

FY2017 HUD CoC Program Funding Competition



The Community Partnership
For The Prevention
of Homelessness

Policy Priorities

Policy Priorities

This NOFA focuses on the Administration Goals articulated in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. As a part of this increased focus on the Administration Goals in *Opening Doors*, HUD has set the following policy and program priorities for the FY2017 NOFA:

1. Create a systemic response to homelessness
2. Strategically allocate and use resources
3. Ending homelessness for all persons
4. Use of the Housing First approach

Policy Priorities

Every Project Application must:

1. State how the project conforms to the Housing First model to the maximum extent practicable
2. **State by name** the policy priority/ies the project supports;
3. **Explicitly** state how the project operates in support of the stated policy priority/ies.

Any project application that does not do **all** of these things will be rejected by the CoC and not included in the District's Consolidated Application.

TCP will work with DHS and the ICH to draft narrative responses regarding system level work to align the CoC with HUD's Policy Priorities; however, HUD's expectation is that all projects play an active role in this work.

Policy Priorities: Create a Systemic Response to Homelessness

Create a systemic response to homelessness: Projects should be using system performance measures such as the average length of stay or rates of exit to permanent housing destinations to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness. Projects should also be participating in Coordinated Entry process and coordinating homeless assistance and mainstream housing and services to ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance quickly, and make homelessness assistance open, inclusive, and transparent.



Policy Priorities: Create a Systemic Response to Homelessness

How do individual projects operate in support of creating a systematic response to homelessness:

- ▶ Create an effective Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP) process: HUD sees CAHP as a key step in assessing the needs of homeless individuals and families and prioritizing them for assistance. In HUD's view CAHP achieves the following goals:
 1. Easier access for persons experiencing homelessness
 2. Prioritization of persons with the longest histories of homelessness and most extensive needs
 3. Reduction in barriers to entering programs and receiving services

Project applications will be scored on the extent to which the can demonstrate fidelity to the CoC's CAHP system.

Policy Priorities: Strategically Allocate Resources

Strategically Allocate Resources: Using cost, performance, and outcome data, CoCs should improve how resources are used to end homelessness, including CoC and ESG Program funds, state and local funds, public and assisted housing units, mainstream service resources.



Policy Priorities: End Homelessness for all Persons

CoCs should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness. CoCs should measure their performance based on local data that take into account 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 longest experiences of 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.

Policy Priorities: End Homelessness for all persons

End chronic homelessness: To end chronic homelessness by 2017, HUD encourages three areas of focus:

- ▶ Target persons with the highest needs and longest histories of homelessness for existing and new permanent supportive housing. CoCs should prioritize chronically homeless individuals, youth, and families who have the longest histories of homelessness and the highest needs for housing;
- ▶ Dedicate existing permanent supportive housing units to those experiencing chronic homelessness; and
- ▶ Improve Outreach To decrease the number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness in a community, the community must identify and continually engage all persons who are currently experiencing sheltered or unsheltered chronic homelessness and those who are in jeopardy of experiencing chronic homelessness. This includes ensuring effective communication with individuals with disabilities and taking reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to services, programs, and activities by persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP persons).

Policy Priorities: End Homelessness for all persons

Ending Family Homelessness: Most families experiencing homelessness can be housed quickly and stably using rapid rehousing. Some will need the long-term support provided by a permanent housing subsidy or permanent supportive housing.

- ▶ Transitional Housing projects for families should reduce lengths of stay by helping families access housing assistance tailored to their strengths and needs and, through partnerships, help families increase access to mainstream affordable housing.
- ▶ Permanent Housing projects including Rapid Rehousing and PSH should reduce and where ever possible remove barriers to entry so that families experiencing homelessness can quickly and easily access permanent housing solutions.

Policy Priorities: End Homelessness for all persons

End Youth Homelessness: Projects serving youth must demonstrate an understanding the varied and unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness, including LGBTQ youth. For the purposes of this NOFA youth means persons aged 24 years and younger.

It should be noted that given the overrepresentation of household headed by young adults in the youth age ranges (i.e. persons aged 18 to 24 years) in the District's family emergency shelter system, family projects do not have a specific youth focus may be well positioned to demonstrate the fact that they operate in support of this priority.



Policy Priorities: End Homelessness for all persons

End veteran homelessness: Ending veteran homelessness is within reach our CoCs, and HUD's expectation CoCs will take specific steps to reach this goal including:

- ▶ Prioritizing veterans and their families for assistance when they cannot be fully assisted with VA services; and
 - ▶ Coordinating closely with veteran serving organizations and VA-funded housing and services.
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Policy Priorities: Use a Housing First Approach

Housing First: Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. CoC Program funded projects should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and the CoC should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods. Operating in support of this priority means:

- ▶ **Removing barriers to entry:** All projects should review eligibility criteria for and remove any barriers to accessing housing and services. Persons experiencing homelessness should not be screened out of or discouraged from participating in programs because they have poor credit history, or lack income or employment. People with addictions to alcohol or substances should not be required to cease active use before accessing housing and services; and
- ▶ **Adopt client-centered service methods:** All projects should ensure housing and service options are tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual or family presenting for services and that program participants have access to the services that they reasonably believe will help them achieve their goals.

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