

HUD FY2017 Continuum of Care Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Guidance Policy

Introduction

In response to the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the 2017 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released on July 14, 2017, Partners for HOME (PFH), as the Collaborative Applicant for the Atlanta CoC, is providing the following guidance for the competition process.

Contact Info

If you have any questions about this process, please email:

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Summary

As the Collaborative Applicant for the Atlanta Continuum of Care (CoC), Partners for HOME is responsible for organizing, collecting, and submitting the CoC Consolidated Application for the FY2017 CoC funding. This includes the CoC Application as well as the CoC Priority Listing. Included in this process is the oversight of the local competition to determine the CoC Priority Listing composition.

This announcement is being provided in accordance with the HUD NOFA, which can be found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2017-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/>. Some key points from the NOFA that will apply to project applications, as well as to the CoC application, are listed below. Additionally, updated information and materials will be posted on the Partners for HOME website, which can be found here: <https://partnersforhome.org/atlanta-continuum-of-care/resources-for-agencies/coc-nofafunding>. While this document will provide an overview of the NOFA and local Atlanta process, all interested parties and applicants should read the NOFA and all related materials in their entirety, as well the materials that will be posted, throughout this process, on the Partners for HOME website.

HUD NOFA Policy Priorities¹

- 1) Ending homelessness for all persons.
- 2) Creating a systemic response to homelessness.
- 3) Strategically allocating and using resources.
- 4) Use a Housing First approach.

Atlanta CoC Guiding Principles²

- 1) Disrupt the system.
- 2) Create right-size solutions by population.
- 3) Realign and leverage resources.
- 4) Create a performance driven system.

¹ HUD FY2017 NOFA <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2017-CoC-Program-Competition-NOFA.pdf>

² ClearPath: Atlanta's Five-Year Plan to Make Homelessness Rare, Brief, and Non-Recurring
https://partnersforhome.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/20170607Partners-for-HOME-Strategic-Plan-Brochure_FINAL.pdf

Important Dates

Please refer to the Partners for HOME website for the complete timeline, but some important dates include:

NOFA Released	July 14, 2017
Policy and Applications Released	Approximately July 31, 2017
Interested Parties Meeting/Webinar	August 1 and August 2, 2017
Optional Applicant One on One Meetings	August 7 and August 9, 2017
Review Applications Due	August 16, 2017, 4pm
<i>E-snaps</i> Drafts and all Required <i>E-snaps</i> Attachments Due	August 28, 2017, 4pm
Preliminary Scores Released to Applicants to Review/Appeal	September 1, 2017
Deadline for Applicants to Appeal Preliminary Score	September 5, 2017
<i>E-snaps</i> Feedback Provided to Applicants	No later than September 5, 2017
Applicants Notified of Inclusion in CoC Application	No later than September 10, 2017
Final <i>E-snaps</i> Applications Due	September 13, 2017
NOFA Submission Due	No later than September 28, 2017

Ranking and Review

HUD is once again having CoCs rank project applications in two tiers. Tier One will consist of 94% of the CoC Annual Renewal Demand, which for the Atlanta CoC is approximately \$6.37 million. Tier Two is the remaining 6% of the ARD plus the amount available to the CoC for bonus funding. For the Atlanta CoC, Tier Two totals approximately \$813,000 (\$406,676 remaining in the ARD plus \$406,676 available for bonus funding).

Projects ranked in Tier One are relatively secure to be funded, while projects ranked in Tier Two are more vulnerable. HUD will fund projects in Tier Two based on a specific scoring criteria, including how the overall CoC application scores.

The Ranking and Review Committee, an independent group comprised of community members and representatives of the CoC, and approved by the Atlanta CoC Governing Council, will score and rank the individual projects based on HUD and CoC priorities and principles, which are consistent with those outlined in the NOFA. The recommendations from this committee will be presented to the Governing Council for approval and they will then be announced to the CoC membership.

Recognizing the crucial roles coordinated entry and HMIS play in aligning with the HUD priorities and ending homelessness in the community, the HMIS and Coordinated Entry projects will be ranked in the middle of the Tier One projects.

With the above exception noted, in an effort to submit as strong an application as possible, the Ranking and Review Committee will also score and rank projects, to the extent possible, based on scores and criteria derived from the HUD priorities, as well as guidance provided in the NOFA.

As the scoring criteria for renewal projects will be based primarily on performance data, newly awarded renewal projects which have not been operating long enough to have sufficient performance data and therefore cannot be ranked accordingly, will receive the median score for all data driven questions that cannot be derived.

New projects may be ranked above renewal projects that are underperforming and did not meet scoring goals. This includes new projects created from bonus funds. The Ranking and Review Committee will take project scores, project spending, NOFA guidance and strategy, and CoC principles into account when determining rank order.

New Projects

New projects will only be available through reallocation or bonus funding.

For this NOFA, HUD has outlined that the following projects types be available through reallocation, which can be from projected unspent funds from renewal projects or from funds recaptured from projects that will be reduced or not be put forth for renewal due to low scores:

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Rapid-Rehousing (RRH)
- Joint Transitional Housing to Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH-RRH)
- Support Services Only for Coordinated Entry or HMIS

While the Atlanta CoC will accept any of the above new project type applications, *please note that the priority for new projects is PSH that provides tenant-based rental assistance.*

Expansion Funding

New this year, HUD is allowing renewal projects to submit a new project application, in addition to the renewal application, if an agency wishes to expand on an existing funded project. If both the renewal and new (expansion) grants are awarded, HUD will issue one contract (as opposed to the agency having two projects).

While the Atlanta CoC will accept applications for expansion of existing renewal projects, *please note that as stated above, the priority for new projects is PSH that provides tenant-based rental assistance.*

Bonus Funding

There may also be bonus funding available, if the CoC scores high enough, for new PSH, new RRH, or new Joint TH-RRH.

Acknowledging both HUD's priority on maximizing use of resources, and the Atlanta CoC priority of increasing PSH, *an integrated care pilot project, paired with housing vouchers, will be prioritized for a new collaborative project.* It is anticipated that this project will be submitted under the permanent housing bonus funding, but final decisions regarding funding type (reallocation or bonus) and tier placement (if at all) will be determined by the Ranking and Review Committee.

In an effort to pilot an innovative project that can be used as a model for replication, Partners for HOME will submit this project application as a part of the complete CoC application. Prior to doing so, input will be solicited from partner agencies as well as from current project participants to inform project development.

If this project is awarded, Partners for HOME will issue an RFP (Request for Proposal) for an agency to receive the funds to implement and carry out the project. To maximize the dollars that will go to direct programming, Partners for HOME will not allocate any of the awarded funds for their administration of the project.³

DedicatedPLUS Concept

New this year, HUD is allowing renewal projects that are currently dedicated to serve 100% chronically homeless (CH) individuals and/or families to either remain as is or convert to become a DedicatedPLUS project. This will expand who can be served to include, among others and in addition to chronically homeless, people who were CH, were placed in PSH, but returned to the streets or shelter within a year and people who would meet the disability portion of the CH definition, and have one year on the street or emergency shelter within the past three years, but not in four separate

³ Additional information about this project will be forthcoming.

episodes.

Given that this concept expands who can be served, all projects that are currently 100% dedicated for CH will convert to Dedicated*PLUS*.⁴

General Information

In addition to submitting the project application and all related materials to Partners for HOME to be scored and ranked, all new and renewal applications must also complete the HUD application process in *e-snaps*. Failure to do so will result in disqualification for funding.

This is a competitive process, within the CoC as well as within all other CoCs nationwide. Submitting an application to be scored, completing the *e-snaps* process, and/or being included in the CoC application to HUD does not guarantee funding.

While Partners for HOME, as the Collaborative Applicant, will email additional details of the competition, information will also be posted on the CoC webpage (<https://partnersforhome.org>). It is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure that they check the website, as well as the HUD Exchange website (<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2017-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition>).

Appeals

In accordance with *24 CFR part 578* and the NOFA, applicants have the right to appeal if they believe that they were improperly denied the right to participate in the CoC planning process in a reasonable manner; were improperly denied or decreased funding; or were improperly denied a Certification of Consistency from the local government with the Consolidated Plan. The appeal must be carried out as outlined in the NOFA.

Disclaimer

Partners for Home reserves the right to update or correct any of the information provided in this document, in the event of additional guidance from HUD or inadvertent error or omission.

⁴ Note, just because this option is being selected, this does not mean immediate conversion. This will be discussed and a process outlined. This opportunity may not be repeated in coming years, so it was determined to make the change now, even if the expanded definition is not immediately implemented upon the start of this funding cycle.