



Notice of the 2021 West Central MN CoC Competition for the HUD CoC NOFO

The West Central Continuum of Care (CoC) is seeking applications from eligible applicants for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) competition (Funding Opportunity Number FR-6500-N-25). Applications are being sought for both new and renewal projects. Prospective applicants should carefully read all instructions in this notice, as well as any additional guidance from HUD related to the application. Failure to respond accurately to any requirements could result in a noncompetitive proposal.

IMPORTANT PROJECT APPLICATION DATES & DEADLINES

- August 18, 2021 – 2021 NOFO Published
- September 3, 2021 – Intent to Apply & Threshold forms due to CoC via email in PDF format
- September 10, 2021 – Application Lab
- September 24, 2021 – Application Lab
- October 13, 2021 – Project Applications submitted to CoC via esnaps and PDF for ranking
- October 18, 2021 – Ranking Committee Meeting
- October 19, 2021 – Project Applications notified of inclusion in Collaborative Application
- October 25, 2021 – Project response and appeals to CoC due on Application Rank & Score
- *October 29, 2021 – Vote on appeals to rank and score (if needed)*
- *November 1, 2021 – Projects notified of appeals outcome and amended rank/score (if needed)*
- November 8, 2021 – Final Project Application edits submitted in esnaps and PDF to CoC
- November 10, 2021 – Collaborative Application posted on CoC website
- November 11, 2021 – CoC Membership vote on Collaborative Application
- November 15, 2021 – Approved Collaborative Application posted on CoC website

HUD CoC Consolidated Application Deadline: November 16, 2021 @ 7:00 PM. **Note:** *Project Applications must be submitted by the Project deadlines NOT the Consolidated Application deadline.*

Funding

About \$2.65 billion is available for the FY21 CoC Program NOFO including \$102 million for a Domestic Violence (DV) bonus. Funds available in the West Central MN Region -MN508 include:

- Annual Renewal Demand (ARD): \$936,741
- CoC Bonus: \$46,837
- Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus: \$96,504
- CoC Planning: \$28,102

Ranking

The CoC must rank all projects, except CoC planning, placing all accepted projects in Tiers. Ranking is based on capacity, quality, priorities, and performance.

- Tiers: The purpose of this two-tiered approach is for CoCs to notify HUD which projects are prioritized for funding based on local needs and gaps. Higher ranked projects are assigned to Tier 1 and lower ranked projects to Tier 2.
 - Tier 1 is equal to 100% of the CoCs Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) or \$936,741. Project applications in Tier 1 will be conditionally selected from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC, provided the project applications pass both project eligibility and project quality threshold review, and if applicable, project renewal threshold. Any type of new or renewal project application can be placed in Tier 1 except Planning, which is not ranked. If a DV Bonus project ranked in Tier 1 is selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will be removed from this tier and the projects below it will move up one rank position. However, if a new DV Bonus project is not selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will retain its ranked position.
 - Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation, and CoC Bonus funds that the CoC can apply for but does not include CoC Planning projects or projects selected with the DV Bonus funds. HUD will award a point value to each new and renewal project application that is in Tier 2 using a 100-point scale.
 - *(1) CoC Score*. Up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application
 - *(2) CoC Project Ranking*. Up to 40 points for the CoC's ranking of the project application(s).
 - *(3) Commitment to Housing First*. Up to 10 points based on the project application's commitment to follow a housing first approach. Dedicated HMIS projects and centralized or coordinated assessment system SSO projects will automatically receive 10 points.
 - *Projects Straddling Tiers*. If a project application straddles the Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding line, HUD will conditionally select the project up to the amount of funding that falls within Tier 1. Using the CoC score and other factors described in Section II.B.11 of this NOFO, HUD may fund the Tier 2 portion of the project. If HUD does not fund the Tier 2 portion of the project, HUD may award the project at the reduced amount, provided the project is still feasible with the reduced funding (e.g., is able to continue serving homeless program participants effectively).
- Rejection or Reallocation: Projects with outstanding HUD audit findings, history of ineligible participants, evidence of untimely expenditures, financial management concerns, or other performance issues may be eliminated from competition through rejection or full reallocation. The CoC may also reduce a portion of a submitted project due to underutilization.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding applicants must meet all CoC and HUD statutory, regulatory, and threshold requirements. Project Applicants must abide by the CoC deadline, meet eligibility criteria, request eligible activities, adequately answer all questions, and attach all required documents to be considered eligible for funding.

- Eligible Applicants: Eligible project applicants are nonprofit organizations, states, Indian Tribes, tribally designated housing entities (TDHE), local governments, instrumentalities of state and local governments, and public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR

5.100. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants or to be sub-recipients of grant funds. Applicants that propose to claim a reservation or trust land geographic area and to locate a project on a reservation or trust land must include a tribal resolution from the tribe authorizing the applicant to do so. Tribes do not need to include a tribal resolution to claim their own reservation or trust land or to site a project on their own reservation or trust land. Projects sited on trust land or reservations may be eligible if applicants obtain a certification that the projects are consistent with an approved Consolidated Plan.

- Eligible Projects & Activities: The CoC is accepting applications from eligible entities for the following:
 - Renewal Projects One year renewal projects previously funded by HUD CoC funding and eligible for renewal (grants expiring between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022).
 - Transition Grants: Transition grants to transition from one project type to another.
 - Consolidated Projects: Agencies may request that two to four projects combine to become a Consolidated Project. The CoC must approve the request and projects must be without findings or a history of low utilization or financial management/drawn down/capacity issues.
 - New projects The following new projects can be created through reallocation or with bonus funding. All new projects must utilize CARES, the CoC coordinated entry system.
 1. DV Bonus projects that serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
 - Rapid Rehousing (RRH)
 - Joint Transitional and Permanent Housing-RRH (TH/PH-RRH)
 - Coordinated Entry SSO
 2. CoC Bonus/Reallocation projects:
 - PH-PSH projects for DedicatedPLUS or Chronic Homeless
 - PH-RRH
 - Joint TH and PH-RRH
 - Coordinated SSO
 - HMIS
 - Expansion projects can be requested with either bonus or reallocated funding in order to expand existing units in a project or serve additional persons, or in the case of HMIS or CES SSO, grant activities or services must be added or expanded. Expansion projects are required to submit 3 project applications: 1) renewal application that will be expanded; and 2) a new project application for the expansions.
 - Planning Grant: The CoC Collaborative Applicant may request planning dollars for eligible CoC planning activities. The Planning Grant is not ranked.
- Threshold Criteria: Threshold criteria is listed in the 2021 CoC Intent to Apply. Projects must complete the form and either attest to or submit all required threshold verification categories. **Only projects submitting this form on time and meeting all eligibility criteria will be invited to proceed with the application process.**
- Deadlines: Please refer to the important deadlines listed at the beginning of this document and subscribe to the CoC email list for any changes or updates to the CoC Competition deadlines.
- HUD: Projects should visit the HUD competition page for additional instructions including the full FY2021 NOFO and Project Application instructions:

- The entire 2021 NOFO and associated competition materials can be found on the [HUD competition page](#).
- HUD Ask A Questions (AAQ) is available for applicant questions. Before asking a question, please review the list of previously answered questions. You may submit questions at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>
- For issues with esnaps during the application process, visit: <https://www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/faqs/>. You are also encouraged to attend one of the scheduled Application Labs.

PROJECT APPLICATION PROCESS:

Below is the CoC application process. Please refer to the entire Project Application packet for additional details on the timeline, criteria, forms, process and policies.

1. **Submission of Project Threshold/Intent to Apply Form:** Projects wishing to apply for the 2021 competition must complete the Project Threshold/Intent to Apply Form. If the form and required attachments are received on time, the applicant is an eligible entity requesting eligible activities, and threshold criteria is met and verified, projects will be invited to proceed with submitting a application in esnaps.
2. **Submission of Application Package:** Project Applications must submit the following by the CoC deadline as part of the application package:
 - a. Project application in esnaps. The detailed instructions can be found on the [HUD competition page](#).
 - b. PDF of submitted application downloaded from esnaps emailed to the CoC Coordinator at h2hcoordinator@gmail.com
 - c. Ranking Score Card with required attachments via email to CoC Coordinator at hthcoordinator@gmail.com
3. **Project Ranking:** Projects submitting the complete Application Package by the deadline will be reviewed and ranked as part of the 2021 competition. Projects not submitting a complete package by the deadline or scoring too low will not be included in this year's CoC Collaborative application.
4. **Comment and Appeals Process:** Projects will be notified whether they included and excluded from the CoC Collaborative Application in FY21 and where their project is ranked. Projects are allowed 5 days to comment on their score, explaining any scores they find inaccurate, or appeal their score or rank.
5. **Final Submission:** Projects may be requested or required to adjust their submitted project applications following the project ranking process. The CoC Coordinator will release the applications back to the projects as needed to make these changes. Projects must then resubmit their edited applications by the deadline.

Solo Applicants. Eligible project applicants that attempted to participate in the CoC planning process in the geographic area in which they operate, that believe they were denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner, may submit a solo project application to HUD and may be awarded a grant from HUD by following the procedure found in 24 CFR 578.35. Solo applicants must submit their solo project application in esnaps to HUD by 8:00 PM Eastern time, November 16, 2021, which must include the CoC's notification of rejection of the project in the local competition as an attachment to the Solo Applicant's project application. If the CoC fails to provide written notification, outside of e-

snaps, the Solo Applicant must attach a statement that the CoC did not provide the Solo Applicant written notification of the CoC rejecting the project in the local CoC competition. See Section X.C of this NOFO for additional information regarding the Solo Applicant appeal process.

Definitions

- **Reallocation.** Reallocation is a process used by CoCs to shift funds in whole or part from existing eligible renewal projects to create one or more new projects without decreasing the CoC's ARD.
- **Beds Dedicated to Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families.** A permanent supportive housing bed that is dedicated specifically for use by chronically homeless individuals and families within a CoC's geographic area, as reported in the CoC's HIC and the FY 2021 permanent housing project applications. When a program participant exits the project, the bed must be filled by another chronically homeless participant unless there are no chronically homeless persons located within the CoC's geographic area. This concept only applies to permanent supportive housing projects.
- **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.
- **Homelessness and Human Trafficking.** HUD is clarifying that persons who are fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking may qualify as homeless under paragraph (4) of the homeless definition at 24 CFR 578.3; and, therefore, the individuals may be eligible for certain forms of homeless assistance under the CoC Program, subject to other restrictions that may apply. HUD considers human trafficking, including sex trafficking, to be "other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member" under paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3.
- **Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Project.** The Joint TH and PH-RRH component project combines two existing program components—transitional housing and permanent housing—rapid rehousing—in a single project to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness. HUD will require the recipient to adopt a Housing First approach (see Sections II.A.2 and III.B.2.o of this NOFO) across the

entire project and program participants may If funded, HUD will limit eligible costs as follows, in addition to other limitations found in the Rule:

- (1) leasing of a structure or units, and operating costs to provide transitional housing;
- (2) short- or medium-term tenant-based rental assistance on behalf of program participants to pay for the rapid rehousing portion of the project;
- (3) supportive services; (4) HMIS; and (5) project administrative costs.

When a program participant is enrolled in a Joint TH and PH-RRH component project, the recipient or subrecipient must be able to provide both components, including the units supported by the transitional housing component and the tenant-based rental assistance and services provided through the PH-RRH component, to all participants. A program participant may choose to receive only the TH unit or the assistance provided through the PH-RRH component, but the recipient or subrecipient must make both types of assistance available. Additionally, if CoC Program funds are not being requested for both TH and PH-RRH units, the project application must describe and include the number of TH and PH-RRH units that will be utilized by the project from another funding source, if selected for conditional award, and provide details in the project description of how TH and PH-RRH assistance will be provided.