

FY 2023 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoC NOFO) Summary

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Noteworthy Changes

- **Tier 1 is smaller this year**, equal to **93%** of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) minus the Annual Renewal Amounts of YHDP Renewal and YHDP Replacement projects that were initially awarded through YHDP Round 2 or later. Tier 1 was 95% of ARD in 2022.
- **CoC Bonus amounts for new projects are higher**, equal to **7%** of Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN), up from 5% in 2022.
- **CoC Planning grant amounts are higher**, equal to **5%** of Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN), up from 3% in 2022, and with an increased cap of \$1,500,000.
- **Increase in Number of Rapid Rehousing Beds Rating Factor.** In the FY 2023 NOFO, HUD is allowing CoCs to earn points in this rating factor if they are able to demonstrate any increase in the number of rapid rehousing beds in the CoC or by demonstrating that more households entered PH through RRH programs by using Annual Performance Report or other longitudinal HMIS data. Previously HUD required CoCs to show a 20% increase in the number of rapid rehousing beds.
- **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP).** HUD will competitively renew or replace YHDP projects that HUD initially funded in FY 2016 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Competition (Round 1). CoCs are prohibited from reallocating YHDP projects initially awarded in Round 2 or later.
 - The CoC Program NOFO permits YHDP project applicants to integrate YHDP Special Activities into the project design through the selection of these activities in YHDP Renewal and YHDP Replacement project applications. YHDP renewal applicants may continue to select previously approved Special YHDP Activities in their project application or may also request to add new Special YHDP Activities.
 - If a recipient of YHDP funding determines that changing the project model of their grant would better serve youth experiencing homelessness in the area, the recipient must submit an application to replace the YHDP project through this competition. An example of this would be if a community decides that a JOINT TH-RRH project would better serve youth compared to an RRH project.
- HUD added **new budget line items (BLIs)** for newly eligible CoC Activities:
 - **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Costs Budget Line Item:** Per the VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2022, this BLI allows CoC grants to be used for facilitating and coordinating activities to ensure and monitor compliance with VAWA's emergency transfers provision and confidentiality protections. For additional details about this BLI, see pp. 42-43 of the NOFO.
 - **Rural Costs Budget Line Item:** Per the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2023, this BLI allows CoC grants to be used to address barriers to transitioning families in rural areas to permanent housing and additional activities to increase capacity to address the unique challenges CoCs face when serving people experiencing homelessness in rural areas. HUD defines rural area within this FY 2023 NOFO. For more information about this BLI, see pp. 43 of the NOFO.
- **The VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2022** changes the criteria for survivors whom HUD must consider as "homeless" under CoC and other HUD Programs. All projects funded through FY 2023 NOFO must include the definition in their eligibility criteria for program participants.
 - CoCs and CoC programs may implement the new definition prior to HUD rulemaking, provided that CoCs update the relevant written standards and policies to reflect the new criteria. For the purposes of the CoC Program and other HUD programs, the VAWA Reauthorization Act of 2022 expanded the HUD definition of "homeless" to include any individual or family who 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 residences; and

- Lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing.

Background

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), signifying the beginning of a funding competition among approximately 450 Continuums of Care (CoC), the community stakeholder groups that guide local responses to homelessness. The 2023 CoC NOFO was released on July 5, 2023, opening the competition making available **approximately \$3.1 billion nationally** to serve people experiencing homelessness. The information in the NOFO sets forth the competition rules and processes for 2023.

This summary includes the highlights of the FY 2023 CoC NOFO. New or revised policies relating to the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition are indicated as ****NEW IN 2023**** and ****REVISED IN 2023****, respectively. Additional information about project application requirements and standards will be available locally.

Details about anything in this summary can be found in the NOFO, available at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2023-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/>

Important HUD-Required Dates

- **Wednesday, July 5, 2023** → The 2023 CoC Program NOFO is released.
- By the end of **July 2023** → The CoC Application, CoC Priority Listing, and Project Applications are available in *e-snaps*.
- On or before **Tuesday, August 29, 2023** (30 days prior to submission deadline) → All project applications are required to be submitted to the CoC.
- On or before **Wednesday, September 13, 2023** (15 days prior to submission deadline) → The CoC is required to notify, in writing outside of *e-snaps*, 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.
- On or before **Tuesday, September 26, 2023** (2 days prior to submission deadline) → CoCs must post on their website (or a partner's website) all parts of the CoC Consolidated Application, including the CoC Application attachments and the Priority Listing, and notify community members and key stakeholders that the CoC Consolidated Application is available.

Submission Deadline:

Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 8:00 PM EDT / 7:00 PM CDT / 5:00 PM PDT

- HUD strongly suggests that Collaborative Applicants print a copy of the Submission Summary form from the CoC Application and the FY 2023 CoC Priority Listing before closing their internet browser after the CoC Consolidated Application has been submitted by HUD. This is the Collaborative Applicant's receipt of submission and proof of compliance with the application deadline.
- HUD may issue more than one conditional funding announcement.
- **September 30, 2025** → All conditional funds awarded in the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition must be obligated.
- **September 30, 2030** → Obligated funds awarded in the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition must be expended.

Funding Available for Our CoC

This year, in our CoC, the eligible application amounts are estimated as follows (**note: HUD has not yet published application amounts so these may change**):

- **Tier 1** (93% of Annual Renewal Demand minus Annual Renewal Amounts of YHDP Renewal/Replacement Projects): \$38,223,947
- **Tier 2** (remainder of Annual Renewal Demand + CoC Bonus): \$6,211,670 (at least half of Tier 2 or \$3,105,385 must be renewal grants)
- **CoC Bonus** (7% of ARD): \$3,105,835
- **Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus** (10% of PPRN): \$1,603,644
- **CoC Planning**: \$1,500,000 (increased to 5% of ARD but there is a cap of \$1.5million)
- **YHDP Renewal/Replacement**: \$3,268,055

2022-2026 HUD Strategic Goals

****REVISED IN 2023****

HUD's FY 2022-2026 Strategic Plan sets the direction and focus of programs and staff and lays out this administration's strategy for ensuring everyone has an affordable, healthy place to live. Over the course of the next three years HUD will continue pursuing two overarching priorities focused on **increasing equity** and **improving customer experience** across all HUD programs. The five strategic goals of the plan remain the same, however, HUD indicated that the following goals from the plan are applicable to the 2023 NOFO:

1. Support Underserved Communities
2. Ensure Access to and Increase the Production of Affordable Housing
3. Promote Homeownership
4. Advance Sustainable Communities

HUD expects CoCs to consider the policy priorities established in the strategic goals, the policy priorities established in this NOFO, and local priorities to determine the ranking of new and renewal project application requests.

Projects selected for funding will be expected to establish a plan to track progress related to those goals, objectives, and measures. HUD will monitor compliance with the goals, objectives, and measures.

2023 HUD CoC Policy Priorities

The work funded through this NOFO will support the actions and strategies proposed within the six pillars of the 2022 USICH Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness:

- Equity
- Data and evidence
- Collaboration
- Housing and Supports
- Crisis Response
- Prevention

CoCs will be evaluated based on the extent to which they further HUD's policy priorities. The policy priorities listed this year remain the same from the 2022 NOFO; however, **there is an emphasis on including people who are currently or have previously experienced homelessness to be included in the local planning process.**

1. Ending homelessness for all persons

- a. To end homelessness, CoCs should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness.
- b. CoCs should measure their performance based on local data that consider the challenges faced by all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area (e.g., veterans, youth, families, or those experiencing chronic homelessness, and people with disabilities, including those living with HIV/AIDS).

- c. CoCs should partner with housing, health care, and supportive services providers to expand housing options, such as permanent supportive housing, housing subsidies, and rapid rehousing.
- d. Additionally, CoCs should use local data to determine the characteristics of individuals and families with the highest needs and longest experiences of homelessness to develop housing and supportive services tailored to their needs.

2. Use a housing first approach

- a. Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. CoC Program funded projects should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and CoCs should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness.
- b. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to housing units available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods.
- c. HUD encourages CoCs to assess how well Housing First approaches are being implemented in their communities.

3. Reducing unsheltered homelessness

- a. In recent years, the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness has risen significantly, including a rising number of encampments in many communities across the country. People living unsheltered have extremely high rates of physical and mental illness and substance use disorders.
- b. CoCs should explore all available resources, including CoC and ESG funded assistance, housing subsidies, and supportive services to provide permanent housing options for people who are unsheltered.

4. Improving system performance

- a. CoCs should be using system performance measures (e.g., average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, rates of exit to permanent housing destinations) to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness.
- b. Additionally, CoCs should use their Coordinated Entry process to promote participant choice, coordinate homeless assistance and mainstream housing, and services to ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance quickly, and make homelessness assistance open, inclusive, and transparent.
- c. CoCs should review all projects eligible for renewal in FY 2023 to determine their effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness, including cost-effectiveness.
- d. CoCs should also look for opportunities to implement continuous quality improvement and other process improvement strategies.

5. Partnering with housing, health, and service agencies

- a. Using cost performance and outcome data, CoCs should improve how all available resources are utilized to end homelessness. This is especially important as the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan have provided significant new resources to help end homelessness.
- b. HUD encourages CoCs to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness and to:
 - (1) Work closely with public and private healthcare organizations and assist program participants to receive primary care, receive housing-related services,

and obtain medical insurance to address healthcare needs. This includes developing close partnerships with public health agencies to analyze data and design approaches that reduce homelessness, improve the health of people experiencing homelessness, and prevent and address disease outbreaks, including HIV/AIDS.

- (2) Partner closely with PHAs and state and local housing organizations to utilize coordinated entry, develop housing units, and provide housing subsidies to people experiencing homelessness. These partnerships can also help CoC Program participants exit permanent supportive housing through Housing Choice Vouchers and other available housing options. CoCs and PHAs should especially work together to implement targeted programs such as Emergency Housing Vouchers, HUD-VASH, Mainstream Vouchers, Family Unification Program Vouchers, and other housing voucher programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness. CoCs should coordinate with their state and local housing agencies on the utilization of new HOME program resources provided through the Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program that was created through the American Rescue Plan.
- (3) Partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment opportunities.
- (4) Work with tribal organizations to ensure that Tribal members can access CoC-funded assistance when a CoC's geographic area borders a Tribal area.

6. Racial equity

- a. In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address racial equity within CoCs.
- b. Responses to preventing and ending homelessness should address racial inequities to ensure successful outcomes for all persons experiencing homelessness using proven approaches, such as: developing a coordinated community response created in partnership with a racially diverse set of stakeholders and people experiencing homelessness and partnering with organizations with experience serving underserved populations.
- c. CoCs should review local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address racial disparities affecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

7. Improving assistance to LGBTQ+ individuals

- a. Discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation manifests differently for different individuals and often overlaps with other forms of prohibited discrimination. CoCs should address the needs of LGBTQ+, transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary individuals and families in their planning processes.
- b. Additionally, when considering which projects to select in their local competition to be included in their application to HUD, CoCs should ensure privacy, respect, safety, and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation in projects.
- c. CoCs should also consider partnering with organizations with expertise in serving LGBTQ+ populations.

8. Persons with lived experience

- a. The people who know best what solutions will effectively end homelessness are those who are experiencing homelessness.

- b. ****REVISED IN 2023**** In the 2022 NOFO, HUD had *encouraged* CoCs to include in the local planning process people who are currently experiencing or have formerly experienced homelessness. HUD now *expects* CoCs to do this.
- c. People with lived experience should determine how local policies may need to be revised and updated to improve the effectiveness of homelessness assistance programs, including participating in planning and oversight activities and developing local competition processes.
- d. CoC leaders and stakeholders should also prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed (e.g., peer outreach and support).

9. Increasing affordable housing supply

- a. The lack of affordable housing is the main driver of homelessness. CoCs play a critical role in educating local leaders and stakeholders about the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing and the specific consequences of the continued lack of affordable housing.
- b. CoCs should be communicating with jurisdiction leaders, including for the development of Consolidated Plans, about the harmful effects of the lack of affordable housing, and they should engage local leaders about steps such as zoning and land use reform that would increase the supply of affordable housing.
- c. This FY2023 CoC NOFO awards points to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supply.

Application Structure

The CoC Consolidated Application is made up of three parts:

1. **CoC Application** provides information about the CoC planning body, governance structure, overall performance, and the strategic planning process. This part of the application is scored and will determine the order in which CoCs are funded.
2. **Project Applications** are completed in e-snaps by agencies applying for projects.
3. **CoC Priority Listing** ranks all project applications in order of priority.

Review and Rank Changes and Reminders

****NEW in 2023**** HUD requires CoCs to review and rank projects submitted by project applicants, including project applications for Round 1 YHDP Renewal or replacement projects (those initially funded during the FY 2016 YHDP competition), having them fall into two Tiers based on a financial threshold.

CoCs must not rank the following project applications: YHDP Renewal or replacement projects originally awarded through the FY 2017 YHDP Competition (Round 2) or later, CoC Planning, and UFA Costs (if applicable) projects. All projects must pass HUD's eligibility and threshold requirements to be funded, no matter their priority.

If a DV Bonus project is selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will be removed from the Priority Listing and the projects below it will move up one rank position. However, if a new DV Bonus project is not selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will retain its ranked position.

Tier 1

- Tier 1 is equal to 93% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand minus the Annual Renewal Amounts of YHDP Renewal and YHDP Replacement projects from FY 2017 YHDP Competition (Round 2) or later.
- Tier 1 projects will be conditionally selected from the highest-scoring CoC to the lowest-scoring CoC, provided the project applications pass both eligibility and threshold review, and if applicable, project renewal threshold.

- In the event insufficient funding is available under the NOFO to award all Tier 1 projects, Tier 1 will be reduced proportionately, which could result in some Tier 1 projects falling into Tier 2. Therefore, CoCs should carefully determine the priority and ranking for all project applications in Tier 1 as well as Tier 2.

Tier 2

- Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation, Round 1 YHDP Renewal, Round 1 YHDP Replacement, and CoC Bonus funds. It does not include YHDP Renewal or YHDP Replacement projects from FY 2017 YHDP Competition (Round 2) or later, CoC Planning projects, UFA Costs projects (if applicable), or projects selected with DV Bonus funds.
- Project applications placed in Tier 2 will be assessed for project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements, and if applicable, project renewal threshold requirements.
- Projects in Tier 2 are less likely to be funded, and every Tier 2 project will be scored using a 100-point scale based on three factors:
 - **CoC Score.** Up to 50 points will be awarded in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application.
 - **CoC Project Ranking.** Up to 40 points will be assigned directly related to the CoC's ranking of the project application(s). Additional details are available on p. 27 of the NOFO.
 - **Commitment to Housing First.** Up to 10 points will be awarded based on the project application's commitment to follow a housing first approach that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). Dedicated HMIS projects and coordinated entry SSO projects will automatically receive 10 points.

Important CoC Strategy Reminders

- HUD will not award funds to a new project unless the project was created through reallocation, or the CoC has demonstrated to HUD's satisfaction that projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the CoC's system performance as outlined in sections I.A.4.b.(4) and V.B.2.b of the NOFO.
- HUD will prioritize funding for CoCs that have demonstrated the capacity to reallocate funding from lower to higher performing projects.
- CoCs may only reallocate eligible renewal projects that have previously been renewed under the CoC Program. CoCs may reallocate YHDP projects HUD initially awarded Round 1 YHDP to create new CoC grants. Reallocated Round 1 YHDP grants are not required to serve Youth.
- CoCs are prohibited from reallocating YHDP projects initially awarded in Round 2 or later, but may submit YHDP Replacement projects serving Youth. Additional details are available on pp. 45-49 of the NOFO.

Eligible New Projects

- CoCs may apply for new projects created through reallocation, CoC Bonus, a combination of reallocation and CoC Bonus, new DV Bonus, CoC planning, and UFA Costs (if applicable).
 - Because new project applications may be created through the reallocation or CoC Bonus processes, if HUD determines that a project applicant or a CoC incorrectly classified one or more new projects as reallocation or CoC Bonus, HUD may reclassify the project(s) as either reallocation or CoC Bonus if the CoC exceeded either its reallocation or CoC Bonus amount.

- If a project applicant uses both reallocation and CoC Bonus amounts to create a single new project but did not have enough available from either source, HUD will reduce the project to the amount available, if any.
- HUD will review all new project applications to determine if they meet project quality threshold requirements. See pp. 54-59 of the NOFO for details.

Allowable Grant Terms

- The initial grant term for new project applications may be one year, two years, three years, four years, five years, or 15 years, but there are limitations depending on the grant type. Please see pp. 39-40 of the NOFO for details. The grant term may be extended consistent with 2 CFR 200.308 and 2 CFR 200.309. Please note that the total grant amount is divided among the grant years (e.g., you can receive \$100,000 for one year, or \$33,333 for 3 years).
- HUD will allow new projects to request one year of funding with a longer initial grant term not to exceed 18 months. HUD has determined that most new projects requesting one year of funding normally take approximately three to six months to begin fully operating the new project (e.g., hiring staff, developing partnerships with landowners if leasing or renting). Therefore, a new project requesting one year of funding may request a grant term of 12-18 months that will allow for the additional start-up process.

Transition Projects

- Applicants may transition their project(s) from one CoC Program component to another (e.g., Transitional Housing to Rapid Rehousing, Rapid Rehousing to Permanent Supportive Housing) over a one-year grant cycle.
- To create a transition grant, the CoC must wholly eliminate one or more projects and use those funds to create the single, new transition grant.
- The applicant must have the consent of the CoC, as indicated by:
 - The project application identifying the project as a transition project, and
 - The CoC ranking the new transition grant project on the New Project Listing in the FY 2023 CoC Priority Listing.
- Recipients may use as much of the awarded grant funds on the costs of eligible activities of the program component originally funded; however, by the end of the operating year, the recipient must be fully operating the new program component. Recipients will be eligible for renewal in subsequent fiscal years for eligible activities of the new program component.

Consolidation Projects

- Applicants may consolidate up to ten renewal projects into one project during the application process.
- This means that a CoC Program recipient does not have to wait for a grant agreement amendment to be executed to consolidate two or more grants before it can apply for a single consolidated project in the CoC Program Competition.
- The projects being combined during a grant consolidation will continue uninterrupted.
- To be eligible for consolidation, projects must have the same recipient and be for the same component; and they will be funded in this competition only with FY 2023 funds (meaning no funds recaptured from prior years will be awarded to the project).
- ****CLARIFIED in 2023****: YHDP Renewal projects that wish to consolidate may establish a single YHDP Replacement grant to replace multiple YHDP grants.

- A YHDP Renewal project cannot consolidate with a non-YHDP project. A transitional housing and a permanent housing project cannot consolidate to form a Joint TH and PH-RRH component project. Transition grants cannot consolidate with any other project.

Expansion Projects

- HUD will allow project applicants to apply for a new expansion project under the DV Bonus, reallocation, and CoC bonus processes to expand existing projects by adding units, persons served, services provided to existing program participants, or to add additional activities to HMIS and SSO-CE projects.
- ****NEW IN 2023**** HUD will only select a new DV Bonus project that expands an existing renewal project if HUD selects the renewal project in Tier 1 or 2. For DV Bonus applications that propose expansion but do not meet requirements for an expansion project or the renewal portion is not selected in Tier 1 or 2, HUD will consider the DV Bonus application as a standalone DV Bonus application and use the DV Bonus selection process outlined in I.B.2.b.(8).
- To request an expansion for a current CoC-Program-funded project, applicants will be required to submit two project applications:
 1. The renewal project application that will be expanded; and
 2. A new project application with just the expansion information.
- For the new expansion project to be selected for a conditional award the renewal project application must also be selected for conditional award.

Eligible Types of New Projects Created Through Bonus or Reallocated Funding

- **Permanent Supportive Housing** projects for persons experiencing chronic homelessness at the time they initially enroll in the project persons eligible to be served by DedicatedPLUS projects as described in Section I.B.2.b(7) of the NOFO (in which case all units funded by the project must be used to serve program participants who meet the qualifications for DedicatedPLUS).
- **Rapid Rehousing** projects for people who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3 (and paragraph (3) if the CoC is approved to serve this population).
- **Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing** component projects for people who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3 (and paragraph (3) if the CoC is approved to serve this population).
- **Dedicated HMIS** project for the costs at 24 CFR 578.37(a)(4) that can only be carried out by the HMIS Lead, which is the recipient or subrecipient of an HMIS grant and is listed on the HMIS Lead form in the CoC Applicant Profile in *e-snaps*. Additionally, if the CoC has organizations within its geographic area that are victim service providers, the HMIS Lead, or subrecipient, may request HMIS funds for a comparable database. Victim service providers may also request HMIS funds in their project application budgets to enter data into a comparable database.
- **Supportive services Only projects for Coordinated Entry** project to develop or operate a centralized or coordinated assessment system.

Eligible Types of New Projects Created Through Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus

- Through this NOFO, at least \$52,000,000 is available nationally for DV Bonus projects, which are dedicated to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who qualify under paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3.
- In the initial DV Bonus selection process, HUD will select approximately \$45,000,000 in new DV Bonus eligible projects. As HUD selects projects through Tiers 1 and 2, HUD will apply additional

DV Bonus funds to selected projects and will continue doing so until the combined amount selected is at least \$52,000,000.

- ****NEW in 2023**** HUD is clarifying that while persons who are fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking may qualify as homeless under paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3 and may be eligible for certain forms of homeless assistance under the CoC program, a DV Bonus project may not *exclusively* serve people fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking.
- A CoC may apply the following types of projects:
 - **Rapid Rehousing** that adopts a housing first approach and is dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3)
 - **Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing** that adopts a housing first approach and is dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3)
 - **Supportive Services Only projects for Coordinated Entry** to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (e.g., to implement policies and procedures that are trauma-informed and client-centered or to better coordinate referrals between the CoC's coordinated entry and the victim service providers coordinated entry system where they are different)
- **Number of Applications.** A CoC may apply for any number of PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH projects provided that each application is for at least \$50,000. A CoC can only submit one project application for an SSO-CE project.
- **Expansion Projects.** A CoC may apply to expand an existing renewal project, including one that was previously funded with DV Bonus funding. DV Bonus funding may be used to expand an existing renewal project that is not dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and/or stalking so long as the DV Bonus funds for expansion are solely for additional units, beds, or services dedicated to persons eligible to be served with DV Bonus funding. HUD will only select a new DV Bonus project that expands an existing renewal project if HUD selects the renewal project in Tier 1 or 2. For DV Bonus applications that propose expansion but do not meet requirements for an expansion project or the renewal portion is not selected in Tier 1 or 2, HUD will consider the DV Bonus application as a standalone DV Bonus application and use the DV Bonus selection process outlined in I.B.2.b.(8).
- **Project Quality Threshold for DV Bonus.** To be eligible to receive a new DV Bonus project, a CoC must demonstrate it ranks projects based on how they improve system performance as outlined in Section I.B.3.1 of the NOFO. Additionally, to be eligible to receive a DV Bonus project for PH-RRH or Joint TH and PH-RRH component, all projects funded through the DV Bonus must adopt a housing first approach.
- **Ranking.** CoCs are required to rank all DV Bonus projects on the New Project Listing of the CoC Priority Listing with a unique rank number and the corresponding renewal project application must be on the Renewal Project Listing with a unique rank number. A new DV Bonus project that expands an existing renewal project will only be selected if the renewal project is conditionally selected in Tier 1 or 2. If the renewal project application is selected for conditional award with CoC Program funds and the new DV Bonus expansion project is approved for selection, HUD will only select the new DV Bonus project with DV Bonus funds and HUD will remove the new DV Bonus project from the New Project Listing and all other project applications ranked below the new DV Bonus project will move up one rank position.
- **Scoring.** For new projects the CoC indicates it would like considered as part of the DV Bonus, HUD will award a point value to each project application combining both the CoC Application

score and responses to the domestic violence bonus specific questions in the CoC Application using the following 100-point scale:

- For Rapid Rehousing and Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing component projects:
 - *CoC Score*. Up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application.
 - *CoC Collaboration with Victim Service Providers*. Up to 10 points in direct proportion to the score received on the following rating factors in the CoC application: Section V.B.1.e, Section V.B.2.c, and Section V.B.3.b.
 - *Need for the Project*. Up to 10 points based on the extent the CoC quantifies the need for the project in its portfolio, the extent of the need, and how the project will fill that gap.
 - *Quality of the Project Applicant*. Up to 15 points based on the previous performance of the applicant in serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and their ability to house survivors and meet safety outcomes.
 - *Demonstration of inclusion of victim-centered practices*. Up to 8 points based on the quality of the project's plan to address the housing and safety needs of survivors by adopting victim-centered practices (e.g., Housing First, Trauma-Informed Care, Confidentiality) in operating their project. Full points will be awarded to project applicants that can demonstrate they are already adopting victim-centered practices.
 - *Demonstration of plan to include survivors with lived expertise*. Up to 7 points based on the project's ability to demonstrate its plan to involve survivors in policy and program development throughout the project's operation.
- For Supportive Services Only Projects for Coordinated Entry:
 - *CoC Score*. Up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application.
 - *CoC Collaboration with Victim Service Providers*. Up to 10 points in direct proportion to the score received on the following rating factors in the CoC application: Section V.B.1.e, Section V.B.2.c, and Section V.B.3.b.
 - *Need for the Project*. Up to 25 points based on the extent to which the CoC demonstrates the need for a coordinated entry system that better meets the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and how the project will fill this need.
 - *Demonstration of plan to include survivors with lived expertise*. Up to 15 points based on the project's ability to demonstrate its plan to involve survivors in policy and program development throughout the project's operation.

Important Points for Renewal Projects

- To be eligible for renewal in FY 2023, a project must have an executed grant agreement by December 31, 2023 and have an expiration date in Calendar Year (CY) 2024 (between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024).
- **Grant Term**. All CoC Program renewal project applications are limited to a one-year grant term and one year of funding. Any renewal permanent housing project that receives project-based rental assistance or operating costs may request up to a 15-year grant term; however, project applicants may only request one year of funding. The grant term may be extended consistent with 2 CFR 200.308 and 2 CFR 200.309.

- **Project Quality Threshold.** HUD will review renewal projects to determine if project applicants and subrecipients meet the project quality threshold requirements detailed in section III.C.5.d. of this NOFO. If HUD determines these standards are not met, HUD will reject the project application, unless otherwise provided in this NOFO.
- **Eligible Program Participants**
 - **PH-PSH projects** must serve one of the following:
 - Program participants who are eligible for assistance under the project's current grant agreement;
 - Persons eligible to be served by DedicatedPLUS projects as described in Section I.B.2.b(7) of the NOFO where all units funded by this project must be used to serve program participants who meet the qualifications for DedicatedPLUS; or
 - Persons experiencing chronic homelessness at the time they initially enrolled in the project.
 - **PH-RRH, Joint TH and PH-RRH component, TH, and SSO projects** may serve persons who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3. Additionally, these projects may serve persons who qualify as homeless under paragraph (3) of 24 CFR 578.3 if the CoC is approved to serve persons in paragraph (3).
 - Renewal projects originally awarded under a previous year's **DV Bonus** must continue to serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who qualify under paragraph (4) of 24 CFR 578.3.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Renewals

- ****NEW IN 2023**** HUD will competitively renew or replace YHDP projects that HUD initially funded in FY 2016 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Competition (Round 1). CoCs must rank project applications for Round 1 YHDP Renewal and YHDP Replacement projects and may reallocate these projects to create new CoC projects in accordance with section I.B.2.b.(24) and section III.B.3.e. of this NOFO. These Round 1 YHDP projects may be reallocated by CoCs to create new CoC projects that are not required to serve youth.
- HUD will non-competitively renew or replace expiring YHDP grants initially funded in FY 2017 (Round 2) or later. CoCs are prohibited from reallocating these YHDP Grants. HUD will select these grants for funding if they pass project eligibility, project quality, and if applicable, project renewal thresholds.
- There is approximately \$147,000,000 available for the competitive renewal and replacement of expiring Round 1 YHDP Grants and the non-competitive renewal and replacement of YHDP grants initially funded in FY 2017 (Round 2) or later.
- **Replacement.** The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 permits the renewal or replacement of YHDP projects under the CoC Program; therefore, a renewing YHDP project may choose to replace its current program project with a new project which may include activities ineligible under the CoC Program, or portions of its current program design, to conduct activities that are ineligible with CoC Program funds provided the replacement project demonstrates it will directly serve youth aged 24 and under experiencing homelessness. Please see pp. 37-52 of the NOFO for more details on the replacement application process, eligible replacement project types, and eligible special YHDP activities.
- **Project Quality Threshold.** HUD will not reject Round 2 or later YHDP Replacement project applications during quality threshold review unless a renewal YHDP project application is submitted for the same project being replaced. HUD may require YHDP replacement recipients to correct or revise information submitted after the final FY 2023 CoC Program Competition award announcement.

- **Match.** YHDP renewal or replacement projects will not be required to meet the 25% match requirement if the applicant is able to demonstrate it has taken reasonable steps to maximize resources available for youth experiencing homelessness.
- **Grant Term.** All YHDP renewal and YHDP replacement project applications are limited to a one-year grant term and one year of funding with one exception: any renewal permanent housing project that receives project-based rental assistance or operating costs may request up to a 15-year grant term (however, project applicants may only request one year of funding). The grant term may be extended consistent with 2 CFR 200.308 and 2 CFR 200.309. Additionally, YHDP replacement projects cannot request capital costs (i.e., new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation).
- **Consolidation, Expansion, and Reallocation.** While YHDP projects can use the consolidation process as outlined in Section I.B.2.b(6) of the NOFO, these projects cannot consolidate with non-YHDP projects. Only YHDP Round 1 Projects can use the reallocation processes outlined in the NOFO (Section I.B.2.b(24)). YHDP Round 2 or later projects cannot be reallocated. YHDP projects cannot use the expansion (Section I.B.2.b(10)) processes outlined in the NOFO. Unified Funding Agencies (UFAs) are prohibited from moving funds out of or into YHDP-funded projects from any other non-YHDP funded project; except, UFAs may reallocate Round 1 YHDP projects to create new non-YHDP projects.
- **Eligible Participants.** YHDP renewal projects must serve youth, age 24 or younger, who qualify as homeless under paragraph (1), (2), and (4) of 24 CFR 578.3, including unaccompanied, pregnant, and parenting youth, where no member of the household is older than 24. Additionally, these projects may serve youth aged 24 and under who qualify as homeless under paragraph (3) of 24 CFR 578.3 if the CoC is approved to serve persons in paragraph (3).

Important Points for All Project Applicants

- CoC Application and Project Applicant Scoring did not change significantly from FY 2022 NOFO.
- ****NEW IN 2023** 2022 Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Budget Line Item.** VAWA provides various protections to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking under the CoC Program and other HUD programs. VAWA 2022 reauthorized, amended, and strengthened VAWA. As a result, HUD added a VAWA Costs Budget Line Item (BLI) to be built into the CoC Program Competition Application process. Applicants wishing to utilize this new BLI can request a budget modification during the competition to add funds to these line items from an existing line item. Applicants may also request to expand existing renewal grants to add new funding to these BLIs.
- ****NEW IN 2023** Rural Costs Budget Line Item.** Section 5707 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2023 amends federal law to include activities that address barriers to transitioning families in rural areas to PH and additional activities to increase capacity to address the unique challenges CoCs face when serving people experiencing homelessness in rural areas.
- ****NEW in 2023** Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH).** With some exceptions for Federally recognized Indian tribes and their instrumentalities, HUD states project applicants must discuss how they will carry out the proposed activities in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing in compliance with the Fair Housing Act and how applicants will meet the requirements of the definition of AFFH at 24 CFR 5.151. Applicants may propose activities that are consistent with their jurisdiction's Analysis of Impediments (AI), an Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), or other means of fair housing planning that meaningfully supports their AFFH certification.
- **Youth.** Youth aged 24 and under must not be required to provide third-party documentation that they meet the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3 as a condition for receiving services funded under the NOFO. Any youth-serving provider (a private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to youth aged 24 and under and families headed by youth aged 24 and under) funded under the NOFO may serve unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under or

families headed by youth aged 24 and under who have an unsafe primary nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence. These youth-related requirements supersede any conflicting requirements under the NOFO or the Rule.

- **SAM Registration Requirement.** Applicants must be registered with <https://www.sam.gov/SAM> before submitting their application. Applicants must maintain current information in SAM on immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well as on all predecessors that have been awarded a federal contract or grant within the last three years, if applicable. Information in SAM must be current for all times during which the applicant has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by HUD.
- **UEI Number Requirement.** Applicants must provide a valid UEI number, registered and active at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM> in the application.
- **Code of Conduct.** All project applicants must ensure their organization has a Code of Conduct that complies with the requirements of 2 CFR part 200 and is on file with HUD. Be sure to review the [Code of Conduct for HUD Grant Programs](#) page on HUD's website to ensure your organization is listed (which means you have submitted an approved Code of Conduct). If you do not see your organization on the list, be sure to attach a current and complete Code of Conduct to your Project Applicant Profile in *e-snaps*.
- **2023 FMRs Will Apply.** Because the application submission deadline falls in FY 2023, HUD will use FY 2023 FMRs for funding amounts.

Community-Level Changes and Reminders

- ****REVISED IN 2023** Affirmative Furthering Fair Housing.** HUD revised the Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System rating factor (V.B.j.) to place emphasis on CoCs affirmatively marketing housing and services available within the CoC broadly throughout the local area to any demographic groups that would be unlikely or least likely to apply absent such efforts. One point was added for this rating factor.
- **Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Individuals.** HUD continues to give points for factors for addressing the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals to continue emphasizing CoCs implementing and training their providers on the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policies that ensure LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination.
- **Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decision Making and Provide Professional Development and Employment Opportunities.** One more point was added to Section V.B.1.r of the NOFO for CoCs that demonstrate:
 - Outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decision-making processes
 - Individuals with lived experience of homelessness participate in CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups
 - Individuals with lived experience of homelessness are routinely included in decision-making processes of the CoC related to addressing homelessness (e.g., minutes from CoC or CoC Subcommittee meetings show people with lived experience are involved in decision-making)
 - Individuals with lived experience of homelessness are included in the development, or revision, of the local competition rating factors

- Professional development (e.g., internships, continuing education, skill-based training) and employment opportunities are provided to individuals with lived experience of homelessness either within the CoC or by CoC membership organizations
- Feedback is routinely gathered from people experiencing homelessness and people who have received assistance through the CoC or ESG program on their experience receiving assistance and the steps the CoC takes to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness

Persons with lived experience must have been homeless within the last seven years or are currently program participants. Full points are available if there is more than one person with lived experience of homelessness engaged in local CoC planning and at least one person with lived experience came from an unsheltered situation.

- **Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.** The FY 2023 NOFO awards points to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing housing supply. CoCs must describe at least 2 steps they have taken in the past 12 months that engage city, county, or state governments within their geographic area regarding the following:
 - Reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; or
 - Reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.
- **Racial Disparities.** HUD continues to award points for CoCs evaluating racial disparities and making system and program changes to address racial equity.
- ****REVISED IN 2023** Promoting Racial Equity in the Local CoC Process.** HUD continues to have points available to CoCs that are promoting racial equity through the local CoC competition. The points will be awarded on the rating factors; review, selection, and ranking processes used; and if rating and ranking of projects is based on the degree to which projects have identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and are taking or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers. One point was added for this rating factor.
- **Leveraging Housing Resources.** CoCs may receive up to 7 points in Section V.B.6.a of the NOFO (same as 2022) if the CoC Priority Listing includes at least one new permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing project application created through reallocation or the CoC Bonus that utilizes housing subsidies or subsidized housing units funded through sources other than the CoC or ESG programs. The full 7 points will be awarded if at least 25% of the units (PSH) or participants (RRH) will be supported with non-CoC funded housing. CoCs must attach letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project. See Section V.B.6.a of the NOFO for additional details.
- **Leveraging Healthcare Resources.** CoCs may receive up to 7 points in Section V.B.6.b of the NOFO (same as 2022) if the CoC Priority Listing includes at least one new permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing project application that utilizes healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This must be documented with a written commitment from a health care organization to provide substance use treatment or recovery services to all interested program participants who qualify or to provide services equal in value to 25% of the funding being requested by the project. See Section V.B.6.b of the NOFO for additional details.
- **DV Bonus.** HUD maintained the point value distribution for project applications based on the CoC Application score and responses to the revised domestic violence bonus specific questions in the project applications. For the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition, HUD maintained scoring factors based on the responses to questions that demonstrate CoCs' collaboration with victim service providers in the CoC Application, projects' plans to include survivors with lived experience

in policy and program development and the inclusion of victim- centered practices in operating their projects.

- **Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE).** In the FY 2021 competition, Tribes and TDHEs were eligible to apply for projects through existing CoCs only. In the FY 2022 competition, HUD published PPRNs for all formula areas, as that term is defined in the Indian Housing Block Grant program at 24 CFR 1000.302, including tribal formula areas, and allowed CoCs to include tribal formula areas in their CoC geography during the FY 2022 CoC Program registration process. A Tribe or TDHE could also form a CoC including only tribal formula areas as part of their geography through the CoC registration process. In FY 2023 CoC Program Competition Tribes and TDHEs remain able to be designated as Collaborative Applicants.
- **CoC Mergers.** To encourage CoC mergers and mitigate the potential adverse scoring implications that may occur when a high-performing CoC merges with one or more lower-performing CoC(s), HUD will award up to 25 bonus points (same as 2022) to CoCs that first registered as a merged CoC between the FY 2022 and FY 2023 CoC Program Registration process.
- **Projects on Reservations and Trust Land.** Applicants that propose to locate a project on a reservation or trust land must include a tribal resolution from the tribe authorizing the applicant to do so or a letter from an official or principal of the Indian Tribe or TDHE who is authorized to act on behalf of the Indian Tribe or TDHE indicating approval. Tribes do not need to include a tribal resolution or a letter from an official of the Indian Tribe or TDHE who is authorized to act on behalf of the Indian Tribe or TDHE to site a project on their own reservation or trust land. A tribal resolution is the formal way the tribal government expresses its legislative will in accordance with its organic documents. In the absence of such organic documents, a written expression adopted pursuant to tribal practices will be acceptable.
- **Participative Planning and Implementation.** Applicants must identify the steps they will take to ensure that traditionally marginalized populations (such as racial and ethnic minorities and persons with disabilities) will be able to meaningfully participate in the planning process. The applicant must identify the specific populations that it will include, identify community organizations that represent these populations, and describe how these populations will be included in the planning process. In seeking public participation, applicants and recipients must ensure that all communications are provided in a manner that is effective for persons with hearing, visual, and other communication-related disabilities consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and, as applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. 2000d require that grantees take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to services, programs, and activities by persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP persons).
- **Homelessness and Human Trafficking.** In FY 2022 NOFO, HUD clarified that persons who are fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking may qualify as homeless under paragraph (4) of the homeless definition at 24 CFR 578.3; and, therefore, the individuals may be eligible for certain forms of homeless assistance under the CoC Program, subject to other restrictions that may apply. HUD considers human trafficking, including sex trafficking, to be “other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member” under paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3. In FY 2023 NOFO, HUD clarified that a DV Bonus project may not exclusively serve people fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking.

Resources

- 2023 CoC NOFO Competition Page: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2023-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/>
- 2023 CoC NOFO: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/FY-2023-CoC-NOFO-Publication.pdf>

- CoC Program Interim Rule (24 CFR part 578): <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2018-title24-vol3/xml/CFR-2018-title24-vol3-part578.xml>
- Application Pages
 - Access *e-snaps* Application System: <https://esnaps.hud.gov>
 - *e-snaps* Information: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>
 - Code of Conduct for HUD Grant Programs: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/conductgrants
 - System for Award Management (SAM): <https://www.sam.gov/SAM>
- Miscellaneous HUD Websites
 - General site: www.hud.gov
 - General site: www.hudexchange.info
 - Training and Resources: www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/
 - Subscribe to HUD Listserv: www.hudexchange.info/maillinglist
 - Ask A Question (AAQ) Portal: <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>