



The City of
OKLAHOMA CITY
Planning Department
Community Development Division
420 W. Main, Suite 920, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
FOR
CONTINUUM OF CARE 2015

Introduction:

On September 18, 2015 the Department of Housing and Urban Development released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the 2015 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. This announcement is to notify all parties seeking new or renewal funding of the changes and requirements of this year's competition and should be read in full. A technical assistance/question & answer session will be held on **Friday, October 2, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** at the **Westtown Resource Center**, 1724 NW 4th St. Attendance is **mandatory** and all agencies submitting a request will need to have a representative present. The type of programs requested and criteria that must be followed by each entity wishing to be considered for funding are outlined below.

General Information:

The purpose of the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs is to fund projects that will fill gaps in locally developed Continuum of Care systems to assist homeless persons to move to self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

The renewal funds can be used under any of the following programs:

- (1) Supportive Housing (SHP)
- (2) Shelter Plus Care (S+C); and
- (3) Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy for Homeless Individuals (SRO)

The HEARTH Act consolidated these programs into the Continuum of Care program governed by the CoC Interim Rule (24 CFR, Part 578).

New Projects: HUD has announced that there are funds available for Bonus Projects in the 2015 Continuum of Care Competition. The total amount of new funds available nationally has not been made available. CoCs may propose up to 15% of their final pro rata need (FPRN) for bonus projects (**\$476,266.35**) and may propose more than one project.

New projects can be for either Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Re-housing. All new Permanent Supportive Housing must be dedicated to serve the chronically homeless. It is requested that all new Rapid Re-housing serve homeless families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelter. However homeless individuals and youth are also eligible.

Renewal: projects can only apply for a one (1) year term. Renewing permanent supportive housing projects may only serve persons coming directly from non-housing, emergency shelter, or transitional housing for homeless persons. All eligible applicants for renewal grants must be able to document that they are fully participating (entering all required data on all homeless clients) in HMIS/Servicepoint. Renewal projects must demonstrate they meet or exceed HUD performance

measurements. If a renewal project does not meet the minimum HUD standards the applicant will submit an explanation and a plan to improve the performance of the program.

Project Ranking: All projects will be prioritized and ranked by the Continuum of Care Board. Projects will fall into either a Tier 1 or Tier 2 category depending on their rank. Tiers are financial thresholds that HUD requires CoCs to use for project ranking. Tier 1 is equal to 85% of the CoCs annual renewal demand (ARD) previously approved by HUD (**\$2,698,842**). Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's total ARD plus any amount available for permanent housing bonus projects. The Oklahoma City CoC's total ARD is (**\$3,175,109**).

Grant terms for new projects: Should a new project be created through reallocation, the grant term may be from 1 year to 5 years depending on the activity. New projects that include leasing can only request up to 3 years of assistance. New projects requesting tenant based rental assistance may request up to 5 years of funds. New operating costs, HMIS, supportive services, and administration projects may have from 1 to 5 year grant terms. Any applicant requesting funds for new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation should contact city staff to discuss grant terms prior to submission.

Eligible Applicants:

Must be a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization
Must have a DUNS number and be registered with SAM –System for Award Management (previously CCR – Central Contractor Registry) and not be on the Excluded Parties List
Must have experience in providing housing and supportive services to the homeless population

Ineligible Activities:

Homeless prevention and emergency shelter activities are statutorily ineligible under the Continuum of Care program.

Type of Projects Being Requested:

Projects seeking CoC funds must meet the following objectives related to housing and serving the City's homeless population:

1. Help homeless individuals, youth and families obtain and then remain in permanent housing
2. Increase the skills and income of homeless individuals, youth and families.
3. Help move homeless individuals, youth and families quickly out of shelters
4. Help homeless individuals, youth and families achieve greater self-determination.

HUD Eligible Projects Include:

- (1) Renewing Permanent Supportive Housing and former Shelter Plus Care projects for homeless individuals and families with disabilities who are coming directly from non-housing, emergency shelter or transitional housing for homeless people:
 - ❑ Long-term, community-based housing for homeless people with disabilities (such as mental illness, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and/or physical disabilities)
 - ❑ Up to 16 individuals, youth or families per site
 - ❑ Includes supportive services offered in or near the project site
 - ❑ Helps participants maintain permanent housing, increase skills and income and achieve greater self-determination
- (2) New Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless persons or families:
 - ❑ Individuals, youth or families served must come directly from shelters or streets and must have a diagnosable disability (see HUD NOFA for details)
 - ❑ New Permanent Supportive Housing projects may request up to a 5-year grant term if requesting rental assistance and up to 3-years if requesting leasing funds.

- No more than 30 percent of the total funds requested (grant total minus administration costs) may be used for supportive services.
- (3) New Re-Housing projects:
- Those served must come directly from shelters or streets.
 - Assistance is time limited.
 - Families are preferred but youth and individuals are eligible.
- (4) Renewing Transitional Housing for homeless families and individuals:
- Limited 24-month stay; targets families and individuals in shelters
 - Includes supportive services offered in or near the project site
 - Helps participants locate, obtain, move into and maintain permanent housing
- (5) Renewing Supportive Services Only:
- Addresses service needs of homeless persons
 - Agency cannot provide housing to same persons receiving services
 - May or may not be provided from a structure
 - Focused on helping participants achieve permanent housing
 - Operating costs are not eligible

Local Requirements:

To further the HUD and local goals for serving chronically homeless individuals and families, with priority on serving those with the longest histories of homelessness by rapidly re-housing the most vulnerable and providing appropriate wrap-around services to ensure success, all new and renewal applicants must be dedicate a portion of their request to providing continuing services to those rapidly re-housed under this initiative.

Submittals must be sent via email to the collaborative applicant at jerod.shadid@okc.gov during the period **starting 1:00 pm September 28, 2015 and ending 5:00pm October 14, 2015**.

All parties who make a submission will also be required to complete the CoC Project Application for FY 2015 in esnaps at <https://esnaps.hud.gov> by **8:00pm November 18, 2015**.

Please contact Jerod Shadid by email at jerod.shadid@okc.gov or by phone at **(405) 297-3608** for any questions you may have regarding this solicitation.

HUD's Homeless Policy and Program Priorities

The following are HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities as listed in the 2013-14 Continuum of Care Program NOFA. All applicants should read these priorities and carefully consider them when completing their application.

A. Policy Priorities. The General Section establishes specific department wide policy priorities and permits each program NOFA to award up to 4 points for these priorities. While HUD will award up to two points for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing per Section VII.A.1.j. of this NOFA, this NOFA will not award any additional points on the General Section policy priorities. Rather, this NOFA focuses on the Administration goals articulated in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. The goals of *Opening Doors* are consistent with the Department's homeless goals as stated in HUD's Strategic Plan. This section explains HUD's Policy Priorities for this CoC Program Competition NOFA and provides Collaborative Applicants and Project Applicants with additional context about the selection criteria and selection process. The actual selection criteria and selection process is described in Section VII, Application Review Information.

- 1. Strategic Resource Allocation.** Using performance and outcome data, CoCs should decide how to best use the resources available to end homelessness within the community, including CoC and ESG Program funds, State and local funds, public and assisted housing units, mainstream service resources such as Medicaid, and philanthropic efforts. Decisions about resource allocation should include the following:
 - a. Comprehensive Review of Projects.** CoCs should reallocate funds to new projects whenever reallocations would reduce homelessness. Communities should use CoC approved scoring criteria and selection priorities to determine the extent to which each project is still necessary and addresses the policy priorities listed in this NOFA.
 - b. Maximizing the Use of Mainstream Resources.** HUD strongly encourages CoCs and project applicants to ensure that they are maximizing the use of all mainstream services available. While 24 CFR part 578 allows for the payment of certain supportive service costs, it is more efficient for CoCs to use mainstream resources where possible. CoCs should proactively seek and provide information to all stakeholders within the geographic area about mainstream resources and funding opportunities, particularly new opportunities made available under the Affordable Care Act and related technical assistance initiatives. Additionally, where homeless assistance projects are providing specialized services, such as employment services, mental health services, or substance abuse recovery services, they should be coordinating with State or local agencies responsible for overseeing these services to ensure that they are using best practices and that there is proper oversight of their programs.
 - c. Leveraging Resources through Partnerships.** CoCs should partner with other stakeholders within the community such as Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), philanthropic organizations, and other agencies and organizations that have resources that could be used to serve persons experiencing homelessness.

- d. *Reviewing the Efficacy of Transitional Housing.* Recent research shows that transitional housing is generally more expensive than other housing models serving similar populations with similar outcomes. HUD also recognizes that transitional housing may be an effective tool for addressing certain needs—such as housing for underage homeless youth, safety for persons fleeing domestic violence, and assistance with recovery from addiction. HUD strongly encourages CoCs and recipients to carefully review the transitional housing projects within the geographic area for cost-effectiveness, performance, and for the number and type of eligibility criteria to determine if rapid re-housing might be a better model for the CoC’s geographic area.

2. Ending Chronic Homelessness.

- a. *Increasing Units.* In order to increase the number of units for chronically homeless individuals and families and work towards the goal of ending chronic homelessness, HUD encourages CoCs to create new projects through reallocation that exclusively serve chronically homeless individuals and families and/or create a permanent housing bonus project specifically for chronically homeless individuals and families. Chronically homeless and permanent supportive housing are defined in 24 CFR 578.3. Projects are prohibited from discriminating against chronically homeless families with children.

- b. *Targeting.* Chronically homeless individuals and families should be given priority for permanent supportive housing beds not currently dedicated to this population as vacancies become available through turnover. Permanent supportive housing renewal projects serving specific disabled subpopulations (e.g., persons with mental illness or persons with substance use disorder) must continue to serve those subpopulations, as required in the current grant agreement. However, chronically homeless individuals and families within the specified subpopulation should be prioritized for entry. CoCs are encouraged to implement a process for prioritizing homeless individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness consistent with Notice CPD 14-012: *Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status.*

3. Ending Family Homelessness. Most families experiencing homelessness can be housed quickly and stably using rapid re-housing, although some will need the long-term support provided by a permanent housing subsidy or permanent supportive housing. CoCs should adjust the homeless services system for families to ensure that families can easily access rapid re-housing and other housing assistance tailored to their needs. CoCs should also be working with their affordable housing community to facilitate access to affordable housing units. CoCs should also ensure that their projects address the safety needs of persons fleeing domestic violence.

Rapid re-housing is designed to assist homeless individuals and families, with or without disabilities, to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is time-limited, individualized, and flexible, and should complement and enhance homeless system performance. HUD encourages CoCs to use reallocation to create new rapid re-housing projects for families.

4. Ending Youth Homelessness. CoCs should understand the unique needs of homeless youth and should be reaching out to youth-serving organizations to help them fully participate in the CoC. CoCs and youth serving organizations should work together to

develop resources and programs that better end youth homelessness and meet the needs of homeless youth, including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth. When evaluating the performance of youth programs, CoCs should take into account the specific challenges faced by homeless youth. When CoCs identify lower performing youth serving projects, they should seek to reallocate funds from those projects to better projects serving youth.

5. **Ending Veteran Homelessness.** Ending veteran homelessness is within reach for many communities, and CoCs should take specific steps to reach this goal including:
 - a. CoC Program-funded projects should, to the extent possible, prioritize veterans and their families who cannot be effectively assisted with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) services. When it is determined a veteran cannot be effectively assisted with VA housing and services and has the same level of need as a non-veteran (as determined using a standardized assessment tool) the veteran should receive priority.
 - b. CoCs should work closely with the local VA and other Veteran-serving organizations and coordinate CoC resources with VA-funded housing and services including HUD-VASH and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF).

6. **Using a Housing First Approach.** *Housing First* is an approach to homeless assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold. Projects using a housing first approach often have supportive services; however, participation in these services is based on the needs and desires of the program participant. Specific steps to support a community-wide Housing First approach include the following:
 - a. *Removing Barriers to Entry.* CoCs should review system- and project-level eligibility criteria to identify and remove barriers to accessing services and housing that are experienced by homeless individuals and families. Many projects currently have barriers to entry.
 - b. *Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System.* Centralized or coordinated assessment is a key step in assessing the needs of homeless individuals and families requesting assistance and prioritizing those households for assistance. Establishment and operation of a centralized or coordinated assessment system is a requirement of 24 CFR part 578. HUD also posted a *Coordinated Entry Policy Brief* on the HUD Exchange to help inform local efforts to further develop CoCs' coordinated entry processes.
 - c. *Client-centered Service Delivery.* Housing and service options should be tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual or family presenting for services. Program participants should not be required to participate in services that they do not believe will help them to achieve their goals.
 - d. *Prioritizing Households Most in Need.* CoCs should prioritize those who are identified as most in need (e.g., those who have been living on the street the

longest, homeless households with children living in unsheltered situations, those who are considered most medically vulnerable) for placement into appropriate housing.

- e. *Inclusive Decision-making.* CoCs should ensure that the needs of all individuals and families experiencing homelessness are represented within the CoC structure by including providers serving groups such as persons fleeing domestic violence, the LGBTQ community, victims of human trafficking, unaccompanied youth, and other relevant populations in the planning body. Including these groups in the decision-making structures of the CoC ensures that service delivery is both client-centered and culturally competent.

HUD recognizes that there may be some instances where the Housing First approach is not appropriate for a particular permanent or transitional housing project. For example, this may include projects where residents are focused on obtaining support to recover from substance use disorders, and such projects may be alcohol and drug free to support their continued sobriety. However, in general, Housing First approaches are encouraged across all types of projects.

. *For more information see full text of the 2013-14 CoC Program NOFA.