2018 Continuum of Care Program Competition: Strategies for Success

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2:30 – 4:00 p.m. EDT

Panelists

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Webinar Format

- 90 minute webinar

- Approximately 25 minutes for questions

- To ask a question at any time, use the question and answer feature

- For answers to more specific questions about the NOFA, to read Frequently Asked Questions, and to Ask A Question specific to HUD's policies, visit the 2018 CoC Program Competition page on the **HUD Exchange**

This webinar will be recorded and posted to *www.usich.gov*

Webinar Agenda

I.   Advancing the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

II. Overview of the 2018 Competition
- What's Different This Year?
- Policy Priorities
- Tiering and Scoring
- Consolidation
- Reallocation
- Bonuses

III. Strategies for Success

IV. Helpful Resources

V.   Question and Answer Session

Advancing the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent & End Homelessness

*To ensure that homelessness is **rare, brief**, and **one time***

- Prevent and end homelessness among **Veterans**;

- Finish the job of ending **chronic homelessness**;

- Prevent and end homelessness for **families with children**;

- Prevent and end homelessness among **young people**; and

- End homelessness for **all other individuals**

Overview of the Competition

- Approximately **$2.1 billion** in funding is available

- This is a **competitive** NOFA, meaning that there is a strong emphasis on **system performance**

- Similar **tiering** and **selection process** as the 2017 Competition

- Deadline: **September 18, 2018** (8:00 p.m. EDT)

What's Different This Year?

Most Significant Changes in the CoC Competition in 2018:

- **Consolidations**

- **Transition Grants**

- **Bonus for Project Serving Survivors of Domestic Violence**

- **Expanded Bonus**
  - Permanent Supportive Housing
  - Rapid Re-Housing
  - Joint Component Projects (TH and RRH)
  - Coordinated Entry (SSO)
  - HMIS

- **Bonus for Mergers (2016-2018)**

Policy Priorities

1. Ending homelessness for all persons

- **Identify, engage,** and **effectively serve** everyone

- Implement **comprehensive outreach**

- **Measure performance** using local data

- Use **local data** to understand characteristics of homelessness and develop housing and services

- Use **reallocation** to create new projects that improve overall performance and better respond to local needs

Policy Priorities

2. Create a systemic response to homelessness

- Use **system performance measures** to determine system effectiveness
  - Average length of homeless episodes
  - Rates of return to homelessness
  - Rates of exit to permanent housing

- Use **coordinated entry** to:
  - Promote participant choice
  - Coordinate homelessness assistance and mainstream housing and services; and
  - Ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance **quickly**, make homelessness assistance **open**, **inclusive**, and **transparent**

Policy Priorities

3. Strategically allocate and use resources

- **Use data** to improve how resources are utilized

- Review project **quality**, **performance**, and **cost-effectiveness**

- **Maximize** the use of mainstream and other community-based resources

- **Review all projects** eligible for renewal to determine effectiveness

Policy Priorities

4. Use a Housing First Approach

- **Remove barriers to entry**, and **adopt client-centered service methods**

- Help families and individuals **move quickly into permanent housing**

- **Measure** and help projects **reduce the length of time** people experience homelessness

- Engage **landlords and property owners**

Tiering

Tier 1

- Total of 94% of CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)
  - Can include any type of new or renewal project application, including TH
  - CoCs should be ranking all projects based on performance, using appropriate metrics for the population served, and local needs

Tier 2

- Tier 2 = ARD
  + Total Amount Available for Bonus*
  - Tier 1 Amount
  Tier 2

  *not including amounts available for this year's bonus for survivors of domestic violence

CoC Planning and Unified Funding Agency Costs

- These costs are not ranked and not included in either Tier 1 or Tier 2
- CoCs **must** apply separately for these costs

Tiering and Scoring

Tier 1

- **CoC Coordination and Engagement:** 48
- **Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking:** 29
- **HMIS:** 13
- **PIT:** 6
- **System Performance:** 56
- **Performance and Strategic Planning:** 48
- **CoC Merger Bonus Points:** 5-25

In Tier 2 scoring, there was another small increase in points related to the CoC project ranking.

- **Tier 2 scoring:** 100-point scale per project
  - CoC score: up to 50 points
  - CoC project ranking: up to 40 points
  - Commitment to Housing First: up to 10 points

Tiering and Scoring

Scoring Highlights: CoC Coordination and Engagement

- **Housing First**
  - HUD is encouraging communities to have implemented Housing First approaches across at least **75%** of all project applications.

  Resource: For our Housing First checklist, visit www.usich.gov/solutions/housing

- **Public Housing Agencies**
  - CoCs that have worked with local PHAs to establish Moving On strategies— implementing admission preferences for clients wanting to move on from PSH — as well as communities where PHAs demonstrate that at least 20% of new admissions were individuals or families experiencing homelessness upon admission, will be awarded up to 5 points.

- **Criminalization**
  - Communities are encouraged to implement specific strategies and leverage partnerships to ensure homelessness is not criminalized.

  Resource: USICH's brief on Constructive Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness: https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/searching-out-solutions

Tiering and Scoring

Scoring Highlights: CoC Coordination and Engagement

- **Addressing Racial Disparities in Homelessness**
  - HUD is encouraging communities to assess whether there are racial disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance, and if present, take or plan to take steps to address such disparities.

- **Centralized or Coordinated Assessment**
  - HUD is emphasizing five key elements of strong implementation of coordinated entry :
    - Comprehensive geographic coverage
    - Reaching those least likely to have access
    - Timely and effective assessment and prioritization
    - Using standardized assessment tools
    - Engaging with a variety of partners

*Remember to include your community's **standardized assessment tool** or tools in your application package.*

Tiering and Scoring

Scoring Highlights: System Performance

- Greater emphasis on:
  - Reducing the **length of time** individuals and families remain homeless;
  - Reducing the number of **returns** to homelessness; and
  - Demonstrating successful permanent housing **retention**

Scoring Highlights: Performance and Strategic Planning

- Ending **Chronic** Homelessness
  - Prioritizing people experiencing chronic homelessness
  - 90% of permanent supportive housing beds are either dedicated to people experiencing chronic homelessness or DedicatedPlus beds
  - Reducing chronic homelessness

A refresher on **DedicatedPlus** beds is accessible at:

https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3247/can-you-explain-the-difference-between-beds-dedicated-to-chronically/

DedicatedPLUS

A few examples

- Permanent Supportive Housing where **100% of beds** are dedicated to serve individuals with disabilities and families in which one adult or child has a disability, including unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, that at intake were:
  - residing in transitional housing that will be eliminated and who met the definition of chronically homeless when they entered that transitional housing project;
  - had previously experienced chronic homelessness and were residing in permanent supportive housing within the last year, but are now experiencing unsheltered homelessness because they exited the permanent supportive housing program; or
  - are receiving assistance through a VA-funded homelessness assistance program and met one of the other criteria at intake for that program.
  - There are other important eligibility criteria and opportunities in the NOFA that you should pay close attention to as well.
  - Communities should look carefully at their data to understand if DedicatedPLUS beds are needed and would help to increase access to permanent supportive housing for people who need it.
- For communities interested in expanding housing options to include DedicatedPLUS beds, it's important to note that all permanent supportive housing, both new and renewal projects, can choose the DedicatedPLUS option through their project application process without reallocating.

Tiering and Scoring

Scoring Highlights: Performance and Strategic Planning

- Ending Homelessness Among **Families**
  - Prioritizing households based on need
  - Leveraging effective rapid re-housing strategies
  - Ensuring projects do not deny admission or separate family members
  - Reducing family homelessness
  - Connecting children ages 0-5 to education opportunities

- Ending **Youth** Homelessness
  - Prioritizing unaccompanied youth based on need
  - Addressing the unique circumstances and needs of youth
  - Increasing housing and services for youth experiencing homelessness
  - Collaborating with local education authorities and school districts

- Ending **Veteran** Homelessness
  - Reducing Veteran homelessness
  - Reducing the number of Veterans experiencing unsheltered homelessness
  - Identifying, assessing, and referring veterans to the local VA

UFA and **Planning** grants are not tiered or ranked, so apply for them separately!

Consolidation

- Opportunity to consolidate two or more renewal projects of the **same type**, managed by the **same grantee**

- Different than and not compatible with **transition grants**

- Applicants should work with your **local HUD field office** to ensure that each project is **eligible** to be consolidated

- Transitional housing and rapid re-housing projects **cannot be consolidated** to form a joint transitional housing-rapid re-housing project

Reallocation

- **Permanent Supportive Housing**
  - Where projects are either:
    - DedicatedPLUS or
    - New Permanent Supportive Housing projects where 100% of the beds are dedicated to chronic homelessness

- **Rapid Re-Housing**
  - Serving families and individuals experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth

- **Joint TH and PH-RRH Component**
  - Serving families and individuals experiencing homelessness, including youth and those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence
  - Able to serve all categories of homelessness under the definition

- **Coordinated Entry (SSO)**

- **HMIS Projects**

Reallocation

Transition Grants

- Designed in response to communities' requests for flexibility

- Use the **reallocation process** to reallocate the existing eligible renewal component to: PSH, RRH, Joint Component, HMIS, or SSO-Coordinated Entry projects

- The new project must be from the **same grantee** as the grant being eliminated; transition grants must be for **1 year**

- Transition grants **cannot** also use **the consolidation** process

- Applicants for transition grants **should not** also apply for renewal under the old component type

Reallocation

Making reallocation decisions:

- Use transition grants to **better meet the needs** in your community

- Be purposeful

- Focus on **performance** and **outcomes**

- Evaluate projects using a **fair** and **transparent** process

- Compare projects **population by population**

- Use reallocation to **fill gaps** in the community

Bonus

Up to **6%** of the CoC's FPRN for the follow types of new projects:

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid Re-housing
- Joint Component Projects
- HMIS
- Coordinated Entry (SSO)

- Communities can apply for more than one bonus project if they have **demonstrated their ability** to reallocate lower performing projects

Bonus for Projects Serving Survivors

$50 million is available for **new** projects targeted to **serving survivors** of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking

- Each CoC can apply for **up to 3** bonus projects (one of each type)

- These bonus projects must have a **Housing First** orientation

- CoC Program-funded projects **cannot** request an expansion of a renewal project using these funds

- Projects **not** already funded through the CoC can apply for these funds to expand their projects with beds or services dedicated to survivors

- Eligible project types: **RRH**, **coordinated entry**, and **joint component** (TH-RRH) projects

Bonus for Projects Serving Survivors

Ranking

These bonus projects **must be** ranked in your CoC's New Project Listing

- If a CoC's bonus projects for survivors are selected, HUD will remove the selected bonus projects from the CoC's priority listing. As a result, projects that had originally been ranked below the selected bonus projects for survivors will move up.

- If a CoC's projects serving survivors are not selected for bonus funding, then the DV bonus projects will remain on the CoC's priority listing **and** will be eligible for funding as bonus projects through the CoC program.

*A focus on **integration** with the broader system, **safety,** and **trauma-informed** services for people participating in programs should be at the forefront.*

Strategies for Success

1. Using a performance scorecard or HUD's rating and ranking tool to rank projects

2. Using intervention-appropriate metrics to measure the performance of programs, particularly those serving youth and survivors of domestic violence

3. Using best practices in designing an effective, transparent coordinated entry system that promotes participant choice and engages all parts of the system

Strategies for Success

4. Reallocating based on a fair process, as well as a thorough and transparent evaluation of projects, reallocating away from projects that are underutilized or underperforming

5. Reviewing every application to ensure that information is accurate

6. Prioritizing admission of turnover PSH units to people experiencing chronic homelessness, employing a Housing First approach, and leveraging other resources, including Medicaid, for supportive services

7. Prioritizing planning and data-gathering in the CoC process

Common Strategies to Avoid

1. Shaving a little from each project does not allow for effective implementation or prioritization.

2. Applying for projects that are underutilized, underperforming, or that no longer meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. Reallocate instead.

3. Using closed and subjective ranking processes – they don't reflect an effective approach to ranking.

4. Leaving funding on the table.

Helpful Resources

- **HUD Resources:**
  - HUD Exchange> CoC Program> News > The FY2018 CoC Program Competition and e-snaps are Now Open:
    - Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
    - What's New, Changes, and Highlights
    - Ask-A-Question
  - Coordinated Entry Notice

- **USICH Resources (www.usich.gov)**
  - Housing First Checklist
  - Constructive Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness
  - Enhancing Coordinated Entry Partnerships

- **Technical Assistance** to Strengthen Partnerships with Domestic Violence Service Providers www.safehousingpartnerships.org

Quick Break

We're taking a brief break between our presentation and the Q & A session to gather your questions.

We'll be back in just a few minutes.

Questions?

To ask a question, use the "Question and Answer" feature now.

We will get to as many questions as we can in the time remaining.

For answers to more specific questions about the NOFA visit:

• FAQs: https://www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/faqs/

• Ask-A-Question: https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/

www.usich.gov