

FY2019 CoC Competition

FACT SHEET

COC PROGRAM PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the CoC Program as established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is to:

- Promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness
- Provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness
- Promote effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- Provide funding to support the CoC structure and process

Policy Priorities

The FY2019 CoC NOFA outlines the following policy priorities. These are included here to help applicants better understand how the selection criteria support the goal of ending homelessness:

1. **Ending homelessness for all persons.** To end homelessness, CoCs should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness. CoCs should measure their performance based on local data that consider the challenges faced by all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area (e.g., veterans, youth, families, or those experiencing chronic homelessness). CoCs should have a comprehensive outreach strategy in place to identify and continuously engage all unsheltered individuals and families. Additionally, CoCs should use local data to determine the characteristics of individuals and families with the highest needs and long experiences of unsheltered homelessness to develop housing and supportive services tailored to their needs. Finally, CoCs should use the reallocation process to create new projects that improve their overall performance and better respond to their needs.
2. **Creating a systemic response to homelessness.** CoCs should be using system performance measures such as the average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, and rates of exit to permanent housing destinations to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, CoCs should use their Coordinated Entry process to promote participant choice, coordinate homeless assistance and mainstream housing and services to ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance quickly, and make homelessness assistance open, inclusive, and transparent.

3. **Strategically allocating and using resources.** Using cost, performance, and outcome data, CoCs should improve how resources are utilized to end homelessness. CoCs should review project quality, performance, and cost effectiveness. HUD also encourages CoCs to maximize the use of mainstream and other persons experiencing homelessness. CoCs should also work to develop partnerships to help CoC Program participants sustainably exit permanent supportive housing, such as through partnerships with Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and other government, faith-based, and nonprofit resources specializing in areas such as treating mental illness, treating substance abuse, job training, life skills, or similar activities, including those that help CoC Program participants, whenever possible, reach recovery, self-sufficiency, and independence. Finally, CoCs should review all projects eligible for renewal in FY 2019 to determine their effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness, including cost effectiveness.
4. **Using an Evidence-Based Approach.** CoCs should prioritize projects that employ strong use of data and evidence, including the cost-effectiveness and impact of homelessness programs on positive housing outcomes, recovery, self-sufficiency, and reducing homelessness. Examples of measures that CoCs may use to evaluate projects include, but are not limited to: rates of positive housing outcomes, such as reduced length of time homeless and reduced rates of return to homelessness; improvements in employment and income; and improvements in overall well-being, such as improvements in mental health, physical health, connections to family, and safety.
5. **Increasing employment.** Employment provides people experiencing homelessness with income to afford housing. Employment also improves recovery outcomes for individuals with mental illness or addiction. CoCs and CoC-funded projects should work with local employment agencies and employers to prioritize training and employment opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. CoC's should also promote partnerships with public and private organizations that promote employment.
6. **Providing Flexibility for Housing First with Service Participation Requirements.** The traditional Housing First approach has two basic parts: First, individuals are rapidly placed and stabilized in permanent housing without any preconditions regarding income, work effort, sobriety or any other factor. Second, once in housing, individuals never face requirements to participate in services as a condition of retaining their housing. The first part, placement into permanent housing without preconditions, is an important priority to ensure that federal funds are allocated to providers that serve the most vulnerable homeless individuals. This NOFA maintains the commitment to unconditional acceptance of individuals into housing, especially for people with a high degree of vulnerability. At the same time, allowing service participation requirements once a person has been stably housed may promote important outcomes (e.g., employment, increased income, reduced substance use, and strengthened social connection), so this NOFA also provides communities and programs with flexibility,

without penalty, to use service participation requirements after people have been stabilized in housing (consistent with 24 CFR 578.75(h)).

ELIGIBLE NEW PROJECTS

New Projects Created Through Reallocation or CoC Bonus projects:

- (a) Permanent housing-permanent supportive housing (PH-PSH) projects.
- (b) Permanent housing-rapid rehousing (PH-RRH) projects.
- (c) Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects.
- (d) Dedicated HMIS project for the costs at 24 CFR 578.37(a)(2) that can only be carried out by the HMIS Lead, which is the recipient or subrecipient of an HMIS grant, and that is listed on the HMIS Lead form in the CoC Applicant Profile in esnaps. Additionally, if the CoC has organizations within its geographic area that are victim service providers, the HMIS Lead, or subrecipient, may request HMIS funds for a comparable database. Victim service providers may also request HMIS funds in their project application budgets to enter data into a comparable database.
- (e) Supportive services only (SSO-CE) project to develop or operate a centralized or coordinated assessment system.

New Projects for DV Bonus. New projects that want to be considered for the DV Bonus, may be: (a) Permanent Housing-Rapid re-housing projects dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking that are defined as homeless at 24 CFR 578.3;

(b) Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects as defined in Section III.C.2.n of this NOFA dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking that are defined as homeless at 24 CFR 578.3; or

(c) Supportive services only-coordinated entry project to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking. (5) Expansion Project. HUD will allow project applicants to apply for a new expansion project (see Section III.C.2.j of this NOFA) under the DV Bonus, reallocation, and CoC bonus processes to expand existing projects that will increase the number of units, persons served, services provided to existing program participants, or to add additional activities to HMIS and SSO-Coordinated Entry projects.

If the new expansion project will expand an existing eligible CoC Program renewal project HUD will not fund capital costs (i.e., new constructions, rehabilitation, or acquisition) and HUD will only allow a 1-year funding request. (a) Project applicants that intend to submit a new project application for the purposes of expanding an eligible CoC Program renewal project must:

(i) enter the grant number of the project that is eligible for renewal that the project applicant requests to expand on the new project application;

(ii) indicate how the new project application will expand units, beds, services, persons served, or services provided to existing program participants, or in the case of HMIS or SSO-Coordinated Entry projects, how the current activities will be expanded for the CoC's geographic area; and

(iii) ensure the funding request for the expansion grant is within the funding parameters allowed under the reallocation or bonus funding amounts available.

Project applicants may expand an existing renewal project that is not currently dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking that meet the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3 to dedicate additional beds, units, persons served, or services provided to existing program participants to this population. The new expansion project application will be reviewed using the procedures and selection criteria established in Section V.C.3.b and V.C.3.c of this NOFA. If the new expansion project exceeds the amount of funding available under the reallocation or CoC bonus processes, HUD will reduce the funding request to the available amount, which could affect the activities of the new expansion project. If both the new expansion project and the CoC Program renewal project it expands are conditionally selected for funding, one grant agreement incorporating both approved project applications will be executed. If the renewal project application is not conditionally selected for funding, the expansion project application will not be selected. To apply for an expansion grant, project applicants must submit separate renewal and new project applications and a renewal application that includes the information from the renewal new project application that combines the activities, and budgets into one renewal project application. While the renewal and new projects will be ranked by the CoC, the combined expansion project will not be ranked and, if selected for conditional award, will take the ranked position of the stand-alone renewal project, and the separate new project will be removed from the ranking resulting in project applications below to slide up one ranked position.