

FY 2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition NOFO Overview

Funding Opportunity Number: FR-6500-N-25

IMPORTANT PROJECT APPLICATION DATES & DEADLINES for Central County CoC – tentative (subject to change based on HUD availability in esnaps and CoC updates)

Check the Central MN CoC website: <https://www.cmhp.net/continuum-of-care-information> for updates.

- **August 18, 2021** – 2021 NOFO published
- **September 10, 2021** – DUE - Signed **Intent to Apply & Threshold Assessment** form due to CoC via email in PDF format (DO NOT SUBMIT IN E-SNAPS)
- **September 23, 2021** – Project Application Lab
- **October 13, 2021** – Project Applications submitted to CoC via esnaps and PDF for ranking
- **October 19, 2021** – Ranking and Scoring Committee Meeting
- **October 20, 2021** – Project Applications notified of inclusion in Collaborative Application
- **October 26, 2021** – Project response and appeals to CoC due on Application Rank & Score
- **October 29, 2021** – Vote on appeals to rank and score (if needed)
- **November 1, 2021** – Projects notified of appeals outcome and amended rank/score (if needed)
- **November 8, 2021** – Final Project Application edits submitted in esnaps and PDF to CoC
- **November 10, 2021** – Collaborative Application posted on CoC website
- **November 11, 2021** – CoC Membership vote on Collaborative Application
- **November 15, 2021** – Approved Collaborative Application posted on CoC website

HUD CoC Consolidated Application Deadline: November 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM Standard time.

Note: *Project Applications must be submitted by the Project deadlines NOT the Consolidated Application deadline.*

Central MN CoC 505 FY 2021:

\$1,721,875	Primary Pro-Rata Need (PPRN)
\$1,614,126	Estimated Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)
\$1,614,126	Tier 1 (100% of ARD)
\$0	Tier 2 (Does not apply for 2021)
\$86,094	CoC Bonus
\$143,790	Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus
\$51,656	CoC Planning

About \$2.65 billion is available for the FY21 CoC Program NOFO, including \$102 million available for Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus projects.

Ranking

The CoC must rank all projects, except CoC planning, placing all accepted projects in Tiers. Ranking is based on capacity, quality, priorities, and performance.

- **Tiers:** The purpose of this two-tiered approach is for CoCs to notify HUD which projects are prioritized for funding based on local needs and gaps. Higher ranked projects are assigned to Tier 1 and lower ranked projects to Tier 2.
 - o Tier 1 is equal to 100% of the CoCs Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) or \$1,614,126. Project

applications in Tier 1 will be conditionally selected from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC, provided the project applications 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 Planning, 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.

o Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation, and CoC Bonus funds that the CoC can apply for but does not include CoC Planning projects or projects selected with the DV Bonus funds. HUD will award a point value to each new and renewal project application that is in Tier 2 using a 100-point scale.

- (1) CoC Score. Up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application.
- (2) CoC Project Ranking. Up to 40 points for the CoC's ranking of the project application(s).
- (3) Commitment to Housing First. Up to 10 points based on the project application's commitment to follow a housing first approach. Dedicated HMIS projects and centralized or coordinated assessment system SSO projects will automatically receive 10 points.

o *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 II.B.11 of this 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).

- Rejection or Reallocation: Projects with outstanding HUD audit findings, history of ineligible participants, evidence of untimely expenditures, financial management concerns, or other performance issues may be eliminated from competition through rejection or full reallocation. The CoC may also reduce a portion of a submitted project due to underutilization.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, applicants must meet all CoC and HUD statutory, regulatory, and threshold requirements. Project Applicants must abide by the CoC deadline, meet eligibility criteria, request eligible activities, adequately answer all questions, and attach all required documents to be considered eligible for funding.

- Eligible Applicants: Eligible project applicants are nonprofit organizations, states, Indian Tribes, tribally designated housing entities (TDHE), local governments, instrumentalities of state and local governments, and public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants or to be sub-recipients of grant funds. Applicants that propose to claim a reservation or trust land geographic area and to locate a project on a reservation or trust land must include a tribal resolution from the tribe authorizing the applicant to do so. Tribes do not need to include a tribal resolution to claim their own reservation or trust land or to site a project on their own reservation or trust land. Projects sited on trust land or reservations may be eligible if applicants obtain a certification that the projects are consistent with an approved Consolidated Plan.
- Eligible Projects & Activities: The CoC is accepting applications from eligible entities for the

following:

- o Renewal Projects: One year renewal projects previously funded by HUD CoC funding and eligible for renewal (grants expiring between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022).
- o Transition Grants: Transition grants to transition from one project type to another.
- o Consolidated Projects: Agencies may request that two to four projects combine to become a Consolidated Project. The CoC must approve the request and projects must be without findings or a history of low utilization or financial management/drawn down/capacity issues.
- o New Projects: The following new projects can be created through reallocation or with bonus funding. All new projects must utilize the CoC coordinated entry system.
 1. DV Bonus projects that serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
 - Rapid Rehousing (RRH)
 - Joint Transitional and Permanent Housing-RRH (TH/PH-RRH)
 - Coordinated Entry SSO
 2. CoC Bonus/Reallocation projects:
 - PH-PSH projects for DedicatedPLUS or Chronic Homeless
 - PH-RRH
 - Joint TH and PH-RRH
 - Coordinated SSO
 - HMIS
- o Expansion projects can be requested with either bonus or reallocated funding in order to expand existing units in a project or serve additional persons, or in the case of HMIS or CES SSO, grant activities or services must be added or expanded. Expansion projects are required to submit 3 project applications: 1) renewal application that will be expanded; and 2) a new project application for the expansions.
- o Planning Grant: The CoC Collaborative Applicant may request planning dollars for eligible CoC planning activities. The Planning Grant is not ranked.
- Threshold Criteria: Threshold criteria is listed in the 2021 CoC Intent to Apply. Projects must complete the form and either attest to or submit all required threshold verification categories. **Only projects submitting this form on time and meeting all eligibility criteria will be invited to proceed with the application process.**
- Deadlines: Please refer to the important deadlines listed at the beginning of this document and subscribe to the CoC email list for any changes or updates to the CoC Competition deadlines.
- HUD: Projects should visit the HUD competition page for additional instructions including the full FY2021 NOFO and Project Application instructions:
 - The entire 2021 NOFO and associated competition materials can be found on the [HUD competition page](#).
 - HUD Ask A Questions (AAQ) is available for applicant questions. Before asking a question, please review the list of previously answered questions. You may submit questions at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>
 - For issues with esnaps during the application process, visit: <https://www.hudexchange.info/esnaps/faqs/>. You are also encouraged to attend one of the scheduled Application Labs.

PROJECT APPLICATION PROCESS:

Below is the CoC application process. Please refer to the entire Project Application packet for additional details on the timeline, criteria, forms, process, and policies.

1. Submission of Project Threshold/Intent to Apply Form: Projects wishing to apply for the 2021 competition must complete the Project Threshold/Intent to Apply Form. If the form and required attachments are received on time, the applicant is an eligible entity requesting eligible activities, and threshold criteria is met and verified, projects will be invited to proceed with submitting a application in esnaps.
2. Submission of Application Package: Project Applications must submit the following by the CoC deadline as part of the application package:
 - a. Project application in esnaps. The detailed instructions can be found on the [HUD competition page](#).
 - b. PDF of submitted application downloaded from esnaps emailed to the CoC Coordinator at tpoland@cmhp.net.
 - c. Ranking Score Card with required attachments via email to CoC Coordinator at tpoland@cmhp.net.
3. Project Ranking: Projects submitting the complete Application Package by the deadline will be reviewed and ranked as part of the 2021 competition. Projects not submitting a complete package by the deadline or scoring too low will not be included in this year's CoC Collaborative Application.
4. Comment and Appeals Process: Projects will be notified whether they are included or excluded from the CoC Collaborative Application in FY21 and where their project is ranked. Projects are allowed 5 days to comment on their score, explaining any scores they find inaccurate, or appeal their score or rank.
5. Final Submission: Projects may be requested or required to adjust their submitted project applications following the project ranking process. The CoC Coordinator will release the applications back to the projects as needed to make these changes. Projects must then resubmit their edited applications by the deadline.

Solo Applicants. Eligible project applicants that attempted to participate in the CoC planning process in the geographic area in which they operate, that believe they were denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner, may submit a solo project application to HUD and may be awarded a grant from HUD by following the procedure found in 24 CFR 578.35. Solo applicants must submit their solo project application in esnaps to HUD by 8:00 PM Eastern time, November 16, 2021, which must include the CoC's notification of rejection of the project in the local competition as an attachment to the Solo Applicant's project application. If the CoC fails to provide written notification, outside of e- snaps, the Solo Applicant must attach a statement that the CoC did not provide the Solo Applicant written notification of the CoC rejecting the project in the local CoC competition. See Section X.C of this NOFO for additional information regarding the Solo Applicant appeal process.

Important links:

- Competition page: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2018-coc-program-NOFO-coc-program-competition/>
- The full FY2021 NOFO: https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/SPM/documents/FY21_Continuum_of_Care_Competition.pdf
- HUD Ask A Question (AAQ): www.hudexchange.info/get-assistance/.
- Central MN CoC website: <https://www.cmhp.net/continuum-of-care-information>

HUDs Homeless Policy and Program Priorities:

1. Ending homelessness for all persons

- a. Identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness
- b. Measure performance based on data taking into account the challenges faced by all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area.
- c. Comprehensive outreach strategy in place to identify and engage.
- d. Use data to understand the population and develop services tailored to their needs.
- e. Use the reallocation process to create new projects that improve the overall performance and better respond to the needs of persons who are homeless.

2. Use a Housing First Approach

- a. Prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing.
- b. Does NOT have service participation requirements or preconditions.
- c. Projects should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing.
- d. Measure to help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness.
- e. Engage landlords and property owners.
- f. Remove barriers to entry.
- g. Adopt client-centered service models.

3. Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness

- a. Identify permanent housing options for people who are unsheltered.

4. Improving System Performance

- a. Use system performance measures (SPMs) to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness.
- b. Use Coordinated Entry to promote participant choice, coordinate services, ensure rapid access, and make homeless assistance open, inclusive, and transparent.
- c. Review all projects for effectiveness including cost effectiveness.
- d. Look for opportunities to implement continuous quality improvement and other process improvement strategies.

5. Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies

- a. Use cost performance and outcome data to improve how all available resources are utilized to end homelessness.

- b. Maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness.
 - c. Work closely with public and private healthcare organizations and assist program participants to obtain medical insurance to address healthcare needs.
 - d. Partner closely with PHAs and state and local housing organizations to utilize coordinated entry, develop housing units, and provide housing subsidies to people experiencing homelessness.
 - e. Help CoC Program participants exit permanent supportive housing through Housing Choice Vouchers and other available housing options.
 - f. Work together to implement targeted programs such as Emergency Housing Vouchers, HUD-VASH, Mainstream Vouchers, Family Unification Program Vouchers, and other housing voucher programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness.
 - g. Coordinate with their state and local housing agencies on the utilization of new HOME program resources provided through the Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program that was created through the American Rescue Plan.
 - h. Partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment opportunities.
 - i. 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
- a. Review local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address racial disparities affecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
7. Persons with Lived Experience
- a. Include in the local planning process people who are currently experiencing or have formerly experienced homelessness to address homelessness.
 - b. People with lived experience should determine how local policies may need to be revised and updated, participate in CoC meetings and committees as stakeholders, provide input on decisions, and provide input related to the local competition process.
 - c. Seek opportunities to hire people with lived experience.

Project Application Attachment Checklist:

- ✓ Project Application, charts, narratives and attachments
- ✓ SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
- ✓ SF-424B Supplement, Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunities
- ✓ Documentation of Applicant and Sub-Recipient Eligibility
- ✓ Applicant Certifications
- ✓ HUD 2880, Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report
- ✓ Applicant Code of Conduct
- ✓ HUD 50070, Certification of Drug Free Workplace