

# Federal Grant Recipient Monthly Call

September 2023



**South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless**

4100 E. Piedras, Suite 105 | San Antonio, TX 78228 | 210.876.0720 | [www.sarahomeless.org](http://www.sarahomeless.org)

# Today's Agenda

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- CoC Program Updates
- CoC & ESG Written Standards
- Unsheltered Special NOFO
- Homelink Lead Update
- HMIS Lead Agency Update
- CoC Governance Updates
- Government Shutdown Implications

# CoC Program Updates

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- Announcement from HUD Local Field Office 9/26/23:
  - The Federal Audit Clearinghouse will transition from the U.S. Census Bureau to the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) on October 1, 2023.
  - All submissions will need to be made through the new FAC hosted by GSA, including all single audits for entities with 2023 FYE dates.
  - [Click here](#) to access/bookmark the future GSA FAC site, and get updates about the transition.

# CoC Program Updates

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- CoC NOFO Competition
  - Consolidated Application due 9/28/2023
  - Thank you to our project applicants for submitting high-quality applications!
- Updated Site Visit Schedule Reminder
  - Bi-annual site visits – Late Fall and Spring
  - Fall site visits will include NOFO debrief information, policy and procedure reviews (including grievance policy), CoC MOU execution, etc.
  - Spring site visits will include Housing First evaluations
  - We will reach out soon to schedule fall site visits

# CoC Program Updates

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- Updated Grant Spending Procedure Reminder
  - No longer required to submit eLOCCS spending tracking documents
  - We will be updating our forms and will let you know this fall if you will be required to submit proof of draws
- Update: New CoC Project – The Salvation Army RRH DV Bonus starts 11/1/2023
- Welcome Stephanie Escobar as SARAH's new Technical Assistance Specialist! Continue to email Chelsey – we will inform you when to transition to emailing Stephanie

# CoC & ESG Written Standards

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- Grievance Appeal Policy
  - For grievances that need to be appealed to the CoC
  - Agency appeal – Page 6 of Written Standards
  - Client appeal – Page 11 of Written Standards
- NSPIRE (National Standards for Physical Inspection of Real Estate)
  - Updates to HUD's housing quality standards
  - **Updated implementation date: October 1, 2024**
  - HUD will be releasing additional guidance in the upcoming months to assist CoC & ESG projects with compliance.

# Unsheltered Special NOFO

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- As a reminder, this grant was awarded to our community in April and will bring in new permanent housing and street outreach/housing navigation resources. This includes expanded SSI/SSDI, Outreach, and Access to Recovery (SOAR) case managers
- Estimated start date for these new projects is 11/1/2023 – 1/1/2024
- Eligibility – people with histories of unsheltered homelessness

# Homelink Lead Updates

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- New Policy for Clients Affiliated with the Battered Women's and Children's Shelter
  - To protect the anonymity of survivors, HMIS users should not enter any information that would link a client to the Battered Women's Shelter.
  - SARA is conducting checks in HMIS and will reach out to users who need to update enrollment data.
  - Please be sure to update a client's address each time you complete the entry workflow.
  - [Click here to read the full policy.](#)



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# Homelink Lead Updates

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- Self-Declaration for Housing Status of Youth Form
  - Implemented June 2023
  - Standard process for YHDP housing providers to document a youth and young adult's self-declaration of homeless status to ensure that eligible clients are being admitted into housing projects.
  - The form is to be completed by the housing provider at intake.
  - Skilled Assessors and YHDP providers have been trained on how to use this form, [which can be accessed here](#).

# Homelink Lead Updates

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- Training Framework Update
  - As a reminder, SARAH is leading the development of a Training Framework for community partners to have access to standardized training materials
  - Today is the last ad-hoc meeting.
  - The framework will be presented to the Homeless Response System Advisory Committee in October

# HMIS Lead Agency Updates

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- HMIS updating to the 2024 HUD HMIS Data Standards on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm.
- We expect the system to be down for about 2 hours that night.
- The HMIS team will be monitoring tickets on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 6 am – 6 pm to ensure there are no major issues.
- HMIS users will receive news and warnings of any major issues via mass email.

# CoC Governance Updates

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- Homeless Response System Advisory Committee
  - September meeting agenda:
    - TBRA Bridge Projects (coming online 10/1/2023)
    - Homelink Prevention updates
    - Phase 2 of the Resource Placement Index
  - Next meeting is October 11, 2023, from 10 – 11:30 am
- HMIS and Data Advisory Committee
  - September meeting agenda:
    - HMIS Lead Monitoring
    - 2024 HMIS Strategic Plan
    - PIT Count Methodology
  - Next meeting is October 25, 2023, from 10:30 – 11:30 am

# CoC Governance Updates

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- CoC Membership Council Advisory Board Meeting
  - September agenda:
    - Discussion of 2024 Point-in-Time Count activities of the Council
    - Recommendation of 2 new members: Communities Under the Bridge and Center for Health Care Services
  - Next virtual Community Collaboration Call is October 25, 2023, at 9:30 am
  - Next full council meeting is November 28, 2023, from 2:30 – 4:00 pm
- Email [AzhaliaRamirez@sarahomeless.org](mailto:AzhaliaRamirez@sarahomeless.org) to be added or removed to any distribution lists

# Government Shutdown Implications

- Congress has a deadline to enact a spending bill through the appropriations process by September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- This could impact TANF, food assistance, and rental assistance
- [Click here for more information from the National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

## HOMELESSNESS DOESN'T SHUT DOWN WHEN THE GOVERNMENT DOES

Top tips for federally-funded organizations to ensure the least amount of potential impact on people experiencing homelessness.

- ✓ Confirm access to e-snaps and eLOCCS for all who need it.
- ✓ Review any grant-associated deadlines (not associated with the CoC competition).
- ✓ Be patient with federal offices if they are slow to respond.
- ✓ Check in with program participants and come up with a plan for how to support them in accessing public benefits.

# Resources

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- [Federal Grant Recipient Monthly Call Recordings and Slides](#) (posted the following week & sent out via email)
- [September 2023 CoC Newsletter](#)
- [Homelink Helpful Resources One-Pager](#)
- [CoC and ESG Virtual Binders](#)
- [CoC and ESG Written Standards](#)
- [Housing Voucher information](#)



# Technical Assistance

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- CoC, YHDP, Special NOFO
  - Chelsey Viger, [chelseyviger@sarahomeless.org](mailto:chelseyviger@sarahomeless.org)
- Homelink
  - Crystal Santibanez, [crystalsantibanez@sarahomeless.org](mailto:crystalsantibanez@sarahomeless.org)
- HMIS
  - HMIS Help Desk, [hmis@havenforhope.samanage.com](mailto:hmis@havenforhope.samanage.com)
- Local HUD Field Office
  - [CPD\\_GeneralCorr-SAT@hud.gov](mailto:CPD_GeneralCorr-SAT@hud.gov)

# Subscriptions

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- [CoC Newsletter](#)
- [Homelink Happenings Newsletter](#)
- [HMIS Newsletter](#)
- [HUD SNAPS Distribution List – Funding Competitions](#)
- [HUD SNAPS Distribution List – Program Information](#)
- [HUD Exchange](#)