# Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care – Requests for Applications for Inclusion in the 2019 Collaborative Application for HUD Continuum of Care Funding

**Date: July 22, 2019**

## Invitation to Bid

On behalf of the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care, the Cuyahoga County Office of Homeless Services (OHS) the collaborative applicant, invites eligible organizations[1] to submit new or renewal applications for CoC funding to be included in the 2019 Collaborative Application to HUD.

The only entities that may submit a **renewal application** are current HUD CoC grantees that have a grant with an end date in calendar year 2020. Additionally, to be eligible for renewal an existing grantee must enter into a contract with HUD for FY 2018 funding prior to December 31, 2019.

Any eligible organization may apply for **new project funding**. Eligible organizations include: nonprofit organizations, Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), or units of local government.

All Renewal applications must be completed using HUD's online application platform, the E-SNAPS system. **Renewal applications must be submitted in E-SNAPS by the following schedule**:

- **Renewal project applications** must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm EDT on August 2nd, 2019.**
- Applications not submitted according to the above schedule may not be considered for funding. OHS may approve an extension for good cause as determined by OHS.

All **New applications** must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm EDT on August 19th, 2019.**

- Applications not submitted according to this schedule may not be considered for funding.

## Information and Resources

All information required for this competition will be posted on the CoC website, found here: http://ohs.cuyahogacounty.us .  Information posted on the website includes:

- A link to the NOFA published by HUD and to supporting information provided by HUD.
- The CoC's policies for review and ranking of new and renewal applications
- CoC's policies regarding reallocation – including voluntary and mandatory reallocation.
- Scoring factors for the review of renewal applications
- Scoring factors for new project applications.
- Links to resources available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in support of the competition.

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[1] Eligible organizations include nonprofit organizations and government entities including public housing agencies. Individuals and for-profit entities are ineligible to apply.

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## Possible application types:

Eligible organizations may submit one or more of the following application types:

- **Renewal application**. Any organization with a CoC funded grant that is expiring in calendar year 2020 may submit a renewal application. The renewal application must be fully consistent with the total funding associated with the project as detailed in the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) provided by HUD. The amount requested for renewal grants may not exceed the total amount shown for the grant on the GIW. Renewal grants may elect to not renew or to renew at a dollar amount below that shown on the GIW. In these instances, the amounts not applied for will be added to the pool of funds made available to potential new projects through reallocation. Current grantees not intending to renew their grants or those willing to reduce the size of their grants should contact OHS as soon as possible so the unapplied for funds can be added to the pool available for reallocation.

  All renewal projects that have at least one full year of operational experience will be ranked in the competition according to the scores received in the renewal evaluation process. Projects that do not meet the minimum threshold score for renewal must either submit and obtain approval for a Project Improvement Plan or agree not to renew the grant and to reallocate the funding. Projects that have not been operational for a sufficiently long period to have a full year's worth of operations, will not be subject to renewal evaluation until they have secured this experience. These grants will be ranked without a score in the 2019 competition.

- **New project application**. New project applications may be for any of the eligible new project categories:
    - Permanent Supportive Housing where 100% of the beds are either dedicated to serving chronically homeless or DedicatedPLUS[2] projects.
    - Rapid Rehousing projects serving individuals and families who are literally homeless (prior living situation was in shelters or unsheltered).
    - HMIS projects
    - SSO for Coordinated Entry

  Funding for new projects will come from bonus funding and from any funds that may be available from reallocation.

- **Consolidated Application**. Another new option introduced in 2018 is a consolidated application: a grantee with more than one grant with the same program component (e.g., RRH, PSH, TH) may consolidate those individual grants into a single grant. Up to four grants could be consolidated through this process. To submit a consolidated application, applicants must submit renewal applications for each project and a single new application that will include all the funding from the renewal applications. The totals of the budget line items in the individual renewal grants must match the budget lines for the new project. If all the renewal grants are ranked so that each is funded by HUD, HUD will fund the new project in lieu of the renewal grants. Each of the individual project applications must be given its own

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[2] To understand who qualifies to reside in a 'DedicatedPLUS' project please see this FAQ from HUD: https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3284/what-is-a-dedicatedplus-project/

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unique rank in the project priority list and the fully consolidated application must have a duplicate rank with one of the individual project applications. Consolidated applications are **renewal applications.**

- **Expansion Applications**. Grantees may choose to submit a **new project application** that expands a currently funded CoC grant to serve additional persons, provide additional units, or provide additional services to existing program participants. HMIS may also be expanded. Applicants seeking an expansion grant must submit **three project applications**: the **renewal project application for the existing grant**; **a new project application identifying the expansion**; and a **renewal project application combining the budget lines, units and persons served of the two projects.** If HUD selects the expansion, the project will take the ranked position of the renewal project.

## Domestic Violence Bonus Projects

For the second consecutive year, applications may be submitted for a new type of bonus project: a **Domestic Violence Bonus Project** in which all persons served are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking. The following types of new projects may be submitted for the DV Bonus – please note, all projects applying for the DV bonus are required to follow trauma informed and victim-centered approaches:

- Rapid rehousing exclusively serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless.
- Joint TH-RRH projects exclusively serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless.

Unlike 2018, there is no limit on the number of each of the above project types that can be submitted provided that no grant is for less than $25,000 and the total funded requested does not exceed the amount available to the CoC for the DV bonus. In order to receive DV bonus funding, the CoC application must demonstrate an unmet need for DV services and how the project will address that gap in services.

## Rating and Ranking of Projects

Renewal projects will be ranked in the Collaborative Application according to the rating score provided as part of the renewal evaluation process. New project applications will be reviewed by an independent panel with subject matter expertise but no conflicts of interest with regard to the application. The new projects will be evaluated according to criteria set by HUD in the project rating tool, not yet released by HUD.

## Invitation to organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding:

The CoC actively seeks applications from organizations that have not previously received HUD CoC funding. HUD places considerable requirements on grantees and the application process can be challenging. Organizations without CoC grant experience are invited to reach out to the CoC at rgillett@cuyahogacounty.us . Requirements on eligible participants and activities are very stringent and organizations are encouraged to discuss potential projects and the application process.

## Presentation and Question and Answer Session

The CoC will conduct an information session regarding this request for applications on   Wednesday, July 31st  at  9:30 am   EDT. Interested parties may access this session by calling this Conference Number: (605) 468-8821 ACCESS CODE: 899368.

## Funding Amounts

 According to HUD, the Cleveland/Cuyahoga County CoC can apply for bonus funding for new projects up to:

- $1,388,146 in Bonus funding for new projects is potentially available to the CoC;
- Up to $2,107,784 may be applied for by projects seeking the DV Bonus;
- Additional new projects may be created using reallocated funding. There may be up to $722,000 in reallocated funds available to support new projects.
- Tier 1 – the level of funding that is most assured of funding by HUD is $26,237,680; there is $1,525,235 in renewal funding that is in Tier 2 and is dependent on the CoC score and project ranking to determine whether the projects in Tier 2 will be funded.