

HUD's Office of Special Needs
Assistance Programs

Rural Focus: Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness



Housekeeping

- Participants can post questions during this webinar through the “Chat” panel. Please select “Everyone” from the dropdown menu
- HUD will answer questions from the chat in the second part of the webinar
- All Lines are muted

OVERVIEW

Overview

- Approximately \$322 million is available through this Special NOFO, divided as follows:
 - \$54,500,000 for the Rural Set Aside
 - \$267,500,000 for the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside
- CoCs that registered in the FY 2022 CoC Program Competition Registration are eligible to apply
- Project applications must be submitted to the CoC to be included on the CoC Priority Listing. All projects must be rated and ranked on the appropriate project listing, including CoC Planning and UFA Costs.
- Grant terms will be 3-years.
- The deadline is October 20, 2022

Set Asides within the Competition

- **Rural Set Aside**
 - CoCs may apply for projects in an amount up to 150% of the PPRN of the rural areas in their geographic area
 - Projects may only serve geographic areas within their CoC that meet the definition of “rural area”
 - HUD will select projects for funding based on a formula comprised of the following factors: CoC score, CoC ranking of the project on the priority listing, and serving structurally disadvantaged areas

CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION – SELECTION CRITERIA FOR THE RURAL SET ASIDE

Selection Criteria – Overview

- Rural Set Aside
 - CoC Consolidated Applications will be assessed on an 89-point scale
 - CoCs must receive at least 44.5 points to be considered for any funding under this Competition

Selection Criteria – Overview

- The Consolidated Application is made up of 4 scoring sections with several sub-questions:
 1. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking (4 points)– statutory selection criteria
 2. System Performance (18 points) – statutory selection criteria
 3. CoC Coordinated and Engagement (8 points) – statutory selection criteria
 4. CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs (59 points for Rural Set Aside) - attached narrative

In Detail - CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

- Much of the information required will be in the form of written responses to elements described in the NOFO.
- The written response will not be submitted through a text box in *e-snaps*, but instead will be typed in a separate document and attached to the Consolidated Application in the attachments screen.

In Detail - CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

- The narrative attachment must:
 - Use paper size 8-1/2 x 11 inches;
 - Use single-spacing;
 - Use at least a ½ inch for all margins;
 - Use 12-point, Times New Roman;
 - Sub-pages (e.g., with numbers and letters such as 25A) will be counted as separate pages;
 - Limit of one page per sheet of paper;
 - Number all pages consecutively
- Any other attachments required in this section (e.g., letters of commitment) will NOT count toward the 15-page limit

In Detail - CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

- Leveraging Housing
 - Development of new units and creation of housing opportunities
 - Landlord Recruitment
- Leveraging Healthcare Resources

In Detail - CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

- Current Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness
 - Current street outreach strategy
 - Current strategy to provide immediate access to low-barrier permanent housing

In Detail - CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

- Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness.
- Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Decision Making
- Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Community Development

Selection of Projects for the Rural Set Aside

- HUD will select projects in order, up to the CoC's maximum funding amount, based on project application scores. The 100-point scale used to select projects is:
 - CoC Score. Up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on questions from the CoC Application Required to be answered for the Rural Set Aside.
 - CoC Project Ranking. Up to 40 points for the CoC's ranking of the project.
 - Serving Structurally Disadvantaged Areas. 10 points if the project applicant makes a commitment to serve individuals and families in geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty, and are located where CoC services have until now been entirely unavailable.

Geographic Diversity

- Ensuring geographic diversity is an important consideration in selecting projects under this Special NOFO.
- In instances where any of the HUD regions do not have at least one funded CoC, HUD reserves the right to fund projects to a CoC, up to their maximum allowable amount, with the highest total score.
- If more than 10 CoCs from a single state qualify for funding through the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside, HUD will fund the 10 highest scoring CoCs.

PROJECT LEVEL INFORMATION

Eligible Project Types

- **Permanent Housing**
 - Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH)
 - Permanent Housing- Rapid Re-housing (PH-RRH)
- **Joint TH and PH-RRH**
- **Supportive Service Only**
 - Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE)
 - Street Outreach (SSO-SO)
 - Standalone SSO
- **HMIS**
- **CoC Planning** (for Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside Only)
- **UFA Costs** (for Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside Only)

Eligible Costs

- In general, all the activities eligible in the CoC Program will be eligible for projects awarded under this competition to carry out. Except:
 - Hard costs (acquisition, new construction, and rehabilitation) will only be funded under the Rural Set Aside
 - CoC Planning and UFA costs will only be funded under the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside
 - Additional NEW eligible activities will be permitted for projects funded under the Rural Set Aside

Eligible Costs - Rural Set Aside

- For the Rural Set Aside, eligible activities are
 - those normally eligible under the CoC Program
 - Those listed in Section IV.B.3.e(2)(b) of the Special NOFO
 - Staff and overhead costs directly related to carrying out the eligible costs of Section IV.B.3.e(2)(b) of the Special NOFO
- All costs must be part of an SSO, PH, or Joint TH and PH:RRH Component project

New Eligible Costs - Rural Set Aside

- Up to 6 months of rent or utility arrears after 2 months of nonpayment of rent or utilities. Funds may be used to pay:
 - Rent arrear payments up to 6 months of program participants residing in permanent housing
 - Utility arrear payments up to 6 months of program participants residing in permanent housing

New Eligible Costs - Rural Set Aside

- Short-term emergency lodging in motels or shelters, either directly or through voucher. Eligible costs include:
 - Lodging costs in motels or hotels for program participants
 - Pro-rata share of sheltering program participants in existing shelters so long as the costs are actual costs of creating new and temporary beds in emergency shelters and not to permanently increase the capacity of the shelter
- *No funds may be used to shelter program participants in existing shelter beds

New Eligible Costs - Rural Set Aside

- Repairs, up to \$10,000 per structure, that are necessary to make housing habitable to be used for transitional or permanent housing. The types of repairs that could be eligible include:
 - Insulation
 - Window repair
 - Door repair
 - Roof repair
- The total cost of repairs may not exceed \$10,000 per structure.

New Eligible Costs - Rural Set Aside

- Emergency food and clothing assistance. Eligible costs are:
 - Providing meals or groceries to program participants
 - Providing clothing to program participants

New Eligible Costs - Rural Set Aside

- Costs associated with making use of Federal Inventory property programs to house individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Eligible costs are:
 - Preparing and submitting applications to obtain ownership of the real property
 - Transfer taxes
 - Recording fees
 - Closing costs
 - Building permit and zoning fees

New Eligible Costs - Rural Set Aside

- Costs associated with making use of Federal Inventory property programs to house individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Eligible costs are (cont.):
 - Attorney's fees
 - Rehabilitation of buildings and structures on the property
 - Sewer and utility hook-up fees and deposits and bringing lines to the property
 - Wells
 - Septic systems
 - Improving access to the real property from public roads

New Eligible Costs - Rural Set Aside

- Capacity building activities. These are activities that maintain or improve the skills of recipients and subrecipients. Eligible capacity building activities include:
 - Employee education
 - Job training
 - Staff retention activities
 - Continuing education opportunities
 - Cross training within an organization
 - Staff training and professional licensing or certification
 - Other professional development activities
- An applicant may apply for up to 20% of funds requested as part of the project

Participant Eligibility

- Rural Set Aside. Projects funded under this set aside may serve persons who:
 - Meet any of the criteria of the definition of homeless, except to serve persons meeting the criteria of paragraph (3) the CoC must receive HUD approval to do so

Other Project Requirements

- All projects funded under this Special NOFO must adopt and follow a Housing First approach
- All projects must pass eligibility and quality thresholds outlined in the NOFO to be considered for funding
- All applicants must demonstrate, in their project application, how they are consistent with the CoC's Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

Resources

- **CoC Special NOFO Webpage:**
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO
- **Questions:** SpecialCoCNOFO@hud.gov

Questions?

