

While the 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) has not been released, there are several things CoCs can be doing now to prepare their applications.

Review 2021 Consolidated Application

Carefully review last year's application and:

- Identify areas where your community did not achieve the maximum amount of points in the 2021 application.
- Prioritize and plan to address these areas.
- Make a list of activities that the CoC stated it would accomplish.
- Collect data/information from stakeholders on progress towards stated goals.

Develop a Governance Plan

Meet with the Governance Committee now to:

- Meet with local providers to prepare them for any plans and/or changes.
- Establish your Review & Ranking Committee and prepare them for their responsibility.
- Prepare a request for proposals for new projects aligned with CoC priorities.

Review Funded Projects

Review your current projects. Ask:

- Which projects are not spending their funding or are not at capacity?
- Which projects are not meeting the performance benchmarks?
- What are the costs per permanent housing exit for each project?

Review Fidelity to Housing First

Review CoC project policies and procedures and strategies. Ask:

- Is the CoC providing regular training and clear guidance for providers on Housing First philosophy and strategies?
- Does the CoC project scoring tool provide points for the project's written policies and procedures that ensure participants are

screened in, not out; not terminated due to high barriers; and actively minimize barriers to entry/retention?

- Does the CoC have methods to assess that the project's Housing First policies and procedures match practice?
- Does the CoC engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for permanent housing (RRH and PSH), remove barriers to entry, and adopt person-centered service methods?

Review Housing Options to Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness

Review CoC system strategies. Ask:

- Is the CoC identifying housing options for people who are unsheltered?
- Is the CoC creating and/or strengthening partnerships with other housing, health, and human services entities to stably house people experiencing unsheltered homelessness?

Develop and Strengthen Partnerships with Housing, Health, and Human Services

Review current performance measures. Ask:

- Is the CoC in partnership with all entities who receive funding that can be utilized to end homelessness? Are all recipients of CARES Act and American Rescue Plan funds aligned on available resources to end homelessness?
- Is the CoC maximizing the use of mainstream and community-based resources when serving people experiencing homelessness, specifically assisting program participants to obtain medical insurance to address health care needs?
- Is the CoC partnering closely with the Public Housing Authority, state, and local housing organizations to utilize coordinated entry, develop housing units, and provide housing subsidies to people experiencing homelessness?

Review Strategies to Identify and Address Racial Disparities

Review CoC local policies and procedures and processes. Ask:

- Does the CoC have a process to address and identify racial disparities?
- Is there evidence where individuals and families are affected by racial disparities with the homeless system?
- Does the CoC have a plan on how to address these disparities?

Review Strategies to Include People with Lived Experience of Homelessness

Review how the CoC includes people with lived experience of homelessness in system design and decision-making. Ask:

- Are people with lived experience of homelessness included in how local policies are revised and updated?
- Are people with lived experience of homelessness included in the local CoC competition process?
- Are people with lived experience of homelessness included in CoC meetings and committees as stakeholders, providing input on decisions?

Review PIT & HIC Data

Make sure CoC data quality is accurate. Ask:

- Are there any major changes or discrepancies from the 2021 data?
- Do the projects the CoC plans to apply for reflect the need present in the data?

Establish/Review Performance Data

Review current performance measures. Ask:

- Does the CoC have benchmarks and performance measurement goals for key System Performance Measures?
- Can the CoC measure project level performance (average length of time homeless, percent of exits to permanent housing/homelessness; percent of returns to homelessness)?
- Does the CoC use its performance data to improve system and project performance?

Create Resource Allocation Strategy

Review all current CoC projects as well as CoC NOFO Competition Guidance. Ask:

- Are there projects that are underutilized or underperforming that can be reallocated (or portions of them)?
- Are there funds from projects that can be recaptured to create new projects?
- Does the CoC have a strategy to approach underutilized or underperforming projects to voluntarily reallocate? Does it have a strategy to approach higher performing projects to accept more funds/participants?
- Does the CoC have a strategy, as well as a documented community review process, that explains its reallocation process and what the criteria will be when considering reallocation?

