

**BUTTE COUNTYWIDE HOMELESS CONTINUUM OF CARE
MEMORANDUM**

Date: September 2, 2021
To: CoC Council and Members
From: Don Taylor, Housing and Homeless Administrator
RE: HUD Continuum of Care 2021 NOFO Announcement

Background: The CoC Program (24 CFR pat 578) is designed to promote a county-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. CoCs are to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and local government to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness. CoCs are also charged with promoting access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

2021 NOFO: The HUD Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for federal fiscal year 2021 was released on August 18, 2021. It outlines requirements for approximately \$2.6 billion in 2021-2022 federal fiscal year homeless assistance grants, administered by HUD in compliance with the HEARTH Act. The 2021 CoC Program Competition closes on November 16, 2021 at 8 pm EST.

Funding Levels: The preliminary total funds available for Butte County, also called the Preliminary Pro Rata Need, total \$741,596. The annual amount for renewable grants, also called the Annual Renewal Demand, is \$611,763. This year's NOFO includes two bonus projects options, as well as a bonus points incentive:

- A CoC Bonus of up to 5% of the CoC's Final Pro Rata Need (estimated amount of \$37,080) if the CoC Application demonstrates project applications are ranked based on how they improve system performance and reallocates lower performing projects to create new higher performing projects. The CoC Bonus can fund new or expansion projects.
- A Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus in the amount of \$111,239 if the CoC Application demonstrates project applications are ranked based on how they improve system performance and reallocates lower performing projects to create new higher performing projects. Under the DV Bonus, the CoC may apply for multiple Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH) and Joint Transitional Housing-Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH and PH-RRH) projects but is limited to one Supportive Services Only-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) project.
- Bonus points incentive for CoC's to submit at least one new permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing project that demonstrates coordination between housing providers and healthcare organizations (utilizes non-CoC/ESG-funded subsidies or housing projects and health care resources are used to assist those experiencing homelessness). Projects would be funded through reallocation or the CoC bonus. Creation of such a qualified project is the only way to score maximum points in the 2021 application (this bonus is worth 10 points).

See the NOFO for full descriptions of these potential bonuses.

An additional \$22,248 is available for a non-competitive Planning Grant, applied for by the Collaborative Applicant and used for CoC-wide planning.

Project Types:

New projects may apply for CoC funds for following types of projects:

1. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) that dedicate 100% of their units to chronically homeless individuals and families;
2. Rapid Rehousing Projects (RRH), including unaccompanied youth;
3. Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing Projects (Joint TH and PH-RRH);
4. Dedicated Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) projects; and
5. Supportive services to develop or operate a coordinated assessment system.

In addition to their renewal project, Renewal project applicants may apply for a new expansion project which will increase the number of units, persons served, services provided to existing project participants, or add additional activities. Expansion projects may only be funded through reallocation, CoC bonus and DV bonus processes. HUD will not fund capital costs (ie. new construction, rehabilitation or acquisition) for projects that expand on an existing eligible renewal project.

Although the funding allocation is anticipated to be adequate for all renewal projects, HUD again requires that projects are ranked and placed in Tiers 1 and 2 this year to prioritize projects in case there is either a reduction or increase in funds.

Tier 1: The total funding amount for Tier 1 will be 100% of the Annual Renewal Demand, minus renewal amounts of Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) projects. Any type of new or renewal project can be placed in Tier 1 (except YHDP and CoC Planning projects, as these are not ranked).

Tier 2: The total funding amount for Tier 2 will be the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation and CoC bonus funds the CoC can apply for (not including YHDP or CoC Planning projects).

CoCs are required to maintain an HMIS program, so the HMIS Project Application will by necessity be high priority.

The NOFO requires CoCs to review and rank applications within their geographic areas according to specific eligibility and quality thresholds, as well as how effectively they align with the 2021 NOFO Priorities below. The local application process is under development and will be approved by the CoC Council prior to its implementation and publication as a NOFA. Once approved, it will be posted on the CoC webpage: www.buttehomelesscoc.com.

2021 CoC NOFA Policy Priorities

1. Ending homelessness for all persons
2. Use of a Housing First approach
3. Reducing unsheltered homelessness
4. Improving system performance
5. Partnering with housing, health and service agencies
6. Racial equity
7. Including persons with lived experience in the process

Schedule: Below is the schedule based on the November 16, 2021 CoC Application due date.

CoC Council Meeting review of HUD NOFO, Project Application RFP (local NOFA), Review and Ranking Procedures, and Reallocation Process	9/15/21 from 2-4 pm
Post NOFA, application form, eligibility requirements, and scoring criteria on CoC website, distribute to CoC membership, and send out press release	9/17/21
Intent to Apply deadline (not mandatory)	9/24/21
Orientation for perspective applicants (not mandatory)	9/21/21 from 2-4 pm
Applications due for review and ranking	10/5/21 by 5 pm
CoC Council meeting to approve Priority Listing of applications	10/18/21
Notify applicants of ranking in Priority Listing, and post on CoC website	10/19/21
Project applications due in e-snaps	11/1/21
Consolidated application and Priority Listing made available for CoC Council, Project Applicants and public review	11/8/21
Receive comments on Consolidated Application and Priority Listing	11/10/21
Submit Consolidated Application and Priority Listing in e-snaps and post on CoC website	11/12/21
FY 2021 Coc Program Competition Closes	11/16/21 8pm EST

Next Steps:

- ***A CoC Council Meeting has been scheduled for September 15, 2021 at 2:00 pm.*** More information about the project application process will be presented at that meeting, and the application form, eligibility requirements, and scoring criteria will be posted on the CoC website on September 17, 2021.
- All parties interested in applying for funds should complete the Intent to Apply form attached to this memo and submit it according to its instructions.

Information and Questions: Project Applicants and CoC Councilmembers are encouraged to review the NOFO, Interim Rule and training materials available at these two HUD websites:
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition
<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2021-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/>

Announcements will be posted on www.buttehomelesscoc.com.

Please contact County CoC staff with any questions by sending an email to: buttecoc@buttecounty.net