**REQUEST FOR FY2023 HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding**

**RENEWAL PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS: MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023 @ 3:00 P.M.**

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NOTE: This application is based on the best information currently available, and MDHA may need to revise the requirements described herein and/or request additional information based on guidance made available by HUD & its FY2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and/or decisions made by the Nashville CoC Performance Evaluation Committee (PEC), responsible for rating and ranking local proposals. MDHA will disseminate information about this funding opportunity as it becomes available through the CoC’s email listserv; subscribe by emailing MDHA’s Homeless Coordinator, Suzie Tolmie, at [stolmie@nashville-mdha.org](mailto:stolmie@nashville-mdha.org) with subject heading *CoC 2023 listserv*.

Also, sign up for HUD’s 2 listservs below, so you do not miss important information regarding the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition, and other information related to HUD Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS).

1. SNAPS Competitions listserv: <https://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup?listname=SNAPS%20Competitions&list=SNAPS-COMPETITIONS-L>
2. SNAPS Program Information listserv:  <https://www.hud.gov/subscribe/signup?listname=SNAPS%20Program%20Information&list=SNAPS-PROGRAM-INFORMATION-L>

This application asks for basic information from applicants, to be reviewed by the CoC Performance Evaluation Committee (PEC). All applicants should review HUD’s FY2023 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), once published. It will contain comprehensive details about HUD priorities and scoring. In the last 4 lines of the chart below, please note # & % of families & single individuals proposed to be served, at both a Point-in-Time (PIT), and annually. For RRH projects that typically assist folks for less than the 24-mo max, enter actual # of households/beds you expect to assist for the year, versus the lower amount that HUD has you compute in e-snaps using FMRs.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | ~~Choose Renewal Agency~~ |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AGENCY Name:** |  |
| **Project NAME:** |  |
| **Contact Person:** |  |
| **Email & mOBILE #:** |  |
| **PROGRAM LOCATION (address of housing/service):** |  |
| **Total Request $** |  |
| **Project type (PSH, RRH, Joint PH/RRH, or HMIS), population to be served** |  |
| **# of households & units- PIT** |  |
| **# of households & units- YEAR** |  |
| **# of people & beds- PIT** |  |
| **# of people & beds- YEAR** |  |

**Please fill in Agency & Project Name in the header, and use bold, 12-point font in responses.**

**THRESHOLD CRITERIA:**

**Participation in Coordinated Entry** (will be confirmed by CE Manager at Metro Homeless Impact Division)

HUD requires all applicants awarded CoC funding to participate in Coordinated Entry (CE), meaning that applicant staff must notify the CE lead of all openings and fill those openings with participants referred from CE. CE is designed to ensure standardization, coordination and intentional prioritization in the process of administering homeless assistance in a fair and objective manner. Metro Homeless Impact Division (MHID) serves as the CE Lead in Nashville. All applicants are required to certify they are aware of this expectation and are already complying or will comply with any additional instructions or procedures required for participation. For details on CE, please contact Sally Lott at MHID, [Sally.Lott@nashville.gov](mailto:Sally.Lott@nashville.gov) . Participation in CE includes the following:

* Support a Housing First/low barrier approach and philosophy
* Adhere to policies and procedures as identified within the most recent CE manual
* Understand that participation in CE is required by the CoC through the funding requirements established by HUD for the ESG/CoC competitive funds.
* Use the designated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) CE project
* Collect and enter all needed data into the designated HMIS, on persons experiencing a housing crisis; this includes entries and exits from the system
* If operating a bed program, report project vacancies to the CE Lead.  The Homeless Impact Division (MHID) at Metropolitan Social Services is the CE Lead for the Continuum of Care and ESG programs.
* Accept referrals from CE based on need and vulnerability
* Work with CoC CE Lead (MHID) to resolve project implementation challenges
* Participate in CE care coordination meetings, as requested by the CE Lead (MHID) and provide input on CE policies and procedures and other CE topics
* Participate in project and system evaluation activities

1. Does staff at your agency currently enter/update client records in CE in HMIS for the clients served by this project?

YES  NO

If no, please identify an estimated date when client data will be entered/updated in CE in HMIS. Month: Year:

2. Per HUD regulations, 100% of clients served by this funding source must be referred through CE. Please identify how many enrollments in this project in the last calendar year were NOT received through CE referrals and explain why (year ending 12/31/22)

|  |
| --- |
| \_\_\_\_\_(# & %) referred into project by other than CE  \_\_\_\_\_(# & %) referred through CE |

3. If any referrals from CE were denied by your agency in the year ending December 31, 2022, please explain why a denial was issued in each case (does not include households that agency staff were unable to contact, self-denied or were ineligible; those will be reported to the PEC by CE lead).

\_\_\_\_\_(#) referred through CE

\_\_\_\_\_(#) accepted \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(%) accepted

4. If your project is not currently receiving all referrals through CE, are you actively working with the CE team at the Metro Homeless Impact Division to establish a process for your project to accept all referrals through CE?  YES  NO N/A Please explain in detail.

**HMIS Participation**

All Applicants awarded HUD CoC funding are required to participate in the CoC’s designated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database, and to ensure that data entered for the project is accurate, complete and timely. For details on HMIS, please contact Hannah Cornejo-Nell at MHID, [hannah.cornejo-nell@nashville.gov](mailto:hannah.cornejo-nell@nashville.gov) . See also <https://mhidnashville.weebly.com/administrative-documents.html> for the HMIS Participating Agency Agreement & the Data Quality Plan.

1. Does the Applicant/Project participate in HMIS?  YES  NO
2. Are participants in ALL projects serving homeless persons, run by the Applicant, entered into HMIS?  YES  NO

If no, please explain:

If Applicant is a victim-service agency, Applicant certifies it utilizes a comparable database for the Project  YES  NO If no, please explain:

**HMIS DATA QUALITY PLAN**

HMIS staff at the Office of Homeless Services created a Data Quality Plan & Data Quality Monitoring Plan that sets expectations for the community and HMIS users to capture reliable and valid data on persons experiencing a housing crisis in Nashville. See [**https://mhidnashville.weebly.com/administrative-documents.html**](https://mhidnashville.weebly.com/administrative-documents.html) The implementation of this plan will directly impact all HMIS participating agencies.

Has relevant staff at your agencies reviewed this system-wide document?

YES NO

**HOUSING FIRST - REDUCING BARRIERS**

CoC-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.

Projects practicing a true Housing First approach will be given additional points.

Housing First Principles -- HUD continues to encourage Continuums of Care (CoCs) and providers to implement and strengthen Housing First approaches. All new projects must adopt this approach.

Housing First is a programmatic and systems approach that centers on providing homeless people with housing quickly and then providing services as needed using a low barrier approach that emphasizes community integration, stable tenancy, recovery and individual choice. It prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold.

For more details, see <https://www.csh.org/toolkit/supportive-housing-quality-toolkit/housing-and-property-management/housing-first-model/>

and

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/toolkit/responsibilities-and-duties/housing-first-implementation-resources/#housing-first-implementation> .

Utilizing Housing First Narrative - Number each response, and keep response (including questions) to one page maximum.

1. Describe how the proposed project complies with the Housing First low-barrier approach, i.e., applicants will not be denied housing based on lack of income, active/history of substance use, having a criminal record, or a history of domestic violence.
2. Describe how participants will not be terminated from the project if they fail to participate in available support services.
3. Describe how the project will prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and how evictions/returns to homelessness will be avoided. Explain how applicant will assure that a program participant’s assistance is terminated only in the most severe cases.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **OTHER THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS** | | | |  |
| Match  &  Leverage | YES  NO | § 578.73 | Minimum Match: 25% (although not requested in this application, agencies must get written commitment & send to HUD)  **Total Match: $**  **Total Leverage (support in addition to match): $** |  |
| Applicant is active CoC Participant |  |  | Note service on committees/ Planning Council/Coalition: | CoC Membership Committee records will be used to calculate attendance at CoC General M’ship meetings |
| Current audit Reports & Findings | Findings?  YES  NO | § 578.59 | Audits completed within (9) months of the end of the agency’s most recent FY  YES  NO | If findings, attach page citing issue & note any remedial plans to correct findings |
| HUD Monitoring within last (2) years? | YES  NO | § 578.99 |  | If yes, attach all related HUD monitoring correspondence |
| Board participation/policy-making body- agency is aware of this requirement | YES  NO | § 578.75 | Each recipient must have homeless or formerly homeless representation on a policy-making entity. |  |
| Program Participants are Informed of Rights | YES  NO | § 578.91 | Participants informed of eligibility criteria, discharge policies, rights to appeal. | Agency has written standards including program rules, termination process, written notice of termination and appeals process (will be requested in on-site monitoring visits) |
| Regular Draws from HUD eLOCCS | YES  NO |  | Maintained Quarterly Draw-downs | MDHA will verify with HUD-Knoxville Field Office staff |

**EXPENDITURES**

If HUD grant funds remain at the end of a program year, the leftover funding will be de-obligated by HUD. If less than 100% of grant funds was expended during the last completed program year, please explain, including total grant amount & any amount unspent.

**ADMINISTRATIVE/INDIRECT COSTS**

The PEC will assign bonus points to agencies that request 7% or less in Indirect and/or Admin costs, combined. Please note below if you are asking for either cost, and the % of each. Although HUD allows max of 10% Admin and also allows indirect charges, the CoC PEC reserves the right to limit direct plus indirect administrative fund requests to a level below 7% - a strategic priority aimed at maximizing direct assistance.

Administrative %:

Indirect %:

Eligible Admin Costs: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-eligible-activities/project-administration/>

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **UTILIZATION RATE** | |  |
| What was the utilization rate for this project during the project’s last completed program year? | **Households**  **Proposed to be served (#): \_\_\_\_**  **Actual # served: \_\_\_\_**  **=**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%** | **Beds/Persons**  **Proposed (#): \_\_\_\_**  **Actual # utilized: \_\_\_\_**  **=**  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_%** | Note: Quarterly rates from HUD’s Sage reporting system may also be reviewed. However, these are based on figures entered into e-snaps. For RRH projects that typically assist folks for less than the 24-mo max, enter actual # of households/beds you expected to assist for the year for “Proposed”, versus the lower amount that HUD has you compute in e-snaps using FMRs. |

If the utilization rate of either of the above is less than 85%, please provide specific reasons as to why. (Up to 3 sentences)

**EVIDENCE-BASED MODELS**

Do staff members who deliver services or case management for this project use evidence-based practice models? YES NO

Please note model used, and provide detail of training in these models for staff.

**RACIAL/GENDER EQUITY**

This section will be reviewed and scored by members of the CoC Equity & Diversity Committee.

**Racial Equity/Disparities**

National data show vast racial disparities in who experiences homelessness and, in some instances, the outcomes within homelessness services systems.  Along with the CoC Equity & Diversity Committee, Nashville providers are exploring local data that will inform approaches to decrease disparities- not just in race, but also family composition, gender & ethnicity.

**Commitment to Training**

The CoC Equity & Diversity Committee held a local training designed for “C-Suite” (CEO, COO, CFO) staff on December 9, 2022. Did they attend?

Yes  No

Did employees other than C-Suite staff attend instead?

Yes  No

The committee is planning a 1-day conference (tentatively September 8 or 9), with follow-up sessions for later this year for staff such as case managers and intake workers. Will you commit relevant staff to attend these?

Yes  No

Projects should be considering and addressing racial equity when evaluating their housing outcomes. The HMIS Lead is creating a custom report displaying outcomes for each project disaggregated by race for the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2022 and sending to each agency before the Renewal Application deadline. This report will include the average time from enrollment to move-in for all TH and RRH projects, the percent of exits to non-permanent destinations, and the percent of individuals who retained or exited to permanent housing. Please review that report, titled “CoC Racial Disparities Report [Your Project Name] 2023”, and answer the following questions. The HMIS Lead will make this report available to you from now on for the current fiscal year. Please note that next year’s renewal application may include scoring based on racial disparities seen in the outcomes shown in the report.

1. What actions were taken over the past year to identify barriers that lead to racial disparities; what steps have you taken to eliminate barriers to improve racial equity; and have you implemented measures to evaluate the efficacy of the steps taken? [word limit 300]
2. Describe how relevant staff reviewed & analyzed the data, how you will address any identified racial disparities, and why they may exist. [word limit 300]
3. Please note in the following chart the current composition of management, board and line staff at your agency.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | # at agency | # who are people of color | % who are people of color |
| C-Suite staff | |  |  |  |
| Middle management | |  |  |  |
| Board |  |  |  |  |
| Line staff |  |  |  |  |

What actions will you take in the year ahead to ensure racial justice and equity in your organization’s homeless services, staff and management? Please provide concrete examples. [word limit 300]

**LGBTQ+**

**Addressing the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) individuals**

Please describe your agency’s anti-discrimination policies that ensure LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination, and indicate your willingness to participate in developing CoC-wide anti-discrimination policies based on stakeholder feedback and assisting other providers in developing their own agency anti-discrimination policies. [word limit 300]

**HEALTH & HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS**

The following questions will not be scored, but your responses will assist in strengthening Nashville’s score on health and housing issues. Please help the Nashville CoC by describing what is going on within your agency as well as elsewhere in the city.

**Prevent and respond to future infectious disease outbreaks & maximize mainstream and other community-based resources**

Throughout the past 3 years, as CoCs responded to the challenges of COVID-19, partnerships were developed/strengthened between CoCs, homeless service providers, and state and local public health agencies. In the FY 2022 CoC Program Competition, HUD asked CoCs to demonstrate how these partnerships increased the safety of people experiencing homelessness from contracting COVID-19 and helped people increase vaccination rates amongst people experiencing homelessness. In the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition, we anticipate HUD to ask CoCs to demonstrate how they will build on these partnerships to ensure they are prepared to prevent and respond to future infectious disease outbreaks amongst people experiencing homelessness- and to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness. This includes developing 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. Please describe any efforts at your agency, or others in the community that we should know about and include in Nashville’s Collaborative Application.

**Increase affordable housing**

In FY2022, HUD added an additional rating factor that awards points to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supply. How has your agency been working on this issue, and what local efforts are you aware of that have promise?

**EMPLOYMENT/INCOME INSURANCE**

Describe how your project assures that participants increase their incomes, including how you partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment opportunities. [word limit 500]

**PERSONS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE**

Review Homeless Policy Priority #8 outlined in HUD’s FY2022 NOFO, in the Signatures/Certifications section later in this application. Describe how you are integrating persons with lived experience in program design & operations, policy-making, staffing, etc. [word limit 500]

**COVID EFFECTS**

Is your agency still feeling the effects? Is the local system weaker as a result? Please summarize below, particularly as it relates to your CoC-funded project (expenditures, performance, population served, etc.), but also to your agency & the Nashville system. [word limit 300]

**STANDARDS OF CARE**

Local Written Standards of Care for CoC & ESG funding were last approved in June 2021.

<http://www.nashville-mdha.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Continuum-of-Care-Coc-Emergency-Solutions-Grants-ESG-Standards-of-Care.pdf>

How does this project comply with these Standards of Care? What changes, if any, have you made based on these CoC-approved written standards? [word limit 400]

**SERVING MOST VULNERABLE/HIGHEST BARRIER**

Please describe how the project serves homeless persons who are the most vulnerable/ facing most/highest barriers (i.e., length of time homeless, numerous disabilities, criminal backgrounds, etc.). Statistics are very helpful.

**NASHVILLE’S STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Earlier this year, Nashville’s CoC Strategic Plan Committee worked to update the local strategic plan. This plan was emailed on June 23 to the CoC listserv for public comment. Briefly explain your agency’s role in relevant action steps mentioned.

**PROJECTS SERVING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ONLY --**

Briefly describe the degree to which your project improves safety for the population you serve. [200 word max]

**Please use this page (and no more than this page) to clarify any items in this application that you feel need explanation.RAPID REHOUSING (RRH) PROJECTS ONLY**

In some instances, households assisted with RRH may need and qualify for longer term rental assistance, such as through a Housing Choice Voucher (“Section 8”), to permanently escape homelessness and achieve housing stability. In this case, the time-limited financial assistance may serve as a bridge until the voucher is secured.

Does your RRH funding act as a housing “bridge” to housing with permanent subsidies, or does it mostly place households into unsubsidized housing that they can afford after the assistance ends?

RRH Funding Typically/Always used as a bridge Est %:

RRH Funding achieves housing stability without subsidy Est %:

Agencies with RRH projects have been asked to contact assisted individuals & families 6 months after HUD assistance ends to see if they are still housed.  Although the CoC PEC would like agencies to do this for everyone served as a standard procedure, the key data being sought for this application are for clients served between October 1, 2021- Sept 30, 2022 (the most recently completed federal fiscal year), which we expect HUD to use to score Nashville’s CoC application for funding.

Please note below the # of households served during this time period with RRH, and the number of those households still housed 6 months post-exit.

|  |
| --- |
| Served with RRH:  Still housed 6 months later: |

SIGNATURE/CERTIFICATIONS PAGE: Must be signed by the agency’s Executive Director, as well as the designated party either assigned to attend the CoC General Membership meetings or to submit the Annual Performance Report for the HUD CoC-funded project.

[**HEARTH ACT**](http://www.endhomelessness.org/page/-/files/2098_file_HEARTH_Act_Summary_FINAL_6_8_09.pdf)

On May 20, 2009, former President Obama signed into law a bill to reauthorize HUD's McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance programs.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **In order for any project to be considered for funding in FY2023,**  **please check yes or no to all of the following statements:** | |
| Our agency understands our CoC-funded project(s) can only accept persons meeting the HUD definition of literally homeless (Category 1), or in the case of DV projects, Category 4. See: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-esg-homeless-eligibility/four-categories/category-1/> & <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-esg-homeless-eligibility/four-categories/category-4/> | YES NO |
| Increase Permanent Supportive Housing beds dedicated for chronic homeless persons | YES NO |
| Increase Rapid Re-housing beds, especially for homeless families | YES NO |
| Adhere to principles of Housing First, primarily by reducing barriers in project’s program entry processes | YES NO |
| Ease housing entry (criminal background checks, sobriety requirements, etc. are not barriers - HUD wants 75% of local housing projects to be low-barrier), and assist homeless persons with housing entry as quickly as possible | YES NO |
| Reallocate funding from lower-performing projects to more effective options that will improve overall CoC performance and better respond to the needs of homeless people | YES NO |
| Staff at our agency have read the 9 Homeless Policy Priorities outlined in HUD’s FY2022 NOFO & found below, which provide additional context regarding HUD’s selection criteria, & are included here to help applicants better understand how the criteria support the goal of ending homelessness. | YES NO |
| |  | | --- | | *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 consider the challenges faced by all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area (e.g., veterans, youth, families, or those experiencing chronic homelessness). CoCs should partner with housing, health care, and supportive services providers 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 experiences of 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 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 to identify an inventory of housing available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods. HUD encourages CoCs to assess how well Housing First approaches are being implemented in their communities.  *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 extremely high rates of physical and mental illness and substance use disorders. CoCs should identify permanent housing options for people who are unsheltered.  *4. Improving System Performance.* CoCs should be using system performance measures (e.g., average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, rates of exit to permanent housing destinations) to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, CoCs should 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. CoCs should review all projects eligible for renewal in FY 2023 to determine their effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness, including cost-effectiveness. CoCs should also look for opportunities to implement continuous quality improvement and other process improvement strategies. HUD recognizes the effects of COVID-19 on CoC performance and data quality and, compared to previous CoC NOFOs, reduces the points available for rating factors related to system performance. This FY 2022 CoC NOFO significantly increased the points available for system performance rating factors.  *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. This is especially important as the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan have provided significant new resources to help 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 public and private healthcare organizations and assist program participants to obtain medical insurance to address healthcare needs. This includes developing 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 subsidies 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 Emergency Housing Vouchers, HUD-VASH, Mainstream Vouchers, Family Unification Program 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 HOME program resources provided through the Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program that was created through the American Rescue Plan; c. partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment opportunities; and 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 overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing 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. CoCs 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.  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 privacy, respect, safety, and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation in projects. CoCs should also consider partnering with organizations with expertise in serving LGBTQ+ populations.  *8.**Persons with Lived Experience.* HUD is encouraging CoCs to include in the local planning process people who are currently experiencing or have formerly experienced homelessness to address homelessness. People with lived experience 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 and developing local competition processes. CoC leaders and stakeholders should also prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed (e.g., peer outreach and support).  9. *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 FY2022 CoC NOFO awarded points to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supply. | |  |
| Reduce length of time persons are homeless | YES NO |
| Increase income and connection to benefits | YES NO |
| Move homeless persons into permanent housing, and assure high rate of housing retention | YES NO |
| End homelessness among chronic homeless persons, veterans, families with children and unaccompanied youth | YES NO |
| Our agency understands the requirements of data collection and the priority on data-driven planning using the continuum’s local HMIS. | YES NO |

***Signed:***

Executive Director:

Agency Staff Designated to Attend CoC meetings/workshops:

Date Signed:

***Please do not include pages after this, but review the information.***

**THE NASHVILLE COC RATING & RANKING PROCESS FOR RENEWALS**

HUD’s Rating & Ranking Tool provides a strong framework for implementing a data-driven process, and includes many objective performance metrics that tie back to HUD’s System Performance Measures. See link for details on these measures- <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/System-Performance-Measures-Introductory-Guide.pdf>

HUD’s tool may be found at the link below. The tool is optional for communities, but Nashville’s CoC Performance Evaluation Committee (PEC) has relied on the tool as a BASIC foundation for scoring local renewal projects. In judging renewal projects, the PEC has a heavy focus on performance data, most of which is obtained from the Annual Performance Report (APR) for the project.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5292/project-rating-and-ranking-tool/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=f24e6e365a-Updated_Rating_Ranking_Tool_FY21_CoCComp_8_26&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-f24e6e365a-19485309>

This tool was revised by HUD for the FY2022 competition. **HUD’s FY2022 CoC NOFO significantly increased the points available for system performance rating factors (59/200 points),** and locally we need to follow suit.

In 2022, the PEC reviewed criteria including: housing stability/exits to permanent housing; length of stay; returns to homelessness; access to income supports; serving high-needs populations; cost of the project; utilization rates; Housing First fidelity; and participation in the city’s Coordinated Entry process. The PEC intends to continue scoring on these performance metrics, may add others, and/or modify as needed in light of any new areas of emphasis in HUD’s 2023 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Please see the draft PEC Renewal Score Card for the criteria anticipated to rate projects in 2023. Using information from HUD’s FY23 NOFO and related webinar, this scoring matrix may be revised and shared with interested agencies.

**Data Quality**

Data Quality is being reviewed by HMIS staff at the Metro Homeless Impact Division. Staff scores for data completeness, timeliness, consistency, etc. will be reviewed by the PEC, and are expected to factor into 2023 project ratings as 11% of the total.

**Rating versus Ranking**

Per HUD’s CoC Rating and Ranking Tool, while scoring projects based on standardized/objective performance criteria is key to the rating process, the PEC must also rank all renewal and new projects each year. This is the process of prioritizing projects for funding based on the CoC’s local priorities, which can take into consideration the project type, local unmet need or other funding parameters. This offers CoCs flexibility to adjust in rank order to implement local funding priorities or CoC Program NOFO provisions that are not addressed within the Tool, & ensure that they are ranked appropriately according to community needs. Again, the rating tool for renewal projects should be similar to that on the chart, but may need to be adapted once the NOFO with related scoring is published.

