

Understanding the Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Ann Oliva
Chief Executive Officer

Josh Johnson
Senior Technical Assistance Specialists

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

Goal of a Homeless Response System that is Effective, Efficient, and Equitable:

House people as quickly as possible

Divert people from imminent homelessness whenever possible



Homeless Response System that is Effective, Efficient, and Equitable Increase System Flow

System Flow:

An efficient and coordinated process that moves people from homelessness to housing as quickly as possible



Poor System Flow: When Your System is Stuck

- Unchanging or increasing number of unsheltered people
- Waitlists for shelter
- Long lengths of stay in shelter (more than 30 days)
- High percentage of exits from shelters to homelessness
- Average length of homelessness is not decreasing
- In-flow into homelessness is steady or increasing
- Long waitlists for RRH and PSH (long CES wait list)
- Significant amount of people aren't getting any kind of assistance

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 involving 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>

UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS SET ASIDE



Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside

CoCs will be selected for funding, including all rated and ranked projects that pass threshold until funding runs out.

CoCs must demonstrate a comprehensive, coordinated approach to reducing unsheltered homelessness. This approach should be grounded in Housing First and public health principles. This includes improving service engagement, health outcomes, and housing stability among highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families.

Factors HUD Will Use to Establish the CoC Score

- **Project Capacity, Review and Ranking:** 4 points
- **System Performance:** 18 points
- **Coordination and Engagement:** 8 points
- **CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs:**
 - *Unsheltered: 70 points*
 - *Rural: 59 points*
- **Unsheltered Homelessness Bonus:** Up to 30 points

Provisions in the NOFO That Specifically Award Point for Partnerships

Provision	Emphasis	Points Available
CoC Coordination and Engagement	Having a coordinated, collaborative process for developing the plan to use these resources. Individual points are available for things like engaging a broad array of stakeholders.	8 points
Leveraging Housing	Developing new housing units and housing opportunities. The emphasis is on housing paid for by mainstream HUD programs such as Housing Choice Vouchers, HOME funds from the American Rescue Plan, or the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS program.	10 points
	Landlord recruitment plans and initiatives.	8 points
Leveraging Healthcare Services	Full points will require a written commitment from one or more healthcare organizations to provide a range of services to people being served by the funded projects.	8 points
Supporting Underserved Communities	Supporting underserved communities and supporting equitable community development. It is the Alliance's experience that the most effective plans to improve in this area will include building new partnerships with organizations in the community that serve people who may be underserved by the current homelessness system, but who seek help elsewhere when needed.	8 points

Partnership Commitments

Partnership Commitment Letters	Description
Development of New Units and New Housing Opportunities	A written commitment can include a letter, contract, or other formal written agreement. It must demonstrate how many new units are being developed or set aside for individuals experiencing homelessness and the date they will be available.
Hospitals, Healthcare Clinics, Insurance Agencies, Medicaid State Agencies, Public Health Departments, Mental Health Clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers, or Drug Treatment Facilities	A written commitment must demonstrate the types of services being made available, the value of the commitment, and the dates the healthcare resources will be provided.
Working Group Comprised of Persons with Lived Experience	A letter must be signed by (1) at least three members involved in said working group, or (2) an authorized representative of the working group along with evidence that that person is authorized to represent the group. The letter must demonstrate support of the priorities in the CoC's Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.
Public Housing Authority (PHA) Serving the CoC's Geographic Area	HUD is requesting CoCs demonstrate written commitments with PHAs to: (1) pair vouchers with CoC-funded supportive services; and (2) work with the CoC and other stakeholders to create a prioritization plan for potential allocation of Stability Vouchers or a preference for general admission to Housing Choice Voucher Program. This could be done through the coordinated entry process for those experiencing homelessness; at risk of homelessness; or fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Ensuring that You Are Doing What Works

Evidence-Based Approaches

- Housing First heavily emphasized:
 - 3 points for permanent housing strategy—HUD says “CoCs must describe the current strategy, including their use of a Housing First Approach”.
 - Overall program description says funds will be awarded to communities who implement approaches “grounded in Housing First”.
- Street Outreach section includes specific instructions:
 - 3 points for list of requirements, including “CoCs must identify evidence-based practices used to conduct street outreach . . .”

Data

- HMIS Improvements for Unsheltered People Eligible for Funding
 - Ensure more unsheltered people included in HMIS
 - Implementing required UDEs means more available info about unsheltered people throughout the year (beyond the PiT)—e.g., race, age, disability, project exit.
 - Improve efforts to un-duplicate client records
- Usefulness
 - Expanded and improved data will help CoCs evaluate and reevaluate their strategies (including how they may work differently for each subpopulation)

Resources for Evidence Based Approaches

- Housing First (under “Recent Studies”):
<https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-First-Research.pdf>
- Outreach: <https://nhchc.org/clinical-practice/homeless-services/outreach/>
- Assertive Community Treatment:
<https://ajp.psychiatryonline.org/doi/pdf/10.1176/ajp.2007.164.3.393>
- Supportive Housing for Frequent System Users:
<https://www.csh.org/resources-search/?p=super-utilizers>

RURAL HOMELESSNESS SET ASIDE



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/>

QUESTIONS

