



The City of
OKLAHOMA CITY
Planning Department
Housing & Community Development Division
420 W. Main, Suite 920, Oklahoma City, OK 73102

**NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY
FOR
CONTINUUM OF CARE 2016**

Introduction:

On June 28, 2016 the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the 2016 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program. This announcement is to notify all parties seeking new or renewal funding of the changes and requirements for this year's competition and should be read in full. A technical assistance/question & answer session will be held on **Monday, July 25, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** at the **Westtown Resource Center**, 1724 NW 4th St. Attendance is **mandatory** and all agencies submitting a request will need to have a representative present. The type of programs requested and criteria that must be followed by each entity wishing to be considered for funding are outlined below.

General Information:

The purpose of the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs is to fund projects that will fill gaps in locally developed Continuum of Care systems to assist homeless persons to move to self-sufficiency and permanent housing.

The renewal funds can be used under any of the following programs:

- Supportive Housing (SHP)
- Shelter Plus Care (S+C); and
- Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy for Homeless Individuals (SRO)

The HEARTH Act consolidated these programs into the Continuum of Care program governed by the CoC Interim Rule (24 CFR, Part 578).

New Projects: HUD has announced there are funds available for Bonus Projects in the 2016 Continuum of Care Competition. The total amount of new funds available nationally has not been made available. However, CoCs may propose up to 5% of their final pro rata need (FPRN) for bonus projects (which equals **approximately \$156,600** for the Oklahoma City CoC) and CoCs may propose more than one project.

New projects can be for either Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Re-housing. All new Permanent Supportive Housing must be dedicated to serve the chronically homeless. It is preferred that all new Rapid Re-housing serve homeless families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters. However, projects serving homeless individuals and youth are also eligible.

Renewal: Renewal project applications are limited to a one (1) year term. Renewing Permanent Supportive Housing projects may only serve persons coming directly from non-housing, emergency shelter, or transitional housing for homeless persons. All eligible applicants for renewal grants must be able to document that they are fully participating (entering all required data on all homeless clients) in HMIS/Servicepoint. Entities proposing renewal projects must demonstrate they meet or

exceed HUD performance measurements. If the entity or the renewal project does not meet the minimum HUD standards, the CoC Board has the discretion to transfer the project to another CoC service provider or reallocate the funds to a new project.

Project Ranking: All projects will be prioritized and ranked by the Continuum of Care Board into Tiers. Tiers are financial thresholds that HUD requires CoCs to use for project ranking. A project may straddle the tiers. The cut off for Tier 1 is equal to 93% of the CoCs' annual renewal demand (ARD) previously approved by HUD (90% ARD = **\$3,261,597**). Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's total ARD plus any amount available for permanent housing bonus projects. (Oklahoma City CoC's total ARD = **\$3,507,094**).

Tier 1	\$3,261,597
Tier 2	\$245,497
Total	\$3,507,094

Grant terms for new projects: If a new project is created through reallocation of funds, the grant term may be from 1 year to 5 years depending on the activity. New projects that include leasing may request up to 3 years of assistance. New projects requesting tenant based rental assistance may request up to 5 years of funds. New operating costs, HMIS, supportive services, and administration projects may have grant terms from 1 to 5 years. Any organization requesting funds for new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation should contact city staff to discuss grant terms prior to submission.

Eligible Applicants:

- Must be a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization
- Must have a DUNS number and be registered with SAM –System for Award Management (previously CCR – Central Contractor Registry) and not be on the Excluded Parties List
- Must have experience in providing housing and supportive services to the homeless population

Ineligible Activities:

Homeless prevention and emergency shelter activities are statutorily ineligible under the Continuum of Care program.

Type of Projects Being Requested:

Projects seeking CoC funds must meet all the following objectives related to housing and serving the City's homeless population:

- Help homeless individuals, youth and families obtain and then remain in permanent housing.
- Increase the skills and income of homeless individuals, youth and families.
- Help move homeless individuals, youth and families quickly out of shelters.
- Help homeless individuals, youth and families achieve greater self-determination.

HUD Eligible Projects Include:

- (1) Renewing Permanent Supportive Housing and former Shelter Plus Care projects for homeless individuals and families with disabilities who are coming directly from non-housing, emergency shelter or transitional housing for homeless people:
 - Long-term, community-based housing for homeless people with disabilities (such as mental illness, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS and/or physical disabilities)
 - Up to 16 individuals, youth or families per site
 - Includes supportive services offered in or near the project site

- Helps participants maintain permanent housing, increase skills and income and achieve greater self-determination
- (2) New Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless persons or families:
 - Individuals, youth or families served must come directly from shelters or streets and must have a diagnosable disability (see HUD NOFA for details.)
 - New Permanent Supportive Housing projects may request up to a 5-year grant term if requesting rental assistance and up to 3-years if requesting leasing funds.
 - No more than 30 percent of the total funds requested (grant total minus administration costs) may be used for supportive services.
- (3) New Re-Housing projects:
 - Those served must come directly from shelters or streets.
 - Assistance is time limited.
 - Families are preferred but youth and individuals are eligible.
- (4) Renewing Transitional Housing for homeless families and individuals:
 - Limited to 24-month stay; targets families and individuals in shelters.
 - Includes supportive services offered in or near the project site.
 - Helps participants locate, obtain, move into and maintain permanent housing.
- (5) Renewing Supportive Services Only:
 - Addresses service needs of homeless persons.
 - Agency cannot provide housing to same persons receiving services.
 - May or may not be provided from a structure.
 - Focused on helping participants achieve permanent housing.
 - Operating costs are not eligible.

Local Requirements:

It is the CoC's intention to further the HUD and local goals for serving chronically homeless individuals and families, with priority on serving those with the longest histories of homelessness by rapidly re-housing the most vulnerable and providing appropriate wrap-around services to ensure success. Therefore, all new and renewal applicants must dedicate a portion of their request to providing continuing services to those rapidly re-housed under this initiative.

Oklahoma City is the collaborative applicant for the CoC application to HUD. Submittals for projects must be sent via email to the collaborative applicant at jerod.shadid@okc.gov and cc: stacy.tarpley@okc.gov during the period **starting 1:00 pm July 26, 2016 and ending 5:00pm August 8, 2016.**

All parties who make a submission will also be required to complete the CoC Project Application for FY 2016 in esnaps at <https://esnaps.hud.gov> by **5:00pm September 9, 2016** and notify the collaborative applicant.

Applying organizations are responsible for ensuring all applications are complete before contacting the collaborative applicant. NO corrections or changes will be allowed to applications after the application deadlines. Any applicant that turns in an incomplete application will not be selected to propose.

Please contact Jerod Shadid by email at jerod.shadid@okc.gov or by phone at **(405) 297-3608** for any questions you may have regarding this solicitation.

HUD's Homeless Policy and Program Priorities

The following are HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities as listed in the 2016 Continuum of Care Program NOFA. All applicants should read these priorities and carefully consider them when completing their application.

A. Policy Priorities. This NOFA focuses on the Administration goals articulated in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. The goals of *Opening Doors* are consistent with the Department's homeless goals as stated in HUD's Strategic Plan. This section explains HUD's Policy Priorities for this CoC Program Competition NOFA and provides Collaborative Applicants and Project Applicants with additional context about the selection criteria and selection process. The actual selection criteria and selection process are described in Section VII, Application Review Information.

1. Create a systemic response to homelessness. In addition to having the right programs to end homelessness, CoCs should be developing the systemic supports that ensure homeless assistance is well coordinated, well managed, inclusive, transparent, and achieves positive outcomes.

a. Measure System Performance. HUD has developed system performance measures to assess the overall impact of a CoC's homeless assistance efforts. These measures track the average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, and other factors that determine whether a CoC is effectively serving people experiencing homelessness. CoCs should be using these measures and analyzing how they can improve their system to achieve better performance.

b. Create an effective Coordinated Entry process. Coordinated entry is a key step in assessing the needs of homeless individuals and families and prioritizing them for assistance. In addition to engaging people who are seeking assistance, Coordinated Entry processes should be integrated with communities' outreach work to ensure that people living in unsheltered locations are prioritized for help. Coordinated Entry should achieve several goals:

- i. make it easier for persons experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis to access the appropriate housing and service interventions;
- ii. prioritize persons with the longest histories of homelessness and the most extensive needs;
- iii. lower barriers to entering programs or receiving assistance; and,
- iv. ensure that persons receive assistance and are housed as quickly as possible.

c. Promote participant choice. CoCs should do everything they can to support the choices made by persons experiencing homelessness. For example, some persons may prefer programs where residents are focused on obtaining support to recover from substance use disorders. While these projects often include many housing first features, they may also be alcohol and drug free to support the continued sobriety of their participants. Another example is the choice of where to live. Most persons experiencing homelessness struggle to balance the cost and quality of their available housing options. Whenever possible, programs should support participant's choices.

d. Plan as a system. CoCs should be coordinating homeless assistance and mainstream housing and service providers to ensure that people experiencing homelessness receive assistance as quickly as possible and that the assistance is focused on helping them obtain and retain housing. CoCs should be monitoring each provider's performance, eligibility criteria, target populations, and cultural competence. They should also ensure that providers

work together when a participant is moving from one program to another or when more than one program is serving the same person.

e. Make the delivery of homeless assistance more open, inclusive, and transparent. CoCs should ensure that the needs of all individuals and families experiencing homelessness are represented within the CoC structure by including persons who have experienced homelessness throughout the planning process and in leadership and oversight roles. CoCs should also include organizations representing persons fleeing domestic violence, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) community, victims of human trafficking, unaccompanied youth, individuals with disabilities and different types of disabilities, and other relevant populations in their planning body. These steps ensure that service delivery is client-centered and culturally competent.

2. Strategically allocate resources. Using cost, performance, and outcome data, CoCs should improve how resources are utilized to end homelessness, including CoC and ESG Program funds, state and local funds, public and assisted housing units, mainstream service resources such as Medicaid, Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), Head Start, Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV), and philanthropic efforts. CoCs should manage the performance of all projects in the community and reallocate resources whenever doing so will better help them end homelessness. Steps to consider:

a. Comprehensively review project quality, performance, and cost effectiveness. CoCs should objective; performance based scoring criteria and selection priorities that are approved by the CoC to determine the extent to which each project addresses HUD's policy priorities. CoCs should reallocate funds to new projects whenever reallocation would improve outcomes and reduce homelessness. CoCs should consider how much each project spends to serve and house an individual or family as compared to other projects serving similar populations.

b. Maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources. CoCs should educate all stakeholders in the community about mainstream resources and funding opportunities, particularly new opportunities made available under the Affordable Care Act. Additionally, CoCs and homeless assistance providers should partner with other stakeholders within the community, such as Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), philanthropic organizations, and other agencies and organizations that have resources that could serve persons experiencing homelessness.

c. Review transitional housing projects. Recent research shows that transitional housing is generally more expensive and achieves similar or worse outcomes than other housing models serving similar populations. HUD recognizes that transitional housing may be an effective tool for addressing certain needs—such as housing for underage homeless youth experiencing homelessness, safety for persons fleeing domestic violence, and assisting with recovery from addiction. HUD strongly encourages CoCs and recipients to carefully review the transitional housing projects within the CoC's geographic area for cost-effectiveness, performance, and for the number and type of eligibility criteria to determine whether it should be reallocated to rapid rehousing or another model.

d. Integration. Recipients must administer their programs and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities. Recipients operating projects serving chronically homeless individuals and families must ensure individuals with disabilities can interact with individuals without disabilities to the fullest extent possible.

3. End chronic homelessness. To end chronic homelessness by 2017, HUD encourages three areas of focus:

a. Target persons with the highest needs and longest histories of homelessness for existing and new permanent supportive housing. CoCs should prioritize chronically homeless

individuals, youth, and families who have the longest histories of homelessness and the highest needs for new and turnover units by implementing Notice CPD 14-012.

b. Increase units. CoCs should create new permanent supportive housing units that are dedicated to individuals, youth, and families experiencing chronic homelessness; and, if CoCs have not already done so, dedicate existing permanent supportive housing units to those experiencing chronic homelessness. There are numerous ways a community can increase permanent supportive housing units, including applying for CoC Program funds, partnering with PHAs for rental assistance, and strengthening connections to Medicaid to pay for services in permanent supportive housing.

c. Improve Outreach. To decrease the number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness in a community, the community must identify and continually engage all persons who are currently experiencing sheltered or unsheltered chronic homelessness and those who are in jeopardy of experiencing chronic homelessness. This includes ensuring effective communication with individuals with disabilities and taking reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to services, programs, and activities by persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP persons).

4. End family homelessness. Most families experiencing homelessness can be housed quickly and stably using rapid rehousing. Some will need the long-term support provided by a permanent housing subsidy or permanent supportive housing. CoCs should ensure that families can easily access housing assistance tailored to their strengths and needs and, through partnerships, increase access to mainstream affordable housing. For most CoCs this will require expanding rapid rehousing programs. HUD encourages CoCs to use reallocation to create new rapid rehousing projects and to use ESG and other funding sources to expand rapid rehousing assistance.

5. End youth homelessness. CoCs should understand the varied and unique needs of youth experiencing homelessness, and reach out to youth-serving systems and providers to encourage their active participation in the CoC. CoCs and youth serving organizations should work together to develop resources and programs that better end youth homelessness and meet the needs of homeless youth, including LGBTQ youth. HUD recipients must comply with HUD's final rule, Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity, which requires that HUD-assisted and HUD-insured housing programs are made available to all otherwise eligible individuals and families regardless of actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. Please see also Notice CPD-15-02: Appropriate Placement for Transgender Persons in Single -Sex Emergency Shelters and Other Facilities. When evaluating the performance of youth programs, CoCs should take into account the specific challenges faced by youth experiencing homelessness. When CoCs identify lower performing youth serving projects, they should seek to reallocate funds from those projects to projects that will achieve better outcomes for youth. In coordination with mainstream programs, CoCs should also consider how they can best serve young people who are fleeing domestic violence, human trafficking, or who are exchanging sex for housing.

6. End veteran homelessness. Ending veteran homelessness is within reach for many communities, and CoCs should take specific steps to reach this goal including prioritizing veterans and their families for assistance when they cannot be effectively assisted with VA services, and coordinating closely with veteran serving organizations and VA-funded housing and services. Communities that have effectively ended veteran homelessness should continuously assess the performance of the homeless assistance system to ensure the continued achievement by periodically reviewing the criteria and benchmarks established by HUD, VA, and USICH.

7. Use a Housing First Approach. *Housing First* is an approach to homeless assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold. Projects using a

Housing First approach often have supportive services; however, participation in these services is based on the needs and desires of program participants. Following are specific steps to support a Housing First approach:

a. Use Data to quickly and stably house homeless persons. Programs that use a Housing First approach should be moving individuals and families quickly into permanent housing. CoCs should measure the length of time it takes for programs to move households into permanent housing and help providers improve performance.

b. Engage landlords and property owners. Identify and recruit landlords of units in the geographic area so that when an individual or family needs housing, potential units that those individuals or families may choose from have already been identified, speeding up the housing process. Landlord engagement can be undertaken by each homeless assistance provider or consolidated so that one or a few organizations engage landlords on behalf of many providers.

c. Remove barriers to entry. CoCs should review project-level eligibility criteria for all programs and remove any barriers to accessing housing and services. Persons experiencing homelessness should not be screened out of or discouraged from participating in programs because they have poor credit history, or lack income or employment. People with addictions to alcohol or substances should not be required to cease active use before accessing housing and services.

d. Adopt client-centered service methods. All projects should ensure housing and service options are tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual or family presenting for services and that program participants have access to the services that they reasonably believe will help them achieve their goals. However, program participants should not be required to participate in services and cannot be required to participate in disability-related services.