

Austin / Travis County Continuum of Care FY2021 CoC Program NOFO Funding Priorities

Overview

The following document outlines the Funding Priorities for FY2021 Continuum of Care Program Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) as determined by the Homeless Response System (HRS) Leadership Council. In addition, the Continuum of Care (CoC) will utilize all funds allocated to our community in accordance with the priorities and limitations identified in the NOFO as well as in this document. Prioritization as it is applied in the FY2021 Austin/Travis County CoC Local Competition refers to the preferential allocation of points in the scoring process.

The Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care defined and updated the Community Funding Priorities based on data collected by HMIS-participating agencies as reported and analyzed in the following sources:

1. Annual Point in Time Count
2. Needs and Gaps Report
3. Housing Inventory Count
4. HMIS Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Report
5. HUD Opening Doors Policies
6. HMIS System Performance Measures Report
7. Coordinated Assessment
8. Annual Disparities Report

The Austin/Travis County 2021 Needs and Gaps report (see [here](#)) shows that the largest need in the community is among those who are chronically homeless or those who are domestic abuse survivors. The report also indicates that, because many people are chronically homeless or live with a disability, the greatest need in the community is for permanent housing solutions, especially Permanent Supportive Housing. The data show that the average time from program referral to housing move-in increased from 2019 to 2020, which could contribute to an increase in chronic homelessness in the near future. For these reasons and to ensure that the HRS addresses the needs of people equitably, the funding priorities of the CoC Program should be directed toward:

1. Permanent Housing programs; and
2. Programs that do not target a subpopulation but that do serve people who are literally homeless or are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence.

The Leadership Council of the Austin/Travis CoC has approved the following resource prioritization for all new project applications to ensure that the Austin/Travis County HRS addresses the needs of those experiencing homelessness as equitably and efficiently as possible. These priorities are guided by the necessity of offering households experiencing homelessness access to minimal services to achieve maximum housing stability, and the understanding that subpopulation resource allocation should be directly proportional to the prevalence of subpopulations in the general population of those experiencing homelessness in the community.

Austin / Travis County Continuum of Care FY2021 CoC Program NOFO Funding Priorities

Continuum of Care Component Types:

- Permanent Supporting Housing
- Rapid Rehousing
- OR-
- HMIS

Populations:

- Projects with no subpopulation targeting (projects serving HUDs Category 1 or Category 4 Homelessness Status) beyond those required in the NOFO.

Any new project applications submitted during the FY21 CoC Program NOFO with content in conflict with the above priorities will be considered out of alignment with the Local Funding Priorities for the purpose of application scoring as adopted in the Scoring, Ranking, and Review Policy and Process.

Austin / Travis County Community Prioritization

The Leadership Council, as the CoC Board of the Austin/Travis County CoC, has identified the following priorities for applications submitted for consideration during the FY21 CoC Program NOFO, in alignment with HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities and Program Highlights of the FY21 CoC Program NOFO. The Leadership Council has directed the Collaborative Applicant to review, score, and rank all applications based on these priorities (see Rank, Review, and Scoring Policy). These priorities will be evaluated in addition to project performance metrics that contribute to the community's System Performance Measures:

1. Furthering Racial Equity

HUD charges CoCs with reviewing local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address racial disparities affecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In addition to other community activities to increase racial equity within the Austin/Travis County CoC, the Leadership Council has prioritized CoC recipients whose staff, leadership, and board are representative of the racial composition of people experiencing homelessness within the community. Priority will also be given to CoC recipients who create measurable improvements in program delivery and service provision to ensure racially equitable outcomes, and to those who conduct equity trainings for all staff including leadership and front-line staff.

2. Authentic Engagement of People with Lived Experience

HUD recognizes that programs in the HRS will be most effective when they authentically engage program participants and hire people with lived expertise into leadership positions. Therefore, in addition to other community activities to integrate lived expertise into governance activities and program delivery, the Leadership Council has prioritized CoC recipients who implement measurable programmatic changes in response to feedback solicited from people with lived experience. Priority will also be given to CoC recipients whose staff and leadership have lived expertise of homelessness.

Austin / Travis County Continuum of Care FY2021 CoC Program NOFO Funding Priorities

3. Using Emerging Data to Inform Program Design and Growth

HUD supports CoCs to use outcome measures related to CoC system performance measures in the local review, selection, and rating process. Leadership Council has prioritized CoC recipients who engage performance data, at least annually, to inform program design, staff development, and areas for service improvement through continuous quality improvement.

4. Investing in a Competitive Workforce

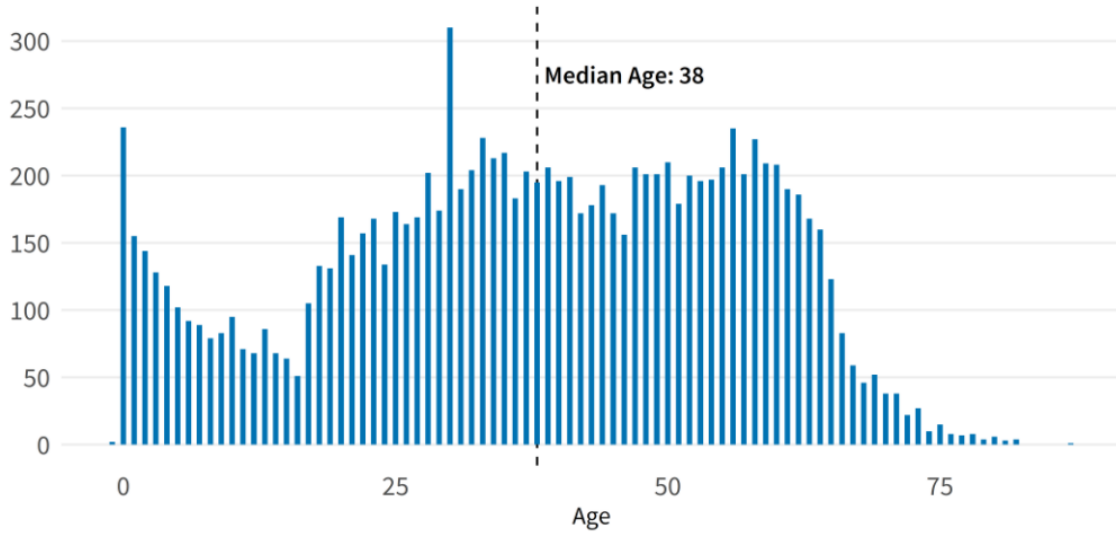
HUD expects CoCs to review all projects eligible for renewal in FY2021 to determine their performance in serving people experiencing homelessness. Cost effectiveness must be measured in correlation with project performance and an agency's retention of a competitive workforce. Leadership Council has prioritized CoC recipients who have demonstrated an ability to recruit and retain skilled and diverse candidates, improve project outcomes, and display fiscal responsibility.

Austin / Travis County Continuum of Care FY2021 CoC Program NOFO Funding Priorities

Key Guiding Information

Age Distribution in 2020

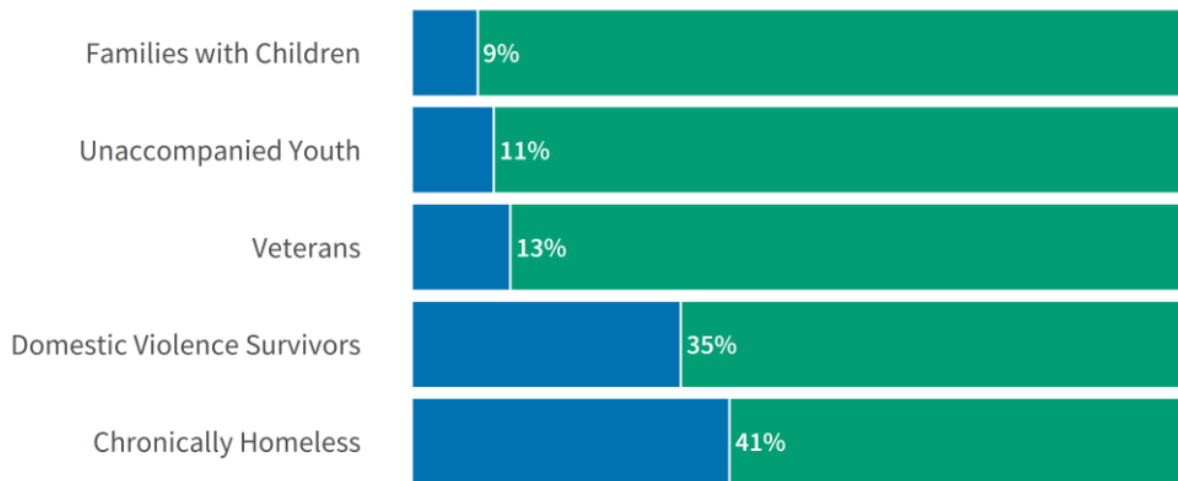
Figure 3



n=11300

Subpopulations in 2020

Figure 4



Subpopulations are not mutually exclusive
 Families with Children: n=9444, Unaccompanied Youth: n=8983, Veterans: n=10631,
 Chronically Homeless: n=11370, Domestic Violence Survivors: n=10778

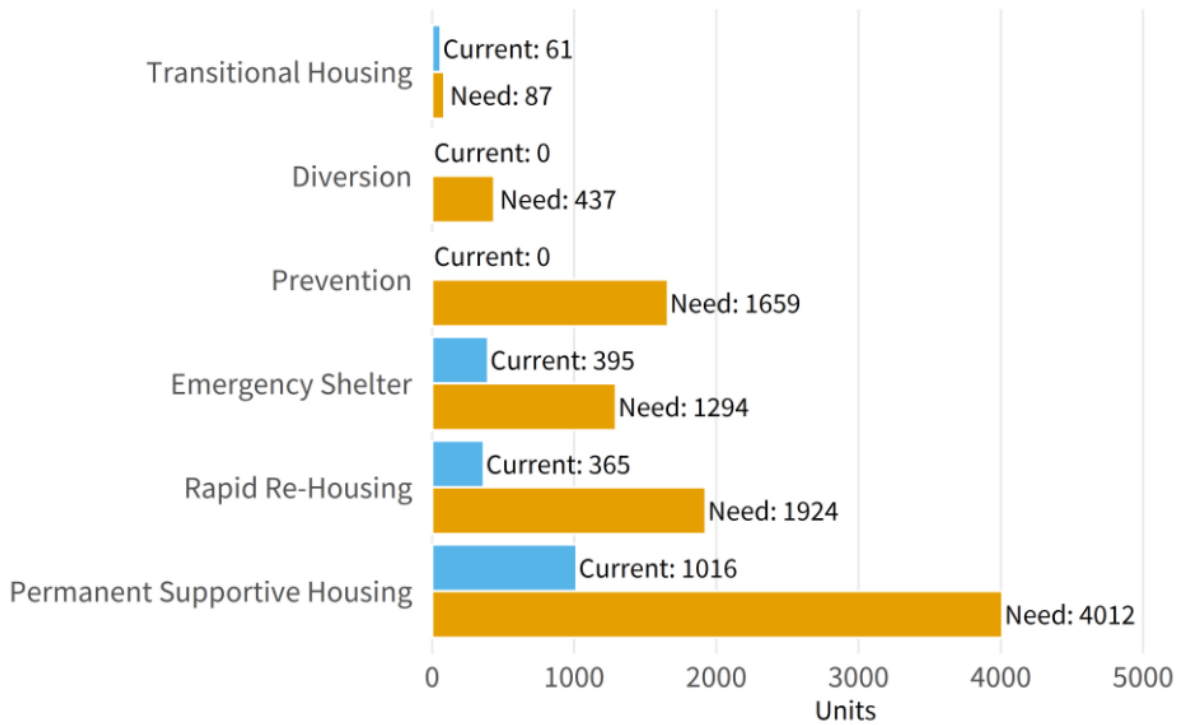
Austin / Travis County Continuum of Care FY2021 CoC Program NOFO Funding Priorities

Table 9: Heads of Households Subpopulations by Program Type in 2020

Project Group	Youth	Veteran	Family	Experiencing Chronic Homelessness	Domestic Violence Survivor	Any Subpopulation	Total
Non-PH Program(s)	9%	7%	7%	45%	36%	72%	6440
PSH	1%	58%	6%	62%	27%	94%	1141
RRH	26%	16%	24%	53%	44%	85%	1447

Units Needed by Program Type, Single Households

Figure 11



Austin / Travis County Continuum of Care FY2021 CoC Program NOFO Funding Priorities

Units Needed by Program Type, Family Households

Figure 12

