



# Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care Grant Competition

September 1, 2021

## NOTIFICATION OF INTERNAL COMPETITION FOR HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE FUNDS

The Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition (TX-604 Waco/McLennan County Continuum of Care) announces the internal competition for HUD Continuum of Care Funding.

This competition is to award funding made available through the HUD Continuum of Care Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) issued on August 18, 2021. HUD has made available extensive resources to support applicants. These can be found here:

- Complete information on the HUD NOFO can be found at this location: [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/coc/competition](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition)
- Guidance on the HUD NOFO can be found at this location: <http://www.heartoftexashomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/FY21-Continuum-of-Care-Competition.pdf>
- Potential applicants for funding are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the extensive resources for the application process found on this HUD website. Instructions and resources for the application process are found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

All organizations interested in obtaining funding through the HUD NOFO – **including both new and renewal** project applicants – must submit their application in the ESNAPS grant management system no later than **September 30, 2021 at 5 pm Central Standard Time**, with the **exception of YHDP Renewal and Replacement grants**, which will have a **submission deadline of October 15, 2021 at 5pm Central Standard Time** due to these grants being non-competitive and not going through the scoring and ranking process.

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

### *Renewal Applications*

- Only existing HUD CoC grants are eligible for renewal. The only eligible renewal grants are those with an expiration date within Calendar Year 2022 (January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022).
- The renewal amount must be consistent with the Final Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) for the CoC. The renewal amount may not be exceeded and the budget lines must conform to those indicated on the GIW.

### *New Project Applications*

New project applications are requested from qualified nonprofit and local government organizations for the FY 2021 Continuum of Care Program Competition. Applications are sought for projects that can make maximum efficient, economical, and effective use of the prospective allocation of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) funds. New projects must meet threshold requirements laid out in the NOFO. Our CoC has been allotted \$107,580 in Permanent Housing Bonus funds for FY 2021.

There are three allowable types of housing projects:

- **Permanent supportive housing** for homeless individuals and families in which the head or co-head of household is disabled. Permanent supportive housing must either be 100% dedicated to serving chronically homeless individuals and families through 2 “DedicatedPLUS” PSH projects. While DedicatedPLUS projects may serve the chronically homeless they may also serve a broader range of homeless people in need of PSH. Please refer to the HUD NOFO resources for detailed information on DedicatedPLUS PSH projects. Admissions must come from the CoC’s coordinated entry process (MVRT).
  - PSH may provide housing assistance through tenant, sponsor or project based rental assistance, through leasing, or by providing operating support to a PSH facility. Because coordinated entry emphasizes participant choice in housing, tenant based rental assistance is the preferred housing type.
  
- **Rapid rehousing for individuals and families** targeting households that are living in the following settings:
  - Residing in place not meant for human habitation
  - Residing in emergency shelter
  - Meet DV criteria in homeless definition (category 4)
  - Residing in TH funded as part of a joint TH PH-RRH project
  - Receiving assistance from a VA homeless program and met one of the above criteria on intake into the VA program
  - RRH includes housing assistance through tenant based rental assistance (providing only on a short term or medium term – NTE 24 months) and supportive services to assist participants secure housing, maintain housing and increase income and employment.
  
- **Joint TH-PH/RRH Projects**
  - This HUD initiative is intended to serve homeless families and individuals who need temporary, safe accommodations while they secure permanent housing, assemble needed documents to secure housing or have other barriers to immediate placement in housing. In joint TH-RRH projects, the provider must be able to offer both TH and RRH to all participants, but all participants are not required to participate in both components. Participants should remain in the TH component for as short a period of time as possible; there should be no program requirements to complete, and the need for continuing stay in TH should be determined on a case-by-case basis.
  - For the TH component, housing assistance may be provided through operating support for existing facilities, leasing assistance or rental assistance. In the RRH component, housing assistance can only be provided through tenant based rental assistance. Supportive services may be provided to participants in both components. As in all RRH, rental assistance is limited to short term or medium term (NTE 24 months).
  - Eligible persons to be served in Joint TH-RRH projects include:
    - Residing in place not meant for human habitation
    - Residing in emergency shelter
    - Meet DV criteria in homeless definition (category 4)
  
- **Coordinated Entry**
  - Reallocation funding can be used to support the expansion or development of activities to support the introduction of coordinated entry. This could include additional staff to operate and/or oversee the coordinated entry process, additional housing navigation support or other services that would expand or enhance the coordinated entry system.

- **HMIS Expansion**

- Reallocation funding can be used to expand the HMIS system to include more providers, more analysis of data submitted to HMIS, more training and support to HMIS contributing agencies, further outreach to non-participating agencies or other services to improve data quality or utilization.
- Only the designated HMIS lead is permitted to apply for HMIS expansion funding.

*All of the above project types qualify for funding through reallocation and/or through the permanent housing bonus.*

### *Expansion Projects*

In the 2021 competition, HUD is allowing renewal projects to apply for a new project that will EXPAND an existing renewal project. To apply for an EXPANSION project, a grantee must have an eligible renewal project. Please see the NOFO for rules regarding Expansion Projects.

### *Consolidation Projects*

In the 2021 competition, eligible renewal project applicants will have the ability to consolidate two or more eligible renewal projects. See instructions in the NOFO.

### *Transition Grants*

In the 2021 competition, eligible renewal projects can transition from one CoC Program component to another during the CoC Program Competition. See instructions in the NOFO.

### *Domestic Violence Bonus*

In the FY 2021 CoC Program Competition, CoCs will be able to apply for a DV Bonus for PH-RRH projects, Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects, and SSO projects for Coordinated Entry. This project type is designated for HUD Homeless Category 4, which includes victim service providers who serve those fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking. Our CoC is allotted \$158,659 in DV Bonus funds for FY 2021. For more information see the NOFO.

## Housing First Requirement

In order to be considered for funding, all projects must follow Housing First principles. These include:

- Minimal barriers to program entry. There cannot be a requirement for sobriety prior to being housed and prior background (criminal history, lack of credit, or eviction history) cannot be used on a blanket basis to exclude potential participants. Participants cannot be required to participate in services as a condition of entry and failure to participate in services cannot be used as grounds for termination from the program.
- All participants must be provided with a standard annual residential lease that does not include clauses that are not standard for residential leases in the community. Individuals and families can only be terminated from the program in conformance with the lease agreement.
- All applicants must be accepted from the Coordinated Entry System.

## Application submission through ESNAPS

Applications must be submitted via the E-SNAPS grants management system by the specified deadline. Applications not developed or submitted through E-SNAPS will not be reviewed and will not be funded. Once the application has been completed in eSNAPS, **do not hit SUBMIT**, instead, save the application (in eSNAPS), download the pdf and save (on your computer, etc.).

## Scoring and Ranking of Projects

All projects will be evaluated with a Board-approved Scoring Tool and ranking of the projects will follow the policies and procedures laid out in the CoC Competition Policies and Procedures manual found in Appendix E of the Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition TX-604 Waco/McLennan County Continuum of Care Governance Charter & Policies and Procedures Manual found at <http://www.heartoftexashomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-HOTH-TX-604-Policies-and-Procedures.pdf>. Scoring tools for new and renewal projects can be found at <http://www.heartoftexashomeless.org/fy-2021-NOFO/>.

## Inquiries

Applicants should review the information available in this Internal Competition Notification and the Notice of Funding Availability from HUD. Please review those materials prior to starting the application or submitting an inquiry to the Heart of Texas CoC. Inquiries are to be submitted to: Shavon Moore at [shavonm@wacotx.gov](mailto:shavonm@wacotx.gov).

# FY 2021 CoC NOFO

## Important Dates & Deadlines

