YHDP NOFO Webinar

0:00:05.7 Speaker 1: Hello and welcome to the YHDP NOFO Webinar. My name is Cherita Claitt and I am a TA provider with TDA consulting. I will be introducing today's webinar. During this webinar, all participants will be in listen-only mode. You will be able to hear today's presentation through your computer speakers. If you are having trouble with your audio, please request assistance through the chat box on the right-hand side of your screen. This session is being recorded and will last 90 minutes including time to answer questions from the chat box. Presentation slides and recording will be available on the HUD exchange and HUD.gov in the coming weeks. We encourage you to submit your questions in the chat box and interact with other participants. I will now turn the presentation over to Regina Lee in the SNAP office.

0:00:56.3 Speaker 2: Greetings everyone and welcome to today's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program, FY 2019 and FY 2020, Notice of Funding Opportunity webinar also called YHDP NOFO. Before we go any further, we will have welcome remarks from our director for the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, Norm Suchar. Take it away, Norm.

0:01:24.0 Speaker 3: Thank you so much, Regina, and welcome everyone today. We're just so excited to be able to share this opportunity with you, this new NOFO, and to be able to talk to you today about applying for the YHDP opportunity. So we're just incredibly excited about this, and I wanna say, we have 43 existing YHDP sites. We are so incredibly proud of the work they're doing. We think that YHDP is showing everyone a new way to do collaboration to be led by people with lived experience, to really sort of tailor assistance to the needs at a very granular level to the needs of people experiencing homelessness, and so we just are incredibly proud of the work our YHDP sites have done so far, and just looking forward to the work everybody's gonna do in the future.

0:02:29.8 S3: So one thing I wanted to, a couple of things I wanna touch on, one is that there's... This is two rounds of funding, so we're gonna award twice as many people, twice as many sites as we did last time which is great news if you are applying because your odds are much, much better than in previous rounds. I know some of you have applied three times before and might be getting a little discouraged about the process, but what I'll say is, every time you apply, everybody who... The people who beat you last time, they got awarded, and so they're off the list. You don't have to compete with them anymore, plus we have twice as many sites this year, so the odds are incredibly good. I will say it's especially good if you're a rural area applying, so strongly encourage rural areas to apply, and even if you don't have everything sort of all sort of in line and all together, and you feel like you still have a lot of loose ends, I'd still encourage you to apply.

0:03:32.4 S3: I think we're gonna... We at the SNAPS office are really looking for communities that don't necessarily have a great homelessness system already, but really are willing to put in the work and to be innovative to create a great YHDP initiative. So really, just strongly wanted to give you the sort of courage to apply and encourage you to apply. I also wanted to say, we very much recognize how many demands you're facing right now, there's just so much happening. There's obviously, COVID is still something we're all paying a ton of attention to, we have a lot of funding through the CARES Act, through the new emergency housing voucher program, through just a lot of different funding sources. And we know that it is incredibly overwhelming.

0:04:30.1 S3: It's one of the reasons actually that we simplified the application process this year, and the team will walk you through that, but we wanted to sort of just, while still focusing on the key parts of YHDP, wanted to make this as simple as we could for you. And also just wanted to say,

we understand that there are a bunch of competing demands and we're trying to set our expectations accordingly and to recognize that there's a lot to do here, and sometimes there's a lot to do in a very short period of time. So just wanted everyone to know that we understand that we're trying to adjust our expectations to account for that. Also wanted to say we have a lot of technical assistance available, we have a lot of great resources on the HUD exchange especially resources on developing a Youth Action Board. I'd strongly encourage you to take a look at those, they're great resources developed by young people with lived experience who just had a lot of incredibly good insight into this. So I definitely wanted to come on and thank you all for joining and give you as much encouragement as we possibly could and wanna turn it over to the team to walk you through the rest of the webinar. Thank you very much.

0:05:52.8 S2: Thank you, Norm. As we continue, we would like to provide you a road map of our webinar today. The YHDP program had three rounds of funding, the Inaugural YHDP competition was in 2016, the second and third rounds were announced in 2017 and 2018 perspectively. Today, we're going to provide you the changes that are being implemented in the combined 2019-2020 competition. Many of you listening today have applied in previous competitions. We have kept a general format of the application process the same, however, there are some important changes that we will highlight at the beginning of our webinar. We will continue with our overview, racial equity, youth leadership, changes, eligibility, and then talk about the competition scoring. We will end with information about how to apply for YHDP with plenty of times for questions.

0:06:53.8 S2: Here were the housekeeping items that Cherita had mentioned, I'm continuing now, so let's look at how the webinar will proceed. The first half of our time together will be information, and the second half will allow for questions. We anticipate the webinar to last an hour. During the presentation, your phone will be muted, and at any time during the presentation, you could ask the question by using the Question and Answer feature found under Adobe Connect toolbar. During our session, we will answer as many questions as possible in the Q&A portion of our webinar. If we do not get to your question, please submit those questions to HUD AAQ. The AAQ link will be shown at end of the webinar. As a note, this webinar will be recorded and posted on HUD Exchange and HUD.gov.

0:07:50.5 S2: You may ask why is YHDP needed? Data from 2020 Point-in-Time count shows that there are 41,565 youth experiencing homelessness, of which there are 34,210 unaccompanied youth, and 7,355 parenting youth. For silo systems, here's where YC specifically designed to combat systems of homelessness. It is a requirement to include the public child welfare agency, PCWA; Youth Action Board, YAB; and connect and work with different organizations to support your application. And as for service models designed for adults, most homeless projects and policies are designed for adults. The appropriation was provided with youth in mind and a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program was created for that purpose. We now have experience, and with the lessons learned, we are learning more and more what can be improved.

[pause]

0:09:05.4 S2: We will pause now for a poll question. I will read the poll question and provide you 30 seconds to respond. Has your community previously applied for YHDP funding? Number one. Has your community previously applied for YHDP funding? Number two. Do you currently have a YAB, Youth Action Board in your community?

[pause]

0:09:56.8 S2: Number three. Does your community plan on applying as a rural community or a non-rural community?

[pause]

0:10:19.6 S2: And number four. Have you spoken to current or past YHDP communities about their CCT and all project application development process?

[pause]

0:11:09.1 S2: As I conclude with the present introduction and presentation, YHDP offers opportunity for communities to bring together traditional partners to work alongside youth in our authentic collaboration often those that receive funding dedicated to ending youth homelessness with other partners including local and state child welfare agencies, school districts, workforce development organizations, and juvenile justice systems. By involving youth in a broad range of stakeholders and the planning and implementation of the YHDP, with this coordinated community approach, communities will develop more complete equitable and responsive strategies that include the integration of youth voice and the opportunity for innovation. We will now expand on racial equity presented by my colleague, Trey Lee. Take it away, Trey.

0:12:06.3 Speaker 4: Thank you, Regina. How are you all? So today, we'll talk about the meaning of racial equity. Racial Equity is a condition that would be achieved if one's racial identity no longer was predicted in a statistical sense one's housing, economic and health outcome. Racial equity includes addressing root causes of inequities, not just outcomes, this includes elimination of policies, practices, attitudes, and cultural messages that reinforce differential outcomes by race or otherwise fail to address them. Our main goal is to break the barriers of racial inequities through housing and supportive services. Racial equity is also a process, this means that black people, indigenous people, and people of color, the most impacted are part of the decision-making about funding policies and programs.

0:13:07.3 S4: We want to ensure when we're making these decisions that it's reflective of the diverse communities we serve. This includes people with lived experience, black people, people of color, young people and LGBTQ identified people on resource allocation and decision-making groups. Look at your current disaggregated by race, by gender, and intersection of race and gender. Determine where are the greatest racial inequities, allocate funds to address the inequities both programmatic and system-level. Contract with organizations that are experts in reaching and engaging with underserved and marginalized populations this includes YCWA's urban league, CDC's local NAACP chapters, communities of faith, housing, Justice Alliance Local Chapter.

0:14:07.7 S4: Select data on placement, type of placement, type and length of assistance, geography of placement and returns through homelessness and other, and monitored by race, gender, and the intersection of race and gender. So here we have a chart. And this chart, illustrates the process for ensuring equity in your homelessness system. You wanna analyze your organization and data, strategize multiple ways to address the indicator from your data, implement policies, procedures, informed black people with lived experience, black people, people of color, young people, and LGBTQ identified people on resource allocation and decision-making groups. Your community

may need to engage in foundational training such as institutional racism, systemic racism, implicit bias, and trauma-informed care. Evaluate to determine your success and failures, then you refine and start again. I'm going to pass it over to Rachel.

0:15:34.7 Speaker 5: Thank you, Trey, and also thank you, Regina, Norm, and Cherita of the intros of this wonderful presentation so far. For the next two slides, YHDP purpose and goals, not much has changed for FY '19 And FY '20 from the previous years. For our purpose, YHDP supports 50 selective communities, at least eight of which are rural. We develop and implement a coordinated community plan, mobilized communities that share the same experience dealing with youth homelessness, serve unaccompanied, pregnant and parenting youth age 24 or younger who are experiencing homelessness all to prevent and end homelessness across the board but especially in this population.

0:16:34.8 S5: Next slide. Program growth, evaluate performance measures by better understanding the data collection. Expand community capacity by coordinating with partners and the necessary resources. Evaluate a coordinated community approach to design and implement an array of programs that work for all youth experiencing homelessness and their different needs. We encourage equity in the program, delivery and outcomes by understanding differences exist between various youth deserving systems. Next slide it seems like we have a poll question, I'm gonna pass that along to Millie. Millie?

0:17:34.8 S6: Yeah, thanks Rachel. So I know some of you might have missed the whole questions to respond, so we are gonna be taking some of the poll questions back again. So this is about if you currently have a Youth Action Board in your community to... You have 20 seconds to respond or we will be sharing the results very soon. Are we ready? Okay so it seems like 51 persons, uphill actually have a Youth Action Board in their community. That is excellent. And 39% or 40% are still working on it or don't have a Youth Action Board. Rachel will go into more of the details about why youth voices matter and how important they are for YHDP. Rachel?

0:18:48.7 S5: Yeah, thank you Millie. I encourage those that do not have Youth Action Board to start thinking and planning on having one if possible within their community. Youth leadership is the next slide, if that's up there. Youth Leadership, YHDP should be led by youth. Ongoing equitable community initiatives to end youth homelessness should involve youth advocacy, youth participation and youth collaboration. I'm going back to youth advocacy. Youth advocacy should have continuous engagement with youth with lived experience. Youth participation should have leadership and decision-making roles by youth. And youth collaboration should be ongoing development and implementation of planning strategies involving youth. I end my portion of the presentation with a quote by Santa Cruz, California, and the quote is, "YHDP gave us the resources to think deeper and work with youth experiencing homelessness in new and different ways, to put together non-traditional and traditional partners to dig deeper and strategize, as well as the resources to put the strategies to action." Alright, Millie, I pass it back to you.

0:20:32.8 S6: Thanks, Rachel. So here you can see the map about how many communities have applied to date, as Norm earlier shared that there are 46 communities throughout the country from various rounds that have received funding. And I'm just gonna walk quickly through of each round or have applied, through how many communities have applied in each round. So HUD announced the first round of around \$33 million in funding in early 2017, and you can see on the map that the color in green highlights the communities that have applied. So 10 communities are awarded with

four of them being rural community. The summer of 2018, HUD announced second round which was like 43 million in funding. And as you can see on the map, it's in blue. 11 communities were awarded with five of them being rural communities. For the third round, HUD announced 75 million in funding at the summer of 2019. For the round three grant, you can see it in yellow, peach, some kind of dark color. 25 communities were awarded and eight of them being rural. So the colors of the map indicates the states that they were awarded, so round one, two, and three and may not indicate the entire state that hasn't received an award.

0:22:11.7 S6: So I'm gonna now talk through or walk through the step by step about the process of applying for YHDP and the community selection. So the top row on the slide, that focuses specifically on the community selection. So once the communities are selected, those awarded communities will follow the process on the second row of the slide. Let us talk about each step here. First, communities collaborative and apply, we will then evaluate application using the NOFO rating factors in order to select up to 50 communities. We're gonna get into the details about rating factors, as well as community entry plan in a few minutes. So we are gonna be looking at 50 communities would be selected, up to 50 communities will be selected. So 25 communities will be funded through the FY19 and 25 communities will be funded from the 20 funds, FY 20 funds. When these communities have been selected, then they will create a coordinated community plan. The review of the plan involves HUD and other federal partners allowing for time for feedback. Once a plan has been approved, the communities will then begin to apply for projects. I am gonna turn it over to Caroline to go into some of the major changes that have happened in FY 19 and 20.

0:23:52.8 S7: Thanks, Millie. Sorry, I was seriously trying to type in the chat while I was getting ready. So let's get into the major changes that we've seen from the previous NOFOs to this one. The first change that's huge that we've all talked about so far, I think is that it's a much bigger NOFO. So it is a NOFO that covers up to 50 communities and it will have up to \$145 million awarded. Eight of the communities have to be rural, the rest will be a mixture of rural, urban and suburban. The funding formula did change a little bit so that we are incorporating some metrics from the PIT count to really try to do a better job of capturing how many youth are experiencing homelessness in the community.

0:24:35.7 S7: And as Nora mentioned earlier, we really did hear... We know you guys are doing so much in your communities, and we want to respect that. So we tried to simplify the rating criteria, but at the same point, we also heard from the youth in the communities that already have YHDP and from our youth partners that we really wanna make YHDP even more youth-centered. We want youth leadership and voice throughout everything, so there's now a larger section on youth voice. And finally we did change the ranking process a bit. Part of that was to incorporate two years of funding so they're a little bit different of rules from our appropriations language that we had to incorporate. We also wanted to make sure that there was enough credit given for rural communities that may have a little bit harder of a time with some of the other questions.

0:25:31.3 S7: More changes. We did change, so in previous NOFOs you had to have as a threshold criteria, meaning if you didn't have these, you didn't get rated. It used to be that you had to provide a letter from your public child welfare agency and your youth action board in order to be rated at all within the competition. Those are now rating factors. They are still incredibly important and we do really want you to have those, however, we are not removing people based on those letters. And this is... I probably am the nerd for admitting this, but my favorite thing is Appendix A, where we went through and we really tried to learn what we've heard from communities in rounds one, two, and

three, to understand how we can... How YHDP projects can be changed and adjusted from the regular COC rules to be more attentive and responsive to the needs of youth. So you'll see in Appendix A, there's a whole bunch of information about how communities can go outside of the regular boundaries of the COC regulation so that they can start implementing more... They can implement more easily innovative projects that are specifically responsive to youth.

0:26:36.8 S7: And then finally, I think in every YHDP NOFO, we move around something with Appendix A, so Appendix A was not there last time and it's back, but it's in a different form to really explain the coordinated community plan. You'll see we've also simplified that knowing that there's a shortened time period for people to create their plan, and knowing that you have so much on your plate, so we've taken... We've simplified the requirements of the coordinated community plan while really still preserving the need for you to look when... The YHDP communities that are selected to look through and make sure that you understand the need in your community and how you're going to respond to that with a large group of stakeholders. Let's see, so there's a funding factor, I think I mentioned this in one of the changes. So one of the things that we are looking at is that in addition to those continuing to look at the two-bedroom fair market rent, poverty data, we're also looking at point-in-time count. And finally, we did put a minimum score requirement for the poor scoring communities. So you do need to get a score of 65 or higher in order to be funded.

0:27:52.0 S7: So I wanted to come back a little bit, pull back a little bit to a higher level and look at what we've heard from some of the communities who have already done a YHDP. One of the things that I really love about YHDP is it's not really a grantee federal partner relationship. We really get to work alongside of the communities and learn from you and understand really, it helps us make better policies. So I hope that communities feel the same way. I know it can still be... It's challenging, but really it's been just a wonderful experience I think from our point of view of learning and seeing all the hard work you're doing, and also hearing from the youth in the communities of how they were having these opportunities to really, really make change in their communities for the better. And I'm now going to turn it over to Sid.

0:28:50.5 S8: Hi, thanks, Caroline. So I will have the next two or three slides. So we're gonna go over the number and amount of awards. Since you can read what's on the slides here, so I'll go a little bit more in-depth. So who can apply? We'll go into more details later in the webinar about eligible applicants. Since we've had three rounds of this competition, we've awarded over 40 communities, and as been noted previously, we are now gonna award up to 50, so that's more than all three rounds combined that'll be in this competition. I had seen some questions about if you have been awarded funds in round one, two or three, if you could be awarded funds for this one. So any area that was included in the round one, two or three YHDP award may not be included in the application for such areas. However, if there is a community that has already been awarded YHDP but that community applied for a portion of COC's geography and not the entire geography, the collaborative applicant can submit another application in the FY 19, FY-20 YHDP funding to include any geographic areas that were not covered in the round one, two or three award.

0:30:06.2 S8: So if you apply for a YHDP award and were funded for a partial amount of your geography, you are able to apply under this one for the rest of the geography. You just can't apply for the same portion of the geography, if that takes down any confusion. In terms of sticking to a number of amount of awards, how this is working... So for FY 2019, the way this is being awarded is, it's being awarded as a combination of 2019 and 2020 funds, but there are a few different rules, just so you know how we're deciding on what, who's being awarded. So for funds, for a project to

get awarded using the FY 2019 funding, the eight highest ranking rural communities are selected, and then the eight highest non-rural communities are being selected. Any funds that remain after those 16 are selected, we can go to a maximum of nine more communities, so a total of 25, and again, that's if we have the funding available to award up to a maximum of nine more after those first 16. The FY 2020 awards, they will be based on... So the 16 highest ranking communities not selected for the FY-19 funds will be selected for the FY-20 funds, and then if sufficient funds remain after those 16 highest ranking communities have been selected, an additional nine projects can be selected, again, if applicable, so that would give us 25 total.

0:31:47.3 S8: So again we have the ability to award up to 50 communities if we have the funding available, and then to see how we are actually going to score these applications, here's the scoring criteria. So as you can see, leadership capacity will be 15 points, community lead is 20, collaboration is 20, youth collaborations is 25, data and evaluation capacity is 20, and then there's a rural bonus for 2020 funds, which is an extra 10 points for rural communities from under the 2020 funding. So HUD, we believe that each of these categories is crucial to building foundation for a systemic community-wide collaborator to address an end to homelessness in a community. HUD is not necessarily asking for communities that already have this systemic approach, but rather that they have the potential and the partnerships and the experience, all these are necessary to develop a plan, to create an implementable coordinated community plan. For the rural bonus amount, Caroline will take over the next few slides which will go over the the rural community section of this NOFO, and we'll go a little bit further into how these rural bonus points will work for our rural communities. Caroline.

0:33:14.7 S7: Thanks, Sid. So the rural definition has been a key for previous NOFA, sorry, NOFOs. They changed the name of it on us, so I'm gonna keep saying both. Anyway, the rural definition, it's huge, I'm not gonna define all of these. But I do wanna say, so in previous rounds we've had tools that will help you understand if your COC is a rural COC or not. Last year, that was a list of if you're applying as a whole COC, which ones are rural, and if you're applying as a partial COC, a little calculator where you can go through and figure out which of your counties you can add to that to maintain your rurality. We are planning on releasing that again. We've taken it down from the website for right now because they're trying to update those numbers, but it should be up shortly. So I know I've seen a number of questions in the chat of, "How will I know if I am rural?" Just wait about a week and you'll be able to see those on the website. Even also always submit a question to use demo at HUD.gov. Like I said, we're waiting on updating the numbers, so if you do email us at this point asking if you're rural, we'll say we need to email you in a week. But just keep working on your application and we will get back to you. I wanted to go through a little bit of the different award ideas, not ideas. Some of the concepts for how rural will be treated under two rounds of funding.

0:34:33.6 S7: So as we said before, there are two rounds of funding from the FY-19 appropriations and the FY2020 appropriations. Honestly, from your point of view, you probably won't see a lot of difference necessarily with how the funding years interact; all of the deadlines are the same. But from our perspective, FY 2019 appropriations require that we have eight rural communities selected within that group of up to 25 communities. Whereas the 2020 appropriations language tell us that we need to have special consideration for rural. So the way we've designed that is that in this total round of 50 communities, there are gonna be a minimum of eight rural communities, and then after we've run for the 2019 competition, there can be more, but at least eight need to get in. Once we've run the funding formula for the 2019, so that's up to 25 on HUD then, and again you guys aren't

gonna be seeing us doing this behind the scenes, we're then gonna give 10 bonus points to every rural community that applies in the 2020 or that hadn't already been awarded money in 2019 to give them a little boost just in case they need that for the application process.

0:35:43.7 S7: So again, a lot of that is behind the scenes. Happy to explain it more if you have questions, but I do wanna say that, just keep in mind, if you're rural, say you're rural, and you'll have two different ways that you'll have a little bit of a boost to have special considerations for funding for the YHDP funding on either scoring year. So I wanna go back to one of the poll questions, "Does your community plan on applying as a rural community or a non-rural community?"

[pause]

0:36:23.8 S7: I wanna say I live in Minneapolis and I love seeing the Midwest represent in the chat window, so really excited to see all of this enthusiasm. Like I said, the rural tools will be on the website shortly, and if you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to email youthdemo@hud.gov. I'm gonna turn it back over to Sid right now, I think. Great.

[pause]

0:37:01.7 S7: Sid, you might be muted.

0:37:06.3 S8: I am muted. Great. And that was not a technical difficulty, that was on me. So every Continuum of Care has a designated collaborative applicant. That collaborative applicant has to have been registered during the FY 2020 COC program registration process to be able to apply for funding under this NOFO. They can apply for any community located within the COC geographic area. They can apply for multiple communities located within the COC geographic area. And again, they can apply for the entire area of their COC. As you mentioned earlier, if the collaborative applicant applied for a portion of the COC's geography in previous competitions and the CoC was awarded YHDP funds, but they did not apply for the entire geography, the collaborative applicant can submit another application for FY 19, FY 20. Funds include any geographic area that were not covered in the earlier YHDP award, just to reiterate that fact. How do you apply? Please note that applications to become YHDP community are submitted through grants.gov. This is not an e-snaps submission, this goes through the grants.gov government website for all submissions.

0:38:21.5 S8: Again, individual project applications that are submitted by the community through the YHDP program are submitted in e-snaps but to actually apply through the YHDP NOFO dash, or to get a YHDP award or funding, you have to submit your application in grants.gov. There is no e-snaps function here. HUD anticipates announcing community selections and is now for approximately one to two months after the application due date, which is July 27th, 2021 at 11:59:59 PM Eastern Standard Time. So people aware of that, if you are running near the end, that it's 11:59:59, as the final time. And then if you are awarded funds and when it comes to project applications, we promise a one-month turnaround on project application in terms of submission and review. But please, for applying for the NOFO, the deadline is July 27th, 2021.

0:39:28.2 S8: Next. Like what the timeline is and the post-selection process. So the post-selection process according to community plan and project applications, once a community is awarded, we then begin the coordinated community plan creation process. That is the coordinated community

plan will, if you look at Appendix B as part of the NOFO, give a pretty detailed explanation of what is expected in the coordinated community plan, but essentially in a very simple version, it is your plan of how you want to reduce youth homelessness in your community using the YHDP funds and different aspects of the YHDP program, along with all the partnerships you have created in your community.

0:40:22.5 S8: The communities will apply for individual projects and once your coordinated community plan is approved, you can apply for individual projects and these projects will have two-year grant terms. During the coordinated community plan process, you are allowed to apply for a planning grant, and planning grants are for one-year grant terms in the YHDP program. The collaborative applicant and other project applicants are designated by the collaborative applicant to be eligible for YHDP grant funds. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for YHDP funds or to be sub-recipients. And again, collaborative applicants that are not UFAs may also just need an eligible applicant to be the recipient of the planning grant. So this is the timeline of what happens after you've been awarded funds. Lots of communities will have six months to submit a coordinated community plan. If we were to... If the competition closes on July 27th, we give about two months to review and then announce, you're looking at around end of September, possibly, of us announcing awards. So from that point on, you'd get six months to develop your coordinated community plan. We do realize that some communities will have other competing priorities going on, so if you need more time, you can request up to a three-month extension of that deadline, a sixmonth deadline for the coordinated community plan.

0:41:56.3 S8: And again, as I said before, planning projects may be submitted while the coordinated community plan is being reviewed. You don't have to hold back on that part of the project application, you can submit a planning project while you're writing up your coordinated community plan or we are reviewing your plan. Once coordinated community plan is approved, all non-planning projects may be submitted into e-snaps. The coordinated community plan is like the stop gap of once you've got that approved by HUD, all other projects that you want to send into e-snaps may be submitted at that point, and we review it and try to get it to you within... Try to review within a month, one month timeframe. And I think I have the last poll question here. So our poll question for you all is, "Have you talked to a current or past YHDP community about their coordinated community plan and/or project application development process?"

[pause]

0:43:19.3 S8: Actually a high percentage of you that have talked to past YHDP communities. I will recommend if you have not, to talk to past YHDP communities. There's a lot now, there's about... There's over 40 YHDP communities and they are happy... Well, I mean, I'm assuming that they're happy to talk. I would think they would be happy to talk about how they apply for their YHDP program, how they wrote up their community-coordinated community plans, how they came up with their applications, how they created partnerships, but they are the lead source to talk to when applying. I think I can probably end that whole question, and I will move presentation onto Millie, to finish it up.

0:44:15.6 S6: Yeah, thanks, Sid. So, just a couple of other things to keep in mind is headquarter staff will be able to provide any clarification on the content of NOFA. Please note that head staff cannot assist applicants in preparing for their applications, so if you have questions regarding the specific program requirements for this NOFO, please send it or ask a question through HUD

Exchange, the link is here, and we will also have the webinar posted pretty soon on the HUD.gov as well as HUD Exchange website. And the other cool thing that I really wanted to share, what does TA actually offer here and what they cannot do, the TA can help build an effective system to end youth homelessness. So building partnership and collaboration across the communities are very helpful to also build a planning team. What TA really cannot do is that it does not write your application, it does not write your waivers, and it does not run your program.

0:45:29.4 S6: The TA is there to help you guide through the process and to help you be successful for this program. As Sid was sharing about reaching out to communities, and while you're working on writing this application, we highly, highly, encourage you to reach out to the community as well as look at these resources that would be very helpful for your application. So, there are a couple of resources that we have posted. You can also share this in the chat. But if you haven't done so, please go through and read through this NOFOs, but previous also both that the communities have done. Now I think we're over, so we will take some questions here. What are the questions? Alright, so there are a couple of questions regarding who can apply. So, Caroline, I'm gonna ask you this question, can there be a new category for suburban, not quite county and not quite metro? So, can there be a new category for suburban?

0:46:50.8 S7: Well, so, the categories are defined by the appropriations language, so appropriation specifically say we need to make sure that we hold up rural communities, we don't actually have an urban category per se, we just have rural and non-rural. You'll see when you... If pull up the tool that looks at determining morality by county, there are actually criteria for rural, urban and suburban, but really the only thing we're looking at is if you're rural or if you're non-rural, and that was based on the language that we received from Congress.

0:47:29.3 S6: Another question that came around this was about, is it possible to be considered more than one geo type: Rural, urban, or suburban? Can you apply as one of these?

0:47:43.8 S7: So again, it's just urban... Sorry. It's just rural and non-rural. So there have been a few situations where there are accounts like COCs that decide to apply as a partial COC, and that has made them... So I know there are a few where if they applied as their full COC, they might be considered non-rural and then they took off a chunk of their COC and apply just for that area, and you can be rural. And you can actually submit two applications in this funding round: One for an area that's not considered rural and one that is, and you'll get those special boost for that non-rural application. We will not fund both. So, we will never fund an area twice for the YHDP, but it's something they consider if you think that there are parts of your COC that would be considered rural and you wanna try for that, think about submitting two applications.

0:48:40.7 S6: Alright. Next question, it's for you, Sid, if you've got round two, did they say that you can't get basically... Can you actually apply for round three?

0:48:56.1 S8: If you're a community in round two and you applied... And you are working for the full geographic area for your community, then you will not be able to... Either round one, two or three, you would not be able to be awarded funds for this round of funding. However, if you were awarded funds in any of those previous round one, two, or three for just a portion of your geography, and there's another portion geography that has not been awarded any funds, you can apply for that geography that has not been awarded any funds.

0:49:33.1 S6: Thank you. Caroline, next question is for you. What happened to the 15 million? The FY 19 allocation was up to 80 million, and FY 20 was up to 80 million. So it's a total of 140, but they're saying 160. So what happened with that? That's a good question.

0:49:55.0 S7: That's a really good question. So the answer to that question is that we needed to satisfy funding for TA or for technical assistance to support communities throughout. It's not just a direct TA the communities will get, although that's a substantial amount of that funding. We also have a number of different TA providers that work on assisting communities with creating and submitting their data so they can test their systems on youth that can help your community really focusing on that youth voice and youth leadership, and a number of other costs associated with providing the technical assistance.

0:50:33.3 S6: This is a question about category two. So a community person asked, if most of the youths are of category two, is that being considered when looking at data to the Point-in-Time framework? Caroline, this a question for you.

0:50:50.7 S7: Sure. I've seen a few questions about the Point-in-Time data, and I understand definitely like category two, youth are often not counted in the PIT count, and we also acknowledge that the count is not perfect. However, what it is is the best metric that we have for incorporating an estimation of the number of youth that they're experiencing homelessness in a community. So while we know it's not perfect, it's actually a step up, we feel, from just looking at poverty data, but associating both poverty data and homelessness data to try to marry to get a more accurate count.

0:51:29.7 S6: Great. What is the age range of youth for youth action board? Is it 24 or younger? Caroline, that's a question again for you.

0:51:44.6 S7: Sorry, I was trying to put the answers in, so that was my bad. It's 24 or younger.

0:51:52.4 S6: Oh, this is regarding rural. I know you addressed it in your slide, but there were several questions about, how do I know that what is defined as a rural community or not, and I think there were some few other questions about, how would you know between an FY19 and FY20 to apply for the rural bonus funds?

0:52:20.4 S7: Another really good question. So what I was trying... Like I was saying before, it's gonna be behind the scenes because what we have to do because of the way that the funds were appropriated is we have to run the funding formula twice. So essentially what we are going to do is we are going to rank all the applications based on your responses. So one, two, whatever, and then when we go in with the first, we're gonna run the formula for the 2019 applications first, we are going to take the first eight rural and say they get funded under the 2019, and then we're gonna go from one to whatever we can based on the amount of funding we have, which is explained in the NOFO, it's hard to explain orally, or maybe it's just hard for me, I don't know.

0:53:06.7 S7: But essentially, we're trying to make sure that we don't under-fund everyone in categories. So there's a funding formula factor that we're gonna apply, which is why we say up to 25 communities in the draft. So to review, we're gonna take the first eight off the top for 2019. Once we're done with that 2019 allocation formula and we've decided who is awarded under the 2019 fund, we're gonna go back to that ranking list, add 10 points to the first top eight ranked communities, and then run the formula again for the 2020 funding. Now, again, this is all behind the

scenes where we will be going mad with spreadsheets and other calculations of these. And from your perspective, you'll be awarded, you'll probably be told which funding award year you're given, but it doesn't matter at all because the awards are all gonna be announced on the same date, the due dates are all the same, and the funding from your perspective is gonna be the same. So it's just something to keep in mind of there's not really a system of applying for one for 19 versus 20 like you should just put in your application if you're a rural, identify yourself as rural, and then we will tell you, and then the funding will be processed and announced.

0:54:23.7 S6: Okay. There's a question about MOU and PCWA. So can a MOU take place of a letter of support from the PCWA because the NOFA actually requires a letter of support? Caroline.

0:54:44.1 S7: It needs to be a letter of support, yeah. So the MOU... In previous year, people have an MOU, it's really... The letter of support was really what was most appropriate for that. It doesn't need to be super elaborate, but just showing that they will support the development of the coordinated community plan is what we're looking for.

0:55:09.2 S6: I think Sid, you have covered this point. This is a question for you regarding Pointin-Time. Are we accounting to changes for Point-in-Time this year due to COVID? PIT counts are generally not accurate, and even more so this year, potentially.

0:55:31.6 S8: So I think because... I think Caroline actually went over the PIT count stuff. I'm not too sure about this one.

0:55:41.7 S7: I can address that. So we're gonna be using, as I outlined in the NOFO, we're using 2017 and 2019, we're balancing the two of those. And you're right, again, it doesn't account for COVID. Even the most recent PIT counts we have doesn't account for COVID because those numbers are just not available at this point. Again, please remember that the PIT count, we acknowledge it's not perfect, but it is trying to get a better handle on the number of youth experiencing homelessness in the community. And it's just one of several factors. So it is not the determination of where your funding score will be, it is instead part of the formula that will help inform it.

0:56:23.8 S6: Great. Caroline, how will HUD account for partial COC geography applications with regard to the new funding formula? And how will HUD know how to calculate the youth homelessness factor?

0:56:39.2 S7: That's a really good question, and I don't know the answer to that off-hand. I need to check with some of my colleagues. But I would encourage actually for that one, I think if you submit an AAQ, that's something we could put up on the FAQ.

0:56:54.7 S6: Yeah, I agree with Caroline. Please submit this question, we will definitely get back to you for the AAQ response. Alright. Next question is, if the city is a collaborative applicant for YHDP and our COC is selected for funding, would the city be required to act as the pass-through for the funding?

[pause]

0:57:24.4 S6: Sorry, Caroline, that's a question for you.

0:57:26.0 S7: Sorry, I wasn't sure if Sid was jumping in there. No, so basically what happens usually is that if the city is the collaborative applicant, they do need to be the one that applies for the designation as a YHDP community, however, then we enter the planning phase and sometimes it's the collaborative applicant that's the lead YHDP organization, but not always. You go through the planning phase, and then most communities that have had a YHDP had an RFP put out, or a request for proposal for projects that will match the goals and the criteria that's outlined in that coordinated community plan. And so through that, that RFP will be awarded to a number of different organizations. So there are some YHDP communities where all of those projects have been awarded to one organization. So it's just kind of dependent on how your communities had set up, and to ensure that there's a fair and open process for selecting those project recipients. We don't require an RFP per se, but it's a fair and open competition requirement.

0:58:39.5 S6: So can... This is another question for you. Can you... Can two existing COC collaborative submit one application that covers both of their geographies?

0:58:56.1 S8: Are you asking, can two COCs apply together?

0:59:02.2 S6: Yep.

0:59:02.7 S8: No, under this... Two COCs cannot apply together for one application. So each COC would have to submit their own application.

0:59:13.4 S6: Yeah. And Sid, could you respond to one of the questions that came in is, can you explain what does a collaborative applicant means? Can you talk through that a little bit?

0:59:28.8 S8: So every COC in HUD had kind of like... They're like the designated leader of the COC in a way, so we call them the collaborative applicant. They are the ones... The collaborative applicant is usually the one that submits the applications in e-snaps for the COC competition. They're the ones that put together all the submissions or most of the HUD competitions that PATH still runs, so they're like the de facto head of that COC. So when we talk about collaborative applicants, we talk about... That's who we're essentially specifying.

1:00:07.0 S6: Sid, this is another question about planning grants. Do the planning grant for YHDP roll into the regular COC program after the demo timeframe?

1:00:20.5 S8: No. So planning grants are... They are one year and they will only be for the YHDP portion. So to add a little bit extra, when you apply for a planning grant because they cannot go into the COC process, they are not... These are not renewable. So once you apply for a planning grant with YHDP funds, those funds will not be renewed under the COC program. So I wouldn't... I know that brings up some scares like, "Oh no, we're losing money," but there have been a few YHDP communities that have done like two planning grants, and their planning grants are worthwhile to do just so some people use it for a coordinator position, others to help set up capacity portions. So for the question itself, planning projects are not renewable under the COC program.

1:01:21.2 S6: This is a question for Sid and Caroline, whoever could answer it. If we add a region to a COC, can there be more than one lead agency?

[pause]

1:01:38.8 S7: I think Sid and I are kind pausing here because I'm not... Maybe I shouldn't debrief it. I'm not sure what you mean by adding a region to a COC, but in terms of having multiple lead YHDP agencies, I think that'd be fine. Right? I don't... I mean I think you have to designate a lead agency. I don't think we say that it has to be a specific agency. And honestly, a lot of what that agency does is the coordination, I think. Sid, what are you thinking on that?

1:02:08.0 S8: I was just typing the answer to something else. Yeah, I'm not quite sure what is meant by region if... Yeah, really what we are looking for is whatever area your COC covers is what you can apply for, so if there is... If the region is covered by your COC, then you can obviously apply for that area, you can possibly apply for that specific area geographically, if it falls within your COC. Out of that region falls outside of your COC, and it's with someone else and it's under a different COC, then that COC has to apply. So that's why we use the COC system for applying because there is a set responsibility of who covers that region, than just having someone from the region apply that is not a part or is like not the collaborative applicant.

1:03:07.2 S6: Yeah. So is, only one award available per COC?

1:03:17.9 S8: Can you repeat that? Sorry.

1:03:20.6 S6: Is only one award available per COC?

1:03:26.5 S8: Yes. Yes. If you are a COC and you apply you get one. You'll be awarded one award... One big award, but you'll be awarded one.

1:03:40.6 S7: Yeah, just to clarify, there have been a few... Maybe just one... Applicant that was awarded in multiple rounds. That was Ohio Balance of State where they used one region of the balance of state, for their first application and then the second... Another area in round three. But we would not award to the same COC in the same round. So, if Ohio Balance of State had come in with both of those applications, only one of them would have been funded per round. If that makes sense.

1:04:13.2 S6: Yeah. So Caroline, this is a question for you. The older NOFOs actually said that you needed special permission to allocate 10% of awards to make an for youth or category three youth. We no longer need that permission and just need to include it in our CCP, is that correct?

1:04:34.3 S7: I don't know who checked on this 'cause I wanted to make sure I was right on this. It is still... You do still need to ask for permission, it's outlined in Appendix A. You would also need to include that in your coordinated community plan, but coming out of previous round we do ask that you discuss that with HUD and ask for approval. I will say, just briefly, a lot of different communities have started asking for round three. And working through it, what we see for a lot of communities is that those individuals, that the community is hoping to serve by looking at serving category three, are actually covered in categories two and four. So at imminent risk of homelessness or are fleeing an unsafe situation at home. So, something that is kind of considered but yeah, we will work with you throughout that.

1:05:26.6 S6: Right. If awarded and a collaborative applicant is not of USA, are project applicant stars guaranteed a card?

1:05:40.8 S7: Yes.

1:05:42.6 S8: Yes.

1:05:42.9 S6: Okay. This is a question about extension. So what will be the criteria for extension this year? Six months is really short on CCPs. Mostly in the past, communities have got eight months to 12 months' timeframes to work on the coordinated community plan. So this year, especially with the fall and the holidays, it just looks too short. Can you say what is the criteria for extension?

1:06:20.7 S7: That's a really great question. And I was not able to pull off what that criteria was, I don't think we included that in the new NOFO, but I'm still looking. I think what we would be looking at is what the situations were, what areas you still needed to be working on. We're gonna try to be flexible, we know six months isn't a super long time, but I will say, in the round three work, I believe, we announced those communities at the end of August in 2019. And we were having communities finish by February or March. I do definitely fear that it's definitely been a struggle for some communities, and especially in the early rounds when they were raising a path. It is definitely a lot of work, but I think we have tried to streamline the Coordinated Community Plans, so it's a little bit easier of a process. We try to streamline the review process, so we will help you get to that finished plan hopefully within that six months but if you need a little bit more time, I think we'll be very fair with the extension request.

1:07:25.9 S6: Okay. How much funding is available for planning grant? Is there a match obligation for planning grant?

1:07:36.7 S7: We allow up to 10% of the community's awards for planning grants, and yes, you do still need to have a match for that.

1:07:46.8 S6: Does HUD anticipate that there will be additional round of funding after round four and five NOFO?

1:08:00.9 S7: So the FY 2021 appropriations did appropriate another, I believe it's up to \$82 million for a round... No, I don't even know what are rounds anymore. But in FY 2021 dollars, we will be having another round of YHDP. So, it's not your last bite of an apple, but it's a great bite of a delicious apple. Sorry to extend that metaphor.

1:08:27.8 S6: Alright. So this is a question about NOFO and COC. So the timeline for this NOFO appears to coincide with the annual NOFO for COC program. Was this intentional, to have both around in the same timeframe as the new HUD releases over the summer? So Sid, you wanna take that?

1:08:51.4 S8: It was not intentional. I think COVID really threw off a lot of the NOFO timelines. We've been working on this for over a year. This has been delayed by a lot, and COVID really delayed a lot of our work here and on the... And for the COC, NOFO, whenever it is released. So no, it was not planned for this way. But the hope is that we just couldn't be done... The hope is

applicants have the opportunity to be able to do this, and we have simplified this NOFO from previous NOFOs, so it shouldn't be as onerous as it has been in the past.

1:09:40.9 S6: Mm-hmm. Is there a public list of communities that have already applied for YHDP funds? If so, where can I find it?

1:09:52.7 S7: So there is not a public list of who has applied for funds, but there is a list of who has been awarded. It was on one of the slides, but I'm gonna find the link and paste it in the chat.

1:10:06.9 S6: Okay. What definition of rural is being used? Does rural mean non-entitlement?

1:10:17.7 S7: So the rural definition is not linked to the entitlement areas. It might be helpful. I'm just going to go back to that slide. I don't want to try to summarize it, but the rural definition is outlined in the NOFO. This is just cut and paste from the NOFO, so it's essentially looking to make sure that the area you're applying for has more people living in a rural area than either in suburban or urban. Or there's another particular definition that's looking at the designated geographical area with population density and entering as no metropolitan city within that as a full beneficiary.

1:11:13.6 S6: Is this funding part of housing authority or emergency housing voucher funding, or is this part of is that associated to that?

1:11:29.8 S7: Sorry. I've had just two very different roles cropped 'cause I've been working on both of those. No, this is not associated with emergency housing vouchers. We do really encourage a lot of collaboration and partnering. I know there have been some really exciting collaborations with housing authorities in terms of using the Family Unification Vouchers and Fostering Youth in Independence programs to put together projects that really blend funding and really maximize what's available for youth and community. I'm not sure that the funding timelines would really work out super well with these YHDP funds and the emergency housing vouchers. But I invite everyone to consider that and seeing how they can best be used in your community.

1:12:14.8 S6: Can you clarify the application process for a planning grant?

1:12:20.9 S8: Yeah. It'll be very similar to how to do it in... If you've ever submitted a project in esnaps, that's how we'll do the planning grants in all your other projects that come through e-snaps. So you'll submit it in... You'll submit your planning project into e-snaps, and then we'll review it. And then eventually, we'll conditionally award it. And then we will go through post-reward process with you. And then it will go to grant agreement by the end of the process. So it's very similar to the e-snaps process if you have submitted project applications in e-snaps or with the COC. It's very similar to that process. The only difference is instead of dealing with your field office, the field office portion is us. So the only people you're dealing with when it comes to the application process is yourself and us in that entire process.

1:13:19.3 S6: Great. Will you actually be using all these questions from the chat to start an FAQ, or should we be submitting unanswered questions to the AAQ?

1:13:34.2 S7: I would recommend everyone submit them to AAQ. We will be trying to enhance the FAQ feature, but that... I would get an AAQ out and have it for your file so you can get the answer immediately and not be waiting for us to post something.

1:13:51.7 S6: Okay. Someone has a question about attachments. Are attachments required? In the list of some the attachments like stakeholders chart view system map YHDP Team Crisis Response System attachment. Are these still required?

1:14:13.8 S8: They are still attachments. I cannot think of right now what exactly the attachments are, but if you go through the NOFO and ask for a certain... There are going to be questions that will ask for a certain attachment, so do prepare for there to be attachment.

1:14:31.9 S6: Alright. So there's a question about... So Youth Collaboration preface in NOFO page 32 states that "In order to be successful, responses to this section should clearly be written by Youth Action Gold members." So we have a couple of questions here. So the person writes, "Can you please explain what do you mean by this guideline?" I'll pause here.

1:15:03.3 S7: Yeah. I think what they're asking specifically about is, "How do you know if it's been written by a youth?" So if I was a community applying for this, I would be as upfront as possible. So I would say, "Identify who the youth is that wrote that response," or "Include quotes from your youth." Honestly, like with every question in a NOFO, you should be as straight to the point and make sure you're answering every component of every question because if it's in there, we are likely rating on it. So if the question says... And there are a number of these because we really do want youth in your community to be active writers of the NOFO application, so we would ask you to have that youth identify themselves or say how you got the information from the youth. If you have a focus group and are including that information in there, say it, say that. Be as direct as possible about how you can show that that is a youth perspective on how to answer that question.

1:16:06.7 S6: The essay 424 requires a budget, so do people request an actual amount in YHDP? Is it just the planning portion that they request?

1:16:19.2 S7: Yeah, that form isn't perfect, so, I believe what we tell people to do is just put a million dollars in. We don't look at that. What we do for the funding is we do need the form legally for you to apply for funds. So, it's very important that you submit that form, however, just put a million dollars in. The reason I'm choosing a million is because the NOFO outlines that a million dollars is the minimum award that you can get for your community. So, if you just put a million dollars in, honestly, we do not use that number to calculate your award. The NOFO, and again, by law, we have to say exactly in the NOFO what we are going to do and what we're looking at for rating factors. So, for the funding process, that million dollars that you're putting in does not limit the amount we would give you. What we do is we use a scoring as outlined in the NOFO. Or not the scoring but the funding process as we outlined in the NOFO.

1:17:10.4 S8: Just to say we probably have time for two more questions before we have to wrap up. So, just sorry, everyone, just only two more questions. [chuckle]

1:17:20.7 S2: Yeah. So, some large communities that I work with, the question or concern basically, I work with a concern that HUD will not select them to preserve funds, even if they score well. Can you speak to them about how HUD will use its ability to modify the selection list based on the funding and geography job diversity?

1:17:48.8 S7: Yeah, so, we have never, so there is a clause in the NOFO that indicates that if we

don't have a geographically diverse set of applicants, we do reserve the right to have that as a factor. We never invoked it, that right before, so, we really go down the list of the ranking. I think if somehow we were to have the highest ranking, were all in one state, that would be an opportunity for us to probably take a quick look. You'll see though, the way it's worked out in the past is we've had very strong applicants from across the country, and if you look at the list of who has been funded before it across the country, and it is a really good mixture of urban, suburban, and rural. And so, we're hoping that that will continue with this round as well.

1:18:38.9 S6: Alright, so, last question that we're able to get through today is about waivers. So, what will be the waiver request process, how will it be? How will it look like? So, how will the waivers be processed?

1:18:55.7 S7: So the waiver process is actually gonna be way different from this round. So, again, if you look at Appendix A, there's an outline of activities that communities can opt to implement for their projects. It's pretty wide-ranging, honestly, so, I think it does give a lot of flexibility. You'll see in one section of it though, it does outline criteria for if your community wants to do something that's not outlined in that list, that you can ask HUD for approval. And there's a set of criteria that we would look at to ensure that it meets the intention of the NOFO. So, that's all included in Appendix A, like I said, it's my favorite part of the NOFO, so I encourage you all to read that.

1:19:31.5 S6: Thank you, Sid and Caroline, for answering these questions. I know we have not gone through all of the questions that you have asked. Please submit your questions to AAQ, we will be going through that. But at this time, I'm really excited to introduce Janine Bryan our product cases secretary. I give it over to you, Janine.

[pause]

1:19:58.5 S6: Janine, we cannot hear you. I think we still cannot hear you. Janine, we're still not able to hear you. Sorry. I believe Janine, you're double muted.

1:20:34.6 S9: Am I still muted?

1:20:35.8 S6: Yeah.

1:20:35.8 S9: I'm still muted.

1:20:36.2 S6: Now we can hear you.

1:20:38.4 S9: My apologies everyone. Thank you Millie. Thank you everyone, so much for taking the time today to attend this webinar, to find out more about the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. We are so excited to bring the opportunities that come with the YHDP designation to up to 50 communities. To put in perspective there are about 400 COCs in the country. With the 44 communities we've already awarded to, through rounds one, two, and three, and with the 50 communities that will be awarded through this particular NOFO, which is rounds four and five, nearly one quarter, one in four COCs in the country will have had or will have an opportunity to participate in YHDP. These communities have been or will be part of dynamic planning and collaboration processes. They will engage and develop youth leadership and voice in the community, create projects that make huge differences and the experiences of youth at risk of

and experiencing homelessness.

1:21:45.3 S9: I wanna encourage all COCs to strongly consider applying. HUD has worked to make this application process simpler than previous NOFOs, and we are committed to providing technical assistance to you to help your community with the requirements of YHDP. In the presentation, you saw some great quotes from current YHDP communities that highlights what a worthwhile experience the YHDP process is and what an impact it can make. I heard the question about future funding. And yes, we have funding for another round, six, but if you are ready, we encourage you to apply in this combined round four and five. I wanna again, thank my team, for this excellent presentation and just overall the amazing work behind the scenes that they do to make this program possible. I wanna thank you all for what you do and for your commitment to helping youth in your community. We look forward to working with you in the future. Thank you so much.

1:22:58.6 S6: Thank you everyone. Have a great day.