



Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care Supplemental NOFO Grant Competition

July 1, 2022

NOTIFICATION OF INTERNAL COMPETITION FOR HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE SUPPLEMENTAL TO ADDRESS UNSHELTERED & RURAL HOMELESSNESS FUNDS

The Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition (TX-604 Waco/McLennan County Continuum of Care) announces the internal competition for United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Funding. This process will begin with a planning phase to develop funding priorities and a *Comprehensive CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs* that runs until July 31st and then the CoC will begin receiving project applications via e-snaps from August 1st-September 9th, 2022, which will be followed by the competition phase where applications are scored and ranked by the CoC's Scoring and Ranking Committee before final submission by the Collaborative Applicant, the Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition, to HUD.

This competition is to award funding made available through the HUD Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) issued on June 22, 2022. HUD has made available resources to support applicants. These can be found here:

- Complete information on the HUD NOFO can be found at this location:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/>
- 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/>
- [HOTHC Supplemental NOFO Resource Page](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

All organizations interested in obtaining funding through the HUD NOFO must submit their application in the e-snaps grant management system no later than **September 9, 2022, at 5 pm Central Standard Time**.

LETTER OF INTEREST & INQUIRIES

Please submit a letter of interest if your organization intends to apply. Applicants should review the information available in this Internal Competition Notification and the Notice of Funding Opportunity from HUD. Please review those materials prior to starting the application or submitting an inquiry to HOTHC. Letters of Interest and Inquiries are to be submitted to: Nicole Wiscombe, HOTHC Board Chair, heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

New project applications are requested from qualified nonprofit and local government organizations for the Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO. Applications are sought for projects that can make maximum efficient, economical, and effective use of the prospective allocation of HUD's CoC funds. New projects must meet threshold requirements laid out in the NOFO. All funded projects will be required to participate in the [Heart to Home Coordinated Entry System](#) and utilize a [Housing First](#) approach.

The TX-604 Heart of Texas Continuum of Care's Unsheltered Homelessness set aside in the NOFO is \$2,118,106 and is eligible for project use in the Heart of Texas region counties of McLennan, Hill, Bosque, Falls, Freestone, and Limestone. The Rural Homelessness set aside in the NOFO is \$640,254 and is only eligible for project use in Hill, Bosque, Freestone, and Limestone Counties. Grant terms will be for 3 years and then projects become part of the annual Continuum of Care Competition so budgets will be formulated in e-snaps for a one-year project budget needed multiplied by the 3-year term to determine total award. The following are allowable project types under this NOFO:

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Projects – Eligible under Unsheltered & Rural Set Asides**
 - Housing for homeless individuals and families in which the head or co-head of household is disabled.
 - Permanent supportive housing must be 100% dedicated to serving chronically homeless individuals and families or meet qualifications as a “DedicatedPLUS” PSH project. DedicatedPLUS projects may serve the chronically homeless and 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.
 - 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.
 - Admissions must come from the CoC's Heart to Home coordinated entry process.
- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Projects – Eligible under Unsheltered & Rural Set Asides**
 - 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 Domestic Violence (DV) criteria in homeless definition (Category 4),
 - Residing in Transitional Housing (TH) funded part of a joint TH PH-RRH project, and/or
 - Receiving assistance from a Veteran's Affairs (VA) homeless program and met one of the above criteria on intake into the VA program.
 - RRH includes housing assistance through housing navigation, tenant based rental assistance (providing only on a short term or medium term – Not to extend past 24 months), and supportive services to assist participants secure housing, maintain housing and increase income and employment.
 - Admissions must come from the CoC's Heart to Home coordinated entry process.
- **Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH) Projects – Eligible under Unsheltered & Rural Set Asides**
 - 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 or leasing 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 (not to extend beyond 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, and/or
 - Meet DV criteria in homeless definition (Category 4).
- **Supportive Service Only - Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) Projects – Eligible under Unsheltered & Rural Set Asides**
 - Funding can be used to support the 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.

- **Supportive Service Only (SSO) Projects – Eligible under Sheltered & Rural Set Asides**
 - Funding may be used to provide supportive services to those with the highest service needs, including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services.
 - Program participants are assisted to obtain and maintain permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs.
 - The proposed project has a specific plan for ensuring program participants will be individually assisted to obtain the benefits of mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which they are eligible to apply, and which meet the needs of the program participants (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, Food Stamps, local Workforce office, early childhood education).
 - Proposed projects will participate in coordinated entry.
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Projects – Eligible under Unsheltered & Rural Set Asides**
 - 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, expansion of rural utilization of HMIS, or other services to improve data quality or utilization.
 - Only the designated HMIS lead is permitted to apply for HMIS funding.
- **Planning Project – Eligible under Unsheltered Set Aside Only**
 - Only the Collaborative Applicant is permitted to apply for Planning funding and funds may be used as described in 24 CFR 578.39.

RURAL SET ASIDE ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

For the Rural Set Aside, HUD is authorizing activities eligible under the Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program and the CoC Program Rule. Below are additional eligible activities. Please see the NOFO for further details.

- Projects requested via the Rural Set Aside may request up to two additional years to complete acquisition, new construction, and rehabilitation.
- Rent or utility assistance after 2 months of nonpayment of rent or utilities to prevent eviction or loss of utility service.
- Short-term emergency lodging in motels or shelters, either directly or through vouchers.
- Repairs, (such as insulation, window repair, door repair, roof repair, and repairs) that are necessary to make housing habitable to be used for transitional or permanent housing by people experiencing homelessness. The total cost of repairs may not exceed \$10,000 per structure.
- Staff capacity building activities.
- Emergency food and clothing assistance.
- Costs associated with making use of Federal Inventory property programs to house homeless individuals and families.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

The local Continuum of Care will begin with a planning process to run through July 31st to determine local funding priorities, which will be released prior to the project application window opens. Within the NOFO, HUD has identified the following policy priorities applicable to our CoC:

- **Unsheltered Homelessness**
 - Creating efforts to identify people living in unsheltered situations, including encampments, and connecting them with health and housing resources.

- Creating efforts to enhance HMIS to collect more comprehensive data on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their area.
- **Unsheltered Homelessness and Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs in Rural Areas**
 - Create efforts to end unsheltered homelessness in rural areas.
 - Target resources to rural areas and provide additional eligible activities to address some of the unique needs of rural areas.
- **Involving a Broad Array of Stakeholders in the CoC's Efforts to Reduce Homelessness**
 - Invite stakeholders to develop and implement a CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs
- **Advancing Equity**
 - Identify and address the needs of subpopulations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness.
 - Review strategies that led to any disparities in communities being served and take steps to eliminate these barriers.
- **Using a Housing First Approach**
 - Prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have serve participation requirements or preconditions.
 - Engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt service delivery methods that respond to the preferences and needs of the individuals of family presenting for assistance.
 - 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 participants must be accepted from the Coordinated Entry System.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION THROUGH E-SNAPS

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 e-snaps, **do not hit SUBMIT**, instead, save the application (in e-snaps), download the pdf, save (on your computer, etc.), and emailed to <mailto:heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com>. Submission in e-snaps will occur after the competition process if the application is chosen for submission by the Scoring and Ranking Committee of the Heart of Texas Continuum of Care.

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](#). The scoring tool will be posted at the [HOTHC Supplemental NOFO Resource Page](#).

Important Dates & Deadlines for the Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO

