

Tegan:

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With that, I'll turn the call over to Norm Suchar, director of the SNAPS Office. Please go ahead.

Norm Suchar:

Thank you very much and welcome everyone to the webinar today. We are very, very excited to present to you information about this Special NOFO on unsheltered homelessness, and particularly the Rural Set Aside within this NOFA. So we're going to be going through a lot of content here. I do want to reiterate what Tegan said at the start, which is if you have questions or comments that you'd like to share, please type them in a chat window. Please make sure you select "everyone" from the two box. That'll make sure that we all get to see the questions and that we all get to see the responses. You can type a question in the chat anytime you want. We will do our best to answer as many of the questions as we can. So we have a whole bunch of SNAPPERS here who are working away, reading and responding to your questions. So you'll see most of the responses in the chat window, but we will also discuss some of the questions, some of the more nuanced or complicated questions verbally when we get to the end of our session.

So I want to quickly introduce our presenters today. You'll be hearing from me, Norm Suchar, director of the SNAPS Office. You'll also be hearing from April Gasque, Brett Esders, and Sid Nilakanta from the SNAPS Office. And they will be discussing various aspects of the rural portion of the NOFO.

So let me start with a broad overview here. First of all, there are \$322 million available through this Special NOFO, of which almost \$55 million is set aside for rural areas. We'll talk more about what that means and how you can find out what counts as rural area later in the presentation.

CoCs that registered in the fiscal year 2022 CoC Program Competition are eligible to apply. So if your CoC did not register, you would not be able to apply. If you are just an organization not connected with a CoC and you'd like to apply, you should reach out to the CoC that covers your geographic area and have a conversation with them about applying.

The applications will be submitted... So we're using e-snaps for this competition, just like we do for the regular CoC Competition. And so the projects will be submitted to the CoC first, and then they'll be ranked on the CoC priority, on the priority listing. All the projects have to be rated and ranked on the appropriate listing. Again, we'll talk more about what that means as we go on.

Want to just make a special note that the grant terms for these awards is going to be three years. So normally we do one year grant terms, but this is going to be a little different. The deadline for the application as you can see on the screen, is going to be October 20th. Let's go to the next slide please.

So I just want to briefly talk about the Rural Set Aside within this Special NOFO. The amount that CoCs can apply for under the rural portion of the NOFO is up to 150% of the PPRN of the rural areas in that CoC's geographic area. To make this much easier, in the appendix of the NOFA, we have information about exactly how much that is, which counties are included in that total, and how much that is for each CoC. So you don't have to calculate that yourself. The projects under the Rural Set Aside within this competition can only serve those geographic areas that are defined as rural, which again, those counties are listed in the appendix.

Our selection process will involve considering the score on the CoC application portion of this. We will look at how the CoC has ranked the project, and we will look at which project, and give priority to projects that are serving structurally disadvantaged areas. Again, we'll talk about how we are calculating that as we go on in the NOFO.

I will say, if you are familiar with the regular CoC scoring process, this is essentially the process we use to do Tier II scoring in the regular CoC application. So that is how we will be looking at the projects for the Rural Set Aside.

So with that, I'm going to turn things over to April Gascue. And April is going to talk about the consolidated application. So April, over to you.

April Mitchell-Gasque: Thank you, Norm. Now let's discuss the consolidated application, the selection criteria for the Rural Set Aside Program. Next slide, please.

CoCs applying for the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside will be assessed on a 100 point scale. If a CoC wishes to receive funding through the Rural Set Aside, then there are a few questions they do not need to answer and they will be assessed on a 89-point scale. But if you want to receive funding through the Unsheltered Set Aside and the Rural Set Aside, you must answer all questions.

The CoC must receive a minimum score to be considered for funding. For the Rural Set Aside, this is a 44.5 points, 50% of the total available score. While meeting the minimum funding score is necessary to be considered for funding,

it is not guaranteed that your CoC will receive funding. We will discuss how we will select projects for funding later in the presentation, but let's review the questions you'll have to answer if you're only applying for the Rural Set Aside. Remember, if you are applying for the funding under the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside, then there are additional questions you will need to answer, and you should go back and review the NOFA and the webinar we presented yesterday.

The selection criteria are broken out into four categories, which are shown on the slide. The first three categories are statutory selection criteria for the CoC Program and will look very, very familiar to you. We've done our best to ensure that these are very similar to the questions asked in the Annual CoC Competition and will help to reduce some of the burden when both competitions are opened at the same time.

The fourth category is the CoC's plan for serving individuals and families with severe service needs. This is the main meat of the application, and will describe the many aspects of the CoC plan to serve individuals and families with severe service needs experiencing unsheltered homelessness and experiencing homelessness, especially in rural areas.

We'll review the specific requirements of the plan required for applying for the Rural Set Aside in just a minute. But first, here's a little bit more about what you should expect when submitting your plan to HUD. Next slide.

So the majority of the information required by HUD to evaluate the CoC's plan will be in the form of a written response in a Word document and not responding to actual text boxes in e-snaps, as you're used to. CoCs will then attach this document to their CoC application in e-snaps. The portions of this plan that are not part of the narrative response are also attachments that will be submitted in e-snaps. This means you all can start working on responding to those questions for the NOFO before e-snaps opens, which is pretty good. Next slide.

So on this slide, you'll see all the requirements that you'll need to adhere to for the attachment in e-snaps. We will go further into some of our requirements and the plan. I'm going to turn the conversation to Brett who will discuss a lot more in detail what our requirements are.

Brett Esders:

Great. Thanks April. Next slide, please. So we will start with... and for those of you who attended yesterday's webinar, this is going to be very familiar, but let's just review it really quickly. So we will start with leveraging housing and healthcare resources. So for the first two aspects of your plan are leveraging housing resources. Here, the first requirement is to demonstrate that you have an ability to leverage non ESG and non CoC resources to provide permanent housing. For this one, you're going to attach letters of commitments, contracts, something that's formal and is written down that demonstrate from the other housing provider the number of units that are being provided for rapid

rehousing or permanent support of housing from those sources. And you're also, if you want to receive full points under this section, you're going to have to attach a letter of a commitment from the PHA in your geographic area, that they're going to work with you to pair vouchers of CoC funded services, and also to develop a prioritization plan for some potential allocation of stability vouchers under the Housing Choice Voucher Program. These attachments don't count towards your 15 page limit that April just talked about, and it will look actually really familiar to what you submitted in last year's annual CoC Competition.

The second requirement, or the second scoring criteria under leveraging housing is to demonstrate your current strategy for recruiting landlords and their units that you can use tenant based rental assistance in. And here, we're also going to be looking for your strategy to find units and landlords to work with you in areas of your CoC where you maybe historically, haven't been able to find units to rent. For leveraging healthcare resources, again, this is another one that's going to look familiar to you from last year's CoC Program Competition and you're going to be asked to attach commitments from healthcare organizations that they are going to provide healthcare services to program participants who are residing in your permanent housing projects. Again, they'll attach something formal, written that includes the value of the commitment that they're providing and the dates that the healthcare resources will be provided. And these attachments also don't count towards your 15 page limit. Some examples of healthcare organizations could include your state Medicaid agency, could include substance abuse treatment providers, could include mental health providers, hospitals. There's a whole list of examples that would count there. Next slide, please.

Okay. You're also going to be asked your current strategy for identifying and housing, providing immediate access to low barrier, permanent housing to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. So you'll notice the title is the Current Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House, but this is one of those sections where if you are not also applying for funding under the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside, you only have to tell us your strategy to identify and house. You do not have to tell us your strategy for providing low barrier shelter in your geographic area. And in this section, we're really looking for you to tell us that you have strategies for identifying and engaging everyone, including those with the highest vulnerabilities, experiencing unsheltered homelessness, so that you have a broad reach in your street outreach programs. And we're looking for us to tell you about your strategies to provide low barrier, culturally appropriate access to permanent housing. And we're particularly interested in those strategies that you have implemented over the past three years and any lessons you've learned from adopting those strategies. Next slide, please.

Okay. The final three factors in this plan, you're going to see on the slide. Again, we reviewed these in a lot more detail yesterday, but just as a reminder, it includes describing to us how you're going to prioritize resources awarded under this NOFA in a way that will contribute to reducing unsheltered

homelessness. And as you heard yesterday, and you'll be reminded again, later eligibility for permanent supportive housing, isn't restricted in the same way as we normally do in the CoC Program Competition. So this prioritization strategy is particularly important because it's really going to tell us how you are going to target resources to those who are most vulnerable. You're going to have to demonstrate that you're involving individuals with lived expertise of homelessness in decision making of the CoC, and also in service delivery. Something that's new in this NOFA is that we're asking you, to receive full points, we're asking you to attach a letter from a work group, comprised of individuals with lived expertise of homelessness that they support your ahead and that they support how you prioritize the projects for funding in the application. And then finally, you're going to have to demonstrate the extent to which your CoC has been able to identify and serve underserved communities and offer equitable housing interventions that meet the needs of those underserved communities.

So all of that that I just described will add up to 89 points. You can see the exact point breakdown in the NOFA. And then if you switch to the next slide, we'll talk a little bit about how we're going to select projects under the Rural Set Aside. So for the Rural Set Aside, we are going to select projects very similarly to how we do so in Tier II for the annual CoC Program Competition. So each project will receive a score that's based on a hundred point scale, that's comprised of the factors on the slide. So the project will get 50 points in direct proportion to the score that you received for the Rural Set Aside. You'll get up to 40 points for how your CoC ranked the project. And then there's 10 points for something we're calling, serving structurally disadvantaged areas. And let's spend just a minute here.

This is if the project applicant makes a commitment, and there will be a section in e-snaps, in the project application where you can answer this question directly and tell us the area that you're planning to serve. But you get these points if you make a commitment to serve individuals and families in geographic areas of your CoC that have high need, basically demonstrated by high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty. And that they're also an area where until now CoC services have been entirely unavailable. So let's talk about what you might include in that text box and potentially attachments in your project application. You could give us some information that shows that poverty rates are significantly higher in that geographic area than in the rest of your CoC. You could give us information that shows us that rates of homelessness are significantly higher in that geographic area. So maybe you geo code your point in time, count and you're able to show us that this area has higher rates of homelessness in this area.

Or you can give us information that shows housing distress, such as severe overcrowding or severely substandard housing, and that those rates of housing distress are higher in this geographic area than they are in the rest of your CoC, or in other parts of your CoC. In that data, in that text field, you should be able to describe the data source that you use and provide any information about that

data, including links, if it's publicly available, feel free to attach something in the attachment sections of the project app, but basically give us that data that you're using in the narrative description in e-snap, so that we can evaluate these points. Next slide, please.

And then as we talked about yesterday, geographic diversity is important to us and in our selection process, we will take a look at geographic diversity and we reserve the right to fund projects in a CoC if we have a region that hasn't received a single project. And we will also, if more than 10 CoCs from state qualify for funding, we'll fund the highest, the 10 highest scoring CoCs. Next slide, please.

Great. At this point, I'm going to turn it over to Sid, and he's going to walk through some of the project level information.

Sid Nilakanta:

All right. Thank you, Brett. We can probably move to the next slide, please. All right, so these are our eligible project types in the Unsheltered NOFO and the Rural NOFO. So we have the Rural Set Aside. We have PH-PSH and PH-RRH under permanent housing. We have joint TH and PHRH. Under supportive services, we have Coordinated Entry and Street Outreach and Standalone SSO. In the application that Standalone SSO will be known as SSO other, but as you can see, this is an expansion of the supportive services that are available under this program. You also have, HMIS is eligible, and then we have CoC planning and UFA costs, but that is eligible through the Unsheltered Homeless Set Aside only, both of those. Next slide, please,

Under this competition, project applicants will be applying for the same cost as in the normal CoC Program Competition, except hard costs will only be considered in projects applying for funding through the Rural Set Aside, any project application continuing requests for hard costs on the Unsheltered Homeless Set Aside will be rejected. CoC planning UFA costs will only be funded through the Unsheltered Homeless Set Aside, so not the Rural Set Aside. And there will be additional eligible activities that can be applied through the Rural Set Aside, which we will review in detail. Next slide, please.

Projects funded under the Rural Set Aside will be those eligible under the CoC program, including hard costs as we discussed on the previous slide. It will also include additional new eligible costs that we will review over the next few slides and the staff and overhead costs regular related to carrying out those costs. It's important to note that these costs must be part of an SSO, PH or joint component project. In the project application, you'll be able to enter the majority of these on the supportive services budget with one exception, which we'll review later, and this is the capacity budget. We'll expect you to provide the same level of detail for these costs as you do for other eligible supportive services costs. Now let's talk about what these costs are. The next slide, please.

The eligible costs of rent and utility arrears are pretty much as you see here. You can pay up to six months of utility or rent arrears for program participants after

they've had at least two months of nonpayment of rent or utilities. Next slide, please. Recipients can pay for the cost of short term emergency lodgings in motels or shelters, as described on the slide. This can be done by either paying the provider or the hotel directly or by providing a program participant a voucher. The important thing to know when paying for short term sheltering is that you cannot pay to shelter existing program participants in existing shelter beds, and you cannot pay to permanently increase the capacity of a shelter. For this cost to be eligible, you must be adding temporary capacity to the emergency shelter. Next slide, please.

Under this eligible activity, repairs, you could pay to repair someone's house or building habitable to be used for permanent housing. The total cost of repairs may not exceed \$10,000 per structure and can include the activities listed on the slide. So insulation, window repair, door repair, roof repair. Next slide, please. Emergency food and clothing assistance. The cost of providing food and clothing, including groceries or meals to program participants are eligible under the Rural Set Aside. The next slide, please. And I'm sorry, I'm going through this fast, but we want to try to... Because it's an hour, we want to try to get through this as quickly as we can so we can take as many questions as we can at the end. So I apologize. Any other eligible costs, the Federal Inventory property programs means the use of federal real property to assist the homeless program authorized by the Title IV of the Act implemented by 24 CFR, part 581, and the single property disposition authorized by the section 204G of the National Housing Act and implemented at 24 CFR, part 291.

What does that mean? This means that the eligible costs on the slide will be tied to a community's use of a property under Title IV. And eligible costs are listed on the slide. So preparing the spending applications, transferring taxes, recording fees, closing costs, and building permit and zoning fees. Next slide, please. Additional eligible costs are listed on the slide. A quick note about rehab costs. These must be necessary to bring them into compliance with local building codes and to convert them to the intended homeless assistance use. So you can see about these other eligible costs, there are attorney fees, rehab a building, sewer, utility, fees, well septic systems and improving access to the real property from public roads. Next slide, please.

Capacity building activities. This is the one new activity that you will not see on the supporter services screen. This cost, we included on the summary budget in e-snaps and applicants can request up to 20% of the subtotal of the other budget light items, including admin for these activities. These costs are intended to help the recipient and subrecipient build the capacity of its staff that'll be working on the project. They include the activities that are listed on the screen. So things like employee education, job training, cross training, and other professional development activities. Next slide, please.

Participant eligibility. Projects funded through the Rural Set Aside may serve individuals and families that qualify under any of the categories of homelessness. However, to serve category three, the CC must request HUD

approval. Instructions for requesting HID approval can be found in the NOFO. Next slide, please.

And we just have a few other requirements that are expected of projects under the NOFO. Some are familiar and some will be very specific to this particular NOFO. First, all projects under the NOFO must adopt and follow a housing first approach. Second, all projects must pass eligibility and quality thresholds outlining the NOFO to be considered for funding. HUD will reject any projects that do not meet these thresholds. Very similar to how we do this CoC Competition. Finally, all project applicants must demonstrate how their project will be consistent with the plan for serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness with severe service needs. That was talked about on the last webinar and explained on this one. There will be a text box in the project application in e-snaps for applicants to provide this description. Next slide, please.

And this is our resources page. So we have a specific CoC Special NOFA webpage on the HUD.gov website. And we have a very specific email address for this NOFO. So it's SpecialCoCNOFO@HUD.gov. So if you have questions about this Unsheltered and Rural Set Aside NOFO, please send it to that specific email address and we will try to answer it as quickly as possible. With that, I know I sped through it really fast as I saw some comment saying I talk too fast, but now we do have a lot of time for questions, so please put your questions in the chat and we will try to answer them. We'll try to answer most of them as we can.

Norm Suchar:

Thank you so much, Sid. So I know we covered a lot. I want to reiterate that we will be posting both a recording of this webinar and the transcript of this webinar, in addition to the chat window, a sort of document with the chat comments in there. So we will have all this information, you will have a chance to sort of go over it in more depth and at your leisure. But again, we do want to answer as many questions as we can right now. And also, I should say we are doing the same for yesterday's webinar. So we will have the webinar recording, the video and audio recording, as well as the transcript and the chat window, we will be posting all of those. I don't have a timeframe for those, but we should be able to post those fairly quickly in the next couple days or so.

So let's get to some other questions. Brett, we had a question about the points and how it's a little confusing. Is it a hundred points or is it 89 points? Can we just sort of walk through the different scenarios if people are applying for both the Unsheltered and the Rural part, how that works, if they're only applying for Unsheltered and if they're only applying for Rural?

Brett Esders:

Sure. So as Norm mentioned on one of the intro slides, there are actually two pots of money available under this NOFA, there's the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside and there is the Rural Set Aside. If you're applying for both, you need to answer every single question that you see in the scoring section of the NOFA, and that totals a hundred points. And we will select projects based on a hundred points. If you are not applying for the Unsheltered Homelessness Set

Aside, then there are, I think, three questions that you do not have to answer. And so when you're looking in the NOFA, you'll see whether a question, it'll have parentheses, required for Rural Set Aside. And if it's not next to that, if you don't see those words next to the question, you do not have to answer it if you are only applying for projects under the Rural Set Aside. This is our attempt to make it just a little bit easier. And to also think about the types of questions that might not be applicable in rural areas in the same way that they are in urban and suburban areas.

If you're applying for both, great, but what we'll do on the Rural Set Aside for those points, we'll select you only based on the questions that were required for the Rural Set Aside. So even if you answered those other three questions because you're applying for funding under the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside, we won't consider those questions when we're doing your score for your rural projects. And so that means that the CoC score for the Rural Set Aside is 89 points because it removes the points from those three questions.

Norm Suchar: Great, Brett, thank you so much. So April, I want to sort of send this question your way. There are a lot of people who are new to the CoC funding process who are on the line and want to know how they can sort of engage in this. Can you talk about the steps that a new provider should take if they're interested in applying for funds under this NOFO and how they would find out who their CoC is and stuff like that?

April Mitchell-Gasque: Certainly. So if you are new or are becoming familiar about applying for funds for the CoC program and for this Unsheltered NOFA, the very first thing I would do, I would go to our HUD Exchange website. It'll provide you a whole host of resources. And one of the main resources you want to look at, especially if you're new to connecting to the community, you want to see what's around you'll navigate yourself to part of the website that gives you your CoC name, your number, and all the different partners that are already listed, such as your collaborative applicant, your HMIS, data person. We have all those resources available. So I would definitely go to our HUD Exchange site and start there. Our HUD Exchange site also will lead you to our application, our e-snaps page. That will be where you and your collaborative applicant will enter your information into e-snaps.

Next, I would definitely reach out to your community partners and get in touch with your collaborative applicant and your CoC lead agency, because they'll be able to tell you lots of information to help guide you through the process or include you in their process and let you know what's going on in the local community. On our HUD Exchange website, we also have an AAQ and you can submit questions there. And as Sid noted, that we have a very specific email inbox that you could ask questions there as well. And if someone could put that email address in the chat again, that would probably be helpful. You want to definitely go through this NOFO as much as you can with a fine tooth comb. There's lots of golden nuggets within the NOFO that describes all kinds of requirements, gives you references, and citations.

I know it's a lot to read considering there's a lot of different opportunities in your area, not just from HUD, but from all over, but take the time to really get your community together and read that NOFO as well as possible. That way when you're applying, you're able to answer all those questions as best as possible. And please, please adhere to the instructions we gave about how long your application can be, how many pages, those types of things, because if it's not within those requirements, we will not be able to review.

Other than that, we plan to host a whole slew of information in the coming weeks that'll guide you in different parts of this Unsheltered NOFO. And so look forward to hearing more from our office and from our TA providers. We're here to help and guide you through the process and we have a whole landline of information coming forth. So as Norm said, our NOFO webinars will be posted as soon as possible, along with accompanying information. Hopefully that's helpful to you.

Norm Suchar:

Thank you. That was a great summary of the various considerations new applicants will have to take. And just to sort of echo what April and previous presenters have said, you cannot apply outside of a CoC. So you have to work with your CoC to submit an application. So we encourage you to reach out and start that conversation as soon as you can.

The quick question I want to answer, there were a couple questions about whether hard costs are renewable. In general, they are not renewable in the CoC program. So want everyone to be aware of that and take that into consideration. There's a question about whether these projects will be renewable at all and how they will affect the annual renewal demand in future competitions. So there's a limited amount we can say about this because we generally can't talk in too much detail about a future NOFA. So we can't guarantee what's going to be in a NOFA four years from now when these projects are expiring. But in general, the way we have run our NOFOs in the past is that we have basically included any CoC projects that are eligible for renewal in the annual renewal demand. Actually, we're kind of required to do the annual renewal demand that way.

So these are CoC projects, so they would normally be included in the annual renewal demand. Again, we can't speak for future NOFOs and exactly how we're going to handle that in the future, but wanted you to be aware of that. Brett, we had a question about the plans and specifically as it relates to rural areas. And the question is about, let's say you have a CoC that has half, the Eastern half of the CoC is rural and maybe sort of one portion of that rural area is applying for funds under the rural part. Is the plan that they're submitting for the entire CoC? Is it for the rural parts of the CoC? Or is it for the areas that are applying for funding within the CoC?

Sid Nilakanta:

You're on mute, Brett.

Brett Esders: Thanks, Sid. So it was really great. So let's see if I can do it again. Okay, so obviously when you're talking about a CoC plan, we're looking to incorporate your entire geographic area, but certainly it makes sense if these funds are going to be targeted to a certain region that you give us more details about the region and the plan within that region that you're going to be sort of placing or citing these projects or the people that you're going to be serving. But it would be helpful to have an understanding of how this fits into your entire CoC's plan and how it supports your entire CoC's efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness.

Norm Suchar: Fantastic. Thank you. We have a few questions here about, is a healthcare department or a Medicaid agency or a county health department, do those count as healthcare organizations for the purposes of the healthcare leveraging questions? And they do. They are healthcare organizations for that purpose. And so a partnership, for example, between the state Medicaid agency or a commitment from the state Medicaid agency as part of the application would certainly count towards that plan. So great question. And in fact, it doesn't just count, it's a great idea. So strongly encourage you all to work to the degree that you can with your state Medicaid agencies. It's a great partnership to have.

So let's go on the next question here. So Brett, I have a question about the lived experience rating factor. And the question is framed as, this particular CoC has lived experience representation on their CoC board, but they don't have a lived experience working group. What should they be submitting to meet the requirements of that rating factor? What would sort of count towards that rating factor?

Brett Esders: I'm on mute again. So, yes. Great that you have people with lived expertise on your CoC's board and you're meeting the CoC requirements, but this goes above and beyond. So we really are looking, to receive the full points in this section, for you to have a separate working group, comprised of people with lived expertise of homelessness that are able to inform policies and procedures of the CoC and that sign off on this application. So there are a lot of resources that are on that site that we, well, there are a few, a lot, there's several resources that are on the site that we linked to earlier and that are on this slide right now for how to go about creating a working group of people with lived expertise of homelessness and you can start that process. And we're also going to be publishing, I think, in the next couple weeks, a message particularly geared towards how you go about involving people with lived expertise and how you go about setting up a working group of people with lived expertise of homelessness.

Norm Suchar: Fantastic. Thank you. So I want to knock out a couple questions here. Somebody asked about the 10 awardee limit and how that works exactly. So I want to walk through a couple sort of examples here. If a state, so we limit it to 10 awards, 10 CoCs can get awarded per state. So if you have 10, a state could potentially have 10 CoCs that each get both an unsheltered and a rural award, that would be fine. Or maybe a state gets seven unsheltered and three rural, or maybe eight

unsheltered and three rural, but in one of those cases, they're getting both. So it's the total number of CoCs that get awarded that is limited here. And so if a CoC is getting both the unsheltered and rural, then that's okay, that doesn't count twice, it only counts once.

We have several questions about the PHA letters and such, specifically that are related to different overlapping PHA, CoC geography areas. There are so many nuances to those questions that what I'd like to do is instead of trying to answer those here, is to work on an FAQ and share that with you all later so you have something as specific as possible there. But what I do want to just encourage you all to do is to really reach out to, especially larger PHAs, but really all the PHAs you can. The leveraging rating factor actually, it's a pretty tough bar to clear. So you're probably going to need a lot of help from more than just one PHA to meet that funding level or that voucher level. So encourage you to work with all PHAs, but some of these more nuanced questions, I want to take back and will draft an FAQ that sort of gets to some of those.

So Brett, another question about geography here. The person is asking, can a project apply to serve, if they're applying for a rural project, can it serve both rural and non rural areas or can it serve only rural areas?

Brett Esders: Sure. A project under the Rural Set Aside can only serve rural areas of your geography. And I think another twist on the question that came in earlier was, does my organization also have to be located in that rural area? And the answer to that one is no. Your organization can be located in a non rural area, but through that project, you can only provide services and housing to people in the rural area. So you could certainly imagine a case where there's a city or a non rural area that has maybe organizations that are used to running CoC funds, then they could take on the CoC grant and provide services to the rural areas.

Norm Suchar: Great, thank you. Sid, we have a question about, are we going to provide detailed instructions for people? Can you talk about what we're going to provide? Obviously we don't have detailed instructions out or e-snaps open right now, but can you talk about what people will see?

Sid Nilakanta: Yes. So this will be very similar to what we do for the CoC program and the project application. So we will have detailed instructions to help guide you through the project application. We will have navigation guides to kind of give snapshots of the actual application to help you go through it. And the same thing with, I believe the CoC application, there will be detailed guidance. So you'll have as much guidance as we provide for the regular CoC competition. So that is what we will have. And then on the application itself, there might be some instructions to help out, but overall we'll have detailed instructions and navigation guides to help aid you in your application.

Norm Suchar: Fantastic. Thank you. Going in a completely different direction here, we did have a question about... And Brett, I'm going to send this your way. Are there any restrictions on serving people experiencing homelessness who are

undocumented? I know there are bunch of overlapping requirements around that, but can you talk about just sort of the basics. And maybe we can look... We actually have a TA document on this, so we'll look that up and try to post that in the chat window here.

Brett Esders: Yep. I actually had already put it in the chat. I can put it in again because I still have it up on my computer. But in general, these projects funded under here follow the same rules as the CoC program. So that means all of the guidance around serving people based on their immigration status or lack of documented status apply here. And basically it sort of comes down to this, emergency services such as street outreach, safe haven and rapid rehousing, those can be provided regardless of immigration status. And then if you are a nonprofit provider, then you are not required to check immigration status. But if you choose to do so, you have to do it for everyone across the board. So I will put a link back in the chat with those resources. And if you have additional questions on that, I recommend you submit them to the box.

Norm Suchar: Great. Thank you. I also have a question here about, can Youth Action Boards serve as the working group of people with lived experience for the purpose of this application? So I think everyone probably knows about YHTP and what the Youth Action Boards are, but just for quick reference, communities that receive funding under the Youth Homelessness Demonstration are required to have a Youth Action Board, which is made of up of young people who experience homelessness. And the answer is yes, that can potentially serve as your lived experience working group. We do really strongly encourage you to try to create a working group that is representative of the unsheltered population that you have in your community and that you plan to serve and do your best to try to create a working group that reflects that reality as much as possible. But the Youth Action Board, assuming you've constituted the way that we normally think of Youth Action Boards, would count as meeting that requirement.

Let's see, other questions here. Brett, I'm going to send this your way also about registration in tribal areas. If the CoC did not include tribal lands in their CoC registration, would they be able to still apply for funding under this NOFO? And can you talk about, their two sort of parts of this question. One is about the geographic area that is included in the tribal lands and trust lands or reservations or other tribal lands. And then the other is about tribal organizations applying for funds. So can you talk about that please?

Brett Esders: Yep. So unfortunately at this point, the registration process has closed. So there's not a process for geographies to go back or CoCs to go back and include geographies that they hadn't previously included in their registration, in their registration at this point. So if a tribal area was not included in the geography during that registration process and that extended registration process, you can't go back and do that now. However, if a tribal organization or a TDAG wants to apply for funds and serve people who are not living in those geographic areas, but are living in the areas or residing in areas, or want services in the areas that the CoC has already sort of designated as its geographic area,

then that's absolutely okay. You can have tribes and TDAGs operating projects within the CoC boundaries.

And there's also the rule for tenant based rental assistance. So if you have... Okay, you've been selected, you have your project awarded, you've gone to grant agreement, and now you're providing tenant based rental assistance within your geographic area and someone wants to take their tenant based rental assistance and move on to tribal land, that's okay, too. Somebody can take that and rent a unit on tribal lands.

Norm Suchar: Excellent. Thank you. We had another question I just want to clarify about the 10 awards per state limit. If you have one CoC and they receive four different projects under the rural part of the NOFO, that counts as one of your state's awards, because there's just one CoC. So I guess the technical way to put the 10 limit is that no more than 10 CoCs within a state will receive funding from this NOFO, so just to clarify that. Let's see, sorry. We've answered a lot of the questions. I'm just trying to see if there are any we've missed at this point. Brett, I know we have a great resource page that's on the website. In fact, you can see it on this slide right here, but can you just give people a flavor of the kinds of resources they might find at that resource page?

Brett Esders: Sure. So on the website that we have listed on the slide, you're going to be able, this is where we're going to house everything related to this competition. It is where the navigational guides will go when they're ready, it's where the detailed instructions will go. It's where you can find links to the NOFA. It's where we will put today's slides and yesterday's slides. And then the whole last three quarters of this page is technical assistance materials. And these are materials that have been developed by our TA providers, by us, by other federal partners. And they are designed to help you both prepare your application for funds. And also when it comes time to roll out projects, they'll help you adopt some of the principles like Housing First, like Centering Equity, in your project design as well.

Norm Suchar: Great, thank you. Just a random comment here, I do appreciate that people saw that we were running out of questions and so they went back and re-asked the questions that we missed in the process. Thank you for that. So we had a question and Brett, I wonder if you could talk about this, about compensating people with lived experience. Can you talk about the ways in which the CoC program can compensate people with lived experience as they work on planning and other activities within the CoC?

Brett Esders: Sure. So CoC planning dollars can be used to pay people with lived expertise of homelessness who are engaged in planning activities of the CoC. It can be used to help them travel to meetings, I think under the pandemic, we said it can be used to provide them access to the equipment needed to attend virtual meetings. Under a project, you can hire people with lived expertise and then you pay them like you pay any other staff person, you pay them a salary. You can contract with them, you can do it that way. There are a lot of different ways that you can pay people with lived expertise. I can't remember if we have stuff

on the website about that already, but if not, it's certainly something that we can include in future messaging.

Norm Suchar:

Great. Thank you. A couple other questions that have come up. One is about planning grants. So people are wondering why we allowed planning grants for the unsheltered portion and not the rural portion of this NOFO. So practically the entire reason here is that we are limited to providing 3% of funds for planning under the CoC program more generally. We have historically, over the past several years, we've provided that whole maximum amount, but we're not allowed to go over that. As we were projecting how much we would be awarding through the unsheltered portion of this and through the rural portion of this, it was very clear that the planning grants for the rural portions would be very small. And to be quite frank about it, would more work and burden than the amount of funding would indicate that they should be. So that's why we did not include the planning grants in the rural portion of this and we did include them in the unsheltered portion of this. In the unsheltered portion of this, the grants are much larger. I do want to clarify though, that rural areas can apply for the regular unsheltered portion of this. It's not the case that if you're a rural area, you can only apply for the rural funding. You can absolutely, as a rural area, apply for the overall unsheltered funding.

Another question we had is, can a community, if they look at Appendix B, which indicates which counties are designated as rural, and they believe there is a mistake, they challenge that determination? So I would encourage people who feel like we may have made a mistake to take a look at the definition of rural that we have in the NOFA. It's a little different than other definitions, but take a look at that definition. And if you are convinced that we have made an error there, please send some details to that question box you see, SpecialCoCnofo@hud.gov, and we can take a look at it. But, make sure you can see what that definition is and that you really do feel like we have made an error there.

So we had a question about, if a CoC is maxed out regarding HUD planning, would they still be eligible for planning funds under the Unsheltered Set Aside? And maybe I wasn't super articulate about this, but yes, they would be eligible. And the reason is that if you are getting an award under the unsheltered portion, then your 3% base is growing essentially. So you can get planning that's up to 3% of that total award you would be receiving under the unsheltered NOFO. So for example, if you are applying for \$10 million, you're eligible for \$10 million under the unsheltered portion, you could apply for \$300,000 for planning funds, which is 3%, hopefully, of that \$10 million.

Let's see, other questions that... Sid, we have a question similar to yesterday's question about when these need to be under contract and what the expectation is for when these actually have to be up and running. Can you talk about what's going to be in the project application and what the requirements are around that?

Sid Nilakanta: Yeah. So in the project application, it's very similar to, again, the CoC project application where the only things that we require are just an estimate on your project start and end dates. And I think that's kind of in the beginning part of the application. And then we have a question near the end where we just request that, we're asking if this project can be under grant agreement by a certain time, I think maybe 2024 or something like that. So that's the only thing we are asking in the application. We're not asked for any set dates in the project application. That really only will happen possibly when we get to post award. But in the project application, all that we're asking is an estimate of when you think this project will start. And the confirmation that this project can be under grant agreement by 2024.

Norm Suchar: Great, thank you very much. We have a question here, if our... Brett, I think this is related to the answer about registration earlier, but if our CoC is not registered for fiscal year 2022, and therefore not on the rural list, can we apply for the unsheltered portion of the NOFO?

Brett Esders: Sure. So only CoCs that registered in the fiscal year '22 registration process can apply under this NOFA. If your geography was included in the CoC, then contact your CoC and take a look at what the CoC's requirements are for the local competition and what types of projects they're going to be submitting. All applications have to be submitted by the CoC. There is not a point at this point in time to go back and newly register or amend your registration.

Norm Suchar: Great. We had another question about, can we apply for a project that serves a particular subpopulation like veterans, for example. And I want to address that here because this is a great question that makes a larger point. And it's a good one to end on, because I just realized for at the end of our time here. Our expectation is that the plan you're submitting is really a plan to address unsheltered homelessness in all of its populations, all of its subcomponents. And we are really looking for good plans, plans that are based on evidence, that are specific, that are really good strategies to end unsheltered homelessness. We have specifically not required that each project only serve people who are unsheltered at the time they enroll. We have not put requirements around serving chronically homeless people or things like that in here. Our expectation is that the plan is really good and that it is really addressing the problem of unsheltered homelessness.

And I think if you are making a plan and only applying to serve one population, it's unlikely that you're going to score real well on the CoC application. So we really encourage you, if you're unsheltered population is really made up of like one particular subpopulation overwhelmingly, then it would make sense and it would be a good strategy to focus on that population. But otherwise, really strongly encourage you to really sort of start with the people you have that are unsheltered and really develop a plan that works for them.

So we're at the end of our time. I apologize, we went a little over. I want to thank everyone who participated today. Really want to thank the Snappers who

joined and answered all your questions. Reminder, we will post the recording of this webinar and the transcript and the chat window. we'll try to get that posted as quickly as we can very much appreciate everybody's joining the webinar today and learning more about this. We're heartened by your interest in unsheltered homelessness. Please reach out to us if you have any questions. Hoping everyone has a great rest of the day and a great rest of your week. And that concludes the webinar.

Tegan:

That concludes our conference. Thank you for using Event Services. You may now disconnect.