



System Modeling Process Budget & Funding Guide

Before beginning your system modeling process, think carefully about what you will need and what it might cost. Some activities and resources for the modeling process may be available at no additional cost, but you will likely need to budget for others. This document lists things you may need to complete a system modeling process and discusses possible funding sources.

Potential Costs for System Modeling Process

- Facilitation and Project Management, to oversee the modeling process as a whole or to run key meetings. See the [System Modeling Roles and Responsibilities Guide](#) for more information on facilitator selection.
- Meeting space
- Meeting supplies (paper, markers, etc.)
- Food and beverages for meetings
- Compensation for people with lived experience or expertise. See the [Identifying and Engaging with Key Partners for System Modeling Guide](#) for more information
- Travel or transportation and childcare for people with lived experience and expertise
- Software and technology to support project management or remote meetings
- Graphic design, printing, and publishing for system modeling reports
- Other costs to support the system modeling process

Potential Funding Sources for System Modeling Process

In addition to financial support for the system modeling process, consider what organizations might be able to support the project through in-kind donations, staff support, providing meeting space, or using their communications platforms (websites, newsletters) to conduct outreach to key partners.

Funding Source	Considerations
CoC Planning grant	CoC Planning grants are awarded to the Continuum of Care's Collaborative Applicant and may be used to conduct planning activities.
Private foundations/funders	Private foundations and funders may be interested in funding local strategic planning processes designed to reduce and end homelessness. Explore large foundations, as well as smaller, less well-known organizations who may be interested in supporting work to benefit the communities where they are located.



Funding Source	Considerations
City/county general funds	Local governments (including cities and counties) may be willing to support system modeling.
Business associations	Local business associations are often willing to provide funding for strategic planning activities, particularly where those activities may reduce unsheltered homelessness.
Individual organizations	Individual organizations, including homeless providers and other service providers, may be willing to support aspects of the system mapping process, especially by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making staff available to participate • Donating meeting space, supplies, and/or food • Providing transportation
Volunteers and/or donations	Where possible, take advantage of volunteers and donations of time, goods, and services.
Other	This is not an exhaustive list. You should consider all other resources that might be available to support your process.

Additional Considerations When Seeking Donations

- **Make specific requests:** Clearly communicate what exactly you're asking for and what it will require from the funder or donor, describing exactly the amount requested.
- **Describe the benefit expected:** Make clear what exactly the support will allow you to do or accomplish, or what positive thing will result. Funders and donors usually like to know that their support is making a real impact and will want to hear exactly what their donation will achieve.
- **Appeal to common ideals:** Any funder or donor will want to understand why exactly you're asking *them* to provide the requested amount, item, or service. Think about why what you're doing might matter to each person or organization you approach. Be prepared to explain how helping you either aligns with their mission or ideals or will benefit them or those they care about.