

**Alameda County Continuum of Care (CoC)
2023 NOFO Application Process**

**Frequently Asked Questions
Posted August 1, 2023**

Questions from Bidder's Conference

1. Question: This year's NOFO includes some new elements aligning CoC funding with the Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA). Is VAWA Compliance mandatory for CoC grantees?

Answer: Yes, the HUD CoC requirements relating to VAWA compliance are not new. These relate to how CoC's and providers interact with, prioritize, triage, and provide safety precautions for DV survivors. What is new this year is that grantees may request funds to cover their costs of complying with VAWA. (See 2023 NOFO, page 5-6 and 42-43).

2. Question: What is the difference between the local and the e-snaps application?

Answer: The Local Application is completed by all applicants and provides the information that the NOFO Committee scores in the review and rank process. It is used to generate the Project Priority List. The E-snaps application is the HUD required Project Application completed in the e-snaps online portal. All projects on the Project Priority List must have a corresponding e-snaps application.

3. Question: Do we know how much funding the "new" renewals and YHDP renewals take up?

Answer: Last year's new projects (which will be "new" renewals this year) add up to about \$2.7 million, including a \$1.2 HMIS expansion and \$1.5 million in new DV projects. The YHDP renewals add up to \$3.2 million but these grants do not go into either Tier 1 or Tier 2.

4. Question: Can an applicant consolidate two grants together if they are the same project type and the same recipient?

Answer: Yes, for example if a recipient agency has 2 separate RRH grants, they can join them together fairly easily through the application process. You still must submit each grant as a separate application and they will be reviewed and ranked individually, but you can flag that you would like them consolidated and HUD will do that as part of the award process.

5. Question: Is the DV funding new funding?

Answer: Yes, there is \$1.6 million available for new DV projects. Eligible project types are RRH, TH/RRH and SSO-CE.

6. Question: Can the supplemental narrative address issues with performance on the utilization measure or only the performance measures?

Answer: Yes. Applicants completing the Supplemental Narrative on Tab E of the Renewal Application may request up to 2 points back for points lost on either the Utilization or and Spending measure or both. The instructions on the application spreadsheet only mention spending, but the language in the Scoring Factors document mentions utilization as well. Applicants may use the Supplemental Narrative on Tab C to request up to 5 points for points lost across the 4 Performance Measures.

7. Question: Can we get the calculations for the scoring of performance measures?

Answer: The calculations for scoring performance measures are listed on Scoring Criteria document on the Everyone Home website. Renewal applicants will also receive an Excel Workbook showing how Homebase calculated their performance and will have the opportunity to ask questions or request corrections if any error was made. These workbooks will be sent by August 4, 2023.

8. Question: By applying to a new project, will that impact an existing grant? We don't want to risk existing funding.

Answer: Each project is scored independently of every other project. A higher performing and lower performing project or new project do not impact each other. However, there is a small chance your new project could be placed above one or more of your renewals and push them into Tier 2. However, this year, the Leadership Board has directed the NOFO Committee not to put new projects above renewals if doing so would put in-place tenants at-risk of losing their housing. Also note that the NOFO Committee will contact new applications to change your requested amount if there are too many projects submitted and there is not enough funding. If there are not enough new applications, the NOFO Committee can also ask for new applications to be submitted after the deadline. But late applications in those circumstances would be put at the bottom of the Project Priority List.

9. Question: Are bonus project submissions ranked alongside renewals and other new projects or is it a separate list?

Answer: They are all scored on a 100 point scale and ranked together on one list. The NOFO Committee has the authority to move new projects lower down the list to preserve existing housing, regardless of how the new project scored.

10. Question: If there are complications with applications, is it possible to request TA?

Answer: Yes, you can reach out to alameda@homebaseccc.org to request TA. Homebase will direct your request to the NOFO Consultant, Kate Bristol, for one-on-one TA. She can only answer questions about what HUD will allow or not allow and provide clarifying information about the local application. She cannot give advice on how to make your application more competitive.

11. Question: We currently offer interim housing to single mothers, with two other non-profits as an alliance. The project is within a housing first model funded by the City of Oakland's grant. Participants are having challenges increasing their income to afford market rate housing. Could we qualify for a post-transitional housing project?

Answer: Please request TA for a 1:1 discussion. You cannot request new CoC funding for a transitional housing program and cannot fund services not connected to housing. So, this may not be eligible.