

Nebraska Balance of State Continuum of Care Requests for Applications 2022 Collaborative Application for HUD Continuum of Care Funding And Rural Set Aside Supplemental NOFO

Invitation to Bid: The Nebraska Balance of State CoC (NE BoS) announces the opportunity to apply for funding under two separate Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) competitions being run concurrently. Detailed instructions for renewal and new projects as follows:

2022 Continuum of Care Competition

This opportunity is available for renewal and bonus (new) projects under the annual Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity.

RENEWAL GRANTS: Any organization with HUD Continuum of Care funding in the NE BoS must apply for renewal funding through this funding opportunity. Failure to submit a renewal application under designated timeline or other application requirements, may result in exclusion in the Nebraska Balance of State Collaborative Application and funding being discontinued.

BONUS PROJECTS: (New projects) Opportunity to apply for bonus funding to create new permanent housing projects. This is opportunity is available to ALL counties within the Nebraska Balance of State geographical limitations and prioritization will be placed upon those counties excluded from the rural set aside opportunity in the Supplemental Unsheltered NOFO Competition.

Eligible new project types include:

- Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH)
- Joint Transitional- Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH-RRH)
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Coordinated Entry (SSO- limited to CE Lead)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BONUS: opportunity for project applications that exclusively serving populations eligible for services under HUD Category 4 Homeless.

Eligible project types include:

- Rapid rehousing (RRH)
- Joint Transitional- Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH-RRH)
- Coordinated Entry (SSO- limited to CE Lead)

YHDP RENEWAL AND REPLACEMENT PROJECTS: Current YHDP funded organizations within the Nebraska BoS must submit a renewal or replacement YHDP project application under the 2022 collaborative application in order to receive on-going funding. Following the Continuum of Care NOFO

for FY 22, YHDP projects are being renewed NON-COMPETITIVELY and will not be ranked or reviewed. No NEW YHDP projects will be accepted at this time.

RANK AND REVIEW: Under the Continuum of Care NOFO, HUD requires CoC's to rank project applications in priority order. Due to the need to continue providing services and support to households currently receiving CoC assistance, the CoC policy has been to prioritize well-performing renewal projects. Renewal projects (with the exception of projects renewing for the first time and lacking a full year of operational experience and those essential to the operation of the CoC (HMIS and coordinated entry) are ranked according to their renewal evaluation score. That score, in turn, is based on HUD system performance measures and compliance with CoC and HUD requirements and policies as determined collectively by the Nebraska Balance of State CoC.

YHDP projects are non-competitively renewed and are not ranked

All CoC NOFO documents for the Nebraska Balance of State, including the Renewal Project Evaluation Scoring Criteria, New Project Scoring Criteria, and the Rank and Review Policy, will be posted to the CoC website as soon as available. <https://ccfl.unl.edu/community-services-management/resources/bos-coc-ne-500>

Supplemental NOFO Rural Set-Aside

BACKGROUND: In July 2022, the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a new funding opportunity targeted at addressing unsheltered homelessness, which included a special set aside for rural areas. This NOFO is available for NEW project applications only with an initial grant term of 3 years, with a focus on serving individuals and families living unsheltered. Full details of the Supplemental Unsheltered NOFO can be found here (insert hyperlink)

Prioritization will be given to projects who will serve persons experiencing homelessness in areas of the rural balance of state that have not previously received CoC support. Link to Supplemental NOFO from HUD: [Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness \(Special NOFO\) | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#)

Eligible new project types include:

- Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH)
- Joint Transitional- Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH-RRH)
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Supportive Services Only
 - Coordinated Entry (limited to CE lead)
 - Outreach
 - Stand-alone Supportive Services

**SSO and all project applications must specifically indicate how the project is consistent with and will contribute to achieving the Comprehensive Community Plan to Serve Homeless Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.*

Special Activities:

- The Rural Set-Aside allows CoC funds to be used for ‘special activities’ please see the attached summary and Supplemental NOFO for a full description of these activities. These special activities are targeted at addressing homelessness in rural areas and should be carefully reviewed by potential applicants.
- Capacity Building. Project applicants may request up to 20% of funds requested from HUD (including administration) for activities that maintain or improve the skills of the applicant organization (including staff incentives, continuing education, licensure and certification and more). Applicants for the rural set-aside are strongly encouraged to consider including capacity building activities.

SERVICE AREA LIMITATIONS: As outlined in Appendix A of the Supplemental NOFO, there are several counties in the NE BoS geographical limits that are qualified as Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA’s) are therefore EXCLUDED from the Rural Set-Aside funding opportunity. Eligible organizations may be physically located in these counties but may not serve anyone experiencing homelessness located in the following counties:

- Cass
- Hall
- Hamilton
- Lancaster
- Merrick
- Saunders
- Seward
- Washington

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Applicants may request funding for capital costs: acquisition, new construction, substantial rehabilitation. Use of funds for capital purposes will require additional justification in the project applications.
- **Housing and Healthcare Leveraging**
 - The ‘regular’ NOFO and the Rural Set-Aside both prioritize and provide bonus points for project applications that leverage healthcare and housing resources.
 - Housing Leverage.
 - The Rural Set-Aside will require that the total of all housing units requested for permanent housing (permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing and the rapid rehousing units in Joint TH/RRH projects) must be matched with at least **50%** of those total units funded from a source other than CoC or ESG.
 - Regular NOFO: The housing leverage requirement in the regular NOFO has been changed for 2022. PSH projects that can demonstrate that at least **25%** of the units included in the project will have housing subsidies or subsidized units that are NOT funded under either the CoC or ESG program will score 7 points for the CoC. Similarly RRH projects

where at least 25% of the projected participants will be assisted by housing resources that are NOT CoC or ESG will also qualify the CoC for the 7 points.

- **Healthcare leverage.** This leveraging commitment can be met by:
 - In the **Rural Set-Aside** the healthcare leverage will be met if **50% of all costs requested for permanent housing projects** (same list as for the housing leverage) is met from healthcare resources.
 - The healthcare leverage can also be met by a commitment for substance use treatment services. A commitment from a substance use treatment provider to offer substance use treatment to all participants who qualify for and choose to participate in treatment will meet the healthcare leveraging requirement.
 - In the **regular NOFO**, the healthcare leverage will be met if at least one PSH or RRH project obtains a commitment from a healthcare organization that it will provide assistance to the project that is equal to at least **25%** of the total funded requested for the project.
 - The healthcare leverage can also be met by a commitment for substance use treatment services. A commitment from a substance use treatment provider to offer substance use treatment to all participants who qualify for and choose to participate in treatment will meet the healthcare leveraging requirement.
 - Meeting the healthcare leverage will result in the CoC scoring 7 points in the competition.

- **Eligible Applicants.** Eligible organizations¹ are invited to submit new or renewal applications for CoC funding to be included in the 2022 Collaborative Application to HUD or the Rural Set-Aside application. The only entities that may submit a renewal application are current HUD CoC grantees that have a grant with an end date in calendar year 2023. Only current YHDP recipients may apply for YHDP funds.

PROJECT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

All applications must be completed using HUD’s online application platform, the E-SNAPS system. Additionally, new project applications funded through the regular CoC NOFO must address two additional questions. Provide answers to these questions in esnaps on Screen 2B-1, Applicant Experience.

¹ Eligible organizations include nonprofit organizations and government entities including public housing agencies. Individuals and for-profit entities are ineligible to apply.

- If a current or recent CoC or ESG recipient identify a project and indicate your success in meeting HUD system performance measures in terms of increasing employment, access to benefits, permanent housing placement/retention, and not returning to homelessness. If not a current or recent recipient, indicate: whether you review participant outcomes in terms of the above factors, and if so, what are your outcomes on these factors.
- Describe any barriers to participation in your project(s) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented among people experiencing homelessness in your community, and identify the steps you have taken to eliminate the barriers

TIMELINE:

Project applications submitted after the designated due date will NOT be considered for inclusion in the 2022 Nebraska Balance of State CoC Collaborative Application or eligible for the Rural Set-Aside Supplemental NOFO submission.

2022 Continuum of Care Competition

- **Renewal project applications** must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm CDT on August 29, 2022.**
- **New project applications for the regular NOFO** must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm CDT on August 29, 2022.**
- These deadlines are set by HUD and must be followed by the CoC

Supplemental NOFO Rural Set-Aside

New project applications seeking funding from the Rural Set-Aside must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **September 16, 2022** at 5 pm CDT. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed.

Attached to this RFA is the Score Sheet for New Projects submitted under the Rural Set-Aside. There are special requirements. In addition to completing an application in E-SNAPS, applicants must also send a Word document to the Collaborative Applicant that:

- Addresses scoring factors under Support Services (A) and factors 1-7
- Addresses scoring factors under Housing (B) and factors 1-2
- For factor C, System Performance, attach a Annual Performance Report (for FY 2021 – 10/1/20-9/30-21) for any current CoC grant or equivalent (NHAP) that demonstrates outcomes on system performance measures 1-5.
- Addresses scoring factors under D, Objective Criteria, 3 – provide information on involvement of people with lived experience; 4 – provide information on serving unsheltered persons; and for factors 6 and 7 provide documentation on the housing or healthcare leverage.
- Addresses Scoring Factor E, addressing equity and consistency with comprehensive plan, please provide a narrative response to factors 1-3.

Information and Resources

All information required for this competition will be posted on the CoC website, found here: <https://ccfl.unl.edu/community-services-management/resources/bos-coc-ne-500>.

Information posted on the website includes:

- The NOFA published by HUD and supporting information provided by HUD.
- The CoC's policies for review and ranking of new and renewal applications
- CoC's policies regarding reallocation – including voluntary and mandatory reallocation.
- Scoring factors for the review and ranking of renewal applications
- Scoring factors for new project applications for the Rural Set-Aside and the regular NOFO.
- Links to resources available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in support of the competition.

Possible application types:

Eligible organizations may submit one or more of the following application types:

- **Renewal application.** Any organization with a CoC funded grant that is expiring in calendar year 2023 must submit a renewal application in order to continue the project. This includes all YHDP projects. The total funds requested must match the ARD shown for the project in the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW). The project component, numbers of units, numbers and types of persons served, and the total budget line must be fully consistent with the expiring grant. Please note that the renewal process is not the time to make significant changes to grants, which can only be accomplished through the grant amendment process.
- All renewal projects (with the exception of YHDP which is not ranked) that have at least one full year of operational experience will be ranked in the competition according to the scores received in the renewal evaluation process. Projects that do not meet the minimum threshold score for renewal must either submit and obtain approval for a Project Improvement Plan or agree not to renew the grant and to reallocate the funding. Those projects without a full year of operational experience will be ranked without score and in a position to promote funding.
- **New project application.** New project applications may be for any of the eligible new project categories for either the regular NOFO or the Rural Set-Aside

Funding for new projects in the regular NOFO will come from bonus funding and from any funds that may be available from reallocation. Rural Set-Aside projects that are selected by HUD for funding will be covered by the Rural Set-Aside allocation.

New project applications in the regular NOFO may submit a new project requesting 1 year of funding but with a longer initial grant term not to exceed 18 months. This will permit the project to start-up and become fully operational.

All new projects in the Rural Set-Aside will be funded for a three-year term.

Additional Options for Projects Being Submitted under the Regular NOFO

- **Transition application.** An existing renewal application (not including YHDP) may be submitted as a 'transition' application. A transition application will start the program year as one component (TH) and through the course of the program year, the project will transition from that component to one of the eligible new project components. At the completion of the program year, the project will renew under the new component. A transition application

may be the most effective way to accomplish a ‘voluntary’ reallocation where the grantee with funds to reallocate is also the planned grantee for the reallocated project. Grantees interested in the transition application process must contact and obtain approval from the CoC.

- Grantees currently funded as transitional housing projects considering converting the project to a Joint TH/RRH project should use the transition approach.
- **Consolidated Application.** Also continued from prior years, a grantee with more than one grant with the same program component (e.g., RRH, PSH) may consolidate those individual grants into a single grant. Up to ten grants could be consolidated through this process. To submit a consolidated application, applicants must submit renewal applications for each project and a single new application that will include all of the funding from the renewal applications. The totals of the budget line items in the individual renewal grants must each the budget lines for the new project. If all the renewal grants are ranked so that each is funded by HUD, HUD will fund the new project in lieu of the renewal grants. The only limitation on consolidating grants is that it must be the same recipient and the same program component (e.g., RRH, PSH). There is no requirement that consolidated grants have the same budget line items or use the same subsidy approach (i.e., a leasing project can be consolidated with a tenant based rental assistance or project-based rental assistance project).
- **Expansion Applications.** Grantees may choose to submit a new project application in the regular NOFO competition that expands a currently funded CoC grant to serve additional persons, provide additional units, or provide additional services to existing program participants. HMIS may also be expanded.

Rating and Ranking of Projects

Renewal projects will be ranked in the Collaborative Application according to the rating score provided as part of the renewal evaluation process. The primary factors affecting the ranking of renewal projects have to do with project performance and the extent to which the project is contributing to an overall improvement in the CoC’s system performance. Projects submitted by victim services providers are evaluated based on data from non-HMIS comparable systems regarding housing and income outcomes and on the extent to which the project improved the safety of participants.

There are separate rating tools for the new projects submitted under the Rural Set-Aside and the Regular NOFO. Both scoring tools are attached to this RFA.

New project applications will be reviewed by an independent panel with subject matter expertise but no conflicts of interest with regard to the application.

Invitation to organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding:

The CoC actively seeks applications from organizations that have not previously received HUD CoC funding. HUD places considerable requirements on grantees and the application process can be challenging. Organizations without CoC grant experience are invited to reach out to the CoC by contacting Jeff Chambers (jchambers1@unl.edu) and request assistance in understanding program

requirements or the application process. Requirements on eligible participants and activities are very stringent and organizations are encouraged to discuss potential projects and the application process.

Presentation and Question and Answer Session

August 12, 2022: 10:00-11:30 am CT via zoom

<https://unl.zoom.us/j/96108536249?pwd=emZrb0ZhR2FRaXBpczl0ekM3aTgzZz09>

Funding Amounts

In the FY 2022 regular NOFO, applicants may apply for up to

- **\$ in Bonus Funding \$209,242**
- **\$ in DV Bonus funding**

In the Rural Set-Aside a maximum of \$4,069,190 can be applied for in project applications. HUD will select projects in the Rural Set-Aside in a process very similar to that used for Tier 2 in the regular competition. All projects submitted nationally for the Rural Set-Aside will be assigned scores based on: the score received for the CoC application portion; ranking points based on how much funding is associated with the project and where it is ranked; and points whether the project is serving areas in the CoC that have never before received CoC support or services.

Tier 1 and Tier 2 Funding for Regular NOFO

- The sum total of funding in Tier 1 is \$3,975,604
- The amount of renewal funding that is in Tier 2 is: \$209,242.30

2022 CoC NOFO New Project Rating Tool

Project Name: _____

Organization Name: _____

Project Type: _____

RATING FACTOR	POINTS AWARDED	MAX POINT VALUE
Experience and System Performance		
A. Describe the experience of the applicant and sub-recipients (if any) in working with the proposed population and in providing housing similar to that proposed in the application. Please specifically describe applicant's success in meeting HUD system performance measures (e.g., returns to homelessness, first time homeless, jobs and income growth) on prior projects.	out of	20
B. Describe experience with utilizing a Housing First approach. Include 1) eligibility criteria; 2) process for accepting new clients; 3) process and criteria for exiting clients. Must demonstrate there are no preconditions to entry, allowing entry regardless of current or past substance abuse, income, criminal records (with exceptions of restrictions imposed by federal, state, or local law or ordinance), marital status, familial status, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity. Must demonstrate the project has a process to address situations that may jeopardize housing or project assistance to ensure that project participation is terminated in only the most severe cases.	out of	5
C. Describe experience in effectively utilizing federal funds including HUD grants and other public funding, including satisfactory drawdowns and performance for existing grants as evidenced by timely reimbursement of subrecipients (if applicable), regular drawdowns, timely resolution of monitoring findings, and timely submission of required reporting on existing grants.	out of	5
Experience Subtotal	0	30
DESIGN OF HOUSING & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES - Objective Factors		
A. Extent to which the applicant 1. Demonstrate understanding of the needs of the clients to be served. 2. Demonstrate type, scale, and location of the housing fit the needs of the clients to be served 3. Demonstrate type and scale of the all supportive services, regardless of funding source, meet the needs of the clients to be served. 4. Demonstrate how clients will be assisted in obtaining and coordinating the provision of mainstream benefits 5. Establish performance measures for housing and income that are objective, measurable, trackable, and meet or exceed any established HUD, HEARTH or CoC benchmarks.	out of	15
B. Describe the plan to assist clients to rapidly secure and maintain permanent housing that is safe, affordable, accessible, and acceptable to their needs.	out of	5
C. Describe how clients will be assisted to increase employment and/or income and to maximize their ability to live independently.	out of	5
D. Describe any barriers to participation in your project(s) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented among people experiencing homelessness in your community, and identify the steps you have taken to eliminate the barriers	out of	10
DESIGN OF HOUSING & SUPPORTIVE SERVICES Subtotal	0	35
FINANCIAL - Objective Factors		
A. Project is cost-effective - comparing projected cost per person served to CoC average within project type.	out of	5
B. Budgets are correctly calculated, expenses budgeted are all eligible	out of	5
C. Project indicates the use of Mainstream resources for at least a portion of project services	out of	5
D. Match is documented	out of	5
Financial Subtotal	0	20
COMPLIANCE WITH COC REQUIREMENTS		
A. The project commits to only accepting referrals from coordinated entry	out of	5
Compliance with CoC Requirements Subtotal	0	5
LEVERAGING HOUSING AND HEALTHCARE RESOURCES		
A. The project as proposed qualifies the CoC to score points for leveraging housing subsidies or mainstream health care resources	out of	10
Leveraging Points Subtotal	0	10
TOTAL SCORE	0	100