



Chicago Continuum of Care Board of Directors

CoC Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO)

Briefing on the strategic components of the Comprehensive Plan Included with the Special NOFO

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 NOFO requires CoC's to develop a comprehensive plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs that should describe the items below. The CoC Board Executive Committee passed a motion on July 27, 2022, stating, "That the CoC Board vote on the strategic components of the Comprehensive Plan at the August 17 meeting. Strategic components include whether the three lead agencies of the CoC would need to expand to support the plan, which project types are eligible to apply, and how those project types would be coordinated for maximum impact."

The comprehensive plan strategic components will translate into the CoC's new project funding opportunities to be released in late August.

CoC Input on Comprehensive Plan

To shape the CoC's Comprehensive Plan, the CoC solicited broad-based input on the way the CoC could leverage this NOFO funding to make progress toward ending unsheltered homelessness. This feedback formed the **Strategic Components of the Comprehensive Plan** sections below, which is being considered at the August 17th CoC Board meeting. Input could be submitted in writing via a CoC input survey, or by attending one of the CoC's input sessions:

- CoC Input Session 1: August 5 – Targeted to all CoC Members
- CoC Input Session 2: August 8 – Targeted to all CoC Members

The CoC also held targeted input sessions:

- July 28 – CoC Outreach Teams
- August 3 – Youth Action Board and Lived Experience Commission Members
- August 3 – Expedited Housing Initiative Rapid Rehousing Providers
- August 10 – People with Lived Experience who have Recently Gone Through Housing Experience in Chicago CoC
- August 11 – System Front Door Line of Action

A summary of the feedback received through the input survey and in all sessions is included at the end of this document.

Comprehensive Plan Development

The input received from the survey and input sessions formed the basis of the Comprehensive Plan development process. All Chicago convened the Department of Family and Support Services and Department of Public Health to discuss CoC input and formulate the Comprehensive Plan's Strategic Components. These three entities are the primary system leads for key components the CoC as it relates to the Special NOFO (outreach, housing, and health/behavioral health):

- All Chicago serves as the Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead Agency; manages the CoC's Implementation Structure; and has an application pending CoC Board and CoC Membership approval to become the CoC's Coordinated Entry Lead Agency.
- Department of Family and Support Services oversees the city's outreach teams and oversees delegate agencies that provide outreach, shelter and housing services for people experiencing homelessness.
- Department of Public Health oversees the city's efforts to connect people experiencing homelessness to critical behavioral health and health services.

Comprehensive Plan Overview

The CoC has an opportunity to leverage the Special NOFO funding to both expand and enhance services that will support approximately three hundred people experiencing unsheltered homelessness move into housing each year. As determined by the Relief Funding Working Group and CoC Board in 2021 – which established recommendations for how the city and state should use American Rescue Plan Act resources – the CoC needs an array of housing options and investments in system-wide coordination services. Further input from CoC members and stakeholders demonstrated that the CoC also needs an opportunity for people to access immediate, independent triage housing with intensive wrap-around services that follow someone throughout the transition from unsheltered homelessness into housing.

The Strategic Components of the plan below empower the CoC to achieve its shared vision for how resources should be allocated and coordinated to reduce unsheltered homelessness.

Innovations the CoC could launch with this Special NOFO include:

- More robust outreach teams with immediate access to clinical supports and triage or stabilization housing. Triage or stabilization housing that people can choose to opt into will position Chicago to

orient even more toward a housing first framework as it will provide choice to immediately access housing while linking to other permanent housing opportunities.

- Inclusion of Peer Support workers with lived experience of unsheltered homelessness as part of multi-disciplinary outreach teams.
- Enhanced system-wide coordination for outreach and engagement, and housing stability services.
- New system-wide multi-disciplinary teams to support someone in housing with clinical needs.

This Special NOFO Plan also leverages across multiple city and state department funding streams to maximize resources. For example, the Chicago Department of Public Health will be funding a stabilization housing option for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness with behavioral health conditions and co-occurring chronic medical conditions that are frequent users of other systems of care. If funded, Chicago would utilize Special NOFO resources to build additional capacity for triage housing as part of our system approach to housing first.

Comprehensive Plan – Strategic Component 1: Eligible Project Types and Project Type Focus for Special NOFO

Based on input sessions and prior CoC discussions, the CoC should allow applications to be put forth to HUD for the following program models. The CoC will open a new projects process for the Joint TH-RRH, RRH, PSH and SSO models. The CoC’s New Project Committee will vet project applications. The CoC’s Ranking Policies Committee will recommend a rank order of all projects. The CoC Board will finalize the new project slate and ranking policies.

For the SSO-Coordinated Entry, CoC Planning Grant and HMIS grants, All Chicago would apply to HUD as the recipient of these funding sources based on its roles as Lead Agencies, or potential Lead Agency, for the CoC.

HUD Program Model	Chicago Program Model Focus	Key Components and Activities for Chicago Program Model
<u>Supportive Service Only (SSO)</u>	<p>Outreach and Engagement SSOs:</p> <p>Conduct robust outreach and engagement services for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include people with lived experience as Peer Navigators • Include clinical supports and/or multidisciplinary teams (i.e., teams with nurses or the inclusion of, or access to other critical clinical care teams) • Be able to conduct outreach throughout the CoC’s boundaries (City of Chicago), including serving clients who will be housed by agencies that may be different than the agency applying for the Engagement SSOs. • At least one program should serve a coordination role that would help support the CoC’s efforts to coordinate across city departments and among housing and healthcare partners. This could be distinct from delivery of direct services.
<u>Supportive Service Only (SSO)</u>	<p>Housing Supports SSOs:</p> <p>Multi-disciplinary teams to support people while in CoC housing with clinical supports, including behavioral health (mental health and substance use) physical health, and medication.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include clinical supports and/or multidisciplinary teams (i.e., teams with nurses or the inclusion of, or access to, other critical clinical care teams) • Be able to provide services throughout the CoC’s boundaries (City of Chicago), including serving clients who will be housed by agencies that may be different than the agency applying for the Housing Supports SSO. • Build from evidenced based models, such as Community Support Treatment and/or Assertive Community Treatment.

HUD Program Model	Chicago Program Model Focus	Key Components and Activities for Chicago Program Model
<u>Joint Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing (TH -RRH) Program</u>	<p>Triage Housing:</p> <p>Provide extremely low-barrier, independent unit housing opportunities for people who are moving from an unsheltered situation into housing and who are interested in accessing triage housing. This population may need intensive, crisis-intervention services such as mental health, behavioral health, substance use and other supports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be willing to take people directly from an unsheltered location, via a match through Coordinated Entry, and provide support to move people into housing, and supports once in housing. • Be able to identify long-term housing options for people once in housing, including subsidized housing within or beyond the CoC’s resources. • Be willing to work with All Chicago and city departments to leverage opportunities to secure an appropriate facility for this purpose (such as the upcoming Department of Housing acquisition opportunity, and/or the use of hotels). • Be able to serve clients from the entirety of the CoC’s boundaries (City of Chicago). • Take all referrals through the Coordinated Entry system.
<u>Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Program</u>	<p>Rapid Rehousing:</p> <p>Refer to the <u>CoC Community Standards</u> for more information about the RRH Program Model</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be willing to take people directly from an unsheltered location, via a match through Coordinated Entry, and provide support to move people into housing, and supports once in housing. • Be able to identify long-term housing options for people once in housing, including subsidized housing within or beyond the CoC’s resources. • Bring to the table, and/or be open to leveraging the RRH program with healthcare resources or other subsidies as identified by the CoC to position Chicago most competitively in this application.
<u>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Program</u>	<p>Permanent Supportive Housing:</p> <p>Refer to the <u>CoC Community Standards</u> for more information about the PSH Program Model</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be willing to take people directly from an unsheltered location, via a match through Coordinated Entry, and provide support to move people into housing, and supports once in housing. • Bring to the table, and/or be open to leveraging the PSH program with healthcare resources or other subsidies as identified by the CoC to position Chicago most competitively in this application.
<p>Supportive Service Only (SSO) – Coordinated Entry</p>	<p>Coordinated Entry System</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the CoC’s Coordinated Entry system can seamlessly coordinate pathways to housing for all people, starting when people are in an unsheltered location. • Funding for anticipated vendor related costs to improve and streamline the CoC’s technology systems to coordinate the above projects.

HUD Program Model	Chicago Program Model Focus	Key Components and Activities for Chicago Program Model
CoC Planning Grant	CoC Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the CoC activities related to program evaluation, monitoring, and training.
<u>Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)</u>	HMIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand HMIS staffing to support onboarding and maintenance of the Special NOFO's new programs.

Comprehensive Plan – Strategic Component 2: Proposed Target Range of Funding Allocations by Program Type for Special NOFO

The CoC’s Collaborative Applicant and New Projects Committee seek guidance from the CoC Board on how to recommend funding allocations for various program types. The chart below lists an option for allocating target ranges for each program model, which provides both guidance and flexibility for the New Projects Committee and therefor the CoC, to support robust programs and best practices.

Program Model	Recommended Percent Range of Special NOFO Funding	Annual Special NOFO Funding Amount	3-Year Special NOFO Funding Amount
SSO - Outreach	10% - 25%	\$2 to \$5 million	\$6 to \$15 million
SSO – Housing Supports	10% - 20%	\$2 to \$4 million	\$6 to \$12 million
Joint TH-RRH	10% - 20%	\$2 to \$4 million	\$6 to \$12 million
PH – RRH and PSH	35% - 60%	\$7 to \$12 million	\$21 to \$36 million
System Infrastructure: SSO-CE, CoC Planning Grant, HMIS	5%	\$1 million	\$3 million

Comprehensive Plan – Strategic Component 3: Special NOFO System Infrastructure Support

The Special NOFO encourages CoCs to apply for additional Planning Grant dollars to support the activities in the CoC’s plan. These dollars can only be applied to by the CoC’s Collaborative Applicant – All Chicago. Additionally, the CoC needs additional funding to support HMIS and the Coordinated Entry System.

As the Chicago CoC receives expanded funding from HUD, the amount of work needed to coordinate all the system level activities expands as well. The proposed new projects to in the special NOFO will require this additional infrastructure to support the successful implementation and coordination by the Lead Agency roles. Given that All Chicago serves/anticipates serving as the Lead Agency for all three roles (Collaborative Applicant, HMIS and Coordinated Entry), we are requesting that 5% of the Special NOFO funding support the expanded system level responsibilities.

The CoC Board Executive Committee could request a budget and accompanying narrative to finalize the funding amount allocated to System Infrastructure. The Executive Committee’s recommendation would be part of the overall new projects and ranking package that would be finalized at a future CoC Board meeting.

Comprehensive Plan – Strategic Component 4: System-Wide Coordination and Planning

The program models above represent the framework of what the CoC needs to reduce the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. If funded, the CoC will need to invest time in outlining the details, workflows, evidence-based models, and coordination efforts that will ensure these added resources are maximized for the CoC.

If funded, we propose that each entity funded as part of the Special NOFO enter an MOU between the CoC and that entity to agree to work together to effectively coordinate service and housing delivery. It is likely that the CoC will receive notice of funding, if awarded, in the first half of 2023. At that point, the Collaborative Applicant will convene regular meetings with the funded entities to build out and solidify the MOU, roles, responsibilities, and workflows.