



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Control: 26001434

MEETING DATE: 06/23/2026
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): All Districts
SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: County Executive Office
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Douglas Becht, 714-834-5000
 Zulima Lundy, 714-834-6805

SUBJECT: Approve Contract for Continuum of Care Technical Assistance & Consulting

CEO CONCUR	COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	CLERK OF THE BOARD
Concur	Approve agreement to form	DISCUSSION
		3 Votes Board Majority

Budgeted: N/A	Current Year Cost: N/A	Annual Cost: FY 2026-27 \$75,000 FY 2027-28 \$75,000 FY 2028-29 \$75,000
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Staffing Impact: No	Funding Source: FED (Continuum of Care Program): 100%	Sole Source: Yes
Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A		County Audit in Last 3 years: No
Levine Act Review Completed? Yes		
Prior Board Action: N/A		

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Authorize the County Procurement Officer or Deputized designee to execute Contract for Continuum of Care Program Technical Assistance & Consulting with Institute for Urban Initiatives, effective July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2029, in an amount not to exceed \$225,000.

SUMMARY:

Approval of the Contract with Institute for Urban Initiatives for Continuum of Care Program Technical Assistance and Consulting Services to support the implementation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Program requirements and homeless service system.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Institute for Urban Initiatives (Urban Initiatives) is a non-profit organization that responds to the economic, housing, and social needs of cities, and counties from local community, regional, national and international perspectives. It consists of several community development, economic development and social justice initiatives that promote research, direct resources, and shape policy. A primary focus for Urban

Initiatives is homelessness in the United States and especially California, which has the largest homeless population in the country. Urban Initiatives works with many counties and Continuums of Care (CoCs) in California to ensure that resources are maximized in order to help prevent and end homelessness, as well as facilitate the sharing of information and resources between counties, CoCs, and the state and federal government agencies that oversee the response to homelessness and homeless services. Through this work, Urban Initiatives assist counties and CoCs to complete federal, state, and local grant applications, design and implement surveys and counts of people experiencing homelessness and providing strategic research, technical assistance and planning support related to the issue of homelessness.

Since 2015, Urban Initiatives has contracted with the County of Orange (County) to support the implementation of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CoC Program and provide technical assistance on the issue of homelessness. Previous contracts with Urban Initiatives were approved administratively, per County Procurement Manual, sections 4.5-102, 4.5-106, and 4.5-108, pertaining to Sole Source Contracts, Renewals and Amendments.

Urban Initiatives provides technical assistance and consulting services to ensure compliance with state and federal policy and guidelines, including but not limited to the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and others that impact the delivery of homeless services in Orange County. Urban Initiatives has provided technical support with the design and implementation of the 2019, 2022, 2024 and 2026 Point in Time (PIT) counts in Orange County, which includes sharing of insight from other communities and confirmation of adherence to HUD's approved methodology guidance throughout the process as the Orange County CoC changed methodologies from extrapolation to an actual count.

The State of California has also established the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) to oversee the implementation of Housing First policies, guidelines, and regulations to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in California. This has resulted in new grant funding opportunities and programs to address the issues of housing stability and homelessness, as well as new legislation that impacts the Office of Care Coordination and the Orange County CoC. This has increased the need to identify and coordinate resources benefits, and services to prevent and end homelessness amongst the CoC, County, Cities and other stakeholders in Orange County. It has also required ongoing legislative analysis and the development of new processes and workflows that need to be implemented quickly in order to meet the expectations of funding sources and guidance provided by the State. Urban Initiatives provides the technical expertise to stay appraised of new and updated State guidelines and regulations through the creation of briefing materials, and supports implementation processed through the provision of templated forms and draft workflows.

Scope of Services

The Contract with Urban Initiatives for three years in the amount of \$75,000 per fiscal year, will continue to provide the Office of Care Coordination with the following technical assistance and consulting services:

Grant Application Support: Urban Initiatives will provide technical assistance towards the planning, analysis, and completion of the annual HUD CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), as well as additional federal and/or state grant funding applications, as requested, for the Office of Care Coordination. Urban Initiatives will support the Office of Care Coordination in updating policies, procedures, and practices to meet the requirements as outlined in the grant funding opportunities. This includes analyzing and synthesizing CoC related data and providing technical assistance, consultation, and facilitation support to the Office of Care Coordination. Urban Initiatives also has an established relationship

with federal and state partners, and leaders in homeless services, and leverages those partnerships and relationships to gather the latest information on any potential releases of grant funding or federal and state initiatives that could impact the Office of Care Coordination.

Interjurisdictional Coordination: Urban Initiatives will coordinate and facilitate meetings with other counties and/or CoC jurisdictions to discuss best practices and lessons learned through similar grant funding application processes, as well as support the Office of Care Coordination. Urban Initiatives supports in gathering information on what other counties and/or CoC jurisdictions are experiencing and examples on innovative solutions and/or programming being implemented to support the Office of Care Coordination with additional resources.

PIT Count: Urban Initiatives will collaborate with the Office of Care Coordination and other County-contracted providers around methodology and implementation of the PIT count, provide technical assistance and feedback on adherence to HUD's approved methodology guidance throughout the process. Urban Initiatives also provides information regarding other methodologies and approaches that other CoC are utilizing in conducting PIT counts and how these have impacted the results and subsequent homeless service system in communities.

Ongoing Support: Urban Initiatives will provide assistance with other activities involved in support of the Orange County CoC and Office of Care Coordination's efforts to prevent and end homelessness in Orange County. These activities may include:

1. Assistance with HEARTH Act compliance, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) coordination, and Federal and State policy compliance.
2. Assistance in the convening and collaboration across CoCs in Southern California for the purpose of discussing current opportunities and challenges.
3. Assistance in the convening of federal and state agencies and CoCs for the purposes of discussing current policies, funding opportunities and homeless issues.
4. Survey, analyze, research and advise on CoC Program and related activities.
5. Assistance with the development and updating of federal and state policies and procedures related to CoC and other homeless service programs.

The proposed Contract with Urban Initiatives is a sole source contract given the uniquely established relationships with federal and state partners and leaders in homeless services across California, as well as the technical expertise as it relates to homeless services. Additionally, Urban Initiatives is able to provide the needed services quickly and within the budget issued by the Office of Care Coordination in support of the ongoing planning and development of the homeless service system and System of Care.

An analysis was completed to determine the proposed Contract provide the County with persons specially trained, experienced, expert and competent to perform the special services in accordance with the law. The proposed Contract does not currently include subcontractors or pass through to other providers. See Attachment B for Contract Summary Form. The Orange County Preference Policy is not applicable to this contract award. The non-profit has been verified to be in good standing.

The contract is being presented for Board of Supervisors (Board) approval less than 30 days before the effective date due to delays in contracting process and the timing related to the filing of the Agenda Staff Report to the Clerk of the Board. Approval at the June 23, 2026, Board meeting will support the Office of Care Coordination in having continued access to this technical assistance and consulting for the CoC Program, which is important as it is anticipated that HUD will be issuing multiple NOFO related to the

CoC. The Office of Care Coordination request the Board approve the recommended Contract with Urban Initiatives as referenced in the Recommended Action above. Approval of the recommended action will continue to support the County's efforts to build responsive System of Care that meets the needs of different segments of the homeless population.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Appropriations for this Contract are included in the FY 2026-27 Recommended Budget and will be included in the budgeting process for future years.

This Contract will be funded by:

Federal: 100% Continuum of Care (CoC) Program

The contract contains language allowing the County to terminate the contract without penalty with or without cause in the event that funding is reduced and/or not available to continue funding the contract.

STAFFING IMPACT:

N/A

REVIEWING AGENCIES/DEPARTMENTS:

N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A - MA-017-26011314 - Urban Initiatives

Attachment B - Contract Summary Form