

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care

Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care Program Competition Priorities

The CoC Program Competition priorities (listed below) represent components of a strategy to address unsheltered homelessness that are broadly applicable to a community's efforts to address unsheltered homelessness and meet the needs of people with severe service needs. These priorities reflect essential strategies and components of projects targeted to people experiencing homelessness. Applicants to the CoC Program must align with these priorities.

1. Describe a community-wide commitment to the project. Applicants will be asked to identify partners in the development of the application, partners in the administration of the project, and partners in the oversight and evaluation of the project. These partners should include stakeholder groups such as the Local Homeless Coalition (LHC), the Coordinated Entry Planning Entity, persons with lived experience of homelessness, governmental agencies [county government or regional Councils of Governments (COGs) and other cross-sector partners such as Public Housing Authorities (PHA), Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO), or Community Development Corporation (CDC). Healthcare partners may include Local Mental/Behavioral Health Authorities (LMHA/LBHA), Healthcare/Hospital Districts, Public Health Departments, or Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHC), or Healthcare for the Homeless (HCH) Recipients. As part of a community-wide commitment to the goal of reducing unsheltered homelessness, application partners must not participate in activities that criminalize homelessness.
2. Leverage additional housing resources in the operation of the project, or leverage additional healthcare resources in the operation of the project.
3. Utilize a landlord recruitment/engagement strategy.
4. Employ staff whose primary function is to assist individuals with their SSI/SSDI applications through the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) process.
5. Describe how the proposed project will implement best principles and practices for serving persons experiencing homelessness.
6. Identify people who are unsheltered, or with histories of unsheltered homelessness, OR people with severe service needs.
7. Describe how persons with lived experience of homelessness (PWLE) meaningfully contribute to the project design and development of the project and how PWLE will participate in the implementation of projects funded under this NOFO.
8. Describe how the project will identify and engage communities that have historically not accessed the homeless response system. This includes populations that are experiencing homelessness at higher rates but are not receiving services at a level that reflects their need. The project will utilize data, community input, and partnerships to better understand barriers to access and to develop strategies that ensure access to housing and support services. The goal is to expand the reach and responsiveness of the homeless response system so that all individuals and communities, regardless of their background have the ability to receive services that meet their specific needs.