



National Alliance to  
END HOMELESSNESS

# **Promoting Equity, Lived Experience, Housing First, and System Performance: What Matters in the FY2023 NOFO**

**August 3, 2023**

# WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS



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# Agenda

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1. Aligning with HUD Priorities & Key Changes in 2023
2. Taking the NOFO from transactional to transformational
3. Strategic Considerations to End Homelessness
4. Seize the Opportunity - Scoring
5. Resources/Wrap-Up

# National Alliance to End Homelessness

## Statements for Participation

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- The Alliance works to ensure that diverse voices are included as speakers, attendees, and guests at our conferences and webinars. All voices are welcome.
- The organization has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination or abusive behavior. The Alliance is committed to ensuring that all its events are safe and respectful for all participants.
- Participants acknowledge that any form of discrimination, violence, or abusive behavior may result in removal from a session, webinar, or conference, depending on the situation.
- If any discrimination is witnessed or experienced during this training, or if you feel unsafe, please notify any member of the Alliance staff.
- The National Alliance to End Homelessness strives to create a diverse, inclusive, accepting, and safe space for everyone.

# 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



[CoCNOFO@hud.gov](mailto:CoCNOFO@hud.gov)

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/coc/competition](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition)

# **ALIGNING WITH HUD PRIORITIES & KEY CHANGES IN FY2023**

**MARCY THOMPSON**



# Alignment with HUD Priorities

- The CoC application continues prioritizing:
  - Promoting racial equity in homelessness and in the local CoC process;
  - Reducing unsheltered homelessness and reducing criminalization;
  - Inclusion in the local planning process of current and former individuals with lived experience of homelessness; and
  - Partnerships with housing, health, and service agencies.
- HUD has reemphasized in CoC applications the inclusion of:
  - Improving system performance;
  - Placing an emphasis on anti-discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals; and
  - Supporting local engagement to increase the affordable housing stock.

# What's Important in the FY2023 NOFO

Priority 1: **End homelessness for all persons.**

Priority 2: **Use a Housing First approach.**

Priority 3: **Reduce unsheltered homelessness.**

Priority 4: **Improve system performance.**

Priority 5: **Partner with housing, health, and service agencies.**

Priority 6: **Promote racial equity and address racial disparities.**

Priority 7: **Improve assistance to LGBTQ+ individuals.**

Priority 8: **Engage persons with lived experience of homelessness.**

Priority 9: **Engage in efforts to increase affordable housing supply.**

**HUD  
HOMELESS  
POLICY  
PRIORITIES**

# Key Changes for FY2023

- **YHDP:** \$147 million is available for Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) renewal or replacement of projects
  - Round 1: Competitive
  - Round 2: Non-competitive (but reviewed for compliance)
- **DV Bonus:** The NOFO provides no less than \$52 million for **new** rapid re-housing, supportive services, and other activities critical to assist survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking.

# Key Changes for FY2023

- **Homeless Definition.** Category 4 of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act definition was amended to:
  - **Is experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to, or fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized;**
  - Has no other safe residence; and
  - Lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing.

# Key Changes for FY2023

- **CoC Planning Increase.** New maximum amount for CoC Planning Grant applications will be the greater of \$50,000 or 5% of the applicable Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN) so long as the total grant amount for CoC Planning is not > than \$1.5 million.
- **NEW Eligible Activities.** The following new budget line items can be included into projects this year:
  - VAWA – facilitating and coordinating activities to ensure compliance with emergency transfer plan requirements and monitoring compliance with confidentiality protections
  - Rural – activities that address barriers to transitioning families in rural areas to permanent housing and additional activities to increase capacity

# HUD Funding Process

- **Tier 1:** Equal to 93% of a CoC's Annual Renewal Demand *minus* the Annual Renewal Amounts of YHDP renewal and replacement projects initially awarded in YHDP Round 2 or later
- **Tier 2:** Equal to the **difference** between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation, Round 1 YHDP renewal/replacement funding, and CoC Bonus funds that a CoC can apply for. It does not include YHDP renewal/replacement projects initially awarded funding in Round 2 or later.

# TAKING THE NOFO FROM TRANSACTIONAL TO TRANSFORMATIONAL

KAY MOSHIER MCDIVITT



# Steps to Prepare for the NOFO

## REFLECT



### ASK YOURSELF:

“Is our system...”

- ending homelessness?
- including people with lived experience?
- advancing racial equity?
- targeting the highest needs?
- building effective partnerships?
- housing people quickly?

## REVIEW



### LOOK AT YOUR DATA.

Which projects have had the *greatest* outcomes in ending homelessness?

Determine if you are funding the *right* projects.

*Don't be afraid to reallocate* underperforming projects.

## READ UP



### READ THE NOFO.

How can you align your practices with the goals in the NOFO?

Consider which new projects to solicit to make your system more efficient.

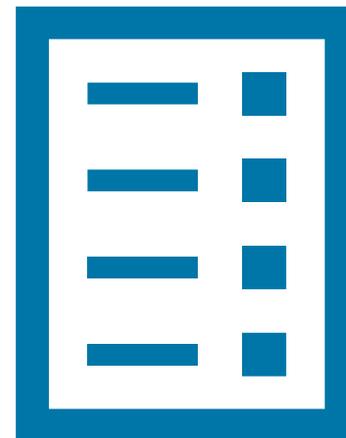


# Be Strategic

## Reflect

### Review the 2022 CoC Application and your score debrief

1. Make a list of activities that the CoC stated it would accomplish and collect data/information from stakeholders on progress towards stated goals.
2. Identify areas where you didn't achieve the maximum number of points in the 2022 application.
3. Prioritize and plan to address these areas.
4. Identify what projects can help you improve performance.



# Be Strategic

## Reflect – How Is Your Community Doing?

1. **Embed people with current and recent lived experience** of homelessness into all aspects of your work (before, during and after the NOFO)
2. Be **urgent** but not at the expense of being **equitable**.
3. Adhere to **Housing First principles and practices**.
4. Help people with the **highest needs**.
5. Reduce the number of people experiencing **literal homeless**.
6. Reduce **racial disproportionality and disparities**.
7. **Create working partnerships** between CoC's, PHA's, Housing Providers, Health Care Providers, including Mental Health Providers.
8. **Collaborate** with partners focused on the needs of older adults, Tribal entities, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, among others to provide services.

# Be Strategic

## Review – What does your data tell you?

### MILESTONE

### Homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time

Using lived expertise and equity as the foundation, ensure that:

- People in a housing crisis have access to immediate help, including a safe place to go.
- People are not unsheltered.
- People do not spend long periods of time homeless.
- People exit homelessness quickly and do not quickly cycle back into homelessness.



# Be Strategic

## Review: What does your data tell you?

### **Improving Your System: Align Application and Funded Projects to:**

- Include people with lived expertise
- Address racial disparities
- Reduce in-flow into homelessness
- Increase exits to permanent housing
- Decrease average length of homelessness
- Decrease returns to homelessness
- Reduce homelessness
- Increase income for program participants
  - Connect people experiencing homelessness to mainstream resources and benefits

# Be Strategic

## Read (and understand) the NOFO

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- Ensure that your CoC clearly **knows and understands the HUD priorities.**
- **Use the priorities** to determine what your community has, what is working, what is not working, and where you need to fill gaps.
- **Focus on system and project performance**
  - Project performance should be reflected in systemic performance.
- Provide local **ongoing training and technical assistance** for projects.
- **Talk about reallocation** early on and continuously.

# Be Strategic

## Read the details

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- **Use the Detailed Instructions** – it will be difficult to receive the maximum points without following them
  - CoCs receiving YHDP funding need to pay close attention to the renewal and replacement instructions
- Make sure you respond to **ALL parts** of the questions
- **HDX data will be used** to review the CoC application for performance.
  - FY23 HDX Competition Report contains HIC, PIT, and system performance data

# STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS TO END HOMELESSNESS

What Projects Will You Include?



# Start with the End in Mind

## Ask...

...Does our System flow well?

“System Flow: An efficient, coordinated and equitable process that moves people from homelessness to housing as quickly as possible.”



...What projects are impacting that flow, and what do we need to increase the flow?

# Be Strategic

## Reflect

Reflect on what your system needs to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness and the priorities!

- Update your Review and Ranking Tool (based on scoring and HUD priorities)
  - Do not just use checkboxes
  - Be SURE that projects are partnering with people with lived expertise, are addressing racial inequities, and practice is imbedded in housing first principles
- Notify local providers of priorities and changes
- Ensure that your request for proposals and all renewal projects are aligned with HUD priorities **AND** with specific needs for your community.
- Don't automatically renew a project. Ask if the project is aligned with priorities **AND** look at outcomes.

**REMEMBER** -Just because it's an eligible activity doesn't mean it's a priority for your community

# Be Strategic

## Use Objective Criteria to **Review & Rank** Projects

Review renewal projects and consider reallocation – objective criteria and performance

- Which projects underspent or not at capacity?
- Which projects don't meet performance benchmarks?
- What actionable steps are projects taking to address racial disparities and including persons with lived experience?
- Which projects have significant impact on improving system measures?
- What are the costs per permanent housing exit for each project?

# BE STRATEGIC

Some more advice....



# Partnering with people with lived experience

## ASK...

- ❑ How are you including people with lived experience across the continuum, including review and recommend revisions to local homeless policies?
- ❑ How are people with lived experience included in **decision-making processes** including the development of the local competition rating factors and project ranking?
- ❑ Are you being purposeful in using the voices of people with lived experience that have been homeless within the last 7 years as well as those who are currently experiencing homelessness?



# Address Racial Disparities

## Ask...

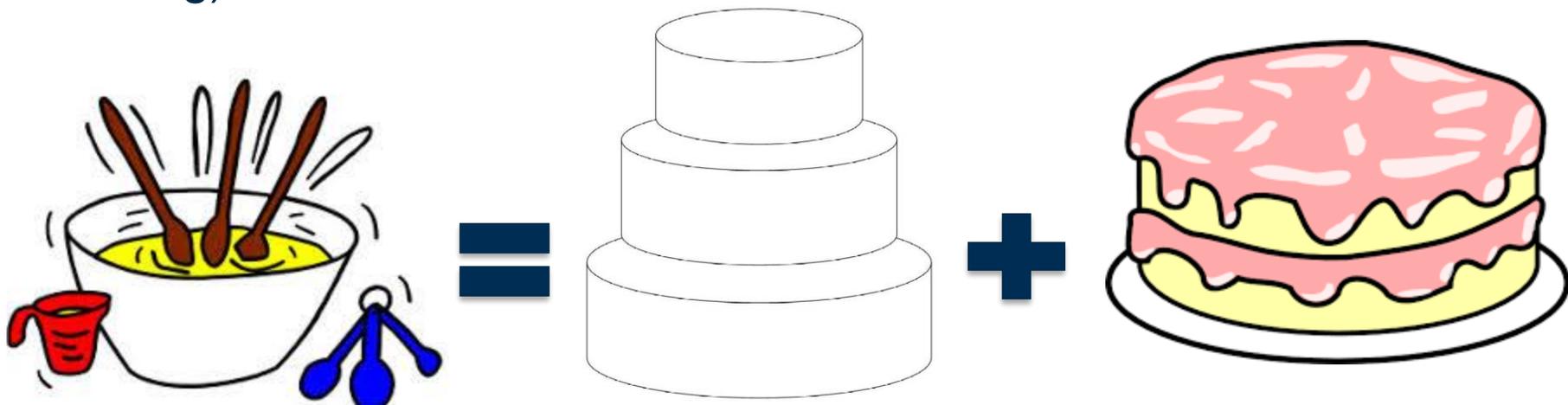
- What specific steps are you taking to promote racial equity, both inflow and outcomes? What partnerships are you building to obtain input and include persons of different races and ethnicities?
- Does your Governance Board reflect people experiencing homelessness? What new partners should you be bringing to the table?
- Are you rating and ranking based on the degree to which projects have identified ways to address racial disparities?

# Be Strategic...

## Because that is how to end homelessness

### This is not Business as Usual

- Don't do it because you will score better on the NOFO (that's the icing on the cake)...
- Do it because it matters and it's the right thing to do (you need the right ingredients to make your cake before you add the icing)!!!!



# **SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY**

**MARY FRANCES KENION**



# NOFO Deadlines

Activity	DATE
2023 CoC Program NOFO release	WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023
All project applications are required to be submitted to the CoC. CoCs that fail to establish this deadline for local project application(s) will lose points.	30 days prior to submission deadline
The CoC is required to notify all project applicants who submitted their project applications to the CoC by the CoC-established deadline whether their project application(s) will be accepted and ranked on the CoC Priority Listing, rejected, or reduced by the CoC.	15 days prior to submission deadline
CoCs must post on their website (or a partner's website) all parts of the CoC Consolidated Application and notify community members and key stakeholders that the Consolidated Application is available.	On or before Tuesday, September 26, 2023 (2 days prior to submission deadline):
<b>SUBMISSION DEADLINE</b>	<b>THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 AT 8:00 PM EDT</b>

# CoC Coordination & Engagement

2022  
CoC NOFO

2023  
CoC NOFO

Has an <b>inclusive membership</b> of a variety of stakeholders within the geographic area	2	2
Has an <b>invitation process for new members</b> to join	1	1
<b>Solicits and considers opinions</b> from knowledgeable individuals and organizations	1	1
<b>Accepts and considers proposals from organizations</b> that have not previously received CoC Program funding	1	1
<b>Coordinates with federal, state, local, private, and other organizations</b>	3	2
<b>Ensures families are not separated</b>	1	2
CoC collaboration related to children and youth	3	3
Addresses the needs of <b>victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking</b>	5	5
Addresses the needs of <b>LGBTQ+ individuals</b>	7	7
<b>Coordinates with the Public Housing Agencies</b>	10	10
Coordinates with and assists in state or local <b>discharge planning</b> efforts	2	2
Uses a <b>Housing First approach</b> on CoC projects	10	10

CoC Coordination & Engagement	2022 CoC NOFO	2023 CoC NOFO
Has implemented <b>street outreach</b> procedures	3	3
Implements specific strategies to <b>prevent the criminalization of homelessness</b>	2	2
Demonstrates an increase in the number of <b>Rapid Re-Housing</b> beds available	10	9
Provides information and training to CoC Program-funded projects to supplement CoC Program funds with resources from other public and private sources, including programs that assist program participants in applying for and receiving <b>mainstream benefits</b> or gaining employment	2	2
Has an effective <b>Coordinated Entry System (CES) and Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH)</b>	3	4
Promotes <b>racial equity</b> in homelessness response	7	7
Involves <b>individuals with lived experience of homelessness</b> in service delivery and decision making, and provides professional development and employment opportunities	3	5
Increasing their capacity to provide <b>non-congregate shelter</b>	1	1
Coordinates and partners with <b>Public Health Agencies</b>	5	5
Increases <b>affordable housing</b> supply	1	1
<b>CoCs that don't complete questions for new projects that include funding requests for new construction or rehab</b>	<b>deduct 2 points</b>	<b>deduct 2 points</b>
<b>POINTS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>85</b>

# Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking

	2022 CoC NOFO	2023 CoC NOFO
Demonstrates the use of <b>objective criteria to review project applications</b> requesting CoC Program funding	8	4
Demonstrates the use of CoC Program required <b>system performance measures</b> to review project applications requesting CoC Program funding	8	9
Uses comparable databases to <b>evaluate domestic violence providers</b>	1	1
Collects and analyzes data on <b>rapid return to permanent housing and severity of barriers experienced by program participants</b>	4	4
Demonstrates how the CoC is <b>promoting racial equity when reviewing applications</b>	2	3
Demonstrates that the CoC either <b>reallocates funding</b> from lower performing projects to create new higher performing projects or has a process in place to review performance for future re-allocation	4	3
Demonstrate the use of an <b>objective ranking and selection process</b> for project applications that is publicly announced by the CoC	3	3
<b>POINTS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>27</b>

# Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

	2022 CoC NOFO	2023 CoC NOFO
Submits complete <b>Housing Inventory Count (HIC)</b> data in a timely manner	1	1
Has in place, is developing, or is coordinating a <b>comparable database with domestic violence / victim service providers</b> to collect required data elements for reporting de-identified information to the CoC	2	2
Bed Coverage	4	4
Submit prior NOFO year's <b>Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA)</b> data in a complete and timely manner	2	2
<b>POINTS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

# Point-in-Time Count (PIT)

	2022 CoC NOFO	2023 CoC NOFO
<b>Conducts a PIT Count</b> and reports the data in Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX)	3	3
Implement specific measures to <b>effectively identify and count youth</b> in the CoC's PIT Count.	2	2
<b>POINTS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

# System Performance

	2022 CoC NOFO	2023 CoC NOFO
<b>Reduces the number of homeless individuals and families</b>	10	12
<b>Reduces the number of first-time time homelessness</b> among individuals and families	3	3
<b>Reduces the length of time</b> individuals and families remain homeless	13	13
Demonstrates and describes how the CoC will <b>increase the rate in which individuals and families move to permanent housing destinations</b> or continue to reside in permanent housing projects	13	13
Reduces the extent to which individuals and families <b>return to homelessness</b>	8	8
Increases income for program participants from employment and non-employment cash sources	7	7
Submits data quality report for <b>HMIS performance measures</b> in HDX	5	4
<b>POINTS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>

# Coordination with Housing and Healthcare

	2022 CoC NOFO	2023 CoC NOFO
<b>Leverages housing resources</b> such as housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) programs	7	7
<b>Leveraging healthcare resources</b> to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness	7	7
<b>POINTS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>

## BONUS POINTS

### CoC Merger

	2022 CoC NOFO	2023 CoC NOFO
<b>CoCs merged between current NOFO year and prior NOFO year registrations</b>	5	5
One or more of the merged CoCs <b>had an application score of 140 or below</b> in the previous CoC Program Competitions	10	10
Demonstrates that <b>results in Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts were affected by changes in methodology that resulted from the merger</b> in a way that would affect their CoC score	10	10
<b>POINTS AVAILABLE</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>

# Do's and Don'ts for the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition NOFO

**DO** **Start with the end in mind.** Envision the programs you want funded, the system performance you want to achieve, and the resources you need to realize that vision.

**DON'T** Dig into the application before you've had time to prepare.

**DO** **Reflect on your system and project performance before you get started.** Identify the strongest and weakest points in your system, and consider what new or expanded projects would most benefit your system.

**DON'T** Assume that what you're doing is working as well as it can.

**DO** **Review your data** to determine which programs have the best outcomes.

**DON'T** Plan to apply for funding if you're not sure how well your programs are performing.

**DO** **Read the NOFO** to ensure you fully understand the changes for this year.

**DON'T** Presume that things are the same as they were last year.

**DO** **Closely inspect HUD's priorities for this year's competition.** Consider whether you need to reallocate funding from projects that don't align with them to new or expanded ones that are a better fit.

**DON'T** Just renew your existing programs and expect that they're aligned with HUD's priorities.

**DO** **Consult the SYSTEM Series** for blog posts, Webinars, resources, and guidance on crafting a competitive application.

**DON'T** Panic. The Alliance is here to help!

# RESOURCES

## Promoting Racial Equity & Reducing Disparities

- [Moving The Needle: Leveraging the CoC Program Competition NOFO for Justice and Equity - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)
- [NIS - Moving Beyond the Equity Plateau - Opportunities to Advance Equity in the Homeless Response System](#)
- [COVID-19: Homeless System Response: Increasing Equity in the Homeless Response System Through Expanding Procurement \(hudexchange.info\)](#)

## Engaging Individuals with Lived Experience & Expertise

- [Homeless System Response: Lived Expertise – YouTube](#)
- [Homeless System Response: Guidance for Recruiting, Hiring, and Retaining People with Lived Experience and Expertise of Homelessness](#)
- [Homeless System Response: Paying People with Lived Experience and Expertise](#)

# RESOURCES

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## Housing First

- [Housing First Assessment](#)
- [Housing First Assessment Tool - HUD Exchange](#)
- [Five Ways to Spot a Fake “Expert” on Homelessness | Pathways to Housing PA](#)
- [Housing First Checklist FINAL.pdf \(usich.gov\)](#)

## System Performance

- [The SYSTEM Series - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)
- [Rapid Re-Housing Performance Evaluation and Improvement Toolkit - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)
- [Reallocating Permanent Supportive Housing - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)
- [Stella and System Modeling - HUD Exchange](#)

# REMINDERS

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- Send your technical support questions concerning the NOFO or e-snaps to HUD at [CoCNOFO@hud.gov](mailto:CoCNOFO@hud.gov)
- In the event of a major disaster, as declared by the President under the Stafford Act, during the competition, you must send written notification to [CoCDisaster@hud.gov](mailto:CoCDisaster@hud.gov)