

FY 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition NOFO Overview

Funding Opportunity Number: FR-6600-N-25

~~8/16/2022~~ 9/7/2022

The FY2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has been released as of August 1, 2022. Projects that make the selection list will advance to the federal application process. Applicants are responsible for the preparation of the eventual electronic submission of their project application if the project is approved locally for funding. This document outlines the local application process.

This year both NEW, RENEWAL, and EXPANSION PROJECT applicants (ie: projects) will be asked to submit an **Intent (pre-application) and e-snaps project application** to apply. ALL projects have to submit their applications **by 4pm on August 25th**. This short form as well as the timeline and process will be available on the Heading Home Ramsey website after today: <http://www.headinghomeramsey.org/provider-resources>

Link to pre-application: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=s-tzwFZbE0eGz1Ve_Jf2jyNIVvIAQ7BDpySyDDBtO5IUNFVJS040MDI3U0k2SzRGNUxRUEJITUxiTC4u

Approximate FY2022 HUD funding availability for Ramsey County

\$5,825,920 – Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN)

\$7,142,846 – Estimated Total Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)

\$6,785,704 – Tier 1 (95%)

\$357,142 – Tier 2 (*Approximate)

\$582,592 - Domestic Violence Bonus

\$357,142 – CoC Bonus

\$214,285 – Planning Grant (Collaborative Applicant only)

Highlights of the 2022 CoC NOFO:

- About \$2,794,000,000 is available for the FY22 CoC Program NOFO. This funding may not be sufficient to fund all anticipated renewals.
- An additional of up to \$52,000,000 available for Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus projects.
- HUD will continue to have CoCs rank all projects, except CoC planning, and is requiring placing projects in Tier 1 and Tier 2. Tier 1 is equal to 95% of the combined Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) for all projects eligible for renewal. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation and CoC Bonus funds that a CoC can apply for, but does not include the CoC Planning Funds or projects selected with DV Bonus funds.
- *Project Applicants must abide by the CoC deadline, meet HUD eligibility criteria, request eligible activities (listed under 24 CFR, part 578), adequately answer all questions, and attach all required documents to be considered eligible for funding.*
- *The CoC is required to rank projects in order of priority and identify projects rejected. Ranking is based on capacity, priorities, and performance. Reallocation will be strongly considered for underperforming*

projects. Projects with outstanding HUD audit findings, history of ineligible participants, evidence of untimely expenditures, or financial management concerns, may be eliminated from competition

- Performance-Based Decision:
 - CoCs cannot receive grants for new projects, other than through reallocation, unless the CoC competitively ranks projects based on how they improve system performance (outlined in Section VII.B.2.b. of the NOFO). HUD is continuing to increase the share of the CoC score that is based on performance criteria. HUD will prioritize funding for CoCs that have demonstrated the ability to reallocate resources to higher performing projects.
- Transition Grants: The ability of renewal projects to transition from one CoC component to another. If interested, contact Loni Aadalen at loni.aadalen@co.ramsey.mn.us to discuss further.
 - No more than 50% of each transition grant may be used for costs of eligible activities of the program component originally funded.
 - Transition grants are eligible for renewals in future years.
 - To be eligible to receive a transition grant, renewal projects must have consent of its CoC and meet the standards outlined in Section III.C.3.r. of the NOFA.
- Coordination with Housing and Healthcare. HUD provides incentives to create projects that coordinate with housing providers and healthcare organizations to provide permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing services. In the FY 2022 CoC program Competition, CoCs may receive up to 14 points on the CoC Application if the CoC Priority Listing includes new project applications created through reallocation or the CoC Bonus that utilizes housing vouchers and healthcare provided through an array of healthcare service providers.
- Domestic Violence Bonus projects can be created up to 10% of CoC FPRN and a CoC may apply for any number of Rapid re-housing (PH-RRH) or Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-housing (Joint TH and PH-RRH).
 - A CoC can only submit one project for a Support Services Only Project for Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- Consolidated Project – eligible renewal project applicants will have the ability to consolidate two or more eligible renewal projects (but not more than four projects) into one project application.
 - Interested project applicants must consult with the CoC Coordinator prior to beginning the consolidation process.
 - To be eligible for consolidation, projects must have the same recipient and be for the same component.
 - Agencies with the following characteristics will NOT be eligible to consolidate:
 - Outstanding audit or monitoring findings
 - Outstanding obligation to HUD that is in arrears
 - Unresolved construction delays
 - History of poor financial management/drawdown issues
 - History of low occupancy levels, or lack experience in administering the project type

- Other capacity issues

HUD CoC NOFO Changes from Previous NOFO:

- Incentivize coordination
 - HUD will *incentivize CoCs* that create projects that *coordinate* with housing providers and healthcare organizations or provide permanent housing and rapid rehousing services.
- Coordination with PHAs
 - HUD *increased* the number of points related to CoC *coordination with Public Housing Agencies (PHAs)*
- Individuals with lived experience.
 - Promote inclusion in the local planning process of current and former homeless persons with lived experience.
- HUD revised its rating factors on evaluating racial disparities
- HUD revised the rating factors for addressing the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) individuals
- Determining the impact of COVID-19 - in FY2021, HUD asked CoCs to respond to partnerships that were developed
 - For FY2022, HUD is asking CoCs to demonstrate how they will build on these partnerships to ensure they are prepared to prevent and respond to future infectious disease outbreaks
- Ambiguous language in Tier 2 scoring process was corrected
- HUD revised the point value distribution for project applications based on the CoC application score and responses to the revised domestic violence bonus specific questions
- HUD added an additional rating factor that awards points to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supply

Important links:

- Competition page: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2022-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/>
- The entire 2022 NOFO can be found on a link at the CoC website home page: <http://www.headinghomeramsey.org/provider-resources>
- CoC Program Competition questions must be submitted to the following HUD.gov email addresses:
 - cocnofo@hud.gov for questions about the NOFO, competition, and applications.
 - e-snaps@hud.gov for questions about e-snaps technical issues.

HUDS' Homeless Policy and Program Priorities:

1. Ending homelessness for all persons.
 - a. Identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness.
 - b. Measure performance based on data taking into account the challenges faced by all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area (veterans, youth,

families, 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.

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.
- b. CoC program funded projects should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing.
- c. CoC 's should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness.
- d. CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for RRH and PSH, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods

3. Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness

- a. HUD has seen a rise of unsheltered homelessness in recent years
- b. CoCs should identify permanent housing options for people who are unsheltered.
- c. 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. 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 to determine their effectiveness in service people experiencing homelessness, including cost-effectiveness.
- d. HUD recognizes the effects of COVID-19 on CoC performance and data quality and, compared to review CoC NOFOS, reduces the points available for rating factors related to system performance. However, HUD significantly increased the points for system performance rating factors in the FY2022.

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.
- b. Work closely with public and private healthcare organizations
- c. 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.

- d. Partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment opportunities
 - e. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - b. CoCs should address the needs of LGBTQ+, transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary individuals and families in their planning processes.
 - c. CoCs should ensure privacy, respect, safety, and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation in projects when considering which projects to select.
8. Persons with Lived Experience.
- a. CoCs are encouraged to include people who are currently experiencing or have formerly experienced homelessness in their local planning process to address homelessness.
 - b. People with lived experience should determine how local policies may need to be revised and updated, participate in CoC meetings and committees as stakeholders, provide input on decisions and provide input related to the local competition process.
 - c. CoC leaders and stakeholders should also prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed (ie: peer outreach and support).
9. Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.
- a. The lack of affordable housing is the main driver of homelessness.
 - 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 FY2022 CoC NOFO awards points to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supply.

Ramsey County Additional Priorities for based on the 2022 Needs
Assessment/Racial Disparity Assessment:

1. Short Term Recommendations:

- a. Ensure a coordinated response to the needs of the unsheltered homeless through continued partnership with the City of Saint Paul.
 - b. Align HUD's Supplemental NOFO funding to better respond to the needs of people staying in camps.
 - c. Contact all Permanent Supportive Housing and Other Permanent Housing providers to understand why American Indians are exiting their programs back to homelessness at a higher rate than all other races.
 - d. Contact all CoC funded housing programs to understand why American Indians and Multiracial residents are leaving their programs and not being connected to another permanent housing destination at a higher rate than Whites.
 - e. Conduct an analysis to determine what zip codes in Ramsey County have the most people leaving housing and entering homelessness. Use this information to proactively direct prevention resources.
 - f. Prioritize a gap analysis within Coordinated Entry to understand the current need for housing based on what types of housing people on the waiting list are eligible for based on their assessment.
2. Recommendations for ongoing improvement:
- a. Ensure HHR Executive Committees are representative of the homeless population by race, ethnicity, and gender.
 - b. Continue to implement improving the diversity and inclusion in all aspects of the HHR committees and workgroups by actively recruiting people of color with lived experience of homelessness.
 - c. Improve communication with neighborhoods and business stakeholders by attending community meetings to provide updates on the work of HHR, public education, and encourage participation in HHR.
 - d. Develop a strategy by working with existing youth providers, St. Paul Public Schools, and the foster care system to address the needs of doubled-up youth to help them get connected to stable housing.
 - e. Continue working with youth providers to understand the extent of the need for youth shelter beds in Ramsey County, due to the amount of youth that providers report as needing shelter is higher than what is reported in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or the annual homeless Point-in-Time count.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

All the application materials listed below can be found on Heading Home Ramsey County's website <http://www.headinghomeramsey.org/provider-resources>. Please share this information with any organization that you think may be interested.

The application materials include:

- FY2022 Ramsey County process/timeline
- FY2022 Intent to apply for New DV Bonus project application
- FY2022 Intent to apply for Renewal applications

FY2022 NOFO - Ramsey County MN-501

Timeline and Important dates (updated 8/15/2022 9/7/2022)

**Timeline is subjective to change based on HUD notifications.*

Date	Activity
August 1, 2022	FY22 HUD CoC NOFO Released
August 11, 2022	CoC Coordinator release letter of intent (LOI) for any new DV Bonus project applicants and renewal project applicants
August 16 from 9am – 10:30am Zoom: Ramsey County CoC Info Meeting for renewals and new DV Bonus projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ FY2022 NOFO review ✓ Ramsey County Priorities review ✓ Ramsey County Timeline review
August 15, 2022	Providers contacted to request that they review and amend/clean up their data for all clients served in their CoC-NOFO funded project(s) through July 31, 2022, by our August 22 nd deadline.
August 22, 2022	Deadline for providers to have CoC-NOFO client data reviewed or amended and submitted to Ramsey County.
August 23, 2022	Ramsey County staff will begin running the data for each project for the purposes of completing the draft scoring tools for providers to review.
August 25 th at 4pm ALL NEW AND RENEWAL PROJECT APPLICANTS (**RENEWAL Project Applicants: please save and email e-snaps application earlier if possible!**)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ALL Project Applications (saved in e-snaps, but not submitted) due to CoC Coordinator via email in PDF format for review and approval: loni.aadalen@co.ramsey.mn.us **Do NOT SUBMIT in e-snaps – just SAVE! 2. Once CoC Coordinator confirms no errors via email, then submit project application in e-snaps – All Project Applications must be submitted in e-snaps by August 29th <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ After August 29th: Project Applications sent to Ranking Committee for review and ranking
September 6 th	✓ Draft Score Sheets sent to all project applicants
September 12 th from 1pm-3pm Zoom	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ranking committee review scores and rank applications 2. Any recommended changes will be sent to Project Applicants by September 12th. <p>Final decision will be e-mailed to CoC, Project Applicants, and posted on HHR website by September 14th.</p>
September 26th 23rd	1. CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION AND PRIORITY LIST POSTED ON HHR WEBSITE FOR REVIEW
September 27th	1. Seek Ranking Committee approval to submit
September 29 th	FINAL RAMSEY COUNTY COLLABORATIVE APPLICATION + PRIORITY LIST COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED IN E-SNAPS AND POSTED ON HHR WEBSITE
September 30 th	NOFO closes at 7:59:59 PM EDT

DV BONUS Projects

DV Bonus Projects (page 16 of HUD CoC Program NOFO)

- Rapid Rehousing (RRH) or Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing – Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH/PH-RRH) projects (Unlimited)
 - Need for project in its portfolio, extent of need and how project will fill that gap
 - Quality of the project applicant experience – 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 – quality of the project’s plan to address the housing and safety needs of survivors by adopting victim-centered practices (ie: Housing First, trauma-Informed care, Confidentiality) in operating their project
 - Demonstration of plan to include survivors with lived experience – project’s ability to demonstrate its plan to involve survivors in policy and program development throughout the project’s operation
 - Project request should be at least \$50,000
- Support Services Only – Coordinated Entry (SSO – CE) – (Only 1 project)
 - Need for project
 - Demonstration of plan to include survivors with lived expertise