

Summary of Citizen Participation Comments

Public Hearings & Needs Assessment Survey Results September 2022

Provider Convening – Thursday, September 15, 2022
 Community & Support Services Expo – Thursday, September 15, 2022
 Needs Assessment Survey – Thursday September 15th through Friday September 30th, 2022

Salt Lake County Housing & Community Development (HCD) hosted three events in September 2022 to learn about the needs of low and moderate-income people in Salt Lake County. This is the first stage of the annual process to develop and implement the Annual Action Plan for Program year 2023-2024. Activities that will be included in the Annual Action Plan will be facilitated by federal grants which are administered by Salt Lake County, including CDBG, ESG and HOME funding through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, and SSBG funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) which are passed through the State of Utah.

Following is a summary of the input that was received across all three events. This information has been used to inform the priorities and structure of the Requests for Applications (RFA's) for the 2023 Program Year (July 2023 – June 2024).

Emerging and Ongoing Needs (All Listed – Sorted by Frequency of Mention, and Alphabetically)

Highest Frequency of Mention

Childcare
Housing
Housing Inventory

Moderate Frequency of Mention

Homeless Services
Housing - Building More Affordable Units
Housing - Project Based Rental Assistance
Housing - Rental Assistance
Housing Affordability / Access
Housing Services
Inflation / Impact on Fixed Income
Inflation / Income / Unemployment / Living Wage
Mental & Behavioral Health - Children's Mental Health
Mental & Behavioral health - Substance Abuse
Mental & Behavioral health - Suicide Prevention
Supportive Services - General
Supportive Services - Ongoing Support Once Housed
Transportation (including unexpected repairs)

Populations Specifically Noted as Higher Needs During Process

<i>Populations - 55+</i>
<i>Populations - DV survivors</i>
<i>Populations – families, particularly large families</i>
<i>Populations - families (unsheltered)</i>
<i>Populations - immigrants & refugees</i>
<i>Populations - medically frail & homeless</i>
<i>Populations - severely rent burdened</i>
<i>Populations - youth (homeless)</i>
<i>Populations - long term disability</i>

Lower Frequency of Mention

Digital Equity (Education)
Health Access (Medical / Dental)
Intergenerational Poverty
Landlord / Tenant Law
Legal Barriers - Criminal Expungement
Legal Support - Disability & Mainstream Benefits
Low Wage Persons Competing with Middle Class
Meet Cultural Needs / Cultural Assimilation / Racial Equity

Mentioned At Least Once During September 2022 Events

Air Quality
Basic Needs (Food, Housing, Healthcare)
Childhood Education
COVID - Disproportionate Impact with Racial Equity
Financial Literacy
Homeownership Incentives
Housing - Preserving Affordable Units
Housing - Laws and Policy Barriers
Housing Security
Insurance (Dental, Hearing, Vision)
Jobs - Access for Homeless
Legal - Evictions on Record
Neglected / Abused Children
Predatory Lending
Publicly Owned Facilities (Libraries, etc.)
Water improvements

SUGGESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM PROVIDER CONVENING

Grouped by Category – Refer to Descriptions Below

Category: Consideration

(County will consider comments for future decisions or RFA's)

2019 priorities still high

Funders should connect partners to other partners

Hard cost projects consideration - lowest bid vs "lowest reasonable bid"

Harm reduction needs to be considered

Housing is healthcare. Approach holistically

Importance of street outreach

Lot of needs, but housing is still highest

Mental health does not get prioritized

Need more therapists, legal assistance

Need to build trust between agencies and County so that hard conversations can be held

Need to look at AMI & Income Level (HUD requirements)

Need to move from "Housing First" to "Housing Plus"

Program maintenance needs to be considered (implications of current programs not being funded)

Providers having to do more with less. County should acknowledge changing needs of organizations.

Staff burnout, recruitment, retention. Need funds for admin and salaries

Staffing issues can impact an organization's ability to manage funds

Substance abuse, domestic violence clients - losing housing as COVID subsidies and protections are lost

There are a lot of people one paycheck away from losing housing & healthcare

We have different opinions based on agency size, etc.

ZoomGrants is difficult to use

Extensive wait time for mental and behavioral health (e.g. 7 months)

Different pressures on housing (raising rents, month-to-month leases, etc.)

Category: Process

(County will look at current and future processes, to determine if feasible to integrate)

Would like to see some level of blind review, so committee does not bring personal knowledge or bias to all areas of scoring

Is there a way to do a "blind review"? Feel there is bias towards larger agencies. Somehow show goals and impact if there is a way to overview prior to review. Challenge assumptions.

Category: Training

(County will add to agenda or materials for training sessions)

Applicants would like more info on review process to better write to the readers

Asked for training on how to get to those sources. Timing.

Concern about how data is being used

How are apps reviewed? Applicants want to understand

Is capacity & partnerships measuring the same thing?

Is it HUD goals or local goals that are prioritized?

Some wanted to see roster – where is money available from other places?

Grouped by Category – Refer to Descriptions Below

Category: RFA

(County will consider for integration with RFA's)

Add diversity, equity, inclusion
Combine goals & impact/outcomes
Cost per service is a hard metric to compare apples to apples
Define sustainability - financial
Demonstrated need?
Do NOT like sustainability question. Rename? What differentiates "weaning" question
Include challenges in overview so that reader understands the context
Innovation - how are agencies preventing burnout and supporting staff who are low-income themselves?
Need to better train on how to calculate cost of service
Questions are redundant
Review prior question scoring - if historically all agencies score high, not a helpful question. Consider omitting.
Service accessibility?
Suggestion - "How has your organization had to adapt" to educate County on changes from prior years, and demonstrate capacity
Supported knowledge that agencies that have been able to sustain for quite a few years.
Sustainability of staff – lower cost
There is a lot of need, we need to define how these fit into bigger ecosystems
Tying in innovation. What is being done to make a bigger impact.
What would create a bigger impact. (Try new things, learn from, adapt)
Would like to see Diversion, Equity, Inclusion added to application criteria
Prioritize partnerships - allow each partner to do what they do best to leverage each other's strengths

Category: Scoring

(County will consider for scoring criteria and weighting)

Beneficiaries + project weighting, measuring same thing?
Budget should be weighted more
Combine impact & outcomes - hard to measure outcomes. Would like to see more measuring of outputs which are measurable
Do application overview and project overview need to be scored?
Don't punish new organizations in scoring
For follow-up, allow respondents to give anonymous input on weighting suggestions
Impact should be weighed the most
Input that project beneficiaries should be ranked higher
Look at scoring to make sure there is a large enough differentiation (are all high?)
Programming & Outcomes should be weighted more
Rank beneficiaries higher in scoring
Reduce weight of application overview
Score innovation
Weight experience higher - how can accreditation be factored in?
Weight populations served higher
Don't like scoring of the budget. "Weird". Possibly yay or nay or pass or fail, or combine with sustainability
Admin and committee scorecards should be more similar, so that context is not missed

Priorities and Structure of the Requests for Applications (RFA's) for the 2023 Program Year

Program Categories to Address Needs for PY23 RFA, and Eligible Services Listed by Program Categories

Housing Programs
Housing Case Management
Increase Affordable Housing Inventory
Landlord Tenant Mediation
Project Based Rental Assistance
Tenant Based Rental Assistance

Basic & Foundational Needs
Culturally Appropriate Specific Support (Language, Community & Social Support, Family Size and Structure)
Digital Access & Equity
Food (Access & Quality)
Harm Reduction
Healthcare (Mental & Behavioral Health) - Suicide, Substance Abuse
Healthcare (Physical) - Dental, Hearing, Vision
Legal Barriers
Safety - Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Shelter, Neglect & Abuse
Street Outreach (Access)

Economic
Childcare
Living Wage - Job training & access
Reduction of Job-related Barriers
Transportation (Both own and public)

Pathways for PY23 RFA – Categorization of Long-Term Goals for Programming Considerations

Specific funding streams will be prioritized to fund designated programs or activities based on the primary goal /pathway of the agency for clients served. This includes factoring in populations, and the most aligned use of funds for the program category. Identified needs may be more appropriately served with other funding sources that are not included in the referenced RFA's.

ECONOMIC MOBILITY
GOAL: IMPROVE EMPLOYMENT AND ACHIEVE MOBILITY TO TRANSITION OUT OF SUBSIDIES
Funds: CDBG-CV, SSBG, CDBG Must serve one of the following populations to receive full points for beneficiaries served: 55+, DV Survivors, families, unsheltered families, immigrant & refugees, medically frail homeless, severely rent burdened, homeless youth, long-term disability.

ECONOMIC STABILITY
GOAL: STABILIZE LONG TERM WITH SUBSIDIES
Funds: HOME ARP, ESG, SSBG, CDBG Must serve 55+ or disabled to get full points for project beneficiaries served. Disabled includes chronic homeless.