Atlanta Continuum of Care Policy for the HUD FY2019 CoC NOFA Competition.

Introduction
In response to the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the 2019 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released on July 3, 2019, 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:
Amy Zaremba
Deputy Director, Grants and Performance Management
Partners for Home – Atlanta CoC
amzaremba@atlantaga.gov

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 FY2019 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 and related guidance, which can be found here: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2019-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/#nofa-and-notices. 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/funding. 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 Priorities

1) Ending homelessness for all persons.
2) Creating a systemic response to homelessness.
3) Strategically allocating and using resources.
4) Using an evidence-based approach.
5) Increasing employment.
6) Providing flexibility for Housing First with service participation requirements.

Atlanta CoC Guiding Principles

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

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2 ClearPath: Atlanta’s Five-Year Plan to Make Homelessness Rare, Brief, and Non-Recurring
Important Dates
Please refer to the Partners for HOME website for the complete timeline, but some important dates include:

- **NOFA Released**: July 3, 2019
- **Policy and Applications Released**: No later than July 22, 2019
- **Interested Parties Meeting/Webinar**: July 23 (in person) and July 24 (webinar)
- **Review Applications Due**: August 5, 2019, 12noon
- **E-snaps Drafts and all Required Attachments Due**: August 21, 2019, 12noon
- **E-snaps Feedback Provided to Applicants**: No later than August 26, 2019
- **Preliminary Scores Released to Applicants to Review**: No later than August 22, 2019
- **Deadline for Applicants to Appeal Preliminary Score**: August 26, 2019, 12noon
- **Final E-snaps Applications Due**: September 6, 2019, 12noon
- **Applicants Notified of Inclusion in CoC Application**: No later than September 15, 2019
- **NOFA Submission Due**: No later than September 30, 2019

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 (ARD), which for the Atlanta CoC is approximately $6.92 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 $766,000 ($400,410 remaining in the ARD plus $366,096 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, primarily based on scores and criteria derived from the HUD priorities, as well as guidance provided in the NOFA. Due to the importance of coordinated entry and the housing first philosophy in addressing homelessness, the Ranking and Review Committee will also weigh those aspects with the project scores in determining their final ranking recommendation.

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 (explained in more detail next in this document) may be ranked above renewal projects that are underperforming. 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**
For this NOFA, HUD has outlined that funding for new projects would be available through bonus funds and reallocated funds, 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. While HUD is allowing CoCs to submit new project applications for a few different project types (PSH, RRH, Joint TH-RRH, SSO for CE or HMIS), it is up to the CoC to determine the need for their community.

In *ClearPath*, Atlanta’s strategic plan to end homelessness, there is the community goal of adding 205 PSH units over five years, through the annual HUD CoC NOFA competition. Therefore, any reallocated or bonus funding will be used for tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) PSH. In other words, only new applications for Permanent Supportive Housing, utilizing TBRA, are being accepted by the Atlanta CoC for this NOFA cycle.

**Consolidated Projects**
Again this year, HUD is allowing agencies that have two or more projects of the same project type to apply to have the grants consolidated into one award. If an agency chooses to apply for a consolidated project, they should first contact the local field office to get confirmation that consolidation is appropriate. If so, then the agency needs to submit separate project applications and one consolidated application. The separate project applications will be ranked individually, with the consolidated project sharing the rank number of one of the projects. If HUD approves the consolidated project, there would be one award contact issued.

If an agency submits a consolidated project, the Rank and Review Committee will determine the placement of the project, in line with the ranking of the two separate projects (it will rank with one of the two).

**Expansion Funding**
HUD is permitting CoCs to allow renewal projects to submit a new project application, in addition to the renewal application, if an agency wishes to expand an existing funded project. However, since the Atlanta CoC is looking to use any reallocated or bonus funding for new TBRA PSH projects, there are no projects currently eligible for expansion.

**Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus**
This year, there is again a separate pool of funding available for CoCs to apply for projects specifically for survivors of domestic violence. A CoC can apply for Rapid Rehousing and Joint Transitional-Rapid Rehousing projects and one Supportive Services Only-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) project specifically to enhance the process for domestic violence situations. The Atlanta CoC can apply for up to approximately $527,000 and applications for RRH projects from agencies and an SSO-CE project from Partners for HOME, which will be RFPd out in the event it is awarded, will be accepted. The Ranking and Review Committee will review available data to ascertain the need for such dedicated projects and if applicable, select and rank any such projects. HUD will review the projects listed as DV bonus projects, and if selected, the projects will be removed from the CoC list and will be awarded funds from the separate pool. If HUD does not select a project that the CoC lists as a DV bonus project for the DV bonus funds, the project will remain on the CoC priority list and may be funded as a new project. However, since the Atlanta CoC is looking to use any non-DV bonus funding for new tenant-based rental assistance PSH projects only, any DV bonus applications selected for ranking will be ranked at the bottom of Tier Two, so that any available funds are first used for TBRA PSH.
**Chronically Homeless Dedicated and DedicatedPLUS**

All renewal PSH projects in the Atlanta CoC are currently 100% dedicated to serve the chronic homeless population. HUD is again allowing new and renewal projects to be either dedicated to serving people who are chronically homeless or to be DedicatedPLUS projects, which expands the population that can be served. However, since any PSH projects that are DedicatedPlus need to serve both individuals and families, the Atlanta CoC renewal projects will remain 100% dedicated to serve the chronically homeless population and all new project applications will also need to be dedicated to serve 100% chronically homeless.

**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/funding](https://partnersforhome.org/funding)). 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-2019-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/#nofa-and-notices](https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2019-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/#nofa-and-notices)).

**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.