

FY 2016 Continuum of Care Program NOFA

Summary

Prepared by the Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc.

On June 29, 2016, HUD published its [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2016 Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\)](#). Additional notices and sections of the NOFA (e.g., [FY16 General Section](#) and [FY16 CoC Registration](#)) have been released previously and can be found online.

This summary highlights some of the areas that are new this year; however CoCs and applicants are strongly encouraged to review not only the NOFA and related e-snaps application components such as the detailed instructions in e-snaps, but also the [CoC Program interim rule](#) and other competition materials (FAQs and NOFA related broadcasts) that are made available on the [HUD Exchange website](#). One or more HUD Broadcasts will occur during NOFA period and once published can be found at the [FY2016 Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Program NOFA: CoC Program Competition](#) webpage.

Deadline: September 14, 2016, 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time

Application Components

The application components and training modules are available through [e-snaps](#) and the instructional guides are available on the [HUD Exchange](#).

- All applications must be submitted from a Collaborative Applicant on behalf of the CoC online through [e-snaps](#) by the HUD established deadline.
- The process for submitting the CoC Consolidated Application includes three-parts:
 1. *FY 16 CoC Application* (formerly known as Exhibit 1): information about CoC planning body, governance structure, overall performance, and the strategic planning process. This will be scored and will determine the order in which CoCs are funded. There are many new questions this year.
 - *Attachments:*
 - *CoC Review, Score and Ranking Procedures*
 - *CoC's Process for Reallocating*
 - *Public Posting of FY 2016 Project Selections, Ranking and CoC Application*
 - *Governance Charter (HMIS Governance)*
 - *PHA Administrative Plan (if applicable)*
 - *HDX Report showing system performance measures were submitted to HUD*
 2. *FY 16 Project Application(s)* (formerly known as Exhibit 2): completed by project applicants for new projects, CoC planning funds, UFA funds, and renewal project funds. Will include a project description (e.g., who the project will serve, the type of housing, etc.) and budget activities.
 - *Attachments:*
 - *SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance*
 - *SF-424 Supplemental, Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunities (voluntary)*
 - *Documentation of Applicant and Subrecipient Eligibility*

- *Applicant Certifications*
 - *Form HUD-2880 dated between May 1, 2016 and September 14, 2016 (must be attached for EACH project and must include the correct amount of HUD assistance requested)*
 - *SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable)*
 - *Applicant Code of Conduct – either attached or already on file*
 - *Form HUD-50070, Certification for Drug-Free Workplace dated between May 1, 2016 and September 14, 2016*
3. *FY 16 CoC Priority Listing*: information about reallocation forms, four separate project listing forms that list the new, renewal, CoC planning and UFA costs projects for which the CoC is requesting funds. CoCs are required to rank all projects, except CoC Planning and UFA, this year, and this ranking will be documented in the Priority Listing.
- *Attachments:*
 - *Final HUD-approved FY2016 GIW*
 - *HUD-2991 dated between May 1, 2016 and September 14, 2016.*
- Consolidated Application will be scored and the Project Applications must pass a threshold review for Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 2 projects will then also be scored with additional factors (see page 4 for details).

Renewal Projects

- Renewal applications can request only 1 year of funding
- CoCs can request renewal funding for:
 - CoC Program, SHP and S+C projects that have a signed grant agreement and will expire in calendar year 2017
 - S+C renewals project that were awarded prior to FY02 and are expected to run out of funds in calendar year 2017, and have never applied for renewal funding
 - Any SHP or S+C grant originally awarded in the FY10 Homeless Assistance Program Competition that has funds expiring in CY2017 or later and has not been renewed in a previous competition. Funds for these grants will not be available beyond 9/3/2017.
- Eligible renewal projects requesting rental assistance will be permitted to request a per-unit amount less than the FMR, based on actual rent costs per unit
- Total request for each renewing project cannot exceed the ARA approved by HUD for that project
- S+C renewing for the first time are allowed to indicate a higher number of units than approved in the original application. This must be completed as part of finalizing the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) with HUD.
- Permanent supportive housing (PSH) projects renewals that are not dedicated to serve people experiencing chronically homelessness are limited to serving only those persons who came from the streets, emergency shelter, safe havens, institutions or transitional housing (TH) as described below:
 - Individuals and households with children coming from TH must have originally come from the streets or emergency shelters

- Individuals and families with disabilities who were fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence situations and are living in TH are eligible even if they did not live on the streets, emergency shelters or safe havens prior to entry in TH. As participants leave currently operating projects, participants who meet this eligibility standard must replace them.
- Persons exiting institutions where they reside for 90 days or less and came from the streets, emergency shelter, or safe havens immediately prior to entering the institution

New Projects

There are four mechanisms for funding new projects: 1) applying for funds available through the Permanent Housing Bonus; 2) Reallocation of funding from existing renewal projects; 3) applying for CoC Planning funds; and 4) applying for UFA costs if approved by HUD.

Permanent Housing (PH) Bonus

- CoCs can request up to 5% of its Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN) for new PH Bonus projects.
 - A preliminary report will be issued by HUD no earlier than July 8th containing the CoC's Preliminary Pro Rate Need (PPRN) and Annual Renewal Demand (ARD).
 - A final report containing PPRN, ARD, CoC Planning amount and permanent housing bonus funding available will be issued by HUD no earlier than August 5th.
 - FPRN is the higher of the PPRN or ARD.
- CoCs can choose to submit more than one project for the PH Bonus, but the total amount requested by all the PH Bonus projects cannot exceed 5% of the CoCs' FPRN.
- PH Bonus projects may be permanent supportive housing(PSH) or rapid re-housing (RRH) projects
 - PSH projects must serve chronically homeless individuals and/or families
 - Note a [new definition of chronic homelessness](#) went into effect in January 2016
 - RRH projects must serve homeless individuals and families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters, includes persons fleeing domestic violence situations and other person meeting the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homelessness; however these program participants must meet all other criteria for this type of housing (i.e. individuals and households with children who enter directly from the streets or emergency shelter)

Reallocation

- CoC may shift funds in whole or part from existing renewal projects to create one or more new projects
- Reallocation projects may be permanent supportive housing projects, rapid re-housing project, Supportive Services Only project specifically for a coordinated assessment system and/or a new dedicated HMIS project.
 - PSH projects must serve chronically homeless individuals and/or families
 - Note a [new definition of chronic homelessness](#) went into effect January 2016

- RRH projects must serve homeless individuals and families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters, includes persons fleeing domestic violence situations and other person meeting the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homelessness

CoC Planning

- Up to 3% of the FPRN or \$1,250,000, whichever is less, will be available for CoC planning projects

UFA Costs

- Up to 1.5% of the FPRN or \$500,000, whichever is less, will be available for UFA costs for approved CoCS

Funding for Projects

- All projects, except CoC Planning and UFA, approved by the CoC must be ranked as Tier 1 or Tier 2
- Tier 1 is equal to 93% of the CoC's ARD as approved on the HUD-approved GIW
 - Projects in this tier will be conditionally selected based on CoC score from highest to lowest
- Tier 2 is equal to the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's ARD plus any amount available for the permanent housing bonus
 - Projects in this tier will be conditionally selected by assigning a point value to each new and renewal project using a 100-point scale
 - *CoC Score*: up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC application
 - *CoC Project Ranking*: up to 35 points for the CoC's ranking of the project application. The calculation of point values will be 35 times the quantity (1-x) where x is the ratio of the cumulative funding requests for all projects or portions of projects ranked higher by the CoC in Tier 2 plus one half of the funding of the project of interest to the total amount of funding available in Tier 2.
 - *Project Type*: up to 5 points will be based on the type of project application
 - 5 points for renewal and new permanent housing (PSH and RRH), renewal safe haven, HMIS, SSO for centralized or coordinated assessment system or transitional housing that exclusively serves homeless youth projects
 - 3 points for renewal transitional housing (except projects exclusively serving homeless youth)
 - 1 point for renewal SSO project applications (except SSO for CE systems)
 - *Commitment to Policy Priorities*: up to 10 points for how the permanent housing project commits to applying the Housing First model. Transitional housing projects, safe haven and SSO projects (excluding those for coordinated assessment) can receive up to 10 points for how the project demonstrates that it is low-barriers, prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have to serve participation requirements or precondition to entry (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). HMIS projects and SSO projects for coordinated assessment will automatically receive 10 points.
- Project applications that straddle Tier 1 and Tier 2 selected using the above criteria for Tier 1 and Tier 2. The portion of the project in each Tier will be evaluated separately and project feasibility of the Tier 1 portion will be reviewed if the Tier 2 project portion is not funded.
- CoCs that receive a higher score have a better chance of being awarded projects ranked in Tier 2
- Projects will be funded in the following order until no more funds are available:
 - CoC Planning projects that pass eligibility and threshold review

- UFA Cost projects
- Projects fully in Tier 1
- Projects in Tier 2 in order of point value

CoC Planning

- CoCs must ensure a fair and inclusive process for soliciting projects. As part of the solicitation projects, CoCs must establish local deadlines; compliance with these deadlines will be considered when the application is scored. The deadlines include:
 - Project applications must be submitted to CoC **no later than 30 days before** the application deadline (estimated 08/13/16)
 - CoCs must notify project applicants as to whether the project will be included in the CoC application **no later than 15 days** before the application deadline (estimated 8/30/16)
 - Rejected project applications must be notified in writing outside of the e-snaps system by the CoC with the reasons for rejection.
- CoCs must review and rank all project applications, except CoC Planning and UFA, to be included in the application within 2 tiers based on financial thresholds:
 - Tier 1 is equal to 93% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand
 - Tier 2 is equal to the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's ARD plus any amount available for the permanent housing bonus.

New Items

- Match funds may now include program income as an eligible source and must be properly documented in the project application

CoC Application Scoring Criteria

The NOFA includes very comprehensive information about how the application will be scored and how each point is allocated. CoCs and project applicants are strongly encouraged to review this section of the NOFA carefully. Some highlights are summarized below.

- The CoC application will be scored out of 200 points this year.
- There are 6 components that applicants will be scored on:
 1. CoC Coordination and Engagement = 43 points
 - Efforts to prevent criminalization of homelessness is a separate question this year
 2. Project Ranking, Review and Capacity = 30 points
 - **NEW:** reallocating project question – up to 4 points for CoCs that demonstrate ability to reallocate lower performing projects
 3. HMIS = 18 points
 4. Point-in-Time Count = 9 points
 - **NEW:** conducting an effective youth county in 2016 – up to 2 points to CoCs that took extra measures to identify youth in their PIT County
 5. System Performance = 40 points
 - **NEW:** system performance measures – up to 10 points for CoCs that attach a report generate from HDX that provides information from each of the required system

performance measures as found in the [System Performance Measures Introductory Guide](#)

6. Performance and Strategic Planning = 60 points

NEW: Within ending chronic homelessness goal maximum points only go to CoCs that show an increase in CH beds dedicated beds from 2015 to 2016