



HEART OF TEXAS YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

SCORING FACTORS FOR YHDP GRANT APPLICATIONS

Threshold Criteria – required but not scored.

Threshold Criteria	YES/NO
1. Project applicant and subrecipients (if any) are eligible applicants (nonprofit organizations, states, local governments, and instrumentalities of state and local governments).	
2. The agency has signed the Competition Agreement.	
3. The agency has capacity to meet program expenses in advance of reimbursement.	
4. The agency has an unqualified, independent financial audit completed within 6 months of the end of the fiscal year.	
5. The agency has a SAM.gov registration.	
6. The agency has an active DUNS number.	
7. The agency has no delinquent federal debt.	
8. The agency provides for the participation of at least one homeless or formerly homeless individual on the board of directors or other equivalent policymaking entity.	
9. The agency provides avenues for direct client input to the Board of Directors for the agency.	
10. The agency provides due process to clients who are asked to leave any program.	
11. The agency provides clients with specialized resources to meet the unique needs of clients with physical, cognitive, or behavioral disabilities and provides reasonable accommodations for clients with linguistic and/or cultural challenges.	
12. The agency complies with Public Law 90-284 referring to the Fair Housing Act (42 USC 3601-20), as amended.	
13. The agency has no unresolved Fair Housing or Civil Rights matters.	
14. The organization complies with HUD directives regarding Equal Access to housing Docket Number: HUD-2015-0104; Docket Name: FR-5863-P-01.	
15. The agency has a Code of Conduct that it is compliant with 2 CFR Part 200 and has submitted it to HUD.	
16. The agency has no debarment or suspension from doing business with the Federal Government and is not on the Federal do not pay list.	
17. The agency is in compliance with the prohibition against lobbying Section 1352, Title 31, and U.S. Code.	

If any of the above questions have a response of “No”, the project does not pass the threshold to be scored further and is not eligible to compete for funding.

Scored Criteria

Section	Maximum Points
I. Interest	30
II. Organizational Experience	40
III. Program Description	100
IV. Alignment with HUD Principles and Prioritized Elements of the Heart of Texas YHDP Coordinated Community Plan	120
V. Project Implementation Plan	60
MAXIMUM POINTS	350

Scoring Breakdown

Section	Maximum Points
I. Interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates an understanding of the special needs and challenges presented by homeless youth ● Clearly states why the organization is interested and committed to serving this population ● Clearly links project activities to the mission and vision of the organization 	30
Total Points for I. Interest	30
II. Organizational Experience	
II. A. History of Performance and Compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clearly describes the organization's experience and past performance in providing housing, supportive services, and referral services, especially to unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. ● Explains organizational infrastructure, including administrative financial capacity to effectively utilize federal funds and deliver the services as proposed. ● Identifies any federal grants the agency has had in the past five years ● If applicable, states whether the federal agency contracted with has any outstanding findings or concerns with respect to services offered or funds administered ● If applicable, describes the unresolved findings or concerns from a federal agency. 	10
II.B. Collaboration and Knowledge of Community Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates organizational collaboration with other providers or agencies throughout the Heart of Texas region ● Demonstrates knowledge of community partners and resources serving unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. 	10

Section	Maximum Points
<p>II.C. Staff Qualifications and Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provides an overview of the staffing plan for the proposed project. ● Describes the experience of the person/s on staff who will provide staff supervision and management of project activities. ● Describes how skills and experience of existing staff will ensure success of the YHDP project, with a particular focus on how they will support youth choice and authentic youth engagement. ● States if existing staff will be assigned to this project or if staff will be recruited specifically for this project. ● Provide an approximate timeline for implementation of project activities. 	10
<p>II.D. Compliance with Fair Housing and Equal Access Requirements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates that the program is in compliance with applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements and provides equal access for program participants regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, in compliance with federal law. 	10
Total Points for II. Organizational Experience	40
III. Program Description	
<p>III.A. Program Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● States the population of youth who will be served ● Clearly defines the eligibility criteria that will be used to determine who will be served in the project ● Describes how housing and supportive services that will be provided through the project, including the type, scale, ● States the location(s) of services and a transportation strategies for youth across the 6-county region ● Explains how the program design will be accessible and appropriate for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. ● Describes any linkages to other services or agencies that will support program implementation and service delivery. ● Describes the geographic service area the project will include for housing and supportive services. 	10
<p>III.B. Linkages to Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If applicable to the project type, describes how the project will address the crisis housing needs of participants. ● Describes how the project will assist youth in locating and securing permanent housing. ● If applicable, describes how the agency will maintain positive working relations with property owners. ● Describes how services will support long term housing stability. ● Provides a plan for in-home visitation, as appropriate. 	10

Section	Maximum Points
<p>III.C. Supportive Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes the range of supportive services for youth ● Describes how access to education and employment services are integrated into the project. ● Describes how, directly or through linkages, mental health and substance abuse services will be made available to clients. ● Services provided by the project are in alignment with eligible expenses under CoC Program (24 CFR 578.53). 	10
<p>III.D. Mainstream Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes the project’s plan to connect youth to mainstream resources, such as health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible. ● Describes how the project will screen for eligibility for mainstream resources. ● Outlines a plan to coordinate with mainstream systems and resources to make referrals. ● Explains plan for staff training on mainstream resources for youth. 	10
<p>III.E. Youth Involvement & Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes youth involvement in planning and designing the proposed project ● Describes the organization’s plan for active involvement and leadership among youth in the project’s implementation, including employment opportunities and youth voice in the staff hiring process. 	10
<p>III.F. Populations of Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes how the project will serve vulnerable and often overrepresented youth experiencing homelessness including youth of color, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth; pregnant and parenting youth; youth who have had involvement with juvenile justice and foster care systems; and victims of sexual trafficking, exploitation, and/or domestic violence. ● Demonstrates a clear understanding of the considerations for each population’s special needs and challenges ● Describes how these special needs and challenges will be incorporated into the project’s identification methods, infrastructure considerations, housing and/or service-delivery. 	10

Section	Maximum Points
<p>III.G. Cultural Competency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the organization’s methods of ensuring cultural competence at all levels of the organization. • Explains experience serving with cultural sensitivity people who are racially, ethnically and religiously diverse; who speak languages other than English; who have a range of physical and mental disabilities; who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender; and who are extremely low-income. • Describes the diversity of the organization’s board and staff. • Describes the organization’s non-discrimination policies. • Clearly demonstrates how the staff meet the needs of clients, with sensitivity toward their varied cultural and life experiences. 	10
<p>III.H. Housing First Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes how the project will use a “Housing First approach” in which assistance is offered and referrals made, including access to intensive, youth-focused case management and services, without preconditions and barriers to entry such as treatment or service participation requirements. 	10
<p>III.I. Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes how the project is innovative. • Describes how the project addresses crisis or permanent housing and/or supportive services in a way that is responsive to the needs of youth and can be sustained on a long-term basis. 	10
<p>III.J. Community Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the extent to which the project demonstrates connections to existing community organizations for long term support including mainstream organization, services, clubs, and organizations, faith community, social and civic organizations. 	10
Total Points for III. Program Description	100
<p>IV. Alignment with HUD Principles and Prioritized Elements of the Heart of Texas YHDP Coordinated Community Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a general overview of how the project aligns with the HUD principles laid out in the YHDP NOFA (<i>note: Detailed responses describing alignment with HUD principles are required in questions IV.A-K. below and are NOT required here</i>). • Clearly explains how the project will align with the shared vision, goals, objectives, and action steps of the Coordinated Community Plan. 	10

Section	Maximum Points
<p>IV.A. USICH Four Core Outcomes (<i>refer to RFP for full detail</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates a commitment to the four principles of the USICH framework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stable Housing ● Permanent Connections ● Education/Employment ● Social-Emotional Well-Being 	10
<p>IV.B. Responding to the Needs of Special Populations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outlines strategies of engagement, infrastructure considerations, and housing and service-delivery approaches that are responsive to the specific needs of special populations served. 	10
<p>IV.C. Creating Equity and Addressing Disparities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes how a racial equity lens was used in developing the preliminary project description ● Explains how the project addresses disparities 	10
<p>IV.D. Using Best Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates a clear understanding of best practices in serving youth and youth adults at imminent risk of or experiencing homelessness ● Describes how Positive Youth Development will guide project design and service delivery ● Describes how Trauma Informed Care will guide project design and service delivery ● Outlines a plan for staff training and fidelity to best practices 	10
<p>IV.E. Family Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes how the project will employ permanent connections and family engagement strategies ● Describes how the project will provide services designed to strengthen, stabilize, and/or reunify families. 	10
<p>IV.F. Immediate Access to housing with no Preconditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes how the project will follow Housing First principles in service delivery. 	10
<p>IV.G. Valuing Youth Choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Demonstrates an understanding of the importance of youth being the decision makers in their own lives ● Describes how the project will promote youth choice in terms of the kind of housing and the extent and nature of supports and services they access. ● Explains how the project will present alternative options for youth who avoid programs with barriers such as requiring sobriety or abstinence. 	10

Section	Maximum Points
IV.H. Individualized and Client-driven Supports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes how the project will create flexibility to accommodate individualized and client-driven supports that empower youth, build upon their strengths, and support the long-term goal of self-sufficiency. 	10
IV.I. Social and Community Integration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes how the project promotes meaningful opportunities for community involvement, engagement, and leadership for youth. 	10
IV.J. Using Coordinated Entry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes how the project will participate in the Heart to Home Coordinated Entry Committee ● Demonstrates an understanding of the case conference process and states a commitment that the project will be includes in youth case conferencing 	10
IV.K. The Value of Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● States a commitment to participate in the Heart of Texas Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) ● Demonstrates understanding of the need for accurate data ● Describes how the organization will collect project level data elements and ensure superior data quality 	10
Total Points for IV. Alignment with CCP	120
V. Project Implementation Plan	
V.A. Timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Includes a timeline for project implementation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hiring of staff and staff training ○ Proposed project start date (<i>funding is expected to be available on approximately 10/1/2020</i>) ○ Project evaluation and benchmarks for project outcomes - proposed process measures can be included as well as outcome measurements. ● Includes a brief description of how outcome measures were determined. 	10
V.B. Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes the plan for incorporating the project into the Heart to Home Coordinated Entry System. ● Describes how the organization will ensure the project is accessible and known to unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness - include advertising, local partnerships, and other outreach strategies to reach all young people who may be in need. 	10

Section	Maximum Points
<p>V.C. Staff Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes any training or staff development activities that will be conducted as part of this project ● Explains how this training will ensure that staff are ready to meet the needs of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. 	10
<p>V.D. Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clearly completes the budget chart by providing a project budget that is clear and easy to understand. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ensure that the budget supports the housing, services, and staff costs necessary to effectively administer the project ○ Projects must be cost effective, with costs not deviating substantially from the norm for the type of activity and location. 	10
<p>V.E. Match</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes the resources in support of this project which will cover the required 25% match. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outline in-kind resources that will be used as match, if applicable. ○ Outline external resources that will be used as match, if applicable. ● Provides any additional details on securing matching funds that add value to the overall vision of the Coordinated Community Plan. 	10
<p>V.F. Additional Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Describes any other programs, resources, or partnerships that the agency had that can add value to project implementation. 	10
Total Points for V. Project Implementation Plan	60
TOTAL POINT FOR ALL SECTIONS	350

