



## MEMORANDUM

To: NOFA Committee; EveryOne Home Leadership Board; Funder's Collaborative

From: HUD CoC Committee

Date: August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

**Re: Strategic Direction from HUD CoC Committee for Responding to the 2017 Continuum of Care Program Notice of Funding Availability (CoC NOFA)**

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The purpose of this Memo is to provide the HUD NOFA Committee, with strategic guidance for approaching the local rating and ranking process for projects seeking to be included in the collaborative application for up to \$35 million in 2017 CoC Program funding for Alameda County. It is also a recommendation to the Everyone Home Leadership Board, and Funders' Collaborative to help identify resources that will make strategic reallocation possible.

This strategic guidance was approved by the HUD CoC Committee as its August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. EveryOne Home and HCD staff provided analysis and recommended strategies for this year's NOFA competition. HUD CoC and NOFA committee members discussed and provided feedback that resulted in the set of recommendations below to execute a fair local process that maintains an effective array of HUD CoC funded projects.

This Strategic Direction will be shared at the upcoming August 7<sup>th</sup>, Community Input Session, for community's consideration of the implementation of this guidance. In addition, we are sharing the same direction with the EOH Leadership Board and Funder's Collaborative to identify short-term gap and long-term funding strategies to preserve County programs targeting people experiencing homelessness and continue to increase Alameda's housing system capacity.

The NOFA Committee incorporate this strategic direction and set of recommendations in its process of designing the 2017 Local Application and scoring criteria.

### **Recommendations**

#### **Recommendation 1: Reallocation of general purpose TH into TH/RRH:**

This year's NOFA provides a reallocation opportunity to pair Transitional Housing with Rapid Rehousing under a single program. The HUD CoC Committee recognizes this as an opportunity to strengthen our system and add permanent housing resources, but it requires existing TH programs to exit the HUD package and come back as new projects with new clients. Bridge

funding will be required to accomplish this without closing residential buildings and exiting TH residents to homelessness. This will likely require the support of local funders to cover costs for up to 18 months during the transition.

The HUD CoC Committee directs the NOFA Committee to pursue reallocation that strengthens our system and application package and is aligned with our guiding principles. HUD CoC is supportive of continuing to pursue strategies already in use such as; 1. Maintaining a minimum scoring threshold to continue the reallocation of low performing projects regardless of project type-consistent with prior reallocation processes, and 2. Inviting voluntary reallocation.

For this year and potentially future years the HUD CoC Committee strongly recommends general purpose TH projects to consider applying for TH/RRH and asks that the NOFA Committee look for ways to incentivize this type of reallocation in the local NOFA Competition; and calls for the investment of our County and City funding partners to keep TH running in the County – by providing bridge funding and support to those choosing reallocation, given Alameda County’s critical need to maintain and increase housing system capacity at a time of increased homelessness. This recommendation includes a commitment to increased benchmarks for Projects’ next year.

**Recommendation 2: Strive to have 90% of PSH project beds either 100% dedicated to the chronically homeless dedicated or to the new HUD definition of PSH Dedicated PLUS.**

The HUD CoC Committee directs the NOFA Committee to consider what evidence of dedication is needed and whether to make the dedication mandatory for inclusion in the package -as the CoC has done with low barrier and Housing First in the past.

**Recommendation 3: Solicit applications for bonus projects,** and open to expansion and new bonus projects.

**Recommendation 4: Limit revisions to the local applications to those that increase clarity, reduce work load and/or incorporate the above recommendations.**

**Recommendation 5: Utilize the same guiding principles as the 2016 NOFA round:**

- ❖ Maximize the resources available to community
- ❖ Package submitted will align with HUD priorities to meet local needs
- ❖ Prioritize ensuring existing residential capacity and housing stability is maintained systemwide
- ❖ Keep the renewal process as simple as possible
- ❖ Continue to emphasize project performance and the submission of projects that will meet HUD’s thresholds

- ❖ Support individual projects seeking to reallocate or reclassify where relevant
- ❖ Facilitate a clear, fair and transparent local process