

Funding Opportunities: Learn More About HUD's Special NOFO to Address Rural Homelessness & New Stability Voucher Program

September 15, 2022



WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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National Alliance to End Homelessness



Housekeeping Notes



All attendees muted,
please use the **Chat
Box**

- Share information and ideas
- Dialogue with your colleagues



We are not HUD



Webinar is recorded



2022 CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)

TO ADDRESS UNSHELTERED AND
RURAL HOMELESSNESS



2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness

Communities should use this as a driver to develop plans on unsheltered homelessness.

This represents an extraordinarily important opportunity to reverse course on punitive tactics and demonstrate the effectiveness of evidence-based best practices.

- Alternative to criminalization
- Alternative to anti-Housing First measures

Presents an opportunity to build capacity in rural and Tribal areas not previously resourced.

Funding Amounts

- Approximately \$322 million is available in the Supplemental NOFO
 - **Rural Homelessness Set Aside.** \$54.5 million is available for projects that serve rural areas.
 - **Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside.** \$267.5 million is available for CoCs with:
 - high levels of unsheltered homelessness and
 - comprehensive plans to reduce unsheltered homelessness.

Important Dates

- **June 22:** Supplemental NOFO Released
- **September 20:** Project applications submitted to the CoC
- **October 5:** CoC notifies project applicants about whether their projection application(s) will be accepted and ranked on the CoC Priority Listing, rejected, or reduced by the CoC.
- **October 18:** CoC posts (online) all parts of the Special NOFO Consolidated Application, including the CoC Application, the CoC Application attachments, and the CoC Priority Listing, and notifies key community members and stakeholders that the CoC Consolidated Application is available.
- **October 20: Submission Deadline**

Recommended Principles to Follow

- **Be urgent and equitable.**
- **Help people facing the greatest needs.**
- Ensure that plans adhere to **Housing First principles and practices.**
- **Incorporate the needed services by collaborating closely with partners,** including health care and housing providers, those focused on the needs of older adults, Tribal entities, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, among others.

Placing Equity at the Center – A Must!

Why Center Equity?

- Most minority groups are overrepresented in the homelessness system and generally experience homelessness at higher rates than White people.
- Overrepresentation also threads through other communities such as the LGBTQ+— also rooted in discrimination.
- Understanding the causes of racial/ethnic disproportionality in homelessness requires an analysis of centuries of systemic racial discrimination:

***Government sponsored and sanctioned discriminatory policies and practices like ***Jim Crow laws, redlining, and exclusionary zoning laws, etc.

The end result - racialized consequences that continue to drive inequities today, including in homelessness.

The Homelessness System and Equity

- Structural factors and feeder systems such as criminal justice account largely for the disproportionality in homelessness, *however*, homelessness programs and systems may also create disparities in services and the outcomes.
- Homelessness systems and programs have a direct responsibility to ensure that they are not adding to the problem by having a disparate impact on people based on race or ethnicity.

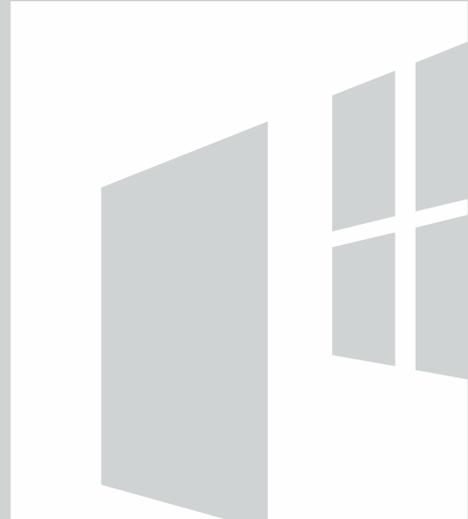
Thinking About Equity and the NOFO

There are points to be gained from assessing equity:

- (1) The special NOFO awards points for activities like inclusion, the diversity of stakeholders, the engagement of organizations that serve culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness.
- (2) More examples include points for outreach strategies that are **culturally appropriate** and that involve people with **lived experience** as paid staff. CoCs can get up to **5** points for including people with lived experience in the CoC process (p. 52) and up to **8** points for supporting underserved populations (p.53).
- (3) Projects serving Tribal Lands.

The NOFO is another reminder of the importance of centering equity in this work—underserved communities are counting on it.

HUD'S POLICY PRIORITIES AND FUNDING



HUD's Six Policy Priorities

| Policy Priority | Summary |
|---|--|
| Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness | Identify people living unsheltered (including encampments) and connect them directly to health and housing resources. Enhance Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect more comprehensive data on people living unsheltered. |
| Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness and Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs in Rural Areas | Rural areas often lack infrastructure and have unique challenges to providing homeless services and permanent housing. Target resources to rural areas and utilize additional eligible activities available in this NOFO to address the unique needs of rural areas. |
| Providing Assistance on Tribal Lands | Indian Reservations and Trust Lands are now eligible recipients of CoC funds. CoCs are incentivized to create projects in areas where CoC services have been <u>entirely unavailable</u> and have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty. |

HUD's Six Policy Priorities

| Policy Priority | Summary |
|--|---|
| Involving a Broad Array of Stakeholders in the CoC's Efforts to Reduce Homelessness | Homeless services alone will not end homelessness. CoCs are encouraged to coordinate with a variety of stakeholders to develop and implement the CoC's plan to serve the populations detailed in this NOFO. |
| Advancing Equity | BIPOC, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, and other marginalized populations are overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes needed to identify and address the needs of people who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness. |
| Using a Housing First Approach | Projects funded under this NOFO should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing. CoCs should ensure that projects are correctly implementing a Housing First approach. |

Available Funding & Grant Terms

| Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside | Rural Set Aside |
|--|---|
| <p>Maximum award is the CoCs Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) for the FY 2022 CoC Program Competition or \$60M, whichever is less.</p> | <p>Maximum award is 150% of the combined Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) for the FY 2022 CoC Program Competition of all of the rural areas as defined on p.14/III.C.2.k § III C. 2k of the NOFO.</p> |
| <p>Grant terms:</p> <p>Initial grant term for all projects is 3 years, including for CoC planning and Unified Funding Agency (UFA) costs.</p> | <p>Grant Terms:</p> <p>3-5 years: acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation (only available under the Rural Set Aside)</p> <p>(2 years to complete the acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation, and require the remaining grant activities to serve program participants for 3 years.)</p> <p>3 years: all other projects</p> |
| <p>Planning Project - 3% of the total amount awarded. 3-year grant term</p> | <p>No planning grants awarded under Rural Set Aside</p> |



HAC

Continuum of Care Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness

Leslie Strauss
Housing Assistance Council
September 15, 2022

About HAC

- National nonprofit
- Rural housing and community development
- Persistent poverty areas and populations



Photo: Jennifer Emmerling / *There is More Work to be Done*

What we do

- Financing
- Training
- Technical assistance
- Policy
- Research
- Rural news and information



Photo: Rory Doyle / *[There is More Work to be Done](#)*

Resources

[Ruralhome.org](https://ruralhome.org)

[Ruraldataportal.org](https://ruraldataportal.org)

[Veteransdata.info](https://veteransdata.info)

NOFO Funding Available (Rural Set Aside)

- \$54.5 million total
- Maximum amount for each CoC in NOFO's Appendix A
- CoCs serving rural areas can apply for either set aside or both

Emphasis on Underserved Places (Rural Set Aside)

10 points (of 100 total) for “projects that serve individuals and families in geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty, and are located where CoC services have until now been entirely unavailable, such as, for example, Trust Lands and Reservations”

- Note: These points are available for **each project** within a CoC’s application, not for the application as a whole

Rural Definition

- Counties are listed in NOFO's Appendix B
- A rural area is a county that either
 1. is nonmetro, or
 2. is metro and at least 75% of its population lives in non-urban census blocks, or
 3. is located in a state with a population density of less than 30 persons per square mile, and that has at least 1.25% of its total acreage under federal jurisdiction, provided that no metropolitan city in such state is the sole beneficiary of the grant amounts awarded under this NOFO

Eligible Activities (Rural Set Aside)

- Permanent housing
- Supportive services only
- HMIS
- Joint transitional housing and permanent housing-rapid re-housing
- Rent or utilities in some situations
- Emergency shelter costs
- Repairs to make housing habitable
- Capacity building activities (capped at 20% of total funds a CoC requests)
- Emergency food and clothing
- Costs to use federal inventory property
- Staff and overhead directly related to carrying out activities in this list

Ineligible Activities (Rural Set Aside)

- Planning costs
- Unified Funding Agency costs

“Homeless” Definition (Rural Set Aside)

- People who are literally homeless
- People who are precariously housed
- Domestic violence victims
- Youth or families considered homeless under other statutes, if CoC obtains HUD approval, limited to certain types of projects, and capped at 10% of award

Plan for Serving People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

- Plan is required for either set aside, though rural applicants can omit some information about plans for unsheltered
- Severe Service Needs are any combination of:
 - facing significant challenges or functional impairments, which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing
 - high utilization of crisis or emergency services to meet basic needs
 - currently or having a history of living in an unsheltered situation
 - vulnerable to illness or death
 - at risk of continued or repeated homelessness
 - vulnerable to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking or sex work

Scoring (Rural Set Aside)

- HUD will score the **individual projects** included in each application and select the highest scoring ones, up to the CoC's maximum funding amount
- 100-point scale
 - Up to 50 points for HUD's score for the CoC's overall application
 - Up to 40 points for the CoC's ranking of the project
 - 10 points for serving people in areas with high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty where CoC services have been entirely unavailable

Locate Your CoC

- CoCs cover 95% of U.S.
- <https://www.hudexchange.info/grantees/find-a-grantee/> and click “Continuum of Care Program”
- “Balance of State” CoCs cover many rural places

Why Try to Apply?

- Rural targeting
- Extra points for projects serving places unserved by CoC program to date
- Flexible eligible activities
- Flexible eligible people (definition of homeless)
- And ...

Building partnerships is always useful

- Might nudge CoC into applying
- Stability Vouchers
- CoC competition every year
- Other funding/activities/planning

Links

- HUD page with all information and supporting resources for this competition:
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO
- HUD email address for questions: SpecialCoCNOFO@hud.gov
- HAC summary of the NOFO: <https://ruralhome.org/rural-homelessness-setaside/>
- NAEH resources: endhomelessness.org/supplementalNOFO

HAC News and Information





NAHIRO

building communities together

TODAY'S PRESENTERS

Eric Oberdorfer

Director of Policy and Program
Development

STABILITY VOUCHER PURPOSE

- HUD issued Notice PIH 2022-24 on August 16
- Notice walks through HUD's non-competitive allocation strategy and program requirements for new Stability Vouchers
- Over \$43 million is being released to support approximately 4,000 new vouchers
- Vouchers are to house people experiencing homelessness, particularly in two areas:
 - In areas with a high incidence of unsheltered homelessness
 - In rural areas

STABILITY VOUCHER ALLOCATION WILL FOLLOW A TWO-STEP PROCESS

1. PHAs should register interest with HUD by October 20th, 2022
2. HUD will invite selected PHAs to apply for a specific number of SVs

STABILITY VOUCHERS RESEMBLE EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS

- PHAs who receive them must have a partnership with a local CoC
 - SVs have further restrictions, discussed later
- Serve similar populations
 - Those who are experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness;
 - Those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault;
 - Veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meet one of the proceeding criteria.
- The only major difference between this and EHV's definition is the inclusion of veterans

DIFFERENCES

- SVs are funded via the 2021 Appropriations Act, unlike EHV's
- SVs have their own set of statutory and regulatory waivers
- SVs' recipients slightly different than EHV's, include veterans

SVS AND THE COC NOFO

- SVs are intended to work in collaboration with the CoC Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO
- HUD will prioritize allocating SVs to PHAs whose partner CoC won an award under the NOFO
 - If funds remain after awarding vouchers to these PHAs, then HUD will consider PHAs whose partner CoC did not win
- All PHAs receiving SVs must have a partner CoC

PHA APPLICATION CONSIDERATION

- When PHAs register interest via email, they should attach a letter of commitment from their local CoC
- This letter should demonstrate PHAs have developed a strategy in collaboration with the community
- Per the guidance, there is an MOU requirement
 - MOU due later in the allocation process

PHA APPLICATION CONSIDERATION

- The MOU must include at a minimum:
 - The PHA's, CoC's, and VSP's commitment to administering the SVs in partnership.
 - The goals and standards of success in administering the SVs.
 - The staff position for each organization that will serve as the lead SV liaison.
 - A listing of CoC-funded supportive services that will be paired with SVs.
 - All alternative waivers adopted by the PHA for the administration of SVs.

PHA APPLICATION CONSIDERATION

- The MOU must include at a minimum:
 - Any permissive prohibition policies agreed upon by the PHA and CoC
 - The roles and responsibilities of the PHA and CoC, including but not limited to the CoC making direct referrals of eligible families to the PHA through the Centralized or Coordinated Entry process (CoC's may be required to update CE policies)
 - A statement that all parties agree to cooperate with any program evaluation efforts undertaken by HUD, or a HUD-approved contractor, including compliance with HUD evaluation protocols and data sharing requests

PHA APPLICATION CONSIDERATION

- **Interested PHAs will not know if their CoC was selected prior to the October 20th deadline to register interest**

STABILITY VOUCHER ALLOCATION WILL FOLLOW A TWO-STEP PROCESS

1. PHAs should register interest with HUD by October 20th, 2022
2. HUD will invite selected PHAs to apply for a specific number of SVs

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

- Interested PHAs must send an email response to StabilityVouchers@hud.gov.
- Subject Line: “Stability Voucher Registration of Interest” followed by the PHA code (i.e., SA002).
- Email must identify the name(s) of the partnering CoC serving the PHA’s geographic area and the CoC number.
- Letter of Commitment from the partnering CoC(s) indicating a commitment to collaborate with the PHA to:
 - Refer eligible families to the PHA through Coordinated Entry for SVs
 - CoC-funded supportive services with SVs
 - Collaborate with other stakeholders to develop a prioritization plan for SVs

PHA SELECTION AFTER REGISTERING INTEREST

Of the PHAs who register interest and apply, HUD will use the following data to allocate vouchers **based on prioritization categories**:

- The prevalence of homelessness and families at-risk of homelessness
- PHA administrative capacity

PHA SELECTION AFTER REGISTERING INTEREST

HUD will determine prevalence of homelessness and at-risk homelessness:

- Homelessness:
 - 2020 CoC Point-in-Time homeless data
 - Focused specifically in PHA geographic area
- At-risk of homelessness:
 - Data from ACS on rental households with incomes at or less than 30% AMI
 - Overcrowded units
 - Units without complete kitchens
 - Households that are severely rent burdened (half of income on rent)

PHA SELECTION AFTER REGISTERING INTEREST

PHA administrative capacity

- No major unresolved program management findings from either an IG HUD Management Review, independent audit for the HCV program
- Other significant compliance issues
- No outstanding civil rights matters

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION CRITERIA

- PHAs must currently administer Housing Choice Vouchers
- PHAs must have a Consolidated Annual Contributions Contract

STATUTORY AND REGULATORY FLEXIBILITIES

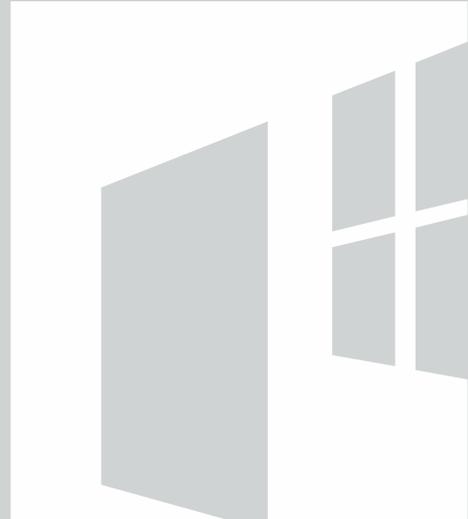
- HUD anticipates that PHAs may need to utilize waivers in order to lease up these vouchers in a timely manner
- Waivers include the following exceptions:
 - Waiting list management and preference
 - Documentation for eligibility and income
 - Payment standard and search times
 - Inspection flexibility
 - Admission prohibitions
- The list of waivers is lengthy and is included in Notice PIH 2022-24

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Stability vouchers resemble EHV's but are a different type of voucher
- In order to receive them, PHAs must work with a CoC and already have an HCV program
 - Most likely a CoC who receives an award from the recent HUD NOFO
 - Shares the same objectives as the CoC NOFO
- PHAs will follow typical HCV rules except for the waivers included in the notice

RURAL HOMELESSNESS SET ASIDE

Kristi Schulenberg, Director, Center for Capacity Building,
National Alliance to End Homelessness



Rural Homelessness Set Aside

Projects will be selected for funding based on project application scores using a 100 point scale.

Application Scoring

| Project Scoring Criteria | Description | Points |
|--|---|-----------------|
| CoC Score | Score is determined in direct proportion to the score received on required questions from the CoC application. Not all CoC application questions are required for CoCs applying only for rural projects. | Up to 50 points |
| CoC Project Ranking | Score is determined based on the CoC's ranking of the project application. | Up to 40 points |
| Serving Structurally Disadvantaged Areas | A total of 10 points is available for applications that commit to serving individuals/families in geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty and are located where CoC services have been entirely unavailable, such as trust lands and reservations. | 10 points |

Total: 100 Points

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2022 Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Supplemental NOFO Resource Series

June 30, 2022 | Publications

The [2022 Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness \(FR-6500-N-25S\)](#) makes \$322 million available to help communities address unsheltered and rural homelessness. This represents an extraordinarily important opportunity to reverse course on punitive tactics, and demonstrate the effectiveness of evidence-based best practices. The following resources are intended to summarize the application process, policy priorities, scoring criteria, and other key factors that will be central to a

endhomelessness.org/supplementalNOFO

Additional Resource Links

- CoC Program Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness - <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/>
- Alliance's SYSTEM Series - <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/>
- Data Visualization: The Evidence on Housing First - <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/data-visualization-the-evidence-on-housing-first/>
- HUD Guidance: Engaging Individuals With Lived Expertise - <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/hud-guidance-engaging-individuals-with-lived-expertise/>
- SNAPS In Focus: Integrating Persons with Lived Experiences in our Efforts to Prevent and End Homelessness - <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/snaps-in-focus-integrating-persons-with-lived-experiences-in-our-efforts-to-prevent-and-end-homelessness/>

Q&A

