The City of

OKLAHOMA CITY

Planning Department
Community Development Division
420 W. Main, Suite 920, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
FOR
CONTINUUM OF CARE 2021

Introduction:

On August 18, 2021, the Department of Housing and Urban Development released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the 2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. This announcement is to notify all parties seeking new or renewal funding of the changes and requirements for this year's competition and should be read in full. A technical assistance/question & answer session will be held on **Friday September 10, 2021, at 10am** via Microsoft Teams. **https://teams.microsoft.com/ l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_YzIzMGUxNjYtMTczZS00NDlhLTk3NjAtYmZkYmUzYjc0YjMx% 40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22837e0d97-dd9d-4d00-97e6-88f05a32ee59%22%2c% 22Oid%22%3a%223769cf10-cb31-4900-9d9c-f838cf7296ab%22%7d** (Copy and paste link) or call in 405-534-4946 Phone Conference IS: 337 001 380# Attendance of this meetings is *__mandatory__* for any organization submitting a **renewal, new project, expansion, or consolidated application**. The type of projects requested and criteria that must be followed by each entity wishing to be considered for funding are outlined below.

General Information:

The purpose of the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs is to fund projects that will fill gaps in locally developed Continuum of Care systems to assist homeless persons to move to self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

ALL project applicants are strongly advised to read the full text of the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the 2021 CoC Program before applying. If an applicant does not have access to the NOFA they may request a copy from the CoC lead.

Bonus (New) Projects: HUD has announced there are funds available for Bonus Projects in the 2021 Continuum of Care Competition. CoCs may propose up to 5% of their final pro rata need (FPRN) for bonus projects and CoCs may propose more than one project. The amount of funds available for Bonus Projects is $216,028. In addition to the bonus funds, additional funding may be made available through the reallocation process as determined by the CoC Board.

New projects can be for either Permanent Supportive Housing, Permanent Housing-Rapid Re-housing, Joint TH – PH-Rapid Re-Housing and Dedicated HMIS project, Supportive Services only Coordinated Entry projects. All new Permanent Supportive Housing must either be 100% dedicated to serve the chronically homeless or must meet the requirements of HUD's DedicatedPLUS designation. It is preferred that all new Rapid Re-housing serve homeless families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelter. However, projects serving homeless individuals and youth are also eligible.

DV Bonus: HUD has announced there are funds available for DV Bonus projects in the 2021 Continuum of Care Competition. These projects should be designed to provide housing and services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. The CoC may apply for up to 15% of their preliminary pro rata need (PPRN). The eligible project types are: Permanent Housing-Rapid Re-Housing, Joint TH - Rapid Re-Housing and Supportive services only

Coordinated Entry. The amount of funds available for DV Bonus is $648,085, additional funding may be made available through the reallocation process as determined by the CoC Board.

Renewal: Renewal project applications are limited to a one (1) year term. Renewing Permanent Supportive Housing projects may only serve persons coming directly from non-housing, emergency shelter, or transitional housing for homeless persons. All eligible applicants for renewal grants must be able to document that they are fully participating (entering all required data on all homeless clients) in HMIS/Service Point. Entities proposing renewal projects must demonstrate they meet or exceed HUD performance measurements. If the entity or the renewal project does not meet the minimum HUD standards, the CoC Board has the discretion to transfer the project to another CoC service provider or reallocate the funds to a new project.

Renewal projects that currently serve 100% chronically homeless may either change their service population to DedicatedPLUS in the 2021 CoC Competition or continue to serve 100% chronically homeless. Projects that were awarded as DedicatedPLUS in previous CoC Program Competitions are required to include households with children to qualify as a DedicatedPLUS project in the FY 2021 Competition.

Renewal Project Expansion: HUD is allowing renewal projects to apply for funds to expand their projects in the 2021 CoC Competition so that they may serve more individuals and families. Renewal applicants who wish to apply for expansion must fill out the project expansion supplement and submit it with their application. Expansion requests cannot exceed the amount of available bonus and reallocation funds. Expansion projects will be scored and ranked with bonus project applications and separately from the renewal project to be expanded. In esnaps, renewing applicants requesting expansion will be required to submit a renewal project application and a new project application with the expansion information.

Project Consolidation: Eligible renewal project applicants will have the ability to consolidate two or more eligible renewal projects (but no more than ten projects) into one project application during the application process. 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. To apply for a consolidated grant, applicants must submit separate renewal project applications for each of the grants that are proposed to be consolidated, and an application for the new consolidated grant with the combined budget and information of all grants proposed for consolidation.

Project Ranking: All projects will be prioritized and ranked by the Continuum of Care Board into Tiers based on their project application score. Tiers are financial thresholds that HUD requires CoCs to use for project ranking. A project may straddle the tiers. Tier 1 is equal to 100% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation, and CoC Bonus funds than a CoC can apply for. CoC's total ARD plus any amount available for CoC Bonus projects, not including amounts available for DV Bonus projects. The Oklahoma City CoC's total estimated ARD is (**$3,818,357).**

Tier 1	$3,818,357
Tier 2	$864,113

Grant terms for new projects: New projects may request terms of 1 or 2 years but no greater than 2 years. HUD will allow new projects to request 1 year of funding with a longer initial grant term not to exceed 18 months. HUD has determined most new projects requesting 1 year of funding normally take approximately 3 to 6 months to begin fully operating the new project. Therefore, a new project requesting 1 year of funding may request a grant term of 12 months to18 months that will allow for additional start-up process.

Eligible Applicants:

- Must be a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization
- Must have a DUNS number and be registered with SAM –System for Award Management (previously CCR – Central Contractor Registry) and not be on the Excluded Parties List
- Must have experience in providing housing and supportive services to the homeless population

Ineligible Activities:

Homeless prevention and emergency shelter activities are statutorily ineligible under the Continuum of Care program.

Type of Projects Being Requested:

Projects seeking CoC funds must meet all the following objectives related to housing and serving the City's homeless population:

- Help homeless individuals, youth and families obtain and then remain in permanent housing
- Increase the skills and income of homeless individuals, youth and families.
- Help move homeless individuals, youth and families quickly out of shelters
- Help homeless individuals, youth and families achieve greater self-determination.

HUD Eligible Projects Include:

(1)   Renewal Projects
(a)   PH-PSH renewal projects must serve one of the following:
(i) program participants who are eligible for assistance under the project's current grant agreement;
(ii) persons eligible to be served by DedicatedPLUS projects as described in Section III.B.2.g of this NOFO where all units funded by this project must be used to serve program participants who meet the qualifications for DedicatedPLUS;
Or   (iii) persons experiencing chronic homelessness at the time they initially enrolled in the project.
(b)   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.
(c)   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.
(d)   YHDP renewal projects must serve youth experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied, pregnant and parenting youth, where no member of the household is older than 24.
(2)   New Projects
(a)   New PH-PSH projects must serve one of the following:
(i) persons eligible to be served by DedicatedPLUS projects as described
in Section III.B.2.g of this NOFO in which case all units funded by the project must be used to serve program participants who meet the qualifications for DedicatedPLUS; or
(ii) persons experiencing chronic homelessness at the time they initially enroll in the project.
(b)   New PH-RRH, Joint TH and PH-RRH, and Coordinated SSO projects may serve persons who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3.
(c)   New DV Bonus projects (RRH, Joint TH and PH-RRH, and Coordinated Entry SSO) must serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

COORDINATED ENTRY PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT:

The Department of Housing and Urban Development requires that every Continuum of Care develop a coordinated system of assessment and services. HUD has further required that this system prioritize clients based on information gathered during assessment and that CoC providers begin accepting ALL new clients through it. The Oklahoma City coordinated services system utilizes a prioritized, by-name list of clients to make referrals during weekly Coordinated Case Management meetings. Every CoC Permanent Supportive Housing provider must have a representative at these meetings and be receiving ALL clients through this system.

Project Submittal Information:

Oklahoma City is the collaborative applicant for the CoC application to HUD. All project applicants must submit the Local Priorities Application via email to the collaborative applicant at **jerod.shadid@okc.gov** and cc: **stacy.tarpley@okc.gov** during the period **starting 10:00 a.m. September 10, 2021 and ending 5:00pm October 1, 2021**. All new, renewal and expansion project applicants must also complete the full CoC Project Application for FY 2021 in eSnaps at **https://esnaps.hud.gov** by **5:00 p.m. October 15, 2021** and notify the collaborative applicant the project application has been completed. Project Applicants **SHOULD NOT** submit their application in esnaps.

Applying organizations are responsible for ensuring all applications are complete before contacting the collaborative applicant.

Please contact Jerod Shadid at **jerod.shadid@okc.gov** or **(405) 297-3608** or Stacy Tarpley at **stacy.tarpley@okc.gov** or **(405) 297-2128** for any questions you may have regarding this solicitation.

For more information, the full text of the Federal NOFA can be found at the address below.

FY21_Continuum_of_Care_Competition.pdf (hud.gov)

DesignatedPLUS Project Requirements:

(From 2021 CoC NOFA)

DedicatedPLUS project. g. DedicatedPLUS Project. A permanent supportive housing project where 100 percent of the beds are dedicated to serve individuals, households with children, and unaccompanied youth (including pregnant and parenting youth) that at intake meet one of the following categories:

(1) experiencing chronic homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 578.3;

(2) residing in a transitional housing project that will be eliminated and meets the definition of chronically homeless in effect at the time in which the individual or family entered the transitional housing project;

(3) residing in a place not meant for human habitation, emergency shelter, or Safe Haven and had been admitted and enrolled in a permanent housing project within the last year but were unable to maintain a housing placement and met the definition of chronic homeless as defined by 24 CFR 578.3 prior to entering the project;

(4) residing in transitional housing funded by a Joint TH and PH-RRH component project and who were experiencing chronic homelessness as defined at 24 CFR 578.3;

(5) residing and has resided in a place not meant for human habitation, Safe Haven, or emergency shelter for at least 12 months in the last three years, but has not done so on four separate occasions and the individual or head of household meet the definition of 'homeless individual with a disability; or

(6) receiving assistance through a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-funded homeless assistance program and met one of the above criteria at initial intake to the VA's homeless assistance system.

A renewal project where 100 percent of the beds were dedicated to chronically homeless individuals and families, as described in Section III.B.2.b, under the grant that is being renewed may either become a DedicatedPLUS project or may continue to dedicate 100 percent of its beds to chronically homeless individuals and families. If a renewal project that has 100 percent of its beds dedicated to chronically homeless individuals and families elects to become a DedicatedPLUS project, the project will be required to adhere to all fair housing requirements at 24 CFR 578.93.

Projects that were awarded as DedicatedPLUS in a previous CoC Program Competition are required to include households with children to qualify as a DedicatedPLUS project in the FY 2021 CoC Program Competition.

HUD's Homeless Policy and Program Priorities

The following are HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities as listed in the 2021 Continuum of Care Program NOFA. All applicants should read these priorities and carefully consider them when completing their application.

A.   Policy Priorities. This section provides additional context regarding the selection criteria found in Section VII.B of this NOFO and is 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 partner with housing, health care, and supportive services providers to expand housing options, such as permanent supportive housing, housing subsidies, and rapid rehousing. 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. 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 to identify an inventory of housing available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods. HUD encourages CoCs to assess how well Housing First approaches are being implemented in their communities.

3.   Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness. 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. CoCs should identify permanent housing options for people who are unsheltered.

4.   Improving System Performance. 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. 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. CoCs should review all projects eligible for renewal in FY 2021 to determine their effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness, including cost-effectiveness. CoCs should also look for opportunities to implement continuous quality improvement and other process improvement strategies. HUD recognizes the effects of COVID-19 on CoC performance and data quality and, compared to previous CoC NOFOs, reduces the points available for rating factors related to system performance. However, HUD plans to significantly increase the points available for system performance rating factors in the FY 2022 and subsequent CoC NOFOs.

5.   Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies. 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. HUD encourages CoCs to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing

homelessness and should:

a.   work closely with public and private healthcare organizations and assist program participants to obtain medical insurance to address healthcare needs;

b.   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;

c.   partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment opportunities; and

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

7.   Persons with Lived Experience. HUD is encouraging CoCs to include in the local planning process people who are currently experiencing or have formerly experienced homelessness to address homelessness. People with lived experience should determine how local policies may need to be revised and updated, participate in CoC meetings and committees as stakeholders, provide input on decisions, and provide input related to the local competition process (e.g., how rating factors are determined). CoCs should seek opportunities to hire people with lived experience.

DEFINITIONS

Refer to this list for terms in this NOFA as well as both the Local Priorities and eSnaps Applications.

By-Name List: The Oklahoma City CoC has four separate by -name lists that are updated and maintained by partner agencies; these are literally names that identify people experiencing homelessness in the community by name and prioritize housing placements and case management resources based on VI-SPDAT scores. The subpopulations included in those by-name lists are as follows: Chronic, Veteran, Youth, and Family. These by-name Lists are the mechanism by which clients are moved from prescreen for vulnerability to case management and housing placement. The list is updated based on VI-SPDATs that have been inputted at any agency in the community and entered into HMIS. The list is managed based on vulnerability rather than the entry date to the coordinated entry system. VI-SPDAT scores are ranked such that clients are served in order of vulnerability. It is important to note that the family by-name list is not currently being maintained community-wide; agency participation in the family by-name list is preferred but not required. It is also important to note that apart from the family list, there is only one list per population for the entire community; individual agencies do not maintain their own priority lists or waiting lists. Prioritization for all placements through partner agencies should come from the appropriate by-name list. Since all prioritization occurs via this list it is also referred to as the 'Master List'.

Chronically Homeless (HUD Definition): To be considered chronically homeless, a person must have a disability and have been living in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter (including hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs), or transitional housing for the last 12 months continuously or on at least four occasions in the last three years where those occasions cumulatively total at least 12 months.

CoC: The Oklahoma City Continuum of Care Committee (OKC CoC) is a committee comprised of citizens and non-profit service providers interested in working on community homeless and poverty issues. The OKC CoC Committee provides oversight in coordinating competitive and formula programs specific to serving the City's homeless population. This group also makes funding recommendations for the City's Social Services grant. The HUD Continuum of Care Grant is an annual competitive grant that builds on the previous year's performance in developing specialized housing with supports for those who are homeless, chronically homeless and have significant disabilities.

Disability (HUD Definition): A physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury that is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration, substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently, and could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions.

Fleeing domestic abuse or violence (HUD Definition Category 4): Any individual or family who: (i) Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence; (ii) Has no other residence; and (iii) Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

HMIS: (Homeless Management Information System) This is the database used to record and track client-level information. HMIS ties together homeless service providers within a community to help create a more coordinated and effective housing and service delivery system. The City of Oklahoma City's HMIS is staffed by a contracted administrator. The software provider is Bowman Systems, Service Point.

Housing First: This model provides housing first, and then combines that housing with supportive treatment services in the areas of mental and physical health, substance abuse, education, and employment. Housing is provided in apartments scattered throughout a community.

Journey Home OKC: This is the name of Oklahoma City's initiative that emphasizes housing homeless veterans and people experiencing chronic homelessness and provides them with wraparound case management services. Journey Home OKC is comprised of over 40 government, non-profit, and faith-based organizations that work together to end veteran and chronic homelessness. All Journey Home partner organizations house clients from the prioritized By- Name List and all CoC funded projects are required to take *all* of their clients from the list. The Journey Home initiative also emphasizes housing families and youth through the same approach.

Literally Homeless (HUD Definition Category 1): Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning: (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): PSH is a program that helps eligible people find a permanent home and also connects them to case management and other supportive services in the community. Permanent Supportive Housing is prioritized for the most vulnerable people in the community.

Rapid Re-housing (RRH): *RRH* is designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent *housing.* Rapid re-housing is prioritized by medium acuity levels as determined by the VI-SPDAT. This assistance is generally shorter and less intensive than PSH.

Unaccompanied Youth: These are people under the age of 24 who present for services without an adult. This definition applies to local program planning and reporting to other funders; HUD defines youth as 18-24 and classifies 17 and below as children.

VI-SPDAT: *(Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool)* The prescreen triage tool our community uses to assess vulnerability in single adults. The assessment is scored, and scores are sorted into three ranges; those that are not recommended for housing intervention, those recommended for rapid rehousing intervention, and those recommended for permanent supported housing/Housing First. VI-SPDAT is used as a general term, and may be used to include the VI-FSPDAT and TAY-VI-SPDAT when talking about the assessment in general.