

FY 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO Overview

Funding Opportunity Number: FR-6500-N-25S

8/17/2022, rev 9/7/2022

On June 22, 2022, HUD released a special Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Special NOFO) to target efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness, particularly in communities with very high levels of unsheltered homelessness and homelessness in rural areas. Through this Special NOFO, HUD will award funding to communities to implement coordinated approaches - - grounded in Housing First and public health principles - - to reduce the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness, and improve services engagement, health outcomes, and housing stability among unsheltered individuals and families. HUD expects applicant communities to partner with health and housing agencies to leverage mainstream housing and healthcare resources.

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 Special NOFO is specific to new projects that will address a CoCs plan for serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness with severe service needs. ALL projects have to submit their letter of intent (LOI) [pre-applications](#) by ~~3pm on August 26th~~ 11:59pm on August 29th. 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>

Approximate FY2022 HUD funding availability for Ramsey County

\$6,819,120 – Amount available to Ramsey County (grant terms are for 3 years)

*Per year, the total amount is **\$2,273,040.00**

*Must have documented match (25% of total request)

\$204,573 – Planning Grant (Collaborative Applicant only – up to 3%)

Highlights of the 2022 Special NOFO:

- About \$322,000,000 is available for the FY22 Special NOFO. Of that, approximately \$267,500,000 is available for projects as part of the unsheltered set aside.
- Eligible Program Components:
 - Permanent Housing – Permanent Supportive Housing (PH – PSH)
 - Permanent Housing – Rapid Rehousing (PH – RRH)
 - Support Services Only – Coordinated Entry (SSO – CE)
 - Support Services Only – Street Outreach (SSO – SO)
 - Support Services Only – Other (SSO – Other)
 - **Specific to HMIS Lead Agency: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)*

- Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing – Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH and PH-RRH) project
- Grant term is for 3 years – projects will become eligible for renewal through future HUD CoC Annual Program NOFO's
- HUD will continue to have CoCs rank all projects, including CoC planning, on the CoC Priority Listing.
- *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.*
- Performance-Based Decision:
 - 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.
- 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.

Important links:

- Competition page: <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/>
- The entire 2022 Special 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:
 - SpecialCoCNOFO@hud.gov for questions about the NOFO, competition, and applications.
 - e-snaps@hud.gov for questions about e-snaps technical issues.
 - Questions about policy and program implementation should continue to be submitted to the HUD Exchange [Ask A Question \(AAQ\) portal](#).

HUDS' Homeless Policy and Program Priorities:

1. Unsheltered Homelessness. Unsheltered homelessness is continuing to rise in many areas of the country and recent analysis of homelessness data shows that people experiencing unsheltered homelessness report significantly greater health challenges and experiences of trauma and violence than their sheltered peers. These challenges often begin before they lose their housing. This NOFO supports this highly vulnerable population by supporting CoCs in their efforts to identify people living in unsheltered situations, including encampments, and connects them with health and housing resources. It also supports CoCs in their efforts to enhance their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect more comprehensive data on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their geographic area. Use a Housing First approach.

2. *Unsheltered Homelessness and Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs in Rural Areas.* Rural areas often lack the resources and infrastructure for providing homeless services and permanent housing. Additionally, rural areas often require unique strategies to solve challenges specific to their geography. To support CoCs in their efforts to end unsheltered homelessness in their rural areas, this NOFO targets resources to rural areas and provides additional eligible activities to address some of the unique needs of rural areas.
3. *Providing Assistance on Tribal Lands.* Indian Reservations and Trust Lands may be all or part of a CoCs' geographic areas, and Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities are eligible recipients of CoC Program funds. This NOFO provides additional incentives for creating projects that serve individuals and families in geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty, and are located where CoC services have until now been entirely unavailable, such as, for example, Trust Lands and Reservations.
4. *Involving a Broad Array of Stakeholders in the CoC's Efforts to Reduce Homelessness.* Ending homelessness cannot be achieved by homeless service organizations alone. It requires coordination with a variety of other stakeholders, including affordable housing developers, mainstream service providers, the business community, victim service providers, political leaders, and healthcare providers. This NOFO supports and encourages CoCs to invite a variety of stakeholders to develop and implement a CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.
5. *Advancing Equity.* In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color as well as individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address equity within CoCs through identifying and addressing the needs of subpopulations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness, such as the populations identified above, and other populations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness. CoCs should be reviewing their strategies to support and serve underserved communities in their geographic area, identify barriers that led to any disparities in communities being served, and take steps to eliminate these barriers. This includes, in conjunction with people experiencing homelessness, reviewing local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address disparities affecting underserved communities experiencing homelessness.
6. *Using a Housing First approach.* Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. Projects funded under this NOFO should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and the CoC should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness as well as ensure projects are correctly implementing a Housing First approach. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt service delivery methods that respond to the preferences and needs of the individual or family presenting for assistance.

Ramsey County Additional Priorities 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 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.

Ramsey County Priorities – Unsheltered CoC NOFO Workgroup:

- Outreach
- Support services that can cover rental assistance and navigation
- Permanent Housing especially for populations that aren't accessing shelter because Ramsey County doesn't have that type of option (ie: couples, pets, sober living) and not SROs

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 project applications

FY2022 NOFO - Ramsey County MN-501

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

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

Date	Activity
June 22, 2022	FY22 HUD CoC Special NOFO Released
August 11, 2022	CoC Coordinator release letter of intent (LOI) application for new project applicants
August 17 from 2 – 3:30pm Zoom: Ramsey County CoC Info Meeting for projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ FY2022 Special NOFO review ✓ Ramsey County Priorities review ✓ Ramsey County Timeline review (**PROJECT APPLICANTS should register with e-snaps if they don't have it already. A DUNS and SAMS Numbers will be required to apply.)
August 26 th at 3pm August 29 th at 11:59pm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All LOI applications due. Must apply via LOI application link. *Pdf version of application is available online at www.headinghomeramsey.org/provider-resources
September 1 from 10:45am – 12:45pm Ranking Committee meets to review pre-applications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ranking Committee meets to select which project applicants will proceed in e-snaps. 2. Project Applicants will be notified by September 1st September 2nd on if they were selected to be ranked and listed in e-snaps. Project Applicants will have until September 13th to complete their project application in e-snaps.
September 13 th at 4pm ALL PROJECT APPLICANTS	<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: hramseycoc@gmail.com joseph.desenclos@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 September 16th ✓ After September 16th: Project Applications sent to Ranking Committee for review and ranking
September 27 th 20th	✓ Score Sheets sent to all project applicants
October 3 rd from 1pm – 3pm September 26 th from 3pm – 5pm	<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 October 3rd September 27th (immediately following Ranking Committee Mtg). Project applicants then have until October 3rd to edit applications (in e-snaps) if requested by Ranking Committee. <p>Final decision will be e-mailed to CoC, Project Applicants, and posted on HHR website by October 5th.</p>
October 14 th	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION AND PRIORITY LIST POSTED ON HHR WEBSITE FOR REVIEW

<i>October 19th</i>	FINAL RAMSEY COUNTY COLLABORATIVE APPLICATION + PRIORITY LIST COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED IN E-SNAPS AND POSTED ON HHR WEBSITE (including final approval from Ranking Committee to submit)
<i>October 20th</i>	NOFO closes at 7:59:59 PM EDT

Scoring Tool

Review [Unsheltered Scoring Tool](#)