



PHA GUIDE TO PARTICIPATING IN A FUNDER COLLABORATIVE

Background

By participating in funder collaboratives, PHAs can significantly increase the impact of their resources and programs, by connecting housing assistance to other investments in affordable housing and funding and the delivery of the services often needed by people experiencing homelessness. Frequently a single public agency does not control funding that can be used for all of the elements or costs of strategies that are needed to prevent and end homelessness.

Nonprofit providers of housing and services must go separately to dozens of funders, and they often need to secure funds from a multitude of funding sources to launch new programs or complete supportive housing projects. A funder collaborative links critical funding resources to achieve a common set of goals and may disburse those funds on the basis of a single, streamlined application process.

The collaborative itself is a formal partnership among public agencies or private funders, such as foundations, or both. It is designed to align and leverage the resources of the partners to maximize the impact of their dollars and create a more predictable and efficient system of funding, making it possible for organization to implement new or expanded programs and projects more quickly and achieve their outcomes faster.

More information about funder collaboratives, including core elements, implementation steps, and tips based on lessons learned, and links to additional resources can be found in the [USICH Solutions Database](#).

PHAs can contribute to funders collaboratives by contributing housing resources, such as vouchers. In turn, other partners in the collaborative can pair the housing subsidy with other resources, including security deposit assistance, case management, or healthcare to help people experiencing homelessness achieve housing stability.

Where Can PHAs Do This?

All PHAs can participate in funders collaboratives to significantly increase the impact of their resources and programs.

Who Can PHAs Assist?

Funders collaboratives can be developed to coordinate investments in housing and services that are matched to the needs of different groups of people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including families, youth, Veterans, and people experiencing chronic homelessness.

Additional Resources

- An evaluation report prepared for the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation’s Chronic Homelessness Initiative describes lessons learned from the implementation of the [Home for Good Funders Collaborative](#)
- The [Grantmakers for Effective Organizations](#) website provides useful links to several resources that describe lessons learned in the implementation of funder collaboratives
- Funders Together to End Homelessness is a national network for grantmakers working to end homelessness. The [Funders Together website](#) provides useful tools and resources that can help to guide the work of funder collaboratives

Examples

- The **King County Housing Authority** and the **Seattle Housing Authority** both participate in the King County Combined Funders Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process. The combined NOFA process coordinates the application and allocation for public and private funding for proposals that meet the goals of the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County. Both housing authorities commit resources, primarily by creating a preference for homeless persons using Housing Choice Vouchers that are paired with supportive services through the combined NOFA. Resources from the housing authorities are used in combination with resources from other public and private funders, including the City of Seattle, King County, United Way, and foundation funding allocated through Building Changes, a non-profit intermediary organization. The leadership of the PHAs and their willingness to create a preference for housing resources, have been critical to bringing other partners and funding into the collaborative offering. More information, including links to NOFA announcements and application materials, which may provide useful models that can be adapted for other communities, is available at the [King County Housing and Community Development website](#).

Examples

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- In Los Angeles County, the **Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles** (HACLA) and the **Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles** (HACoLA), participate in the Home for Good Funders Collaborative, which also includes more than 25 other city, county, and Federal agencies, foundations, and other funders. In 2012, the Home for Good Funders Collaborative released a collaborative Request for Proposals (RFP). Through the Collaborative RFP, HACLA's limited preference of 500 vouchers for chronically homeless individuals and families, and HACoLA's similar limited preference of 100 vouchers were connected to intensive support services and private. A total of 600 housing vouchers were committed for people experiencing chronic homelessness and linked to county-funded health and mental health services. As a result of the federal sequester, which has reduced federal funding, both PHAs had to temporarily suspend all lease up activities in 2013, including those pledged for people experiencing chronic homelessness. Both PHAs are hopeful that this will only be a temporary suspension as they are both committed to continue utilizing vouchers to house people experiencing chronic homelessness. In addition a pool of flexible funding from foundations was made available through the Home For Good Funders Collaborative to pay for security deposits and other move-in costs, and for supportive services, including case management and housing retention activities, for the first two years after chronically homeless persons move into permanent housing. By coordinating investments from public agencies and private funders, the Home for Good Collaborative has helped to significantly expand the availability of permanent housing solutions for chronic homelessness in Los Angeles, with linkages to the services people need to successfully exit homelessness. The involvement of the PHAs and the commitment of the housing resources are making it possible for services and private funding to have even greater impacts on clients and the community. More information about the 2012 Collaborative RFP can be found [here](#).