THN
TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

FY2023 TX BoS CoC Competition Q&A Session

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Strategies For Change

thn.org

Meet the CoC Program Staff

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Agenda

Participants will learn:

- Basic understanding of the CoC Program
- Basic understanding of the CoC Competition (Application Process)
- How to submit an application for CoC Program funding
- Next steps
- Q&A

What is a CoC?

A CoC, as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the CoC Program Interim Rule at 24 CFR Part 578.3, is the group organized to carry out the responsibilities required under the CoC Program for a defined geographic area.

A community-based planning network for homelessness assistance.

The geographic area covered by the community-based planning network.
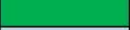
A program operated by the U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

THN and the TX BoS CoC

- THN is the Collaborative Applicant for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC)

- THN is also the HMIS Lead Agency for the TX BoS CoC

- TX BoS CoC covers 215 of Texas' 254 counties (85% of Texas's land mass)

Geographic Area

Map Key		
	TX-500	San Antonio/Bexar County CoC
	TX-503	Austin/Travis County CoC
	TX-600	Dallas City & County, Irving CoC
	TX-601	Fort Worth, Arlington/Tarrant County CoC
	TX-603	El Paso City & County CoC
	TX-604	Waco/McLennan County CoC
	TX-607	Texas Balance of State CoC
	TX-611	Amarillo CoC
	TX-624	Wichita Falls/Wise, Palo Pinto, Wichita, Archer Counties CoC
	TX-700	Houston, Pasadena/Harris, Fort Bend Counties CoC
	TX-701	Bryan, College Station/Brazos Valley CoC
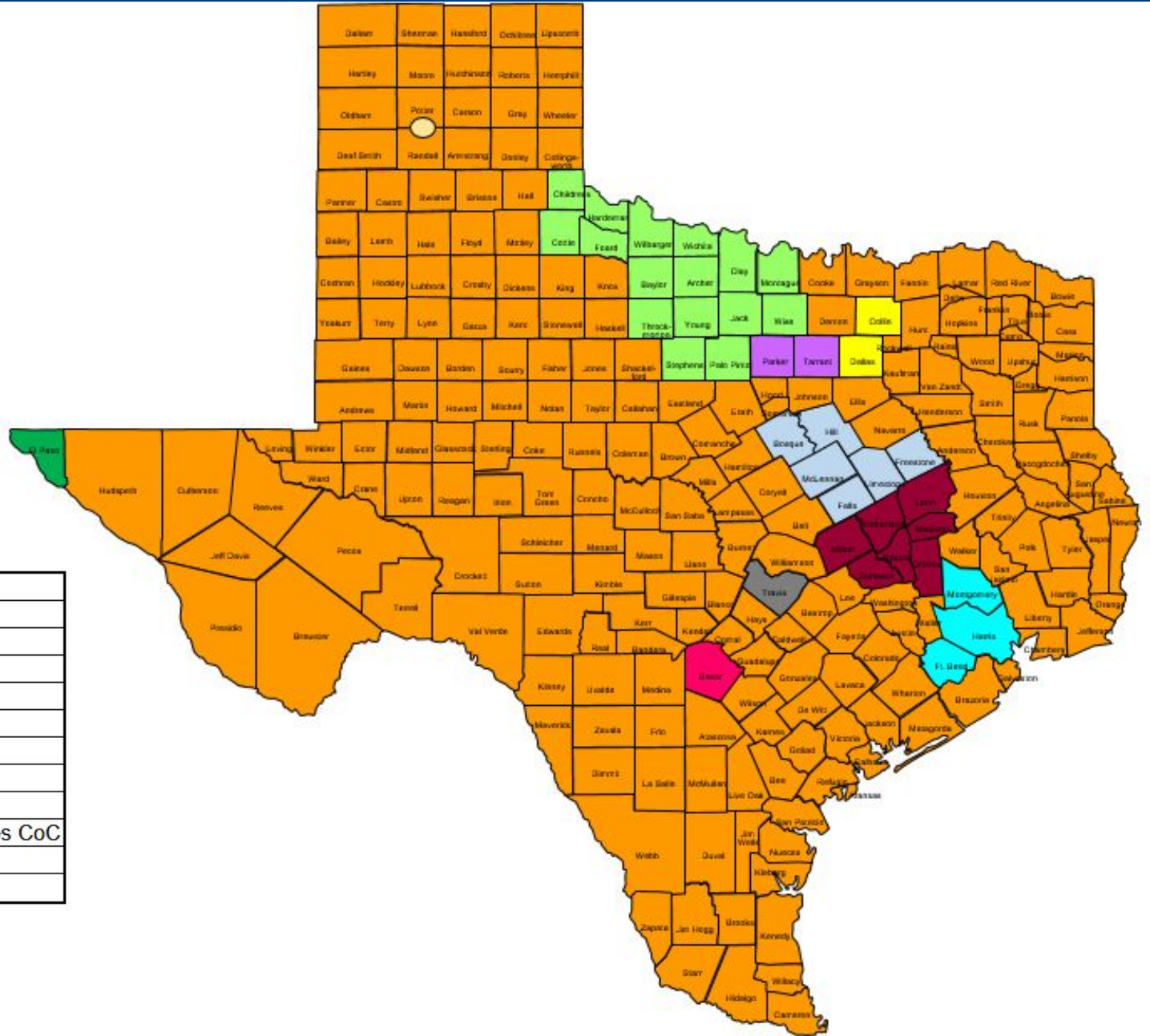
Purpose of the CoC Program

Effective use of Mainstream Resources

Promote Community Commitment

Provide Funding for Rehousing Homeless while Minimizing Trauma

Optimize Self-Sufficiency

Primary Funded Interventions in the CoC Program

In general, the CoC Program funds housing interventions (components) and supportive services that foster self-sufficiency using a Housing First approach, including:

- <u>Rapid Rehousing (RRH)</u>: Short to medium-term housing subsidy, wraparound services and holistic case management (up to 24 months of assistance)
- <u>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</u>: Non-time limited housing subsidy, wraparound services and holistic case management
- <u>Joint Component Transitional Housing (TH) & RRH</u>: Combines TH & RRH Components into single project, where participants can benefit from one or both components (up to 24 months of assistance across both components). Participant choice is central to this intervention.

What the CoC Program will fund

- Tenant-based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
    - This is housing that follows the participant, typically with their own lease in Market-rate housing but may also be Project-based, or Sponsor Based
    - Must be "reasonable" Rental costs are based on Fair Market Rents for the area
    - Must pass HUD Habitability Standards (Similar to an HCV inspection)
- Supportive Services connected to TBRA that is necessary to keep people housed.
    - Examples include: Case Management, Mental Health, Substance Use treatment (outpatient), educational and vocational training
- Costs of participating in the Homeless Management Information System or Comparable Database
    - Data entry, reporting, access fees
- Administrative costs up to 10%
    - Program Management, Agency administrative support

What the CoC Program will not fund

- HUD will not fund Emergency Shelter with CoC Program funds. This includes
    - Capital Costs, (Acquisition, Construction, or Rehabilitation)
    - Operating Costs, (Staffing, Utilities etc)
- With limited exception, the CoC Program will not fund "temporary housing"
    - With these funds HUD will fund Permanent Housing and services required to keep people in housing. Standalone Transitional Housing is not eligible
- Homelessness Prevention
    - Families that are at-risk, doubled up, or otherwise do not meet the HUD definition of homeless do not qualify for assistance

Who is eligible to administer CoC Funding?

In general, 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, State and Local governments, instrumentalities of local governments, and public housing agencies are eligible to administer CoC Program funding.

- Applicants must be active in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov)
- Have a Unique Entity Identifier (Formerly DUNS number)
- Be eligible to do business in the State of Texas

Eligible Participants

Individuals and families participating as beneficiaries of CoC Program funds must qualify under category 1 or 4 of HUD's homeless definition.

Category 1, Literally Homeless

- Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. Includes people staying
  - In emergency shelters
  - Places not meant for human habitation

Category 4, Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

- An individual or family that is fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence,
- Has no other residence, and
- Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

Housing First

All CoC housing projects are required to utilize a Housing First approach. The core features of Housing First include

- Few to no programmatic prerequisites to permanent housing entry
- Low barrier admission policies - "screen-in" rather than screen-out
- Rapid and streamlined entry into housing
- Supportive services are voluntary, but can and should be used to routinely engage participants to ensure housing stability
- Practices and policies to prevent lease violations and evictions
- Participants have full rights, responsibilities, and legal protections

What Does the CoC Program Application Look Like?

1. **The CoC Application**
   a. THN submits on behalf of the TX BoS CoC
   b. Many questions about how the CoC works, and what the CoC is doing
      i. THN posts online prior to submission for stakeholder review
2. **The Priority Listing, (Ranking)**
   a. THN submits on behalf of the CoC
   b. Approved by the CoC Board
   c. THN posts online before submission
3. **Individual Project Applications**
   a. Materials submitted by project applicants in e-snaps (HUD's grant management platform)
   b. Materials submitted by project applicants in the TX BoS CoC grant management platform

CoC Competition Process

THN staff drafts RFP, Application, and Evaluation; CoC Board approves process

THN staff posts materials, and provides technical assistance. Applications are submitted

IRT members review and score applications

THN staff rank projects using IRT Scores

THN staff submit Collaborative Application to HUD
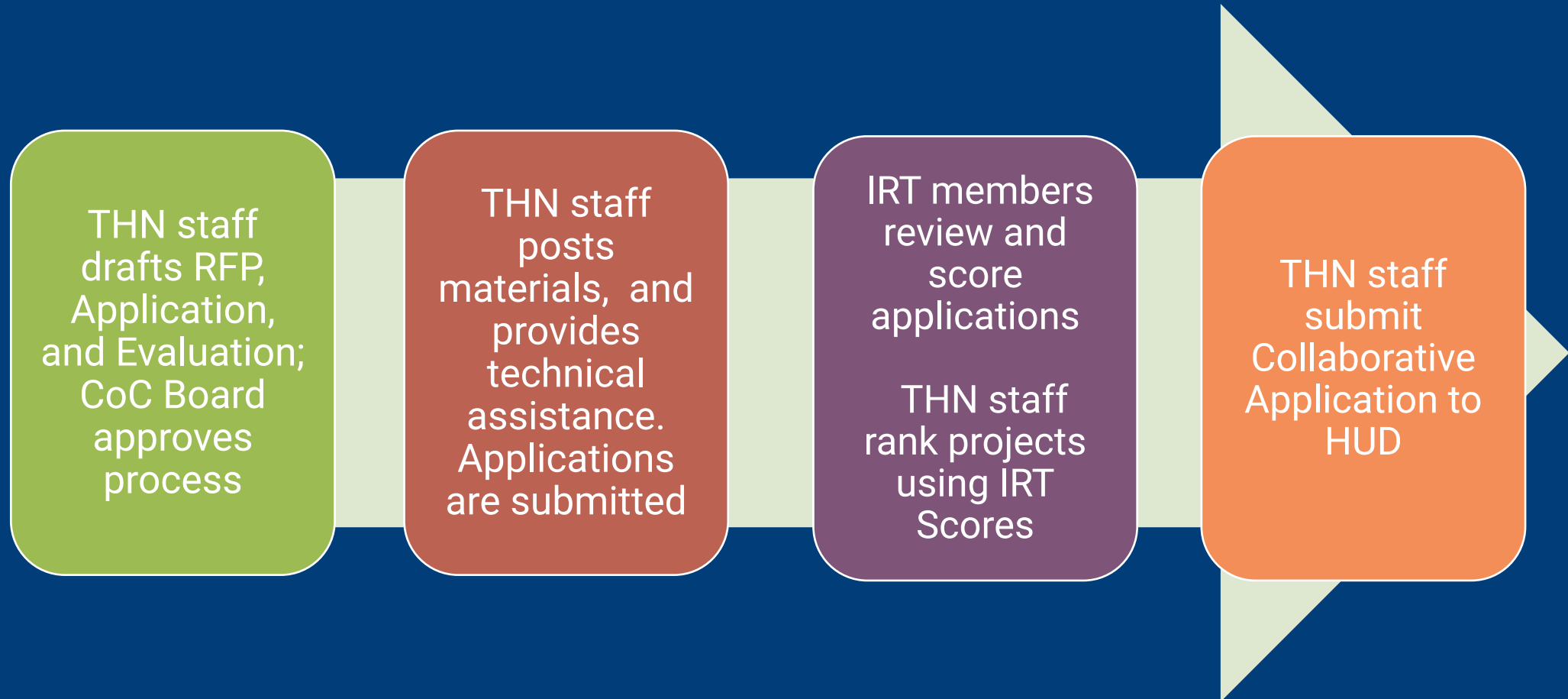
What We Know

- There will be a CoC Program Competition NOFO from HUD

- THN will draft the local competition RFP in response to HUD's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- The deadline for CoC's to respond to the NOFO is likely to be before 9/30/2023

- THN will solicit **all** application materials for the "local" application via the TX BoS CoC Grant Management Platform, SurveyMonkey Apply (Apply)

What We Don't Know

- When HUD will release the NOFO
- What it will contain
  - There may be CoC Bonus Funding
  - There may be DV Bonus Funding
  - There may not be ANY new funding, or some combination of new funding available
  - HUD may fund Renewal Projects (Tier 1) at 95% of a CoC's Annual Renewal Demand

Types of Funding

Funding Type	Eligible Applicants	Project Types	Application Types
Renewal	Current CoC Program Recipients	PSH, RRH, Joint TH/RRH, SSO-CE	Renewals
CoC Bonus	All eligible CoC Program entities	PSH, RRH, Joint TH/RRH, SSO-CE	New or Expansion Projects
DV Bonus	Victim Service Providers	RRH, Joint TH/RRH	New or Expansion Projects

The Application

- Threshold Verification
  - Entity Eligibility, Acknowledgements, General Cost Allowability
- Full Application
  - Component Specific Questions, Narratives & Uploads
  - Monitoring History Report
  - e-snaps Applicant Profile
  - e-snaps Project Application
  - Certification of Consistency
- Quality Review
- Independent Review Team Assessment
- Ranking
- Submission to HUD

Application Components Cont.

- Supplemental Project Narrative

  Applicants will complete several narrative responses in Apply based on the application component type selected during the Threshold Verification stage.

  It is the responsibility of the Applicant to notify THN if the project component identified in the Intent to Apply stage is changed later in the application process

  Applicants must also submit letters of support from the LHC chair where applicable
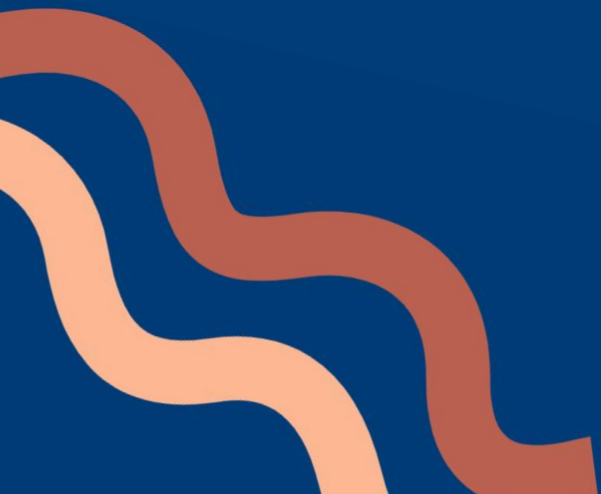
  Timeline: TBD

Application Components Cont.

- Monitoring Report

  Applicants must disclose other funding sources, any monitoring conducted in the last 3 years, and the outcome of the monitoring

Application Components Cont.

- e-snaps Applicant Profile

    Applicants will download and submit the Organizations most recently submitted Applicant Profile to Apply

Application Components Cont.

- e-snaps Project Application

  Applicants must export and upload a completed e-snaps project application that correlates to the project application being submitted in Apply. This means that the applicant **must** submit the e-snaps application prior to the Apply submission.

Application Components Cont.

- Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan

  Applicants must upload a completed Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan that the project is geographically located in.

Anticipated HUD Homeless Policy Priorities

1. Ending homelessness for all persons

2. Developing a systemic response to homelessness

3. Using an evidence-based approach

4. Soliciting and incorporating feedback from people with lived experience

5. Commitment to racial equity

6. Leveraging partnerships with housing and healthcare providers

TX BoS CoC Priorities

CoC Program Competition Priorities

- Community-wide commitment
- Leveraging Housing or Healthcare resources
- Landlord engagement strategy
- SOAR-trained staff (or other benefits specialist)
- Housing First
- Targeting the "hardest to serve"
- Persons with lived experience of homelessness must meaningfully contribute to project design and implementation
- Targeting Underserved Communities (varies by community)

What Can Applicants Do Right Now?

- Sign up for TX BoS CoC Competition Updates!
- Update the Organization's SAM registration
- Create/Update the Organization's e-snaps Applicant Profile
- Review HUD resources on the CoC Program:
  - HUD Exchange "CoC and ESG Virtual Binders"
  - HUD Exchange "CoC Program Toolkit"
  - CoC Interim Rule (24 CFR Part 578)

Contact Information

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Thank you!

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