

# Western PA Continuum of Care (CoC) FY2018 Request for Proposals DV Bonus for Rapid Re-Housing

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## **Preliminary Application due by Close of Business on August 17, 2018**

The Western PA CoC submits an annual application to HUD in order to secure federal funding for new and existing projects that work to reduce and end homelessness throughout the CoC's 20-county geographic area. This year, HUD has made an additional \$50M available nationally to specifically fund Domestic Violence projects, through a "DV Bonus".

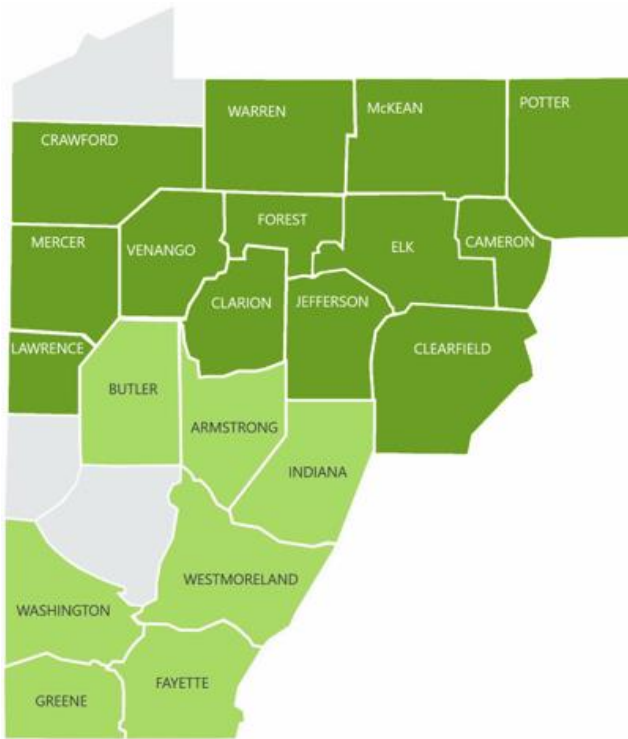
The CoC is eligible to apply for up to \$912,126 under the DV Bonus and will be issuing three RFPs to identify recipients and sub-recipients for projects to be included in the Western PA CoC's FY2018 Consolidated Application, due to HUD by September 18, 2018. In addition to this RFP for Rapid Re-Housing, the CoC will also make funding available to support the creation of one TH/RRH Joint Component and to provide operations funding for DV Access Centers.

Per the DV Bonus guidelines, the CoC is only eligible to apply for one DV Rapid Re-Housing (DV RRH) project. As such, the Western PA CoC has partnered with the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV), who will serve as the Project Applicant. Together, the CoC and PCADV are jointly soliciting applications, evaluating applications and selecting agencies interested in providing DV RRH assistance in their community. (More information about eligible activities and households will be within this RFP.)

Funding is not guaranteed to the organization(s) selected through this RFP. Funding will be made available by HUD based on the performance of the Western PA CoC in the 2018 Continuum of Care national competition. If the DV RRH project is awarded HUD funding, organizations selected under this RFP will enter into a contract with PCADV. The project will initially be awarded a 1-year grant, which will be eligible for annual renewal, dependent on the availability of funding from HUD and project performance.

**Please note: This RFP is limited to Victim Services Providers operating within the CoC's 20-county geographic area.**

- Victim Service Providers who lack experience providing rental assistance, conducting inspections to ensure units meet Housing Quality Standards and/or operating HUD CoC grants are encouraged to pursue local partnerships with organizations that provide housing and/or homeless assistance.
- Organizations that are not Victim Services Providers are encouraged to discuss this funding opportunity with the Victim Services Provider in their community to determine if a local partnership would enhance the competitiveness of the application and the RRH services to be provided through the grant.



**The Western PA CoC includes 20 counties located in two regions through two Regional Homeless Advisory Boards (RHABs):**

Northwest RHAB: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Forest, Elk, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren

Southwest RHAB: Armstrong, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, Westmoreland

- **In order to cover as much of the CoC’s geographic area as possible, applicants are encouraged to serve multiple counties.**
  - Additional points will be awarded to applicants that serve multiple counties.
  - A multi-county project may take many shapes, including partnerships with other Victim Service Providers and/or partnerships with homeless assistance or housing providers.

Where can I find more information about how to operate a regional project? The Western PA CoC has developed a frequently asked questions document, which provides input from a provider operating a regional rapid re-housing project. In addition, this provider can provide peer assistance to any new regional projects awarded funding. The FAQ document can be accessed at:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/jz5qiw2fswqxd4a/Regional%20Projects%20FAQ.docx?dl=0>

To indicate your interest in a new project, please submit a Preliminary Application by close of business on **August 17, 2018**.

- The application should be emailed to [westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org](mailto:westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org) and [housing@pcadv.org](mailto:housing@pcadv.org)
- Please use the e-mail subject line: DV Bonus RRH Application – **YOUR AGENCY NAME**

**Please review the information provided below regarding project type, eligible participants, eligible activities, expectations and requirements of the project recipient, and selection/scoring criteria to be used in the selection of new project applicants.**

Please note that technical assistance is available to ensure that the application process is accessible to all eligible applicants, including those who have not previously received CoC funding. Please submit questions to the CoC at [westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org](mailto:westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org) and/or to PCADV at [housing@pcadv.org](mailto:housing@pcadv.org)

**Who is eligible for assistance through the DV RRH project?** Project participants are limited to individuals, families and youth who meet category 4 of the [HUD Homeless Definition](#). Category 4 includes persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. This also includes persons who are fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking, including sex trafficking. Additional eligibility information can be found in the [FY2018 HUD CoC NOFA](#).

- The language from the FY 2018 HUD Appropriations Act also includes those who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as eligible to be served by projects funded through the DV Bonus.
- Persons in Transitional Housing are not eligible for RRH assistance through this grant.

**What is Rapid Re-Housing?** Rapid Re-Housing is a model of housing assistance that is designed to assist people to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Assistance is offered without preconditions (such as employment, income, lack of contact with an abusive partner or a PFA, absence of a criminal record or sobriety). Resources and services are provided and tailored to the unique needs of the household. The core components of Rapid Re-Housing include: housing identification, rental assistance and case management/services.

**Is Rapid Re-Housing for DV Survivors a model that is proven to be safe and successful?** Yes! If you are not familiar with this model, the National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH) has resources on their website that might be beneficial to you at <https://safehousingpartnerships.org/NOFA>

**What will the grant pay for?** The HUD grant can be used towards:

- Rental Assistance to assist a household pay their rent.
- Supportive Services Costs: Case management to assist households in obtaining and maintaining their housing. Where possible, applicants are encouraged to leverage existing services provided through your own organization and/or community partners to provide supportive services. In addition, connecting program participants to mainstream benefits is expected. Per 24 CFR § 578.53 Supportive services, eligible supportive service costs include:
  - Annual Assessment of Service Needs
  - Assistance with moving costs
  - Case management
  - Child care
  - Education services
  - Employment assistance and job training
  - Food
  - Housing search and counseling services
  - Legal services

- Life skills training
  - Mental health services
  - Outpatient health services
  - Outreach services
  - Substance abuse treatment services
  - Transportation
  - Utility deposits
  - Direct provision of services
- **HMIS:** While Victim Service Providers are not permitted to enter into HMIS, data must be entered into a HMIS comparable database. If your organization has not added the HMIS Program enhancements to your ETO site, this cost can be included under the HMIS Budget Line Item.
  - **Administrative Costs:** Eligible administrative costs are limited to: the general management, oversight and coordination of the grant; training on CoC requirements; and environmental review. Admin costs do not include staff and overhead costs directly related to carrying out eligible activities, as these are eligible under the corresponding Budget Line Items. Please review 24 CFR § 578.59 for more information about eligible administrative costs.
    - HUD allows up to 10 percent administrative costs. This percentage will be split between PCADV and the organizations selected through this RFP, as PCADV will maintain the responsibility of management, oversight and coordination of the grant.

**Are there match requirements?** The grantee must provide a 25% match – either cash or in-kind. In-kind match, for example, can be any of the eligible services listed above. Match commitments require an MOU and documentation.

**Are there any special considerations that I need to be aware of?**

- Housing First in a DV Context (or DV Housing First). All projects funded through the CoC are expected to operate in accordance with a Housing First approach, which includes:
  - Participants are not screened out based on the following:
    - Having too little or no income
    - Active or history of substance use
    - Having a criminal record with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions
    - History of domestic violence
  - Participants are not terminated from the program based on the following:
    - Failure to participate in supportive services
    - Failure to make progress on a service plan
    - Loss of income or failure to improve income
    - Being a victim of domestic violence
    - Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found in the project's geographic area
  - The National Alliance for Safe Housing has materials available on their website that

further explain Housing First in a DV context. Two specific examples include:

- Webinar recorded on June 27, 2018 - <https://youtu.be/kFB1TBYjj8g>
- Domestic Violence Housing First Toolkit - <https://safehousingpartnerships.org/node/344>

- All providers are expected to provide tailored services to each project participant, based on the survivor's individual needs, using a trauma-informed and victim-centered approach.
  - Trauma-informed: This includes approaches delivered with an understanding of the vulnerabilities and experiences of trauma survivors, including the prevalence and physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma. A trauma-informed approach recognizes signs of trauma in staff, clients, and others and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings. Trauma-informed approaches place priority on restoring the survivor's feelings of safety, choice, and control.
  - Victim-centered: Placing the crime victim's priorities, needs, and interests at the center of the work with the victim; providing nonjudgmental assistance, with an emphasis on client self-determination, where appropriate, and assisting victims in making informed choices; ensuring that restoring victims' feelings of safety and security are a priority and safeguarding against policies and practices that may inadvertently re-traumatize victims; ensuring that victims' rights, voices, and perspectives are incorporated when developing and implementing system- and community-based efforts that impact crime victims.
- All project participants enrolled must come from the CoC's Coordinated Entry Prioritized Waiting List.
  - To learn more about the Western PA CoC's Coordinated Entry System, visit <http://www.pennsylvaniacoc.org/westerncommittees/coordinated-entry/>
- Data entry into a HMIS comparable database, including adherence to the data quality and data timeliness expectations outlined within the HMIS User Agreement.
- Applicants in the Southwest region will be expected to participate in Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB) meetings. Applicants in the Northwest region will be expected to participate in NW provider meetings. In addition, all applicants must be or must become a member of the Western PA CoC, attend semi-annual meetings of the full CoC, and attend trainings provided through the CoC.
- As the project applicant, PCADV will need the assistance of the organizations selected through this RFP in order to successfully implement the grant in accordance with HUD requirements. This includes PCADV's requirements to:
  - Submit a timely Annual Progress Report (APR)
  - Draw down funds at least quarterly
  - Expend all grant funds within each 12-month grant period

**How will projects be selected for submission to HUD?** All Preliminary Applications will be reviewed by the Western PA CoC Funding Committee and PCADV based on the following criteria. Those that are selected for submission will be notified no later than August 31, 2018. PCADV may need to follow-up with organizations selected in order to obtain additional information needed to complete the HUD application.

- **Threshold:** to be considered, applicants must:
  - Use a Housing First approach
  - Provide program participants with assistance to access Mainstream Benefits
  - Have experience working with the population to be served
  - A minimum of monthly case management meetings are required as part of the Rapid Re-Housing program. This can be facilitated through mobile advocacy where the advocate or counselor meets with the survivor, in person, at an agreed upon interval and location that works for both the survivor and the grantee.
  - Participate in the Western PA CoC Coordinated Entry System
  - Once finalized, follow the CoC's written standards for providing assistance
  - Enter data into HMIS comparable database
  - Participate in the RHAB/CoC
  - Ensure that service delivery is client-centered and culturally competent
  - Must be in good standing with CoC and PCADV, with no outstanding monitoring findings or debts.
  
- **Selection Criteria:** Projects will be scored based on several factors, including the below listed criteria:
  - Demonstration of need, through both data and narrative.
  - Geographic area: Preference given to regional and/or multi-county projects
  - Capacity of the applicant to implement a regional project, either directly or through partnerships with other organizations throughout the region.
  - Experience with DV Housing First.
  - Approach for providing supportive services, both through the proposed CoC-funded project and leveraged services from community providers
  - Ability to provide trauma-informed, victim centered services
  - Experience providing client-centered and culturally competent services.
  - Ability to leverage services.
  - Experience providing community-based housing/homeless assistance, either directly or with the assistance of a community partner, including the ability to provide housing search and location services
  - Strategic partnership with community providers.
  - Organizational capacity to ensure successful program operation. This includes new organizations not currently receiving CoC-funding, as well as organizations already receiving funds.
  - For current CoC grantees, considerations will include meeting HUD's grant management requirements, implementation of HUD policy priorities such as housing first, as well as performance outcomes of current/previous grants

- Additional consideration will be given to agencies that have not previously received CoC funding
- Cost effectiveness of approach, as compared to similar projects within the geographic area

**What is my project budget?** The CoC is eligible to apply for up to \$912,126, however, will only apply for the amount of funding needed, based on data presented. While a budget is requested in the Preliminary Application, if your project is selected, PCADV, in partnership with the CoC's Funding Committee and Governing Board, reserve the right to approve an amount other than what was requested.

**If I have questions about this who should I contact?** Please contact Maria Williams at PCADV by email at [housing@pcadv.org](mailto:housing@pcadv.org) or the Western PA CoC's Consultant (DMA) at [westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org](mailto:westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org).