \$1,962,694* (24 Months)
Project Summary: Scattered-site transitional housing program that will serve 30 youth ages 18 to 24 during the grant term. Participants will be provided with approximately 40 hours of supportive programming per week, in the form of case management, life-skills training, employment and education support, financial coaching, wellness, and positive youth development. Youth will also be encouraged to open a savings account and receive LIFT financial-coaching program which will support them in building the financial footing required for independent housing. Youth may remain in the program for up to 24 months while working towards exits to stable housing sustained through employment and earned income, family reunification or other lasting arrangements.
Household Type and/or Subpopulation: Pregnant and Parenting Youth
Outcome Highlights: At least 50% of participants will exit the program to safe, stable, and sustainable housing. At least 50% of participants will exit the program with employment.
Orangewood Foundation – Orange Bridge Housing Program
Amount Requested: \$2,427,747* (30 Months)
Project Summary: Program will provide 10-beds of transitional housing and serve approximately 24 youth ages 18 to 24 during the grant term. Participants will receive up to 12 months in transitional housing combined intensive supportive services to promote long-term stability and self-sufficiency. Each participant will meet weekly with a Care Coordinator to develop and implement an Individual Housing Stability Plan and participate in life skills workshops, employment readiness activities, financial literacy education, housing navigation, and connections to education, healthcare, behavioral health, and community resources.
Household Type and/or Subpopulations: Single young adults (ages 18 to 24) experiencing homelessness.
Outcome Highlights: 65% of participants will exit the program to a positive housing destination. 70% of participants will increase their earned income, obtaining employment, enrolling in education, or completing workforce training. 75% of participants will achieve improvement in community connectedness. 85% of participants will achieve improvements in mental and emotional well-being.

Item 1. Attachment C

Supportive Service Only (SSO) Projects

Access California Services – Youth Bridge: Culturally Responsive Housing Stability and Support Services
Amount Requested: \$2,000,000* (24 Months)
Project Summary: Program will serve approximately 100 youth ages 24 and under quickly access safe and stable housing and achieve long-term self-sufficiency. The program will use a community-based outreach model to identify and engage youth who may otherwise remain disconnected from services and provide housing navigation, case management, employment support, life skills development, and connections to behavioral health.
Household Type and/or Subpopulations: Limited English proficient youth, refugees, immigrants, newcomers and other culturally underserved youth.
Outcome Highlights: At least 70% of participants will exit to a positive housing destination. At least 60% of youth with an identified education or employment goal will demonstrate measurable progress by enrolling or re-engaging in school, pursuing GED, vocational training, job training or advancing other individualized career goals. At least 60% of youth will establish or strengthen at least one safe position or ongoing connection with family members or supportive network. At least 70% of youth with an identified behavioral health or emotional wellness need will demonstrate improved access to support or progress toward an individualized wellness goal.

Orange County United Way – WelcomeHomeOC Foster Youth Voucher Initiative
Amount Requested: \$3,370,666* (24 Months)
Project Summary: The Program will serve 625 youth during the grant term with housing navigation in addition to connections to education, workforce development, and independent living resources for up to 36 months. The Program works directly with landlords and property owners to expand the inventory of available rental units and reduce the time youth spend searching for housing who have been issued a housing choice voucher from a participating public housing authority.
Household Type and/or Subpopulations: Young adults transitioning from foster care
Outcome Highlights: 80% of participants will maintain stable housing at 36 months. 80% of participants with housing choice vouchers will successfully complete annual recertification requirements. 80% of participants will report satisfaction with services received.

**Applicants provided opportunity to increase project by up to \$1,000,000 depending on need and capacity.*

Item 1. Attachment D

Date

Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs
Community Planning and Development
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410

Re: Orange County Continuum of Care Board's Letter of Support for [Agency's] Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Application

Dear _____,

The Orange County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board, through its Chairperson and Collaborative Applicant, is pleased to express full support for the submission of (Agency's) Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) application.

On June 24, 2026, the Orange County CoC Board took action to authorize the Office of Care Coordination, as the Collaborative Applicant for the Orange County CoC, to facilitate a local application process for the YHDP funding opportunity and prepare the Orange County CoC's YHDP application in response to the Youth Homelessness Notice of Funding opportunity (NOFO).

On July 30, 2026, the Orange County CoC Board approved the selection of proposals in response to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for YHDP Projects and the YHDP Project Priority Listing for the Orange County CoC. This approval included the selection of [Agency's] [Proposal Title], which is a [project type] project and for which the applicant is seeking [amount] in YHDP funding.

The Orange County CoC Board recognizes that the strategies and projects included in the Orange County CoC's YHDP application reflect critical needs in our community and represent a thoughtful, collaborative effort to strengthen the local response to youth homelessness. The Orange County CoC Youth Action Board (YAB) both participated actively in the development of the application and provided essential guidance. Their perspectives helped inform the project design, the narrative content, and the overall strategic direction of the Orange County CoC's proposed YHDP plan.

The Orange County CoC YAB, which is comprised of ten members age 24 and younger who are currently or were recently experiencing homelessness, holds a designated seat on the CoC Board and is an integral part of the decision-making structure. The YAB contributed to collaborative provider meetings, project review panels, and application narrative development.

With this letter, the Orange County CoC Board affirms its support for the submission of the (Agency's) YHDP application to HUD. The Orange County CoC respectfully request full consideration and funding of the CoC's application so that Orange County can continue advancing a responsive, coordinated, and youth-centered homeless service system.

Item 1. Attachment D

Sincerely,

Signature

Maricela Rios-Faust

Name

Chair, Orange County Continuum of Care

Title

Date

Signature

Douglas Becht

Name

Director of Care Coordination

Title

Date