



The Community Partnership  
For The Prevention  
of Homelessness

# 2024 HUD CoC Program NOFO Preliminary Informational Meeting

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONTINUUM OF CARE

JUNE 25, 2024

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# *Continuum of Care*



# Defining “Continuum of Care”

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Per HUD, a Continuum of Care (or “CoC”) is:

- A strategic planning body that sets a jurisdiction’s vision to respond to homelessness in that community.
- The network of providers offering services to persons currently or formerly experiencing homelessness.
- The HUD CoC Program is also the name of the funding stream associated with this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).
  - The HUD CoC Program is the primary source of federal funding dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness.
  - It is designed to support a community’s commitment to the goal of ending homelessness locally.
  - The HUD CoC program provides funding to nonprofit and governmental partners for the purposes of quickly rehousing persons experiencing homelessness while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness.
  - It is distinct from other HUD funding streams (e.g. HOPWA, ESG, HOME, etc.).

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# *Roles and Responsibilities*



# Roles and Responsibilities

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## The Community Partnership (TCP):

- The Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead, TCP is responsible for:
  - Assembling and submitting the Consolidated Application for CoC Program funding to HUD
  - Conducting community info sessions about the NOFO
  - Soliciting Project Applications for “bonus” funding opportunities
  - Providing technical assistance to providers who are renewing funds or applying for new funding
  - Providing the Ranking Committee with HMIS and other data to inform the Project Ranking

## DC Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) Committee Structure

- The “Continuum of Care” (under the first definition noted on the previous slide); ICH is responsible for:
  - Setting the community’s strategic vision for use of the HUD CoC funding
  - Providing oversight to the Collaborative Applicant to ensure that the Consolidated Application aligns with that strategic vision
  - Assembles the Ranking Committee

# Roles and Responsibilities

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## The Ranking Committee

- The Ranking Committee is tasked with articulating the community's funding priorities to HUD. They are responsible for:
  - Reviewing quantitative and qualitative information about each project to determine that ranking
  - Making determinations about the strength of an application based on 1) performance data, 2) proposals' alignment with strategic vision, and 3) supplemental narratives provided by applicants about the projects
  - Assessing the application materials of both new and renewing projects to decide whether or not to include the application in the Consolidated Application and where the project is ranked

**No member of the ranking committee may represent an agency applying for HUD CoC Funding.**

## Project Applicants

- The providers submitting new or renewal funding “Project Applications”. They are responsible for putting together complete and competitive project applications to increase the strength of the Consolidated Application.

## HUD

- Issues the NOFO and makes the ultimate decision about whether a Project Application is funded.

# Roles and Responsibilities - Applications

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## Consolidated Application

- The Consolidated Application includes:
  - Information on the local CoC's response to homelessness, the structure of its Board (ICH), local HMIS implementation, system performance, and coordination other systems who work with persons experiencing homelessness.
  - The Consolidated Application is submitted with the "Project Listing" – the ranked listing of projects approved by the Ranking Committee.

## Project Applications

- The Project Application include information on the projects'
    - Population to be served (both in terms of program type and how many individuals or families)
    - Commitment to Housing First and other HUD policy priorities
    - Type of services that will be offered by project/billed to HUD grant
    - Description of physical housing space
    - Estimates about demographic make up of persons served
    - Budget requests (in detail from new projects only) and match sources
    - **New funding applicants will also provide:** info on their experience with federal grants, additional information about the provider organization (financial mgmt. structure), site control plan, implementation timeline, etc.
- Application itself is mostly tables and checkboxes; there is very little narrative space to discuss nuance. To better understand the projects, the Ranking Committee has historically requested additional narrative to better understand the projects in making their decisions.

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# *Expected Timeline*





# Expected Timeline

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- June 25, 2024: Informational Session and Priorities Discussion – today!
- July 9, 2024: ICH Executive Committee meeting furthering today’s discussion with ICH stakeholders.
- Early July: HUD’s *expected* release of the NOFO; TCP will pass along the information once it is released.
- Late July/Early August: Provider meetings & application trainings for:
  - Renewing TCP subgrantees
  - Renewing direct grantees
  - Organizations pursuing new funding opportunities
- Mid August: Renewal application materials due to TCP
- Mid/Late August: New funding application materials due to TCP
- End of August: Project Applications submissions due to HUD
- Mid Sept.: Ranking Committee decisions made, community informed; Consolidated Application Package Due to HUD

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# *Project Applications by Type*

# Applications by Type – Existing Funding

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- **Renewal Project:** A renewal project application seeks to renew an existing HUD CoC Program-funded grant “as-is.” This means that there are no major changes to the scope of work, population served, or anything else requiring a grant amendment or modification.

**The budget cannot be amended through the application process.**

- **Reallocation:** Reallocation is a process that CoCs may use to shift funds in whole or part from existing eligible renewal projects to create one or more “new” projects without decreasing the CoC’s overall award from HUD.

**Only programs with permanent housing components can be created through reallocation:**

- Joint Transitional-Rapid Rehousing
- Rapid Rehousing
- Permanent Supportive Housing

# Applications by Type – New Funding (Bonus)

- **New Project (Bonus):** The NOFO generally includes two separate funding allotments to establish brand new programs:
  - **The CoC Bonus**
  - **The Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus**
  - **Projects proposed either the CoC or DV Bonus Opportunities must create new inventory (*unless project is already receiving CoC funds – see next slide*).**
  - **The NOFO will dictate whether the CoC Bonus is prioritizing a specific subpopulation to be served (e.g. veterans), but this has not been the case for the last several years.**
  - **The DV Bonus is for projects that are dedicated to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.**

## Eligible Bonus Project Types:

- **CoC Bonus:** *amt. available is TBD, was \$1.2M in 2023*
  - Rapid Rehousing
  - Joint TH-RRH
  - Permanent Supportive Housing
  - Coordinated Entry
  - HMIS
- **Domestic Violence Bonus:** *amt. avail is TBD, was \$2M in 2023*
  - Rapid Rehousing
  - Joint TH-RRH
  - Coordinated Entry

# Applications by Type – New Funding (Bonus)

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- **Expansion Project (CoC Bonus):** CoC Bonus funds can be used to create “expansion projects” which allow existing HUD CoC-funded programs (renewals) to apply for additional funding to expand their projects.
  - Adding units/beds, increase persons served, expand services for existing participants (with or without expanding capacity).
- **Expansion Project (DV Bonus):** Similarly, DV Bonus funding can be used to expand existing HUD CoC DV specific programming
  - CoC Bonus cannot be used to expand a DV program, and vice versa.

Providers seeking to use Bonus funding to expand their existing HUD grant must complete both a renewal and new project application.

These are treated as separate projects by both the Ranking Committee and by HUD in determining whether the project(s) will be funded.

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# *HUD Threshold Requirements*

# HUD Threshold Requirements

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**HUD Threshold Requirements:** HUD reviews all projects to determine if they meet the eligibility threshold requirements on a pass/fail standard.

In order to ensure its Consolidated Application is competitive as possible, the CoC's Ranking Committee must conduct a similar review of project applications prior to submission to HUD.

The Ranking Committee is unlikely to approve any projects for the Consolidated Application if they do not commit to maintaining these requirements.

If HUD ultimately determines that the applicable standards are not met for a project, the project will be rejected.

# HUD Requirements: Equal Access

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**Equal Access in Accordance with an Individual's Gender Identity:** On September 21, 2016, HUD published a final rule in the Federal Register entitled "Equal Access in Accordance with an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs." Through this final rule, HUD ensures equal access to individuals in accordance with their gender identity in programs and shelter funded under programs administered by HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD). This includes projects funded by the HUD CoC Program.

In order to comply with the Equal Access Final Rule, TCP has established a written Policy on Serving Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Clients. If awarded, a project applicant will be required to comply with this policy.



# HUD Requirements: Match

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**Match Requirement:** HUD CoC Program funding is limited and can provide only a portion of the resources needed to successfully address the needs of homeless families, individuals, and youth. Meaning, HUD does not intend to be the sole support of any project that it funds. Therefore, HUD requires Project Applicants to have other sources of funding.

HUD CoC Program grants must be matched in an amount equal to 25% of grant funds. Match resources may come from public or private sources. All costs paid for with matching funds must be for activities that are eligible under the CoC Program, even if the recipient is not receiving CoC Program grant funds for that activity.

# HUD Requirements: Site Control

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**Site Control Verification:** For new projects where funds are awarded for leasing, rental assistance, operating, and/or supportive services grantees must demonstrate site control within 12 months of the announcement of the award.

Acceptable evidence of site control is a deed, lease, or purchase agreement.

If a grantee fails to gain site control by the deadline, HUD has the right to withdraw funding for the project.

# HUD Requirements: Environmental Review

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**Environmental Review** is the process of reviewing a project and its potential environmental impacts to determine whether it meets federal, state, and local environmental standards.

# HUD Requirements: Data Collection & Reporting

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**Homeless Management Information System (HMIS):** Programs funded by the HUD CoC Program are required to use the homeless services system's HMIS to comply with all HUD reporting requirements. As HMIS lead for the CoC, TCP provides access to the HMIS and training on a monthly basis so that providers understand the requirement and data entry standards.

**HMIS Comparable Database:** The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) contain strong, legally codified confidentiality provisions that limit victim service providers from sharing, disclosing or revealing victims' personally identifying information, including entering information into the HMIS. These provisions underpin confidentiality practices that protect the safety and privacy of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or human trafficking who are seeking services.

# HUD Requirements: CAHP Participation

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**CAHP/Coordinated Entry Participation:** HUD requires that referrals for programs receiving CoC funding come through the community's coordinated entry process, referred to locally as Coordinated Assessment and Housing Placement (CAHP).

- Program participants are matched to and prioritized for housing resources based on a uniform assessment which pairs information about a person or family's service needs with available programs.
- TCP's CAHP team will make referrals into the program as vacancies arise.

# *Ranking*

# Ranking

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- HUD requires that new and renewing project applications are submitted in a ranked order.
- The Ranking signals to HUD what the community priorities are for which programs they should fund if they are not able to fund our entire request (or all requests nationally).
- The Ranking must include a combination of quantitative and qualitative factors and should include project threshold criteria, performance, and other objective criteria.
- Each year, ICH convenes a Ranking Committee which conducts the project ranking of all projects seeking new or renewal funding. The Ranking Committee will prioritize grants based on 1.) Performance data; 2.) Supplemental narrative information submitted by project applicants; and 3.) How closely each project aligns with HUD's funding priorities and the District's strategic plan to end homelessness.
- The Ranking Committee must be made up of non-conflicted community stakeholders – meaning members of the Ranking Committee cannot come from government agencies or service providers seeking new or renewal funding in the competition.

# Ranking Committee

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- Review Project Application materials from **renewing** grantees to determine whether applications should be:
  - included in the Consolidated Application,
  - be included but reduced, or
  - rejected
- Review Project Application materials from applicants for **new funding** –applying under both Bonus opportunities as well as any expansion or consolidation requests –to determine whether they should be:
  - included in the Consolidated Application,
  - included but reduced/modified, or
  - rejected
- Score **new and renewing** Project Applications to determine the ranked (priority) order of applications in the Consolidated Application



# Example Ranking Criteria

HUD Ranking CriteriaCategories	
Objective Criteria (33%)	Utilization Rate (%)
	% Grant Is Matched/Leveraged
	Timely submission of Annual Performance Report (APR) or Grant Spend Down
Performance Criteria (20%)	Exits to Permanent Destinations (TH/RRH only)
	Housing Stability (PSH only)
	Increase (TH/RRH) or Maintain (PSH) Income
	% Returning to CoC after exit from Program
	Length of Stay
Threshold Criteria (47%)	Provides services to a key subpopulation
	Addresses vulnerabilities of persons served
	Commits to complete implementation of Housing First
	Commits to CAHP Participation
	Commitment to federal policy priority(ies)

# Ranking Committee

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- For **renewing** grants, the Ranking Committee will use a combination of past performance data, supplemental narrative information provided by Project Applicants, and the HUD Policy Priorities to score/rank applications.
- The Ranking Committee will select application(s) for **new** funding using a combination of community feedback on program types/populations in need or resources, the HUD Policy Priorities, and application materials to score/rank the applications.
- New and renewing applicants will be notified about whether or not their application will be included in the Consolidated Application by mid September.
- The decision about whether or not any project receives funding is solely up to HUD.

# *Policy Priorities*

# Policy Priorities

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**Policy Priorities:** HUD establishes policy priorities for each funding competition, and CoCs are tasked with establishing their own as well. HUD expects that CoCs will exclude projects from their Consolidated application projects that are not aligned with both local and HUD priorities. **In 2023, these were:**

1. Ending Homelessness for All Persons
2. Use a Housing First Approach
3. Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness
4. Improving System Performance
5. Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies
6. Race Equity
7. Improving Assistance to LGBTQ Individuals
8. Including People with Lived Experienced in the Local Planning Process
9. Increasing Affordable Housing Supply

# Questions?

# Discussion

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1. What, if any, additions should there be to the (local) policy priorities?
2. What program types should the CoC (ranking committee) prioritize among applications for new (Bonus, expansion) funding?
3. What (sub)populations are the most in need of additional housing resources?
4. What kinds of criteria would it be helpful for the ranking committee to consider for its assessment of renewing programs and/or programs seeking to establish new funding?

# TCP Contacts

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