



Supplemental NOFO— Unsheltered Homelessness and Rural Homelessness

Strategies For Change

thn.org

Introduction



Meet the CoC Program Staff



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Opportunity

- [2022 Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness \(FR-6500-N-25S\)](#)
- We will refer to it as the “Supplemental NOFO”
- \$322 million available to assist communities with addressing unsheltered homelessness and rural homelessness

Today's Agenda

- Purpose of the NOFO and HUD's policy priorities
- Comparison and contrast of Supplemental NOFO and Annual CoC Program NOFO
- CoC Plan
- Competitive application process
- Resources

Press Release (HUD No. 22-113)

- “This Initiative for Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness... strongly promotes partnerships with health care organizations, public housing authorities and mainstream housing providers, and people with lived experience and expertise of homelessness.”
- It will “fund homeless outreach, permanent housing, supportive services, and other costs as part of a comprehensive community approach to solve unsheltered homelessness, including a set-aside of \$54.5 million specifically for rural communities...”

https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_22_113

National Alliance to End Homelessness

- 2022 PIT Count showed “more unsheltered single individuals experiencing homelessness than were sheltered”
- “Unsheltered homelessness is a stark manifestation in inequity in our nation and within our homelessness systems...Despite overwhelming public pressure and the dedicated efforts of the homeless service sector, communities lack the scale of housing and service resources commensurate to the needs of this increasingly visible and prevalent humanitarian crisis. This scarcity prolongs the crisis and deepens inequities.”

NAEH Blog Post (cont.)

- “This is an essential opportunity for CoCs to reverse course on punitive tactics, support critically needed street outreach, and demonstrate meaningful reductions in unsheltered rates to their communities and the rest of the nation.”
- The Approach
 - Be urgent but equitable
 - Help people facing the greatest needs
 - Adhere to Housing First principles and practices
 - Incorporate needed services by collaborating closely with partners

<https://endhomelessness.org/blog/hud-creates-new-funding-opportunity-to-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/>

Purpose of the Funding

- “The purpose of this Special NOFO...is 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 highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families.” (NOFO, p. 2)

HUD Policy Priorities for the NOFO

- Reduce unsheltered homelessness
- In rural areas – Reduce homelessness among individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness and those with severe service needs
- Provide assistance on tribal lands
- Involve a broad array of stakeholders in the CoC's efforts to reduce homelessness, including persons with lived experience
- Advance equity
- Use a Housing First approach

| Policy Priority | Summary |
|---|--|
| Reducing unsheltered homelessness | Identify people living unsheltered (including encampments) and connect them directly to health and housing resources. Enhance the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect more comprehensive data on people living unsheltered. |
| Reducing unsheltered homelessness and serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness with severe service needs in rural areas | Rural areas often lack infrastructure and have unique challenges to providing homeless services and permanent housing. Target resources to rural areas and utilize additional eligible activities available in this NOFO to address the unique needs of rural areas. |
| Providing assistance on tribal lands | Indian Reservations and Trust Lands are now eligible recipients of CoC funds. CoCs are incentivized to create projects in areas where CoC services have been entirely unavailable and have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty. |
| Involving a broad array of stakeholders in the CoC's efforts to reduce homelessness | Homeless services alone will not end homelessness. CoCs are encouraged to coordinate with a variety of stakeholders to develop and implement the CoC's plan to serve the populations detailed in the NOFO. |
| Advancing equity | BIPOC, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, and other marginalized populations are overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes needed to identify and address the needs of people who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness |
| Using a Housing First approach | Projects funded under the NOFO should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing. CoCs should ensure that projects are correctly implementing a Housing First approach. |

Source: "Overview Fact Sheet" by the National Alliance to End Homelessness at <https://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/2022SupplementalNOFO-FactSheets-Overview-updated.pdf>

Chat Question: How is our presentation speed so far?



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Too slow -
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Basic Information

- TX BoS CoC's allocations under the Supplemental NOFO are:
 - \$50,166,739 Unsheltered Set-aside
 - \$17,384,921 Rural Set-aside
- Amounts available under the Annual Competition are yet to be announced by HUD
 - Likely to be significantly smaller than the amounts available under the unsheltered set-aside
 - Renewal projects not eligible for funding under the Supplemental NOFO
- To be considered for funding, Project Applications must be submitted to the CoC to be included in the CoC Priority Listing and submitted with the CoC's application
- Three-year grant terms
- Applications are due to HUD Oct. 20, 2022

Comparison

- HUD estimates theoretical maximum funding amounts using the Preliminary Pro-Rata Need (PPRN) formula
- Applicants are selected through a Local Application Process similar to the Annual CoC Program Competition
 - Applications must be submitted both through e-snaps to HUD, and through SurveyMonkey Apply to THN
- Applicants recommended by THN are subsequently reviewed by HUD and may, or may not be ultimately selected for funding
- Matching requirements at 24 CFR 578.73 apply
 - 25% Cash or In-Kind match required
- Applicants must demonstrate consistency with the Geography's Consolidated Plan through a Certificate of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan (HUD-2991)

Comparison Continued

- CoC's must submit to HUD by the deadline a "Consolidated Application" that contains
 - A CoC Application
 - A Priority Listing, that is, a ranked list of all applications recommended to HUD by the CoC for each set-aside
 - Individual Project Applications corresponding to the Priority Listing
- In general, HUD will accept applications for the following project types, although the CoC may further limit the types of project applications eligible for inclusion in the Consolidated Application through the Request for Proposals
 - Rapid Rehousing (<24mo)
 - Permanent Supportive Housing (No time limit)
 - Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing (<24mo)
 - HMIS
 - SSO

Contrast

- The Supplemental Competition and Annual Competition will run on different timelines, but concurrently with one another. The Annual Notice of Funding Opportunity has not yet been released
- Due to the complexity of these funding opportunities, THN, on behalf of the CoC will release two (2) Requests For Proposals (RFP), one for the Supplemental Competition, and another for the Annual Competition
- The Supplemental Awards will be for 3yrs, Annual Awards, are limited to 1yr
- HUD states that the Supplemental Awards will be renewable, for how long, and the mechanism for renewal is unknown. Annual Awards are renewable on an annual basis through the Annual Competition
- The Annual Competition will fund activities under;
 - Annual Renewal Demand
 - DV Bonus (likely)
 - CoC Bonus (likely)
- The Supplemental Competition will fund activities under;
 - Unsheltered Set-aside
 - Rural Set-aside
- The entire 215 county area of the Balance of State CoC is eligible geography for the Unsheltered Set-aside, the Rural Set-aside is only eligible for use in rural counties (Rural is defined by the NOFO)

Contrast Continued

- Not all activities eligible under the Supplemental Competition are eligible under the Annual Competition and further, not all of the activities eligible under the Rural Set-aside are eligible under the Unsheltered Set-aside
- The CoC will likely restrict different activities to different opportunities to best leverage Staff and Applicant capacity to submit high-quality applications
- Applicants to the Supplemental Competition will need to demonstrate leveraged healthcare or housing resources as a threshold eligibility and scored criteria
- Both the Supplemental and Annual Competitions require a CoC Application, only the Supplemental Competition will require a *Comprehensive CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs* as a component of the CoC Application

CoC Plan

- A CoC must develop a *Comprehensive CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs* (NOFO Section VII.B.4., p. 46-53)
- Describes the CoC's strategy for reducing unsheltered homelessness
- All applicants must demonstrate, in their project application, how they are consistent with the *CoC Plan*
- This plan will be incorporated into the current CoC Strategic Plan, Goals 1, 2, and 5.

Plan Sections

- How the CoC will leverage housing resources
 - Development of new units and creation of housing opportunities
 - Landlord Recruitment
- How the CoC will leverage healthcare resources

Plan Sections (cont.)

- CoC's current strategy to identify, shelter, and house people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
 - Current Street Outreach strategy
 - Current strategy to provide immediate access to low-barrier shelter and temporary housing
 - Current strategy to provide immediate access to low-barrier permanent housing

Plan Sections (cont.)

- Updating the CoC's strategy to identify, shelter, and house people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Identifying and prioritizing households experiencing or with histories of unsheltered homelessness
- Involving people with lived experience of homelessness in decision making
- Supporting underserved communities and supporting equitable community development (offering equitable housing interventions)

Scoring

- For the Unsheltered Set-Aside, the CoC Plan is worth up to 70 points (out of a possible 100 total points).
- For the Rural Set-Aside, the CoC Plan is worth up to 59 points (out of a possible 89 total points).

Severe Service Needs (NOFO, p. 14-15)

- “*Severe Service Needs* means any combination of the following factors:
 - 1) facing significant challenges or functional impairments, including any physical, mental, developmental or behavioral health disabilities regardless of the type of disability, which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing (this factor focuses on the level of support needed and is not based on disability type);
 - 2) high utilization of crisis or emergency services to meet basic needs, including but not limited to emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities;
 - 3) currently living in an unsheltered situation or having a history of living in an unsheltered situation;
 - 4) experiencing a vulnerability to illness or death;
 - 5) having a risk of continued or repeated homelessness; and
 - 6) having a vulnerability to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking or sex work.”

Participation and Coordination

- Participative Planning and Implementation (NOFO, p. 22)
 - “Applicants must identify, in their application, 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.”
- CoC Coordination and Engagement (NOFO, p. 43)
 - Coordination with other systems of care
 - Coordination with funding other than the CoC Program
 - Inclusive and outcome-oriented community process for developing and implementing a CoC strategy

Letters of Commitment (NOFO, p. 35)

- New housing units and new housing opportunities
- Healthcare resources
- Persons with lived experience and expertise of homelessness
- Public Housing Authorities (PHAs)

Developing the Plan

- How will this process work?
 - Poll questions today (Ongoing feedback through PC Portal)
 - Input sessions
 - THN staff will draft the plan
 - Persons with Lived Experience Committee will approve the final CoC Plan
- What are the most important points to include in the CoC Plan?

Timeline for CoC Plan

| | |
|---------|---|
| July 13 | Gather input from attendees at informational webinar |
| July ? | Gather input from Persons with Lived Experience Committee members |
| July 29 | Post the draft CoC Plan on THN's website |
| Aug. 3 | Hold focus group to gather input from interested parties |
| Aug. 10 | Hold Community Conversation at the CoC General Membership Meeting to gather input |
| Aug. ? | Present plan to Persons with Lived Experience Committee for their approval |
| Aug. 24 | Present plan and Request for Proposals to CoC Board for approval |

Poll Questions

Q&A – CoC Plan





5 minutes

Competitive Application Process

These competitions will be on different timelines

- The application due date for the Supplemental NOFO is October 20th, but section VI.G.1.b.(1) requires the CoC to set a due date for project applicants that is no sooner than 30 days before the application due date
- The application due date for the Annual NOFO has yet to be announced, but it is anticipated that it will be before the Supplemental NOFO due date, and contain similar requirements as the Supplemental NOFO

Competitive Application Process

THN on behalf of the TX BoS CoC will release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for each of the opportunities, the Supplemental NOFO RFP, will contain solicitations for;

1. The Unsheltered Set-Aside
2. The Rural Set-Aside

The RFP for the Annual Competition will contain solicitations for;

1. Renewal Project Applications, and if offered;
2. Domestic Violence Bonus Funding (DV Bonus) Application

THN may solicit applications for;

1. CoC Bonus

Both RFPs must be first approved by the governing body of the TX BoS CoC, the CoC Board.

Competitive Application Structure

Both Applications will follow the same format

- Intent to Apply (Survey Monkey Apply)
- Full Application
- Threshold and Quality Review
- Independent Review Team Scoring
- Ranking by THN Staff
- Approval by The CoC Board

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Intent To Apply

The Intent to Apply is the primary means that THN has to determine the potential volume of applications that could be received and to “right size” the staff response during the Threshold and Quality Review period.

The Intent to Apply for each opportunity will be roughly similar, the applicant will be asked to identify the opportunity they plan to apply for, (Unsheltered vs Rural, DV Bonus vs CoC Bonus), give basic information about the proposed project such as the type of application, a summary narrative, proposed budget, and basic eligibility information about the applicant. These examples are not the full scope of the Intent to Apply for either opportunity.

Applicants will only gain access to the Full Application at the close of the Intent to Apply Stage of the Application process following an initial eligibility review. All applicants under either opportunity must submit an Intent to Apply, including Renewal Applicants under the Annual Competition

Full Application Stage

Except for Renewal Projects under the Annual Competition, the Full Application Stage is the means for the Independent Review team to evaluate the proposal. Renewal Applicants are evaluated based on HMIS or Comparable database data. **All Applicants must complete this stage of the process**

Due to the complexity of these opportunities Staff will summarize the likely components of the Full Application Stage. Where a conflict with an RFP exists, the RFP will stand as the final listing of Full Application State Components. Whether an Applicant completes all of the components listed below will depend on the selections made by the applicant in the Intent to Apply, and the RFP for the Opportunity

1. Supplemental Narratives
 - a. Project Details
 - i. Agency capacity and experience with the proposed activities
 - ii. Need for the Project
 - b. Alignment with the Coordinated Plan to address the most severe service needs
 - c. Letters of Support
 - i. Local Homeless Coalition, local partner support
 - ii. Housing or Healthcare leverage documentation
2. Monitoring History Report & documentation upload
3. e-snaps Applicant Profile
4. e-snaps Project Application
5. Certificate of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan
6. Detailed summary of the proposed Matching funds, source and where necessary, 3rd party commitments

Threshold and Quality Review

THN staff perform 2 rounds of review. They can be summarized as Threshold and Quality Review.

Threshold:

THN staff review applications for completeness, make determinations about the eligibility of proposed activities, compare the applicant to the threshold criteria in the relevant NOFO, and any additional threshold criteria established by the RFP.

Applications that do not pass the threshold review will not be scored, ranked or submitted by the CoC with the Consolidated Application. Applicants will be notified in writing of this decision per the RFP. Because of the complexity of these opportunities, Applicants are encouraged to read and understand the requirements of both the NOFO and RFP to avoid failing threshold

Quality Review:

This review evaluates the Applicants responsiveness to the questions being asked. Quality Review identifies errors in submitted forms and checks for consistency throughout the application package. Applications flagged in the Quality Review must be corrected per the instructions in the RFP.

All applications must pass both Threshold and Quality Review to move to the next stage of the application process.

Independent Review Stage

In order to promote a fair and transparent scoring process, THN solicits general TX BoS CoC Members to score project applications. These general members are known as the Independent Review Team, and are an ad-hoc group assembled for this purpose.

The Independent Review Team (IRT) will receive applications from the IRT Coordinator as soon as the application has passed the Quality Review. This process generally takes between 10-14 days, and the IRT must complete all applications prior to THN reviewing the scores and ranking the project applications in the next step of the process.

Each Project Application is reviewed by two (2) IRT members, any member of the CoC is eligible to participate in the Independent Review Process, provided that;

- All members are required to submit a completed conflict of interest disclosure
- **There is no apparent or perceived conflict of interest**
 - The member must not be a THN staff person, or former staff person
 - The member must not also be an applicant to the CoC Program

All members must participate in training to best prepare them to review Applications in a fair and consistent manner.

Ranking & Board Approval

Following review by the IRT, THN Staff prepare a variety of ranking scenarios for the CoC Board' review and approval. The CoC Board must select one ranking scenario for each opportunity. The selected ranking scenario becomes the TX BoS CoC Priority Listing for that opportunity.

This year the Board must approve a ranking scenario for each of the following;

- The Supplemental NOFO*
- The CoC Annual NOFO

Factors that influence the ranking scenarios presented to the Board include

- Raw application score
- The relative need for one type of intervention over another
- The mathematical advantage of a particular scenario over another

Immediately following the Boards approval, THN staff will work to notify Applicants, and publicly post the ranked list on the THN website. Following public posting, THN staff will begin the technical process of creating the Priority Listing(s) in e-snaps.

*THN staff will review the Priority Listing Detailed Instructions to determine if the Unsheltered and Rural Set-aside Project Applications will be ranked separately under Supplemental NOFO

Supplemental NOFO

General Information about the Supplemental NOFO

- Applicants limited to one (1) New Project Application under either set-aside
- Applicants must be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM) at the time of application
- 25% matching requirement (cash or in-kind)
- Quarterly Reporting is required plus an Annual Performance Report for a total of five (5) reports annually
- Recipients must have an accounting system compliant with 2 CFR 200 and internal controls
- Grants are awarded competitively
- Recipients contract directly with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Applicants must have a Code of Conduct on file with HUD or submit a Code of Conduct with the Project Application
- THN to play a supporting role over the life of the project
- Renewal process is unclear, may renew through the annual competition in FY2025 or FY2026
- Applications must leverage housing or healthcare resources through firm, written commitments from the organization committing the resource (PHA, Housing Developer, Healthcare Partner)
- Applications must align with the Coordinated Plan to address individuals and Families with Severe Service Needs
- Activities may be limited, or required by the RFP
- All projects must be administered in fidelity to Housing First
 - No arbitrary conditions on participation
 - Housing is the primary intervention and holistic wrap-around supports must be offered

Supplemental NOFO Eligible Components & Activities

| Unsheltered Set-Aside | Rural Set-Aside |
|--|--|
| Permanent Supportive Housing | Permanent Supportive Housing |
| Rapid Re-Housing | Rapid Re-Housing |
| Joint Transitional Housing & Rapid Rehousing | Joint Transitional Housing & Rapid Rehousing |
| HMIS (HMIS Lead only) | HMIS (HMIS Lead only) |
| SSO (SSO & SSO-CE) | SSO (SSO & SSO-CE) |
| | Additional Eligible Activities * |

*Additional Eligible Activities under the **Rural Set-Aside**(V.B.3.e.2.b): Rental or Utility Arrears, Short term Emergency Lodging, Repairs to Make Housing habitable, Capacity Building Activities, Emergency Food and Clothing Assistance, Costs For Making Use of Federal Inventory Property Programs. Supportive Services are eligible under all opportunities. The CoC may limit the total request, and limit requests by Component and Activity through the RFP

Annual NOFO

General Information about the Annual NOFO

- Applicants must be registered with the System for Award Management (SAM) at the time of application
- 25% matching requirement (cash or in-kind)
- Recipients must have an accounting system compliant with 2 CFR 200 and internal controls
- Grants are awarded competitively
- Recipients contract directly with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Applicants must have a Code of Conduct on file with HUD or submit a Code of Conduct with the Project Application
- THN to play a supporting role over the life of the project
- Applicants must apply for renewal on an annual basis
- **The CoC may limit the types of assistance that can be requested and by whom**
- DV Bonus Projects must serve survivors of Domestic Violence exclusively
- All projects must be administered in fidelity to Housing First
 - No arbitrary conditions on participation
 - Housing is the primary intervention and holistic wrap-around supports must be offered

Annual NOFO Eligible Components*

| DV Bonus | CoC Bonus |
|--|--|
| Permanent Supportive Housing | Permanent Supportive Housing |
| Rapid Re-Housing | Rapid Re-Housing |
| Joint Transitional Housing & Rapid Rehousing | Joint Transitional Housing & Rapid Rehousing |
| HMIS (HMIS Lead only) | HMIS (HMIS Lead only) |
| SSO (SSO-CE) | SSO (SSO-CE) |

*Likely eligible components based on prior FY21 Annual NOFO. The CoC may limit the total request, and limit requests by Component and Activity through the RFP

Alignment with the Coordinated Plan

A really challenging component of the Supplemental NOFO is the requirement that Project Applications must align with the CoC Plan to Address Individuals and Families with Severe Service Needs (See Slide 23)

The Plan is being drafted now, this means that Applicants will need to consider the factors that may be in the plan, and how the project will align with the plan, without the plan to reference. THN staff recommend considering the following factors when evaluating this opportunity;

- What need does this project address? Would the larger community agree, that this project, with this design, and this target population is the highest priority for the community?
- How does this need align with the CoC's Strategic Plan, and the needs identified in the 2020 TX BoS CoC Gaps Analysis?
- Does this project align with HUD's Policy Priorities and the NOFO? How?
- What role do people with lived expertise play in the design and implementation of the project?
- How will this project reduce racial disparities in the CoC?
- Are you targeting people living in unsheltered homelessness?
 - If not, why? Is there a greater need in your area? If so, do you have data to support this position and a logical justification?
 - How will this funding contribute to a reduction in unsheltered homelessness in your geographic area?

Alignment with the Coordinated Plan (cont.)

Are you leveraging additional Housing Resources?

Examples:

- Mainstream Vouchers, or other Special Purpose Vouchers from the Housing Authority that will be dedicated to the project
- A letter of commitment from a PHA committing to working on pairing vouchers with CoC funded services and to develop a prioritization plan for potential allocation of vouchers

Consider: Your current strategy for recruiting landlords and units for Tenant Based Rental Assistance

Alignment with the Coordinated Plan (cont.)

Are you leveraging additional Healthcare Resources toward this project? Applicants must demonstrate commitments from healthcare organizations to provide healthcare services to program participants reside in permanent housing

Examples:

- Outpatient Mental Health Services, Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Services (must be voluntary)

Must include the projected value of the commitment, and the dates the resources will be available

Poll Questions

Q&A – Competitive Application Process



Recruiting IRT Members

If you are interested in participating in this process, but know that you will not apply, consider applying to participate in the IRT. The CoC is particularly interested in participation of people with lived expertise, and direct service workers. Not all that apply will be selected.

*Applicants that live and work in the TX BoS CoC will be given preference in the application process

Complete the application to participate in the IRT by visiting this link <https://forms.gle/RwZALnMMBeLfKrcb9>

HUD and National Resources

1. NOFO, Appendix A (funding amounts), and Appendix B (rural counties) at https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO/supplemental
2. HUD.gov page on the Unsheltered and Rural NOFO at https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO
 - a. HUD webinar slides, transcripts, and chat logs
 - b. Technical assistance materials on unsheltered homelessness, service delivery in rural areas, engaging interested parties, centering equity, and housing and healthcare resources
3. National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) resources at <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/2022-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness-supplemental-nofo-resource-series/>

THN Resources

CoC Program section of THN's website

<https://www.thn.org/texas-balance-state-continuum-care/continuum-care-program/>

Competition email list

<https://secure.everyaction.com/QbbursTCJUyspRALogp7Tw2>

Ask a question by emailing txboscoc@thn.org

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