

## HUD Policy Priorities – CoC Continuum of Care FY 2017 Competition

(from NOFA, published July 14, 2017)

**A. Policy Priorities.** This section provides additional context regarding the selection criteria found in Section VII.A. of this NOFA and is included here to help applicants better understand how the selection criteria support the goal of ending homelessness: The policy priorities below are somewhat different than those in Section IV.A. of the [Notice of Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2017 Opportunity to Register and Other Important Information for Electronic Application Submission for the Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Program Competition](#). HUD has added more information to better explain these priorities.

1. Ending homelessness for all persons. To end homelessness, CoCs should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness. CoCs should measure their performance based on local data that take into account the challenges faced by all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area (e.g., veterans, youth, families, or those experiencing chronic homelessness). CoCs should have a comprehensive outreach strategy in place to identify and continuously engage all unsheltered individuals and families. Additionally, CoCs should use local data to determine the characteristics of individuals and families with the highest needs and longest experiences of homelessness to develop housing and supportive services tailored to their needs. Finally, CoCs should use the reallocation process to create new projects that improve their overall performance and better respond to their needs.
2. Creating a systemic response to homelessness. CoCs should be using system performance measures such as the average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, and rates of exit to permanent housing destinations to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, CoCs should be using 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.
3. Strategically allocating and using resources. Using cost, performance, and outcome data, CoCs should improve how resources are utilized to end homelessness. CoCs should review project quality, performance, and cost effectiveness. HUD also encourages CoCs to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness. Finally, CoCs should review all projects eligible for renewal in FY 2017 to determine their effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness as well as their cost effectiveness.
4. Use a Housing First approach. Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. CoC Program funded projects should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and the CoC should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods.