

Policy Title: FY2023 TX-600 CoC Program Ranking Policy

Approving Group: All Neighbors Coalition Board

Effective Date: 08/03/2023

Background

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY2023 Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition. CoCs are required to evaluate, score, and rank all project applications and determine which projects will be included in the community's Consolidated Application. Each CoC is required to determine how they will rank new and renewal projects related to how they align with HUD and CoC priorities.

Federal Funding Priorities:

HUD's FY 2023 NOFO outlines the following policy priorities to support the goal of ending homelessness. CoC Consolidated Applications are scored by HUD based on the extent to which they demonstrate alignment with these areas.

1. Ending homelessness for all persons
2. Use a Housing First Approach
3. Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness
4. Improving System Performance
5. Partnering with Housing Authorities to utilize coordinated entry; leveraging non-CoC housing resources
6. Partnering with healthcare organizations to provide comprehensive care
7. Promoting Racial Equity
8. Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals
9. Integrating Persons with Lived Experience
10. Increasing Affordable Housing Supply

CoC Annual Priorities:

The CoC Board approved [2023 Annual CoC Priorities](#), which include but are not limited to the following strategies.

1. Sustain Expanded Rapid Rehousing
2. Expand Permanent Supportive Housing
3. Sustain Expanded Housing Navigation and Landlord Engagement
4. Expand Systemwide Diversion to Reduce Inflow into Homelessness
5. Expand Coordinated Outreach

Funding Available

The Annual FY2023 CoC NOFO includes funding set aside under the following categories:

Amount	Funding Type	Description
\$19, 575, 234	Tier 1	Total amount available for Projects traditionally protected from funding cuts. Equal to 93 % of the funding for all eligible Renewal Projects, as identified on the HUD-approved Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW).

\$3,147,627	Tier 2	Total amount available to compete for new or expansion Projects through the CoC Bonus funds (\$1,674,223) plus the remaining amount of funds to cover all Renewal Project costs not covered in Tier 1 (\$1,473,405)
\$2,391,747	CoC DV Bonus Funds	Total amount available for new projects serving survivors of domestic violence.
\$1,195,873	CoC Planning Grant	Designated for Collaborative Applicant* (Housing Forward) to complete CoC planning activities.

*The Collaborative Applicant (Housing Forward) is the applicant designated by the CoC to collect and submit the CoC Consolidated Application and apply for CoC planning funds on behalf of the CoC during the CoC Program Competition.

New project applications can be funded through the two Bonus Project funding opportunities, as well as reallocation of renewal projects.

Policy:

All projects applying for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program funding will be reviewed and ranked by the Independent Review Committee (IRC). Ranking will be completed through a combination of factors including the New or Renewal Scorecards (which rate Projects objectively based on performance data and alignment with CoC Priorities), HUD priorities, and CoC Annual Priorities. All projects will be notified in writing of the ranking decisions at least 15 days prior to the HUD deadline for submission.

The IRC has the discretion to reject any New Project that scores in the lowest 50% of all New Projects from the CoC Consolidated Application. Projects ranked beyond the level of funding available will be rejected from the CoC Consolidated Application.

Ranking Priorities:

Tier 1 Ranking Priorities

1. Following the Reallocation Policy, all Renewal Projects will be ranked in Tier 1, as funding availability allows.
 - a) Projects will be ranked highest to lowest in order of the Project score
 - a) Projects currently in operation and or serving clients will be prioritized for Tier 1
 - b) Projects that are deemed essential to the CoC, but which would be at risk of losing funding if placed in Tier 2, will be ranked in Tier 1 including Coordinated Entry and HMIS Projects.

Tier 2 Ranking Priorities

2. New Projects will be prioritized for funding in Tier 2 with any remaining Renewal Projects ranked in the following order:
 - a) New Community-Wide Permanent Supportive Housing Project: The CoC Lead Agency will apply for a Permanent Supportive Housing Project on behalf of the CoC to leverage housing and healthcare resources (in accordance with HUD funding priorities) and expand the number of new PSH units created and available in the community. Service Provider(s) for this Project will be selected through a separate competition following the project being awarded.

- b) New Rapid Rehousing. Project applications for new Rapid Rehousing Projects will be ranked by Project Score.
- c) Renewal Project(s) not prioritized in Tier 1
- d) New Community-Wide DV Bonus Rapid Rehousing Project. The CoC Lead Agency will apply for the \$2,391,747 in DV Bonus funding for new Rapid Rehousing on behalf of the CoC to substantially expand Rapid Rehousing available for clients impacted by domestic violence. Service Provider(s) for this Project will be selected through a separate competition following the Project being awarded.

Other considerations for ranking projects include the following:

- **Geography:** TX-600 covers the entire geographic area of Dallas and Collin County. The IRC may consider geographic diversity to ensure that CoC programs are available to all people experiencing homelessness through the entire geography of the CoC.
- **CoC Needs Assessment:** Community needs are assessed through examining homelessness trends, continuous feedback from CoC partners and people with lived experience of homelessness, Annual CoC Priorities, and current program investments.
- **CoC Annual Priorities:** TX-600 has set out community goals, along with priority strategies for ending homelessness among veterans, youth, families, and persons experiencing chronic unsheltered homelessness.