

VT Balance of State  
(VT BoS)  
Continuum of Care (CoC)  
New Project  
Bidders Conference

**June 3 & 12, 2024**

# Agenda

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- Background
- Steps in Application Process
- Supportive Housing Project Types
- System-Level Project Types
- VAWA-related Budget Line Items
- Application Guidelines
- Tips
- Reminders & Questions



# Background

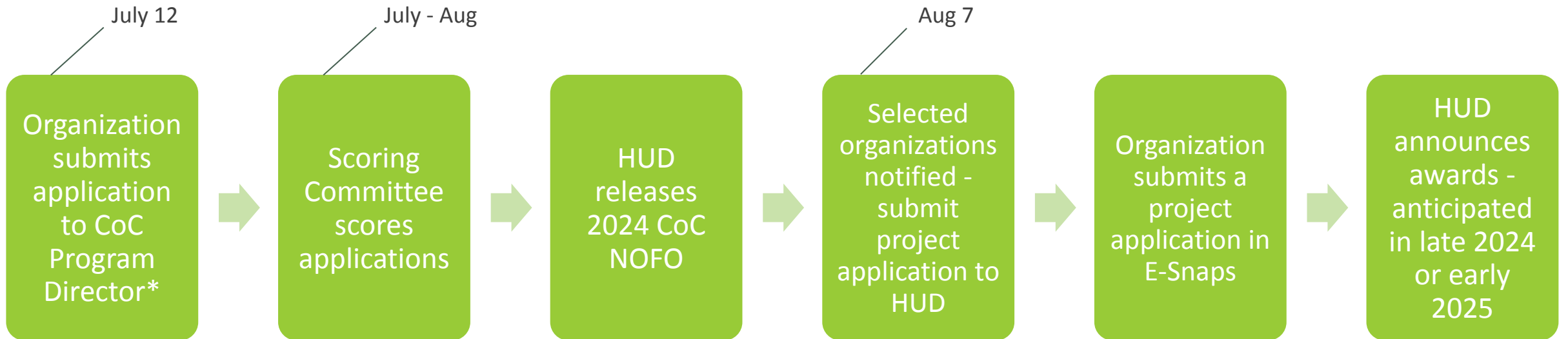
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- Each year VT Balance of State Continuum of Care (VT BoS CoC) competes with other CoCs for US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding to end homelessness.
- VT BoS is accepting new project applications for the 2024 competition for CoC Bonus/Reallocation and Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus funds.
- Applicants who have never applied before are encouraged to apply.
- Any changes will be announced once HUD releases the 2024 Continuum of Care Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- VT BoS can provide technical assistance to any applicant who may need help.

# Steps in Application Process

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# Eligible Supportive Housing Project Types

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PSH, RRH, TH-RRH

# Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

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**Funding Availability:** CoC Bonus and/or reallocation (Not eligible under DV Bonus)

## Overview

PSH is a non-time-limited, permanent housing subsidy combined with a high level of supportive services. It is a model that is Housing First and is typically designed for folks with the highest needs, long experiences with homelessness, and headed by a household member with a disability.

## Key Elements

- Households pay a percentage of their income towards rent for an indefinite period. No minimum income requirement.
- Units can be site-based (e.g. lease up block of units in an apartment complex) or scattered site
- Eligible populations: Categories 1 and 4
- Chronic homeless or Dedicated PLUS applies

# Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

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**Funding Availability:** CoC Bonus and/or reallocation AND DV Bonus

## **Overview**

RRH is a supportive housing program where a household may receive up to 24 months of rental assistance and supportive services, with up to 6 months of aftercare once rental assistance ends. Supportive services often focus on income maximization and stability planning. The participant enters into a lease directly with the landlord.

## **Key Elements**

- Rental assistance models are flexible, should align with CoC's written standards for administering RRH
- Households can choose their own units in the community/private market. Funded agencies must assist participants in locating and securing housing.
- Eligible populations: Categories 1 and 4
- While it is a time-limited resource, there are no indicators for who will succeed

# Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH)

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**Funding Availability:** DV Bonus ONLY

## Overview

Joint TH/RRH projects can provide participants with access to short-term crisis housing for those who would otherwise be literally homeless along with the option of moving to permanent housing using the rapid rehousing approach. Participants in 'Joint' projects must be able to choose between short-term and permanent housing and those choosing TH are assisted in moving to permanent housing as soon as is practicable.

## Key Elements

- This approach is most useful where there is inadequate emergency/crisis housing for the target population
- Program must be able to offer choice of short-term transitional housing and/or rapid rehousing to all participants
- Participants should transition to RRH as soon as practicable
- TH housing can only be funded with leasing or operations costs; RRH component can only be funded with tenant-based rental assistance
- Total assistance under either or both components cannot exceed 24 months
- Eligible populations: Categories 1 and 4





# Eligible System-level Project Types

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HMIS, SSO-CE

# HMIS: Expansion Only

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**Funding Availability:** CoC Bonus and/or reallocation

## **Overview**

HMIS presents a critical opportunity to coordinate and track resources invested in ending homelessness, and to help the wider community of stakeholders working to end homelessness make critical decisions

## **Key Elements**

- Projects must add capacity, including improvement in data quality, data visualization, increased training for agencies using HMIS, increased training for those using data for system-wide decision making, and increased reporting capacity
- Only the CoC-designated HMIS Lead may apply for HMIS expansion funds

# SSO-CE: Expansion (CoC) or New (DV Bonus)

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## **Funding Availability**

- CoC Bonus and/or reallocation: Expansion
- DV Bonus: New

## **Overview**

Coordinated entry must be easily accessible for all persons within the CoC encompassing a standardized assessment, access for people with disabilities, and direct participants to the appropriate housing and services

## **Key Elements**

- Accessible to all persons needing homeless assistance in the CoC (or specific to DV)
- Designed to reach those with greatest barriers to accessing services
- Accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency
- Only the CoC-designated CE Lead may apply for CE expansion funds
- If applying under DV Bonus, must be dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who qualify as homeless under Category 1 or 4



## 2024 Highlight: VAWA-related Budget Line Items

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- New VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) - Budget Line Items eligible for 2024:
  - *Emergency Transfer Facilitation*
  - *Confidentiality Compliance*

# VAWA Emergency Transfer Facilitation – Eligible Costs



Moving costs



Travel Costs – including outside of CoC



Security Deposits



Utilities – establishing service



Housing Fees – application, broker, pet fees (if needed for safety)



Technology to make unit safe (internet to connect system)



Case management



Housing Navigation

# VAWA Confidentiality Compliance – Eligible costs



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Monitoring and evaluating compliance

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Developing strategies for corrective actions and remedies

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Training on confidentiality requirements

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Reporting on compliance

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Staff time on maintaining confidentiality



# Application Guidelines

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# Eligible Applicants

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- Nonprofit organizations
- States and local governments
- Instrumentalities of state and local governments
- Public Housing Authorities





# Introduction: ALL Project Types

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- Organizational Profile
- Cost rate method
- Geographic areas to be served
- Project Type and Funding Source you're applying for

# Project Budgets: ALL Project Types

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**Don't forget  
to attach**

- Fill out the appropriate sheet based on direct or indirect costs
- Administrative costs are capped at 10% of total budget – recommend applying for the full 10%!
- Include a completed project budget excel file with application submission
- VT BoS will assist project to establish final rental assistance budgets



# SSO-CE and HMIS Application Threshold Criteria

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- Match (Sources, Amounts, and which eligible activities they'll be used for)
- No outstanding delinquent federal debts; debarments; and/or suspensions from doing business with the federal government
- Compliance with Equal Access Rule and Fair Housing Laws
- Organization and management structure of the applicant and potential subrecipients (if any)
- Evidence of internal and external coordination and an adequate financial accounting system
- Days from signed HUD agreement to participant enrollment
- Audit findings
- Monitoring findings
- Spenddown % on existing grant
- Necessary Attachments are included



# Supportive Housing Threshold Criteria

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- Match (Sources, Amounts, and which eligible activities they'll be used for)
- No outstanding delinquent federal debts; debarments; and/or suspensions from doing business with the federal government
- Compliance with Equal Access Rule and Fair Housing Laws
- Commitment to use HMIS or, if Victim Service Provider, comparable database
- Commitment to follow Coordinated Entry policy and procedures
- Organization and management structure of the applicant and potential subrecipients (if any)
- Evidence of internal and external coordination and an adequate financial accounting system
- Experience leveraging other Federal, State, local and private sector funds
- Days from signed HUD agreement to participant enrollment
- Audit findings
- Monitoring findings
- Necessary Attachments are included

# Match: Required for all Projects



- Match = 25% of total grant amount, excluding leasing budget line item
- Cash or In-Kind are eligible match types - cash is recommended due to onerous documentation requirements for in-kind.
- Examples of eligible match:
  - Cash: Recipient/sub-recipient staff provide case management funded by a designated Mental Health agency
  - Cash: Building utilities not covered by CoC grant are paid by recipient agency & funded via private sources
  - In-Kind: Board member provides legal services at no cost
  - In-Kind: FQHC provides outpatient health services to participants
- All match must be used on [eligible CoC Program costs](#)
  - Not limited to approved budget line items for project, e.g. even if project does not have supportive services in its CoC budget, may use matching funds to support case management services for project participants



# Project Descriptions & Scoring Criteria

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# Supportive Housing Project Description

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- Indicate all target populations to be served
- Applicant's experience with the proposed project type, homeless population or other relevant/related supportive service expertise, especially with housing insecure or homeless households.
- Address the entire scope of the proposed project, including ALL of the following:
  - a) Plan to address both housing and supportive service needs,
  - b) Projected core outcomes (examples: stable housing, education, employment and social-emotional wellbeing/community connections)
  - c) Plan to collaborate with community partners to expand resources available to clients within the program.
  - d) Staffing plan and justification of caseload range for each direct service position and description of strategies to ensure staff have lived experience of homelessness and/or reflect the identities of prioritized populations
  - e) How the applicant will conduct meaningful evaluation and ensure cultural/linguistic competency
- Indicate whether units are already secured (5 bonus pts!)

# Supportive Housing Project Description, cont'd

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- Trauma-Informed Care approach and how TIC will be demonstrated in practice in the project
- Approach to following Housing First principles and adopting a low-barrier approach.
  - Be specific about your plan to implement these approaches within the project.
- Describe the applicant's commitment to equity by demonstrating in one of the following ways:
  - a) community partnerships with organizations led by and/or explicitly serving historically marginalized racial, ethnic, or LGBTQ communities;
  - b) agency led by persons identifying with one or more historically marginalized racial, ethnic, or LGBTQ communities; or
  - c) agency explicitly serves historically marginalized racial, ethnic, or LGBTQ communities.
- How the project will incorporate lived experience of homelessness in organizational governance, as well as in program design, implementation (including staffing) and evaluation/improvement. Includes discussion of compensation for expertise if that is applicable within the program.



# Supportive Housing Scoring Criteria

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- Housing First **(10 points)**
- Experience with proposed project type and homeless population or other relevant/related supportive service expertise **(10 points)**
- Capacity to manage state/federal funds and to leverage other funding **(5 points)**
- Organizational infrastructure and administrative/financial capacity to deliver the project as proposed **(5 points)**
- Collaboration with other community partners to expand resources available to clients within the program. **(5 points)**
- Commitment to equity **(5 points)**
- Program design and Core outcomes **(10 points)**
- Incorporate lived experience of homelessness in organizational governance, program design, implementation and evaluation/improvement **(10 points)**
- Reasonable timeframe to plan and implement the project and a quality staffing plan **(10 points)**
- Services are adequate to support the target population; the strategies to serve priority subpopulations are described. **(10 points)**
- Costs are reasonable, competitive, and activities listed are eligible **(10 points)**
  - **NOTE:** the Scoring and Ranking Committee may tentatively approve a project with suggested budget changes
- Letters of support from at least one collaborating agency submitted with proposal **(10 points)**

# Supportive Housing Bonus Points

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- **Housing leverage** – Leveraged housing assistance from sources other than CoC or ESG to include at least 25% of the units included in the project for PSH or at least 25% of the projected participants for RRH **(10 points)**
- **Healthcare Leverage** – Commitment from a substance use treatment provider to provide access to care for all program participants who qualify and choose those services or a healthcare organization will commit to funding at least 25% of the funds requested through mainstream healthcare resources **(10 points)**
- **Aging focus** – Commitment to serving persons who are 55+ and experiencing homelessness AND commitment from at least one Vermont organization primarily serving persons age 55+, to provide access to care for all program participants who qualify and choose those services (<https://asd.vermont.gov/services/aaa-oaa-services>) **(10 points)**
- **Units already secured (5 points)**

# SSO-CE Project Description

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Address the entire scope of the proposed project AND how the additional funding will result in improvements in one or more of the areas below:

- a) Time from housing provider referral to housing placement;
- b) Number of referrals from coordinated entry to housing providers that do not result in a housing placement (either referral not accepted by housing provider, or provider not able to house the referred household);
- c) Training or support to agencies participating in coordinated entry; and/or
- d) Access to the coordinated entry system throughout the VT BoS CoC.

If project will explicitly address access for historically marginalized racial, ethnic, and LGBTQ communities, describe this.



# SSO-CE New/Expansion Scoring Criteria

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- a) Coordinated Entry Effectiveness (**50 points total**):
  - i) Experience operating CE, ability to promptly make referrals to available housing interventions – **20 pts**
  - ii) Proposed project results in reduced time from referral to placement in housing – **10 pts**
  - iii) Proposed project results in increased CE system access – **10 pts (5 bonus pts** for projects that explicitly increase CE access for historically marginalized racial, ethnic, or LGBTQ communities)
  - iv) Proposed project results in fewer referrals from CE to housing providers that do not result in a housing placement - **10 pts**
- b) Financial (**20 pts total**)
- c) Timeliness (**10 pts total**)
- d) Meeting Federal Requirements (**20 pts total**)

# HMIS Project Description

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Address the entire scope of the proposed project AND how the additional funding will result in improvements in one or more of the areas below:

- a) Data quality
- b) Improvements in data visualization
- c) Increased training or support to agencies providing data in HMIS
- d) Increased training or support to VT BoS CoC in utilizing data to inform decision making
- e) Increased capacity to provide reporting to system stakeholders



# HMIS Expansion Scoring Criteria

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- a) HMIS Effectiveness (**50 pts total**):
  - i) Proposed improvements in data quality, training and support to agencies providing data in HMIS, enhanced data visualization, and reporting to system stakeholders - **20 pts**
  - ii) HMIS Universal Data quality in HMIS (systemwide UDEs null/unknown error rate of less than 10% – up to **10 pts**
  - iii) HMIS score on HMIS related factors in 2023 CoC Application – up to **10 pts**
  - iv) Proposed regular reporting to VT BoS CoC on disaggregated outcomes data (by race, ethnicity, gender identity, and age) to inform decision making - **10 pts**
- b) Financial (**20 pts total**)
- c) Timeliness (**10 pts total**)
- d) Meeting Federal Requirements (**20 pts total**)



# Attachments & Applicability

Federally approved indirect cost rate (PDF)	Only if agency has federally approved indirect cost rate
Project Budget (excel)	All applicants must submit
501c3 status documentation (PDF)	Only if applicant is applying as a non-profit
Letter of Support from Collaborating Agency (PDF)	All applicants must submit
Housing Leverage documentation (PDF)	If seeking housing leverage bonus points
Healthcare Leverage documentation (PDF)	If seeking healthcare leverage bonus points
Aging Leverage documentation (PDF)	If seeking aging leverage bonus points
Most recent audit report (needs to show audit issues or findings (or lack of)) (PDF)	All applicants must submit
Most recent HUD monitoring documentation (needs to show presence of monitoring findings, and if they are resolved) (PDF)	Only if applicant has received HUD funds prior to FY24 Competition

# Application Tips

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- Highlight what makes your agency and project unique
- Provide concrete examples of how participants will be served, including data where available
- Name partner and community agencies and how you will coordinate with them
- If proposing project with sources other than CoC funds, be as specific as possible about the sources, amounts and uses/intention to use







# Reminders

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- Due Date: July 12, 2024 – No late submissions accepted
- Refer to [VT BoS 2024 CoC Funding Opportunity](#) early and often

- Have questions? Reach out to us:

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