



Chicago Continuum of Care Board of Directors Executive Committee

Briefing on CoC Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Notice of Funding Opportunity

Background Information

On June 22, 2022 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) to address unsheltered and rural homelessness. HUD states that the purpose of the NOFO "...is to target efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness, particularly in communities with very high levels of unsheltered homelessness..."

HUD notes that awards will support coordinated approaches to address unsheltered homelessness that are grounded in "Housing First and public health principles" and that "improve service engagement, health outcomes and housing stability among highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families."

HUD is making available \$267,500,000 for non-rural communities in this NOFO. Appendix A of the NOFO states that the maximum unsheltered homeless set aside amount the IL-510 Chicago CoC is eligible to apply for is \$60,000,000. The NOFO deadline is October 20, 2022.

The Unsheltered NOFO mirrors the annual CoC Program application and requires the Collaborative Applicant to submit the application on behalf of the CoC. The application contains three parts:

- 1) CoC Application: CoC planning, governance structure, performance, strategic planning process and plan for preventing and ending homelessness in the CoC. This section will be scored and "will determine the order in which CoCs are funded."
- 2) Project Applications: Project applications
- 3) CoC Priority Listing: Each project must be reviewed, approved and ranked or rejected. Unlike the CoC Program application, this NOFO requires CoC's to rank CoC Planning project costs.

NOFO Priority Areas

Priority areas noted in the NOFO include:

- The NOFO supports CoC's in efforts to identify people living in unsheltered situations, including encampments, to connect them to health and housing resources.
 - It specifically states that CoC's can use this NOFO to enhance HMIS to collect more comprehensive data on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
 - CoC's should invite a variety of stakeholders to develop and implement a CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experience Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.
 - HUD encourages CoC's to implement system and program changes to address equity by identifying and addressing the needs of subpopulations disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness.
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- HUD emphasizes the use of a Housing First approach to prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in housing without preconditions or service participation requirements. The NOFO states that CoC's should help projects reduce the length of time people are experiencing homelessness and engage landlords to create housing inventory for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing.
- HUD is requiring applicants to identify the steps the CoC will take to include traditionally marginalized populations to meaningfully participate in the planning process.

Comprehensive CoC Plan Requirements

The NOFO requires CoC's to develop a plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs that should describe the items below. This Comprehensive plan makes up 70 of the 100 points in the CoC Application.

- CoC's current strategies for conducting coordinated and comprehensive outreach;
- Providing access to low-barrier shelter and other temporary accommodations;
- Providing immediate access to low-barrier permanent housing;
- How the CoC will leverage mainstream housing and healthcare resources to end unsheltered homelessness, stabilize households in housing and increase access to employment opportunities;
- Demonstrate how the CoC will serve underserved communities, including identifying barriers that lead to disparities and taking steps to address such barriers;
- Show how the CoC will involve individuals with lived experience in the decision making process; and
- Ensure the resources under this NOFO will contribute to the reduction of unsheltered homelessness in the CoC.

CoC Consolidated Application Scoring Criteria

The CoC Consolidated Application will be scored on a 100-point scale and CoC's must receive at least 50 percent of the points available for the funding opportunity (note, bonus points do not count toward the 50%).

- 1) Project Capacity, Review and Ranking (4 points): HUD will award up to 4 points to CoCs that demonstrate the existence of a coordinated, inclusive, and outcome-oriented community process for the solicitation, objective review, ranking, and selection of project applications.
- 2) System Performance (18 points): HUD will award up to 18 points to CoCs that have a CoC system-wide performance measurement process related to reducing homelessness.
- 3) CoC Coordination and Engagement (8 points): HUD will award up to 8 points to CoCs that demonstrate coordination with other systems of care that serve homeless individuals and families, including sources of funding other than the CoC Program; an inclusive and outcome-oriented community process, including an organization structure(s) and decision-making process for developing and implementing a CoC strategy that is inclusive of representatives from both the private and public sectors, has a fair and impartial project review and selection process; and has created, maintained, and built upon a communitywide inventory of housing and homeless individuals and families.
- 4) CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs (70 points): HUD will award up to 70 points based on the CoC's Plan. Points are awarded specifically for leveraging housing resources, landlord recruitment strategies, healthcare resources, strategies to identify and house unsheltered households, involving people with lived experience in planning and decision making, and how the CoC supports underserved communities.
- 5) Unsheltered Homelessness Bonus (up to 30 points): HUD will award bonus points based on the number of unsheltered people reported in the 2019 Point in Time Count. For Chicago, the 2019 Point in Time Count showed 1,256 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. For this, Chicago will likely be awarded 10 bonus points out of the 30.

- a. Of all CoC's there is one CoC that will receive 30 bonus points; 5 that will receive 20 bonus points; and 37 that will receive 10 bonus points.
- b. HUD also uses the 2019 unsheltered point in time count number as a tie breaker, with the CoC that has a higher number receiving funding over the other.

Eligible Project Types

The NOFO allows CoC's to submit applications for, and rank the following project types:

- Permanent Housing
 - o Rapid Rehousing
 - o Permanent Supportive Housing
- Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing – Rapid Rehousing
- Supportive Services Only
- HMIS
- CoC Planning Costs

The NOFO does not allow projects to apply for acquisition or new construction. All project types will be awarded 3-year grant terms.

Eligible Populations to be Served

Projects in this NOFO may serve people meeting the following definitions:

- 1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
 - a. An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
 - b. An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
 - c. An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;
- 2) Any individual or family who:
 - a. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
 - b. Has no other residence; and
 - c. Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing.