

August 22, 2022

## NOTIFICATION OF LOCAL COMPETITION FOR HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE SUPPLEMENTAL NOFO TO ADDRESS UNSHELTERED & RURAL HOMELESSNESS FUNDS

Augusta Housing and Community Development (HCD), as Lead Agency for the Augusta-Richmond County Continuum of Care (GA-504) announces the local competition for United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Funding. This process will begin with a planning phase to develop funding priorities and a *Comprehensive CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs* that runs until August 31<sup>st</sup> and then the local CoC will begin receiving project applications generated from e-snaps from August 26<sup>th</sup> - September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This will be followed by the competition phase where applications are scored and ranked by the CoC's Scoring and Ranking Committee, as designated by the Homeless Task Force Executive committee, in unison with the Collaborative Applicant (HCD) before final submission by the Lead Agency / Collaborative Applicant (HCD) to HUD.

This competition is to award funding made available through the HUD Continuum of Care Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) issued on June 22, 2022. HUD has made available resources to support applicants. These can be found here:

- Complete information on the HUD NOFO can be found at this location: <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-ruralhomelessness/>
- Potential applicants for funding are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the extensive resources for the application process found on this HUD website. Instructions and resources for the application process are found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>
- The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) also has a series of Resources available to learn more about HUD's FY2022 NOFO Competition available on their website: <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/2022-nofo-resource-series/>
- Application guides are also posted on the City of Augusta website at <https://www.augustaga.gov/2316/Homeless-Task-Force-GA-504-CoC>

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

All organizations interested in obtaining funding through the HUD NOFO must submit their application as an export from the e-snaps grant management system no later than **September 19, 2022, at 5 pm Eastern Standard Time**.

Submissions should be made via email to [devans2@augustaga.gov](mailto:devans2@augustaga.gov) with a copy to [asmith4@augustaga.gov](mailto:asmith4@augustaga.gov).

## LETTER OF INTEREST & INQUIRIES

Please submit a letter of interest if your organization intends to apply. Applicants should review the information available in this Local Competition Notification and the Notice of Funding Opportunity from HUD. Please review those materials prior to starting the application or submitting an inquiry to Augusta HCD.

Your organization's Letter of Interest should include and identification and brief description of the eligible Project Type you plan to apply for (project types are described in HUD's NOFO), Proposed Application Budget (including anticipated Match contribution), and a brief description of the organization's prior experiencing with managing Federal Grant funds.

Letters of Interest and Inquiries are to be submitted, preferably via email, by September 5, 2022 to:

Augusta Housing and Community Development  
Attention: Daniel J. Evans, CD Manager  
510 Fenwick Street  
Augusta, GA 30901  
Email: [devans2@augustaga.gov](mailto:devans2@augustaga.gov)

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

New project applications are requested from qualified nonprofit and local government organizations for the Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO.

Applications are sought for projects that can make maximum efficient, economical, and effective use of the prospective allocation of HUD's CoC funds. New projects must meet threshold requirements laid out in the NOFO. All funded projects will be required to participate in the Augusta's Coordinated Entry Process (intake, assessment and referral from the Marion Barnes Center) and must also utilize a [Housing First](#) approach.

The GA-504 Continuum of Care's Unsheltered Homelessness set aside (total amount available for all funded projects) in the NOFO is **\$1,410,724** and is eligible for project use in the Augusta-Richmond County jurisdiction only. Grant terms will be for 3 years and then projects become part of the annual Continuum of Care Competition so budgets will be formulated in e-snaps for a one-year project budget

need multiplied by the 3-year term to determine total award. The following are allowable project types under this NOFO:

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Projects – Eligible under Unsheltered & Rural Set Asides**
  - Housing for homeless individuals and families in which the head or co-head of household is disabled.
  - Permanent supportive housing must be 100% dedicated to serving chronically homeless individuals and families or meet qualifications as a “DedicatedPLUS” PSH project. DedicatedPLUS projects may serve the chronically homeless and they may also serve a broader range of homeless people in need of PSH. Please refer to the HUD NOFO resources for detailed information on DedicatedPLUS PSH projects.
  - PSH may provide housing assistance through tenant, sponsor or project based rental assistance, through leasing, or by providing operating support to a PSH facility. Because coordinated entry emphasizes participant choice in housing, tenant based rental assistance is the preferred housing type.
  - Admissions must come from the CoC’s coordinated entry process.
  
- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Projects – Eligible under Unsheltered & Rural Set Asides**
  - For individuals and families targeting households that are living in the following settings:
    - Residing in place not meant for human habitation,
    - Residing in emergency shelter,
    - Meet Domestic Violence (DV) criteria in homeless definition (Category 4),
    - Residing in Transitional Housing (TH) funded part of a joint TH PH-RRH project, and/or
    - Receiving assistance from a Veteran’s Affairs (VA) homeless program and met one of the above criteria on intake into the VA program.
  - RRH includes housing assistance through housing navigation, tenant based rental assistance (providing only on a short term or medium term – Not to extend past 24 months), and supportive services to assist participants secure housing, maintain housing and increase income and employment.
  - Admissions must come from the CoC’s coordinated entry process.
  
- **Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH) Projects – Eligible under Unsheltered & Rural Set Asides**
  - This HUD initiative is intended to serve homeless families and individuals who need temporary, safe accommodations while they secure permanent housing, assemble needed documents to secure housing or have other barriers to immediate placement

in housing. In Joint TH-RRH projects, the provider must be able to offer both TH and RRH to all participants, but all participants are not required to participate in both components. Participants should remain in the TH component for as short a period of time as possible; there should be no program requirements to complete, and the need for continuing stay in TH should be determined on a case-by-case basis.

- For the TH component, housing assistance may be provided through operating support for existing facilities or leasing assistance. In the RRH component, housing assistance can only be provided through tenant based rental assistance. Supportive services may be provided to participants in both components. As in all RRH, rental assistance is limited to short term or medium term (not to extend beyond 24 months).
- Eligible persons to be served in Joint TH-RRH projects include:
  - Residing in place not meant for human habitation,
  - Residing in emergency shelter, and/or
  - Meet DV criteria in homeless definition (Category 4).
- **Supportive Service Only - Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) Projects – Eligible under Unsheltered & Rural Set Asides**
  - Funding can be used to support the development of activities to support the introduction of coordinated entry. This could include additional staff to operate and/or oversee the coordinated entry process, additional housing navigation support or other services that would expand or enhance the coordinated entry system.
- **Supportive Service Only (SSO) Projects – Eligible under Unsheltered & Rural Set Asides**
  - Funding may be used to provide supportive services to those with the highest service needs, including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services.
  - Program participants are assisted to obtain and maintain permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs.
  - The proposed project has a specific plan for ensuring program participants will be individually assisted to obtain the benefits of mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which they are eligible to apply, and which meet the needs of the program participants (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, Food Stamps, local Workforce office, early childhood education).
  - Proposed projects must participate in coordinated entry.

- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Projects – Eligible under Unsheltered & Rural Set Asides**
  - Funding can be used to expand the HMIS system to include more providers, more analysis of data submitted to HMIS, more training and support to HMIS contributing agencies, further outreach to nonparticipating agencies, expansion of rural utilization of HMIS, or other services to improve data quality or utilization.
  - Only the designated HMIS lead is permitted to apply for HMIS funding.
  
- **Planning Project – Eligible under Unsheltered Set Aside Only**
  - Only the Collaborative Applicant is permitted to apply, on behalf of the HTF, for Planning funding and funds may be used as described in 24 CFR 578.39.

## RURAL SET ASIDE ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

For the Rural Set Aside, HUD has determined that Augusta, Georgia is not eligible under the Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program and the CoC Program Rule, therefore Augusta, Georgia's Continuum of Care (GA-504) will not be eligible to solicit applications under the Rural Set Aside.

## FUNDING PRIORITIES

The local Continuum of Care will begin with a planning process to run through August 31<sup>st</sup> to determine local funding priorities.

Within the NOFO, HUD has identified the following policy priorities applicable to our CoC, and applicants are encouraged to incorporate these priorities in to the construction of their Project Applications:

- **Unsheltered Homelessness**
  - Creating efforts to identify people living in unsheltered situations, including encampments, and connecting them with health and housing resources.
  - Creating efforts to enhance HMIS to collect more comprehensive data on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their area.
- **Involving a Broad Array of Stakeholders in the CoC's Efforts to Reduce Homelessness**
  - Invite stakeholders to develop and implement a CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs
- **Advancing Equity**
  - Identify and address the needs of subpopulations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness.

- Review strategies that led to any disparities in communities being served and take steps to eliminate these barriers.
- **Using a Housing First Approach**
  - Prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have serve participation requirements or preconditions.
  - Engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt service delivery methods that respond to the preferences and needs of the individuals of family presenting for assistance.
  - Minimal barriers to program entry. There cannot be a requirement for sobriety prior to being housed and prior background (criminal history, lack of credit, or eviction history) cannot be used on a blanket basis to exclude potential participants. Participants cannot be required to participate in services as a condition of entry and failure to participate in services cannot be used as grounds for termination from the program.
  - All participants must be provided with a standard annual residential lease that does not include clauses that are not standard for residential leases in the community. Individuals and families can only be terminated from the program in conformance with the lease agreement.
  - All participants must be accepted from the Coordinated Entry System.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION THROUGH E-SNAPS

Applications must be generated via the e-snaps grants management system by the specified deadline. Applications not developed or submitted through e-snaps will not be reviewed and will not be funded. Once the application has been completed in e-snaps, **do not hit SUBMIT**, instead, save the application (in e-snaps), download the pdf, save (on your computer, etc.), and emailed to [devans2@augustaga.gov](mailto:devans2@augustaga.gov) with a copy to [asmith4@augustaga.gov](mailto:asmith4@augustaga.gov).

Submission in e-snaps will occur after the local competition process if the application is chosen for submission by the Scoring and Ranking Committee of the GA-504 Continuum of Care.

## SCORING AND RANKING OF PROJECTS

All projects will be evaluated with a Board-approved Scoring Tool and ranking of the projects will follow the policies and procedures laid out by the Collaborative Applicant, Housing and Community Development, in unison with the HTF Executive Committee.

# Important Dates & Deadlines for the Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO

