



Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board Statement on the HUD FY 2026 CoC NOFO

The Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board (Board) understands that recent changes in HUD's funding rules may create challenges for our community. These changes affect how we can get federal money and how we protect the housing programs we already have, especially permanent supportive housing (PSH). As these federal priorities shift, our community must make careful choices about how to use limited resources and how to design local funding competitions.

It is the policy of the Housing for Health Partnership Policy Board to bring as much federal homelessness funding as possible to Santa Cruz County while also protecting the people who are already living in housing that we support. The Board believes that both goals are important for a fair and effective system that helps people experiencing homelessness.

To meet these goals, the Board expects current programs funded by the Continuum of Care (CoC) to do their best to adjust their program models, policies, and practices to match HUD's changing priorities. Programs should make these changes while still providing strong services and keeping people stable in their housing. The Board understands that making changes takes time, training, and planning. The Board wants to support organizations as they improve their programs and outcomes.

When carrying out this policy, review committees, staff, and decision-makers should try to make the local CoC as competitive as possible while also protecting the housing programs that help people stay stable and move forward.

The Board knows that HUD priorities, local values, limited funding, and community needs may not always match perfectly. Because of this, this policy should be used with flexibility and good judgment. The goal is to bring in the most federal funding we can, support programs in improving their services, and protect the long-term stability and success of our community's homeless response system.