

NE Balance of State Continuum of Care – Request for New Project Applications

Background

The Nebraska Balance of State Continuum of Care is requesting applications from eligible nonprofit organizations or agencies of local government for funding under HUD's Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program. Funding is competitively awarded by HUD. The maximum potential funding for new projects is approximately \$118,000. It is expected that more than one project may be funded.

The only eligible projects for funding are:

- New permanent supportive housing (PSH) projects that will serve 100 percent chronically homeless individuals and families including youth/young adults experiencing chronic homelessness.
 - Permanent supportive housing may employ rental assistance (tenant, sponsor, or project based), leasing or may request operating funds for a specific structure.
 - To maximize participant choice, tenant based rental assistance is the preferred housing subsidy approach.
 - These projects may also apply for funding for supportive services.
- New rapid rehousing (RRH) projects that will serve homeless individuals and families, including youth, coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters, or those fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or other dangerous situations.
 - These projects may only apply for tenant based rental assistance and supportive services.
- All new projects may apply for administrative funding not to exceed 7% of total project costs.

Projects will be competitively reviewed and scored by an independent scoring panel.

Information for Applicants:

For complete information on the HUD Continuum of Care Notification of Fund Availability, please see: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2016-CoC-Program-NOFA.pdf>

Applications must be submitted using HUD's electronic application system: E-SNAPS (<https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf>)

Please visit this website for complete information on completing the application and using the E-SNAPS system: <https://www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/guides/coc-program-competition-resources/>

The deadline for submitting applications in E-SNAPS is August 8, 2016 at 5 pm Central Daylight Time.

Applicants will be required to follow the policies of the Continuum of Care. Specifically:

- All permanent supportive housing projects may only serve persons referred to it by the coordinated entry system developed by the CoC (Most Vulnerable Review Team – MVRT). All vacancies must be posted to the MVRT and filled by referrals from MVRT.
- All new projects must follow Housing First principles:
 - Housing is not contingent on compliance with services – participants are provided with a standard one year lease agreement. The lease agreement can only be terminated in accordance with the State of Nebraska Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act (76-1401 to 76-1449)
 - Participants are provided with services and supports to help maintain housing and prevent eviction.
 - There is no requirement for sobriety prior to being offered housing and admission shall not be conditioned on credit or background checks. Criminal backgrounds will be considered only to the extent necessary to protect safety and well-being.
 - Participants shall be given choice in their housing subject to program limitations.
 - Participants are not required to participate in services but providers are required to persistently and consistently seek to engage participants.

Applications will be reviewed and scored based on the experience and capacity of the applicant, the quality of the proposed plan to serve homeless individuals and families, compliance with CoC policies, and cost effectiveness of the proposed project. Applications with the highest score will be recommended for inclusion in the application to HUD. The final decision on the funding of the project will be made by HUD.

The CoC may request modifications to the budgets of approved projects to align with funding availability.