

“VT BoS CoC Project Funding Opportunities”

September 25, 2015

Dear Interested Parties,

As required by the federal government, and desired by the VT Coalition to End Homelessness, please consider this as a formal notice to explain how the VT Balance of State “CoC is open to proposals from entities that have not previously received funds in prior CoC Program competitions, even if the CoC is not applying for any new projects in 2015”.

Check out the HUD Exchange (<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>) for more information on: “CoC Interim Rule”, HUD AAQ, “Grants Administration User Guide”, “FFY2015 HUD CoC NOFA”, ESNAPS, as well as other statues, references and guides.

1. **Current Funds:** During trainings & local CoC meetings in July/August 2015 VT BoS CoC got a clearer understanding of federal expectations & discussed local priorities to help create a path forward for HUD CoC Program funds. VSHA, in its role as the VT BoS CoC Collaborative Applicant (responsible for submitting entire CoC application and all CoC project applications-regardless of whether we are the project applicant or not), received many “Letters of Intent” to **renew/retool** current projects or **reallocate** into new ones.
**see revised “FFY15 VT BoS CoC Projects Chart” on the VCEH website soon.*
2. **Potential NEW Funds:** The FFY2015 HUD CoC NOFA notice offers an opportunity for the VT BoS CoC to apply for *possibly* up to \$409,000 (HUD will provide details 10/9/15) towards a new Permanent Housing Bonus project(s):

- a. “CoCs may create new **permanent supportive housing (PSH-CH)** projects that will serve 100 percent chronically homeless families and individuals, and”

***VSHA [Collaborative Applicant] does NOT recommend VT BoS CoC apply for more PSH-CH as our current PSH project (Shelter+Care) budgets equal 69% of current CoC funds.**

- b. “CoCs may create new **rapid re-housing projects (CoC-RRH)** that will serve homeless individuals and families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters, and includes persons fleeing domestic violence situations and other persons meeting the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless.”

***VSHA [Collaborative Applicant] DOES recommend VT BoS CoC apply for more RRH to continue efforts to end homelessness for families, individuals, youth and victims of domestic violence.**

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3. All Potential CoC-PH BONUS Projects: HUD only permits certain entities to *submit* a CoC project application (via ESNAPS) & certain entities to *operate* specific types of projects.

OPTION #1: PSH (CH only) - **operations**/owned-building or **leasing**/leased-building/units

OPTION #2: PSH (CH only) - **rental assistance** (sponsor or project or tenant - based)

OPTION #3: RRH - **rental assistance** (tenant-based only/short or medium-terms)

**other allowable CoC project budget items: project administration, supportive services, HMIS.*

***Rental assistance administrator must be State, unit of local govt., or public housing agency.*

- ➔ Interested agencies should submit a complete “Letter of Intent (LOI)-Project Application” to daniel@vsha.org or FAX-(802) 828-2111 by **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9**.
4. The NOFA Committee will be meeting soon to review/assess VT BoS CoC’s current project selection policy & tool to include funding priorities determined by local CoCs recently, in combination with HUD and other federal priorities identified in the NOFA.
 5. The VT BoS CoC Board will review/edit/approve the revised policy and tool.
 6. The Ranking Committee will use policy and tool & NOFA thresholds and guidance to determine which projects (including LOI-applications for new PH Bonus projects) get submitted to HUD for funding and in which order they will be prioritized in the event of federal budget cuts.
 7. Appeals Process: Any CoC project applicant may send a written response to the Ranking Committee if there is an objection to the project determination (denied funding or lower priority). CoC project applicant’s may also following the appeal process to HUD as described in the FFY2015 CoC NOFA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Blankenship

VT State Housing Authority [VT BoS CoC Collaborative Applicant]