

**Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care  
2024-2025 CoC Annual Funding Application  
Review, Score, and Ranking Procedures**

Adopted by CoC Council: 08/19/2024

HUD requires CoCs to conduct a detailed and objective review, score, and ranking process for project applications that prioritizes and funds the projects which best align with HUD priorities and performance standards. The procedures include a preliminary review of eligibility based on HUD eligibility and project quality threshold standards. Eligible applications are then reviewed and scored based on the applicant and project's ability to meet the HUD priorities and performance measures established in the NOFO, based on their past performance, and the proposed project design. Applications are then ranked based on their score and recommended to the CoC Council accordingly. With the Council's approval, the ranking determines whether applications are placed in Tier 1 or Tier 2, as required by HUD. Applications which are not ranked and placed in either Tier 1 or Tier 2 are the CoC Planning Grant projects. A detailed description of these procedures follows below. See *Schedule* for the 2024 Project Application key dates. Because HUD has issued a two-year NOFO for the fiscal years 2024 and 2025, these procedures are intended to be in alignment with the specific eligible funding mechanisms laid out by HUD in the 2024-2025 NOFO.

Step 1 – Approved Procedures and Documentation

*Review, Score and Ranking Procedures*, the *Process for Reallocation*, the *Schedule*, the *Renewal Project Application RFP* and the *New Project Application RFP* are developed and distributed to CoC Council members. The documents are presented, reviewed, amended as needed, and approved at a public CoC Council meeting.

Step 2 – Outreach

All non-profit, Tribal and public agencies eligible to submit project applications per 24 CFR 578.15 are invited to submit a Renewal Project Application if they are an existing grantee, or an application for new or expanded project funding when there is an opportunity for reallocation of funds or new funds made available by HUD through the CoC Bonus and DV Bonus. An announcement of available funds, the *Schedule*, the *Review, Score and Ranking Procedures*, the *Reallocation Process*, the *Renewal Project Application RFP* and the *New Project Application RFP* will be posted on the CoC's website, with notification of such posting distributed to all agencies who are CoC members or who have expressed an interest in being informed of CoC activities. Individual agencies that have expressed interest in receiving CoC-program funds may also be directly contacted. The announcement of available funds will be produced in English. If desired by interested parties, relevant documents will be translated into Spanish. An orientation session will be offered to all interested applicants, and attendance at this session is mandatory. This is to ensure that all applicants have an opportunity to receive the same information regarding the NOFO and local competition and are able to ask questions and hear responses that ensures a fair opportunity to participate in the competition and submit an application.

Step 3 - Eligibility Threshold

Eligibility to apply will be based on each applicant's ability to complete and satisfactorily prove qualifications.

- Renewal Project Applicants are expected to meet all Renewal Threshold Criteria.

- New Project Applicants are expected to meet the Project Eligibility Threshold and Project Quality Threshold criteria:
  - The *Project Eligibility Threshold* consists of eligibility criteria scored on a pass/fail basis.
  - The *Project Quality Threshold* outlines quality requirements for new applications, with eligibility determined by the applicants' ability to meet a minimum number of standards for new project applications.

Only projects meeting the minimum threshold requirements will be reviewed and ranked. See Section III.C.4 of the 2024-2025 NOFO and the applicable Project Application RFP for the listing of the threshold criteria.

#### Step 4 – Project Application Ranking

All eligible projects – both new and renewal - will be reviewed and ranked together in order to strategically allocate resources to the projects that best match the HUD priorities, and to prioritize projects that have been successful in supporting and housing those who are homeless. (See Process for Reallocation.) In its review and ranking of project applications, and consistent with the 2024-2025 NOFO Section V.B.2, the CoC will:

1. Utilize a set of objective criteria; these will be published in the Scoring Matrices that are part of each Project Application RFP (both renewal and new) and will include the type of population served, the type of housing proposed and commitment to Housing First;
2. Use CoC Program required system performance measures. For housing project applicants, the CoC will consider project outcomes which clearly contribute to a reduction in homelessness, especially chronic homelessness;
3. Use comparable databases to evaluate domestic violence providers.

Performance will be analyzed with the use of data – CoC APR Reports (HMIS data) or comparable data for new projects and domestic violence projects – evidencing specific outcome areas. Applicants will also need to provide narrative and documentation on policies and practices when requested. Answers will be rated on a weighted scale.

The following ranking exceptions and considerations apply:

- HMIS: The Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and Coordinated Entry System (CES) are required projects for the CoC, and so receive top ranking, and granted the funding amount specified in the Grant Information Worksheet (GIW), as long as the project meets the preliminary threshold standards.
- DV Bonus: If a DV Bonus project ranked in either Tier 1 or Tier 2 is selected for funding with DV Bonus funds by HUD, the project will be removed from its respective Tier by HUD and the projects below it will move up one rank position. However, if a new DV Bonus project is not selected for funding with DV bonus funds by HUD, the project will retain its ranked position within either Tier 1 or Tier 2.
- CoC Planning Projects are not ranked and therefore not shown in either Tier 1 or Tier 2

Successful completion of the ranking portion of the Consolidated Application (the Priority Listing) requires that applicants demonstrate their project aligns with the HUD policies and that evaluation measures prove the success of the program in meeting HUD goals. Applicants will provide narrative and documentation to prove each criterion. After a comprehensive review by a neutral third party, points

will be awarded accordingly. Project applications will then be ranked according to each applicant's score and ordered from high to low score on a spreadsheet which identifies Tiers and funding levels as prescribed by HUD. Tier 1 and Tier 2 projects will be determined by which projects fall within the tiers according to their score and the funding requested as compared to funding available. The number of projects funded is contingent on the Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) allocation, any bonuses granted by HUD, and type of projects funded as the top applicants.

#### Step 5 – Council Approval

Project application ranking will be recommended to the CoC Council, illustrated in an order ranking across tiers (see attached Priority Ranking Spreadsheet). The CoC Council will discuss, amend and approve ranking by majority vote. Council members representing an agency with an application may participate in discussing the applications but will recuse themselves from voting. Below are the rules and parameters the CoC Council will use in its deliberations on the Priority Ranking Spreadsheet.

1. Housing Tools provides an overview of the review and ranking criteria and process.
2. *If there is an even number of CoC Councilmembers who are not Project Applicants*, the non-applicant members of the CoC Council designate, by majority, a Review and Ranking Chair to represent the group and cast an additional tie-breaking vote, if necessary.
3. Housing Tools presents the recommended Project Priority Listing. CoC Councilmembers and CoC Members may pose questions to Project Applicant representatives. Project Applicant representatives do not participate in this discussion unless they are requested to respond to specific questions by CoC Councilmembers or CoC Members.
4. Any CoC Councilmember whose agency has submitted an application recuses themselves from voting on the application ranking. These Councilmembers will stay on the premises in case the Council needs to reconvene for further questions.
5. Councilmembers may briefly discuss the applications among themselves or ask Housing Tools criteria or process questions, if necessary. There will be no further discussion or questions with CoC membership unless all Councilmembers are present.
6. The Council votes to approve or disapprove the recommended Project Priority Listing.
7. *In the event that the recommended Project Priority Listing is disapproved by a majority*, Housing Tools will facilitate a decision-making process to reorder the project rankings. Any ranking must be supported by a consistent and strong rationale that adheres to the CoC Program goals and NOFA policy priorities.
8. *In the event that consensus cannot be achieved* for any particular ranking, a vote will be recorded, with each CoC Councilmember casting one vote. *In the event of a tie*, the Review and Ranking Chair will cast an additional tie-breaking vote.
9. Housing Tools records the rankings, Tier 1 or Tier 2 designations, any reallocation, and summarizes these to the full CoC Council.
10. There will be no further discussion, questions, or comment regarding the Project Priority

Listing during the CoC Council Meeting after the vote is complete.

11. *In the case that there is no quorum for a vote*, Steps 1 through Step 6 will be followed. If the majority vote approves the Project Priority Listing, an online vote will take place within 24 hours of the meeting for all absentee non-applicant Councilmembers. If the majority vote disapproves the Project Priority Listing, Step 7 will take place, followed by an online vote for all non-applicant Councilmembers within 24 hours. Step 9 will occur through email announcement by Housing Tools to all CoC Membership, including Councilmembers and Project Applicants.

#### Step 6 - Notifications

All applicants will be notified of their rank order via email. Applications who do not pass threshold requirements, or whose application scores rank them below the level of available funding, will be provided an explanation of why the application was rejected. The Priority Ranking Spreadsheet will be posted on the CoC website for public review and emailed to the CoC memberships. Dated meeting minutes will be published for all meetings that pertain to the CoC's competition process and distributed to the full CoC membership.