

Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care – Request for New Project Applications for Inclusion in the 2024 Collaborative Application for HUD Continuum of Care Funding

DEADLINE: August 27, 2024 5 PM

Date: August 13, 2024

Invitation to Bid

On behalf of the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care, the Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services (OHS), the collaborative applicant, invites eligible organizations to submit applications for new projects to be included in the forthcoming 2024 HUD Continuum of Care NOFO Competition.

Any eligible organization may apply for new project funding. Eligible organizations include nonprofit organizations, Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), or units of local government.

The initial application will be via an email application to the Office of Homeless Services (OHS). Applications will be reviewed by a review panel consisting of CoC members who are not competing for funds. Applications will be reviewed according to the new project scoring criteria attached. Selected projects must submit an application in HUD's E-Snaps grants management system when the CoC competition opens. HUD makes the final determination as to whether new projects will be funded in the competition.

Information and Resources

All information required for this competition will be posted on the CoC website, found here: <https://hhs.cuyahogacounty.us/divisions/detail/office-of-homeless-services> . Information posted on the website will include, when available from HUD:

- The NOFO published by HUD and supporting information provided by HUD.
- The CoC's policies for review and ranking of new and renewal applications.
- CoC's policies regarding reallocation – including voluntary and mandatory reallocation.
- Scoring factors for the review of renewal applications
- Scoring factors for new project applications.
- Links to resources available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in support of the competition.

Identified Priorities for New Project Applications

Based on a recently completed Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, the CoC has identified the following project types as priorities for funding in the 2024 competition:

- New Project applications that were ranked in the 2023 Project Priority List but were not selected by HUD for funding.

- New permanent supportive housing projects serving chronic, unsheltered, and people experiencing long-term homelessness.
- Funding for HMIS to address increased system needs.
- Domestic Violence Survivors – expansion of existing projects or new projects using the DV bonus. *Note: VAWA 2022 changed the definition in Category 4 of the McKinney-Vento Homelessness Definition. See Section on DV bonus.*
 - Eligible DV Bonus projects include:
 - Rapid Re-housing serving survivors
 - Joint transitional/rapid rehousing projects serving survivors
 - Expansions/enhancements of Coordinated Entry to more effectively serve survivors
- Rapid rehousing to serve families experiencing homelessness.

Funding for new projects will come from CoC Bonus, DV Bonus, and from any funds that may be available from reallocation. New projects will be scored according to the new project scoring sheet attached to this RFA.

Possible application types:

Eligible organizations may submit one or more of the following application types:

- **New project application.** New project applications may be for any of the eligible new project categories:
 - Permanent Supportive Housing where 100% of the beds are either dedicated to serving chronically homeless or DedicatedPLUS¹ projects. This includes expansion of existing projects including expanding supportive services.
 - Rapid Rehousing projects serving individuals and families who meet the HUD homeless definition at Categories 1, 2, or 4.²

The following persons are eligible to be served in a 'DedicatedPLUS' project, people who are:

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; but the individuals or families experiencing chronic homelessness as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 had been admitted and enrolled in a permanent housing project within the last year and were unable to maintain a housing placement;](#)
4. [Residing in transitional housing funded by a Joint transitional housing \(TH\) and rapid re-housing \(PH-RRH\) component project and who were experiencing chronic homelessness as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 prior to entering the project;](#)
5. [Residing and has resided in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or emergency shelter for at least 12 months in the last three years, but has not done so on four separate occasions;](#)
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.](#)

² See here:

https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf for a quick guide to the HUD homeless definition and the four categories of homelessness.

- Joint TH-RRH projects also serving individuals and families who meet the HUD homeless definition at Categories 1, 2, or 4. The TH component should consist of short-term crisis housing and the resources earmarked for the RRH component should be twice those designated for the TH component.
- **Transition application.** An existing renewal application may be submitted as a ‘transition’ application. A transition application will start the program year as one component (TH, for example) and through the course of the program year, the project will transition from that component to one of the eligible new project components. A transition application may be the most effective way to accomplish a ‘voluntary’ reallocation where the grantee with funds to reallocate is also the planned grantee for the reallocated project. Grantees interested in the transition application process must contact and obtain approval from the CoC. Transition grants are **new project applications**, and the grant must ‘transition’ to an eligible new project activity during the program year.
- **Expansion Applications.** Grantees may choose to submit a **new project application** that expands a currently funded CoC grant to serve additional persons, provide additional units, or provide additional services to existing program participants. Applicants seeking an expansion grant must submit **two project applications in E-Snaps: the renewal project application for the existing grant and a new project application identifying the expansion.**

Domestic Violence Bonus Projects

- **New Domestic Violence Bonus Projects**
 - The 2024 NOFO will include funding for potential DV bonus projects. To secure DV Bonus funding applicants will have to demonstrate experience in serving survivors and how they will maintain safety for participants. Applicants will also have to demonstrate that there is an unmet need for the proposed projects. All projects applying for the DV bonus are required to follow trauma informed and victim-centered approaches, as well as Housing First
 - Possible DV Bonus Projects include:
 - Rapid Rehousing for survivors of domestic violence
 - Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing for survivors of domestic violence
 - In order for a Joint TH/RRH project to be funded, the applicant must provide evidence of the need for additional short-term, crisis housing for DV survivors and a plan to rapidly move residents of short-term transitional housing into permanent housing.
 - DV Bonus projects may only serve survivors who are experiencing homelessness. Providers who are victim services agencies may not enter data into the CoC’s HMIS system. Instead, they are required to have an equivalent system that can provide information to the CoC on outcomes on an aggregate basis that maintains the confidentiality of participant information.

There is no limit on the number of each of the above project types that can be submitted provided that no grant is for less than \$50,000 and the total funded requested does not exceed the amount available to the CoC for the DV bonus.

DV Bonus projects are scored separately by HUD. Prior factors that determined whether a DV Bonus project will be funded include: the score the CoC receives on the CoC Application to HUD; the extent of CoC collaboration with victim services providers; the need for the project; quality of the experience of the applicant in serving survivors; demonstration that the applicant uses victim-centered practices; and inclusion of survivors with lived experience in policy and program development for the project.

Please note: VAWA 2022, which reauthorized the VAWA Act, also made changes to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Definition as it applies to survivors. Now those who may be served by DV bonus projects include any individual or family who

- (i) **is experiencing trauma or lack of safety related to**, or fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, **including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized**; [text in bold are changes to definition]
- (ii) Has no other safe residence; and
- (iii) Lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing

Rating and Ranking of Projects

New project applications will be reviewed by an independent panel with subject matter expertise but no conflicts of interest with regard to the application. The new projects will be evaluated according to criteria set forth in the New Project Rating tool attached to this RFA.

The CoC actively seeks applications from organizations that have not previously received HUD CoC funding. HUD places considerable requirements on grantees and the application process can be challenging. Organizations without CoC grant experience are invited to reach out to the CoC at: msirak@cuyahogacounty.us. Requirements on eligible participants and activities are very stringent and organizations are encouraged to discuss potential projects and the application process.

Presentation and Question and Answer Sessions

The CoC will conduct an information session for new project applicants. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend or view a recording of the session:

New Project Webinar _

An information session on the opportunity will be held on August 29, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. - Recordings of the sessions and the slides will be available on the CoC website in the funding section. New Project Proposals are due June 14, 2024, at 5pm Eastern Daylight Time. New Reallocated Projects are due August 27, 2024. These proposals will be reviewed by the CoC Committee charged with this purpose. Projects accepted by the CoC NOFO Review Committee and approved by the CoC Advisory Board will be invited to apply directly to HUD. HUD will make the final determination as to whether new projects selected by the CoC will receive funding.

Deadline:

Emailed new project applications must be received by the Office of Homeless Services by 5 p.m. on **June 14, 2024. New Reallocated Projects applications must be received by the Office of Homeless Services by 5 p.m. August 27, 2024.** Applications received after the deadline may not be reviewed or scored.

Funding Amounts

Until HUD issues the NOFO for the 2024 HUD CoC Competition, it is not possible to be certain as to the funding availability. Based on prior years funding, the CoC anticipates:

- \$2,400,000 in Bonus funding for new projects is potentially available to the CoC;
- Up to \$2,800,000 may be applied for by projects seeking the DV Bonus;
- There are potential additional funds for new projects through the reallocation process.
- The CoC will review all new project applications and will rank these projects in order of their score until the available funding for new projects has been fully committed. Once the available funding has been fully committed, any remaining applications will not be included in the collaborative application submitted to HUD.

Attachments:

- Scoring sheet for new project applications
- Application instructions for new project applications
- Budget forms for new projects
 - Note: there are separate budget forms for projects claiming indirect (either negotiated or de minimis) and for those not planning on claiming indirect. The 'indirect' form will help applicants to recover the indirect costs.