TX-503 Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care Program

FY 2024 NOFO Bidders' Conference (NEW PROJECTS)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28TH, 2024

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Today's Agenda

- CoC Program NOFO Basics

- HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities & Program Highlights

- Changes from FY23 NOFO

- Estimated Renewal & CoC/DV Bonus Amounts

- Local Competition Timeline

- Changes from FY2023 Local NOFO Policies

- Eligible Applicants & Application Requirements

- Appeals Policy and Processes

- Q & A Time

What is the CoC Program NOFO?

- The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) is the application process through which HUD awards funding to the Continuum of Care

- The Collaborative Applicant (ECHO) submits one Consolidated Application to HUD on behalf of the Austin/Travis County CoC

- The entire Consolidated Application is scored and specific projects are funded in the order that they are prioritized (ranked) by the CoC Board in the Consolidated Application ECHO submits to HUD

- HUD contracts with and funds each agency through the NOFO directly

HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities and Program Highlights

1. Ending homelessness for all persons

2. Use a Housing First approach

3. Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness

4. Improving System Performance

5. Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies

6. Racial Equity

7. Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals

8. Persons with Lived Experience

9. Building an Effective Workforce (**NEW)

10. Increasing Affordable Housing Supply

**See p. 7-10 in the NOFO for more details

Changes from FY2023 - NOFO

- Tier 1 is smaller – 90% of ARD

- 2 year NOFO, new and renewal projects submitted in this NOFO for one-year terms will automatically be renewed by HUD in 2025

- Funding previously awarded under DV Bonus or YHDP must continue to serve same target population and cannot be reallocated to serve a different population

- All YHDP – renewal, replacement, reallocation – are non-competitively funded and NOT ranked

- Potential bonus amounts significantly higher – CoC Bonus 12% of Final Pro Rata Need (7% last year); DV Bonus is 15% of preliminary pro rata need (10% last year)

FY 2024 CoC NOFO
TX-503 Austin/Travis County

Estimated Annual Renewal Demand (ARD): $11,309,709

CoC Planning Grant $569,535

Anticipated reallocation amount: $503,196 (NOTE: This amount is restricted to the transition grant request applicant pre-approved by LC.)

➢**CoC Bonus Amount: $1,366,885**

➢**DV Bonus Amount: $1,447,887**

➢**Tier 1: $8,449,493**

➢***Tier 2: $3,753,575**

➢CoC may submit applications up to the total allocated amounts funded

*Tier 2 = (ARD – YHDP Retricted + CoC Bonus and DV Bonus) minus (Tier 1)

TX – 503 Austin/Travis County CoC Local Competition Timeline

Release of Local Competition
August 21, 2024

Bidders' Conferences
August 26, 2024 (11AM-12:30PM)
August 28, 2024 (1PM-2:30PM)

NOFO Office Hours
September 5, 2024
September 12,2024
9:00 – 10:00 AM

All Local & e-snaps Applications Due
September 20, 2024 by 6:00 PM

Deficient Applications Returned for Corrections
September 23, 2024

Corrections Due
September 25, 2024 by 6:00 PM

TX – 503 Austin / Travis County CoC Local Competition Timeline

IRT Completes Project Application Scoring

October 9, 2024

Leadership Council Approves Priority Listing

October 11, 2024

Draft Priority Listing Released

October 11, 2024

Applicant Appeals Due

October 17, 2024

By 6:00 PM

Leadership Council Rules on Any Appeals

October 22, 2024

Collaborative Application Due to HUD

October 30, 2024

By 7:00 PM

Local Competition Ranking Process

1. All project applications submitted through e-snaps and CoC Local Competition webpage reviewed by an Independent Review Team (IRT)

2. IRT reviews all project application submissions and scores projects based on Scoring Criteria.

3. ECHO provides project priority ranking (Tier 1 and Tier 2) according to NOFO policies, including the FY24 Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy and Procedures and FY24/FY25 NOFO requirements.

4. ECHO presents ranking recommendations to Leadership Council.

5. Leadership Council approves final ranking decision.

6. CoC Collaborative Applicant (ECHO) submits final Consolidated Application (i.e., Priority Listing, Project Applications, CoC Application) to HUD.

Summary of Changes from FY2023 Local NOFO Policies

FY24 Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy

➤ All applicants whose projects have identified curable deficiencies must be given **at least until the end of business the following day (vs. 5 business days)** to address and adequately resolve any deficiencies (Section iii.(c) Review-Deficiencies)

➤ All YHDP Projects including renewal, replacement and reallocation will be **non-competitively renewed and will NOT be ranked (vs. competitive ranking of YHDP projects)** (Section iv. Scoring)

➤ Renewal Applications for (PSH), (RRH), and (TH) will be scored based on their application for the Local Competition (composing 35% of the total score) and their average score from the previous **year's (i.e., FY23 Q1-Q4) four quarters (vs. previous four quarters)** of Quarterly Performance Scorecards (composing the remaining 65% of the total project score) (Section iv.(c) Scoring-Renewal Projects)

➤ Section v. Ranking Policy

1) Non-competitively Ranked Projects

a) **ADDED:** First-time renewals will be non-competitively ranked above competitively ranked projects

2) Renewal Projects

c) Renewal Projects with a **FY23 Q1 –Q4 (vs. previous four quarters)** Quarterly Performance Scorecard score averaging 65% or above will be ranked above any New Projects.

Summary of Changes from FY2023 Local NOFO Policies

FY24 Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy (cont'd)

➢ Section v. Ranking Policy (cont'd)

3) New Projects

d) New Projects will be competitively ranked against Renewal Projects with a **FY23 Q1 –Q4 (vs. previous four quarters)** Quarterly Performance Scorecard score averaging 64.9% or below.

4) **ADDED: Transition Grants**

e) Transition Grants which have been approved by Leadership Council and which have a FY23 Q1-Q4 Quarterly Performance Scorecard score averaging 65% or above will be ranked <u>above</u> any New Projects.

 f) Transition Grants which have been approved by Leadership Council and which have a FY23 Q1-Q4 Quarterly Performance Scorecard averaging 64.9% or below will be competitively ranked <u>against</u> all other New Projects.

➢ **Section ix.b.i. Eligible Local Appeals**

REMOVED: 4. Projects that are deemed to have an incurable deficiency.

Summary of Changes from FY2023 Local NOFO Policies

FY24 Reallocation and Deobligation Policy

➤ **REMOVED:** Involuntary reallocation of 2% from each Renewal Project application (except HMIS and VSP projects) will be reallocated towards HMIS Expansion (Section iii. Reallocation)

➤ **ADDED:** Leadership Council will prioritize Transition Grants over New Project applications *if they meet the criteria outlined in the FY24 Review and Scoring Policy*. Applicants must seek Leadership Council approval before submitting a Transition Grant. The Council will evaluate these grants based on Community and HUD Funding Priorities, NOFO Guidelines, and the overall request. Recipients who wish to reallocate their renewal project funds for a Transition Grant must notify the Leadership Council and ECHO by the Grant Inventory Worksheet deadline, providing details on the reallocation and the impact on clients. (Section iv. Voluntary Reallocation)

➤ **ADDED: First-time renewals may not be involuntarily reallocated.**

# Summary of Changes from FY2023 Local NOFO Policies

FY24 Community Funding Priorities

➤ Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) will be prioritized (**REMOVED: "site-based"**)

Additional Priorities:

1. Furthering Racial Equity

2. Authentic Engagement of People with Lived Expertise

3. Using Emerging Data to Inform Program Design and Growth

4. Investing in a Competitive Workforce

5. Demonstrating Fiscal Responsibility and Grant Management

Options: Creating NEW projects w/ eligible components

OPTIONS
OPTIONS ARE MY FAVORITE

CoC/DV Bonus	Reallocation
Expansion	Transition
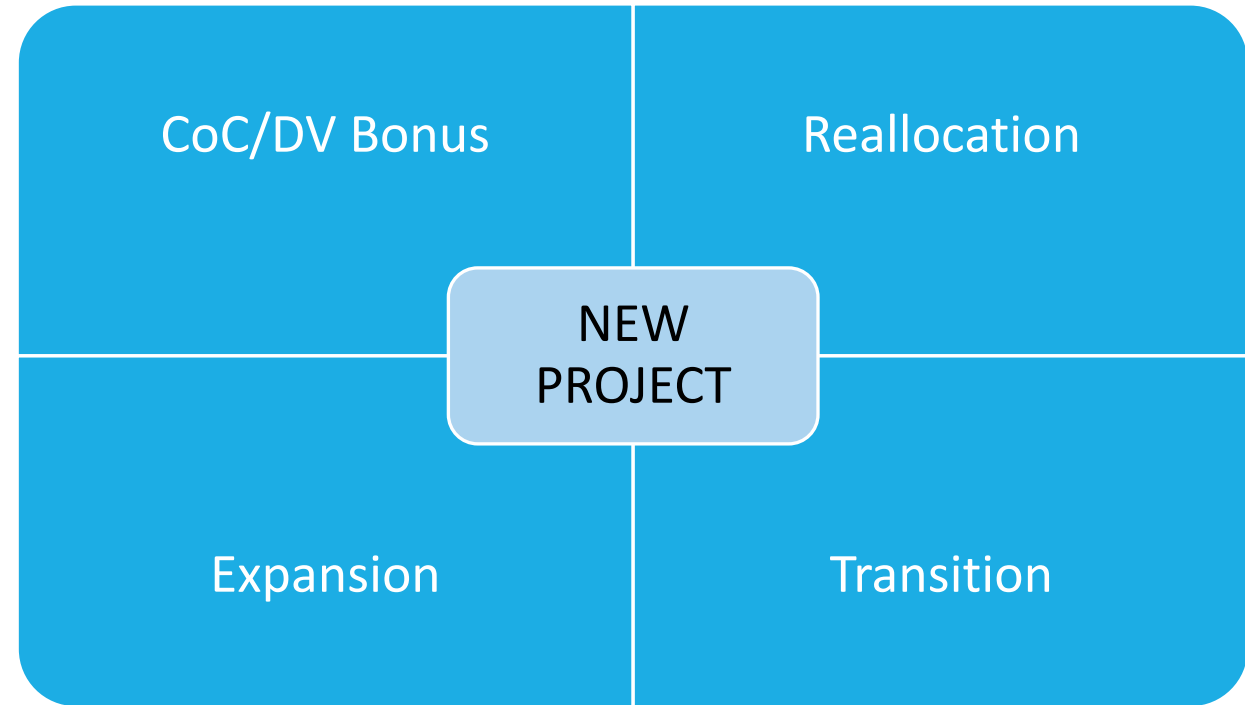
NEW PROJECT

New Project Eligibility: CoC Bonus/Reallocation

Following project components are eligible in the CoC for CoC Bonus or Reallocation funding:

1) **Permanent Housing – Permanent Supportive Housing** (PH-PSH)

2) **Permanent Housing – Rapid Re-Housing** (PH-RRH)

3) **Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing** (Joint TH and PH-RRH)

4) **Dedicated HMIS project** – *for HMIS Lead only*

5) **Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry** (SSO-CE) to develop or operate a centralized or coordinated assessment system

   NOTE: besides SSO-CE, no other SSO project types are eligible for New Project funding

Applicant must be in good standing with HUD

➢ No open HUD findings

➢ No history of slow expenditures

➢ Limited unexpended funds

New Project Eligibility: DV Bonus

Following projects types are eligible in the CoC for DV Bonus funding:
1) **Permanent Housing – Rapid Re-Housing** (RRH)
2) **Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing** (Joint TH and PH-RRH)
3) **Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry** (SSO-CE)

- CoCs can only submit (1) new DV Bonus project for SSO-CE
- Can apply for as many project types through RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH as there is funding available
- Each project must be at least for $50,000
- DV Bonus projects are NOT allowed to be combined with Reallocated or CoC Bonus funds

Special emphasis in application:
- Approaches: victim-centered practices (e.g., Housing First, Trauma-Informed Care, Confidentiality)
- Housing & Safety Outcomes

NOTE: DV Bonus projects not selected by HUD for DV Bonus funding will be considered for CoC Bonus funding.

Resource: Applying for DV Bonus Projects

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

- Must select either 100% Chronic Homeless or DedicatedPLUS

- The Head of Household must have a qualifying disability and meet the criteria required as defined in 24 CFR 578.3

- Supportive Services must be offered to all program participants and must be included in project budget.

- Rental Assistance must be offered to all program participants but does *not* have to be included in project budget.

- Must receive referrals through Coordinated Entry

- Must operate with Housing First

Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

- Provides rental assistance, housing location, case management, and supportive services for up to 24 months.

- Rental Assistance offered for 3-24 months; supportive services must be offered for up to 6 months after rental assistance stops

- Must receive referrals through Coordinated Entry

- Must operate with Housing First

New Project Grant Terms

New Projects may apply for an initial grant term of 1-year, 2-years, 3-years, 4-years, 5-years, or 15-years. Exceptions to this rule:

1. New projects can request 1 year of funding with a grant term between 12 months up to 18 months (for start up costs). New Projects that request capital costs (i.e., new construction, acquisition, or rehab) must apply for a minimum grant term of 3-years and up to 5-years.

2. New Expansion Projects may only apply for a 1-year grant term, regardless of project type.

3. New Projects that request tenant-based rental assistance, operating costs, SSO, HMIS, and administrative costs may apply for a grant term of 1-year, 2-years, 3-years, 4-years, or 5-years.

4. New projects that request leasing costs-either leasing costs only or leasing costs plus other costs (e.g., SSO, HMIS) may request a grant term of up to 3-years.

5. New PH Projects that request project-based rental assistance, sponsor-based rental assistance, or operating costs may request up to 15-year grant term; however, project applicants may only request up to 5 years of funding.

6. New projects applying for DV Bonus funds may only request 1 year of funding but may request up to 18-month grant term.

7. New YHDP replacement or reallocation projects may only request 1 year of funding, and up to a 1-year grant term.

New Project Participant Eligibility

(1) New PH-PSH projects must serve one of the following:

◦ (a) persons eligible to be served by DedicatedPLUS projects as described in Section I.B.2.b.(7) of this NOFO in which case all units funded by the project must be used to serve program participants who meet the qualifications for DedicatedPLUS; or

◦ (b) persons experiencing chronic homelessness at the time they initially enroll in the project.

(2) New PH-RRH, Joint TH and PH-RRH, and SSO-CE projects must serve persons who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1) or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3.

(3) New DV Bonus projects (RRH, Joint TH/PH-RRH, and SSO-CE) must serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who qualify as homeless under paragraph (1) or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Organizations:

- Nonprofit organizations

- State and Local governments

- Public housing agencies

- Tribes or TDHEs

- For profit organizations are NOT eligible to apply for grants or to be sub-recipients of grants

➤ Additionally, all project applicants must ensure their organization has a <u>Code of Conduct</u> that complies with the requirements of 2 CFR part 200 and is included on HUD's website. If the organization's Code of Conduct does not appear on HUD's website, the project applicant must attach its Code of Conduct that includes all required information to its Project Applicant Profile in e-snaps. c. FY 2023 CoC Priority Listing.

Project Budgets

➢All Budget Line Items (BLI) must be:

- ▪ Clearly written in e-snaps (see CoC New Project Application Detailed Instructions)

- ▪ In compliance with eligible expenses for project type (see CoC Program Interim Rule)

➢When requesting Rental Assistance e-snaps will automatically calculate Fair Market Rental (FMR) amount per unit

➢Note E-snaps will populate with FY2023 FMRs – these cannot be changed but will be updated by HUD – if awarded – to FMRs in effect on 10/30/24

- ▪ If selecting SRO – please review guidance in NOFO

➢Maximum 10% in administrative costs

Budget: Supportive Service BLI

The itemized budget screen includes 17 eligible costs (24 CFR 578.53(e))

1. Assessment of Service Needs
2. Assistance with Moving Costs
3. Case Management
4. Child Care
5. Education Services
6. Employment Assistance
7. Food
8. Housing/Counseling Services
9. Legal Services
10. Life Skills
11. Mental Health Services
12. Outpatient Health Services
13. Outreach Services
14. Substance Abuse Treatment Services
15. Transportation
16. Utility Deposits
17. Operating Cost*

Not on this screen is "Direct provision of services."
- If the service is being directly delivered, eligible costs under the specific supportive service includes:
  - The cost of labor or supplies, and materials incurred by the recipient or subrecipient in directly providing supportive services; and the salary and benefit packages of the recipient and subrecipient staff who directly deliver the services.
  - Staff overhead costs directly related to carrying out operating activities are eligible as part of those activities listed on the supportive services budget.

May only include "17. Operating Costs" (maintenance, repair, building security, furniture, utilities, and equipment) in the Supportive Services budget, if the costs are for a facility that is used to provide supportive services for program participants.

Budget: Match

➤ Match must be equal to or greater than 25% of the total grant request (including Administrative costs but excluding Leasing costs)

➤ Current commitments at the time of project application, covering the requested grant operating period (i.e., grant term), and NOT based on projections.

➤ HUD expects the amount(s) listed on this screen to be accurate, with a commitment letter(s) in place that includes at least the same amount(s) as those listed in this screen

➤ Match contributions can be:
1. Cash,
2. In-kind, or
3. A combination of both.

NOTE: Project applicants that include program income as match must provide an estimate of how much program income will be used for match

HUD Threshold: Pass/Fail Standards

- Must meet eligibility program requirements described in CoC Program Interim Rule 24 CFR part 578 and provide evidence of eligibility

- Demonstrate financial and management capacity and experience to carry out the project as detailed in the application and the capacity to administer federal funds

- Submit the required certifications specified in FY24/FY25 NOFO

- Populations proposed must align with the CoC program Interim Rule and Fair Housing

- Demonstrate cost effectiveness

- Must agree to participate in local Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS) except for agencies required by the Violence Against Women Act to use a comparable system and share all required de-identified data to the HMIS system

How to apply: e-snaps

➤ All interested applicants to complete project application in HUD's online e-snaps system

➤ Read and follow E-snaps and Detailed Instruction Guides
- Applicant Profile
- New OR Renewal Project Application

➤ Complete Project Application and submit by local deadlines

Required Applicant Certifications

➤ HUD Approved Code of Conduct

➤ SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance;

➤ SF-424 Supplement, Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Application required for nonprofit applicants only where completion and submission of this survey in voluntary;

➤ Form HUD-2880, Applicant/Recipient Update/Disclosure;

➤ Form HUD-424-B, HUD Applicant and Recipient Assurances and Certifications;

➤ SF LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable);

➤ Form HUD-50070, Certification for Drug-Free Workplace;

➤ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities;

➤ Applicant Certifications

Eligible Local Appeals

Appeals can be requested by any agency which has a project submitted for participation in the FY24 CoC Program NOFO in the Austin/Travis County CoC geographic area.

Example of eligible appeals include:

1. Projects that are not funded or receive less funding than the amount in the application.

2. Renewal projects that are ranked in Tier 2 of the CoC application (in which the applicant's funding may be at risk).

3. Projects that fall into the bottom portion of Tier 1 that equals the Tier 2 amount.

Local Appeal Process Timeline

Draft Ranking is Posted
October 11th, 2024

Applicants Notified &
Appeals Opened
October 11th, 2024

Appeals Due
October 17th, 2024
By 6:00pm

Leadership Council
Rules on Appeals
October 22nd, 2024

Local Appeal Process

- An appeal must be in the form of a letter on the applicant agency's letterhead and must clearly state the reasons for the appeal and specify all issues being contested.

- The appealing agency must specify facts and evidence sufficient for Leadership Council to determine the validity of the appeal.

- Agencies will receive, in writing, the appeal decision before the CoC Collaborative Application submission deadline. ECHO will be responsible for ensuring that projects have received proper notice of all final funding decisions.

- Applicants may ask ECHO for summary scoring information prior to the submission of the appeal letter. Individual IRT member scores will not be released to applicants.

As prescribed by HUD in the CoC NOFO, applicants may appeal the local CoC competition decision to HUD if the project applicant would like to further appeal the CoC Board's decision.

HUD Appeal Process

- Applicants may appeal directly to HUD following two different processes:

- Solo Applicants: a process for eligible applicants that attempted to participate in the Local Competition and believe they were unreasonably denied participation
  - To apply as a Solo Applicant, the project applicant must submit: a Solo Applicant Project Application in *esnaps* by the NOFO Application deadline, a Written Notice of Intent to Appeal, all relevant evidence supporting its claim (by no later than 30 days after the date that HUD announces awards)

- Denied or Decreased Funding: a process for eligible applicants that are denied funds by HUD or that requested more funds than HUD awarded
  - May appeal HUD's award within 45 days after HUD's final funding announcement
  - Eligible Appeals must have been ranked by the CoC within the CoC's maximum amount available

Applicant Appeals may delay signing grant agreements for the awarded project(s) listed in the CoC's Priority Listing as submitted to HUD

More information in Section VII. of the NOFO (pg. 120-126)

HUD Appeal Process

Applicants also have appeal processes available through HUD, as outlined in 24 CFR 578.35

Solo Project Application Resources for the CoC Program

Date Published: August 2021

Description

This resource is for project applicants whose project application is rejected during the local CoC competition prior to the close of the annual CoC Program Competition. A project applicant may submit a Solo Application during the CoC Program Competition when the applicant attempts to participate in the CoC's planning process and believes it was denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner.

Note: This resource is not for project applicants and CoC Collaborative Applicants who are appealing an award decision by HUD after applications have been submitted. Entities seeking an award decision appeal must follow the instructions in the NOFA for the applicable CoC Program Competition.

View all resources related to *e-snaps* and the annual CoC Program Competition.

Resource Links

- Project Application Appeal Process Navigational Guide for Solo Projects (PDF)

https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4065/project-application-appeal-process-instructional-guide/

HUD Exchange Resources

FY24 CoC Program Competition NOFO Notices:
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition

e-snaps Application Instructions:
https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/

CoC Program Laws, Regulations and Notices:
https://ecfr.federalregister.gov/current/title-24/subtitle-B/chapter-V/subchapter-C/part-578

CoC Program Virtual Binders
https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/

All In: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness:
https://www.usich.gov/All_In_The_Federal_Strategic_Plan_to_Prevent_and_End_Homelessness.pdf

Rapid Rehousing Information:
https://endhomelessness.org/rapid-re-housing-works

TX-503 Resources

Austin/Travis County CoC's NOFO Competition Information:
https://www.austinecho.org/leading-system-change/continuum-of-care/

FY2024 TX-503 Estimated Annual Renewal Demand Amount Report:

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC/FY-2024-CoC-Estimated-ARD-Report.pdf

Austin / Travis County Homelessness Response System Dashboard:

https://www.austinecho.org/dashboard/

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Act:
https://www.huduser.gov/portal/affht_pt.html

Questions?

CoC NOFO Office Hours:

September 5, 2024 / 9:00 – 10:00 AM
September 12, 2024 / 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Email the ECHO NOFO team:
Email: nofo@austinecho.org