



## U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development COC Tribal Consultation – March 24, 2021

**Facilitated by  
Jemine Bryon**

- Speaker 1: Welcome and thank you for joining today's conference, Continuum of Care Tribal Consultation. Before we begin, please ensure you have opened the chat panel by using the associated icons located at the bottom of your screen. If you require any technical assistance, please send a chat to the event producer. To submit a written comment, select all panelists from the drop down menu in the chat panel, enter your comment in the message box provided and send. To minimize the background noise on this call, please ensure your audio devices are muted. As a reminder, this conference is being recorded. With that, I'll turn the call over to Arthur Jemison, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for HUD's office of Community Planning & Development. Please go ahead.
- Arthur Jemison: Thank you very much. And good day. I know it's different time zones, where many of you are coming from. It's afternoon here. But I want to say thank you to each of you for joining us. It's an honor for me to be here and I'm really pleased to be talking to you today. We deeply value the government to government consultation with tribal nations and we take the solemn responsibility very seriously. And so with that background, I wanted to introduced today's important topic. In the FYI2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, they included a provision that a lot of the Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities to be eligible for the continual care program funding. This is a funding that many communities use to end homelessness. The office of Community Planning & Development looks forward to working with tribal leaders and the office of Native American Programs to discuss the CoC program today and its implications for Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities and how we can move forward together.
- Arthur Jemison: We have prepared a formal presentation to provide a brief overview of the CoC program for this consultation and look forward to hearing your feedback, questions, comments, and recommendations. I would like to once again, express the commitment of my offices to ensuring active consultation and coordination with Indian tribal government. Thank you again for joining us today. It's my pleasure to turn it over to Jemine Bryon, who is our Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs, the office through which the CoC program is operated. You may know her from her prior as the general deputy assistant secretary or GDAS for The Office of Public and Indian Housing. Jemine, do you mind taking over from here?
- Jemine Byron: Thank you. Thank you so much, Arthur. Welcome esteemed tribal leaders. It is an honor to be here with you today. As Arthur mentioned, I'm Jemine Byron, I'm

the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Special Needs, which is part of the Community Planning & Development, CPD. I had the pleasure of meeting many of you and working with many of you while I did have the GDAS role in PIH. And again, it is a pleasure to see you and work with you once again.

Jemine Byron: As Arthur mentioned, this will be the first of multiple consultation sessions we'll host to ensure that we maximize all opportunities for addressing homelessness through the CoC programs in Indian countries. Before I get started, I want to really acknowledge a great partnership that we have with Heidi Frechette, the DAS for ONAP and Jad Atallah, the Director of the Office of Performance and Planning within ONAP. They are joining us on the call as well today. So thank you again for your terrific partnership.

Jemine Byron: As we go through this presentation today, I will be joined by a few members of my office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, commonly known as SNAPS. Norman Suchar is joining me as the director. He is the director of SNAPS. Sherri Boyd is our lead senior SNAPS specialist on the CoC program competition, and Marlisa Grogan is also joining us today from the SNAPS office. Before we begin, I'd also like to really acknowledge that we will be sharing a lot of information here today that may be new to you at this point, but again, we are committed to working in partnership to ensure that all information that is needed is provided.

Jemine Byron: I'd like to begin our discussion today by providing you with some background on the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act and provide some background on this Continuum of Care program and how it currently works. Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 included language, authorizing the participation of Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entity into the CoC program. We are working to implement tribal participation in the CoC program in stages from now through future CoC competition. Your feedback today and comments will help HUD design procedures for tribes to participate in the CoC program.

Jemine Byron: A bit of an overview on the CoC program, it promotes a community wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. The CoC program provides funding for efforts by non-profit providers, state, and local governments, tribal governments, and CDAG to quickly rehouse individuals and families experiencing homelessness while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness. CoC program, promote access to an effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and it seeks to optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness. I'll now turn it over to Norman Suchar, the Director of the SNAPS program, and he will walk us through what all of the different roles are in the CoC program. Norm.

Norman Suchar: Thank you very much, Jemine and thank you for the opportunity to come here and participate in this consultation. So I just want to walk through sort of the structure of the Continuum of Care Program at HUD and what the different roles in the community are. So you see in this slide, in the center box, there's the CoC, which stands for Continuum of Care. And the Continuum of Care is

really a body that is intended to represent the entire community. Ideally it includes all the various stakeholders, people who have experienced homelessness, people who work for local government, for nonprofits, for faith-based organizations, for just any organization that has a stake and is working to help address homelessness in the community.

Norman Suchar: So that CoC is the body that ultimately makes decisions about how homeless assistance funds through the Continuum of Care Program are utilized, but they use several other bodies to help support them. So I want to talk about the roles of those various bodies, just very, very quickly. So starting on the left, the Collaborative Applicant, the Collaborative Applicant is essentially the entity that performs the administrative requirements of a Continuum of Care. The collaborative applicant might be a nonprofit organization, it might be a local government, it can be a lot of different kinds of organizations, but they do things like they submit applications on behalf of the Continuum of Care and they help organize partnerships with different sectors in the community. So you can sort of think of them as the formal body that helps sort of staff and administer Continuum of Care activity.

Norman Suchar: In the box at the top, it's the HMIS Lead. HMIS stands for Homeless Management Information System and that is the data system that Continuums of Care to track who is served and the outcomes they get from HUD homeless assistance, but also in most communities other homeless assistance providers that are not funded by HUD also contribute data into the Homeless Management Information System. And the CoC will designate an agency that serves the lead to support Homeless Management Information System activity. To the right there, there is the Continuum of Care board and that is a body that just helps make decisions and helps sort of keep things going for the Continuum of Care. The board in some communities has a lot of responsibility and in some communities less responsibility, but Continuums of Care are required to have a board.

Norman Suchar: And then the last one I want to talk about, but by no means the least important, are recipients of HUD's funding. So when we distribute funds through the Continuum of Care Program, we directly provide grants to recipient. We want to talk a bit about this role today, because as Jemine mentioned, and as you'll hear more about later, the legislation authorized Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities to become recipients of continuum of care funding. So they're the entities that enter into a grand agreement with HUD and they carry out activities to administer homelessness system. So those are the various roles. And again, we'll be talking a fair amount about that recipient role today. So I'm going to turn things back to Jemine now.

Jemine Byron: Thank you, Noah and thanks very much. So the CoC program is an annual competition that is run through a Notice of Funding Opportunity and in response to this 2021 Appropriations Bill, which I want to say passed December 27th of 2020, so not that long ago, how we are fastly preparing for the FY2021 Competition, and just a little bit of information about what will be contained in

that NOFO, it will be for \$2.6 billion. It's a combination of renewal projects that will be provided funding under the 2021, but also new projects as well. Of the \$2.6 billion that will be available \$102 million will be dedicated for domestic violence project. The CoC Competition, we are anticipating that the NOFO will go out sometime in the spring and applications will be due in late summer.

Jemine Byron: On that pace, all things being doable, we will make announcements of the \$2.6 million grant awards in mid-winter, end of this year. Let me now turn it back over to Sherri. Actually, let me introduce Sherri Boyd who is our Subject Matter Expert and guides us through everything CoC Competition, Sherri, thank you. Sherri, you need to unmute

Sherri Boyd: That's important, isn't it?

Jemine Byron: Yes, it is.

Sherri Boyd: Thank you, Jemine. Good afternoon. Good morning. Wherever you may be. The Continuum of Care applicant expectations is... The Continuum of Care establishes the local competition, where they create the local priority in conjunction with the priorities and the requirements of the CoC programs that are in the NOFO. And with that, they receive all of the applications, review them, and then have a process which has been publicly posted where they rate and rank the project applications that were submitted. And the applications that come in are submitted as part of the larger CoC consolidated application where they will indicate within that consolidated application, whether they have accepted and ranked project applications, or whether they have rejected the project application. And when they reject, they notify the applicants and they also notify us of the reasons that projects were rejected. The CoC will then, once they've completed the local process, rated and ranked projects, they will then submit that CoC consolidate application to us, to HUD.

Sherri Boyd: And it will include all of those projects, applications that were submitted. At which point once they come, in our fund starts and we begin reviewing the project applications that were submitted as part of the larger package to make sure that they met the eligibility and quality threshold outlined within the notice of funding opportunity, as well as against the CoC program requirements and rules. And then we review separately, the CoC application that we take a look at the various information provided, the responses to the questions and the CoC application is actually scored. Once we complete that then we will fund project applications based off of the CoC application score, and also in the process, the order in which the CoCs ranked the project. For example, one through 10, we start at the top and work our way down.

Sherri Boyd: Continuum of Care recipient expectation, once the project applications are selected for award, we will then enter into a grant agreement with the recipients. Recipients will then be expected to demonstrate that they can meet the requirements of the program and the requirements that were outlined within the NOFO before the grant agreement is actually executed. With the

Continuum of Care Program, there is also a 25% match, which is either cash or in time that we'll get into detail at a future point. But there was this 25% match on the award amount on all activities with the exception of a leasing cost. There's additional information in the two links provided that will give you some more details on the guide to grant requirements and then there's some online training grant requirements as well. And with that, I will turn it back to, Norm

Norman Suchar: Thank you very much, Sherri. So I wanted to just quickly go through the types of activities that can be funded through the continuum of care program. So there's obviously a lot of detail involved in these, and I'm just going to sort of give a very, very high level description of these. So the most common one is permanent supportive housing that involves long-term rental assistance and wraparound supportive services. It serves people who are experiencing homelessness and have a disability. Rapid rehousing also involves providing rental assistance and supportive services, but it's for a shorter period of time, it's for up to two years. We have a type of project called Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-housing, and this is a project that combines transitional housing, which is a short-term housing where a person can stay for up to 24 months and then leaves and it includes up to 24 months state and supportive services.

Norman Suchar: And then, that is combined with Rapid Re-housing with the idea that people can stay for a short period of time in the Transitional Housing and then there are resources to help them move to their own housing. There are Transitional Housing projects that just provide the transitional housing portion of that, and there are supported services, only projects which provide a supportive services, but don't have housing attached to them. These sometimes include things like employment programs or things like that. And then homeless management information systems. So those are grants to help with the cost of data administration.

Norman Suchar: So let's move on to the next slide, please. So I want to talk quickly about who is eligible to apply for Continuum of Care project, and then who is eligible to be served by Continuum of Care funding. So to receive a grant, an entity has to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization or a public housing agency, or a state or unit of general purpose local government and new in the authorizing legislation that Jemine talked about, Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entity. And then going to who is eligible to be served with Continuum of Care grant on the next slide here. There are three major categories, people who are staying in emergency shelter transitional housing, or a place not meant for human habitation or people who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence. So they're going to be losing their housing within two weeks and have no other place to go or people who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions.

Norman Suchar: I will just quickly say there is another provision where a Continuum of Care can apply if they have demonstrated that they have adequately served the other

groups here that they can apply to be able to serve people who are, there's a little more detail in the bullet here, but essentially people who are couch surfing or in overcrowded housing if they are either youth under 25 years of age or families with children who are under 18 and who qualify under other definitions of homelessness. So those are the people who are eligible to be served with Continuum of Care grants. And next, I'm going to turn things back to Jemine.

Jemine Byron: Thank you so much, Norm. Thank you, Sherri. So I just want to go over a few of the next steps for today and into the future. So as we mentioned earlier, there is an FY2021 CoC Competition that is quickly coming upon us. And also we're really proud of the fact that FY2021 NOFO will include tribes and TDAGs as eligible recipients. In the future, we anticipate scheduling upcoming consultation sessions really quickly in the next few weeks to discuss in greater detail, the CoC Competition. Again, I must acknowledge, this is a lot of information that we are putting out here today, and we're saying it's fairly high level, but anything that's any kind of time or information sharing that is necessary in order to really maximize the opportunity here, we are willing to do in partnership with you and ONAP as well.

Jemine Byron: However, for today in preparation for our next consultation session and the development of the FY2021 2021 NOFO, we would like to discuss a few questions which will be presented on a slide soon to come up on the site here, but let me turn it over to our facilitator, to just give a little bit of direction on how to provide comments.

Speaker 1: Sure. To submit a written comment, select all panelists from the dropdown menu in the chat panel, enter your comment in the message box provided and send. Please state your name, title, and tribe that you represent when you're submitting the comment. To make a comment over the phone, please press pound two on your telephone keypad to enter the comment. You will hear a notification when your line is unmuted, at that time, please state your name, title, and the tribe that you represent. Once again, pressing pound two will indicate that you wish to make a comment.

Jemine Byron: Thank you. Great. So now we get to the part of sort of being able to receive your comments and feedback. So what we thought were some good questions to start the conversation whether for today or in follow up comments from all that are present today would be great. So let me just read through these questions and then we'll go back and go one by one. So what recommendations do you have for HUD to facilitate tribal participation in the upcoming CoC program competition? I'd like to talk about what needs exist within tribal areas for people experiencing homelessness and what ways can the CoC programs funds be used to address homelessness and tribal areas? What challenges exist related to addressing homelessness? What challenges have you experienced, or do you anticipate in partnering with Continuums of Care? Recommendations or ways to overcome these challenges? Based on the statutory and regulatory requirements and restrictions, what obstacles are anticipated and

recommendations to assist Indian tribes and TDAGs towards addressing, reducing and homelessness?

Jemine Byron: So again, these are very broad sort of questions, but we welcome comments and discussions, and let me just go back to the first question here. What recommendations do you have for HUD to facilitate tribal participation in the upcoming NOFO competition process? So as the facilitator mentioned, R two. I think it's the-

Speaker 1: It's pound two.

Jemine Byron: Pound two. Sorry. Pound two to provide a comment online, or please do put it in the chat. We're monitoring that as well.

Speaker 1: I see a couple of members in the comment queue. Moving on to the first caller. Caller line is unmuted. Please go ahead.

Norma Contreras: Hi, this is Madam Chairwoman, Norma Contreras from the La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians. Some of the concerns that we had was for the economically disadvantaged tribes is waving the match because a lot of tribes can't afford the 25% match. And so that would have a big... It would assist the tribe that are economically disadvantaged. And the recommendations that we have for HUD to facilitate tribal participation is we've been getting these notices maybe a week ahead of time, a couple of days ahead of time, sometimes that day. So if there's some kind of set schedule for consultation, or maybe HUD we'll be doing theirs every Thursday, or Wednesday every month. I know currently the White House does a weekly meeting on Wednesdays that we attend every week, so that might be helpful. So that way everyone can get a chance to be able to do consultation.

Norma Contreras: Some of the needs that exist within our tribal areas for people experiencing homelessness. Our area is very remote. We are in the rural areas of desert mountain, and so it's hard for our tribal people to find homes and housing up here. So we have a lot of participants that go into the city, but then they experience homelessness there. And so currently our needs right now, we have disabled people that have medical conditions, whether it's mental health or handicap issues, and they're not able to live within their housing by themselves. They need kind of 24 hour care. And also those that come out of the prison system, we want to find housing for them as well. So these are some of the concerns that we have because they have nowhere to go when they come out. Some people that have been hospitalized and come out, they can't go back to their homes. So we need to provide those services for our people.

Norma Contreras: And then some of the challenges that exist is we are land-based, we have to develop the land so that way we can provide resources for housing. And we are currently doing a master plan for a reservation on housing needs and that costs money. So for us to do these projects, we have to develop the land for it in

order for us to get these housing services that we need for homelessness. Some of the challenges that we have experienced or anticipate in partnering with Continuum of Care. We haven't really partnered with Continuum of Care, but we would be interested because we do have the homelessness, we have the mental health issues. We have a variety of things that are going here on the reservation. We have families that are going to become homeless because of the pandemic and they have their children, and we want to make sure that we have a facility placed for them, whether we'll be able to use the money to have off reservation services for them as well, find housing for them, that would be helpful. Maybe being able to invest some of our monies into different programs that will provide for the homelessness, so that way we can have our people secure in those facilities.

Norma Contreras: Based on the statutory and regulatory requirements and restrictions, what obstacles are anticipated and recommended to assist Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entity? Once again, that's a big match and a lot of tribes aren't able to have that 25% match to go along with that. Just making the funding available for what... Each tribe is individual and has different needs, and being able to accommodate what those needs of the tribes are and listening to the tribe and whether the projects that are feasible for them. So kind of not having the regulatory requirements that is like the broad spectrum of everybody, but according to what is the necessary for the tribes in order for them to be successful in their programs, I think that's one of the things that would be helpful for all tribes and then us, who's the smaller tribe and not make it competitive to larger tribes as well, because we know larger tribes have different needs and smaller tribes have different needs. So not doing the comparison of when we're asking for the NOFO to make sure that we're getting a fair advantage.

Marlisa Grogan: Do you have anything?

Norma Contreras: We're just advocating for accessibility for these monies.

Marlisa Grogan: And then advocating or accessibility for these monies.

Norma Contreras: Okay. That's all I had. Thank you.

Jemine Byron: Thank you so very much for those terrific comments and feedback. That was very, very helpful. And again, we will definitely consider everything that's been said and see what next steps are necessary.

Norma Contreras: You're welcome. And I hope that, as a tribe, I noticed there wasn't very many, but I hope it helps them as well. So thank you for your time.

Jemine Byron: Absolutely. Thank you. Next comment. Please.

Speaker 1: Sure. Moving on to the next comment. Caller line is unmuted. Please go ahead.



Sharon: This is Sharon Task with Samish Indian Nation. Can you hear me?

Jemine Byron: Yes, we can.

Sharon: Okay. With the Continuum of Care, and I'm really interested in the Permanent Supportive Housing and disabled. Would we be able to do scattered site housing placement? Samish does not have a reservation, and so we have agreements with local landlords. So we currently run a cheaper program of Rapid Re-Housing Program and Prevention, and we have agreements with local landlords. And so with this particular funding would we be able to do scattered site housing or would it be a requirement that we do a master lease agreement with the landlords? That was my first question. And then my second question was do you know what the indirect rate would be for this particular service or with this particular grant? Those were my two questions.

Jemine Byron: Okay. On the question regarding PSH for scatter sites. No, there is no limitation. There is no competition on doing that.

Sharon: Okay. Cool.

Jemine Byron: On the indirect rate question, Norman, is there anything that we can give on that, is that something we need to get back to them on?

Norman Suchar: So we follow the same indirect cost practices as the rest of HUD programs. So if you've done it for other HUD programs, you're familiar with how we do it. And there's a diminimus rate, which if you don't have any sort of other agreement about indirect costs, then you use the diminimus rate. But there is a process for applying for, and getting your own indirect cost rate. We can provide some information about how to do that in-

Jemine Byron: That would be great.

Norman Suchar: ... in the follow up.

Jemine Byron: Okay. That sounds great. Thank you. I would really appreciate that. That would be great.

Norman Suchar: Yeah.

Speaker 1: I do not see any further callers in the queue.

Jemine Byron: Okay. Marlisa, are there any comments in the chat?

Marlisa Grogan: We do have. The first one is regarding the availability to have one-on-one meetings with HUD and ONAP staff? And I believe that that question can be directed to you, Jermaine, or Norm, and I'm also welcoming any of the ONAP

staff to weigh in about their availability. I know that we do anticipate having consultation sessions, just opening that up to everybody.

Jemine Byron: Norm, can you just talk about sort of the AAQ and any other pre-competition opportunities that would be available?

Norman Suchar: Yes. So we do have a feature on our website, and this is something we can also send as follow-up, but we do have a process by which you can ask any question about the Continuum of Care Program. And we have a group of technical assistance providers and HUD staff are also available to help answer those kinds of questions. So if you do have a question, you can submit it through that ask a question feature. And so that's one common way that people sort of interact with us and we're able to answer people's questions, but I turn it over to Jad or Heidi to talk about sort of one-on-one consultation opportunities.

Jad: Hi, this is Jad. Hello everybody. We're happy to meet with any of you one-on-one as we always do, and we're happy to partner and bring in our partners from SNAPS, CPD SNAPS as well. So, yeah, absolutely.

Marlisa Grogan: Okay, great. We have a couple of additional comments and then I can turn it back to our event producer to open the lines up again. The second question was whether or not tribes will be able to see what other tribes have said via the tribal consultation link. We will also share the email address at the end of this presentation. And some of you have already sent in your comments. I can answer the question that we will be posting comments so that they will be publicly visible and so others can see the comments that have been submitted.

Marlisa Grogan: Okay. Another question. Will tribes and TDAGs need to apply through local Continuum of Care collaboration at the county and city level? I'm going to turn that one over to Sherri or Norm.

Norman Suchar: Sherri. Do you want to take it first?

Sherri Boyd: Yes, I can take a first stab at it. So for fiscal year 2021, which is the NOFO and the competition that is coming a little bit later this year, yes, the tribes and TDAG will need to apply through a local CoC and neighboring CoC. We do realize that there are some additional details that will need to be worked out between now and then, and hopefully by the time we get to our next consultation, we'll have some more details that will spell things out a bit differently. But we do want to make sure that we have the necessary processes in place that will link Indian tribes and TDAGs with Continuums of Care for the project application process. Did you want to add anything additional to that Norm?

Norman Suchar: No additions. That was well said. Thank you.

Sherri Boyd: You're welcome.

Jemine Byron: Thank you, Sherri and Norm. I just want to move to the next question there. And again, as a speaker comes on the line, if you want to address all of the questions, that's fine too. But the second question we had there was, what needs exist within tribal areas for people experiencing homelessness? In what ways can the CoC program funds be used to address homelessness in tribal areas? I will turn back to the event producer.

Speaker 1: Sure. So I see three callers in the queue. Moving on to the first caller. Caller, your line is unmuted. Please go ahead.

Rebecca Stone.: This is Rebecca Stone. Can you hear me?

Jemine Byron: Yes, we can. Thank you.

Rebecca Stone.: Okay. I am the Executive Director at the Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. And I typed my question in, because actually it was for the previous question about I've been here with the TDAG for several years now, and I've not ever been contacted or aware of the Continuum of Care in the state of Oklahoma. And so I'm not familiar with the ones covering my area and I don't have those relationships. So how will we develop a project that is meaningful to the continuum? So to be considered, so that it would be meaningful and maybe be chosen to be funded. And with regard to maybe some of the other questions also is that we're rural, a lot of the tribes are in rural areas and probably have not been considered or participated in pointed of time counts and don't have that data or those statistics to maybe be competitive, and especially the relationship part that tribes have not been a part of the continuum and may not be favorably looked upon to be funded. (silence)

Jemine Byron: Thank you for that comment. I think that you no matter what, it is a real blessing and a good future for inclusion of tribal governments in the CoC Program Competition, and with recognition that there's a lot of work to do in sort of forming the relationships with the CoC and actually expanding the roles of TDH, even tribal governments in the CoC program in future years. So I think as any obstacles are faced, we again are committed to working with the tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entity and the CoC to help facilitate that relationship and build upon and resolve some of those concerns that you've raised today. But again, I think as we have future consultations and provide additional information and materials that are available, communications that we've had with CoC and we'll have with the CoC as well as we make them aware of this terrific opportunity, I think hopefully we'll be able to see some of the concerns you raised today addressed. But thank you for that comment and we definitely have that on our radar.

Rebecca Stone.: Thank you so much.

Jemine Byron: As a reminder to make a comment over the phone, please press pound two on your telephone keypad to enter the comment queue. You will hear a

notification when your line is unmuted. At that time, please state your name, title, and the tribe that you represent. Once again, pressing pound two will indicate that you wish to make a comment. To submit a written comment, select all panelists from the dropdown menu in the chat panel, enter your comment in the message box provided and send. Please state your name, title, and the tribe that you represent when you submit the comment. Moving on to the next caller. Caller, your line is muted. Please go ahead.

Ron Ryan: Hi, this is Ron Ryan with the Metlakatla Indian Housing Authority in Metlakatla, Alaska. And we also are the TDAG for the Metlakatla Indian Community. My question is can the board of commissioners for the housing authority also serve as the board for the CoC program or does it require a separate board to be established?

Jemine Byron: Norm, is that comment that we need to take under consideration and provide response at a later date or?

Norman Suchar: I can answer in a very general way. Now, the expectation of the Continuum of Care board is that it represents all sort of different aspects of homelessness in the particular community. I'm not familiar with your particular board, so I'm not sure whether or not it meets those criteria, but we would expect the board to represent all aspects of the community. And there is a requirement that at least one person on that board be a person who has experienced homelessness. So again, it's hard without knowing the composition of your board, it's hard to say, but in general, we would have those expectations with the CoC board.

Ron Ryan: Understood. Thank you.

Jemine Byron: Thank you. Marlisa, were there any additional comments in the chat relating to the questions that we had posed?

Marlisa Grogan: Yes, there are. Oh, I'm sorry. Did I interrupt someone? Okay.

Speaker 1: No. I was just going to say that there's one more caller in the queue.

Marlisa Grogan: Got it.

Speaker 1: Do you want to take that now?

Jemine Byron: Sure. Go ahead. There's a caller in the queue.

Speaker 1: Caller, your line is unmuted. Please go ahead.

Tiffany: Hi, can you hear me?

Jemine Byron: Yes, we can.

Tiffany: Hi, my name is Tiffany [inaudible 00:46:42] and I'm the Homelessness Resource Manager for the Nooksack Indian Tribe in Washington State. So just first of all to reiterate what one of the other people that have commented on here. She had mentioned leaving the 25% match, and when I saw the 25% match, I was thinking maybe having it a little bit lower or waving it. And then also it was mentioned for the notices not coming in within enough time to participate in these. I normally get them like the day before, so it is kind of difficult to make the time to be here. Even though I thank everybody for being here and being available, this is great.

Tiffany: So I actually do have a specific question. You guys had mentioned that there were going to be funds set aside for DV programs to assist with homelessness and Nooksack like many other tribes, has several programs, including DV homeless programs and tribal housing authorities. So does anybody know at this point, if we would apply separately, if we would have applied just as the tribe and then have funds dispersed to the different programs or how that would work?

Jemine Byron: That is not an answer that we can provide in detail today. Again, as we continue consideration of all comments and any future consultation, that kind of detail would be formulated for the NOFO.

Tiffany: Okay. Thank you.

Jemine Byron: And thank you for your comments on the waiver and timeliness of notification.

Tiffany: Of course. Actually, and just real quick. I worked for housing for six years here at Nooksack, and I'm just excited to see that tribes are now given this opportunity to be able to participate in the Continuum of Care because we've been looking forward to it for a long time. So just thank you guys again.

Jemine Byron: We agree. We're very thrilled by this opportunity. Marlisa, I'll ask you to read out any chat comments. That would be great for the group.

Marlisa Grogan: Sure. We have a comment from Cheryl Cloud, Executive Director of the Red Cliff Chippewa Housing Authority. She says that we are new to the CoC program and trying to figure out how to participate in it. Is there a tribal set aside, or do tribal entities equally compete among other applicants? Is there a way for HUD to facilitate local connections between tribes and local Continuums of Care? Are there any tribal Continuums of Care currently?

Jemine Byron: Thank you for those comments, but I think as I previously stated, I think what I'm hearing quite a bit of is really helping to facilitate the connections with the already existing CoCs, which is something we acknowledge that needs to be developed a bit more on our side as well, but thank you for your comments and we definitely will consider that as well as we move forward.

Marlisa Grogan: We can take another question and I believe that there are additional callers in the queue. And this one I think is probably best directed to you, Norm, it's from David Cade, the Housing Director from Dry Creek Rancheria of Pomo Indians. Is HMIS required for tribes in TDAGs?

Norman Suchar: Thank you for the question. So HMIS is the requirement in the Continuum of Care program for all recipients of Continuum of Care funds. So if a project is getting assistance from the Continuum of Care Program, then they are required to enter data into HMIS.

Marlisa Grogan: Okay. I'll turn it back to our event producer to take the caller comments.

Speaker 1: Sure. Moving on to the first caller. Caller, your line is unmuted. Please go ahead.

Neil Whitegull: Yes, good afternoon. My name is Neil Whitegull and I'm with Ho-Chunk Housing and Community Development Agency. We are the TDAG for the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin. And my question, I guess I have... it's a two-part question. The first with the consultation with the tribes is appreciated, but I guess my question is tribes have to apply with neighboring CoC members or through their local counties. Has there been a consultation set up with those counties to explain to them what the process is so that the counties know, or these Continuum of Care departments know that tribes will be coming to them and there's not necessarily a competition for their funds, but it's you know, an expansion of the program? And the second part of that question is understanding that registering part of, I think it goes on to the last comments, registering your participants or your local population, would tribes then have to be actively involved in your counties or your local CoC's wait list to have services delivered to tribal members or non-tribal members that would come on to your areas? (silence)

Jemine Byron: Thank you. Thank you for those comments and questions that we will have to consider and get back to you. But again, I want to acknowledge the number of you that have raised the issue about partnership with the local CoC that are currently established and our efforts to ensure that we also communicate with them about the participation of tribes in TDAGs and we are committed to doing that. So thank you for the comments and we will definitely take action on that. Next caller, please.

Speaker 1: Sure. Moving on to the next caller. Caller, your line is unmuted. Please go ahead.

Donna Lee: Good morning. Good afternoon. This is Donna Lee with Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians in Northern California. Wanted to resonate several of the comments, including the 25% match concern and the collaboration concerns, but equally some of the challenges that some of the smaller tribes such as Scott's Valley has is that we don't have the funding or resources for grant writers. So we're always trying to do that within our own organization and our own limited staff. And so if the application process is too cumbersome, it

basically read this out before we can even start. And while we're small, we still have a huge need in the homelessness reality. So just wanting to remind staff that when it comes to tribal participation, it's important that the application and competitiveness not be so voluminous or overwhelming that it knocks people out before they even start.

Donna Lee: One of the other things that HUD has done in the past on the ICBG competitive grants is give us an idea of what that point scoring will be in order for us to know whether we even have an opportunity to try. And so might be another opportunity here for continuity of care of being able to say, okay, these are kind of where the points is going to be if it's going to be a point system and allow tribes could make a good use of their time and limited resources. Thank you for your time.

Jemine Byron: Thank you so much for those comments. Thank you. Next caller, please.

Speaker 1: Sure. Moving on to the next caller. Caller, your line is unmuted. Please go ahead.

Aaron Payment: Hello. Can you hear me?

Jemine Byron: Yes, we can. Thank you.

Aaron Payment: All right. My name is Chairperson, Aaron Payment. I'm the Chairperson of The Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. We are the largest tribe East of the Mississippi. I also serve as first vice president for the National Congress of American Indians and a couple of other things, so I won't list them out. But I'm a former housing commissioner for our tribe. Our housing commission is to TDAG. And so my questions aren't going to be micro, they're going to be more macro because I'm not as familiar with the Continuum of Care Program. And so I really got on the call to listen, but I did want to kind of answer some of the questions you have posted up there, especially in terms of our heightened need as a result of the pandemic. So if I could start just real quickly.

Aaron Payment: So I come from a place of... Our tribe got recognized in '72. We very aggressively moved forward and established our housing. And we have a seven county service area. We have seven different housing sites but we are very land poor and proportionate to the size of our tribe, we do not have a lot of housing. Our Indian Housing Block Grant statistic is 16,500 and our membership is 45,000 people. Our former vice chairperson, George Nolan, was the chair of AHEC and so he represented us at the highest level. So for me personally, I was homeless from the age of 16 to 18 because I'm from a dysfunctional alcohol and physical abuse family. And so I fled at 15 actually. And so we have a lot of homeless need that I can tell you that we have not clearly identified that need because our need is so great for housing that we've prioritized families.

Aaron Payment: And so families have priority and single individuals generally don't have much opportunity through our housing delivery system. We're limited in our funding

and also in our available units that we have. And so I wanted to give a plug for a more diverse approach to meeting safe and affordable housing need to include homeless people, single people and believe that some new opportunities for public private partnerships maybe under the Infrastructure Bill that is being considered for later this spring. We would find some ways to stimulate that. Because if we rely on federal dollars only to be able to construct housing opportunities, we're just never going to get there. There's others that have private housing that are either slums or some tenements that are not bad, but if that can be done privately, it seems like we should be able to have partnerships where we could do it and provide subsidized and maybe even some upper middle income subsidized units.

Aaron Payment: But I wanted to really focus on both the pandemic and the opioid crisis. So long before we were in a worldwide pandemic, we were in an epidemic proportions for the opioid crisis in our communities. And you look at the CDC, we are impacted at rates higher than most other racial ethnic populations. And so one of the challenges for providing safe and affordable housing for people is if they start on the path of convictions. And we have a zero tolerance policy, we know that we have the ability to do waivers but we need a different approach to providing safe and affordable housing for our people who were most critical. This is one of those areas in the post-mortem, when we look back at the pandemic, we're going to see that the people who were the greatest at risk of contagion are homeless people as a result of the opioid crisis.

Aaron Payment: So anyway, I wanted to give voice to that. And finally, I wanted to share that as we think forward-thinking for funding for Continuum of Care, that we move it away from competitive application process to more of a formula and self-governance approach. Because if we did a nationwide tribal needs assessment of our homelessness, we're going to find that this issue is acute in every single one of our communities. And we're going to also find that with the funding that we get, that we prioritize for families. So it does really then leave out individuals who are just having to fend for themselves, and the pandemic has made that worse, I believe. And so if we were able to get a great national level assessment of our homelessness needs so through some data collection then we could find that the need exists everywhere. And if that's the case, then I think that the funding should be made available for every respective tribal communities so that they can adapt their programming to help people in transitional housing. And then also first step towards self-sufficiency and safe and affordable housing. So that is it. And I will mostly listen because I want to learn more about our Continuum of Care. Thank you.

Jemine Byron: Thank you so much for your comments. Thank you. Do we have any other callers?

Speaker 1: I do not see any for the callers in the queue.

Jemine Byron: Okay. Let me ask Marlisa, any comments in the chat?



Marlisa Grogan: Yes. We have a question from Steven Rayford. He says, homelessness often manifest quite differently in Indian country with massive overcrowding and substandard housing, where there may be multiple generations and multiple individuals using and abusing. Under these circumstances will tribes and TDAGs be able to qualify, given the criteria of emergency shelter and people who will imminently lose their nighttime residence?

Jemine Byron: Nom, do you want to speak to that on a high level, as far as the program today?

Norman Suchar: Sure. And I would I guess reiterate that part of what we hope to do is to hear your comments and recommendations about things like this. So please feel free to continue sharing those. So currently people who are fleeing violence and, or sexual assault, or stalking or dangerous or life-threatening conditions are eligible for homeless assistance. So it's hard from just this description to say definitively whether that person or these situations would be eligible, but it is, we do definitely serve more than just people who are currently living in sheltered or unsheltered locations. We definitely serve people who are fleeing dangerous or violent conditions or people who are about to lose their housing and don't have any other options.

Jemine Byron: Thank you, Norm, and thank you for the comments. Marlisa, you're on mute.

Marlisa Grogan: Thanks Jemine. We have a comment from Rebecca Stone who is Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. How will tribes and TDAGs get involved with Continuums of Care to develop meaningful projects to the continuum?

Jemine Byron: Again, I come back to the comment I made before about sort of our outreach, as HUD we're committed to making that outreach to encourage those relationships. But I would say on a local level I would ask that you seek out information about the local CoC and engage in that outreach as well. At the end of this session, we also will be providing links to our HUD exchange sites where a lot of information about collaboration, access to information about COCs and who the contact persons are for the individual COCs, that would be very helpful for you as well. So we will provide that link at the end of the session, but again, I want to reiterate our commitment to outreach into the CoCs as well.

Marlisa Grogan: Okay. Our next-

Norman Suchar: And if I could-

Marlisa Grogan: ... Go ahead. Sorry, Norm.

Norman Suchar: ... Sorry. If I could just actually add, if people have recommendations for how to facilitate a better interaction, we'd also love to hear from you about those.

Jemine Byron: Thank you. That's a great question.

Marlisa Grogan: David Cade, the Housing Director of Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians asks, I have a comment. Will tribes or TDAGs need to have HUD certified homeless counselors on staff to apply for Continuum of Care Funding? Sherri I'll turn that one over to you.

Sherri Boyd: Thank you, Marlisa. So there's not a requirement within the CoC program to have HUD certified counselors on staff who are part of it. The important part is working with the CoC program with projects is having the appropriate level of staff on board that can provide the necessary services, point the program participants in the right direction of matching, program participant with the type of services or housing that are needed, but there's no requirement for certification.

Norman Suchar: And to follow up a little about that. So the housing counseling program at HUD has requirements about certifying housing counselors but in general, the continuum of care program does not have those same requirements.

Marlisa Grogan: Okay. And David Cade, Housing Director of Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians comments, tribes and TDAGs provide programs exclusively for natives. How can they be competitive at a local county level if they're evaluated against other applicant agencies that serve the community at large? Norm, I'll direct that question to you.

Norman Suchar: Sure. And again, just want to reiterate, if you have suggestions about how we should be approaching this, we'd love to hear your recommendations about that. I do want to clarify one thing about how the Continuum of Care Program works. We didn't quite get into this level of detail because there's a lot of detail in the Continuum of Care Program, but the way the application process works is that the local Continuum of Care is... We give a lot of weight to how the local Continuum of Care ranks projects. So for example, a local Continuum of Care may apply for 20 different projects and how they rank projects will have a huge influence over whether they get funded or not. The competitive process really the impact of it is more to determine which Continuums of Care get more funding, but within a particular Continuum of Care, the project to get funded are the ones that, that Continuum of Care ranks highly. So for example, if you're number five on the list of 20 projects, you'll almost certainly receive funding, but if you're number 20 on that 20 project list, it's unlikely that you'd get funded.

Norman Suchar: So there's a lot of weight in the process given to local decisions. And I think that that certainly has its own set of challenges, and again, we'd love to hear about what we can do to help make that interaction at the local level work better. But in general, it's not like an individual project in sort of one Continuum of Care is necessarily competing with other projects in other Continuums of Care. The local ranking process has a much, much bigger influence over whether a project gets funded.

Jemine Byron: Thank you.

Marlisa Grogan: We do have a few additional comments, Joe Gervais, Executive Director of Blackfeet Housing made the comment that at Blackfeet Housing, almost every rental unit has needs for supportive services in order to prevent homelessness. They need a supportive housing project in order to start addressing their issues. And Mary Riegert, Coordinator of the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative to Prevent & End Homelessness, has two great comments. The first of which is that tribes have unique political status, as government, this needs to be considered in regards to these funds. Noting that it's hard to be competitive with current CoC funds. And she also wrote that we need culturally specific TA providers for our tribes to move forward. This is necessary in the one-on-one meetings that were asked about previously. And the last comment I believe that's been submitted so far in the chat is from Executive Director, Cheryl Cloud from Redcliffe Chippewa Housing Authority. Needs in tribal areas include capacity building at the tribal level, in this program, establishing locally offered wraparound supportive services, infrastructure like temporary housing facilities, operating team systems, typically tribal folks look to their tribe for help.

Marlisa Grogan: And we did just receive a couple of additional comments, Jacquie Poplin, Executive Director of the Quinault Housing Authority, which is the TDAG in the Quinault Indian Nation within Washington state and the Pacific Northwest. She writes as indicated in the NOFO is coming out in the spring for fiscal year 2021. Can we elaborate a bit on the program year? Will this be on the federal fiscal year? Seems like a short turnaround for tribes or tribal lead designated housing entities. I'll turn that one over to you, Norm.

Norman Suchar: Sure. So the funds are fiscal year 2021 funds, but typically if the application process will release the notice of funding opportunity this spring, it'll be due back to us in late summer and we'll make awards in the following winter. Projects would typically start sometime in calendar year 2022. So we certainly wouldn't expect, and I actually don't think it would be possible for a project to start during the 2021 calendar year. So the actual projects would start operations likely sometime in calendar year 2022., but the applications for those projects are obviously due much sooner. I will also say though that while this is the first year, we obviously anticipate doing this going forward every year and plan to continue to better incorporate tribal programs into the Continuum of Care in every step of the way. So that's the time frame.

Marlisa Grogan: And the second part of Executive Director Poplin's comment was in regards to being competitive in the short period of time within the next few months. And I just wanted to mention that we'll be asking specific questions and comments from you all about the NOFO process, and we have a link where you could access prior year NOFOs to be able to get a sense of just the details of the competition, the steps and the requirements.

Jemine Byron: Thank you. Marlisa. Event producer, do we have any other callers?

Speaker 1: I do not see any callers in the queue as of now.

Jemine Byron: Okay. Thank you. And I think, Marlisa, you did cover the chat comments.

Marlisa Grogan: Yes. Executive Director, Cheryl Cloud from the Redcliffe Chippewa Housing Authority submitted another comment mentioning that it would be beneficial for more education to happen that for tribal participants, more training on the program itself and for existing CoC program administrators, some additional education on government to government relationship building.

Jemine Byron: Thank you. Thank you very much to everyone for all of the comments. I want to mention that the recording, the slides and a transcript of this consultation will be posted on our website. We really encourage the continuation of comments and feedback to be provided to us through the CoC tribal CoCTribalConsult@hud.gov mailbox. There's no timeframe on that. As we mentioned if FY2021 NOFA does need to be issued during the spring. So we welcome the feedback today. The comments received today, the comments that we will receive through the mailbox. And as we earlier mentioned, there will be another session to go into a little bit more detailed because again, full acknowledgement of the fact that this is a lot, this is a lot and it's quick, but we are trying to very responsive to the 2021 appropriations language and to really move forward in making these funding available to all of our community. And of course the tribal and TDAGs as well.

Jemine Byron: Let's go to the last slide. Okay. Again, this is the email address. We are trying to encourage at least comments on the 2021 competition within the next 30 days. And as Marlisa mentioned, I think it would be hugely helpful to take the time to access the link on the HUD exchange that provides a lot of information on the CoC program and also past, NOFAs as we used to refer to them before, but now it's now it's NOFOs, but those are also available on the HUD exchange. Again, we will continue to accept your very valuable comments on an ongoing basis.

Jemine Byron: I want to thank everyone for joining today. I want to thank our on air partners. I want to thank my staff as well for their great participation today. You're going to love working with them by the way. They're great. So we are excited. We are committed and we are looking so much forward to working in great partnership with our tribal entities and the TDAGs. So thank you all and have a great day. Bye-Bye.

Speaker 1: That concludes the conference. Thank you for using AT&T event services. You may now disconnect.