

FY 2023 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition NOFO Overview

Funding Opportunity Number: FR-6700-N-25

IMPORTANT PROJECT APPLICATION DATES & DEADLINES for Central MN 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-care/> for updates.

- **July 5, 2023** – FY 2023 NOFO published
- **July 26, 2023** – DUE - Signed **Intent to Apply & Threshold Assessment** form due to CoC via email in PDF format (DO NOT SUBMIT IN E-SNAPS)
- **TBD** – Project Application Lab
- **August 29, 2023** – Project Applications submitted to CoC via eSnaps and PDF for ranking and scoring
- **TBD** – Ranking and Scoring Committee Meeting
- **September 12, 2023** – Project Applications notified of inclusion in Collaborative Application
- **September 19, 2023** – Project response and appeals to CoC due by 4:30 PM on Application Rank & Score
- **September 22, 2023** – Vote on appeals to rank and score (if needed)
- **September 22, 2023** – Projects notified of appeals outcome and amended rank/score (if needed)
- **September 25, 2023** – Final Project Application edits submitted in eSnaps and PDF to CoC
- **September 25, 2023** – Collaborative Application posted on CoC website
- **September 26, 2023** – CoC Full Membership Committee vote on Collaborative Application
- **September 26, 2023** – CoC Governing Board vote on Collaborative Application
- **September 26, 2023** – Approved Collaborative Application posted on CoC website

HUD CoC Consolidated Application Deadline: September 28, 2023, at 7:00 PM Standard Time.

Note: *Project Applications must be submitted by the Project deadlines (August 29, 2023) NOT the Consolidated Application deadline.*

Central MN CoC 505 FY 2023:

\$1,955,115	Primary Pro-Rata Need (PPRN)
\$1,836,546	Estimated Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)
\$1,707,988	Tier 1 (93% of ARD)
\$136,858	CoC Bonus (Tier 2 - 7% of PPRN)
\$195,512	Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus
\$97,756	CoC Planning

\$3.13 billion is available for the FY23 CoC Program NOFO, including \$52 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 1.

- o Tier 1 is equal to 93% of the CoCs Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). Project applications in Tier 1 will be conditionally selected from the highest scoring CoC application to the lowest scoring CoC application and according to the rank assigned by the CoC on the FY2023 CoC Priority listing, 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 CoC 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, and conditionally select applications in Tier 2 using this point value from the highest scoring project application to the lowest:
 - (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 supportive service only for centralized or coordinated assessment system (SSO-CE) 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 I.B.3.j 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 include 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 include 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, 2024 and December 31, 2024).
 - 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
 - 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 FY2023 CoC Intent to Apply & Threshold Assessment Form. 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 FY2023 NOFO and Project Application instructions:
 - The entire FY2023 NOFO and associated competition materials can be found on the [HUD competition page](#).
 - HUD Ask A Question (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/e-snaps/faqs/>. You are also encouraged to attend one of the scheduled Application Labs.

PROJECT APPLICATION PROCESS:

Below is the CoC application process. Applicants should read the NOFO in its entirety in conjunction with the Rule to ensure a comprehensive understanding of and compliance with all CoC Program requirements. This NOFO frequently references citations from the Rule.

Submission of Project Threshold/Intent to Apply Form: Projects wishing to apply for the FY2023 competition must complete the Intent to Apply & Threshold Assessment 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 an application in eSnaps.

1. 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.
2. Project Ranking: Projects submitting the complete Application Package by the deadline will be reviewed and ranked as part of the FY2023 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.
3. Comment and Appeals Process: Projects will be notified whether they are included or excluded from the CoC Collaborative Application in FY2023 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.
4. 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, September 28, 2023, 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: [FY 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#).
- The full FY2023 NOFO: [Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive YHDP \(hud.gov\)](#).
- HUD Ask A Question (AAQ): www.hudexchange.info/get-assistance/.
- Central MN CoC website: <https://www.cmhp.net/continuum-care/>.

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. Partner with housing, health care, and supportive services providers to expand housing options, such as permanent supportive housing, housing subsidies, and rapid rehousing.
- d. Use data to understand the population and develop services tailored to their needs.

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. Explore all available resources, including CoC and ESG funded assistance, housing subsidies, and supportive services to provide permanent housing options for people who are unsheltered.
- b. Work with law enforcement and their state and local governments to eliminate policies and practices that criminalize homelessness.

4. Improving System Performance

- a. Use system performance measures (SPMs) to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness.
- b. Use their Coordinated Entry process to promote participant choice, coordinate homeless assistance and mainstream housing, and services to ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance quickly, and make homelessness 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. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. Help CoC Program participants exit permanent supportive housing through Housing Choice Vouchers and other available housing options.
- g. 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.
- h. Coordinate with their state and local housing agencies on the utilization of new program resources provided through the Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program that was created through the American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP).
- i. Partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment opportunities.
- j. Work with Tribal organizations to ensure that Tribal members can access CoC-funded assistance when a CoC's geographic area borders a Tribal area.

5. Racial Equity

- a. Review local policies, procedures, and processes with attention to identifying barriers that result in racial disparities and take steps to eliminate barriers to improve racial equity and to address disparities.
- b. Develop a coordinated community response created in partnership with a racially diverse set of stakeholders and people experiencing homelessness.
- c. Partner with organizations with experience serving underserved populations.

6. Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals

- a. Address the needs of LGBTQ+, transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary individuals and families in their planning processes.
- b. Ensure privacy, respect, safety, and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation in projects.
- c. Consider partnering with organizations with expertise in serving LGBTQ+ populations.

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. CoC leaders and stakeholders should prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed.

8. Increasing Affordable Housing Supply
 - a. Communicate with jurisdiction leaders, including for the development of Consolidated Plans, about the harmful effects of the lack of affordable housing.
 - b. Engage local leaders about steps such as zoning and land use reform that would increase the supply of affordable housing.
 - c. Take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supply.

Project Application Attachment Checklist:

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