SUMMARY & TIMELINE
2015 CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) PROGRAM
NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA)

Background

The CoC Program (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

Each year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) releases a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), signifying the beginning of a funding competition among approximately 450 Continuums of Care (CoC), the community stakeholder groups that guide local responses to homelessness. The 2015 CoC NOFA was released on September 17, 2015, opening the competition making available approximately $1.89 billion to serve homeless people nationally. The information in the NOFA sets forth the competition rules and processes for 2015. This summary includes the highlights of the NOFA.

Before the application is submitted to HUD, the CoC is required to hold a local competition to determine which projects will be included in the consolidated application, along with their relative priority. The results of the local competition dictate for which projects the CoC will seek funding. Additional details about anything in this summary can be found in the NOFA, available at:
https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Revised-FY-2015-CoC-Program-NOFA.pdf

Highlights of this Year's NOFA

- As expected, the NOFA and scoring criteria are very focused on HUD's policy priorities, including making strong progress in ending chronic, veteran, youth, and family homelessness and implementing Housing First system-wide.
- The CoC application has been restructured to be more cohesive and useful to CoCs for managing projects, building relationships, and being strategic. It will rely heavily on HMIS and other data, using system level performance measures.
- This year the Permanent Housing Bonus is available to create multiple projects and can be used for either (1) new permanent supportive housing projects that will exclusively serve chronically homeless individuals and families or (2) rapid re-housing projects that will serve individuals, families or unaccompanied youth who come directly from the streets, emergency shelters, or are fleeing domestic violence or other persons who meet the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless.
- As in past years, the funding that CoCs can apply for is divided into tiers, with projects prioritized in Tier 1 being more likely to be funded than projects of lower priority that fall in Tier 2. HUD is confident it will be able to fund all Tier 1 requests.
  - New this year, however, projects in Tier 2 will be selected and funded based on a score related to: the overall CoC score, the project's ranked order, project type, and Housing First implementation.
  - CoCs are expected to critically evaluate projects for ranking purposes
  - Tier 2 will be equal to 15% of annual renewal demand plus Permanent Housing Bonus amount (last year it was equal to 2% of annual renewal demand plus CoC planning amount)

- o Bonus projects will be ranked and reviewed in the same way as other projects; there is not a separate competition this year.

Available Funding for Our CoC

HUD determines the maximum award for which each CoC is eligible, determined by a combination of factors. This year, in our CoC, our eligible application amounts are as follows:

Estimated Annual Renewal Demand: $2,940,442
This funding can be used to fund eligible renewal projects, in whole or in part, or can be reallocated to new projects.

Estimated Permanent Housing Bonus Funding: $441,066
Estimated Tier 1 Funding: $2,449,376
Estimated Tier 2 Finding: $441,066
Estimated Planning Funding: $88,213

HUD Deadlines and Timeline

September 17, 2015
2015 CoC NOFA is released.

September 28, 5:00 PM Local Time
All amendments to the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration and Grants Inventory Worksheet (completed earlier this summer) must be approved by the local HUD CPD Field Office, in consultation with HUD Headquarters.

On or after October 9, 2015
A report that lists each CoC's ARD Tier 1 amount, Tier 2 amount, and permanent housing bonus amount available will be posted to the HUD Exchange website.

By November 18, 2015
Each CoC must post the CoC Consolidated Application (i.e. the CoC Application and CoC Priority Listing) on its website (or a partner website) and notify community members and key stakeholders that it is available, in a manner that is accessible for persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency.

November 18, 2015, 4:59:59 PM local time
CoCs must submit by this date to get three bonus points in the competition.

November 20, 2015, 4:59:59 PM local time
Deadline for submission

Winter/Spring
HUD intends to issue one conditional funding announcement for all projects.

September 30, 2017
Statutory deadlines for obligation of grant funds.

Pasadena Partnership Timeline

October 2, 2015
RFP for new PSH for chronically homeless individuals and new RRH for literally homeless individuals released.

October 13, 2015 by 5:00 PM PST
New PSH and RRH RFP responses due

October 15, 2015
Notify agencies who submitted RFP response

October 20, 2015 by 5:00 PM PST
NOFA new and renewal applications due to be submitted into e-snaps

October 21, 2015 – November 2, 2015
Independent reviewing and scoring of new and renewal projects

November 2, 2015
CoC Board ranking of new and renewal projects

November 3, 2015
Recommended ranking of renewal projects announced to Stakeholders (posted to pasadenapartnership.org).
Appeals process of ranked application begins.

November 6, 2015
Appeals filed by this date

November 10, 2015
Agencies who have appealed will receive in writing the decision prior to CoC NOFA application submission

November 12, 2015
Pasadena Partnership Board meeting to approve NOFA recommendations

November 18, 2015
NOFA submitted by 5:00pm PST in order to earn 3 bonus points for early submittal on the CoC Application. CoC Consolidated Application and CoC Priority Listing posted at pasadenapartnership.org.

Application Structure

The CoC Consolidated Application is made up of three parts:

- **CoC Application:** Includes information about the CoC planning body, governance structure, overall performance, and the strategic planning process. This part of the application is scored and will determine the order in which CoCs are funded.
- Project Applications
- **CoC Priority Listing:** Ranks projects in order of priority and identifies any project applications rejected by the CoC

Ranking Information

CoCs will be required to rank all projects submitted by project applicants in e-snaps, except CoC planning projects. Ranked projects must include renewal projects, new projects created through reallocation, and

permanent housing bonus projects. CoCs should consider the policy priorities established in the NOFA in conjunction with local priorities to determine the ranking of projects. The Collaborative Applicant will be required to certify that there is a demonstrated need for all ranked permanent housing renewal projects on the Renewal Project Listing. All projects must pass HUD's eligibility and threshold requirements to be funded, no matter their priority.

Tier 1

The amount of funding available for Tier 1 is equal to 85 percent of the CoC's annual renewal demand. HUD will conditionally award projects from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC. Projects should be placed in priority order.

Tier 2

The amount of funding available for Tier 2 is equal to the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's annual renewal demand plus any amount available for the permanent housing bonus.

Funding will be determined by the point value of each project application based on a 100 point scale. All Tier 2 projects will be funded in point order starting with the highest scoring CoCs (e.g. starting with the top ranked CoC, all projects receiving 96-100 points across the country will be funded first, then all projects receiving 91-95 points, etc.)

Tier 2 points are awarded as follows:

- **CoC Score:** Up to 60 points in direct proportion to the CoC score
- **CoC Ranking:** Up to 20 points for the CoC's ranking of the project application(s), with the 20 points spread evenly across the Tier 2 funding amount. Higher ranked projects get more points, however the formula used to award points gives a disincentive to large projects.
- **Project Type:** Up to 10 points will be based on the type of project and the population served
  - 10 points for renewal and new Permanent Housing, renewal Safe Haven, Homeless Management Information System, Supportive Services Only for Coordinated Entry System, or Transitional Housing that exclusively serves homeless youth
  - 3 points for other renewal Transitional Housing
- **Commitment to Policy Priorities:** Up to 10 points for Housing First commitment
  - For Permanent Housing: Will receive points passed on how the project commits to applying the Housing First model
  - Homeless Management Information System and Supportive Services Only for Coordinated Entry System projects: Will automatically receive 10 points
  - Transitional Housing and other Supportive Services Only projects: Will receive points based on how the project demonstrates that it is low-barrier, prioritized rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions to entry (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold)

Straddling Tiers

For any projects that straddle the two tiers, the process for funding them is changed this year. In the past years, projects were funded as if the whole project fell in Tier 2. This year, the Tier 1 portion will be funded in accordance with Tier 1 processes and the Tier 2 portion will be funded in accordance with Tier 2 processes. HUD may award project funds for just the Tier 1 portion, provided the project is still feasible with the reduced funding (e.g. is able to continue serving homeless program participants effectively). This change reduces the incentive to move projects out of priority in order to utilize the full Tier 1 amount.

Planning Costs

This year, applications for planning costs will be unranked. CoCs may only submit one application for CoC planning costs and it must be submitted by the Collaborative Applicant that is listed on the CoC Applicant Profile in e-snaps. CoC planning projects that pass eligibility and review threshold will be conditionally selected using CoC scores from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC.

Resources

FY 2015 CoC Program NOFA
https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Revised-FY-2015-CoC-Program-NOFA.pdf

FY 2015 NOFA Policy Requirements and General Section
https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY2015-NOFA-Policy-Requirements-and-General-Section.pdf

CoC Program Interim Rule (24 CFR part 578)
https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule_FormattedVersion.pdf

Training Resources
https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/

- Application instructional guides
- Application detailed instructions
- FAQs

USICH HUD FY 2015 Continuum of Care Program Competition: Strategies for Success
http://usich.gov/media_center/videos_and_webinars/hud-fy-2015-continuum-of-care-program-competition-strategies-for-success

HUD Listserv
https://www.hudexchange.info/mailinglist/