

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FY 2024 HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM COMPETITION



San Luis Obispo County
Department of Social Services

August 7, 2024

Updated: August 29, 2024

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Overview

On July 31, 2024, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Years (FY) 2024 & 2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition. The NOFO can be found at

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition

The County of San Luis Obispo is requesting proposals for the FY 2024 & 2025 Continuum of Care Program competition administered by HUD, and will be accepting applications for renewal projects, as well as new bonus funding projects.

The application and selection process for the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition will proceed in the same way as prior year competitions. CoCs are only required to submit one CoC application that will be applicable to the FY 2024 and FY 2025 funding opportunities. Projects that are awarded with a 12 month grant term during the FY 2024 application process will be eligible for an award in FY 2025 using their FY 2024 application submission, and will not be required to apply for renewal during the FY 2025 funding opportunity. Applications should reflect only one year of funding.

The Continuum of Care (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, Indian Tribes or tribally designated housing entities (THDEs) as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103), and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

Any group or organization wishing to apply for grant funding must submit an application for a project meeting the criteria established by HUD for the CoC program. The competition is open both to applicants seeking to renew existing funding as well as new applicants seeking funding for eligible activities.

If you are interested in learning more about the local CoC Competition and how to apply, please participate in the online FY 2024 CoC Informational Meeting on Friday, August 9 from 1pm-2:30pm. Interested persons may attend the informational meeting via Zoom or by phone.

Zoom Link for informational meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88165098996?pwd=bOdTP5sR4MM5Klow8azF9ct1OqpjGE.1>

Or dial in:

+1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 881 6509 8996

Passcode: 265483

Applications are due Friday, September 6 at 2pm. Applications must be submitted online through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's e-snaps electronic portal. Information on how to create an e-snaps account and submit an application are below.

Applicants must complete an Applicant Registration Form in order to become a registrant under the County of San Luis Obispo in e-snaps. Please fill out the Applicant Registration Form as soon as you know your organization will apply:

<https://forms.office.com/g/CcqhiApbT2>

FY 2024 Estimated Available Funding

Estimated ARD	Estimated Tier 1	Estimated New Bonus Projects	Estimated DV Bonus (New Projects)
\$1,337,357	\$1,203,621	\$261,591	\$326,989

Estimated ARD: Estimated Annual Renewal Demand – The total amount of all the CoC's projects that will be eligible for renewal projects in the FY 2024 Competition, before any required adjustments to funding for leasing, rental assistance, and operating Budget Line Items (BLIs) based on Fair Market Rent (FMR) changes.

Estimated Bonus Project: New projects created through the CoC Bonus must meet the project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements established by HUD in Sections III.C.4.a and b of the NOFO. To be eligible to receive a CoC Bonus Project, the CoC must demonstrate its CoC ranks projects based on how they improve system performance as outlined in Section V.B.5 of the NOFO. HUD is placing special emphasis on bonus projects that pair housing with health care services. Bonus projects proposing this pairing will be required to submit a written commitment from a health care organization with the value of the commitment and the date(s) healthcare resources will be provided. Proposed bonus projects that meet this criteria will receive bonus points in the application process.

Estimated DV Bonus: A DV Bonus is a new project that is dedicated to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who qualify under paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3. New DV Bonus Projects are subject to the limitation on new projects in Section I.B.3.a.(1) of the NOFO.

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Estimated Tier 1

Tier 1 is equal to 90 percent of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). Project applications in Tier 1 will be conditionally selected from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC, provided the projects pass both project eligibility and project quality threshold review, and if applicable, project renewal threshold. Any type of new or renewal project application can be placed in Tier 1, except for CoC Planning projects, which is not ranked. If a DV Bonus project ranked in Tier 1 is selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will be removed from this tier and the projects below it will move up one rank position. However, if a new DV Bonus project is not selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will retain its ranked position. In the event insufficient funding is available to award all Tier 1 projects, Tier 1 will be reduced proportionately, which could result in Tier 1 projects falling into Tier 2.

Estimated Tier 2

Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation, and CoC Bonus funds that a CoC can apply for but does not include CoC planning projects or projects selected with DV Bonus funds. If a DV Bonus project ranked in Tier 2 is selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will be removed from this tier and the projects below it will move up one rank position. However, if a new DV Bonus project is not selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will retain its ranked position (see Section I.B.3.h of the NOFO). Project applications placed in Tier 2 will be assessed for project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements, and if applicable, project renewal threshold requirements and funding will be determined using the CoC Application score as well as the factors listed in Section I.B.3.h of the NOFO.

Projects straddling Tiers:

If a project application straddles the Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding line, HUD will conditionally select the project up to the amount of funding that falls within Tier 1. Using the CoC score, and other factors described in Section I.B.3.h of the NOFO, HUD may fund the Tier 2 portion of the project. If HUD does not fund the Tier 2 portion of the project, HUD may award the project at the reduced amount, provided the project is still feasible with the reduced funding (e.g., is able to continue serving homeless program participants effectively).

The Program

The Continuum of Care program, authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009, is administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Continuum of Care program seeks to:

- Promote a communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness;
- End homelessness by providing funding for efforts to quickly re-house homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless persons and communities by homelessness;

- Promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

The Continuum of Care program provides grants to recipient agencies representing local Continuums of Care (CoCs). The County of San Luis Obispo is the recipient agency for the San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care. The County is issuing this Request for Proposals to agencies interested in providing eligible services consistent with the regulations, guidance and priorities established by HUD. The CoC regulations may be obtained at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule.pdf>.

HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities

- (1) Ending homelessness for all persons.** In 2023, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) presented *All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness to the President and Congress*. The plan is built around six pillars: three foundations — equity, data and evidence, and collaboration — and three solutions — housing and supports, crisis response, and prevention. The work funded through the FY2024 & FY2025 CoC NOFO will support the actions and strategies proposed within the pillars. To end homelessness, CoCs should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness. CoCs should measure their performance based on local data that consider the challenges faced by all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area (e.g., veterans, youth, families, older adults, those experiencing chronic homelessness, and people with disabilities, including those living with HIV/AIDS). CoCs should partner with housing, health care, and supportive services providers and agencies to expand housing options, such as permanent supportive housing, housing subsidies, and rapid rehousing. Additionally, CoCs should use local data to determine the characteristics of individuals and families with the highest needs and longest periods experiencing homelessness to develop housing and supportive services tailored to their needs.
- (2) Use a Housing First Approach.** Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and utilizes housing as a platform for providing supportive services that improve a person's health and well-being. CoC Program funded projects should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing without preconditions and ensure that participants can choose the services they need to improve their health and well-being and remain in their housing. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to identify housing units available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service practices. HUD encourages CoCs to assess how well Housing First approaches are being implemented in their communities.

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- (3) Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness.** In recent years, the number of people experiencing **unsheltered** homelessness has risen significantly, including a rising number of encampments in many communities across the country. People living unsheltered have high rates of physical and mental health challenges, including substance use disorders. CoCs should explore all available resources, including CoC and ESG funded assistance, housing subsidies, health care programs, and other supportive services to help improve unsheltered people's well-being and help them move as quickly as possible to permanent housing. CoCs should work with law enforcement and their state and local governments to enlist their support for housing people residing in encampments, and to avoid practices that criminalize homelessness. Criminalization of homelessness risks the health of people living unsheltered and makes it more difficult for them to move into permanent housing. Additionally, CoCs should use their Coordinated Entry process to promote participant choice, coordinate homeless assistance and mainstream housing and services, and ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance quickly.
- (4) Improving System Performance.** CoCs should be assessing the performance of all homelessness projects using system performance measures (e.g., average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, rates of exit to permanent housing destinations). CoCs should review all projects eligible for renewal under the FY2024 & FY2025 CoC NOFO to determine their effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness, including their cost-effectiveness. The CoC Competition includes several options to help CoCs improve their effectiveness, including reallocation, expansion, and transition grants, and CoCs should take advantage of these options to improve their overall performance. CoCs should also look for opportunities to implement continuous quality improvement and other process improvement strategies.
- (5) Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies.** Using cost performance and outcome data, CoCs should improve how all available resources are utilized to end homelessness. HUD encourages CoCs to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness and should:
- (a)** Work closely with health care systems and agencies and assist program participants to obtain health care and supportive services, including behavioral health services, including those covered and financed by Medicaid. In addition, CoCs should develop close partnerships with public health agencies to analyze data and design approaches that reduce homelessness, improve the health of people experiencing homelessness, and prevent and address disease outbreaks, including HIV/AIDS.
 - (b)** Partner closely with PHAs and state and local housing organizations to utilize coordinated entry, develop housing units, and provide housing assistance to people experiencing homelessness. These partnerships can also help CoC Program participants exit permanent supportive housing through Housing Choice Vouchers

and other available housing options. CoCs and PHAs should especially work together to implement targeted programs such as HUD-VASH, Mainstream Vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers, Fostering Youth Independence (FYI) Vouchers, and other housing voucher programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness. CoCs should coordinate with their state and local housing agencies on the utilization of new program resources provided through the Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program (HOME-ARP) that was created through the American Rescue Plan. CoCs should also work with organizations administering other housing assistance, such as assistance provided through HUD's Section 202 and 811 programs, HUD's Project Based Rental Assistance, and U.S. Department of Agriculture's housing assistance programs.

- (c) Partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment opportunities.
 - (d) Work with Tribal organizations to ensure that Tribal members can access CoC-funded assistance when a CoC's geographic area borders a Tribal area.
- (6) **Racial Equity.** In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are substantially over-represented in the homeless population. In the FY2024 & FY2025 CoC NOFO, HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address racial equity within CoCs and projects. Responses to preventing and ending homelessness should address racial inequities to ensure successful outcomes for all persons experiencing homelessness using proven approaches, such as: partnering with a racially diverse set of community partners and people experiencing homelessness and partnering with organizations with experience serving underserved populations. CoCs should review local data, policies, procedures, and processes to identify barriers that result in racial disparities and take steps to eliminate barriers to improve racial equity and to address disparities.
- (7) **Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals.** Discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation manifests differently for different individuals and often overlaps with other forms of prohibited discrimination. CoCs should address the needs of LGBTQ+, transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary individuals and families in their planning processes. Additionally, when considering which projects to select in their local competition to be included in their application to HUD, CoCs should ensure that all projects provide privacy, respect, safety, and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. CoCs should also partner with organizations with expertise in serving LGBTQ+ populations.
- (8) **Persons with Lived Experience/Expertise.** The people who know best what solutions will effectively end homelessness are those who are experiencing homelessness. HUD expects CoCs to include people with lived homeless expertise and experience in their local planning and decision-making processes. People with lived experience/expertise should determine how local policies may need to be revised and updated to improve the

effectiveness of homelessness assistance programs, including participating in planning and oversight activities, developing local competition processes, monitoring and evaluation. CoC leaders and community partners should prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed.

- (9) Building an Effective Workforce.** Homeless assistance providers need effective, well-supported staff to provide high quality assistance. Unfortunately, recruiting and retaining qualified staff for programs to assist persons experiencing homelessness has proven difficult due to low pay and the challenging nature of the work. To address this issue, HUD is applying cost of living adjustments to supportive service activities and other staffing-focused budget lines to allow CoC budgets to better keep up with rising costs. HUD also encourages CoCs to work with their funders and other community stakeholders to improve pay and support for people who work in the homelessness sector.
- (10) Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.** The lack of affordable housing is the main driver of homelessness. CoCs play a critical role in educating local leaders and stakeholders about the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing and the specific consequences of the continued lack of affordable housing. CoCs should be communicating with jurisdiction leaders, including for the development of Consolidated Plans, about the harmful effects of the lack of affordable housing, and they should engage local leaders about steps such as zoning and land use reform that would increase the supply of affordable housing. The FY2024 & FY2025 CoC NOFO awards points to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable and accessible housing supply.

Eligible Activities

Continuum of Care funds may be used to pay for the eligible costs listed in 24 CFR § 578.39 through § 578.63 when used to establish and operate projects under five program components: Permanent Housing; Transitional Housing; Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing; Supportive Services Only; and Homelessness Management Information System (HMIS).

All subrecipients, except agencies proposing projects to serve victims of domestic violence, will be required to enter client data into the San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care HMIS, a secure, web-based data system used by the County to report de-identified, aggregate data as required by HUD or as needed for local management of the CoC. All subrecipients must agree to abide by the standards required by HUD for HMIS (HMIS Data Standards Manual - <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3824/hmis-data-dictionary/>).

Although grant funds may be used by recipients and subrecipients in all components for the eligible costs of contributing data to the HMIS, only HMIS Leads may use grant funds for an HMIS component. Administrative costs are eligible for all components. All components are subject to the

restrictions on combining funds for certain eligible activities in a single project found in 24 CFR § 578.87(c).

Eligible components:

- a. *Permanent Housing (PH)*. Permanent Housing is community-based housing, the purpose of which is to provide housing without a designated length of stay. Grant funds may be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, leasing, rental assistance, operating costs, and supportive services. PH includes:
 - a. *Permanent Supportive Housing for persons with disabilities (PSH)*. PSH can only provide assistance to individuals with disabilities and families in which one adult or child has a disability. Supportive services designed to meet the needs of the program participants must be made available to the program participants; and
 - b. *Rapid Rehousing*. Continuum of Care funds may provide supportive services, as set forth in 24 CFR § 578.53, and/or short-term (up to 3 months) and/or medium-term (for 3 to 24 months) Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, as set forth in 24 CFR § 578.51(c), as necessary to help a homeless individual or family, with or without disabilities, move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. When providing short-term and/or medium-term rental assistance to program participants, the rental assistance is subject to 24 CFR § 578.51(a)(1), but not § 578.51(a)(1)(i) and (ii); (a)(2); (c) and (f) through (i); and (l)(1).
- b. *Transitional Housing (TH)*. Transitional housing facilitates the movement of homeless individuals and families to PH within 24 months of entering TH. Grant funds may be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, leasing, rental assistance, operating costs, and supportive services.
- c. *Supportive Services Only (SSO)*. Funds may be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, relocation costs, or leasing of a facility from which supportive services will be provided, and supportive services to unsheltered and sheltered homeless persons for whom the recipient or subrecipient is not providing housing or housing assistance.
- d. *HMIS*. Funds may be used by HMIS Leads to lease a structure in which the HMIS is operated or as operating funds to operate a structure in which the HMIS is operated, and for other costs eligible in 24 CFR § 578.57.

Uses of Assistance. Funds are available to pay for the eligible costs listed in 24 CFR § 578.37 through § 578.63, and through the amended section 423(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act when used to:

- a. Establish new housing or new facilities to provide supportive services;

- b. Expand existing housing and facilities in order to increase the number of homeless persons served;
- c. Bring existing housing and facilities into compliance with State and local government health and safety standards;
- d. Provide supportive services for residents of supportive housing or for homeless persons not residing in supportive housing;
- e. Continue funding permanent housing when the recipient has received funding under this part for leasing, supportive services, operating costs, or rental assistance;
- f. Establish and operate an HMIS or compatible database; and
- g. Establish and carry out a Continuum of Care planning process and operate a CoC.

Section 605(a)(2) of VAWA 2022 amends section 423(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to add the following eligible activity to the CoC program:

- Facilitating and coordinating activities to ensure compliance with the emergency transfer plan requirement in 34 U.S.C. 12491(e) and monitoring compliance with the confidentiality protections in 34 U.S.C. 12491(c)(4).

HUD has determined that this new eligible activity category is not subject to the CoC program's spending caps on administrative costs under section 423(a)(10), (11), and (12).

This activity may be included in new project applications. It may also be added to eligible renewal projects through expansion or added to eligible renewal projects by shifting up to 10 percent of funds from one eligible activity to the VAWA costs line item.

Examples of eligible costs for emergency transfer facilitation include the costs of assessing, coordinating, approving, denying and implementing a survivor's emergency transfer which includes:

- (i) Assistance with moving costs. Reasonable moving costs to move survivors for an emergency transfer.
- (ii) Assistance with travel costs. Reasonable travel costs for survivors and their families to travel for an emergency transfer.
- (iii) Security Deposits. Grant funds can be used to pay for security deposits of the safe units the survivor is transferring to via an emergency transfer.
- (iv) Utilities. Grant funds can be used to pay for costs of establishing utility assistance in the safe unit the survivor is transferring to.
- (v) Housing Fees. Fees associated with getting survivor into a safe unit via emergency transfer, includes but not limited to application fees, broker fees, holding fees, trash fees, pet fees where the person believes they need their pet to be safe, etc.

- (vi) Case management. Grant funds can be used to pay staff time necessary to assess, coordinate and implement emergency transfers.
- (vii) Housing navigation. Grant funds can be used to pay staff time necessary to identify safe units and facilitate moves into housing for survivors through emergency transfers.
- (viii) Technology to make an available unit safe. Grant funds can be used to pay for technology that the individual believes is needed to make the unit safe, including but not limited to doorbell cameras, security systems, phone and internet service when necessary to support security systems for the unit, etc.

(b) Examples of eligible costs for monitoring compliance with the VAWA confidentiality requirements include the costs of ensuring compliance with the VAWA confidentiality requirements which includes:

- (i) Monitoring and evaluating compliance with VAWA confidentiality requirements.
- (ii) Developing and implementing strategies for corrective actions and remedies.
- (iii) Program evaluation of confidentiality policies, practices and procedures.
- (iv) Training on compliance with VAWA confidentiality requirements.
- (v) Reporting to Collaborative Applicant, HUD and other interested parties on compliance with VAWA confidentiality requirements
- (vi) Costs for establishing methodology to protect survivor information.
- (vii) Staff time associated with maintaining adherence to confidentiality requirements.

Participant Eligibility - Projects funded through the NOFO must have the following eligibility criteria for program participants. References to paragraphs of the definition of homeless refer to the paragraphs listed under the definition of "homeless" in 24 CFR § 578.3. For purposes of the CoC Program and other HUD programs authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, section 605 of VAWA 2022 amended section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to require HUD to consider as homeless:

any individual or family who—

- (1) is experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to, or fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized;
- (2) has no other safe residence; and
- (3) lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing.

All projects must participate in Coordinated Entry, and the selection of program participants must be consistent with the CoC's Coordinated Entry process. As provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022, youth aged 24 and under must not be required to provide third-party documentation that they meet the homeless definition in 24 CFR § 578.3 as a condition for receiving services funded under this NOFO. Additionally, 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 are living in unsafe situations. HUD interprets "youth-serving provider" as a private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to youth aged 24 and under and families headed by youth aged 24 and under. HUD interprets "living in unsafe situations" as having an unsafe primary nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence. These youth-related requirements supersede any conflicting requirements under this NOFO or the CoC Program Interim Rule.

a. Renewal Projects

- a. Permanent Housing-Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH) renewal projects must serve one of the following:
 - (i) Persons eligible to be served by DedicatedPLUS projects as described in Section I.B.2.b(5) of the NOFO where all units funded by this project must be used to serve program participants who meet the qualifications for DedicatedPLUS; or
 - (ii) Persons experiencing chronic homelessness at the time they initially enrolled in the project.
- b. Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH), Joint Transitional Housing/Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing (TH/PH-RRH), Transitional Housing (TH), and Supportive Services Only (SSO) projects may serve persons who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR § 578.3. Additionally, these projects may serve persons who qualify as homeless under paragraph (3) of 24 CFR § 578.3 if the CoC is approved to serve persons in paragraph (3).

b. New Projects

- a. New PH-PSH projects must serve one of the following:
 - (i) Persons eligible to be served by DedicatedPLUS projects as described in Section I.B.2.b(5) of the NOFO in which case all units funded by the project must be used to serve program participants who meet the qualifications for DedicatedPLUS; or
 - (ii) Persons experiencing chronic homelessness at the time they initially enroll in the project.

- b. New PH-RRH, Joint TH/PH-RRH, and Supportive Services Only-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) projects may serve persons who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR § 578.3, Section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, or persons who qualify as homeless under paragraph (3) of 24 CFR § 578.3 if the CoC is approved to serve persons in paragraph (3).
- c. New Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus projects (RRH, Joint TH/PH-RRH, and SSO-CE) must serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who qualify as homeless under paragraph (1) or (4) of 24 CFR § 578.3 or Section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Additionally, these projects may serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking who qualify as homeless under paragraph (3) of 24 CFR § 578.3 if the CoC is approved to serve persons in paragraph (3).

CoC Program Specific Requirements

- a. **Advancing Racial Equity.** In accordance with Executive Order 13985, *Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, and federal fair housing and civil rights laws, HUD is emphasizing rating factors regarding CoC evaluation of racial disparities as well as system and program changes to address racial equity within CoCs. Responses to preventing and ending homelessness should address racial inequities to ensure successful outcomes for all persons experiencing homelessness using proven approaches, such as: developing a coordinated community response created in partnership with a racially diverse set of stakeholders and people experiencing homelessness and partnering with organizations with experience serving underserved populations. Agencies should review local policies, procedures, and processes with attention to identifying barriers that result in racial disparities, and taking steps to eliminate barriers to improve racial equity and to address disparities. Note that any actions taken in furtherance of this section must be consistent with federal nondiscrimination requirements. All applicants must address the eight bullets outlined in Rating Factors V.B.1.p and V.B.2.e in the FY2024 & FY2025 CoC NOFO.
- b. **Renewal Project Requirements.** Awards HUD made under the CoC Program are eligible for renewal with FY 2024 CoC Program funds if they are currently in operation and expire in CY 2025 (the period from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025). Projects renewed under the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition NOFO are renewable as set forth in 24 CFR § 578.33 to continue ongoing leasing, operating, supportive services, rental assistance, HMIS, and project administrative costs. Project applications for grants previously awarded 1 year of funding that are renewing in the FY 2024 CoC Program competition must establish a Period

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of Performance (PoP) start date no later than January 1, 2025 to be eligible for FY 2024 renewal funding. If a conditionally selected FY2024 or earlier renewal grant does not have an expiration date in CY 2025, HUD will withdraw any funds conditionally awarded for FY 2024.

- (1)** The total request for each renewing project is limited to a project's ARA. Additionally, where two or more eligible projects are being consolidated through the project application, the total ARA of the consolidation project must be equal to or less than the sum of the original renewal projects before consolidation. Because funds for acquisition, new construction, and rehabilitation are not renewable, grants being renewed whose original expiring award included acquisition, new construction, and rehabilitation funds may only renew leasing, supportive services, rental assistance, operating, and HMIS costs and must not exceed 10 percent in administrative costs.
 - (2)** HUD will recapture grant funds remaining unspent at the end of the previous grant period when it renews a grant.
- c. Renewal and Replacement Grant Terms.** CoC Program renewal applications are limited to a 1-year grant term and 1 year of funding. HUD may extend the grant term consistent with 2 CFR § 200.308 and § 200.309. Any renewal PH project that receives project-based rental assistance or operating costs may request up to a 15-year grant term; however, project applicants may only request 1 year of funding. HUD may extend the grant term consistent with 2 CFR § 200.308 and § 200.309. Project applicants must apply for the additional funds as a renewal project application prior to the anniversary of the first expenditure of grant funds by which date grant funds should have been expended; or, if HUD extends the date that funds must be expended, the date the extension expires. HUD does not guarantee CoC Program funds past the 1 year of renewal funding.
- d. New Projects.** CoCs may submit new projects created through reallocation, CoC Bonus, or a combination of reallocation and CoC Bonus, new DV Bonus projects, CoC Planning project, and if applicable, UFA Costs project. To expend funds within statutorily required deadlines, applicants funded for sponsor-based and project-based rental assistance must execute the grant agreement and begin providing rental assistance within 2 years. However, HUD strongly encourages all rental assistance to begin within 12 months of award. Applicants that are unable to begin rental assistance within the 12- month period should consult with the local HUD CPD field office.
- (1)** HUD will review project subrecipient eligibility as part of the project quality threshold review process. Project applicants must submit documentation of the subrecipient's eligibility with the project application.

- (2) Any youth-serving provider funded through this program 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.
 - (3) Per the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, to receive funding for a new project, except those created through reallocation, HUD must determine the CoC has demonstrated that projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the CoC's system performance. System performance measures include average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, rates of exits to permanent housing destinations. The County will use HMIS data to determine this.
- e. New Project Grant Terms.** The initial grant term for new project applications may be 1-year, 2-years, 3-years, 4-years, 5-years, or 15-years. HUD may extend the grant consistent with 2 CFR § 200.308 and § 200.309. New projects awarded 1-year grants under the FY 2024 funding process will be eligible for renewal with FY 2025 CoC Program funds if they have a signed grant agreement with HUD that will expire in CY 2026 (January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026). HUD will make FY 2025 awards using the FY 2024 application, subject to any FMR adjustments and FY 2025 appropriations. If HUD conditionally selects a FY 2024 grant for renewal in FY 2025 that does not have an expiration date in CY 2026, HUD will withdraw any award conditionally selected for FY 2025 renewal funding. The following exceptions apply:
- (1) HUD will allow new projects to request 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. Any new projects requesting capital costs (i.e., new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation) are not eligible for 1-year funding requests. See (7) below for more information on new projects requesting capital costs.
 - (2) Any new expansion project submitted to expand an eligible renewal CoC Program funded project may only request a 1-year grant term, regardless of the project type.
 - (3) Any new project that requests tenant-based rental assistance may request a 1-year, 2-year, 3-year, 4-year, or 5-year grant term.
 - (4) Any new project that requests leasing costs-either leasing costs only or leasing costs plus other costs (e.g., supportive services, HMIS) may request up to a 3-year grant term.
 - (5) Any new project that requests project-based rental assistance or sponsor-based rental assistance, or operating costs may request up to a 15-year grant term; however, the

project applicant may only request up to 5 years of funds. Funding for the remainder of the term is subject to availability. Applicants must apply for additional funds through a renewal project application in the competition held in the calendar year prior to the anniversary of the first expenditure of grant funds, or if HUD has extended the grant term, the date the extension expires. HUD does not guarantee CoC Program funds past the initial 5-year grant term, if conditionally awarded.

- (6) Any new project that requests operating costs, supportive services only, HMIS, and project administrative costs may request 1-year, 2-year, 3-year, 4-year, or 5-year grant terms with funding for the same number of years.
 - (7) Any new project conditionally selected by HUD that requests new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation costs (capital costs) must request a minimum of a 3-year grant term and may request up to a 5-year grant term. Any new projects requesting capital costs are not eligible for 1-year requests. If a new project requests 1 year of funding with capital costs, HUD will increase the grant term to 3-years and the new project must spend the funds requested over a 3-year period.
 - (8) If an applicant requests funds for new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation in addition to requesting funds for operating, supportive services, or HMIS, the funding will be for the 3-years to 5-years requested, and the grant term will be 3-years to 5-years plus the time necessary to acquire the property, complete construction, and begin operating the project. HUD will require recordation of a HUD-approved use and repayment covenant before funds can be drawn down (the form can be obtained from the local HUD CPD field office) for all grants of funds for new construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation. (24 CFR § 578.81) HUD Field Office Counsel must approve the use and repayment covenants in advance of their being recorded, and proof of recording must be submitted to HUD Field Office Counsel before HUD will release grant funds, other than acquisition funds.
 - (9) Any new project that is requesting consideration under the DV Bonus (see sections I.B.3.j and I.B.2.b.(6) of the FY2024 & FY2025 CoC NOFO) may only request 1 year of funding, but may request a longer initial grant term not to exceed 18 months regardless of project application type.
- f. Match. 24 CFR § 578.73 provides the information regarding match requirements.** Project applicants that intend to use program income as a match must provide an estimate of how much program income will be used for the match.
- g. Indirect Costs.** Indirect cost rules under 2 CFR part 200 apply. Project applicants that intend to charge indirect costs to the award must clearly state in the project application(s) the rate and distribution base the recipient intends to use, and if applicable, the rate and distribution

base to be used by any subrecipient(s). If the rate is a Federally negotiated indirect cost rate, the project application must include the corresponding negotiated indirect cost rate agreement signed by the cognizant agency. A government department or agency unit that receives no more than \$35 million in direct federal funding per year and has developed and maintains an indirect cost rate proposal and supporting documentation in accordance with 2 CFR part 200, appendix VII, may use the rate and distribution base specified in that indirect cost rate proposal, unless the cognizant agency requires the proposal to be submitted for negotiation. For each applicant or intended subrecipient that meets the conditions for using the de minimis rate under 2 CFR § 200.414(f) and will use that rate to charge indirect costs, the project application must clearly state the intended use of the de minimis rate of 10 percent of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC). As described in 2 CFR § 200.403, costs must be consistently charged as either indirect or direct costs but must not be double charged or inconsistently charged as both. Once an organization elects to use the de minimis rate, the organization must apply this methodology consistently for all Federal awards until the organization chooses to negotiate for a rate, which the organization may apply to do at any time. Documentation of the decision to use the de minimis rate must be retained on file for audit.

Eligible Project Applications

The following types of project applications will be eligible for completion and submission under the NOFO:

a. New Projects Created Through Reallocation or CoC Bonus processes:

- a. PH-Permanent Supportive Housing projects.
- b. PH-Rapid Rehousing projects.
- c. Joint TH/PH-RRH component projects.
- d. SSO-Coordinated Entry project to develop or operate a centralized or coordinated assessment system.

Because new project applications may be created through the reallocation or CoC Bonus processes, if HUD determines that a project applicant or a CoC incorrectly classified one or more new projects as reallocation or CoC Bonus, HUD may reclassify the project(s) as either reallocation or CoC Bonus if the CoC exceeded either its reallocation or CoC Bonus amount. For example, if a project applicant or the CoC classified a new project application as reallocation but did not reallocate funds in whole or part from an eligible renewal project, and there are CoC Bonus funds available, HUD may reclassify the new project application as CoC Bonus during its review. If a project applicant uses both reallocation and CoC Bonus amounts to create a single new project but did not have enough available from either source, HUD will reduce the project to the amount available, if any.

A new project may only use reallocated funds from eligible renewal project(s) that have previously been renewed under the CoC Program and have a current grant agreement.

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For new projects created through the CoC Bonus, HUD must determine the CoC has demonstrated that the projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the CoC's system performance.

If a new project is being created with reallocated funds that were originally awarded to a DV Bonus project, the new project must continue to serve the same population as the project being reallocated. DV Bonus and DV Reallocation funds may not be combined with any other funding in a new project application.

- b. New Projects for DV Bonus.** To be considered for the DV Bonus, new projects must be:
- a. PH-Rapid Rehousing projects dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless (24 CFR § 578.3);
 - b. Joint Transitional Housing/PH-Rapid Rehousing component projects defined in Section I.B.2.b.(18) of the NOFO dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who are defined as homeless (24 CFR § 578.3); or
 - c. SSO-Coordinated Entry project to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Where a new project may be eligible for the DV Bonus, CoC Bonus or reallocation process, if HUD determines that a project applicant incorrectly classified one or more new projects as a DV Bonus (e.g., the proposed project does not propose to serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking), HUD may reclassify the project(s) as either reallocation or CoC Bonus if they are eligible. If a project does not have enough funding available from the CoC Bonus or reallocation sources, HUD will reduce the project to the amount available, if any.

For new projects created through DV Bonus, HUD must determine the CoC has demonstrated that projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the CoC's system performance.

- c. Expansion Project.** HUD will allow project applicants to apply for a new expansion project (see Section III.B.4.a(6) of the NOFO) through reallocation, CoC Bonus, and DV Bonus processes to expand existing projects to increase the number of units, persons served, services provided to existing program participants, or to add additional activities to HMIS and SSO-CE projects. If the new expansion project will expand an existing eligible CoC Program renewal project, HUD will not fund capital costs (i.e., new constructions, rehabilitation, or acquisition) and will only allow 1-year funding requests.
- a. Project applicants intending to submit new project applications for the purposes of expanding an eligible renewal in the CoC Program must:
 - i. Enter the grant number of the eligible renewal project, proposed for expansion, in the new project application;
 - ii. Indicate how the new project application will expand units, beds, services, persons served, or services provided to existing program participants, or in the case of HMIS or SSO-CE projects, how the current activities will be

- expanded for the CoC's geographic area; and
- iii. Ensure the funding request for the expansion grant is within the funding parameters allowed under reallocation, CoC Bonus, or DV Bonus available amounts.

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

The new expansion project application must meet the project eligibility and project quality thresholds in Sections III.C.4.a and b of the NOFO. If the new expansion project exceeds the amount of funding available under the reallocation or Bonus processes, HUD will reduce the funding request to the available amount, which could affect the activities of the new expansion project, so long as the project is feasible with reduced funding. If both the new expansion project and the CoC Program renewal project it expands are conditionally selected for funding, one grant agreement incorporating both approved project applications will be executed. If the renewal project application is not conditionally selected for funding, HUD will not select the expansion project application.

To apply for an expansion grant, project applicants must submit separate renewal and new project applications, and both must be ranked by the CoC with unique rank numbers.

- d. **Consolidation Project.** Applicants intending to use the consolidation process to combine two or more (but no more than ten) eligible renewal projects (e.g., PH-PSH) may do so through the renewal project application, and must ensure:
 - a. Budget Line Items (BLIs) for the consolidated project application submitted exactly match the sum of the BLIs for each of the individual projects as they appear on the GIW located on HUD's website, or grant agreement as amended;
 - b. Inclusion of the expiring grant numbers with period of performance and budget period start and end dates for the projects that are consolidating;
 - c. Current period of performance and budget period end dates must end in CY 2025;
 - d. Are in good standing with HUD, meaning none of the projects have:
 - i. outstanding audit or monitoring findings,
 - ii. outstanding obligation to HUD that is in arrears,
 - iii. unresolved construction delays,
 - iv. a history of poor financial management/drawdown issues,
 - v. history of low occupancy levels, or lack experience in administering the project type, or
 - vi. other capacity issues.
 - e. The projects have the same recipient and are for the same component.

To request the consolidation of eligible renewal projects, project applicants must submit renewal projects for the individual projects to be included in the consolidation and each project application will identify the grant number that will survive which must be the grant

number with the earliest start date in CY 2025. Project applications for the grants that are proposed to be part of the consolidation must be ranked with a unique rank number for each project, and if all those grants are selected, HUD will conditionally award the single surviving grant based on its ranked position to include the amount of funding of all grants included in the consolidation. All other project applications included in the surviving grant will be removed from the CoC's ranking resulting in project applications below to slide up one ranked position. A project applicant cannot submit a consolidated project application that contains two different components (e.g., PH and TH).

The start date for the consolidated grant, if conditionally awarded, will be the day after the expiration date of the eligible renewal project with the earliest expiration date. The expiration date for the consolidated grant will be calculated by averaging the expiration dates for all expiring grants included in the consolidated grant weighted by the size of each expiring grant. If that date falls on the first through the fifteenth of a month, then the expiration date will be the last day of the previous month. If the date falls on the sixteenth through the end of the month, then the expiration date will be the last day of the month. The expiration date for the consolidated grant will be calculated as follows: It will be X months after the end of the 12th month after the start date for the consolidated grant with X determined by calculating the sum for all grants of the total award times the number of months after the expiration of the first expiring grant that the grant expires and dividing that sum by the total award for the consolidated grant. If the calculation of X results in a partial month, if it is less than 0.5, then the consolidated grant will expire on the last day of the previous month, and if it is 0.5 or more, then the consolidated grant will expire on the last day of the calculated month.

CoC Specific Requirements

- A. **Coordinated Entry** - Both the CoC and ESG Program interim rules require use of the CoC's Coordinated Entry process.
- B. **SAM Registration Requirement.** Applicants must be registered with <https://www.sam.gov/SAM> before submitting their application. In addition, Applicants must maintain an active SAM registration with current information while they have an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by HUD.
- C. **UEI Number Requirement.** Applicants must provide a valid UEI number, registered and active at <https://www.sam.gov/SAM> in the application.
- D. Subrecipients must comply with non-discrimination, fair housing, and equal opportunity regulations as described in 24 CFR § 578.93 and 24 CFR § 5.105 and the Fair Housing Act.
- E. **Housing First** – A Housing First approach is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements. Supportive services are offered to maximize housing stability

and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.

- F. **Compliance with Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Rule** – Per 24 CFR § 578.99(j) & 24 CFR 5 Subpart L, all permanent and transitional housing for which Continuum of Care program funds are used for acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, leasing, rental assistance, or operating costs must implement the requirements of VAWA for the protection of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- G. **Fair Market Rents (FMR)** – HUD is required to adjust awards for leasing, operating, and rental assistance line items based on changes to the FMR. Funds awarded for rental assistance will be adjusted in all new projects and renewal projects requesting the FMR will be adjusted by applying the FMR in effect at the time of application submission to HUD.
- H. **Affirmative Marketing and Outreach** - The CoC Program interim rule at 24 CFR § 578.93(c) requires recipients of CoC Program funds to affirmatively market their housing and supportive services to eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, familial status, or disability who are least likely to apply in the absence of special outreach, and maintain records of those marketing activities. Housing assisted by HUD and made available through the CoC must also be made available to individuals and families without regard to actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status in accordance with 24 CFR § 5.105 (a)(2).
- I. **Section 3 (the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u))** – For construction or rehabilitation projects, applicants are required to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons.
- J. **Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200** - Applicants will be required to carry out all activities in accordance with federal laws, regulations, and guidance governing federal grants, including the Office of Management and Budget’s Uniform Guidance 2 CFR Part 200.
- K. **Leveraging Housing Resources** – New PH-PSH or PH-RRH project applicants will receive points by demonstrating that they have applied for at least one PSH or RRH project that utilizes housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG programs.

Application Procedures

Complete applications will be due to the Department of Social Services Homeless Services Division (HSD) by Friday, September 6 at 2 PM. The process may be found in the “Timeline” section of this RFP on page 27.

There will be three parts required to the application process:

- 1) An applicant registration form, available at <https://forms.office.com/g/CcqhiApbT2>, to be submitted to the HSD;
- 2) An application submitted through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's e-snaps portal, available at <https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf>; and
- 3) A supplemental application submitted to the County.

HUD E-SNAPS Application

Detailed instructions on how to complete the HUD e-snaps application process can be found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>. This link to the Detailed Instructions includes information about each question in the application and guidelines about specific information that should be included in response to the question. All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the Detailed Instructions before completing their applications. In order to submit an application through the e-snaps portal, local applicants must complete the applicant registration form, linked above, to become a registrant. It is strongly recommended that potential applicants do this at least two weeks before the application is due, to give time to address any issues in the registration or application process.

Homeless Services Division staff will review applications and may ask for applicants to provide additional information in e-snaps if needed prior to final submission to HUD.

Supplemental Application

All FY 2024 CoC Program applicants will need to submit a supplemental application in addition to the HUD application submitted in e-snaps. Supplemental applications can be found on the San Luis Obispo County Department of Social Services website:

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/social-services/homeless-services-division/funding-availability>

Please note, as of August 7, 2024, HUD has not yet made the application available in e-snaps. Publication of the application is expected imminently. Please continue to check the e-snaps website daily. You may still become a registrant prior to the publication of the HUD application and potential applicants are encouraged to do so.

Please note that this RFP and the Supplemental Application will be updated following the publication of the HUD application on the e-snaps website to ensure consistency with the published requirements and to ensure the County can submit the strongest possible application to HUD. Copies of the revised RFP and Supplemental Application will be posted on the Department of

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SS HomelessServices@co.slo.ca.us

<https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/departments/social-services/homeless-services-division>

Social Services Homeless Services Division's website.

Please submit Supplemental Applications by email to SS_HomelessServices@co.slo.ca.us or deliver to Erica Jaramillo at P.O. Box 8119, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403. Both the e-snaps and Supplemental Application must be received no later than **Friday, September 6 at 2pm.**

Project Review and Scoring

Once an application has been submitted, a review will be undertaken to ensure the proposed project meets threshold requirements (see Sections III.C.4 of the NOFO). Applications submitted by the deadline that meet the threshold requirements will be scored and ranked by a Grant Review Committee.

Scoring will be based on the factors listed in the County's CoC scoring rubric. These factors include:

- Experience operating the types of projects proposed;
- Quality of services proposed and likelihood that the project will be able to succeed in moving unsheltered persons into Permanent Housing;
- Cost-effectiveness of services proposed;
- Severity of needs of the population to be served;
- Leveraging housing resources – new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project applications will be scored if the proposed project utilizes housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG programs (letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project are required with the project application);
- Leveraging healthcare resources - new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project applications will be scored if the proposed project utilizes healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness (formal letters of commitment that demonstrate the value of the commitment and dates the healthcare resources will be provided are required with the project application); and
- Alignment with the San Luis Obispo Countywide Plan to address homelessness (2022 – 2027).

For applicants who have been funded in one or more previous years for the proposed activity, past performance will also be considered, including:

- Exits to permanent housing;
- Returns to homelessness;
- Reducing length of time persons remain homeless;
- Increases in employment income of participants from entry to exit (Permanent Housing projects only); and
- Increases in total income (Permanent Housing Projects only).

This data will be measured from HMIS reports for these projects. Applicants for whom HMIS

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information is not available will be asked to submit similar performance information. Detailed scoring information is available in the County's Continuum of Care scoring rubric for each type of application (Coordinated Entry – Renewals and Expansions; Permanent Supportive Housing – Renewals and Expansions; and New and Bonus Projects). Scoring rubrics will be posted on the County website.

Reallocation. Reallocation is a process CoCs use to shift funds in whole or part from existing eligible renewal projects to create one or more new projects without decreasing the CoC's ARD. New projects created through reallocation must meet the requirements set forth in Sections I.B.3.a and III.B.4.b.(3), (4) and (5) of the NOFO and the project eligibility and project quality thresholds established by HUD in Sections III.C.4.a and b of the NOFO. CoCs may only reallocate eligible renewal projects that have previously been renewed under the CoC Program. To create a Transition Grant (see Section I.B.2.b.(30) of the NOFO), the CoC must wholly eliminate one or more projects and use those funds to create a single, new transition grant.

Once reviewed and scored, projects will be ranked and classified as Tier 1 or Tier 2 by the Grant Review Committee.

Final Rankings and Submission:

Following the Grant Review Committee's ranking process, all applicants will be notified as to their ranking, if they met threshold eligibility, or notified that they did not meet threshold review requirements. The Grant Review Committee may recommend less than the total amount of funding requested by the applicant. Prior to the meeting of the Grant Review Committee, applicants may be asked to provide an estimate of the impact to the program if funds were reduced by 20% or less and what the revised outcomes would be if funds were reduced by that amount.

The proposed rankings will be voted on at the by the County's Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC) in September. Applicants will be notified by email of their rankings following the HSOC meeting. These recommendations will also be voted on by the County Board of Supervisors at a meeting in October. Once the Board of Supervisors has voted on the rankings, the HSOC will be reconvened to approve the final consolidated application before the County submits the application to HUD for its review.

Applications for funding are reviewed by HUD on a competitive basis. If funded by HUD, the County will enter into contracts with the subrecipients for implementation of the project.

Appeal Process

Applicants who wish to appeal a decision have several opportunities to do so throughout the CoC Program Competition. The San Luis Obispo County HSOC will review the Grant Review Committee's funding recommendation in September. The County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social

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Services will present the recommendations to the County Board of Supervisors on the Consent Agenda in October. If applicants remain unsatisfied with CoC recommendations following the Board of Supervisors hearing, they may appeal decisions directly to HUD. Applicants may appeal funding decisions only as provided in 24 CFR § 578.35. See Section VII of the NOFO regarding the CoC Program specific process for appeals.

Types of Appeals - Provision at 24 CFR part 578 set forth the following types of appeals:

1. *Solo Applicants*. A process for eligible project applicants that attempted to participate in their CoC planning process and believe they were denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner.
2. *Denied or Decreased Funding*. A process for eligible applicants that are denied funds by HUD or that requested more funds than HUD awarded to them.
3. *Consolidated Plan Certification*. A process for eligible applicants whose jurisdiction refused to provide a Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan (form HUD2990).
4. *Competing CoCs*. A process when more than one CoC claims the same geographic area for eligible applicants of lower-scoring CoCs, to appeal to HUD's decision to fund the competing CoC. While there were no CoCs that claimed the same geographic area as determined by the FY 2024 CoC Program Registration process; should two or more CoCs claim the same geographic codes associated with formula areas, HUD will use the competing CoC process at 24 CFR § 578.35(d).

Information Session

If you are interested in learning more about the local CoC Competition and how to apply, please participate in the online FY 2024 CoC Informational Meeting on Friday, August 9, 2024 from 1-3 p.m. Interested persons may attend the Informational Meeting via Zoom or by phone.

Zoom Link for informational meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88165098996?pwd=bOdTP5sR4MM5Klow8azF9ct1OqpjGE.1>

Or dial in:

+1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 881 6509 8996

Passcode: 265483

Timeline

HUD NOFO RELEASED	July 31, 2024
COUNTY REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) RELEASED	August 7, 2024
RFP WORKSHOP FOR APPLICANTS	August 9, 2024
LOCAL APPLICATION DUE DATE	September 6, 2024
HSOC RECOMMENDATION MEETING	September 18, 2024
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING – CONSENT AGENDA	October 2024
HUD COC APPLICATION DUE	October 30, 2024