



Request for Proposals for Project Applications

FY2024 HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program
Local Funding Competition

A. OVERVIEW

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is a federal initiative that provides funding to support community efforts to end homelessness. The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to invite project applications for Washington County’s local funding competition for CoC Program funds.

On July 31, 2024, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 CoC Funding Competition. As the Collaborative Applicant for the Washington County CoC, Washington County’s Department of Housing Services invites new and renewal project applications to be considered for potential funding.

Project sponsors are invited to submit proposals to provide housing with supportive services in the following categories:

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH)
- Rapid Re-Housing (PH-RRH)

Organizations that have not previously applied for CoC Program funding, as well as currently funded organizations, are encouraged to submit proposals for new projects. This RFP also serves as notice for existing CoC Program-funded projects of the deadline to submit applications for renewal of CoC project funding.

Funding for new projects under this RFP will come from HUD CoC Bonus and DV Bonus funds as well as any resources made available via reallocation of current CoC Program funds.

All proposals will be evaluated to determine which projects will be included in the Washington County CoC’s FY2024 CoC Program Competition application to HUD. Proposals should demonstrate the project’s alignment with the specific funding priorities described in this RFP and the evaluation criteria described in the [CoC Program Application Rating and Ranking Process](#).

Project sponsors seeking to apply for funding are encouraged to carefully review the HUD [FY2024 CoC Program Competition: Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (referred to throughout this RFP as “HUD NOFO”).

Key Dates:

8/14/24	Optional Q&A session for new project applicants at 9:00 am (see below for information)
9/4/24	Deadline for new project applications to the local competition
10/10/24	Project applicants are notified if their applications are selected for submission to HUD
10/23/24	CoC Consolidated Application is posted online for public review and comment
10/28/24	Washington County submits the CoC Consolidated Application to HUD
Spring 2025	HUD notifies the CoC of the results of the funding competition

Q&A Session:

An optional Q&A session for potential new project applicants will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, August 14, 2024 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Pre-registration is required at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMtduyqrjsqHtP14dtxWg-8mSBIOI7WmWEd>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Zoom meeting.

A recording of the session will be posted at <https://www.washingtoncountyor.gov/housing/efforts-end-homelessness/continuum-care-grant-application> for those unable to attend.

Questions:

Questions about this RFP should be sent to Homeless_Services@washingtoncountyor.gov with “CoC NOFO RFP” in the subject line.

Registration:

Potential new project applicants are required to register to receive notices about updates or amendments to this RFP at <https://forms.office.com/g/duAst6h0gx?origin=lprLink>.

B. FUNDING GUIDELINES FOR NEW PROJECTS

All projects must adhere to the overall funding guidelines provided by HUD in the [FY2024 CoC Program Competition: Notice of Funding Opportunity](#). In addition, the Washington County CoC has established specific priorities within HUD’s guidelines for the local funding competition for new project proposals.

Eligible Applicants:

Eligible project applicants include legally incorporated nonprofit organizations, public housing authorities, Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities, other government entities, and faith-based organizations. For-profit entities and individuals are not eligible. Project applicants must demonstrate the financial and management capacity and expertise to implement the project and administer HUD funds in alignment with federal requirements.

See pages 34-35 of the HUD NOFO for more information on eligible applicants.

Eligible Projects:**CoC Bonus**

Applicants can apply for CoC Bonus funding for new projects in the following categories:

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH)
- Rapid Re-Housing (PH-RRH)

DV Bonus

Applicants can apply for DV Bonus funding for new Rapid Re-Housing (PH-RRH) projects serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless. Applicants considering applying for DV Bonus funding should email Homeless_Services@washingtoncountyor.gov for additional details on requirements.

HUD's definitions for the eligible project types are available at the following links:

- [Permanent Supportive Housing \(PH-PSH\)](#)
- [Rapid Re-Housing \(PH-RRH\)](#)

For more information on HUD's threshold criteria for Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing project applications, see pages 60-61 in the HUD NOFO. For more information on the eligible service population for each project type, see pages 32-33 in the HUD NOFO.

All projects must be located in Washington County.

Funding Priorities:

Funding will be prioritized for projects that increase Washington County's system capacity for Permanent Supportive Housing and/or Rapid Re-Housing and support permanent housing placement and retention.

Additional points will be awarded for projects that align with one or more of the following priorities:

- Projects that support shelter participants to transition to permanent housing as quickly as possible, reducing the length of time that people experience homelessness.
- Projects that are specifically focused on helping people transition from unsheltered homelessness to permanent housing.
- Projects that address and resolve disparities for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in housing program outcomes.

Bonus Points:

Additional points will be awarded to new project proposals that demonstrate formal coordination with housing and/or health care providers. This includes:

- Projects with a documented commitment of housing subsidies not funded through the federal CoC or Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) programs for at least 25% of the units or participants.
- Projects with a written commitment from a health care organization to provide access to (a) treatment or recovery services for all program participants who qualify, or (b) health care services to program participants equal to at least 25% of the funding being requested for the project.

See Addendum B for more information.

Match Requirement:

All new project proposals must demonstrate cash or in-kind match of at least 25% of all proposed grant funds other than leasing funds. All costs paid for with matching funds must be activities that are eligible under the CoC Program. Matching funds may be from public or private sources.

Funding Uses:

Eligible uses of HUD CoC funding include leasing, operating costs, rental assistance, supportive services, and administrative costs, all within applicable guidelines. Washington County has generally found that, of the various funding sources available to our community, HUD CoC funds are most effectively utilized for leasing and rental assistance costs. New project applicants are therefore encouraged to focus their funding requests on leasing and rental assistance. The Washington County Department of Housing Services will work with applicants to fund supportive services (if needed in addition to resources the applicant commits as part of the 25% match requirement) for any new project proposals that receive HUD CoC funding for leasing or rent assistance.

While HUD CoC funding can be used for capital costs, no funds are available under this RFP for capital costs (i.e., new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation).

Project Requirements:

All HUD CoC-funded projects must meet the following requirements:

- Projects must use a Housing First approach, including no preconditions or barriers to entry and provision of necessary supports to maintain housing and prevent a return to homelessness.
- Projects are required to participate in the local Coordinated Entry system (Community Connect) and Homeless Management Information System (or a comparable database for domestic violence providers such as Osnum).

Projects should also align with the local CoC's rating criteria listed in the appendix of the [CoC Program Application Rating and Ranking Process](#).

Funding Available:

The Washington County CoC is eligible to apply for approximately \$598,000 for one or more projects funded through CoC Bonus funds. In addition, the CoC is eligible to apply for approximately \$360,500 in DV Bonus funds. Applicants to the local funding competition can submit project budgets up to these amounts.

Grant Terms:

Proposals are for the 2025-26 funding year. Grant terms will generally begin in mid to late 2025 and must begin before the end of 2025. The grant term for new project applications except those funded through DV Bonus funds may be 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years, 5 years, or 15 years, depending on the type of assistance requested. Washington County encourages applications for 1-year grant terms (with an initial grant term of up to 18 months) to maximize the available funding since the total available funding is divided by the number of years in the grant term. New projects funded with DV Bonus funds may only request a 1-year grant term (with an initial grant term of up to 18 months). Funded projects are eligible to apply for annual renewal funding. For more details on HUD's guidelines for grant terms, see pages 56-57 of the HUD NOFO.

Funding Structure:

To reduce the administrative burden on grantees, Washington County is the direct recipient of funds for most CoC projects, and the project sponsors are subrecipients. Any new CoC-funded projects will follow this structure.

C. APPLICATION PROCESS FOR NEW PROJECTS

The CoC application process has two parts: a local competition and a national competition. This RFP solicits proposals for the local competition, which is used to select the proposals that will be submitted to HUD as part of Washington County's application for the national competition.

The local funding competition for new projects includes several steps:

1. **Application to local competition:** Applicants must complete and submit a [New Project Proposal Form](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 4, 2024.
2. **Response to clarifying questions:** Applicants may be asked to respond to clarifying questions about their proposals via email the week of September 16, with responses due on September 19.
3. **Scoring of applications:** Applications will be evaluated and scored by the Washington County

CoC's Equitable Procurement Subcommittee. See Addendum A for the evaluation criteria and scoring rubric that will be used for all new project proposals.

4. **Selection for submission to HUD:** Based on the scores, the Equitable Procurement Subcommittee will select one or more of the applications for submission to HUD. (The number of applications selected for submission will depend on the project budgets and available funding.)
5. **HUD CoC e-snaps application:** Application(s) selected for submission to HUD must work with Washington County CoC staff to complete HUD's CoC New Project Application in e-snaps (HUD's online application portal) in early-to-mid October.
6. **Submission to HUD:** Inclusion in the CoC's application to HUD does not guarantee that a project will receive funding. Funding decisions are made by HUD based on various criteria including the CoC's overall application and the project's ranking in relation to the other new and renewal projects included in the CoC's application.

D. APPLICATION PROCESS FOR RENEWAL PROJECTS

All current CoC Program-funded projects seeking to renew their CoC funding are required to work with Washington County to submit renewal applications as part of the 2024 CoC Program Competition. The following projects are eligible for renewal:

- Clover Court, New Narrative
- CoC Rapid Re-Housing for Families, Community Action
- Enhanced Support for Permanent Housing, Just Compassion
- Hillsboro Graduated Independent Living Program, New Narrative
- Reentry Housing, New Narrative
- Shelter Plus Care Renewal, Washington County Department of Housing Services
- Sojourner's House Combined, Domestic Violence Resource Center
- Transitional Living Program, Boys and Girls Aid

Washington County will contact each renewal project directly with instructions for the renewal application process. The deadline for submitting the requested renewal project application materials to Washington County is 8/19/24.

The ranking of renewal project applications for submission to HUD will follow the process and criteria outlined in the [CoC Program Application Rating and Ranking Process](#).

**Addendum A:
Evaluation Criteria for New Project Applications**

Evaluation Criteria		Scoring
Project Design and Applicant Qualifications		Points
A.	Project intends to participate in the CoC HMIS (or a comparable database for domestic violence or VAWA providers such as Osnum) and Coordinated Entry system in compliance with CoC Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures and HUD Coordinated Entry Notice.	Yes: 3 points No: 0 points
B.	Project will implement use of Housing First principles, including no preconditions or barriers to entry except as required by funding sources, and provision of necessary supports to maintain housing and prevent a return to homelessness.	Up to 3 points
C.	Project will prioritize services for underserved and marginalized populations (including Black, Indigenous, Latino/a/e, Asians, Pacific Islanders, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+) through implementation of low-barrier, accessible and culturally responsive services, and connections with culturally specific services.	Up to 3 points
D.	Applicant and Subrecipient (if any) has experience providing similar services to the population targeted by the proposed project and has demonstrated effectiveness in achieving successful outcomes.	Up to 3 points
E.	Project aligns with the eligible program types in HUD's NOFO. The population to be served meets the eligibility requirements for the type of program and the service model meets current HUD requirements.	Yes: 1 point No: Disqualified
F.	Project reflects the specific priorities for CoC funding identified in the HUD NOFO and the local CoC RFP for this year's funding competition.	Up to 10 points
G.	Project maximizes potential bonus points available through this year's HUD NOFO.	Up to 3 points
H.	Applicant and Subrecipient (if any) commits to actively participate in CoC meetings if awarded funding.	Yes: 1 point No: 0 points
I.	Applicant and Subrecipient (if any) plans rapid implementation of the project to begin housing the first participant in 180 days or less following HUD grant award.	Yes: 1 point No: 0 points
Financial Review		Points
J.	Applicant and Subrecipient (if any) has active SAM registration with current information, valid Unique Entity ID number and no Debarments and/or Suspensions.	Yes: 2 points No: 0 points
K.	Applicant and Subrecipient (if any) demonstrates the financial and management capacity and experience to carry out the project and the capacity to administer federal funds.	Yes: 2 points No: 0 points
L.	Applicant or Subrecipient (if any) has an acceptable audit/financial review that does not contain findings or other indications of financial or accounting problems.	Yes: 2 points No: 0 points
M.	Applicant or Subrecipient (if any) provides 25% match commitment that satisfies CoC Program Rule 24 CFR Part 578.73 requirement that includes source and amount.	Yes: 2 points No: 0 points
N.	Applicant or Subrecipient (if any) demonstrates the capacity to leverage additional resources and partnerships to support effective project implementation.	Yes: 1 point No: 0 points
O.	Budget costs are reasonable and allowable. Project is cost effective when projected cost per person served is compared to CoC average within project type.	Yes: 2 points No: 0 points
Performance Outcomes		Points
P.	Severity of Needs: Applicant demonstrates how the project will assist underserved populations, including persons with a history of victimization (such as domestic violence or sexual assault), criminal histories, substance use disorders, and/or chronic homelessness.	Up to 2 points
Q.	Housing Emphasis: Applicant and Subrecipient (if any) prioritizes 75% or more of Federal CoC Program funds to provide housing activities (e.g. rent assistance, leasing units, acquisition, rehabilitation and/or construction of affordable housing units).	Yes: 2 points No: 0 points
R.	Reduce Length of Time Homeless: Applicant demonstrates how the project will identify and house homeless populations to reduce the length of time people experience homelessness.	Up to 4 points
S.	Permanent Housing Placement and Reduced Returns to Homelessness: Applicant describes the housing barriers experienced by the target population and demonstrates how the project will increase permanent housing placement and retention in housing.	Up to 4 points

T.	Increase Income: Applicant demonstrates how project will increase participants' income through employment and connections to other income as appropriate.	Up to 3 points
U.	Increase Disability Income Benefits: Applicant or Subrecipient has at least one staff person who has completed SOAR training.	Yes: 3 points No: 0 points
V.	Increase Connections to Mainstream Resources: Applicant demonstrates how project will connect participants to mainstream resources and services such as OHP enrollment, connections to community-based resources, SNAP, etc.	Up to 3 points
W.	Serve Priority Populations: Applicant describes the project's commitment to and demonstrates effective strategies for serving vulnerable populations such as chronically homeless individuals and families, households with zero income, participants with two or more disability types, and persons living in places not meant for human habitation.	Up to 3 points

Addendum B: Bonus Points

HUD will award additional points to CoCs that submit new project applications in the CoC Bonus category that leverage health care and/or housing resources in accordance with the following guidelines.

Leveraging Health Care Resources

Bonus points are available for new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) or Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) projects that leverage health care resources through formal partnerships with health care organizations. Eligible sources of health care resources include:

- Direct contributions from a public or private health insurance provider to the project (e.g., Medicaid), and
- Provision of health care services by a private or public organization tailored to the program participants of the project.

The health care resource commitment must be in the form of services that will be provided to program participants in the housing portion of the project. Health care services include treatment for physical health, mental health, and/or substance use disorders.

Eligibility for the project must comply with HUD program requirements and cannot be restricted by the eligibility requirements of the health care provider.

The project application must include a written commitment from the health care organization that:

- In the case of a substance use disorder treatment or recovery provider, it will provide access to treatment or recovery services for all program participants who qualify and choose those services; or
- The value of assistance being provided (and funded by the health care organization) is at least an amount that is equivalent to 25% of the funding being requested from HUD for the project.

Leveraging Housing Resources

Bonus points are available for new PSH or RRH projects that utilize housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG programs. Eligible sources of housing resources include those funded by private organizations, state or local government, public housing agencies, faith-based organizations, or federal programs other than the CoC or ESG programs.

The project application must include written documentation of the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project, demonstrating that these units will:

- In the case of a PSH project, provide at least 25% of the units included in the project; or
- In the case of a RRH project, serve at least 25% of the program participants anticipated to be served by the project.