2022 Annual Competition

San Mateo County Continuum of Care

AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING FOR NEW PROJECTS

I. General Information

On August 1, 2022, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) published the *Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY 2022 Continuum of Care Competition.*

The NOFO can be accessed at https://www.grants.gov. It establishes this year's funding criteria for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Programs (sometimes also referred to as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs).

All CoCs and project applicants are required to apply for the 2022 CoC competition electronically through HUD's e-snaps system at https://esnaps.hud.gov/. The deadline for San Mateo County to submit our CoC application to HUD is September 30, 2022.

II. Available Funding

As in past funding rounds, communities can create new projects through bonus funding and re-allocated funding:

- HUD has not released the specific amount available for bonus funding at this time, once it is announced San Mateo County will release the information locally. The bonus funding should be available for new permanent housing projects, which may include: (1) permanent supportive housing (PSH) serving people experiencing chronic homelessness; (2) rapid re-housing (RRH) projects serving homeless single adults or families with children and (3) joint transitional housing/rapid re-housing (TH/RRH) projects serving homeless single adults or families with children.

- San Mateo County may also create new projects through the re-allocation of funds from lower performing existing grants. The availability of re-allocated funds will depend on the performance of currently funded projects and whether there are underperforming projects identified by the CoC Review Panel for reallocation. Re-allocated funds may be used for the same types of projects as the permanent housing bonus (described above) and may also be used by the CoC Lead Agency, San Mateo County Human Services Agency (HSA), for dedicated HMIS projects or Coordinated Entry projects.

- San Mateo County may receive bonus funding for one or more bonus projects serving victims of domestic violence (DV), dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Eligible project types under the DV bonus are: (1) Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) projects; (2) joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing (TH/RRH) projects; or (3) Supportive Services Only (SSO) for Coordinated Entry to improve the ability of the CES to meet the needs of DV households. HUD has not released the specific amount of funding available yet, once it is announced, San Mateo County will release the information locally.

- Applicants may combine bonus and re-allocation funding in a single project.

All essential information relating to the local CoC competition will be available on the Center on Homelessness website at: https://www.smcgov.org/hsa/continuum-care-nofanofo

III. Eligible Project Types and Requirements

A. Project Requirements

The table below summarizes requirements for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), and Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing (TH/RRH) projects created using bonus funds or reallocated funds. The information presented below is only a general summary and applicants are strongly encouraged to review the 2022 CoC NOFO, New Project Application Detailed Instructions, and the Interim CoC Rule (24 CFR 578) for further information. All are available at: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/

Category	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing (TH/RRH)
Eligible Applicants	Non-profits, government entities, public housing authorities		
Eligible Participants	- For regular PSH: persons experiencing chronic homelessness - For DedicatedPlus Projects: persons experiencing chronic homelessness plus some additional categories of participants (see below)	- Persons who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2) and (4) of the HUD Homeless Definition, 24 CFR 578.3 - Additional information on youth eligibility is provided below.	
Participant Selection	All projects must participate in coordinated entry, and selection of program participants must be consistent with the CoC's Coordinated Entry process.		
Eligible Activities/ Expenses (24 CFR 578.37-578.63)	- Acquisition - Rehabilitation, - New construction - Leasing - Rental Assistance (TRA, SRA, PRA) - Operating Costs - Support Services - Project Administration	- Short Term Rental Assistance (up to 3 months) - Medium Term Rental Assistance (3 to 24 months) - Support Services - Project Administration	- Leasing - Short- or Medium-Term Rental Assistance - Supportive Services - HMIS - Project Administration
Support Services	Grant funds may be used for any supportive service listed as eligible under 578.53		
Grant Term	Applicants are strongly encouraged to request 1-year grants so as to maximize available		

Category	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)	Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing (TH/RRH)
	funding. Some project types may request initial terms of 2-5 or 15 years (see NOFO). HUD will allow new projects to request a 1 year of funding with a longer initial grant term not to exceed 18 months. HUD has determined that most new projects requesting 1 year of funding normally take approximately 3 to 6 months to begin fully operating the new project (e.g., hiring staff, developing partnerships with landowners if leasing or renting). Therefore, a new project requesting 1 year of funding may request a grant term of 12 months to 18 months that will allow for the additional start-up process. Additional details can be found in NOFO and applicants are strongly encouraged to refer to the document for additional details.		
Timeliness	Must begin operations in a timely manner. HUD strongly encourages all rental assistance to begin within 12 months of award.		
Match	25% of total grant request. Leasing funds do not have to be matched. Match can be cash or in-kind and must be spent on eligible project costs.		
Youth	Any youth-serving provider funded under this NOFO may serve unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under (or families headed by youth aged 24 and under) who have an unsafe primary nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence. Applicants should review the NOFO for additional information on definitions of youth-serving provider.		

Dedicated Plus PSH Projects: PSH Projects that elect to apply as Dedicated Plus Projects are not restricted to serving only chronically homeless people and may serve an expanded set of participants:

1. Experiencing chronic homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 578.3;
2. Residing in a transitional housing project that will be eliminated and meets the definition of chronically homeless in effect at the time in which the individual or family entered the transitional housing project;
3. Residing in a place not meant for human habitation, emergency shelter, or safe haven; but the individuals or families experiencing chronic homelessness as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 had been admitted and enrolled in a permanent housing project within the last year and were unable to maintain a housing placement;
4. Residing in transitional housing funded by a Joint TH and PH-RRH component project and who were experiencing chronic homelessness as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 prior to entering the project;
5. Residing and has resided in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or emergency shelter for at least 12 months in the last three years, but has not done so on four separate occasions and the individual or head of household meet the definition of 'homeless individual with a disability; or
6. Receiving assistance through a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-funded homeless assistance program and met one of the above criteria at initial intake to the VA's homeless assistance system.

B. Domestic Violence Bonus Projects

This year's NOFO includes a set aside for bonus projects serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. DV bonus funds can be used for Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing (TH/RRH), or Support Services Only (SSO) for Coordinated Entry to implement policies to ensure CES meets the needs of domestic violence survivors.

DV bonus projects must meet all the requirements of the applicable project component (RRH, Joint TH/RRH) – see chart above. DV bonus projects are restricted to serve only those households in the target population.

Additional requirements:
- CoC's may submit multiple projects in the RRH and Joint TH/RRH categories, but only one SSO project for Coordinate Entry.
- The minimum DV bonus grant will be $50,000.
- All DV bonus projects must be ranked on the Project Priority List.
- HUD will select DV projects for funding based on the overall CoC score, need for the project, and quality of the project applicant.
- DV bonus projects selected for funding will be funded from the DV bonus pot and removed from the Priority List. All remaining projects will move up in Rank.
- DV bonus projects not selected for funding by HUD will retain the ranking provided by the CoC and be considered as a normal ranked project.

C. Expansion Projects

Applicants that already have an existing CoC funded PSH or RRH project may apply to use either bonus or re-allocation funding to create new projects that are expansions of existing projects. This provides an opportunity for the CoC to expand capacity for projects that are high performers and for which additional capacity is needed. The expansion project must be of the same project-type as the existing project – PSH projects can add more PSH units and RRH projects may add more RRH slots. Existing TH projects may not add RRH slots to become a joint TH/RRH project. Joint TH/RRH projects must be created as entirely new projects.

Project applicants may expand an existing renewal project that is not currently dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking that meet the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3 to dedicate additional beds, units, persons served, or services provided to existing program participants to this population.

D. Transition Grants

Applicants that want to transition one of their existing projects to a new project component (e.g., TH becomes RRH or RRH becomes PSH) can do so by voluntarily re-allocating their existing grant and creating a new project. Unlike regular re-allocation, with Transition Grants there will be no "lag time" between the end of the old project and the beginning of the new project. Some other restrictions apply (see NOFO).

E. Threshold and Project Quality Requirements

The 2022 HUD NOFO requires that all projects (new and renewal) must meet Threshold Requirements as listed in Section V.C.4 (page 47-53). Applicants are strongly encouraged to review Section V.C.4. of the NOFO to ensure that threshold requirements are met.

In addition, all new PSH, RRH and Joint TH/RRH projects will be scored by HUD for Project Quality using the criteria listed below.

PSH and RRH projects must receive a minimum of 3 out of 4 points. Projects that do not receive at least 3 points and the point under the third criteria will be rejected.

1. Whether the type of housing, number, and configuration of units will fit the needs of the program participants (e.g., two or more bedrooms for families) (1 point);

2. Whether the type of supportive services that will be offered to program participants will ensure successful retention or help to obtain permanent housing–this includes all supportive services, regardless of funding source (1 point);

3. Whether the proposed project has a specific plan for ensuring that program participants will be individually assisted to obtain benefits from the mainstream health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible to apply (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, Food Stamps, local Workforce office, early childhood education) (1 point); and

4. Whether program participants are assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs (e.g., provides the participant with some type of transportation to access needed services, safety planning, case management, additional assistance to ensure retention of permanent housing) (1 point).

Joint TH/RRH projects must receive a minimum of 4 out of 6 points. Projects that do not receive at least 4 out of 6 points and the point under the fourth criteria will be rejected.

1. Whether the type of housing, number, and configuration of units will fit the needs of the program participants (1 point);

2. Whether the proposed project will provide enough RRH assistance to ensure that at any given time a program participant may move from transitional housing to permanent housing (1 point);

3. Whether the type of supportive services that will be offered to program participants will ensure successful retention or help to obtain permanent housing–this includes all supportive services, regardless of funding source (1 point);

4. Whether program participants are assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs (e.g., provides the participant with some type of transportation to access needed services, safety planning, case management, additional assistance to ensure retention of permanent housing) (1 point).

5. Whether program participants are assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs (e.g., provides the participant with some type of transportation to access needed services, safety planning, case management, additional assistance to ensure retention of permanent housing) (1 point); and

6. Whether the project adheres to a housing first model as defined in the NOFO (Section III. B.2.o). (1 point).

IV. Application Process for New Project Applicants

A. Application Format for New Projects

Interested applicants must complete the <u>New Project Application in HUD's e-snaps website and the CoC's New Project Application Narrative</u>. The CoC's review panel will use the information provided in the e-snaps Project Application and New Project Application Narrative to determine whether a new project will be included in this year's application, and where it will be ranked. HSA will provide a template for the New Project Application Narrative (the template will be posted online at HSA's NOFO website at https://www.smcgov.org/hsa/continuum-care-nofanofo

Applicants should email the following documents to HSA_Homeless_Programs@smcgov.org and Hana Gossett hana@focusstrategies.net no later than August 30, 2022 by 5:00 pm . <u>Note: do **NOT** click the "submit" button in-snaps.</u>

1. PDF of Project Application from e-snaps (see Section V, below for more information)
2. New Project Application Narrative in Word using the template provided by HSA

B. Application Timeline for New Projects

Following is the application timeline for 2022. Note that dates are subject to change. Any changes to the timeline will be emailed to renewal applicants and posted on the HSA website for the 2022 CoC NOFO at https://www.smcgov.org/hsa/continuum-care-nofanofo

Date	Activity
August 1, 2022	2022 CoC NOFO released
August 10, 2022	CoC Steering Committee meeting to approve review, ranking and tiering criteria/strategy (the Project Review and Ranking Process)
August 15, 2022 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.	Informational Meeting for Applicants (new and renewal). To register for the Zoom meeting, go to: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwudOioqzwrGdaCm8JHrvll6-cB6Ar6m_4J
August 30, 2022, by 5:00 pm	Project Applications due to HSA by email to HSA_Homeless_Programs@smcgov.org and Hana Gossett hana@focusstrategies.net no later than August 30, 2022 by 5:00 pm. Applicants must submit the following documents by email. - A PDF of the completed project applications from e-snaps - The completed New Project Application Narrative in Word
Around September 12, 2022	Review panel meeting; rating and ranking of applications
By September 15, 2022	Applicants notified whether their application is included on the Project Priority List
By September 20, 2022	Applicants receive technical corrections to e-snaps submission
September 20, 2022, by 5:00 pm	Appeals due to HSA via email to: HSA_Homeless_Programs@smcgov.org and Hana Gossett hana@focusstrategies.net

Date	Activity
September 23, 2022	Corrected applications due in e-snaps
September 27, 2022	Applicants receive response to appeals
Around September 27, 2022	CoC Steering Committee Meeting to approve final project ranking
September 27, 2022	Final corrections due in e-snaps
September 29, 2022	HSA staff submit final application to HUD
September 30, 2022	Application due date

C. Rating and Ranking Process and Criteria

On August 10, 2022, the CoC Steering Committee will approve a written project review and ranking criteria and process, including an adopted strategy relating to putting projects into Tier 2 (the Project Review and Ranking Process). The objective of the tiering strategy will be to position the CoC to retain as much funding as possible, while taking a broad, system-wide approach to identifying which elements of the system to put at-risk.

The specific scoring system and detailed rating factors may be found in the *San Mateo County CoC 2022 CoC Competition Project Review and Ranking Process.* This document will be posted on the HSA website for the 2022 CoC NOFO at: https://www.smcgov.org/hsa/continuum-care-nofanofo and emailed widely to CoC members and other community stakeholders.

D.   Points for Projects Leveraging Housing and Healthcare Resources

In the FY 2022 NOFO, HUD will provide points in the overall CoC application for communities that include one or more permanent housing projects (PSH or RRH) on the Project Priority List demonstrating coordination with housing providers and health care organizations. To align with this HUD priority, bonus points will be awarded to new PSH or RRH projects with the following features:

- Project utilizes housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG program, such as through private organizations, State or local government (including HOME funds from the American Rescue Plan), Public Housing Agencies, faith-based organizations or federal programs other than CoC or ESG.

    o For PSH projects, at least 25% of units must be funded by a non-CoC source

    o For RRH projects, at least 25% of participants must receive housing through a non-CoC source

    o Organizations applying for a new PSH or RRH program should prioritize developing a partnership with a housing provider to secure these leveraged resources. Applicants may also enter into a partnership with one or more subrecipients that can leverage these needed resources.

- On behalf of the Continuum of Care, the Lead Agency (HSA) is working with healthcare agencies to identify opportunities to leverage healthcare services and resources. Accepted project applicants are expected to coordinate closely with HSA and healthcare partners to incorporate identified healthcare leverage into the project application and to utilize available healthcare resources or services when the project is operating, for project participants who are eligible for identified healthcare services. This will include ongoing close collaboration between the agency operating the project and the healthcare partner(s) identified, related to service provision and coordination, and grant and financial tracking. For example, healthcare resources specifically designed to serve people with behavioral health disorders or serve aging adults may be leveraged.

    o As the project provider, you would be expected to assist any project participants who may be eligible for those healthcare services to connect with the healthcare provider.

V.   Submitting a New Project in e-snaps

Completing a new Project Application in e-snaps is a multi-step process that can be complex for applicants who are unfamiliar with HUD's online application system. Below are links to HUD instructional resources that explain how to navigate the system. More information about accessing and navigating e-snaps can be found at e-snaps : CoC Program Applications and Grants Management System - HUD Exchange

VI. Information Sources Available

HUD will make available several information sources regarding this year's Continuum of Care process at the following webpage: CoC Program Competition | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This page links to many different resources, including:
  ➢ The 2022 CoC NOFO
  ➢ e-snaps Navigational Guides and Detailed Project Instructions
  ➢ FAQs about the 2022 CoC Competition

HUD is no longer using the AAQ help desk for CoC competition questions. Applicants may email questions directly to HUD as follows:
  • For questions relating to the competition: CoCNOFO@hud.gov
  • For questions relating to e-snaps functionality: e-snaps@hud.gov

If you have questions, the Center on Homelessness recommends first directing any questions to our local team, before reaching out to HUD.

VII. Technical Assistance for Applicants

Applicants may contact the CoC with any questions about the application process or how to complete the application. Questions should be directed to the HSA Center on Homelessness (HSA_Homeless_Programs@smcgov.org), Hana Gossett, Focus Strategies (hana@focusstrategies.net), Vanessa Fenley, Focus Strategies (vanessa@focusstrategies.net) . Please include all 3 email addresses on all emails.