**Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care (CoC) & Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Competition overview**

Funding Opportunity Number: FR-6700-N-25 – Assistance Listing Number: 14.267

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| IMPORTANT APPLICATION DATES & DEADLINES (tentative)Hennepin CoC website: https://www.hennepin.us/headinghomehennepin * April 14th – April 21st – CoC project score card share, review, & confirm score
* February 24th – March 13th – Letter of Intent to Apply/due for FY2023 NOFO
* April 21st – Final approval & comments on score card in preparation for ranking
* June 9th – New project pre-applications/DV Bonus due date
* **July 28th** – **FY2023 NOFO Overview meeting** Teams ([Click here to join the meeting](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3Ameeting_MWMzZmZmMWQtYTNhZS00OTMzLThjN2ItNzRmNzkwMjU0OWY4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%228aefdf9f-8780-46bf-8fb7-4c924653a8be%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22e9768c89-86ff-4c2a-beb0-cc19f7d8b3cc%22%7d))
* **August 11th –**Project Applications (new/renewal) notified of inclusion/rejection in Hennepin NOFO competition – preliminary Priority List released (ranked projects) – START COMPLETING THE PROJECT APPLICATION IN E-SNAPS (New and Renewals)
* August 18th – Due date for ranking appeals to CoC Coordinator (see 2023 Ranking Policies/Procedures posted on CoC website for instructions p.8)
* **August 21st – Send draft Project Applications to CoC Coordinator for review prior to submission (do not submit in e-snaps yet) will send feedback if applicable**
* **August 25th** - DUE All **Project Applications** (**New and Renewal**) **SUBMIT IN E-SNAPS**
* September 1st – Final FY2023 Priority List post
* September 13th –FY2023 Priority List and Collaborative Applicationposted
* **September 28th Collaborative Application & Priority List deadline to HUD**

Project Applicants requiring assistance with any aspect of the project application can contact CoC coordinator to set up 1:1 time to meet - laura.derosier@hennepin.us  |

HUD CoC Consolidated Application Deadline: September 28, 2023. **Note:** Project Applications must be submitted by the above Hennepin CoC deadlines NOT the Consolidated Application deadline.

HUD announces approximately $3,134,000,000 available for the FY23 CoC Program NOFO, including up to $52 million available for New Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus projects.

**Hennepin County FY2023 available funds (not yet released):**

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|  | Primary Pro-Rata Need (PPRN) |
|  | Estimated Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) |
|  | Tier 1 (93% of ARD) |
|  | Tier 2 (7% of ARD) |
|  | CoC Bonus opportunity (5%)? |
|  | DV Permanent Housing Bonus opportunity (10% PPRN)? |
|  | Planning Grant  |

**Changes & information for the FY2023 CoC NOFO:**

The list below highlights some important information regarding new concepts CoCs should consider while planning for the FY2023 CoC Program Competition.

1. **Round 1 YHDP Grants** HUD will competitively renew or replace projects that HUD

initially funded in the FY 2016 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Competition (Round 1).

1. **YHDP Special Activities** The CoC Program NOFO permits YHDP project applicants to

integrate YHDP Special Activities into the project design through the selection of these activities in YHDP Renewal and YHDP Replacement project applications. If a YHDP recipient determines that changing the program model of their grant would better serve youth, the recipient must submit an application to replace the YHDP project through this competition. An example is if a community decided that a Joint TH-RRH project would better serve youth compared to an RRH project.

1. **CoC Planning Increase** HUD is establishing an alternative maximum amount for CoC

Planning grant applications under this NOFO (from 3% to 5%).

1. **New eligible Continuum of Care Activities** These following new budget line items (BLIs) will be built into the CoC Program Competition Application process.
	* VAWA Costs Budget Line Item Facilitating and coordinating activities to ensure compliance with [the emergency transfer plan requirement in 34 U.S.C. 12491(e)] and monitoring compliance with the confidentiality protections
	* Rural Costs Budget Line Item
2. **Amendment to criteria for qualifying as homeless** For purposes of the CoC Program and other HUD programs authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, section 605 of VAWA 2022 amended section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to require HUD to consider as homeless:

any individual or family who—

(1) is experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to, or fleeing or attempting to flee,

domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous,

traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a

family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where

the health and safety of children are jeopardized.

(2) has no other safe residence; and

(3) lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing.

**HUD’s Strategic Planning goals and Homeless Policy Priorities**

Applicable Goals and Objectives from HUD’s Strategic Plan

1. **Strategic Goal 1:** Support Underserved Communities

Fortify support for underserved communities and support equitable community development for all people.

2. **Strategic Goal 2:** Ensure Access to and Increase the Production of Affordable Housing

Ensure housing demand is matched by adequate production of new homes and equitable access to housing opportunities for all people.

3. **Strategic Goal 3:** Promote Homeownership

Promote homeownership opportunities, equitable access to credit for purchase and

improvements, and wealth-building in underserved communities.

4. **Strategic Goal 4:** Advance Sustainable Communities

Advance sustainable communities by strengthening climate resilience and energy efficiency, promoting environmental justice, and recognizing housing's role as essential to health.

**HUD Homeless Policy Priorities**

1. ***Ending Homelessness for All persons.*** In 2022, the United States Interagency Council on

Homelessness (USICH) presented All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End

Homelessness to the President and Congress. The plan is built around six pillars: three

foundations—equity, data and evidence, and collaboration—and three solutions—housing

and supports, crisis response, and prevention. The work funded through this NOFO will

support the actions and strategies proposed within the pillars. To end homelessness, CoCs

should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness. CoCs

should measure their performance based on local data that consider the challenges faced by

all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area (e.g., veterans, youth,

families, those experiencing chronic homelessness, and people with disabilities, including

those living with HIV/AIDS). CoCs should partner with housing, health care, and supportive

services providers to expand housing options, such as permanent supportive housing,

housing subsidies, and rapid rehousing. Additionally, CoCs should use local data to

determine the characteristics of individuals and families with the highest needs and longest

experiences of homelessness to develop housing and supportive services tailored to their

needs.

1. **Using a Housing First Approach.** Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization

in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions.

CoC Program funded projects should help individuals and families move quickly into

permanent housing, and CoCs should measure and help projects reduce the length of time

people experience homelessness. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property

owners to identify housing units available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive

housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods.

HUD encourages CoCs to assess how well Housing First approaches are being implemented

in their communities.

1. ***Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness.*** In recent years, the number of people experiencing

unsheltered homelessness has risen significantly, including a rising number of encampments

in many communities across the country. People living unsheltered have extremely high rates

of physical and mental illness and substance use disorders. CoCs should explore all available

resources, including CoC and ESG funded assistance, housing subsidies, and supportive

services to provide permanent housing options for people who are unsheltered. CoCs should

work with law enforcement and their state and local governments to eliminate policies and

 practices that criminalize homelessness.

**4) *Improving System Performance.***CoCs should be using system performance measures

(e.g., average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, rates of exit to

permanent housing destinations) to determine how effectively they are serving people

experiencing homelessness. Additionally, CoCs should use their Coordinated Entry process

to promote participant choice, coordinate homeless assistance and mainstream housing, and

services to ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance quickly, and make

homelessness assistance open, inclusive, and transparent. CoCs should review all projects

eligible for renewal in FY 2023 to determine their effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness, including cost-effectiveness. CoCs should also look for opportunities to implement continuous quality improvement and other process improvement strategies.

1. ***Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies.***Using cost performance and

outcome data, CoCs should improve how all available resources are utilized to end

 homelessness. This is especially important as the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan

have provided significant new resources to help end homelessness. HUD encourages CoCs to

maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons

experiencing homelessness and should:

**(a)** Work closely with public and private healthcare organizations and assist program

participants to receive primary care, receive housing related services, and obtain medical

insurance to address healthcare needs. This includes developing close partnerships with

public health agencies to analyze data and design approaches that reduce homelessness,

improve the health of people experiencing homelessness, and prevent and address

disease outbreaks, including HIV/AIDS.

**(b)** Partner closely with PHAs and state and local housing organizations to utilize

coordinated entry, develop housing units, and provide housing subsidies to people

experiencing homelessness. These partnerships can also help CoC Program participants

exit permanent supportive housing through Housing Choice Vouchers and other

available housing options. CoCs and PHAs should especially work together to implement

targeted programs such as Emergency Housing Vouchers, HUD-VASH, Mainstream

Vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers, and other housing voucher

programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness. CoCs should coordinate with

their state and local housing agencies on the utilization of new program resources

provided through the Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program

(HOME-ARP) that was created through the American Rescue Plan.

**(c)** Partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment

opportunities.

**(d)** Work with Tribal organizations to ensure that Tribal members can access CoCfunded assistance when a CoC's geographic area borders a Tribal area.

1. ***Racial Equity.***In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color

are substantially over-represented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing system

and program changes to address racial equity within CoCs. Responses to preventing and

ending homelessness should address racial inequities to ensure successful outcomes for all

persons experiencing homelessness using proven approaches, such as: developing a

coordinated community response created in partnership with a racially diverse set of

stakeholders and people experiencing homelessness and partnering with organizations with

experience serving underserved populations. CoCs should review local policies, procedures,

and processes with attention to identifying barriers that result in racial disparities and taking

steps to eliminate barriers to improve racial equity and to address disparities.

1. ***Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals.*** Discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation manifests differently for different individuals and often overlaps with other forms of prohibited discrimination. CoCs should address the needs of LGBTQ+, transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary individuals and families in their planning processes. Additionally, when considering which projects to select in their local competition to be included in their application to HUD, CoCs should ensure privacy, respect, safety, and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation in projects. CoCs should also consider partnering with organizations with expertise in serving LGBTQ+ populations.
2. ***Persons with Lived Experience.***The people who know best what solutions will

effectively end homelessness are those who are experiencing homelessness. HUD expects

CoCs to include people with lived homeless expertise and experience in their local planning

and decision-making process. People with lived experience should determine how local

policies may need to be revised and updated to improve the effectiveness of homelessness

assistance programs, including participating in planning and oversight activities, and

developing local competition processes. CoC leaders and stakeholders should prioritize

hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed.

1. ***Increasing Affordable Housing Supply****.* The lack of affordable housing is the main driver of homelessness. CoCs play a critical role in educating local leaders and stakeholders about the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing and the specific consequences of the continued lack of affordable housing. CoCs should be communicating with jurisdiction leaders, including for the development of Consolidated Plans, about the harmful effects of the lack of affordable housing, and they should engage local leaders about steps such as zoning and land use reform that would increase the supply of affordable housing. This FY2023 CoC NOFO awards points to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supply.

**Important information to consider when preparing for the FY2023 NOFO:**

* **Performance based decisions**
	+ New project applications are not allowed unless through reallocation unless the CoC evaluates & competitively ranks projects based on how they improve system performance
	+ HUD will prioritize funding for CoC’s that have demonstrated the capacity to reallocate funding from lower to higher performing projects
* **Indian tribe, or Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE’s) may be:**
	+ Create a CoC; A Collaborative Applicant; an eligible project applicant; or
	+ Receive grant amounts from another entity that receives a grant directly from HUD
* **Transition grants** - A grant to fund a new project to transition an eligible renewal project being eliminated through reallocation from one program component to another eligible new component over a 1-year period.
* **Coordination with Housing & Healthcare -** 14 points if Priority List includes new PA’s through reallocation or bonus that utilize housing vouchers and healthcare provided through an array of healthcare service providers.
* **Consolidation project** – Project Applicants can consolidate two, but not more than ten eligible renewal projects during the application process. See section III.B.4.b.(8) of the NOFO.
* **Youth Homeless Demonstration projects** – HUD will competitively review or replace FY 2016 YHDP projects and non-competitively renew or replace all other expiring YHDP grants (Round 2 or later); however, these project applications will be reviewed for compliance with project eligibility, project quality & if applicable, project renewal thresholds.
* **Adjustments to ineligible projects** – to be eligible for renewal, reallocation, or replacement in FY2023, a project must have an expiration date in Calendar Year (CY) 2024 (between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024).
* **HMIS** – as directed by congress, HUD must provide an annual estimate of all individuals and families experiencing homelessness and provide information to project recipients and applicants for needs analysis and funding priorities.
* **Review of CoC Rankings** – CoC’s will be required to rank all new reallocated, CoC Bonus, DV Bonus, and Round 1 YHDP renewal project applications submitted by project applicants in e-snaps. CoCs must not rank the following: YHDP renewal projects originally awarded through the FY 2017 Competition (Round 2) or later.
* **HUD funding process** – HUD will continue the Tier 1 & Tier 2 funding selection process.
	+ Tier 1 is 93% of the CoCs Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) and will be conditionally selected (minus YHDP (2017 funded or later) – Hennepin’s YHDP will not be ranked
	+ Tier 2 is 7% of the CoC’s Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)
* **Projects straddling tiers** – if project applications straddle Tier 1 & Tier 2, HUD will conditionally select the project up to the amount that falls in Tier 1. Using the Tier 2 scoring process, HUD may fund the Tier 2 portion. If HUD does not fund the Tier 2 portion, the project may be awarded at the reduced Tier 1 portion if it is still feasible with the reduced funding.
* **Renewal and Replacement YHDP, CoC Planning -** Because CoC Planning projects, YHDP Renewal and YHDP Replacement projects initially funded in the FY 2017 YHDP Competition (Round 2) or later are not ranked, HUD will not include these project applications in the Tier 1 or Tier 2 calculations. CoCs may only submit one project application for CoC Planning costs. The Collaborative Applicant listed on the CoC Applicant Profile in e-snaps is the only eligible applicant that may apply for a CoC Planning project.
* **DV Bonus** – HUD will award a point value to each DV Bonus project requested combining the CoC Application score and the responses to the DV bonus specific questions. CoC Bonus funds to include the following projects:
	+ Rapid Re-housing that follow a housing first approach
	+ Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects that follow a housing first approach
	+ SSO Projects for Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) – only 1 is allowed for each CoC – Hennepin funds the Domestic Abuse Project currently for this opportunity.

**Collaborative Application point breakdown:**

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| --- | --- |
| Points | Score area |
| 85 | Coordination/Engagement |
| 27 | Project capacity, review, rank |
| 9 | Homeless Management Information System |
| 5 | Point in Time Count |
| 60 | System Performance Measures |
| 14 | Coordination with Housing/Healthcare |
| **200 total** |  |

**Important links:**

* Competition page: [View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=349091)
* HUD Ask A Question (AAQ): Email questions to: CoCNOFO@hud.gov
* Hennepin County CoC website: <https://www.hennepin.us/headinghomehennepin>

(select FY 2023 CoC NOFO tab)

**New and Renewal Project Eligibility information**

* SAM Registration Requirement
* UEI Number requirement
* Faith based organizations may apply for this award, but cannot discriminate against organizations religious character, affiliation, or exercise.
* Eligibility Requirements for HUD NOFO: Cannot have outstanding delinquent federal debt, debarments, and/or suspentions, pre-selection review of performance, sufficiency of financial management systems, false statements, mandatory disclosure requirements, Code of Conduct, Prohibition against lobbying activities,
* Resolution of any Civil Rights matters
* 25% match for all projects in required
* Project application, charts, narratives, attachments
* Documentation of Applicant and Subrecipient eligibility
* Applicant Code of Conduct – if the organizations Code of Conduct is not on HUD’s website, the project must attach the Code of Conduct in the Project Applicant Profile in e-snaps
* SF-424
* HUD-2880
* SF-LLL – Disclosure of Lobbying Activities
* HUD-50070 – Drug free workplace
* Applicant Certifications