MEMORANDUM

To: NOFA Committee
From: HUD CoC Committee
Date: July 17th, 2019
Re: Strategic Direction from HUD CoC Committee for Responding to the 2019 Continuum of Care Program Notice of Funding Availability (CoC NOFA)

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 $39,511,216 in 2019 CoC Program funding for Alameda County.

The Strategic Direction was approved by the HUD CoC Committee in its July 16th meeting in Oakland. EveryOne Home staff provided analysis of our last CoC competitive application and NOFA results 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 to maintain an effective array of HUD CoC funded projects.

The NOFA Committee will incorporate the following Strategic Direction in its process of designing the 2019 Local Application and scoring criteria, which will be shared at the upcoming July 30th Bidder’s Conference for community’s consideration of the implementation of this guidance:

1. Ranking Policy

The HMIS and Coordinated Entry (CE) Projects will not receive scores. As critical infrastructure for the CoC, HMIS and CE projects will be placed automatically at the bottom of Tier 1.

Renewal “new projects” that do not have one year of operating data because they were recently awarded will be automatically ranked at the bottom of Tier 1, immediately above the HMIS and Coordinated Entry projects. The NOFA Committee should determine how to treat consolidated, expanded and reallocated projects with “one year of data,” and further define straddling situations under this Ranking Policy. The relative ranking of these projects will be alphabetical. Recently awarded projects that are not making sufficient progress toward becoming operational and/or no longer meet thresholds may be subject to ranking in Tier 2 or not being included in the package.
2. Involuntary Reallocation Policy

The HUD CoC Committee directs the NOFA Committee to continue to pursue reallocation that strengthens our system and application package and is aligned with our guiding principles.

The Involuntary Reallocation Policy establishes that any grants that have a history of significant underspending will be candidates to have their grant amount reduced involuntarily by the NOFA Committee. Significant underspending will be defined as a minimum of 3 years of grant underspending of 10% or greater and provide a narrative that fails to adequately describe current efforts and results toward resolving underspending.

Consistent with the 2019 CoC NOFA Local Competition Review and Ranking Process, any project subject to potential reallocation of funds under this definition will be informed before the Rating and Ranking session and invited for an interview with the NOFA Panel. In addition, projects facing involuntary reallocation of its renewal amount will be allowed to appeal and meet with the Appeals Panel.

The Committee is also supportive of continuing to pursue strategies already in use such as; 1. Maintaining a minimum scoring threshold, and 2. Inviting voluntary reallocation.

3. Solicit applications from CoC and non CoC grantees for new projects through reallocation, expansion or bonus 1) that are competitive and improve our system performance, and 2) to apply for the maximum amount allowed under the Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus housing and services targeting domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and trafficking survivors, consistent with 2019 HUD “new projects” requirements.

4. Increasing employment opportunities

This year NOFA is requiring Continuum of Care programs to prioritize training and employment opportunities for people experiencing homelessness in order to afford housing. The HUD CoC Committee recommends the NOFA committee to encourage projects to provide employment-related Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) that will be used in support of the Consolidated Application to HUD and use the NOFA process to notify projects they will likely be scored on this item in the future. In addition, the Committee will recommend EveryOne Home’s Leadership Board, County and City partners and the County’s Homeless Council to assist in developing Memorandum of Understanding with public and private organizations that promote training and employment and prioritize and create job opportunities for people with lived experience of homelessness.