

## Cleveland/Cuyahoga County Continuum of Care – Requests for Applications for Inclusion in the 2022 Collaborative Application for HUD Continuum of Care Funding

**Date: August 5, 2022**

### 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 to submit new or renewal applications for CoC funding to be included in the 2022 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 2023. Additionally, to be eligible for renewal an existing grantee must enter into a contract with HUD for FY 2021 funding prior to December 31, 2022.

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

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

- **New and Renewal project applications** must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm EDT on August 30, 2022**
- Applications not submitted according to the above 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:

<https://hhs.cuyahogacounty.us/divisions/detail/office-of-homeless-services> . Information posted on the website includes:

- The NOFA published by HUD and 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.

### Identified Priorities for New Project Applications

The CoC has identified the following project types as priorities for funding in the 2021 competition:

- Support to coordinated entry by providing navigational support to participants seeking housing
- Coordinated Entry expansion to provide higher levels of support to key subpopulations including LGBTQ+, Transition Aged Youth
- Funding for HMIS to address increased system needs

- Permanent supportive housing – expansion of existing projects or new projects to serve either the chronically homeless or DedicatedPLUS populations.
- Permanent Supportive Housing for Transition Aged Youth
- Domestic Violence – expansion of existing projects or new projects using the DV bonus

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 2023 must submit a renewal application for the project to remain operational. If a renewal application is not submitted, the project will lose funding in 2023. 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 relocation.

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. Renewal projects with the requisite experience will be ranked according to the renewal performance evaluation scores.

- **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<sup>1</sup> projects.
  - Rapid Rehousing projects serving individuals and families who meet the HUD homeless definition at Categories 1, 2, or 4.<sup>2</sup>
  - Joint TH-RRH projects also serving individuals and families who meet the HUD homeless definition at Categories 1, 2, or 4. The TH component should consist of short-term crisis housing and the resources earmarked for the RRH component should be twice those designated for the TH component.
  - SSO-CE projects that improve coordinated access by providing housing navigation services that will assist participants prioritized for housing from coordinated access to locate and secure housing.

<sup>1</sup> 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/>

<sup>2</sup> See here: [https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition\\_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf](https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf) for a quick guide to the HUD homeless definition and the four categories of homelessness.

Funding for new projects will come from bonus funding and from any funds that may be available from reallocation. New projects will be scored according to the new project scoring sheet available on the OHS website.

- **Transition application.** An existing renewal application may be submitted as a ‘transition’ application. A transition application will start the program year as one component (TH, for example) and through the course of the program year, the project will transition from that component to one of the eligible new project components. A transition application may be the most effective way to accomplish a ‘voluntary’ reallocation where the grantee with funds to reallocate is also the planned grantee for the reallocated project. Grantees interested in the transition application process must contact and obtain approval from the CoC. Transition grants are **new project applications**, and the grant must ‘transition’ to an eligible new project activity during the program year.
- **Consolidated Application.** Another option 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. There is no requirement for the grants to be funded under the same budget lines and single-site, project-based projects can be combined with scatter-site, tenant-based projects. In 2022, up to ten grants can be consolidated through this process. To submit a consolidated application, applicants must submit renewal applications for each project and indicate which of the renewing grants will be the ‘surviving’ grant. If all the renewal grants are ranked so that each is funded by HUD, HUD will fund the single consolidated renewal grant. Each of the individual project applications must be given its own unique rank in the project priority list. If consolidated by HUD, grants will receive the ranking allocated to the ‘surviving’ grant. 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 and Coordinated Access may also be expanded. Applicants seeking an expansion grant must submit **two project applications: the renewal project application for the existing grant and a new project application identifying the expansion.**

### Domestic Violence Bonus Projects

Applications may be submitted for 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, as well as Housing First:

- 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.

- Coordinated Entry-Supportive Services Only grants to support the coordinated entry process for DV survivors.

With the exception of the Coordinated Entry grant of which there can be only one, 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 \$50,000 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.

DV Bonus projects are scored separately by HUD. Factors that will determine whether a DV Bonus project will be funded include: the score the CoC receives on the 2022 CoC Application to HUD; the extent of CoC collaboration with victim services providers; the need for the project; quality of the experience of the applicant in serving survivors; demonstration that the applicant uses victim-centered practices; and inclusion of survivors with lived experience in policy and program development for the project.

### 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 forth in the New Project Rating tool found on the CoC website.

**Please note: the new project rating tool asks for some information that is not included in the ESNAPs application. To secure full points, new project applicants must attach a narrative that addresses the following criteria set forth in the rating tool:**

- **Identify the extent to which applicant organization has achieved HUD system performance measures on current projects including: placement or retention of permanent housing, returns to homelessness, jobs and income growth among program participants**
- **Describe any barriers to participation in your project(s) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented among people experiencing homelessness in your community, and identify the steps you have taken to eliminate the barriers.**
- **New Project applicants must:**
  - **Complete and submit the application in e-snaps by the application deadline**
  - **Email a PDF of the complete application along with a brief narrative addressing the two issues listed above to: [msirak@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:msirak@cuyahogacounty.us) by the application deadline.**

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 [msirak@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:msirak@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 Sessions

The CoC will conduct two information sessions for renewal and new project applicants. Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend or view a recording of the session:

Renewal Project Webinar August 10, 2022 10 am – 11:30 am– click on the link to attend: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89790146081?pwd=ZXJYZEFyWFRySmJsOW15SGt4c0IyUT09>

- Meeting ID: 897 9014 6081  
Passcode: 797188

New Project Webinar August 16, 2022 10:00 am – 11:30 am– click on link to attend: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82514626494?pwd=dVdxelA0aDhCRTlWSlFDS3FXc1c2QT09>

- Meeting ID: 825 1462 6494  
Passcode: 111957

### **Funding Amounts**

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

- \$1,594,430 in Bonus funding for new projects is potentially available to the CoC;
- Up to \$5,000,000 may be applied for by projects seeking the DV Bonus;
- Tier 1 – the level of funding that is most assured of funding by HUD is \$30,294,162. There are renewal grant amounts totaling \$1,594,000 that must be placed in Tier 2. Accordingly, it is possible that the lowest scoring renewal grant(s) may potentially not be renewed.