



County of Santa Barbara Coordinated Entry System

What is a Coordinated Entry System?

A Coordinated Entry System (CES):

- Is a community-wide system to standardize and expedite the process by which people experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of homelessness, access housing and homeless resources.
- Connects the community's network of homeless services and housing resources while streamlining, standardizing and coordinating the homeless intake, assessment, and referral processes.
- Will focus on the most vulnerable, who are often resistant to services, the most visible in the community, and who tend to be high users of first responder and emergency room services.
- Will reduce barriers, improve program accessibility, limit restrictive program criteria and 'turnaways', and focus on matching the person in need to the right resources.
- Will use multiple "entry points" throughout the County to meet homeless people where they are, including on the streets, and in shelters, hospitals, drop-in centers, jails and other locations frequented by the homeless.
- Will use a communication and affirmative marketing plan, including branding and a distribution strategy in order to educate consumers, providers and the community about CES.
- Will bring a new level of coordination and efficacy to the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara Continuum of Care (CoC), eliminating silos and bringing providers from multiple disciplines into the homeless service delivery system.
- Is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for all housing and homeless funding. Other Federal and State programs for homeless services, including those provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs and State funding for developing permanent, supportive housing, require recipient agencies to participate in CES. Currently, in the County of Santa Barbara, as much as \$10 million dollars in Federal and State funds awarded between 2015-2018 require an operational CES.
- Must be implemented by January 23, 2018.

What is needed to meet the implementation deadline of January 23, 2018?

- In November, 2017 the United Way of Northern Santa Barbara County was approved by the local Continuum of Care Board as the CES Lead Agency that will be responsible for: ensuring that homeless persons receiving services in the County are accessing those services through the CES; that there is adequate geographic and sub-population coverage; coordinating the network of providers participating in CES; managing the by-name list of vulnerable, priority individuals; and generally overseeing the day-to-day activities of the CES. There is one CES Lead Agency for the entire CoC.
- Identify public and private funding sources for the initial and ongoing funding of the CES Lead Agency and the CES. It is anticipated that the annual budget for the CES Lead Agency will be a minimum of \$200,000 or approximately \$17,000 per month.

STATUS: The County has submitted applications to HUD and the State of California for approximately \$156,000 in funding; however it is anticipated that only a small portion of that, if any, will be available before mid-2018. As a result, the County is now looking for approximately \$100,000 in gap funding for the first six months of 2018, and to fill the on-going funding gap of approximately \$50,000 annually.

- Identify leverage within the existing network of homeless service providers, as well as mainstream providers such as health and behavioral health care providers, which can be used to support CES, including staff and space for the multiple entry points through the County.

STATUS: The County circulated a survey to identify community partners who would be willing to participate in CES. Thirteen (13) providers responded, with nine (9) indicating they would be willing to serve as entry-points and/or provide staffing and/or in-kind resources to support HMIS.