

## **FY2016 Continuum of Care Program Competition Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) Highlights**

The FY2016 Continuum of Care Program Competition NOFA was released on June 29, 2016. The application is due by 6:59:59pm (CST) on September 14, 2016. There is approximately 1.9 billion available this year for the competition. Project Applications are due 30 days prior to the NOFA deadline (August 12) and the CoC must notify project applicants if their application will be included in the CoC Consolidated Application submission 15 days prior to the deadline (August 30). The Grants Inventory Worksheet (GIW) will need to be finalized no later than July 22.

HUD is continuing its two-tier funding process similar to previous years. A change in this year's tiers is Tier 1 will be 93% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) and Tier 2 will be 7%. Chicago's preliminary ARD is \$62,448,000 which means Tier 1 will be approximately \$58,076,000 and Tier 2 approximately \$4,371,000.

### **The focus of HUD's Homeless Policy and Program Priorities for this NOFA are:**

- Creating a systemic response to homelessness, which includes:
  - Measuring system performance;
  - Creating an effective Coordinated Entry process;
  - Promoting participant choice;
  - Planning as a system; and,
  - Making the delivery of homeless assistance more open, inclusive, and transparent.
- Strategically allocating resources, which includes:
  - Comprehensively reviewing project quality, performance, and cost effectiveness;
  - Maximizing the use of mainstream and other community-based resources;
  - Reviewing transitional housing projects; and,
  - Integration of programs and activities in settings most appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities.
- Ending chronic homelessness, which includes:
  - Targeting persons with the highest needs and longest histories of homelessness for existing and new permanent supportive housing;
  - Increasing units; and,
  - Improving outreach.
- Ending family homelessness
- Ending youth homelessness
- Ending veteran homelessness
- Using a Housing First approach, which includes:
  - Using data to quickly and stably house homeless persons;
  - Engaging landlords and property owners;
  - Removing barriers to entry; and,
  - Adopting client-centered service methods

**CoC Program Implementation considerations highlighted in the NOFA include:**

- CoCs may submit requests for new projects through the process of reallocation or the permanent housing bonus;
- The FY 2016 Appropriations Act establishes certain requirements for the Competition, which include:
  - CoCs cannot receive grants for new projects, other than through reallocation, unless the CoC competitively ranks projects based on how they improve system performance;
  - HUD must base an increasing share of the CoC score on performance criteria; and,
  - HUD must prioritize funding for CoCs that have demonstrated the ability to reallocate resources to higher performing projects.
- CoCs may create new projects by using amounts available through the permanent housing bonus or by making funds available through reallocation. The following types of projects may be created through reallocation:
  - New permanent supportive housing projects where all beds will be dedicated for use by chronically homeless individuals and families;
  - New rapid rehousing projects that will serve homeless individuals and families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters, and include persons fleeing domestic violence situations and other persons meeting the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homelessness;
  - New Supportive Services Only project specifically for a centralized or coordinated assessment system;
  - New dedicated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) project for the HMIS Lead.
- CoCs may create new projects through the permanent housing bonus up to 5 percent of the CoC's Final Pro-Rata Need (FPRN) for the following types of new projects:
  - New permanent supportive housing projects that will serve 100 percent chronically homeless individuals and families, and
  - New rapid rehousing projects that will serve homeless individuals and families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters, and include persons fleeing domestic violence situations and other persons meeting the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homelessness.
- CoCs will be evaluated on the extent to which they provide housing for chronically homeless individuals and families in all CoC Program-funded permanent supportive housing, including units as they become available through turnover.
- Only one CoC planning project application may be submitted per CoC per funding year.
- CoCs must consult with Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) recipients within the geographic area on the plan for allocating ESG funds and reporting on and evaluating the performance of ESG recipients and subrecipients. Each CoC will be required to describe how it is coordinating with the ESG recipient.

- The CoC must have an HMIS that has the capacity to collect unduplicated counts of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and provide information to project recipients and applicants for needs analysis and funding priorities. CoC and ESG recipients must participate in the local HMIS.
- HUD will allow new reallocated projects to request funding for 1 year to facilitate implementation of CoC strategies to reduce gaps in permanent housing.
- CoCs will be required to rank all projects, except CoC planning and UFA Costs, submitted by project applicants in e-snaps: renewal, and new projects created through reallocation and permanent housing bonus. HUD will not review any project that is rejected by the CoC.
- HUD will continue the Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding process:
  - Tier 1 is equal to 93 percent of the CoC's ARD amount approved on the final HUD-approved GIW and projects in this tier will be conditionally selected from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC, provided the project applications pass both eligibility and threshold review.
  - Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's ARD plus any amount available for the permanent housing bonus.
  - CoC planning projects and UFA costs projects are not ranked. The projects that pass eligibility and review threshold will be conditionally selected using CoC scores from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring.

**The following is the breakdown of potential points for the various sections of the NOFA (200 Pts):**

CoC Coordination and Engagement – 43 pts.

- Inclusive Structure & Participation – 5 pts.
- Coordination with the Con Plan – 4 pts
- Addressing the needs of Victims of DV – 3 pts
- PHA – 3 pts
- Discharge Planning – 2pts.
- Centralized/Coordinated Assessment System – 3 pts
- Housing First & Reducing Barriers – 12 pts
- Outreach – 3pts
- Criminalization -2 pts
- Rapid Rehousing – 4 pts
- Mainstream Benefits and other Assistance – 2 pts

Project ranking, Review and Capacity – 30 pts

- Objective Criteria and Past Performance – 18 pts
- Reallocating Projects – 4 pts.
- Ranking & Selection Process – 3 pts
- Recipient Performance Monitoring – 4 pts

HMIS – 18 pts

- HMIS Governance – 2 pts
- HMIS Policy & Procedures – 3 pts

- HIC – 1 pt
- Bed Coverage – 4 pts
- Data Quality – 4 pts
- Required HMIS reports – 4 pts

PIT – 9 pts

- PIT Count & Data Submission – 3 pts.
- Methodology for Sheltered PIT Count – 2 pts.
- Methodology for Unsheltered PIT Count – 2 pts.
- Conducting an Effective Youth Count – 2 pts

System Performance – 40 pts.

- Reducing the Number of Homeless Individuals and Families – 7 pts
- Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless – 2 pts
- Length of Time Homeless – 7 pts
- Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention – 7 pts
- Returns to Homelessness – 4 pts
- Jobs and Income Growth – 4 pts
- Systems Performance Measures in HDX – 10 pts

Performance and Strategic Planning – 60 pts.

- Ending Chronic Homelessness – 15 pts
- Ending Homelessness Among Households with Children – 15 pts
- Ending Youth Homelessness – 15 pts
- Ending Veteran Homelessness – 15 pts

**Tier 2 Scoring (100 Pt Scale):**

- CoC Score – 50 pts
- CoC Project Ranking – 35 pts
- Project Type
  - 5 pts for renal and new permanent housing-permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing, renewal safe haven, HMIS, SSO for centralized or coordinated assessment system, or transitional housing that exclusively serves homeless youth projects;
  - 3 pts for renewal transitional housing, except those transitional housing projects that exclusively serve homeless youth
  - 1 pt for renewal SSO project applications other than those for a centralized or coordinated assessment system
- Commitment to Policy Priorities – 10 pts