

NOFA for the 2019 Continuum of Care Program Competition

July 23, 2019

Housing the Homeless Alert

Author(s): Rae Sanchez

On July 3, HUD issued a Notice of Funding Availability (“NOFA”) for continuum of care programs. Applications are due by September 30, 2019.

Background

This Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) establishes the funding criteria for the FY 2019 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. HUD is making available approximately \$2.3 billion in Fiscal Year 2019 for the CoC Program. The CoC Program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

The CoC Program is authorized by subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, (42 U.S.C. 11381–11389) (the Act), and the CoC Program rule found in 24 CFR part 578 (the Rule). The Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 funds were authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (Public Law 116-6, approved February 15, 2019) (FY 2019 HUD Appropriations Act).

NOFA terms

The NOFA emphasizes speed, capacity and housing first approach.

Speed. Applications are due September 30, and HUD expects to make awards approximately 90 days later. HUD will issue uniform debriefing information within 90 days after the final FY 2019 conditional award announcement to each CoC that will include the overall score for the CoC and a breakdown of the score received for the main sections of the CoC Application. HUD does not intend to issue individual debriefings for each applicant.

Capacity. Entities who have the financial resources to support, identify and prioritize gaps for homeless families. They will also need to develop short- and long-term strategies to eradicate homelessness. Given the limited amount of funds available and the ceiling on the maximum amount awarded to a project, HUD recognizes that projects are expected to leverage available funding to meet needs and must have utilized funding no later than 18 months after award. HUD reserves the right to withdraw awards from sponsors who fail to meet that deadline.

Housing First. Housing First is a paradigm shift from the traditional *housing ready* approach. It follows a basic principle—that *everyone* is ready for housing, regardless of the complexity or severity of their needs. The NOFA encourages an approach that optimizes self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In the NOFA, HUD states that CoCs should have a comprehensive outreach strategy in place to identify and continuously engage all unsheltered individuals and families.

Additionally, CoCs should use local data to determine the characteristics of individuals and families with the highest needs and long experiences of unsheltered homelessness to develop housing and supportive services tailored to their needs. Finally, CoCs should use the reallocation process to create new projects that improve their overall performance and better respond to their needs.

The FY 2019 CoC Program Competition is administered under the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition NOFA and 24 CFR part 578. Applicants should review and follow the steps as outlined below to ensure applications are complete and submitted timely. Documents referenced in this section can be found on the HUD Exchange at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps>.

Application Requirements

Eligible project applicants for the CoC Program Competition are found at 24 CFR 578.15 and include nonprofit organizations, states, local governments, and instrumentalities of state and local governments. Public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100, are eligible without limitation or exclusion. Tribes, tribal housing authorities, and for-profit 25 of 81 entities are ineligible to apply for grants or to be subrecipients of grant funds.

Timeline

- Renewal and New Projects please send written notification *LOI by **Thursday, August 1, 2019**
- Renewal and New Project Proposals must be submitted for consideration by the CoC by **Thursday, August 8, 2019**
- Ranking and Review Committee to review and score proposals **Tuesday, August 13, 2019**
- Governing Council will review and approve the recommendations of the Rank and Review Committee, **Thursday, August 15, 2019**
- Funding selection and refusal notifications sent to applicants by **Friday, August 23, 2019**
- Selected projects submit final Project Applications to CHP by **Friday, September 13, 2019**
- Initial draft of CoC Application delivered to CHP for review by **Monday, September 15, 2019**
- Revisions to CoC Application returned to Pathways/MISI by **Wednesday, September 17, 2019**
- Final CoC Application, Priority Listing and Planning Grant delivered to CHP by **Friday, September 19, 2019**
- Posting of CoC Application related materials to HNM website by **Friday, September 19, 2019**
- ❖ **NOTE:** *The Rank and Review Committee will review Program Applications for eligibility. If your project is deemed ineligible, you will be promptly notified. Please be advised that the applicant is solely responsible for the content and accuracy of the Program Application. Eligibility criteria for new projects is detailed in the [Notice of Funding Availability \(NOFA\) for Fiscal Year 2019 Continuum of Care Program Competition](#)*
- *Application Due Date Monday, September 30, 2019 at 8:00 PM*

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL DUE DATES STATED IN THIS APPLICATION ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON ANY CHANGES RECEIVED FROM THE HUD SNAPS OFFICE.

* Letter of Intent (LOI) stating intent to apply for or renew grant.