

## **Heartland Coalition for the Homeless (HCH)**

**FL-517 Continuum of Care Lead Agency**

**Highlands, Hardee, Hendry, Glades, Desoto, and Okeechobee  
Counties**

### **Local Request for Proposal**

**Posted Thursday, August 3, 2023**

**Due By August 28, 2023; 4:00 p.m. EST**

**Send Application via mail to:**

**Heartland Coalition for the Homeless**

**P.O. Box 1023**

**Avon Park, Florida 33826**

**Or hand deliver to:**

**752 U.S. Highway 27 North,**

**Avon Park, Florida 33825**

**Or email to:**

**[Brenda.gray@heartlandcoalitionforthehomeless.org](mailto:Brenda.gray@heartlandcoalitionforthehomeless.org)**

**DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION IN e-SNAP**

## Project Application Submission to HCH

**FY 2023 CoC Program Competition NOFO Requirements.** CoCs and applicants should read this 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. Please refer to the below webpage for complete information.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2023-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/>

**This Request for Proposal (RFP) is not intended to cover all items as specified in HUD's NOFO, but rather to establish the local process based on HUD's NOFO requirements. Therefore, all applicants must read the NOFO to fully understand all of the element's overall application process, as well as those specific to this application.**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issues this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to invite applications from eligible applicants for the program and purpose described within this NOFO. You, as a prospective applicant, should carefully read all instructions in all sections to avoid sending an incomplete or ineligible application. HUD funding is highly competitive. Failure to respond accurately to any submission requirement could result in an incomplete or noncompetitive proposal.

In accordance with [Title 24 part 4, subpart B](#) of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), during the selection process (which includes HUD's NOFO development and publication and concludes with the award of assistance), HUD is prohibited from disclosing covered selection information. Examples of impermissible disclosures include: 1) information regarding any applicant's relative standing; 2) the amount of assistance requested by any applicant; and 3) any information contained in the application. Prior to the application deadline, HUD may not disclose the identity of any applicant or the number of applicants that have applied for assistance.

### **FUNDING AVAILABLE**

Funding of approximately \$3,134,000,000 is available through this FY 2023 HUD CoC Program NOFO.

Additional funds may become available for award under this NOFO. Use of these funds is subject to statutory constraints. All awards are subject to the funding restrictions contained in this NOFO. Funding includes approximately \$147,000,000, available for the competitive renewal and replacement of expiring Round 1 YHDP Grants and the non-competitive renewal and replacement of expiring grants YHDP grants initially funded in FY 2017 (Round 2) or later, and at least \$52,000,000 available for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Bonus (DV Bonus) projects, described in sections I.B.3.1 and I.B.2.b.(8) of this NOFO. HUD may add to the total amount with available funds that have been carried over or recaptured from previous fiscal years. All

requirements in the FY 2023 application process, including requirements for the entire CoC Consolidated Application and the total amount of funds available, are included in this NOFO.

HUD requires Collaborative Applicants to rank all new reallocation, CoC Bonus, DV Bonus, CoC renewal, Round 1 YHDP Renewal and Round 1 YHDP replacement projects in two tiers.

**FL 517 – Heartland Coalition for the Homeless CoC: FY 23 HUD-CoC Competition – New/Renewals Project Process:**

**Tier 1:** Tier 1 is equal to 93% of the CoC’s Annual Renewal Demand (ADR) is described in Section 1.B.2.b.(1) of the NOFO minus the Annual Renewal Amounts (ARAs) of YHDP renewal and YHDP replacement projects. **(NOTE: YHDP REFERENCES/AMOUNTS DO NOT APPLY TO OUR COC AS WE HAVE NOT BEEN AWARDED YHDP FUNDING).**

**Tier 2:** is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation, and CoC Bonus funds that a CoC can apply for but does not include YHDP renewal or YDHP replacement projects, CoC planning projects, and if applicable, UFA Costs projects or projects selected with DV Bonus funds.

**A. Amendment to criteria for qualifying as “homeless.”** For purposes of the CoC Program and other HUD programs authorized by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, section 605 of VAWA 2022 amended section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to require HUD to consider as homeless:

any individual or family who—

(1) is experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to, or fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized.

(2) has no other safe residence; and

(3) lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing.

This statutory change took effect on October 1, 2022. Rulemaking will be needed to require Continuums of Care (CoCs) and CoC Program recipients and subrecipients to make corresponding changes to the applicable written standards, coordinated entry policies, and documentation policies used to qualify individual and families as homeless under the CoC Program. That said, because HUD must recognize as “homeless” families and individuals who meet the new statutory criteria in section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as of October 1, 2022, CoC recipients may implement the new definition prior to HUD rulemaking, provided that CoCs update

the relevant written standards and policies as needed to reflect the new statutory criteria. **This qualification of HUD’s understanding and use of the “homeless” definition applies for purposes of all references to the “homeless” definition in this NOFO, including all references to specific paragraphs of the “homeless” definition in 24 CFR 578.3.**

## **B. HUD’s Strategic Planning Goals and Homeless Policy Priorities**

### **a. HUD Strategic Goals**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Strategic Plan sets the direction and focus of our programs and staff to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable homes for all. This NOFO supports [HUD’s Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years \(FY\) 2022-2026](#) to accomplish HUD’s mission and vision. Each of the five goals in the [Strategic Plan](#) include what HUD hopes to accomplish, the strategies to accomplish those objectives, and the indicators of success.

HUD will pursue two overarching priorities focused on increasing equity and improving customer experience across all HUD programs. Five strategic goals and several objectives undergird the Plan; however, the follow goals are applicable to this NOFO:

## **C. Applicable Goals and Objectives from HUD’s Strategic Plan**

**Strategic Goal 1: Support Underserved Communities.** Fortify support for underserved communities and support equitable community development for all people.

**Strategic Goal 2: Ensure Access to and Increase the Production of Affordable Housing.** Ensure housing demand is matched by adequate production of new homes and equitable access to housing opportunities for all people.

**Strategic Goal 3: Promote Homeownership.** Promote homeownership opportunities, equitable access to credit for purchase and improvements, and wealth-building in underserved communities.

**Strategic Goal 4: Advance Sustainable Communities.** Advance sustainable communities by strengthening climate resilience and energy efficiency, promoting environmental justice, and recognizing housing's role as essential to health.

You are expected to align your application to the applicable strategic goals and objectives below. Use the information in this section to describe in your application the specific goals, objectives, and measures that your project is expected to help accomplish. If your project is selected for funding, you are also expected to establish a plan to track progress related to those goals, objectives, and measures. HUD will monitor compliance with the goals, objectives, and measures in your project.

## D. HUD Homeless Policy Priorities

This section provides additional context regarding the selection criteria found in section V.B. of this NOFO and is included here to help applicants better understand how the selection criteria supports the goal of ending homelessness.

- 1 ***Ending homelessness for all people.*** In 2022, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) presented *All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* to the President and Congress. The plan is built around six pillars: three foundations—equity, data and evidence, and collaboration—and three solutions—housing and supports, crisis response, and prevention. The work funded through this NOFO will support the actions and strategies proposed within the pillars. To end homelessness, CoCs should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness. CoCs should measure their performance based on local data that considered the challenges faced by all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area (e.g., veterans, youth, families, those experiencing chronic homelessness, and people with disabilities, including those living with HIV/AIDS). 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 CoCs should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to identify housing units 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 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. CoCs should work with law enforcement and their state and local governments to eliminate policies and practices that criminalize homelessness.
- 4 ***Racial Equity.*** In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of

color are substantially over-represented 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.

- 5 ***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.
- 6 ***Persons with Lived Experience.*** The people who know best what solutions will effectively end homelessness are those who are experiencing homelessness. HUD expects CoCs to include people with lived homeless expertise and experience in their local planning and decision-making process. 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 prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed.

## **E. Definitions**

***A Curable Deficiency*** is missing or incomplete application information that may be corrected by the applicant with timely action. To be curable, the deficiency must:

- not be a threshold requirement, except for documentation of applicant eligibility;
- not influence how an applicant is ranked or scored versus other applicants; and
- be remedied within the time frame specified in the notice of deficiency.

***A Non-Curable Deficiency*** is missing or incomplete application information that cannot be corrected by an applicant after the submission deadline. A non-curable deficiency is a deficiency that is a threshold requirement, or a deficiency that, if corrected, would change an applicant's score or rank versus other applicants. If an application includes a non-curable deficiency, the application may receive an ineligible determination, or the non-

curable deficiency may otherwise adversely affect the application's score and final funding determination.

**Racial Equity** is the elimination of racial disparities, and is achieved when race can no longer predict opportunities, distribution of resources, or outcomes – particularly for Black and Brown persons, which includes Black, Latino, Indigenous, Native American, Asian, Pacific Islander, and other persons of color.

**Threshold Requirements** are eligibility and quality requirements that must be met for an application to be reviewed, rated, and ranked. Threshold requirements are not curable, except for documentation of applicant eligibility and are listed in Section III.C., Threshold Eligibility Requirements. Similarly, there are eligibility requirements under Section III.C., Statutory and Regulatory Requirements Affecting Eligibility.

**Underserved Communities** has the meaning given to that term in Section 2(b) of Executive Order [13985](#) and refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the definition of “equity” above.

**Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)** means the identifier assigned by SAM to uniquely identify business entities. As of April 4, 2022, the Federal government has transitioned from the use of the DUNS Number to the use of UEI, as the primary means of entity identification for Federal awards government-wide.

***Beds Dedicated to Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families.*** A permanent supportive housing bed that is dedicated specifically for use by individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness [see 24 CFR 578.3 definition of Chronically Homeless] within a CoC's geographic area, as reported in the CoC's HIC and the FY 2023 PH project applications. When a program participant exits the project, the bed must be filled by another participant who is experiencing chronic homelessness unless there are no persons experiencing chronic homelessness within the CoC's geographic area. This concept only applies to PSH projects.

***CoC Bonus Project.*** The CoC Bonus allows CoCs to use up to 7 percent of their Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN) to create one or more new project applications. New projects created through the CoC Bonus must meet the project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements established by HUD in sections III.C.5.b. and c. of this NOFO. To be eligible to receive a CoC Bonus project, the Collaborative Applicant must demonstrate its CoC ranks projects based on how they improve system performance as outlined in section V.B.2.b of this NOFO.

***Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Bonus (DV Bonus).*** A new project that is dedicated to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who qualify under the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3 or



section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. As described in paragraph (13) below, survivors of human trafficking may qualify as homeless under paragraph (4) of the homeless definition at 24 CFR 578.3 or section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act because they are often also victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; however, a DV Bonus project may not exclusively serve people fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking. New DV Bonus projects are subject to the limitation on new projects in section I.B.3.a.(1) of this NOFO, and a CoC may apply for up to 10 percent of its Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) to create a new DV Bonus project(s); however, this amount is limited to a:

- (a) a minimum of \$50,000 if 10 percent of the CoC's PPRN is less than \$50,000; or
- (b) maximum of \$5 million if 10 percent of the CoC's PPRN is more than \$5 million. See sections I.B.3.1 and I.B.2.b.(8) of this NOFO for project application requirements and how DV Bonus projects will be reviewed and selected.

For DV Bonus applications that propose expansion, if the DV Bonus application does not meet the above requirements for an expansion project, or the renewal portion is not selected, HUD will consider the DV Bonus application as a standalone DV Bonus application and use the DV Bonus selection process described in I.B.2.b.(8) above.

***Housing First.*** A model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stability in permanent housing in which admission does not have preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold) and in which housing assistance is not conditioned upon participation in services. Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only projects are considered to be using a Housing First model for the purposes of this NOFO if they operate with low barriers; work to quickly move people into permanent housing; do not require participation in supportive services for continued tenancy, occupancy, or participation in the project; and, for Transitional Housing projects, do not require preconditions for moving into the transitional housing (e.g., sobriety or minimum income threshold) but do provide or assist with access to such supportive services. Additional information regarding Housing First is in section I.A.4.b.(2) of this NOFO.

***Racial Disparities.*** Racial disparities are differences in the homeless population based on race or ethnicity, which includes individuals who are Black, Latino, Indigenous, Native American, Asian, Pacific Islander, and other persons of color relative to the general population or differences in the provision or outcomes of homelessness assistance based on race or ethnicity.

**F. CoC Program Components.** 24 CFR 578.37 states CoC funds may be used to create and operate projects under five program components: PH (including PSH and RRH); TH;



SSO; HMIS; and in some cases, homelessness prevention. Only designated HPCs may carry out homelessness prevention activities through the CoC Program. Although CoCs were able to apply for HPC designation during the FY 2023 CoC Program Registration process, HUD did not receive any requests for HPC designation; therefore, no CoCs may request funds for homelessness prevention. The only components that will be funded in the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition are:

- A. PH (PSH and RRH);
- B. TH;
- C. SSO; and
- D. HMIS.

**G. Review of CoC Rankings.** CoCs must rank all renewal project applications; new project applications created through reallocation, CoC Bonus, DV Bonus, and Round 1 YHDP Renewal and Round 1 YHDP Replacement (grants originally funded in the FY 2016 YHDP Competition) project applications submitted by project applicants in e-snaps. CoCs must not rank the following project applications: YHDP Renewal or replacement projects originally awarded through the FY 2017 YHDP Competition (Round 2) or later, CoC Planning, and UFA Costs (if applicable) projects.

**H. Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Bonus (DV Bonus).** The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 provides not less than \$52 million for “new rapid re- housing projects and supportive service projects providing coordinated entry, and for eligible activities that the Secretary determines to be critical in order to assist survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.” See section I.B.2.b.(8) of this NOFO for additional information.

**I. Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH) and Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH/PH-RRH) component projects:**

1. Scores up to \_\_\_\_ Points.
2. Collaboration with Victim Service Providers
3. Need for the Project.
4. Quality of the Applicant Experiences.
5. Demonstration of inclusion of victim-centered practices.
6. Demonstration of plan to include survivors with lived expertise.

**J. PH-RRH and Joint TH/PH-RRH component projects must follow a housing-first approach.**

**K.SSO-CE** to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (e.g., to implement policies and procedures that are trauma-informed, client-centered or to better coordinate referrals between the CoC's coordinated entry and the victim service providers coordinated entry system where they are different.

**L.Participant Eligibility.** Projects funded through this NOFO must have the following eligibility criteria for program participants. All references to paragraphs of the definition of homeless that are found throughout this NOFO refer to the paragraphs listed under the definition of "homeless" in 24 CFR 578.3 and include the definition of "homeless" under section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, even if section 103(b) is not explicitly referenced. All specific references to the definition of "homeless" under paragraph (4) of 24 CFR 578.3 that are found throughout this NOFO also include the definition of "homeless" under section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, even if section 103(b) is not explicitly referenced. All projects must participate in coordinated entry, and the selection of program participants must be consistent with the CoC's coordinated entry process. As provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, youth aged 24 and under must not be required to provide third-party documentation that they meet the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3 or section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as a condition for receiving services funded under this NOFO. Additionally, any youth-serving provider funded under this NOFO may serve unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under or families headed by youth aged 24 and under who are living in unsafe situations. HUD interprets "youth-serving provider" as a private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to youth aged 24 and under and families headed by youth aged 24 and under. HUD interprets "living in unsafe situations" as having an unsafe primary nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence. These youth-related requirements supersede any conflicting requirements under this NOFO or the Rule.

**M.New Projects.** See section III.B.3.e for more information on New Project applications (New PH-PSH projects, New PH-RRH, Joint TH/PH-RRH, and SSP-CE, New DV Bonus projects.)

**N.ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.**

- a. HUD does not award grants to individuals.
- b. Faith-based organizations.
- c. Non-profit applicants with a 501©3 identifier ONLY.

**O.Rules and Regulations Applicable to HUD NOFOs**

Applicants must comply with these rules to apply.

### **1. Eligibility Requirements for Applicants of HUD's Grants Programs**

The following requirements affect applicant eligibility. Detailed information on each requirement is found in the "Eligibility Requirements for Applicants of HUD's Competitive Programs" document on [HUD's Funding Opportunities page](#).

- Universal Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Requirements
- Outstanding Delinquent Federal Debts
- Debarments or Suspensions, or both
- Mandatory Disclosure Requirement
- Pre-selection Review of Performance
- Sufficiency of Financial Management System
- False Statements
- Failure to conducting Business in Accordance with Ethical Standards/Code of Conduct
- Prohibition Against Lobbying Activities

In addition, each applicant under this NOFO must have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the Award Term in Appendix A of [24 CFR part 170](#) if the applicant receives an award, unless an exception applies as provided in [2 CFR 170.110](#).

### **P. Resolution of Civil Rights Matters**

Outstanding civil rights matters must be resolved before the application submission deadline. Project applicants, who after review are confirmed to have civil rights matters unresolved at the application submission deadline, will be deemed ineligible. Their applications will receive no further review, will not be rated and ranked, and will not receive funding.

**Q.Match.** 24 CFR 578.73 provided the information regarding match requirements.

**R.Indirect Cost.** Indirect cost rules under 2 CFR part 200 apply.

**Estimated funding available for the Heartland Coalition for the Homeless CoC in HUD's FY 2023 CoC Program Competition as stated below:**

<b>Estimated Annual Renewal Demand (ADR)</b>	<b>\$273,450</b>
<b>Estimated HMIS Operation</b>	<b>\$3,627</b>
<b>Estimated PSH Renewal</b>	<b>\$145,358</b>
<b>Estimated HMIS Dedication</b>	<b>\$34,085</b>
<b>Estimated Bonus RRH-RRH</b>	<b>\$90,380</b>
<b>Estimated DV Bonus (New)</b>	<b>\$110,967</b>
<b>Estimated CoC Bonus (New)</b>	<b>\$77,677</b>
<b>Estimated CoC Planning (CoC Only)</b>	<b>\$55,483</b>

**Updates will be provided as published.**

Tiers	
<b>Total Tier 1 = 93% of ARD</b>	<b>\$254,308</b>
<b>Total Tier 2 = 7% of ARD</b>	<b>\$19,142</b>

*(Note: The amount of DV Bonus funding available is not included in HUD's Tier amounts, the projects(s) are still expected to be ranked and can fall into either Tier 1 or 2. Please refer to the NOFO for additional information.*

All numbers above will be/are as published by HUD in their "FY 2023 CoC Program Competition Estimated ARD Report" <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2023-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/> which "provides the Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN), Estimated ARD, Tier 1, CoC Bonus, Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus, and CoC Planning amounts for each CoC listed.

**Critical Dates and Deadlines:**

<b>FL-517 Heartland Coalition for the Homeless FY2023 Regular NOFO Local Program Competition</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
HUD Released FY2023 CoC Program Competition NOFO	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7/5/2023</b>	<b>N/A</b>
HUD Opens e-snap Access	<b>N/A</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>N/A</b>
HCH released FL-517 Request for Proposal	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8/3/2023</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>TA Workshop via Conference Call for all CoC projects Applicant (renewal and new projects)</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>8/4/2023</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
Deadline for all Project Applications to be submitted to the CoC <b>(No later than 30 days before the HUD application deadline 9/28/2023)</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>8/28/2023</b>	<b>4:00pm EST</b>
CoC Ranking and Review Committee Completes Renewal Project Application Scoring	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8/30/2023</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
Labor Day Holiday	<b>Monday</b>	<b>9/4/2023</b>	<b>Closed</b>
HCH Applications Review Board Completes CoC Priority Listing based on Application Scoring (Virtual)	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9/6/2023</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>
CoC Project Priority Listing Presented to HCH Board of Directors (via email)	<b>Monday</b>	<b>9/11/2023</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>
CoC Notification to Project Applicants -Written Notification to all Project Applicants whether their project application(s) will be accepted and ranked,			

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rejected, or reduced on the CoC Priority (no later than 15 days before the application deadline)	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9/13/2023</b>	<b>5:00pm</b>
Post Completed Application to HCH Website (at least 2 days prior to submission)	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9/26/2023</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>
HUD 2023 CoC Submission Deadline	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9/28/2023</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>

### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:**

The below technical assistance is available to assist in completing/submitting New and Renewal Project application for the FY 2023 HUD CoC Program Competition:

- 1) **TA Workshop for all HUD-CoC Program Project Applicants (new and renewal)** will be held via Conference Call on **Thursday, August 3, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.**

Join Conference Call Meeting:

Dial: 1-605-313-4136

Access Code: 727-754#

***Please note that there will be no direct grantee submitted in e-snap by participants.  
ALL SUBMISSION MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE CoC.***

- 2) **HUD FY 2023 NOFO RESOURCES**

The HUD FY 2023 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition: Funding Availability webpage includes the following NOFO resources:

- FY 2023 CoC Program NOFO
- FY 2023 CoC Program Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
- CoC Program Collaborative Applicant Registration Notice
- CoC Program Unified Funding Agency (UFA) Registration Notice
- CoC Program High Performing Community (HPC) Registration Notice
- FY 2023 Continuums of Care Names and Numbers
- FY 2023 Geographic Codes
- FY 2023 Geo Codes and Preliminary Pro Rata Need Amounts
- FY 2023 CoC Program Competition Estimated ARD Report

All Documents listed above are available on HUD's e-snaps: CoC Program Applications and Grants Management System – FY 2023 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition:

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Funding Availability page which can be found at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>

- 3) New and Renewal Project Applicants should read the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition NOFO in its entirety to gain a comprehensive understanding of all requirements and components. It is also necessary to read the CoC Program Interim Rule to ensure compliance with CoC Program requirements.**

**The overall CoC score, which is a primary factor in both HUD's process of scoring Tier 2 and new CoC Bonus and DV Bonus projects, is based on a complex scoring formula. How the overall CoC Application score is determined is detailed in HUD's NOFO.**

- 4) HUD's Homeless Policy and Program Priorities: Hud's FY 2023 CoC Program Competition Notice, Section 1.4a outlines HUD's Homeless Policy and Program Priorities, including the following listings.**

This NOFO supports HUD's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-2026 to accomplish HUD's mission and vision. Each of the five goals in the Strategic Plan includes what HUD hopes to accomplish, the strategies to accomplish those objectives, and the indicators of success.

HUD will pursue two overarching priorities focused on increasing equity and improving customer experience across all HUD programs. Five strategic goals and several objectives undergird the Plan; however, the following goals are applicable to this NOFO:

**5) Applicant's Goals and Objectives from HUD's Strategic Plan:**

1. Support Underserved Areas
2. Ensure Access to and Increase Production of Affordable Housing
3. Promote Homeownership
4. Advance Sustainable Communities

You (CoC) are expected to align your application to the applicable strategic goals and objectives below. Use the information in this section to describe in your application the specific goals, objectives, and measures that your project is expected to help accomplish. If your project is selected for funding, you are also expected to establish a plan to track progress related to those goals, objectives, and measures. HUD will monitor compliance with the goals, objectives, and measures in your project.

**6) Section 1.4.b HUD Homeless Policy Priorities:**

1. Ending homelessness for all persons

2. Use a Housing First Approach
  3. Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness
  4. Improving System Performance
  5. Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies
  6. Racial Equity
  7. Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals
  8. Persons with Lived Experience
  9. Increasing Affordable Housing supply
- 7) **Per Section 1.B.2.c(1): FY 2023 CoC Program Competition NOFO Requirements** – CoCs should consider the policy priorities established in this NOFO in conjunction with local priorities to determine the ranking of new and renewal project applications request. Refer to section 1.A.4 of the NOFO for more information.
- 8) **Heartland Coalition for the Homeless CoC's Priorities** – As the Collaborative Applicant and the CoCs Lead Agency, the Heartland Coalition for the Homeless, is committed to making homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring. This will require that HCH continually assess the community needs, available resources, and balance competing priorities of the overall system to strategically align resources to the priorities as needed.

The CoC has adopted a series of evidence-based practices collectively known as Housing First. Business, government, healthcare, human services, and philanthropic leaders have coalesced around making homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring in Desoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee Counties. To truly address homelessness, the community must simultaneously address the top causes of homelessness:

- Mental illness
- Low wages
- Substance abuse
- Poverty
- Unemployment
- Lack of affordable housing



**The order of priorities established by the CoC is as follows:**

- Critical System (HMIS, Coordinated Entry)
- CE – Dedicated Access
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid RE-Housing
- Emergency Shelter
- Street Outreach
- Homelessness Prevention (targeted)

In order to accomplish this, Heartland Coalition for the Homeless must identify and select projects, based on a project's:

- impact on improving system performance and performance measurements,
- performance data of existing projects, project type, cost effectiveness, past monitoring/audits, and
- the community needs and vulnerabilities

Recognizing HUD's obvious emphasis on Survivors of Domestic Violence (DV), Heartland Coalition for the Homeless will also take into account the level in which a project considers the needs and vulnerabilities of those with a history of victimization such as domestic violence, sexual assault, criminal histories, and chronic homelessness and how they are prioritized for housing and services.

## **9) REALLOCATION**

FY 2023 CoC Program Reallocation Policy is: *Reallocation of HUD CoC funding provides CoC's with the opportunity to 1) reallocate excess funding and 2) to move funding from low performing projects to new projects with the intent that the new project(s) will be higher performing. Reallocation can be done either through voluntary reallocation or through forced reallocation based on a CoC's published reallocation process for low performing projects. HUD examines and considers a CoC's ratio of reallocation when scoring a CoC's Application, as it demonstrates to HUD that CoC's are consistently evaluating the effectiveness of the funding awarded to a CoC's projects and working to ensure that all HUD CoC funded projects are being used to effectively end homelessness.*

All eligible CoC renewal projects indicated their intent to renew all eligible funding amounts. Therefore, no funding is available through reallocation.

## 10) Eligible Projects for the HCH CoC – New and Renewal

**NEW PROJECT(S) – The organization of this RFP for NRW PROJECT(s) is as follows:**

1. **Complete New HUD e-snaps Application – DO NOT SUBMIT**  
<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC/FY-2022-New-Application-Detailed-Instructions.pdf>
2. **Housing First/Low Barrier Questionnaire** (all project types) – Included in this RFP, Completed and Signed  
*NOTE: The Housing First/Low Barrier Questionnaire is to be answered based on the project in the proposal.*
3. **Budget Summary Form.**
4. **Detailed Budget/Financial Plan Narrative - not to exceed 2 pages. (Approximately 1,000 words single spaced) - The applicant should:**
  - a. Explain in detail how the amount of funding being requested and/or listed as match in each section of the Budget Summary Form was calculated. Examples:
    - i. if the project is requesting case management staff, then the narrative should state: 2 FTE Salary at \$30,000/year; 2 FTE benefits/fringe at 10% of salary.
    - ii. Transportation – 50, 31-day bus passes at \$36 /pass
      - If additional “Other” items are needed to show all the project’s costs, please add lines to the Budget Summary Form as needed within a section.
      - If funding is being requested for acquisitions or rehabilitation, be sure to explain the overall project’s budget and financing plan.
      - Explain the agency’s process to ensure adequate cash flow to operate when receiving funding that is based on a cost reimbursement process.
5. **Explain how your New Project will apply Housing First model.**
6. **You must describe your organization’s capacity and experience, in effectively utilizing federal funds and performing the activities proposed in the application.**
7. **Describe how your project will integrate into the neighborhood.**
8. **Describe how program participants will be assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing.**
9. **Describe the specific plan to coordinate and integrate with other mainstreams health, social services, and employment programs for which program participants**

may be eligible.

#### 10. What type of funding is the project applying for in this RFP Competition?

**New Project (Section III B.3.e &f.):** The FY 2023 NOFO allows CoC's to apply for new funding and/or projects through reallocation, CoC Bonus and Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus. Additionally, HUD's NOFO allows for new projects to be completely new projects, or an expansion of a project currently funded through the CoC Program or expansion of a project not currently receiving CoC Program Funds. New projects can include an expansion of an existing CoC or non-CoC Program funded project. The initial grant for new project applications may be 1-year, 2-years, 3-years, 4-years, 5-years, or 15-years. HUD may extend the grant consistent with 2 CFR 200.308 and 2 CFR 200.309.

**New Projects for DV Bonus.** New projects that want to be considered for the DV Bonus, may be:

**a)** PH-RRH projects dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3);

**(b)** Joint TH/PH-RRH component projects defined in section I.B.2.b.(18) of this NOFO dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3); or

**(c)** SSO-CE project to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

For new projects created through DV Bonus, HUD must determine the CoC has demonstrated that projects are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the CoC's system performance. Heartland Coalition for the Homeless CoC RFP is the primary solicitation process for determining eligible projects for the HUD's CoC Program Competition. As part of the annual RFP process HCH requests and solicitors project proposals for which:

- Funding is anticipated to be secured by HCH, including the CoC Program funds anticipated to be available for new and renewal projects through HUD's NOFO process.
- Future funding availability is unknown to HCH; however, the project(s) must meet a gap to improve the overall system performance of the CoC. These proposals are referred to as pipeline projects.

The RFP is utilized to increase system coordination and effectiveness in order to strategically align community resources on an annual basis.

All proposals submitted during the RFP process are scored and selected according to the written standards. Based on this process, projects are selected for conditional award by Heartland Coalition for the Homeless (HCH) Board of Directors. From the conditional awards, some

projects are selected to be awarded funding that is already available. Other projects (or components) for which funding is not available become pipeline projects to be considered when, and if, other appropriate and applicable funding becomes available. For example: a proposed project may include the components of street outreach, emergency shelter and rapid rehousing. However, funding may only be available for the rapid rehousing component, and they may be awarded funding for only the rapid rehousing component.

When a funding source or opportunity becomes available for a new project for which HCH did not receive a proposal for during the most recent Universal RFP cycle, a project will be selected based on a project's:

- Impact on improving system performance and performance measurements of the CoC
- Performance data of existing projects, project type, cost effectiveness, past monitoring/audits, and
- The community needs and vulnerabilities.

Utilizing the process and philosophy stated above, HCH is open to the submission of new project applications to apply for the available CoC Bonus and DV Bonus funding in our CoC's FY 2023 Continuum of Care Program Competition application;

- **CoC Bonus**
- **DV Bonus**

All new projects will be submitted with HCH as the grantee and the submitting agency as the sub-recipient. The sub-recipient will be responsible for ensuring 100 percent of the required match for the project's full grant award is met. The allowable admin funding will be split 50/50 between HCH and the sub-recipient agency.

**Renewal Projects** – HCH's RFP process also included the opportunity for current CoC Program funded projects, HCH's CoC Program Funded sub-recipients, to indicate their intention to renew by submitting a Letter of Intent to Renew. All projects currently receiving CoC's funds as the sub-recipient must submit a Letter of Intent to Renew during the process.

**Consolidation Projects** – No Renewal Projects are seeking consolidation under this NOFO.

#### **ELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICANTS**

All project applicants, including sub recipients, must ensure their agency meets applicant and program eligibility and threshold requirements as described in HUD's NOFO, Section V.

#### **ELIGIBLE COSTS**

All projects must adhere to the eligible costs established under the CoC Interim Rule (24 CFR 578.37 through 578.63) to identify the costs eligible for funding. Projects requesting funding for

ineligible costs or to serve an ineligible population based on project type will be rejected by HUD.

**Match. 24 CFR 578.73** – provides information regarding match requirements. All eligible funding cost except leasing must be matched with *no less than 25 percent cash and/or in-kind resources* as described in 24 CFR 578.73. Leasing projects must be matched at 25 percent of the amount of funding minus leasing costs. The CoC Interim Rule clarifies that the match must be provided for the entire grant amount funded, inclusive of administration costs. Applicants must demonstrate how they will meet this match requirement as part of the Project Application.

***HUD strongly encourages project applicants to review the FAQs posted at [www.hudexchange.info/coc/faqs](http://www.hudexchange.info/coc/faqs) by searching for the keyword “match.”***

**\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*\***

Per HUD’s Application instructions, if your project application includes third-party in-kind match commitment on the “Sources of Match” screen (in e-snaps) you have a separate “7A Attachments” screen that should be used to attach the required Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between your organization and the organization providing the in-kind match. Documentation is required prior to issuance of the grant agreement if your renewal project is selected for conditional award.

The following match information will be required to be entered into the project application.

- **Type of Commitment:** Required. Select Cash or In-kind (non-cash) to indicate the type of contribution that describes this match commitment. If applications include third-party In-Kind match, project applicants should attach MOU(s) documentation that confirms the in-kind match commitment.
- **Type of source:** Required. Select “Private” or “Government” to indicate the source of the contribution. Funds from HUD-VASH (VA Supportive Housing program) and other federal programs are eligible sources of match so long as they do not prohibit their funds to be used as match for another federal program and are considered Government sources.
- **Name the Source of the Commitment:** Required. Enter the name of the organization providing the contribution. Be specific and include the office or grant program as applicable.
- **Date of written commitment:** Required. Enter the date of the written contribution.
- **Value of written commitment:** Required. Enter the total dollar value of the contribution.

The match information should be based on the current commitments at the time of project application, covering the requested grant operating period (i.e., grant term), and **NOT based on projections**. HUD expects the amount(s) listed on this screen to be accurate, with a commitment letter(s) in place that includes at least the same amount(s) as those listed in this screen.

## **CONTINUUM OF CARE PROJECT SCORING AND RANKING**

HUD requires and evaluates a CoC's ability to have a "coordinated, inclusive, and outcome-oriented community process for the solicitation, objective review, ranking, and selection of project applications, and a process by which renewal projects are reviewed for performance and compliance with 24 CFR part 578" (Section VII.B.2) and made publicly available as part of this CoC's NOFO Local Process instruction packet.

With this in mind, in considering the severity of needs and vulnerabilities of the community and the availability of resources, the Heartland Coalition for the Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) considered projects for inclusion into the CoC's Consolidated Application based on organizations submittal of an Letter of Intent to Renew (Renewals), a new applicable project during the 2023 Universal RFP, having had an approved pipeline project from previous RFPs, and/or would have a significant impact on the overall development and improvement of the CoC's performance as a coordinated system.

### **Project Level Objective Scoring Criteria and Past Performance**

#### **Renewal Projects**

Renewals will continue to be scored and ranked according to performance data, utilizing a standard year based on HUD's most recent System Performance Measurements data range, which for FY 2023 is **October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022, and utilizing the CoC APR for most scoring elements**. This is to align project level data to its impact on System Performance Measurements.

The renewal scoring includes factors included on the Renewal Project Performance Scorecard and are related, but not limited, to:

- Length of Time Homeless (project entry to housing move in)
- Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations
- Increase in Earned and Total Income
- Residence Prior to Entry: Participants entering from the street, emergency shelter or safe haven
- Percent that Exit to another Homeless Situation
- Unit Utilization Rate
- HMIS Data Completeness
- Racial Equity
- Coordinated Entry Participation by grantee/sub-recipient of the project.

The Renewal Project Performance Scorecard has a total point available of 144.5 as indicated in the table below. Eighty-nine percent (89%) is based on objective criteria and forty-four percent (44%) directly relates to system-wide performance measurement outcomes.

#### Renewals

A.	System-wide and Project Level Performance	Maximum Points = 80
B.	Coordinated Entry Participation	Maximum Points = 3
C.	Racial Equity, Inclusion of Persons with Lived Experience, and Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals	Maximum Points = 12
D.	Project Populations	Maximum Points = 10
E.	Data Quality	Maximum Points = 12.5
F.	Overall, Grant Management	Maximum Points = 14
G.	CoC Participation	Maximum Points = 4
H.	Inclusion of Persons with Lived Experience	Maximum Points = 9
	<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>144.5</b>

#### New Projects – CoC Bonus and DV Bonus

New projects selected for inclusion in the FY 2023 HUD CoC Program Application through the CoC's 2023 RFP process will be reviewed and scored with a New Project Scoring Criteria that includes proposed project level performance outcomes, including those listed below, and past performance of the same or similar projects. The FY2023 RFP specifically includes a FY2023 HUD CoC Program Bonus and DV Bonus project(s) in the list of expected funding opportunities for which the proposals received would be considered for selection.

Our 2023 RFP project proposal scoring criteria includes:

- Coordinated Entry Participation
- Equity and Inclusion
- Project Population
- Organizational Capacity
- CoC Participation
- HMIS Participation

#### Conflict of Interest

A conscious effort is made to avoid conflict, or the perception thereof, when assigning applications for review. No member of the CoC Project Review Committee shall score their own agency's project applications; however, they may score other project applications if no other conflict has been identified. All reviewers are asked to identify any conflict that may exist with any application they are assigned to review. HCH, along with the members of the CoC Ranking and Review Committee, understands and fully acknowledges that there is an inherent conflict of interest in having persons scoring other proposals that are competing for funding. However, we also understand and acknowledge that there is a need for scorers/reviewers to be highly



knowledgeable about the overall CoC needs, best and next practices, regulations, etc., to be able to fully understand if a project application is a good model/proposal that meets a community need. HCH staff conduct a review of all scoring/reviewer data to monitor for signs of a scorer/reviewer that may be scoring in a manner that directly influences the outcome of the final results.

### **Proposal Format – All Applicants Submitted Proposals**

- One (1) original proposal package submitted as a PDF. The submitted document should be a single PDF file that contains all required information. The PDF proposal package must include all required signed signature pages and attachments. All of the above must be received by the specified date and time indicated as the proposal submission due date in this RFP document to be considered for funding award.
- Each Project Proposal package PDF should be assembled in the order listed in Section IV (Eligibility Criteria to Apply and Proposal Requirements) of this RFP using paper size of 8.5” x 11”. For any pages in landscape format, the orientation should be the top of the page on the secured side of the package. The package should clearly distinguish each section and/or include a table of contents. All required narratives should be typed, (see fatal flaw section), single spaced and does not exceed the stated maximum length.
- The RFP Application must be signed by an agency official designated to execute contracts. All Contact Information on the Application should be completed and legible.
- If the Proposal is handwritten, it will be rejected.
- A cover letter is requested and required.
- Do not include these instructions with your submission.
- Requested narratives should be concise yet detailed. Don't include information or attachments not related to the specific Project Proposal or that are not specifically requested in this RFP. Do not reference websites/webpages for reviewers to access additional information in support of your narrative.
- If your organization is submitting more than one Project Proposal, you must indicate at the top of the RFP Application and/or cover page, the priority number of the Project. For example: If your agency submits a RRH project and a PSH project, and the RRH project is your agency's "first priority", the RFP Application Form for the RRH Project Proposal should state "first priority" and the RFP Application Form for the PSH project should state "second priority".

### **FATAL FLAWS – ALL APPLICATIONS/SUBMITTED PROPOSALS**

Proposals that commit the following will be considered as having a fatal flaw, and

will not be given consideration for funding:

- Proposals received after stated due date.
- Proposals received from agency not eligible to apply.
- Non-profit agency is not a 501c3, has not been in operation for at least 2 years, and/or is not in good standing with the State of Florida, and/or is listed on the Excluded Parties List.
- Developer/Investor – not a legally formed entity at time of application based on Florida Department of State, Division of Corporations and/or listed on the Excluded Parties List.
- The RFP Application is not signed by an agency official designated to execute contracts.
- Proposals that are completely and/or mostly handwritten. *Proposals that include minimum hand-written items, such as when completing the Housing First/Low Barrier Questionnaire, will be accepted.*
- Proposals that are submitted in a manner that does not follow the order outlined in this RFP, as listed in the Eligibility Criteria to Apply and Proposals Requirements of this RFP for applicable project submission.
- Proposals that do not include all required documents as stated in the Eligibility Criteria to Apply and Proposals Requirements of this RFP for applicable project submission.
- Proposals that exceed stated page number maximums in any section as indicated in this RFP.
- Failure to complete the Housing First/Low Barrier Questionnaire (non-profit agency) or Low Barrier Housing Access Questionnaire (Developer/Investor) including signature.

#### HUD's Project Review and Selection Process

All applicants are expected to read the NOFO to understand how HUD will review and select projects.

#### HELPFUL TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN COMPLETING THE RENEWAL APPLICATION.

Numbers entered must be consistent throughout the application (e.g. units, persons served, performance measures universe, HMIS and budgets.)

Each project application must ensure that:

- a. Proposed participants will be eligible for the project component type;
- b. Proposed activities are eligible under the CoC Program Interim Rule;
- c. Project narrative is fully responsive to the question being asked and that it meets all the criteria for that question included in the detailed instructions;
- d. Data provided in various parts of the project application are consistent; and

- e. All required attachments correspond to the attachments list in the e-snaps, that they contain accurate and complete information, and that they contain a current date between August 1, 2023 and September 30, 2023.

#### QUESTIONS FROM PROJECT APPLICANTS

Questions may be submitted to the appropriate HCH staff up until the grant deadline and will be answered in the order received; however, applicants cannot depend on being able to get a question answered immediately and failure to get an answer to a question is not an acceptable reason for missing the grant deadline. Questions and their responses will be shared among all renewal applicants via email at least weekly.

Questions related to the HMIS data and reports specific to the New and Renewal Project Performance Score Card should be directed to your HCH staff. If necessary, your staff will consult with our HMIS staff. Please note that HCH staff cannot directly update or correct any data; or provide specific client record instructions for data corrections that would/could impact the data being used in the FY 2023 HUD CoC Program Competition Renewal Project Performance Scoring.

#### NOTICE OF INCLUSION/EXCLUSION

HCH will formally notify all projects, in writing (via email), by **5:00pm on Wednesday, September 13, 2023** of the project's inclusion in or exclusion from the FY2023 CoC Consolidated Application.

#### CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION POSTING

HCH will post to the HCH website ([www.heartlandcoalitionforthehomeless.org](http://www.heartlandcoalitionforthehomeless.org)) the FY2023 HUD-CoC Consolidated Application to include the CoC Application, Project Priority Listings, and all project applications on **Tuesday, September 26, 2023 by 8:00pm.**