FY 2022 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoC NOFO) Summary

Table of Contents

Homebase
ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

Noteworthy Changes

- Tier 1 is equal to 95% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand and Tier 2 is equal to the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation, and CoC Bonus funds that a CoC can apply for.

- Transition project grants will not be limited to only 50 percent of awarded funds to be used for the costs of eligible activities of the program component originally funded. Instead, recipients may use as much of the awarded grant funds on the costs of eligible activities of the program component originally funded; however, by the end of the operating year, the recipient must be fully operating the new program component.

- For new projects the CoC would like to be considered as part of the DV Bonus, HUD revised the point value distribution for project applications based on the CoC Application score and responses to the revised domestic violence bonus specific questions in the project applications. HUD also added scoring factors based on the responses to questions that demonstrate CoCs' collaboration with victim service providers in the CoC Application, projects' plans to include survivors with lived experience in policy and program development and the inclusion of victim- centered practices in operating their projects.

- HUD added rating factors in the CoC Application that award points to CoCs that:
  - Are increasing their capacity to provide non-congregate shelter
  - Coordinate with state and local public health agencies to respond to and prevent infectious disease outbreaks amongst people experiencing homelessness
  - Take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supply

- Additionally, the NOFO increases CoC Application points available for:
  - Having an inclusive membership of a variety of stakeholders within the geographic area
  - Coordination with federal, state, local, private, and other organizations
  - Ensuring families are not separated
  - Addressing the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals
  - Involving individuals with lived experience of homelessness in service delivery and decision making and providing professional development and employment opportunities
  - Promoting racial equity through the local CoC competition
  - Conducting a PIT count, reporting the data in HDX, and effectively counting youth
  - System performance rating factors (59 points, up from 23 points in 2021)

Homebase
ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

o   Leveraging housing and healthcare resources

Background

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), signifying the beginning of a funding competition among approximately 450 Continuums of Care (CoC), the community stakeholder groups that guide local responses to homelessness. The 2022 CoC NOFO was released on August 1, 2022, opening the competition making available **approximately $2.8 billion nationally** to serve people experiencing homelessness. The information in the NOFO sets forth the competition rules and processes for 2022.

This summary includes the highlights of the FY 2022 CoC NOFO. New or revised policies relating to the FY 2022 CoC Program Competition are indicated as ****NEW IN 2022**** and ****REVISED IN 2022****, respectively. Additional information about project application requirements and standards will be available locally. Details about anything in this summary can be found in the NOFO, available at: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2022-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/

Important HUD-Required Dates

- **Monday, August 1, 2022** → The 2022 CoC Program NOFO is released.

- On or before **Monday, August 15, 2022** → The CoC Application, CoC Priority Listing, and Project Applications are available in *e-snaps*.

- On or before **Wednesday, August 31, 2022** (30 days prior to submission deadline) → All project applications are required to be submitted to the CoC.

- On or before **Thursday, September 15, 2022** (15 days prior to submission deadline) → The CoC is required to notify all project applicants who submitted their project applications to the CoC by the CoC-established deadline whether their project application(s) will be accepted and ranked on the CoC Priority Listing, rejected, or reduced by the CoC.

- On or before **Wednesday, September 28, 2022** (2 days prior to submission deadline) → CoCs must post on their website (or a partner's website) all parts of the CoC Consolidated Application, including the CoC Application attachments and the Priority Listing, and notify community members and key stakeholders that the CoC Consolidated Application is available.

<p style="text-align:center;color:red;">**Submission Deadline:**
Friday, September 30, 2022, at 8:00 PM EDT/7:00 PM CDT/5:00 PM PDT</p>

- HUD may issue more than one conditional funding announcement.

- **September 30, 2024** → All conditional funds awarded in the FY 2022 CoC Program Competition must be obligated.

- **September 30, 2029** → Obligated funds awarded in the FY 2022 CoC Program Competition must be expended.

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Funding Available for the Sacramento CoC

This year, in the Sacramento CoC, the eligible application amounts are as follows:

- **Estimated Tier 1**: $27,475,948
- **Estimated Tier 2**: $2,892,205
- **Estimated Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus**: $908,687
- **Estimated CoC Planning**: $867,661

Please note, as of August 4th, HUD has not released the official funding amounts. The funding amounts listed above are estimates of the amount of funding that will be available.

2022-2026 HUD Strategic Goals

NEW IN 2022

HUD's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan sets the direction and focus of programs and staff and lays out this administration's strategy for ensuring everyone has an affordable, healthy place to live. Over the course of the next four years HUD will pursue two overarching priorities focused on **increasing equity** and **improving customer experience** across all HUD programs. Five strategic goals undergird the Plan as follows:

1. Support Underserved Communities
2. Ensure Access to and Increase the Production of Affordable Housing
3. Promote Homeownership
4. Advance Sustainable Communities
5. Strengthen HUD's Internal Capacity

The five goals of the FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan present the core vision of what HUD hopes to accomplish, the strategies to accomplish those objectives, and the indicators of success.

2022 HUD CoC Policy Priorities

CoCs will be evaluated based on the extent to which they further HUD's policy priorities. The policy priorities listed this year are:

1. **Ending homelessness for all persons**
   a. To end homelessness, CoCs should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness.
   b. ****REVISED IN 2022**** 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, and people with disabilities, including those living with HIV/AIDS).

   c. CoCs should partner with housing, health care, and supportive services providers to expand housing options, such as permanent supportive housing, housing subsidies, and rapid rehousing.

   d. 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.

2. Use a housing first approach

   a. 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 CoCs should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness.

   b. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to housing units available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods.

   c. HUD encourages CoCs to assess how well Housing First approaches are being implemented in their communities.

3. Reducing unsheltered homelessness

   a. In recent years, the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness has risen significantly, including a rising number of encampments in many communities across the country. People living unsheltered have extremely high rates of physical and mental illness and substance use disorders.

   b. CoCs should explore all available resources, including CoC and ESG funded assistance, housing subsidies, and supportive services to provide permanent housing options for people who are unsheltered.

4. Improving system performance

   a. CoCs should be using system performance measures (e.g., average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, rates of exit to permanent housing destinations) to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness.

   b. 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.

Homebase
ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

c. CoCs should review all projects eligible for renewal in FY 2022 to determine their effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness, including cost-effectiveness.

d. CoCs should also look for opportunities to implement continuous quality improvement and other process improvement strategies.

e. ****REVISED IN 2022**** HUD recognized the effects of COVID-19 on CoC performance and data quality and reduced the points available for rating factors related to system performance in the FY 2021 CoC NOFO. This FY 2022 CoC NOFO significantly increases the points available for system performance rating factors.

5. **Partnering with housing, health, and service agencies**

a. Using cost performance and outcome data, CoCs should improve how all available resources are utilized to end homelessness. This is especially important as the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan have provided significant new resources to help end homelessness.

b. HUD encourages CoCs to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness and to:

(1) ****REVISED IN 2022**** Work closely with public and private healthcare organizations and assist program participants to receive primary care, receive housing-related services, and obtain medical insurance to address healthcare needs. This includes developing close partnerships with public health agencies to analyze data and design approaches that reduce homelessness, improve the health of people experiencing homelessness, and prevent and address disease outbreaks, including HIV/AIDS.

(2) Partner closely with PHAs and state and local housing organizations to utilize coordinated entry, develop housing units, and provide housing subsidies to people experiencing homelessness. These partnerships can also help CoC Program participants exit permanent supportive housing through Housing Choice Vouchers and other available housing options. CoCs and PHAs should especially work together to implement targeted programs such as Emergency Housing Vouchers, HUD-VASH, Mainstream Vouchers, Family Unification Program Vouchers, and other housing voucher programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness. CoCs should coordinate with their state and local housing agencies on the utilization of new HOME program resources provided through the Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program that was created through the American Rescue Plan.

(3) Partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment opportunities.

(4) Work with tribal organizations to ensure that tribal members can access CoC-funded assistance when a CoC's geographic area borders a tribal area.

6. **Racial equity**

   a. In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address racial equity within CoCs.

   b. **NEW IN 2022** Responses to preventing and ending homelessness should address racial inequities to ensure successful outcomes for all persons experiencing homelessness using proven approaches, such as: developing a coordinated community response created in partnership with a racially diverse set of stakeholders and people experiencing homelessness and partnering with organizations with experience serving underserved populations.

   c. CoCs should review local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address racial disparities affecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

7. **NEW IN 2022** **Improving assistance to LGBTQ+ individuals**

   a. Discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation manifests differently for different individuals and often overlaps with other forms of prohibited discrimination. CoCs should address the needs of LGBTQ+, transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary individuals and families in their planning processes.

   b. Additionally, when considering which projects to select in their local competition to be included in their application to HUD, CoCs should ensure privacy, respect, safety, and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation in projects.

   c. CoCs should also consider partnering with organizations with expertise in serving LGBTQ+ populations.

8. **Persons with lived experience**

   a. HUD is encouraging CoCs to include in the local planning process people who are currently experiencing or have formerly experienced homelessness to address homelessness.

   b. **REVISED IN 2022** People with lived experience should determine how local policies may need to be revised and updated to improve the effectiveness of homelessness assistance programs, including participating in planning and oversight activities and developing local competition processes.

c. ****REVISED IN 2022**** CoC leaders and stakeholders should also prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed (e.g., peer outreach and support).

9. ****NEW IN 2022** Increasing affordable housing supply**

    a. The lack of affordable housing is the main driver of homelessness. CoCs play a critical role in educating local leaders and stakeholders about the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing and the specific consequences of the continued lack of affordable housing.

    b. CoCs should be communicating with jurisdiction leaders, including for the development of Consolidated Plans, about the harmful effects of the lack of affordable housing, and they should engage local leaders about steps such as zoning and land use reform that would increase the supply of affordable housing.

    c. This FY2022 CoC NOFO awards points to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supply.

Application Structure

The CoC Consolidated Application is made up of three parts:

1. **CoC Application** provides information about the CoC planning body, governance structure, overall performance, and the strategic planning process. This part of the application is scored and will determine the order in which CoCs are funded.

2. **Project Applications** are completed in e-snaps by agencies applying for projects.

3. **CoC Priority Listing** ranks all project applications in order of priority.

Review and Rank Changes and Reminders

HUD requires CoCs to review and rank projects submitted by project applicants (except CoC planning projects) having them fall into two Tiers based on a financial threshold. All projects must pass HUD's eligibility and threshold requirements to be funded, no matter their priority.

If a DV Bonus project is selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will be removed from the Priority Listing and the projects below it will move up one rank position. However, if a new DV Bonus project is not selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will retain its ranked position.

Tier 1

- Tier 1 projects will be conditionally selected from the highest-scoring CoC to the lowest-scoring CoC, provided the project applications pass both eligibility and threshold review, and if applicable, project renewal threshold.

- In the event insufficient funding is available under the NOFO to award all Tier 1 projects, Tier 1 will be reduced proportionately, which could result in some Tier 1

projects falling into Tier 2. Therefore, CoCs should carefully determine the priority and ranking for all project applications in Tier 1 as well as Tier 2.

Tier 2

- Project applications placed in Tier 2 will be assessed for project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements, and if applicable, project renewal threshold requirements.

- Projects in Tier 2 are less likely to be funded, and every Tier 2 project will be scored using a 100-point scale based on three factors:
  - **CoC Score.** Up to 50 points will be awarded in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application.
  - **CoC Project Ranking.** Up to 40 points will be assigned directly related to the CoC's ranking of the project application(s). Additional details are available on p. 14 of the NOFO.
  - **Commitment to Housing First.** Up to 10 points will be awarded based on the project application's commitment to follow a housing first approach that that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). Dedicated HMIS projects and coordinated entry SSO projects will automatically receive 10 points.

Important CoC Strategy Reminders

- HUD will not award funds to a new project unless the project was created through reallocation, or the CoC has demonstrated to HUD's satisfaction that projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the CoC's system performance as outlined in section VII.B.2.b of the NOFO.

- HUD will prioritize funding for CoCs that have demonstrated the capacity to reallocate funding from lower to higher performing projects.

- CoCs may only reallocate eligible renewal projects that have previously been renewed under the CoC Program.

Eligible New Projects

- CoCs may apply for new projects created through reallocation, CoC Bonus, a combination of reallocation and CoC Bonus, new DV Bonus, and CoC planning.
  - Because new project applications may be created through the reallocation or CoC Bonus processes, if HUD determines that a project applicant or a CoC incorrectly classified one or more new projects as reallocation or CoC Bonus, HUD may reclassify the project(s) as either reallocation or CoC Bonus if the CoC exceeded either its reallocation or CoC Bonus amount.

Homebase
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- o If a project applicant uses both reallocation and CoC Bonus amounts to create a single new project but did not have enough available from either source, HUD will reduce the project to the amount available, if any.
- HUD will review all new project applications to determine if they meet project quality threshold requirements. See pp. 48-52 of the NOFO for details.

Allowable Grant Terms

- The initial grant term for new project applications may be one year, two years, three years, four years, five years, or 15 years, but there are limitations depending on the grant type. Please see pp. 35-36 of the NOFO for details. The grant term may be extended consistent with 2 CFR 2 CFR 200.308 and 2 CFR 200.309. Please note that the total grant amount is divided among the grant years (e.g., you can receive $100,000 for one year, or $33,333 for 3 years).

- HUD will allow new projects to request one year of funding with a longer initial grant term not to exceed 18 months. HUD has determined that most new projects requesting one year of funding normally take approximately three to six months to begin fully operating the new project (e.g., hiring staff, developing partnerships with landowners if leasing or renting). Therefore, a new project requesting one year of funding may request a grant term of 12-18 months that will allow for the additional start-up process.

Transition Projects

- Applicants may transition their project(s) from one CoC Program component to another (e.g., Transitional Housing to Rapid Rehousing, Rapid Rehousing to Permanent Supportive Housing) over a one-year grant cycle.

- To create a transition grant, the CoC must wholly eliminate one or more projects and use those funds to create the single, new transition grant.

- The applicant must have the consent of the CoC, as indicated by:
  - o The project application identifying the project as a transition project, and
  - o The CoC ranking the new transition grant project on the New Project Listing in the FY 2022 CoC Priority Listing.

- **NEW IN 2022** CoCs will not be limited to only 50% of awarded funds to be used for the costs of eligible activities of the program component originally funded. Instead, recipients may use as much of the awarded grant funds on the costs of eligible activities of the program component originally funded; however, by the end of the operating year, the recipient must be fully operating the new program component. Recipients will be eligible for renewal in subsequent fiscal years for eligible activities of the new program component.

Consolidation Projects

- Applicants may consolidate up to ten renewal projects into one project during the application process.

Homebase
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- This means that a CoC Program recipient does not have to wait for a grant agreement amendment to be executed to consolidate two or more grants before it can apply for a single consolidated project in the CoC Program Competition.

- The projects being combined during a grant consolidation will continue uninterrupted.

- To be eligible for consolidation, projects must have the same recipient and be for the same component; and they will be funded in this competition only with FY 2022 funds (meaning no funds recaptured from prior years will be awarded to the project).

- A transitional housing and a permanent housing project cannot consolidate to form a Joint TH and PH-RRH component project. Transition grants cannot consolidate with any other project.

Expansion Projects

- HUD will allow project applicants to apply for a new expansion project under the DV Bonus, reallocation, and CoC bonus processes to expand existing projects by adding units, persons served, services provided to existing program participants, or to add additional activities to HMIS and SSO-CE projects.

- To request an expansion for a current CoC-Program-funded project, applicants will be required to submit two project applications:

    1. The renewal project application that will be expanded; and

    2. A new project application with just the expansion information.

- For the new expansion project to be selected for a conditional award the renewal project application must also be selected for conditional award.

Eligible Types of New Projects Created Through Bonus or Reallocated Funding

- **Permanent Supportive Housing** projects for persons experiencing chronic homelessness at the time they initially enroll in the project persons eligible to be served by DedicatedPLUS projects as described in Section III.B.2.g of the NOFO (in which case all units funded by the project must be used to serve program participants who meet the qualifications for DedicatedPLUS).

- **Rapid Rehousing** projects for people who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3 (and paragraph (3) if the CoC is approved to serve this population).

- **Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing** component projects for people who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3 (and paragraph (3) if the CoC is approved to serve this population).

- **Dedicated HMIS** project for the costs at 24 CFR 578.37(a)(4) that can only be carried out by the HMIS Lead, which is the recipient or subrecipient of an HMIS grant and is listed on the HMIS Lead form in the CoC Applicant Profile in *e-snaps*. 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.

- **Supportive services Only projects for Coordinated Entry** project to develop or operate a centralized or coordinated assessment system.

Eligible Types of New Projects Created Through Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus

- Through this NOFO, at least $52,000,000 is available nationally for DV Bonus projects, which are dedicated to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who qualify under paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3.

- A CoC may apply the following types of projects:
    - **Rapid Rehousing** that adopts a housing first approach and is dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3)
    - **Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing** that adopts a housing first approach and is dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3)
    - **Supportive Services Only projects for Coordinated Entry** to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (e.g., to implement policies and procedures that are trauma-informed and client-centered or to better coordinate referrals between the CoC's coordinated entry and the victim service providers coordinated entry system where they are different)

- **Number of Applications.** A CoC may apply for any number of PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH projects provided that each application is for at least $50,000. A CoC can only submit one project application for an SSO-CE project.

- **Expansion Projects.** A CoC may apply to expand an existing renewal project, including one that was previously funded with DV Bonus funding. DV Bonus funding may be used to expand an existing renewal project that is not dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking so long as the DV Bonus funds for expansion are solely for additional units, beds, or services dedicated to persons eligible to be served with DV Bonus funding.

- **Project Quality Threshold for DV Bonus.** To be eligible to receive a new DV Bonus project, a CoC must demonstrate it ranks projects based on how they improve system performance as outlined in Section VII.B.2.b of the NOFO. Additionally, to be eligible to receive a DV Bonus project for PH-RRH or Joint TH

and PH-RRH component, all projects funded through the DV Bonus must adopt a housing first approach.

- **Ranking.** CoCs are required to rank all DV Bonus projects on the New Project Listing of the CoC Priority Listing with a unique rank number and the corresponding renewal project application must be on the Renewal Project Listing with a unique rank number. A new DV Bonus project that expands an existing renewal project will only be selected if the renewal project is conditionally selected in Tier 1 or 2. If the renewal project application is selected for conditional award with CoC Program funds and the new DV Bonus expansion project is approved for selection, HUD will only select the new DV Bonus project with DV Bonus funds and HUD will remove the new DV Bonus project from the New Project Listing and all other project applications ranked below the new DV Bonus project will move up one rank position.

- ****REVISED in 2022** Scoring.** For new projects the CoC indicates it would like considered as part of the DV Bonus, HUD will award a point value to each project application combining both the CoC Application score and responses to the domestic violence bonus specific questions in
  the CoC Application using the following 100-point scale:

    o For Rapid Rehousing and Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing component projects:

        - *CoC Score.* Up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application.

        - *CoC Collaboration with Victim Service Providers*. Up to 10 points in direct proportion to the score received on the following rating factors in the CoC application: Section VII.B.1.e, Section VII.B.2.c, and Section VII.B.3.b.

        - *Need for the Project.* Up to 10 points based on the extent the CoC quantifies the need for the project in its portfolio, the extent of the need, and how the project will fill that gap.

        - *Quality of the Project Applicant.* Up to 15 points based on the previous performance of the applicant in serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and their ability to house survivors and meet safety outcomes.

        - *Demonstration of inclusion of victim-centered practices.* Up to 8 points based on the quality of the project's plan to address the housing and safety needs of survivors by adopting victim-centered practices (e.g., Housing First, Trauma-Informed Care, Confidentiality) in operating their project. Full points will be awarded to project applicants that can demonstrate they are already adopting victim-centered practices.

        - *Demonstration of plan to include survivors with lived expertise.* Up to 7 points based on the project's ability to demonstrate its plan to

involve survivors in policy and program development throughout the project's operation.

- o For Supportive Services Only Projects for Coordinated Entry:

  - *CoC Score.* Up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application.

  - *CoC Collaboration with Victim Service Providers.* Up to 10 points in direct proportion to the score received on the following rating factors in the CoC application: Section VII.B.1.e, Section VII.B.2.c, and Section VII.B.3.b.

  - *Need for the Project.* Up to 25 points based on the extent to which the CoC demonstrates the need for a coordinated entry system that better meets the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and how the project will fill this need.

  - *Demonstration of plan to include survivors with lived expertise.* Up to 15 points based on the project's ability to demonstrate its plan to involve survivors in policy and program development throughout the project's operation.

Important Points for Renewal Projects

- To be eligible for renewal in FY 2022, a project must have an executed grant agreement by December 31, 2022 and have an expiration date in Calendar Year (CY) 2023 (between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023).

- **Grant Term.** All CoC Program renewal project applications are limited to a one-year grant term and one year of funding. Any renewal permanent housing project that receives project-based rental assistance or operating costs may request up to a 15-year grant term; however, project applicants may only request one year of funding. The grant term may be extended consistent with 2 CFR 200.308 and 2 CFR 200.309.

- **Project Quality Threshold.** Any project requesting renewal funding will be considered as having met the project quality threshold requirements through its previously approved grant application unless information to the contrary is received (e.g., monitoring findings, results from investigations by HUD's Office of Inspector General, the recipient routinely does not draw down funds from eLOCCS at least once per quarter, consistently late APR submissions) and/or if the renewal project has compliance issues which results in the project not operating in accordance with the Rule.

- **Eligible Program Participants**

  - o **PH-PSH projects** must serve one of the following:

    - Program participants who are eligible for assistance under the project's current grant agreement;

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- Persons eligible to be served by DedicatedPLUS projects as described
  in Section III.B.2.g of the NOFO where all units funded by this project must be used to serve program participants who meet the qualifications for DedicatedPLUS; or

- Persons experiencing chronic homelessness at the time they initially enrolled in the project.

- o **PH-RRH, Joint TH and PH-RRH component, TH, and SSO projects** may serve persons who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3. Additionally, these projects may serve persons who qualify as homeless under paragraph (3) of 24 CFR 578.3 if the CoC is approved to serve persons in paragraph (3).

- o Renewal projects originally awarded under a previous year's **DV Bonus** must continue to serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who qualify under paragraph (4) of 24 CFR 578.3.

Important Points for All Project Applicants

- **Youth.** Youth aged 24 and under must not be required to provide third-party documentation that they meet the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3 as a condition for receiving services funded under the NOFO. Any youth-serving provider (a private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to youth aged 24 and under and families headed by youth aged 24 and under) funded under the NOFO may serve unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under or families headed by youth aged 24 and under who have an unsafe primary nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence. These youth-related requirements supersede any conflicting requirements under the NOFO or the Rule.

- **SAM Registration Requirement.** Applicants must be registered with https://www.sam.gov/SAM before submitting their application. Applicants must maintain current information in SAM on immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all predecessors that have been awarded a federal contract or grant within the last three years, if applicable. Information in SAM must be current for all times during which the applicant has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by HUD.

- ****NEW in 2022** UEI Number Requirement.** Applicants must provide a valid UEI number, registered and active at https://www.sam.gov/SAM in the application.

- **Code of Conduct.** All project applicants must ensure their organization has a Code of Conduct that complies with the requirements of 2 CFR part 200 and is on file with HUD. Be sure to review the Code of Conduct for HUD Grant Programs page on HUD's website to ensure your organization is listed (which means you have submitted an approved Code of Conduct). If you do not see

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your organization on the list, be sure to attach a current and complete Code of Conduct to your Project Applicant Profile in *e-snaps*.

- **2022 FMRs Will Apply.** Because the application submission deadline falls in FY 2022, HUD will use FY 2022 FMRs for funding amounts.

Community-Level Changes and Reminders

- ****REVISED IN 2022** Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Individuals.** HUD revised the rating factors for addressing the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals to place greater emphasis on CoCs implementing and training their providers on the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policies that ensure LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination. Further, points were added to Section VII.B.1.f of the NOFO that will be awarded to CoCs that are updating their CoC-wide anti-discrimination policies based on stakeholder feedback and assisting providers in developing their own agency anti-discrimination policies that are consistent with the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policies.

- ****NEW IN 2022** Utilizing Non-Congregate Sheltering.** HUD added an additional rating factor at Section VII.B.1.n that awards a point to CoCs that are increasing their capacity to provide non-congregate shelter, which may include non-congregate sheltering that is used to prevent the spread of infectious diseases or to protect highly vulnerable individuals from infectious diseases.

- ****REVISED IN 2022** Partnerships with State and Local Public Health Agencies.** Throughout the past two years, as CoCs responded to the challenges of COVID-19, partnerships were developed between CoCs, homeless service providers, and state and local public health agencies. In the FY 2021 CoC Program Competition, HUD asked CoCs to demonstrate how these partnerships increased the safety of people experiencing homelessness from contracting COVID-19 and helped people increase vaccination rates amongst people experiencing homelessness. In the FY 2022 CoC Program Competition, HUD is asking CoCs to demonstrate how they will build on these partnerships to ensure they are prepared to prevent and respond to future infectious disease outbreaks amongst people experiencing homelessness. See Section VII.B.1.o for more information.

- ****REVISED IN 2022** Racial Disparities.** HUD revised its rating factors regarding CoC evaluation of racial disparities to place greater emphasis on racial equity and increased the number of points in Section VII.B.1.q of the NOFO on whether CoCs and homeless providers have identified barriers that lead to racial disparities, have taken steps to eliminate barriers to improve racial equity, and have implemented measures to evaluate the efficacy of the steps taken.

- ****REVISED IN 2022** Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decision Making and Provide Professional Development and Employment Opportunities.** Points were added to Section VII.B.1.r of the NOFO for CoCs that demonstrate:

- o Outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decision-making processes

- o Individuals with lived experience of homelessness participate in CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups

- o Individuals with lived experience of homelessness are routinely included in decision-making processes of the CoC related to addressing homelessness (e.g., minutes from CoC or CoC Subcommittee meetings show people with lived experience are involved in decision-making)

- o Individuals with lived experience of homelessness are included in the development, or revision, of the local competition rating factors

- o Professional development (e.g., internships, continuing education, skill-based training) and employment opportunities are provided to individuals with lived experience of homelessness either within the CoC or by CoC membership organizations

- o Feedback is routinely gathered from people experiencing homelessness and people who have received assistance through the CoC or ESG program on their experience receiving assistance and the steps the CoC takes to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness

Persons with lived experience must have been homeless within the last seven years or are currently program participants. Full points are available if there is more than one person with lived experience of homelessness engaged in local CoC planning and at least one person with lived experience came from an unsheltered situation.

- ****NEW IN 2022** Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.** HUD added an additional rating factor at Section VII.B.1.t that awards a point to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supply. CoCs must describe at least 2 steps they have taken in the past 12 months that engage city, county, or state governments within their geographic area regarding the following:

  - o Reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; or

  - o Reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.

- ****REVISED IN 2022** Promoting Racial Equity in the Local CoC Process.** Points were added to Section VII.B.2.e of the NOFO that will be awarded to CoCs that are promoting racial equity through the local CoC competition. These points will be awarded on the rating factors; review, selection, and ranking processes used; and if rating and ranking of projects is based on the degree to which projects have identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those

over-represented in the local homelessness population, and are taking or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.

- **Leveraging Housing Resources.** CoCs may receive up to 7 bonus points in Section II.B.6.a of the NOFO (up from 5 points in 2021) if the CoC Priority Listing includes at least one new permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing project application created through reallocation or the CoC Bonus that utilizes housing subsidies or subsidized housing units funded through sources other than the CoC or ESG programs. The full 7 points will be awarded if at least 25% of the units (PSH) or participants (RRH) will be supported with non-CoC funded housing. CoCs must attach letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project. See Section VII.B.6.a of the NOFO for additional details.

- **Leveraging Healthcare Resources.** CoCs may receive up to 7 bonus points in Section II.B.6.b of the NOFO (up from 5 points in 2021) if the CoC Priority Listing at least one new permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing project application created through reallocation or the CoC Bonus that utilizes healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This must be documented with a written commitment from a health care organization to provide substance use treatment or recovery services to all interested program participants who qualify or to provide services equal in value to 25% of the funding being requested by the project. See Section VII.B.6.b of the NOFO for additional details.

- ****REVISED IN 2022** DV Bonus.** As described in Section II.B.11.e of the NOFO, for new projects the CoC would like to be considered as part of the DV Bonus, HUD revised the point value distribution for project applications based on the CoC Application score and responses to the revised domestic violence bonus specific questions in the project applications. For the FY 2022 CoC Program Competition, HUD added scoring factors based on the responses to questions that demonstrate CoCs' collaboration with victim service providers in the CoC Application, projects' plans to include survivors with lived experience in policy and program development and the inclusion of victim- centered practices in operating their projects.

- ****REVISED IN 2022** Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE).** In the FY 2021 competition, Tribes and TDHEs were eligible to apply for projects through existing CoCs only. In the FY 2022 competition, HUD published PPRNs for all formula areas, as that term is defined in the Indian Housing Block Grant program at 24 CFR 1000.302, including tribal formula areas, and allowed CoCs to include tribal formula areas in their CoC geography during the FY 2022 CoC Program registration process. A Tribe or TDHE could also form a CoC including only tribal formula areas as part of their geography through the CoC registration process. Additionally, beginning in FY 2022 CoC Program Competition Tribes and TDHEs can be designated as Collaborative Applicants.

- ****REVISED in 2022** CoC Mergers.** To encourage CoC mergers and mitigate the potential adverse scoring implications that may occur when a high-performing CoC merges with one or more lower-performing CoC(s), HUD will award up to 25 bonus points (up from 15 in 2021) to CoCs that first registered as a merged CoC between the FY 2021 and FY 2022 CoC Program Registration process.

- **Projects on Reservations and Trust Land.** Applicants that propose to locate a project on a reservation or trust land must include a tribal resolution from the tribe authorizing the applicant to do so or a letter from an official or principal of the Indian Tribe or TDHE who is authorized to act on behalf of the Indian Tribe or TDHE indicating approval. Tribes do not need to include a tribal resolution or a letter from an official of the Indian Tribe or TDHE who is authorized to act on behalf of the Indian Tribe or TDHE to site a project on their own reservation or trust land. A tribal resolution is the formal way the tribal government expresses its legislative will in accordance with its organic documents. In the absence of such organic documents, a written expression adopted pursuant to tribal practices will be acceptable.

- **Participative Planning and Implementation.** Applicants must identify the steps they will take to ensure that traditionally marginalized populations (such as racial and ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities) will be able to meaningfully participate in the planning process. The applicant must identify the specific populations that it will include, identify community organizations that represent these populations, and describe how these populations will be included in the planning process. In seeking public participation, applicants and recipients must ensure that all communications are provided in a manner that is effective for persons with hearing, visual, and other communication-related disabilities consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and, as applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d require that grantees take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to services, programs, and activities by persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP persons).

- **Homelessness and Human Trafficking.** HUD is clarifying that persons who are fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking may qualify as homeless under paragraph (4) of the homeless definition at 24 CFR 578.3; and, therefore, the individuals may be eligible for certain forms of homeless assistance under the CoC Program, subject to other restrictions that may apply. HUD considers human trafficking, including sex trafficking, to be "other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member" under paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3.

- **Compliance with Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Rule. VAWA** provides various protections to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking under the CoC Program and other HUD programs. The grants to be awarded under the NOFO must comply with the VAWA rule as provided in 24 CFR 578.99(j). Among other obligations to comply, each CoC must have an established emergency transfer plan (24 CFR 578.7(d)) and make

related updates to the written standards for administering CoC program assistance under 24 CFR 578.7(a)(9)(ii), (iii) and (v).

Resources

- 2022 CoC NOFO Competition Page: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2022-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/

- 2022 CoC NOFO: https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=342855

- CoC Program Interim Rule (24 CFR part 578): https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2018-title24-vol3/xml/CFR-2018-title24-vol3-part578.xml

- Application Pages
  - Access E-snaps Application System: https://esnaps.hud.gov
  - E-snaps Information: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/
  - Code of Conduct for HUD Grant Programs: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/conductgrants
  - System for Award Management (SAM): https://www.sam.gov/SAM

- Miscellaneous HUD Websites
  - General site: www.hud.gov
  - General site: www.hudexchange.info
  - Training and Resources: www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/
  - Subscribe to HUD Listserv: www.hudexchange.info/mailinglist
  - Ask A Question (AAQ) Portal: https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/

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