# Before Starting the CoC  Application

The CoC Consolidated Application consists of three parts, the CoC Application, the CoC Priority Listing, and all the CoC's project applications that were either approved and ranked, or rejected. All three must be submitted for the CoC Consolidated Application to be considered complete.

The Collaborative Applicant is responsible  for reviewing the following:

1. The FY 2018 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachment are provided.
6. Questions marked with an asterisk (*), which are mandatory and require a response.

# 1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

**Instructions:**

For guidance on completing this application, please reference the   FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the  FY 2018 CoC Program Competition  NOFA.   Please submit technical questions to the   HUD Exchange Ask A Question.

**1A-1. CoC Name and Number:**  PA-601 - Western Pennsylvania CoC

**1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name:**  Commonwealth of PA Department of Community and Economic Development

**1A-3. CoC Designation:**  CA

**1A-4. HMIS Lead:**  Commonwealth of PA Department of Comm & Econ Dev

# 1B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Engagement

**Instructions:**

For guidance on completing this application, please reference the FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the FY 2018 CoC Program Competition NOFA. Please submit technical questions to the HUD Exchange Ask A Question.

**1B-1. CoC Meeting Participants. For the period from May 1, 2017 to April 30, 2018, using the list below, applicant must: (1) select organizations and persons that participate in CoC meetings; and (2) indicate whether the organizations and persons vote, including selecting CoC Board members.**

| Organization/Person Categories | Participates in CoC Meetings | Votes, including selecting CoC Board Members |
|---|---|---|
| **Local Government Staff/Officials** | Yes | Yes |
| **CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction** | Yes | Yes |
| **Law Enforcement** | Yes | Yes |
| **Local Jail(s)** | Yes | No |
| **Hospital(s)** | Yes | Yes |
| **EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)** | Yes | Yes |
| **Mental Health Service Organizations** | Yes | Yes |
| **Substance Abuse Service Organizations** | Yes | Yes |
| **Affordable Housing Developer(s)** | Yes | Yes |
| **Disability Service Organizations** | Yes | Yes |
| **Disability Advocates** | Yes | Yes |
| **Public Housing Authorities** | Yes | Yes |
| **CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations** | Yes | Yes |
| **Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations** | Yes | Yes |
| **Youth Advocates** | Yes | Yes |
| **School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons** | Yes | Yes |
| **CoC Funded Victim Service Providers** | Yes | Yes |
| **Non-CoC Funded Victim Service Providers** | Yes | Yes |
| **Domestic Violence Advocates** | Yes | Yes |
| **Street Outreach Team(s)** | Yes | Yes |
| **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Advocates** | Yes | Yes |
| **LGBT Service Organizations** | Not Applicable | No |
| **Agencies that serve survivors of human trafficking** | Yes | Yes |
| **Other homeless subpopulation advocates** | Yes | Yes |
| **Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons** | Yes | Yes |
| **Mental Illness Advocates** | Yes | Yes |
| **Substance Abuse Advocates** | Yes | Yes |

| Other:(limit 50 characters) | | |
|---|---|---|
| Federal and State Government Staff | Yes | Yes |
| Veterans Serving Organizations | Yes | Yes |
| Faith Based Organizations | Yes | Yes |

**1B-1a. Applicants must describe the specific strategy the CoC uses to solicit and consider opinions from organizations and/or persons that have an interest in preventing or ending homelessness.
(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) The CoC's membership includes a broad array of organizations and individuals who are committed to preventing and ending homelessness throughout the Western PA CoC. Board membership includes ESG/CoC-funded providers, PHAs, affordable housing developer, VAMC, Corrections, representative of DV & human trafficking org, Homeless Liaison, mental illness advocates, local/state government officials and more. This diversity is also represented within the CoC's membership.

The CoC's 20 counties are divided into two regions - Northwest & Southwest. Regional meetings provide the CoC with additional opportunities to solicit/consider input & opinions from additional members & stakeholders. In addition the CoC Committees provide leadership with input for improving services for specific subpops.

2) Information about semi-annual CoC meetings, CoC training, or other opportunities are advertised throughout the CoC via email, Workplace by Facebook and the CoC's website. Agendas are provided in advance of the meetings and meeting minutes are provided on the CoC website. In addition, CoC updates are provided during county-level housing/homeless meetings.

3) The Spring membership meeting (April 2018) included a review of upcoming funding opportunities (e.g. ESG, CoC, state housing trust fund, new homeless funding opportunity funded jointly by Federal Home Loan Bank-Pittsburgh & the PA Housing Finance Agency). Representatives were also present to solicit input on the State's Consolidated Plan. During this meeting ideas were generated to improve system performance, strengthen CoC operations, address unmet needs & set priorities. These types of opportunities help to ensure decision makers have an understanding of the diverse range of needs throughout the CoC.

**1B-2.Open Invitation for New Members.  Applicants must describe:
 (1) the invitation process;
 (2) how the CoC communicates the invitation process to solicit new members;
(3) how often the CoC solicits new members; and
(4) any special outreach the CoC conducted to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join the CoC.
(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) The CoC has an open invitation to join at any time. The CoC does a membership push prior to Fall meeting of the full CoC. Information about membership is available on the CoC website and included on CoC emails. To become a member, individuals complete a survey on the CoC's website or complete a paper membership form, which are made available during CoC meetings.

2) Due to the CoC's large and rural geography, CoC membership can be established through county, regional or CoC-wide participation. CoC staff attend county-level housing/homeless meetings each month in order to share CoC updates/info, as well as soliciting new CoC & Committee members.

3) New members are solicited annually prior to the Fall CoC meeting. In addition, new members are solicited throughout the year to advance CoC initiatives. For example, in order to strengthen and expand the CoC's Youth Committee, members contacted organizations providing specific types of youth services to encourage Committee/CoC membership.

4) The CoC's Board includes two individuals who were formerly homeless. The CoC's membership base includes persons who were currently/formerly homeless. Over the last year, the Youth Committee has worked to create a Youth Advisory Board through the creation of a YAB job description. The Committee is currently seeking donations in order to provide stipends and hopes to launch the YAB this Fall.

**1B-3.Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded.  Applicants must describe how the CoC notified the public that it will accept and consider proposals from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding, even if the CoC is not applying for new projects in FY 2018, and the response must include the date(s) the CoC publicly announced it was open to proposals.
(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) The CoC issued four RFPs for the FY2018 CoC Competition. Each RFP was posted on the CoC's website, announced on the CoC's Workplace by Facebook page, sent via email to all members/stakeholders & forwarded to local housing/homeless coalitions. The state's DV Coalition forwarded RFPs to their membership.

The RFP included the language, "Additional consideration will be given to agencies that have not previously received CoC funding". Technical Assistance was made available to new applicants to ensure they had the opportunity to access support in order to submit a competitive application for eligible activities & eligible households.

2) The review/selection of New project applications was implemented by the Funding Committee & overseen by the Governing Board. Funding Committee members reviewed all new project applications using a standardized scoring tool. The scoring tool includes an evaluation of organizational outcomes. If an applicant is not CoC-funded, other data is pulled from HMIS (e.g. ESG, SSVF, etc) to score the application. New project applicants are recommended by the Funding Committee to the Governing Board for final approval.

3) The CoC announced the availability of reallocation/bonus funding on August 2, with applications due August 14. On August 15th the CoC released a second RFP, due on August 20, because additional reallocation/bonus funding was available.

On August 9 the CoC released two DV Bonus RFPs, due August 20. DV Bonus RFPs were for (1) CoC-wide RRH subrecipients (PCADV is the applicant), and (2) TH/RRH Joint Component for DV.

4) The CoC accepts proposals from organizations that have not previously received CoC funding. The FY2018 Consolidated Application includes applications (under the Bonus) from two organizations not currently receiving CoC funding. In addition, 2 DV organizations not currently receiving CoC funding were selected as sub-recipients under the DV RRH project.

# 1C. Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordination

**Instructions:**

For guidance on completing this application, please reference the  FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the  FY 2018 CoC Program Competition  NOFA.   Please submit technical questions to the   HUD Exchange Ask A Question.

**1C-1. CoCs Coordination, Planning, and Operation of Projects.  Applicants must use the chart below to identify the federal, state, local, private, and other organizations that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness that are included in the CoCs coordination, planning, and operation of projects.**

| Entities or Organizations the CoC coordinates planning and operation of projects | Coordinates with Planning and Operation of Projects |
|---|---|
| **Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)** | Yes |
| **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** | Yes |
| **Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)** | Not Applicable |
| **Head Start Program** | Yes |
| **Funding Collaboratives** | Not Applicable |
| **Private Foundations** | Yes |
| **Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Funded Housing and Service Programs** | Yes |
| **Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Funded Housing and Service Programs** | Yes |
| **Housing and service programs funded through other Federal resources** | Yes |
| **Housing and services programs funded through State Government** | Yes |
| **Housing and services programs funded through Local Government** | Yes |
| **Housing and service programs funded through private entities, including foundations** | Yes |
| **Other:(limit 50 characters)** | |
| Local/State Housing Trust Fund | Yes |
| Federal Home Loan Bank | Yes |

**1C-2. CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.  Applicants must describe how the CoC:**
**(1) consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG funds; and**
**(2) participated in the evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) DCED is the State ESG Recipient, serves as the CoC's Collaborative Applicant and holds a seat on the CoC Board. During the most recent meeting of the full CoC on 4-25-18, DCED engaged the CoC membership to provide input for the next Con Plan, including the identification of community needs &

priorities for CDBG, HOME, ESG, HTF & HOPWA. As the Coll App & HMIS Lead, DCED has access to all data needed for the Con Plan.

Input received from the CoC membership was used to assess/revise the ESG application to better align with the CoC established priorities. The input included how best to incorporate a Housing First model, evaluation of projects, coordination of systems, and the prioritization of ESG eligible activities- Street Outreach, Housing Locator services & Rapid Rehousing.

This year, DCED participated in an ad-hoc committee to develop the CoC's written standards for RRH & all other ESG-funded services, which will be adopted by ESG grantees once finalized.

Washington & Westmoreland counties are the CoC's other ESG recipients. Washington Co's Housing/Homeless Services Coord is responsible for local ESG/CoC coordination & is a member of the CoC Board. The CoC provides county-level HIC & PIT data to Washington & Westmoreland for their Con Plans. Con Plan meetings are attended by CoC providers in these counties.

2) DCED & the CoC Board developed an evaluation checklist for ESG applicants that apply for competitive funding within the CoC's jurisdiction. Board members complete the checklist, which reviews & evaluates each applicant's performance & participation in the CoC. The checklist generates a score that is incorporated in the applicant's overall score & ranking.  DCED also uses performance data generated from HMIS in the evaluation of projects.

In 2017, the CoC finalized a new monitoring plan, which includes performance goals for ESG/CoC projects & a process for quarterly evaluation. This plan is to be implemented through the CoC's Data Committee.

**1C-2a. Providing PIT and HIC Data to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions.  Did the CoC provide Point-in-Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area?**     Yes to both

**1C-2b. Providing Other Data to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions.  Did the CoC provide local homelessness information other than PIT and HIC data to the jurisdiction(s) Consolidated Plan(s)?**     Yes

**1C-3.  Addressing the Safety Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.  Applicants must describe:**
**(1) the CoC's protocols, including the existence of the CoC's emergency transfer plan, that prioritizes safety and trauma-informed, victim-centered services to prioritize safety; and**
**(2) how the CoC maximizes client choice for housing and services while**

**ensuring safety and confidentiality.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) The Collaborative Applicant has adopted an emergency transfer plan, which covers CoC, ESG & HOME funding. If a household living in a scattered site TBRA unit requests an emergency transfer, the provider is required to act as quickly as possible to assist the household to move to another unit. If the household does not receive TBRA, the provider is instructed to transfer the household to another unit. If this is not possible within the provider's inventory of resources, or if the household needs to relocate to another community for safety reasons, the case manager is to contact Coordinated Entry (CE) to request an emergency transfer. The Coordinated Entry Liaison will work with the Survivor to identify an open unit within the CoC's 20-county jurisdiction. This transfer will consider client choice & the survivor's safety needs. As needed, DV Assessment Centers will be engaged to ensure Survivors are provided trauma-informed, victim-centered services.

2) The ExDir of a DV org was the architect of CoC's CE process. As such, the system was designed to ensure safe, client-centered, confidential services were available throughout the CoC. Client choice is maximized through connections to a range of housing/services. Individuals fleeing have access to all CoC/ESG-funded projects for which they are eligible. In addition, resources are available through county/state/fed funded programs including HHS and DOJ. The CE system will work quickly to relocate individuals/households, as requested by the Survivor. The CE Liaison & DV partner will follow all confidentiality requirements outlined within the CE Policies & Procedures manual.

**1C-3a. Applicants must describe how the CoC coordinates with victim services providers to provide annual training to CoC area projects and Coordinated Entry staff that addresses best practices in serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) In partnership with the PA Coalition on Domestic Violence (PCADV), the CoC provided training to all CoC members and stakeholders on 9/12/18. The training was required for all ESG/CoC-funded organizations. This training, to be provided annually, was designed for non-DV providers and included best practices for serving DV survivors, including safety and planning protocols. In addition, PCADV is implementing a Housing First Domestic Violence housing system, which expands/complements best practices in use by all providers within the CoC.

2) Coordinated Entry is operated through a "General" and "Domestic Violence" Assessment Center in each county. These Assessment Centers work in a coordinated fashion to maximize housing choice and confidentiality. in partnership with DV organizations, including a DV Assessment Center in each county. Through the existing protocols and policies & procedures, CE staff & DV providers work together to provide confidential trauma-informed victim-centered services. CE staff also participated in the above referenced trainings. In addition, ongoing training is provided around CE protocols for DV. The CoC Coordinated Entry operations are directed through the planning and policy making of the Coordinated Entry Committee, which is several staff operating DV Assessment Centers, as well as a representative from PCADV. In addition, the CoC Governing Board includes representation from a Victim Services Provider,

who ensures that the CoC's policies, procedures and operations are planned and implemented in consideration of the safety of DV survivors.

**1C-3b. Applicants must describe the data the CoC uses to assess the scope of community needs related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, including data from a comparable database. (limit 2,000 characters)**

In 2018, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) prioritized partnership with the CoC. As a statewide, member-based organization, PCADV acts as the funding conduit for most federal and state funds for member DV organizations. The majority of this funding supports emergency shelter facility and service provision, and general infrastructure of member agencies. Data from each funded agency is entered into the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) extension, especially designed and designated for de-identified data from Victim Service Providers (VSPs). The participation of VSPs in this data collection has led to many staff from those agencies participating in the CoC at the leadership level, ensuring that de-identified data from VSPs is included in the CoC planning process.

There is significant need for the CoC to develop a data driven system that shows both permanent housing outcomes for survivors, and ongoing need for creation and implementation of permanent housing interventions for survivors, with incorporation of the Domestic Violence Housing First philosophy and service tenants of survivor driven, trauma informed advocacy, community engagement, and flexible housing options (such as RRH and Joint Component) that lead to permanent housing acquisition and retention. The partnership between the CoC and PCADV will focus on funding and service development for permanent housing for survivors. While RRH interventions are funded for a few VSPs in the CoC, the scope of these projects is not significant enough to show need for the entire CoC. The proposed DV Bonus projects, in combination with previously funded and tiered VSP programs, along with PCADV's capacity building ability for DV programs across the CoC, will allow for implementation of a data driven system that demonstrates the ongoing need for VSP data to be included in scoping for community needs.

**1C-4. DV Bonus Projects. Is your CoC applying for DV Bonus Projects?**  Yes

**1C-4a. From the list, applicants must indicate the type(s) of DV Bonus project(s) that project applicants are applying for which the CoC is including in its Priority Listing.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **SSO Coordinated Entry** | X |
| **RRH** | X |
| **Joint TH/RRH** | X |

**1C-4b. Applicants must describe:**

**(1) how many domestic violence survivors the CoC is currently serving in the CoC's geographic area;**
**(2) the data source the CoC used for the calculations; and**
**(3) how the CoC collected the data.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) During the month of July 2018, 371 adults & children were served in DV shelters for a total of 3,186 shelter nights. In addition, 46 survivors were served in DV TH projects and 80 survivors were served in DV PSH projects.

During the same time period (July 2018), 422 DV survivors were served through homeless assistance programs, including 163 (41%) who were actively fleeing DV. This includes participation in homeless prevention programs, SSO projects, emergency shelter, transitional housing, RRH, PSH. 102 DV survivors assessed through Coordinated Entry, of whom 50 were fleeing DV.

From January – August, 380 survivor households were assessed through Coordinated Entry and added to the CE Prioritization List. As of August 31, there were 138 households remaining on the list waiting for assistance.

In addition, the CoC's 2018 Housing Inventory Chart provides details for the CoC's DV dedicated resources: 18 DV shelters w/ 219 beds; 5 DV TH projects w/ 56 beds; 2 DV PSH projects w/ 85 beds.

2) The sources of the data reported above include:
- HMIS provided the number of DV survivors and actively fleeing DV for persons in non-DV specific homeless assistance programs
- Coordinated Entry Prioritized Waiting List was the source of people waiting for assistance
- ETO, the software system utilized by DV providers, was the data source for # in DV shelters.

3) Data for individuals in homeless assistance programs was collected and entered into HMIS upon program entry. Data pulled from the CE Prioritized Waiting List was collected through an assessment conducted at one of the CoC's General or DV Assessment Centers. The number of people in DV shelters was provided directly from DV providers and from the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

**1C-4c.  Applicants must describe:**
**(1) how many domestic violence survivors need housing or services in the CoC's geographic area;**
**(2) data source the CoC used for the calculations; and**
**(3) how the CoC collected the data.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) Based on available data, there are 567 DV survivor households each year who need access to permanent housing resources and/or housing stabilization services in order to end their homelessness. This number does not include the number of DV survivors that may need temporary shelter and/or DV counseling services.

2) The Western PA CoC's Coordinated Entry Prioritization List is the source of the above reported data. The CE Prioritization List shows that in the first eight

months of 2018 there were 380 households that disclosed they were actively fleeing and/or were a DV survivor, opting to keep their data anonymous. Assuming a consistent need over time, the annual demand would be 567 households.

The actual need may be significantly higher. While the majority of shelters are referring households to Coordinated Entry, there are private shelters (e.g. mom & pop shelters, faith-based, and other shelters that are not consistently referring households to CE. Some of these shelters are not on HMIS and we do not know the number of people they are serving each year, nor the number of DV survivors they are serving. As such, once all shelters are consistently referring all households, the annual need may increase beyond 567 households.

3) This data was collected through the General and Domestic Violence Assessment Centers who assess households to determine need and eligibility for homeless assistance resources, as identified through the CE assessment tool.

**1C-4d.  Based on questions 1C-4b. and 1C-4c., applicant must:**
**(1) describe the unmet need for housing and services for DV survivors, or if the CoC is applying for an SSO-CE project, describe how the current Coordinated Entry is inadequate to address the needs of DV survivors;**
**(2) quantify the unmet need for housing and services for DV survivors;**
**(3) describe the data source the CoC used to quantify the unmet need for housing and services for DV survivors; and**
**(4) describe how the CoC determined the unmet need for housing and services for DV survivors.**
**(limit 3,000 characters)**

1) UNMET NEED: The CoC assessed 380 DV survivor households that were added to the CE Prioritization List between January & August, for an annual # of 567 survivor HHs. Of these 567, it is estimated that an 36% of HHs will be on the CE priority list waiting for a housing resource; 37% will be "closed" due to a lack of contact or follow-up with the CE or housing offers, ineligibility, or similar reason; and 27% will be placed into a PH program.

The overwhelming majority of survivors placed into PH programs are being served by non-DV orgs. ESG/CoC-funded orgs have received training regarding DV best practices, trauma-informed care & understand the need for ensuring the confidentiality of client records. However, very few ESG/CoC-funded orgs have the internal capacity/expertise to fully address the full service needs & trauma history of survivors. For this reason, non-DV providers partner with Victim Service Programs (VSPs) to provide these services. However, as survivors are working to rebuild their lives, secure earned income & strive towards housing stability, their ability to receive housing-focused case mngmt services & participate in additional services through VSPs becomes difficult. Creating CoC-funded projects to provide integrated services that address historical trauma, safety planning & housing stability services is essential for the long-term success of DV survivor HHs.

NEED FOR SSO-CE: DV Bonus funds are being requested for CE in order to support DV Assmt Centers. DV Assmt Centers are not paid through any funding source for the work they are performing, which includes: assessment; referrals;

maintaining contact with HHs placed on CE priority list; connecting HHs with non-DV orgs once a housing resource has been IDed; and marketing CE in their community. Through this funding, DV Assmt Centers will have the ability to allocate additional staff time to CE. It is a priority of the CoC to ensure HHs closed in CE are only closed if they are ineligible or have self-resolved. 37% of the records for DV HHs assessed between January – August 2018 have been closed, prior to receiving assistance. With additional capacity, DV Assmt Centers can: begin to document the eligibility of HHs that qualify under Category 4; maintain contact w/ survivors to continuously provide safety planning & potentially ID other housing resources while on the CE priority list.

2) There is an annual unmet need of at least 204 housing opportunities for DV survivor HHs.

3) The CE priority list, including data on active & closed HHs provided the data to determine the unmet need.

4) Based on the projected # of DV survivor HHs to be assessed through CE & determined to be eligible/ in need of homeless assistance resources, 204 additional housing opportunities would address 36% of the total need (567), which represents the average # of survivor HHs waiting on the CE priority list each month.

**1C-4e.  Applicants must describe how the DV Bonus project(s) being applied for will address the unmet needs of domestic violence survivors. (limit 2,000 characters)**

According to the Nat Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, DV is a leading cause of homelessness nationally; 1 in 4 women experiencing homelessness is homeless due to DV. Given the increased cost of hsg, low affordable hsg stock & DV shelters often at capacity, other responses to this crisis are necessary. No survivor should have to choose between homelessness & staying in an abusive home. Flexible interventions, like those allowed through the DV Bonus, will make those responses possible.

The Western PA CoC seeks to follow the mission of the National Alliance for Safe Housing (NASH) to create a culture where safe housing is a right shared by everyone, which requires improved access, increased resources & innovative solutions for survivors. In 2017, NASH completed the Safe Hsg Needs Assmt, which included 2 findings key to the posed question:
1-Provide additional resources to adequately meet survivors' needs for safe housing through victim-specific housing programs, particularly for ES, TH & RRH. Funding should be provided & increased from traditional sources (including HUD, OVW, OVC) & be made available through additional, new resources.
2-Partnerships between DV/SA programs & their local/regional CoCs are essential to ensuring that HUD-funded programs & processes designed to individuals & families are equipped to address survivors needs as well.

Each year, hundreds of request for DV shelter go unmet due to lack of capacity. While confidentiality of location is often sought after by survivors, the need for safe PH is far more integral to a survivor's autonomy & dignity. The DV Bonus allows the CoC to directly respond to this need by increasing the amount & type

of DV housing options available. Paired, with on-going partnership between PCADV, local VSPs & the CoC, the additional resources of flexible, interventions (RRH & TH-RRH) & systems responses (CE) allow for a considerable increase in capacity to meet the unique needs of survivors within the CoC.


**1C-4f. Applicants must address the capacity of each project applicant applying for DV bonus projects to implement a DV Bonus project by describing:**
**(1) rate of housing placement of DV survivors;**
**(2) rate of housing retention of DV survivors;**
**(3) improvements in safety of DV survivors; and**
**(4) how the project applicant addresses multiple barriers faced by DV survivors.**
**(limit 4,000 characters)**

Founded in 1976, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) is the oldest statewide domestic violence coalition in the nation. Each year, a network of 59 community-based programs provide free and confidential services to nearly 90,000 survivors of domestic violence and their children in all 67 counties of the commonwealth. The local programs and Coalition form interconnecting links in a chain of services and support to help survivors and survivors find safety, obtain justice, and build lives free of abuse.

PCADV administers the statewide contract for domestic violence services, directing more than $22 million from the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) and other federal funding sources to community-based programs each year.  Through its administration of the contract for domestic violence services in Pennsylvania, PCADV annually executes subcontracts for statewide delivery of services, monitors subcontractor performance, manages funds from DHS to subcontractors, coordinates the development of new programs in underserved areas of the state, and provides technical assistance and program development training on a wide variety of issues relevant to service delivery and the safety of survivors.  PCADV develops and implements statewide program standards, and initiates and manages planned growth and expansion of services.

The sub-recipients for this project are 3 community-based member programs of PCADV.  All organizations have experience in providing emergency shelter services to survivors and have contracted with PCADV to provide these services.  All organizations also have experience using flexible funds administered by PCADV to assist survivors in relocating to safe, stable housing. Both AWARE and Blackburn Center have experience utilizing HUD funds, formerly, through transitional housing.  The majority of organizations have experience utilizing ESG funds for emergency housing or rental assistance. For example, AWARE used ESG funding to expand bed space at the Greenville facility and to support operating costs of three regional housing programs.

NOTE: THE RESPONSE FOR THIS QUESTION IS STILL BE FINALIZED.

## 1C-5. PHAs within CoC.  Applicants must use the chart to provide information about each Public Housing Agency (PHA) in the CoC's geographic areas:
## (1) Identify the percentage of new admissions to the Public Housing or Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Programs in the PHA who were experiencing homelessness at the time of admission;
## (2) Indicate whether the PHA has a homeless admission preference in its Public Housing and/or HCV Program; and
## (3) Indicate whether the CoC has a move on strategy.  The information should be for Federal Fiscal Year 2017.

| Public Housing Agency Name | % New Admissions into Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program during FY 2017 who were experiencing homelessness at entry | PHA has General or Limited Homeless Preference | PHA has a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g. move on? |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lawrence County Housing Authority | 49.00% | Yes-Both | No |
| Mercer County Housing Authority | 35.00% | Yes-Both | No |
| Westmoreland County Housing Authority | 33.00% | Yes-HCV | No |
| McKean County Housing Authority | 16.00% | Yes-HCV | No |
| Housing Authority of Indiana County | 9.00% | No | No |

## If you select "Yes--Public Housing," "Yes--HCV," or "Yes--Both" for "PHA has general or limited homeless preference," you must attach documentation of the preference from the PHA in order to receive credit.

## 1C-5a. For each PHA where there is not a homeless admission preference in their written policy, applicants must identify the steps the CoC has taken to encourage the PHA to adopt such a policy.
## (limit 2,000 characters)

The CoC has positive relationships with many of the 23 PHAs in geographic area. In addition to the data presented above, the 5% of the Butler PHA's admissions were VASH voucher holders. Several PHAs throughout the CoC have preferences that benefit households served within the Co. This includes veterans, households fleeing domestic violence, displaced households, and veterans.

Many PHAs are members of the CoC and coordinate with the CoC in several ways. This includes: coordination/implementation of special purpose vouchers; recent Mainstream & FUP applications; VASH vouchers (Butler PHA, Indiana PHA & Lawrence PHA); CoC-funding (currently Dubois PHA & McKean PHA; previously Mercer PHA & Butler PHA).

One of the two Co-Chairs of the Governing Board is employed by the McKean County Housing Authority. Another Governing Board member also serves as a member of the Lawrence County Housing Authority's Board.

The CoC is working to encourage additional preferences. Much of this work is conducted on the county-level through county housing/homeless coalitions where PHA staff often attend and/or partner with coalition members on various local initiatives.

The CoC's 5-year strategic plan includes specific strategies around partnerships

with PHAs, including adoption of preferences and creating a CoC move-on strategy.

**1C-5b.  Move On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers.  Does the CoC have a Move On strategy with affordable housing providers in its jurisdiction (e.g., multifamily assisted housing owners, PHAs, Low Income Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments, or local low-income housing programs)?**

No

**1C-6. Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT).  Applicants must describe the actions the CoC has taken to address the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender individuals and their families experiencing homelessness.
(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) The CoC has implemented a CoC-wide "Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Fair Housing Policy" and "Fair and Equal Access Policy". These policies are included in the Coordinated Entry Policies & Procedures Manual and are applicable to all providers participating in the CoC, regardless of funding sources.

2+3) The CoC provided training on 9/19/17 regarding the requirements and expectations of CoC providers for implementing HUD's Equal Access Rule & Gender Identify rule. The next training is scheduled for October 2018.

In addition, attorneys from Southwestern PA Legal Services are an active in the Coordinated Entry Committee and as a CE referral partner, working to resolve claims of reported discrimination. SWPA Legal Services has also provided local training throughout the CoC and they have raised concerns when appropriate about discrimination or equal access concerns.

As part of the CoC's 18/19 Training schedule, Valley Youth House (from the Eastern PA CoC) will be providing quarterly youth training, which includes a focus on educating non-youth specific providers on best practices for serving youth, including LGBT youth.

**1C-6a.  Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training.  Applicants must indicate if the CoC implemented a CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy and conducted CoC-wide anti-discrimination training on the Equal Access Final Rule and the Gender Identity Final Rule.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **1. Did the CoC implement a CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy that applies to all projects regardless of funding source?** | Yes |
| **2. Did the CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access Final Rule)?** | Yes |
| **3. Did the CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs in Accordance with an Individual's Gender Identity (Gender Identity Final Rule)?** | Yes |

### 1C-7. Criminalization of Homelessness. Applicants must select the specific strategies the CoC implemented to prevent the criminalization of homelessness in the CoC's geographic area. Select all that apply.

| | |
|---|:---:|
| **Engaged/educated local policymakers:** | X |
| **Engaged/educated law enforcement:** | X |
| **Engaged/educated local business leaders:** | X |
| **Implemented communitywide plans:** | X |
| **No strategies have been implemented:** | ☐ |
| **Other:(limit 50 characters)** | |
| | ☐ |
| | ☐ |
| | ☐ |

### 1C-8. Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System. Applicants must:
 (1) demonstrate the coordinated entry system covers the entire CoC geographic area;
(2) demonstrate the coordinated entry system reaches people who are least likely to apply homelessness assistance in the absence of special outreach;
 (3) demonstrate the assessment process prioritizes people most in need of assistance and ensures they receive assistance in a timely manner; and
(4) attach CoC's standard assessment tool.
(limit 2,000 characters)

1) In accordance with HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Interim Rule, the Western PA CoC has designed its Coordinated Entry System (CES) to cover and serve the 20 Counties claimed by the CoC. Each county has a Coordinated Entry Center (also known as the General Assessment Center - GAC). The center's primary role is to direct all households needing homeless assistance to the appropriate provider, by making connections to the most appropriate intervention, while also maintaining client choice. In addition, households fleeing DV, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking and/or human trafficking are directed to separate entry points (Domestic Violence Assessment Center - DVAC) for completion of the CoC's coordinated assessment and placement on the Housing Prioritization List. Auxiliary Agencies, which include PHAs, CAP agencies, BH providers, etc. also provide connections to CES.

2) The CoC's street outreach providers are an extension of the CES and ensure that individuals who are service-resistant and/or do now know how/where to

access homeless assistance are engaged and connected to resources.

The CES uses Language Line, which provides telephone-based translation services for over 100 languages.

CES Marketing materials are available in Spanish & English.

3) All referrals to housing interventions must happen immediately after the completion of the Coordinated Entry Assessment Tool. Referrals to emergency shelters are provided 24/7 when needed. Eligible individuals & families are assigned a score and added to the CoC's prioritization list. Referrals are automatically created when a consumer is placed on the Housing Prioritization list. All ESG/CoC-funded providers are required to fill all openings through the prioritization list. Resources through other funding sources also pull HHs from the CES list.

Additional efforts include adding Low Income Tax Credit Units and other affordable housing units into the CES referral process.

# 1D. Continuum of Care (CoC) Discharge Planning

**Instructions:**

For guidance on completing this application, please reference the FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the FY 2018 CoC Program Competition NOFA. Please submit technical questions to the HUD Exchange Ask A Question.

**1D-1. Discharge Planning–State and Local. Applicants must indicate whether the CoC has a discharge policy to ensure persons discharged from the systems of care listed are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs. Check all that apply (note that when "None:" is selected no other system of care should be selected).**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Foster Care:** | X |
| **Health Care:** | X |
| **Mental Health Care:** | X |
| **Correctional Facilities:** | X |
| **None:** | |

**1D-2. Discharge Planning Coordination. Applicants must indicate whether the CoC actively coordinates with the systems of care listed to ensure persons who have resided in them longer than 90 days are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs. Check all that apply (note that when "None:" is selected no other system of care should be selected).**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Foster Care:** | X |
| **Health Care:** | X |
| **Mental Health Care:** | X |
| **Correctional Facilities:** | X |
| **None:** | |

# 1E. Continuum of Care (CoC) Project Review, Ranking, and Selection

## Instructions

For guidance on completing this application, please reference the FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the FY 2018 CoC Program Competition NOFA. Please submit technical questions to the HUD Exchange Ask A Question.

**1E-1. Project Ranking and Selection. Applicants must indicate whether the CoC used the following to rank and select project applications for the FY 2018 CoC Program Competition:**
**(1) objective criteria;**
**(2) at least one factor related to achieving positive housing outcomes;**
**(3) a specific method for evaluating projects submitted by victim services providers; and**
**(4) attach evidence that supports the process selected.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Used Objective Criteria for Review, Rating, Ranking and Section | Yes |
| Included at least one factor related to achieving positive housing outcomes | Yes |
| Included a specific method for evaluating projects submitted by victim service providers | Yes |

**1E-2. Severity of Needs and Vulnerabilities. Applicants must describe:**
**(1) the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities the CoC considered when reviewing, ranking, and rating projects; and**
**(2) how the CoC takes severity of needs and vulnerabilities into account during the review, rating, and ranking process.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) The specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities the CoC considered when reviewing, ranking and rating projects includes:
- "Vulnerability/Severity of Needs" calculation (criteria 2) based on each Head of Household's Health Barriers and provides an average of the number of disabilities per person for the overall project. The calculation basically takes each client, adds their total health barriers together (a person could have 0 through 6 barriers reported) and divides by the number of clients to get the Severity of Need Score (i.e. all Heads of Households).
- "Vulnerability/Percent Zero Income at Entry" (criteria 3).
- "Project Participant Eligibility" (criteria 4) to ensure projects are serving households who are literally homeless.
- "Housing First Approach" (criteria 5).

2) In order to ensure that projects are serving the most vulnerable, and to weight projects that are serving chronic and other households with severe needs, the CoC's renewal scoring/ranking tool incorporates the above listed criteria. In total, these criteria account for 18 of 100 possible points. These

measures, among others like non-earned income, are included to ensure that projects serving households w/ highest vulnerabilities are evaluated fairly against projects serving less vulnerable populations.

In future years, the project review and ranking will incorporate data collected through Coordinated Entry to measure client vulnerability.

**1E-3. Public Postings.  Applicants must indicate how the CoC made public:**
**(1) objective ranking and selection process the CoC used for all projects (new and renewal);**
**(2) CoC Consolidated Application–including the CoC Application, Priority Listings, and all projects accepted and ranked or rejected, which HUD required CoCs to post to their websites, or partners websites, at least 2 days before the CoC Program Competition application submission deadline; and**
**(3) attach documentation demonstrating the objective ranking, rating, and selections process and the final version of the completed CoC Consolidated Application, including the CoC Application with attachments, Priority Listing with reallocation forms and all project applications that were accepted and ranked, or rejected (new and renewal) was made publicly available, that legibly displays the date the CoC publicly posted the documents.**

| Public Posting of Objective Ranking and Selection Process | | Public Posting of CoC Consolidated Application including: CoC Application, Priority Listings,  Project Listings | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **CoC or other Website** | ☐ | **CoC or other Website** | ☐ |
| **Email** | ☐ | **Email** | ☐ |
| **Mail** | ☐ | **Mail** | ☐ |
| **Advertising in Local Newspaper(s)** | ☐ | **Advertising in Local Newspaper(s)** | ☐ |
| **Advertising on Radio or Television** | ☐ | **Advertising on Radio or Television** | ☐ |
| **Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)** | ☐ | **Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)** | ☐ |

**1E-4. Reallocation.  Applicants must indicate whether the CoC has cumulatively reallocated at least 20 percent of the CoC's ARD between the FY 2014 and FY 2018 CoC Program Competitions.**

**Reallocation:**  Yes

**1E-5. Local CoC Competition.  Applicants must indicate whether the CoC:**
**(1) established a deadline for project applications that was no later than 30 days before the FY 2018 CoC Program Competition Application deadline–attachment required;**
**(2) rejected or reduced project application(s)–attachment required; and**
**(3) notify applicants that their project application(s) were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps, at least 15 days before FY 2018 CoC Program Competition Application deadline–attachment required.  :**

| | |
|---|---|
| **(1) Did the CoC establish a deadline for project applications that was no later than 30 days before the FY 2018 CoC Program Competition Application deadline? Attachment required.** | Yes |
| **(2) If the CoC rejected or reduced project application(s), did the CoC notify applicants that their project application(s) were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps, at least 15 days before FY 2018 CoC Program Competition Application deadline? Attachment required.** | Yes |
| **(3) Did the CoC notify applicants that their applications were accepted and ranked on the Priority Listing in writing outside of e-snaps, at least 15 before days of the FY 2018 CoC Program Competition Application deadline?** | Yes |

# 2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

**Intructions:**

For guidance on completing this application, please reference the   FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the  FY 2018 CoC Program Competition  NOFA.   Please submit technical questions to the   HUD Exchange Ask A Question.

**2A-1.  Roles and Responsibilities of the CoC and HMIS Lead.  Does your CoC have in place a Governance Charter or other written documentation (e.g., MOU/MOA) that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the CoC and HMIS Lead?  Attachment Required.**

Yes

**2A-1a. Applicants must: (1) provide the page number(s) where the roles and responsibilities of the CoC and HMIS Lead can be found in the attached document(s) referenced in 2A-1, and (2) indicate the document type attached for question 2A-1 that includes roles and responsibilities of the CoC and HMIS Lead (e.g., Governance Charter, MOU/MOA).**

R & R are found on page 2 of the attached MOU (page 3 of attachment w/ cover page)

**2A-2.  HMIS Policy and Procedures Manual. Does your CoC have a HMIS Policy and Procedures Manual?  Attachment Required.**

Yes

**2A-3. HMIS Vender. What is the name of the HMIS software vendor?**

ClientTrack HMIS Software from Eccovia Solutions

**2A-4.  HMIS Implementation Coverage Area. Using the drop-down boxes, applicants must select the HMIS implementation Coverage area.**

Regional (multiple CoC)

**2A-5. Bed Coverage Rate.  Using 2018 HIC and HMIS data, applicants must report by project type: (1) total number of beds in 2018 HIC; (2) total beds dedicated for DV in the 2018 HIC; and**

## (3) total number of beds in HMIS.

| Project Type | Total Beds in 2018 HIC | Total Beds in HIC Dedicated for DV | Total Beds in HMIS | HMIS Bed Coverage Rate |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Emergency Shelter (ES) beds** | 688 | 219 | 165 | 35.18% |
| **Safe Haven (SH) beds** | 15 | 0 | 15 | 100.00% |
| **Transitional Housing (TH) beds** | 345 | 68 | 242 | 87.36% |
| **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds** | 480 | 0 | 480 | 100.00% |
| **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds** | 1,231 | 85 | 922 | 80.45% |
| **Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds** | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0.00% |

**2A-5a. To receive partial credit, if the bed coverage rate is 84.99 percent or lower for any of the project types in question 2A-5., applicants must provide clear steps on how the CoC intends to increase this percentage for each project type over the next 12 months.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) ES projects have not historically participated in HMIS because this is not required of their funders, which includes faith-based orgs. During the annual project review and ranking process, the CoC provides bonus points to CoC-funded organizations that voluntarily enter data into HMIS for their other homeless assistance programs that are not required to participate in HMIS. HMIS Participation has increased since the implementation of CoC-wide Coordinated Entry in January 2018. In addition to increasing HMIS participation through CE expansion, additional efforts will continue, including engagement of other funders to discuss the benefits of HMIS participation.

216 of the 224 PSH beds not on HMIS are VASH-funded beds. HMIS bed coverage of VASH beds will continue to be an issue that is requested of the CoC's VASH-participating PHAs and VAMCs.

The 11 OPH beds are operated by a veterans program that is very engaged in the CoC's efforts to end veteran homelessness. The CoC will request that these beds are added to HMIS.

2) To increase ES bed coverage, the CoC will work to educate & engage faith-based organizations about the benefits of aligning this mission to the goals of the CoC, including CES & HMIS participation. The Ex Dir of the Union Rescue Mission, who is also a member of the CE Committee, has volunteered to assist the CoC to engage these FBO in HMIS & CE implementation.

Through the Homelessness, Housing and Health Care Work Group, facilitated by the Governor's Policy Office, state agencies will be asked to require HMIS participation of all projects receiving state funding.

Coordination with VAMCs is very strong through the CoC's Veteran Committee. HMIS coverage will continue to be an ongoing request of the VAMC partners.

**2A-6. AHAR Shells Submission: How many 2017 Annual Housing Assessment Report (AHAR) tables shells did HUD accept?**   12

**2A-7. CoC Data Submission in HDX.**
**Applicants must enter the date the CoC**
**submitted the 2018 Housing Inventory Count**
**(HIC) data into the Homelessness Data**
**Exchange (HDX).**
**(mm/dd/yyyy)**

04/30/2018

# 2B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time Count

**Instructions:**

For guidance on completing this application, please reference the  FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the  FY 2018 CoC Program Competition  NOFA.   Please submit technical questions to the   HUD Exchange Ask A Question.

**2B-1. PIT Count Date.  Applicants must enter the date the CoC conducted its 2018 PIT count (mm/dd/yyyy).**   01/24/2018

**2B-2.  HDX Submission Date.  Applicants must enter the date the CoC submitted its PIT count data in HDX (mm/dd/yyyy).**   04/30/2018

# 2C. Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count: Methodologies

**Instructions:**

For guidance on completing this application, please reference the FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the FY 2018 CoC Program Competition NOFA. Please submit technical questions to the HUD Exchange Ask A Question.

**2C-1. Change in Sheltered PIT Count Implementation. Applicants must describe any change in the CoC's sheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology and data quality changes from 2017 to 2018. Specifically, how those changes impacted the CoC's sheltered PIT count results.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

There were no changes in methodology or data quality; the only change was related to providers contributing data for the count.

Throughout the year the CoC updates our list of homeless assistance projects. The following changes occurred between the 2017 & 2018 sheltered PIT counts:
- One Emergency Shelter project included in 2017 was removed in 2018 (not operational)
- Eight ES projects were added in 2018, which include hotel motel beds with zero occupancy in 2017
- One Safe Haven project included in 2017 was was removed in 2018 (reallocated)
- Four Transitional Housing projects included in 2017 were removed in 2018 (these include reallocated CoC-funded TH projects no longer operating as TH)

These changes are reflected in the change in the number of beds added/removed reported below in 2C-2a.

**2C-2. Did your CoC change its provider coverage in the 2018 sheltered count?**   Yes

**2C-2a. If "Yes" was selected in 2C-2, applicants must enter the number of beds that were added or removed in the 2018 sheltered PIT count.**

| Beds Added: | 40 |
|---|---|
| Beds Removed: | 77 |
| Total: | -37 |

**2C-3. Presidentially Declared Disaster Changes to Sheltered PIT Count. Did your CoC add or remove emergency shelter,**   No

**transitional housing, or Safe Haven inventory because of funding specific to a Presidentially declared disaster, resulting in a change to the CoC's 2018 sheltered PIT count?**

**2C-3a. If "Yes" was selected for question 2C-3, applicants must enter the number of beds that were added or removed in 2018 because of a Presidentially declared disaster.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Beds Added:** | 0 |
| **Beds Removed:** | 0 |
| **Total:** | 0 |

**2C-4. Changes in Unsheltered PIT Count Implementation.  Did your CoC change its unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology and data quality changes from 2017 to 2018?  If your CoC did not conduct and unsheltered PIT count in 2018, select Not Applicable.**   No

**2C-5. Identifying Youth Experiencing Homelessness in 2018 PIT Count.  Did your CoC implement specific measures to identify youth experiencing homelessness in its 2018 PIT count?**   Yes

**2C-5a.  If "Yes" was selected for question 2C-5., applicants must describe:**
**(1) how stakeholders serving youth experiencing homelessness were engaged during the planning process;**
**(2) how the CoC worked with stakeholders to select locations where youth experiencing homelessness are most likely to be identified; and**
**(3) how the CoC involved youth experiencing homelessness in counting during the 2018 PIT count.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

The PIT planning process occurs on two levels: CoC-wide and county-level for each of the CoC's 20 counties. CoC-wide efforts included: providing contact information for youth serving organizations; sharing information with local homeless education liaisons/McKinney-Vento; youth-focused training to the county-level unsheltered coordinators; and the establishment of PIT count standards for counting homeless youth, which include engaging local youth in the planning process.

"Standards for counting youth" include: coordination w/systems serving youth; engage youth in planning; ID "hot spots"; safety planning; provide training to all PIT volunteers. The CoC provided training materials for all PIT volunteers. Training is available on CoC website from youth RHY street outreach staff.

1) In preparation of the PIT count, cross-systems planning occurred between the PIT county contact and stakeholders serving youth experiencing homelessness, including school districts. These stakeholders were engaged to help identify locations where youth were known to congregate, spread information about the PIT count, plan "come and be counted events" and advertising of these events.

2) Through coordination with CoC stakeholders, county coordinators were able to receive input on locations where youth would most likely be identified. This included places to congregate and places to sleep. This information was incorporated into planning meetings & volunteer teams were deployed to these areas during the PIT count. In addition, PATH outreach & street outreach teams were consulted to identify known locations to idnetify youth.

3) The role of youth varied throughout the CoC's 20 counties. At a minimum, counties consulted with youth directly or indirectly through youth-serving stakeholders in order to determine locations to target during the PIT count. In addition, some counties held "come & be counted" events for youth on the PIT date.


**2C-6.  2018 PIT Implementation.  Applicants must describe actions the CoC implemented in its 2018 PIT count to better count:**
**(1) individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness;**
**(2) families with children experiencing homelessness; and**
**(3) Veterans experiencing homelessness.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

The 2018 PIT count was the first to be conducted since Coordinated Entry became operational CoC-wide. Through the implementation of CE, providers are becoming more aware of additional locations where unsheltered households may be found.

1) Due to increased coordination with PATH, SSVF & ESG-funded street outreach, the CoC's outreach capacity has increased over the last couple of years. Outreach teams visit soup kitchens, food pantries, 24 hour stores, laundromats & other locations. As such, communities are more familiar with locations where chronically homeless households may be, as well as being more familiar with these individuals. These "known" chronic households identified were assessed for CE.

2) The CoC's strategic plan (released in 2017) includes a goal of zero unsheltered families. Coordination with stakeholders who serve vulnerable families has increased the CoC's ability to identify/connect to families each year. In 2018, two unsheltered families were identified throughout the 20-county CoC, which represents a reduction from 2017 when four unsheltered families were counted.

3) As a result of the leadership and participation of the Veterans Committee, the CoC has never had a stronger relationship with veteran serving organizations. SSVF & other Veteran serving orgs conduct year-round outreach and participate in the unsheltered count. They help identify locations where veterans are known to be unsheltered, as well as other non-veterans households identified through regular outreach.

One way that we improve the PIT count each year is to increase post-count follow-up. Rural communities that lack regular outreach teams struggle to follow-up with unsheltered households, so more communities are providing transportation to shelter/hotels and other opportunities for immediate engagement. We will also be looking to use CE data to inform planning for the 2019 PIT count.

# 3A. Continuum of Care (CoC) System Performance

### Instructions

For guidance on completing this application, please reference the FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the FY 2018 CoC Program Competition NOFA. Please submit technical questions to the HUD Exchange Ask A Question.

### 3A-1. First Time Homeless as Reported in HDX. In the box below, applicants must report the number of first-time homeless as reported in HDX.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Number of First Time Homeless as Reported in HDX.** | 2,269 |

**3A-1a. Applicants must:**
**(1) describe how the CoC determined which risk factors the CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;**
**(2) describe the CoC's strategy to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and**
**(3) provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time. (limit 2,000 characters)**

The CoC had 2,269 first time homeless during FY2017, which is a reduction of 183, when compared to FY2016.

1) The CoC completed a new strategic plan, which was finalized on 6-29-17. The development of the plan included a retreat with the Board and regional listening sessions. During these sessions risk factors identified include: history of DV; exiting from institutions with no home plan; and lack of employment income. While the input was anecdotal, these risk factors have been verified through HMIS data. CoC-wide CE came online in January and the CoC will begin analyzing CE data to further pinpoint risk factors.

2) The CoC's CE system includes General Assessment Centers & Domestic Violence Assessment Centers in each county. Many of the General centers are located in Community Action Agencies (doing anti-poverty work). As such, these centers have diverse resources that can be deployed to prevent and/or stabilize households prior to becoming homeless.

The CoC provided a two-day Diversion Training through the Cleveland Mediation Center in June, as well as a train-the-trainer Day 3. Participation was strongly encouraged for all CE Assessment Center staff. In addition, funding to support a diversion strategy is a priority for the CoC's Home4Good application, due on Sept 28. (Home4Good is a new funding source from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh & the PA Housing Finance Agency.)

In addition, ESG funding, including prevention funding is aligned to the CoC's priorities and will work to reduce first time homelessness.

3) The CoC's Governing Board, in their oversight of all CoC Committees, is responsible for overseeing these and any other strategies identified to reduce first time homelessness.


**3A-2. Length-of-Time Homeless as Reported in HDX. Applicants must:**
**(1) provide the average length of time individuals and persons in families remained homeless (i.e., the number);**
**(2) describe the CoC's strategy to reduce the length-of-time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;**
**(3) describe how the CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and**
**(4) provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) Individuals and persons in families in the Western PA CoC remained homeless an average of 127 days.

2) The CoC continues to implement several strategies to reduce the LOTH. This includes:
- $2.6M reallocation of Safe Haven & Transitional Hsg programs in order to expand PH resources. In 2014, the CoC had 2 SH & 24 TH projects ($2,758,303). In 2018, the CoC will submit only 3 TH renewal projects ($230,900).
- CoC prioritizes most vulnerable pops for all resources through CE. In addition to vulnerability score, LOTH is used as tie-breaker for priority placement.
- 100% of CoC-funded resources operate using Housing First approach, removing barriers to entry. The CoC has provided significant training over the last two years to support providers in HF implementation. This includes: two days of Housing First training from Org Code; trauma-informed care; harm reduction; motivational interviewing; and housing focused case management.
- ESG-funding prioritizes housing locator services in order to develop a network/inventory for faster housing placement. In addition, the CoC is applying for landlord mitigation risk funding through Home4Good application ($ source referenced in 3A-1a). These funds will help to maintain relationships with landlords, which is essential in rural communities due to a limited rental inventory.
- ESG-funding also prioritizes street outreach, allowing the CoC for the first time to provide outreach services CoC-wide and engage individuals with long histories of homelessness.

3) The CE Priority Waiting List includes LOT as a visible field. As providers review the list to fill project openings, this is considered and used as a tie-breaker for placement. In addition, LOTH is included in the CoC's written standards through the adoption of CPD Notice 16-11.

4) The CoC's Governing Board, in their oversight of all CoC Committees, is responsible for overseeing these and any other strategies identified to reduce length of time homeless.

### 3A-3. Successful Permanent Housing Placement and Retention as Reported in HDX.  Applicants must:
### (1) provide the percentage of individuals and persons in families in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing that exit to permanent housing destinations; and
### (2) provide the percentage of individuals and persons in families in permanent housing projects, other than rapid rehousing, that retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.

|  | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid re-housing that exit to permanent housing destinations as reported in HDX. | 65% |
| Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families in permanent housing projects, other than rapid re-housing, that retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations as reported in HDX. | 100% |

### 3A-3a.  Applicants must:
### (1) describe the CoC's strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and
### (2) describe the CoC's strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in permanent housing projects, other than rapid rehousing, retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.
### (limit 2,000 characters)

CoC-wide implementation of CES has significantly increased PH resources for persons in ES & TH projects, as all RRH & PSH providers pull from the CE Waiting List to fill all openings.

1) The CoC has several strategies being implemented to increase PH placement. These include:
- significant expansion of RRH capacity; increased PSH resources
- Housing First. CoC system prioritizes housing stabilization over program rules. To support providers, the CoC has provided training on Hsg First, motivational interviewing, harm reduction, trauma-informed care, hsg focused case mngmt & housing for people w/ opioid addiction.
- many projects educate participants using strategies from the "Prepared Renters Program", which includes hsg placement & hsg retention
- increasing incomes for households in TH & RRH, to support exits to PH
- increasing landlord-related activities such as an expansion of housing locator services. In addition, on October 3 the Rural Supportive Housing Initiative is providing Landlord Engagement training.

2) 993 of 994 people in PSH (100%) retained housing and/or exited to other PH! Retention of PSH and/or exits to other PH destinations includes the above & the following strategies:
- CoC will submit application on Sept 28 for Home4Good funding for a landlord mitigation fund, which will allow PSH participants to retain housing if damage occurs.
- many providers have good relationships with landlords, who can help to identify problems before eviction proceedings begin.
- in-home case management delivery has enables support around housing stabilization.

- coordination with mainstream resources such as MH/BH supports
- increased income, including through SSI and other resources. To implement this strategy, the CoC provided foundation funding in order to reimburse agencies for staff time in order to encourage/facilitate more case managers becoming SOAR trained.

3+4) Both of these strategies will be overseen by the CoC Governing Board.

**3A-4. Returns to Homelessness as Reported in HDX. Applicants must report the percentage of individuals and persons in families returning to homelessness over a 6- and 12-month period as reported in HDX.**

|  | Percentage |
|---|---|
| Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families returning to homelessness over a 6- and 12-month period as reported in HDX | 5% |

**3A-4a. Applicants must:**
**(1) describe how the CoC identifies common factors of individuals and persons in families who return to homelessness;**
**(2) describe the CoC's strategy to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness; and**
**(3) provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families returns to homelessness.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) The CoC's Coordinated Entry Assessment Tool collects the following data points: history of homelessness; physical disabilities; MH/BH/SA issues; income; presence of children, including young children and CPS involvement; criminal history; history of DV; etc. This data is used to understand which households have factors that puts them at higher risk for returning to homelessness. In addition, the exit destination of households returning to homelessness is examined.

2) The CoC has implemented and continues to implement several strategies to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness include:
- reallocation of two Safe Havens, which have had the highest rates of return for several years. As of Feb. 2018, both of these projects have closed.
- Through the CoC-wide implementation of Coordinated Entry, the CoC is more effectively connecting households in Emergency Shelter with RRH resources, which will reduce the % of households returning to homelessness.
- ensuring that assistance is appropriate based on the households needs. For example, if the household cannot sustain housing the provider can extend RRH assistance (up to 24 months).
- RRH providers connect households to affordable units that can be sustained upon exiting RRH project.
- Diversion training & application for diversion funding through Home4Good (funding source described above).
- County Human Service Departments & Community Action Agencies throughout the CoC that operate and/or partner with CoC-funded providers are also instrumental in connecting clients to prevention assistance, mainstream resources, workforce development, transportation, child care, LIHEAP & other resources that promote long term housing stability.

3) The CoC's Governing Board, in their oversight of all CoC Committees, is responsible for the overseeing these and any other strategies identified to reduce returns homeless.

**3A-5. Job and Income Growth.  Applicants must:**
 **(1) describe the CoC's strategy to increase access to employment and non-employment cash sources;**
**(2) describe how the CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their cash income; and**
**(3) provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase job and income growth from employment.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) The CoC's strategic plan, approved 6-29-17, includes the goal of increasing economic security by working with mainstream service providers to connect clients to jobs, income and benefits. In addition, the plan calls for connecting households to benefits that will assist in maintaining employment, such as child care and transportation.

SOAR is the primary strategy to increase non-employment cash. To support the expansion of SOAR services, the CoC provided organizations with a reimbursement of case manager's time for attending SOAR training. This was made possible through a foundation grant.

2) Strategies to increase cash income from employment are implemented through work with CareerLink, Workforce Development, OVR & programs through the PA Dept of Human Services targetted to TANF & SNAP receipients to prepare for, find, and keep employment. In addition, the CoC works in close partnership with the Community Action Agencies throughout its 20 county region. Specifically, employment training, job development, supported work, and/or youth employment services are provided by CAAs in 15 counties. Transportation services are provided by CAAs in 6 counties. Day Care, Early Head Start, Head Start and/or Pre-K Counts programs are operated by CAAs in 13 counties.

Assistance in applying for SSI, TANF and other cash benefits is provided by CoC partners throughout the geographic area.

3) The CoC's Governing Board, in their oversight of all CoC Committees, is responsible for the overseeing these and any other strategies identified to increase cash income and access to employment.

**3A-6.  System Performance Measures Data Submission in HDX.  Applicants must enter the date the CoC submitted the System Performance Measures data in HDX, which included the data quality section for FY 2017 (mm/dd/yyyy)**      05/31/2018

# 3B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Performance and Strategic Planning Objectives

### Instructions

For guidance on completing this application, please reference the FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the FY 2018 CoC Program Competition NOFA. Please submit technical questions to the HUD Exchange Ask A Question.

**3B-1. DedicatedPLUS and Chronically Homeless Beds. In the boxes below, applicants must enter:**
**(1) total number of beds in the Project Application(s) that are designated as DedicatedPLUS beds; and**
**(2) total number of beds in the Project Application(s) that are designated for the chronically homeless, which does not include those that were identified in (1) above as DedicatedPLUS Beds.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Total number of beds dedicated as DedicatedPLUS | 0 |
| Total number of beds dedicated to individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness | 913 |
| Total | 913 |

**3B-2. Orders of Priority. Did the CoC adopt the Orders of Priority into their written standards for all CoC Program-funded PSH projects as described in Notice CPD-16-11: Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing? Attachment Required.**

Yes

**3B-2.1. Prioritizing Households with Children. Using the following chart, applicants must check all that apply to indicate the factor(s) the CoC currently uses to prioritize households with children during FY 2018.**

| | |
|---|---|
| History of or Vulnerability to Victimization (e.g. domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse) | X |
| Number of previous homeless episodes | X |
| Unsheltered homelessness | X |
| Criminal History | X |
| Bad credit or rental history | |
| Head of Household with Mental/Physical Disability | X |

**3B-2.2. Applicants must:**
**(1) describe the CoC's current strategy to rapidly rehouse every household of families with children within 30 days of becoming homeless;**
**(2) describe how the CoC addresses both housing and service needs to ensure families successfully maintain their housing once assistance ends; and**
**(3) provide the organization name or position title responsible for overseeing the CoCs strategy to rapidly rehouse families with children within 30 days of becoming homeless.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) The CoC's strategic plan includes a goal to reduce family homelessness by 50% by 2021. In this 1st year of implementation, the CoC reported a 9% reduction b/w 2017 & 2018 PIT. The CoC has implemented several strategies to reduce the LOT families w/ children remain homeless, including the reallocation of 21 TH projects since 2014. Reallocated funding has allowed the CoC to significantly increase RRH inventory. This year, Bonus dollars will support the expansion of 16 new RRH units, as well as 26 units of DV-RRH under the DV Bonus. To reduce family homelessness, an increase in DV hsg & services is significantly needed, as demonstrated on the CE Prioritized Waiting List where 55 of 100 families were confidentially coded as DV survivors (as of 7-26-18).

ESG funding prioritizes RRH & housing locator services. With CoC-wide implementation of Coord Entry, all providers now have the ability to quickly ID families currently experiencing homelessness. Vulnerable families are prioritized for assistance through several scored vulnerabilities in the CE Assessment Tool, including: families w/ children (vs. single); HHs w/ children separated from the family due to inability to maintain hsg; HHs w/ school-aged children not enrolled in school or missing school due to hsg issues; current CPS Case; large family size; pregnant head of HH; young children.

CoC partners provide prevention asst. The CoC provided diversion training in June 2018 & will be developing a more formal implementation plan this Fall/Winter.

2) Housing Focused Case Mngmt prioritizes housing stability & connections to mainstream resources. Families are assisted to create a housing plan & to understand their risk factors for losing housing once assistance ends. Some ESG/CoC-funded projects provide case mngmt after rent asst ends to support maintaining hsg.

3) Strategies will be overseen by CoC Governing Board.

**3B-2.3. Antidiscrimination Policies. Applicants must check all that apply that describe actions the CoC is taking to ensure providers (including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing (PSH and RRH) within the CoC adhere to antidiscrimination policies by not denying admission to or separating any family members from other members of their family or caregivers based on age, sex, gender, LGBT status, marital status, or disability when entering a shelter or housing.**

| | |
|---|---|
| CoC conducts mandatory training for all CoC and ESG funded service providers on these topics. | ☐ |
| CoC conducts optional training for all CoC and ESG funded service providers on these topics. | ☐ |

| | |
|---|---|
| CoC has worked with ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients. | ☐ |
| CoC has worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC and ESG funded facilities within the CoC geographic area that may be out of compliance, and taken steps to work directly with those facilities to come into compliance. | ☐ |
| CoC has sought assistance from HUD through submitting AAQs or requesting TA to resolve non-compliance of service providers. | ☐ |

### 3B-2.4. Strategy for Addressing Needs of Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness. Applicants must indicate whether the CoC's strategy to address the unique needs of unaccompanied homeless youth includes the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| Human trafficking and other forms of exploitation | Yes |
| LGBT youth homelessness | Yes |
| Exits from foster care into homelessness | Yes |
| Family reunification and community engagement | Yes |
| Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, and the use of Risk and Protective Factors in assessing youth housing and service needs | Yes |

### 3B-2.5. Prioritizing Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness Based on Needs. Applicants must check all that apply from the list below that describes the CoC's current strategy to prioritize unaccompanied youth based on their needs.

| | |
|---|---|
| History or Vulnerability to Victimization (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse) | X |
| Number of Previous Homeless Episodes | X |
| Unsheltered Homelessness | X |
| Criminal History | X |
| Bad Credit or Rental History | ☐ |

### 3B-2.6. Applicants must describe the CoC's strategy to increase:
### (1) housing and services for all youth experiencing homelessness by providing new resources or more effectively using existing resources, including securing additional funding; and
### (2) availability of housing and services for youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness by providing new resources or more effectively using existing resources.
### (limit 3,000 characters)

1)CoC Youth Committee, comprised of stakeholders including a homeless education liaison, Board members, CE system representative, CoC & Independent Living providers, & CoC staff, identified a number of strategies to prioritize regarding increasing/maximizing housing & services for all youth experiencing homelessness:
-After identifying a lack of youth-specific resources in 2016-17, CoC prioritized youth for RRH in the FY17 CoC competition. As a result, 2 new regional youth RRH projects are now online w/a total of 25 units (13-1BR, 9-2BR, 3-3BR); both

will be renewed in FY18. Non-youth specific RHH has also been increased & is used by the CoC to serve youth 18-24.
-Committee created a subgroup to research & promote the Host Homes model to better serve unaccompanied youth who need housing & light services. As a result of previous outreach to child welfare offices (CYS) & education efforts regarding the model, Committee identified providers & CYS offices interested in collaborating on an application for a Host Homes project covering 5 CoC counties under a new homelessness-focused funding opportunity from FHLB of Pittsburgh/PA Housing Finance Authority (Home4Good).The project, if fully funded, would serve 20 youth <18 annually w/referrals from providers, CYS & schools. Participating CYS offices may also contribute funds.
-Committee has identified the need to bring youth voices into its process to better understand youth housing & service needs. As the CoC is largely rural & has lacked youth-serving homeless projects, identifying youth to participate has been a challenge. The CoC is committed to providing stipends to youth & has worked to identify resources to fund stipends. A request for stipend funding through the new Home4Good funding opportunity has been submitted & other fundraising options are being discussed. With new RRH units coming online & the availability of stipends, the Committee anticipates an improved ability to recruit & sustain youth collaboration.

2)The Youth Committee remains concerned about the needs of the CoC's unsheltered youth: -The CoC identified 8 youth 18-24 years old experiencing homelessness in the 2018 PIT Count. These youth & others experiencing unsheltered homelessness throughout the year are currently served through the CoC's existing resources as no youth-specific shelters or drop-in centers exist. The Committee believes more youth may be out there & has committed to launching a more robust Youth Count over the next year to demonstrate the need for additional youth resources. A subgroup has been formed to develop a structure & methodology for this effort; funding has been requested through the Home4Good opportunity.
-The Host Homes project described above is expected to serve unsheltered youth <18 in addition to those who may be "couch surfing" or engaging in high risk activities to avoid foster care placement. RHY TLP funds have also been identified as a potential source of ongoing funding for Host Homes.

**3B-2.6a. Applicants must:**
**(1) provide evidence the CoC uses to measure both strategies in question 3B-2.6. to increase the availability of housing and services for youth experiencing homelessness;**
**(2) describe the measure(s) the CoC uses to calculate the effectiveness of the strategies; and**
**(3) describe why the CoC believes the measure it uses is an appropriate way to determine the effectiveness of the CoC's strategies.**
**(limit 3,000 characters)**

1) The CoC & Youth Committee (meets monthly) use a combination of data sources to better understand what strategies are needed & their effectiveness:
-PIT Data: Provides a snapshot of need, including the distribution of need among unaccompanied, parenting youth & unsheltered youth. It also provides a baseline of measurement from one year to the next.
-HIC: Used to better understand how many youth are being served in different types of projects (ES, TH, RRH, PSH)& where deficits may exist.

-HMIS data: Used to assess project & system performance. CoC will examine project-level performance data on new youth RRH (& Host Homes, if funded) projects, including length of stay, income gains, connections to mainstream benefits/health insurance & positive exits. HMIS data will be used to assess system performance related to youth wherever possible.
-Education data: Used to inform housing/services needs for youth <18. Annual SEA data re: youth identified by schools as homeless is used by Youth Committee to better understand the full scope of homelessness among youth <18 in the CoC, along w/anecdotal evidence provided by homeless education liaisons. This data will also be used to identify sites for Youth Count outreach.
-CE Data: As CE system becomes more robust, CE data will be reviewed monthly to better understand needs of youth presenting to CE & need for additional resources.
-Youth Count: Youth Committee will likely use a modified Voices of Youth Count survey to gather data to better understand youth housing/services needs. May employ mixed methods approach.

2) Measures used will include:
-PIT data: # of Unaccompanied Youth, # Parenting Youth & # of Child-Only Households identified through the PIT, including a breakout of unsheltered & sheltered along w/change from previous years.
-HIC: # of units in CoC by project type serving youth; % of units serving youth.
-HMIS project-level & system-level performance data: average # of days homeless (system-level only); length of stay average # of days for youth served (project-level only); # and % of youth participants w/income growth; # and % of youth connected to mainstream benefits, including health care; # and % of youth exiting to PH destination; # and % of youth returning to homelessness; & % of units utilized.
-Education Data: # of homeless youth reported by county, by school district & by school, year over year.
-CE Data: # of youth assessed, w/breakout of singles, couples & families; assessment score average and range for youth;# and % of youth that self-resolve; # and % of youth referred to each project type; # of youth referrals refused by providers; # of days from referral to housing placement. To be tracked monthly.
-Youth Count: TBD based on survey used.

3) These measures are outcome-oriented & aligned w/CoC's current practices in terms of assessing project & system performance, along with national best practices.


**3B-2.7.  Collaboration–Education Services.  Applicants must describe how the CoC collaborates with:**
**(1) youth education providers;**
**(2) McKinney-Vento State Education Agency (SEA) and Local Education Agency (LEA);**
**(3) school districts; and**
**(4) the formal partnerships with (1) through (3) above.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1a) Collaboration w/ youth education providers: this collaboration occurs through the county-level housing/homeless coalition meetings. In addition, multiple CoC-funded orgs also operate youth educational programs such as

tutoring, youth employment, summer employment and life skills.

1b) Collaboration w/ LEA/SEA: A CoC Board & Youth Committee member is a Regional Coordinator of the PA Education for Children & Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program/ Educational Stability for Foster Care Youth Program (SEA). She works with Homeless Liaisons within her region (69 districts) to ID & serve eligible students. Homeless Liaisons attend county-level housing/homeless coalition meetings & work with homeless providers to address student needs. This includes: ID homeless children/youth; ensure school enrollment; secure transportation, appropriate materials & any necessary supports are in place. Collaboration ensures resources from both systems are provided.

1c) School districts collaborate with their local housing/homeless coalitions. For example, a "Blessings in a Backpack" program in Butler County  to provide school supplies. In addition, coordination occurs around the PIT count and Housing/Homeless Awareness month.

2a) Partnerships w/ youth education providers: as stated, several CoC-funded orgs also operate youth education services, which are used to leverage/match CoC-funding, and documented in an MOU.

2b) The SEA provides services to youth in shelters during the summer. Children/youth in shelter throughout the CoC benefit from this initiative. In addition, the SEA is working to develop a data sharing agreement with the CoC. There is significant interest in this new formal partnership.

2c) The CoC staff person is employed by the SEA & CoC (separately) in order to provide school monitoring for M-V compliance. This coordination has strengthened school district involvement in county/regional/CoC-wide efforts.

**3B-2.7a. Applicants must describe the policies and procedures the CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for education services.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

The "CoC Program Operating Standards" policy includes the requirement that all projects inform families of their eligibility for educational services. CoC-funded projects have a designated staff person to ensure that children are enrolled in school & receive education services as appropriate.

**3B-2.8.  Does the CoC have written formal agreements, MOU/MOAs or partnerships with one or more providers of early childhood services and supports?  Select "Yes" or "No". Applicants must select "Yes" or "No", from the list below, if the CoC has written formal agreements, MOU/MOA's or partnerships with providers of early childhood services and support.**

|  | MOU/MOA | Other Formal Agreement |
|---|---|---|
| **Early Childhood Providers** | Yes | Yes |
| **Head Start** | Yes | Yes |
| **Early Head Start** | Yes | Yes |
| **Child Care and Development Fund** | Yes | Yes |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Federal Home Visiting Program** | Yes | Yes |
| **Healthy Start** | No | No |
| **Public Pre-K** | Yes | Yes |
| **Birth to 3 years** | Yes | Yes |
| **Tribal Home Visting Program** | No | No |
| **Other: (limit 50 characters)** | | |
| | Yes | Yes |
| | Yes | Yes |

**3B-3.1. Veterans Experiencing Homelessness.  Applicants must describe the actions the CoC has taken to identify, assess, and refer Veterans experiencing homelessness, who are eligible for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) housing and services, to appropriate resources such as HUD-VASH, Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) program and Grant and Per Diem (GPD).
(limit 2,000 characters)**

The CoC average is currently 34 days from ID of homeless vet to PH placement.

1) IDENTIFY: The CoC's Veteran Committee has implemented a by name Veterans Master List. Veterans experiencing homelessness are identified in several ways:
- Contact w/ Coordinated Entry
- HMIS pulls all homeless Vets on the CoC's Coordinated Entry Prioritization list or enrolled in any project & places them on the Veterans Master List.
- Street outreach
- online referral form that the CoC has created & disseminated to all service providers. This referral allows the greater community to add Vets to the Master List who are not currently being served by a VA project, HMIS participating project, or contacted CE.
- The 5 VAMCs which serve the CoC (Pittsburgh, Altoona, Butler, Erie, and Bath, NY) forward their HOMES assessments to the VISN-4 office who data enters homeless veterans onto the Master List.

2) ASSESS:  SSVF providers have received training and are approved Coordinated Entry assessors. This allows Veterans to be quickly screened, assessed, prioritized for services, and referred to available housing interventions available within the CoC (both publicly funded programs and privately owned housing opportunities).

3) REFER:  The Master List is reviewed weekly via conf call. During the call, updates on the housing search of individual Vets are provided & case conferencing occurs. The Master List contains data fields that include assessment of the Vet's eligibility for VA services & prompts referrals to VASH, SSVF, GPD & other resources when eligible. VA Homeless Teams & SSVF providers are dispatched as needed to engage & enroll Vets in the appropriate program identified.  Representatives from the VAMCs, GPD, SSVF, COC providers, and Shelters are all on the weekly call and work to identify all homeless Veterans, ensures their assessments are current/accurate, coordinates services and referrals.

**3B-3.2. Does the CoC use an active list or by name list to identify all Veterans experiencing homelessness in the CoC?** Yes

**3B-3.3. Is the CoC actively working with the VA and VA-funded programs to achieve the benchmarks and criteria for ending Veteran homelessness?** Yes

**3B-3.4. Does the CoC have sufficient resources to ensure each Veteran experiencing homelessness is assisted to quickly move into permanent housing using a Housing First approach?** No

**3B-5. Racial Disparity. Applicants must: (1) indicate whether the CoC assessed whether there are racial disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance; (2) if the CoC conducted an assessment, attach a copy of the summary.** Yes

### 3B-5a. Applicants must select from the options below the results of the CoC's assessment.

| | |
|---|---|
| **People of different races or ethnicities are more or less likely to receive homeless assistance.** | |
| **People of different races or ethnicities are more or less likely to receive a positive outcome from homeless assistance.** | |
| **There are no racial disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance.** | |
| **The results are inconclusive for racial disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance.** | X |

### 3B-5b. Applicants must select from the options below the strategies the CoC is using to address any racial disparities.

| | |
|---|---|
| **The CoC's board and decisionmaking bodies are representative of the population served in the CoC.** | ☐ |
| **The CoC has identified steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC.** | ☐ |
| **The CoC is expanding outreach in geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups.** | ☐ |
| **The CoC has communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups** | ☐ |
| **The CoC is training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness.** | ☐ |
| **The CoC is establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector.** | ☐ |

| | |
|---|---|
| **The CoC has staff, committees or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness.** | ☐ |
| **The CoC is educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national non-profit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity.** | ☐ |
| **The CoC reviewed coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness.** | ☐ |
| **The CoC is collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system.** | ☐ |
| **The CoC is conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness.** | ☐ |
| **Other:** | ☐ |

# 4A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Accessing Mainstream Benefits and Additional Policies

**Instructions:**

For guidance on completing this application, please reference the   FY 2018 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the  FY 2018 CoC Program Competition  NOFA.   Please submit technical questions to the   HUD Exchange Ask A Question.

**4A-1. Healthcare.  Applicants must indicate, for each type of healthcare listed below, whether the CoC:**
**(1) assists persons experiencing homelessness with enrolling in health insurance; and**
**(2) assists persons experiencing homelessness with effectively utilizing Medicaid and other benefits.**

| Type of Health Care | Assist with Enrollment | Assist with Utilization of Benefits? |
|---|---|---|
| **Public Health Care Benefits** (State or Federal benefits, Medicaid, Indian Health Services) | Yes | Yes |
| **Private Insurers:** | Yes | Yes |
| **Non-Profit, Philanthropic:** | Yes | Yes |
| **Other: (limit 50 characters)** | | |
| | | |

**4A-1a. Mainstream Benefits.  Applicants must:**
**(1) describe how the CoC works with mainstream programs that assist persons experiencing homelessness to apply for and receive mainstream benefits;**
**(2) describe how the CoC systematically keeps program staff up-to-date regarding mainstream resources available for persons experiencing homelessness (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs); and**
**(3) provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy for mainstream benefits. (limit 2,000 characters)**

1) Enrollment in mainstream benefits occurs online through the state's COMPASS system. COMPASS is an online single application system for many health & human service programs. This includes: health care coverage (CHIP, Medical Assistance, Medicaid for Former Foster Care Youth, Mental Health/Substance Abuse, Health Insurance Marketplace); SNAP; free/reduced school meals; Child Care Works; Cash Assistance. All CoC-funded providers are proficient users of COMPASS.

In addition, the CoC works hand-in-glove with the Community Action Agencies throughout the CoC's 20 county geographic area. These CAAs are most often the providers for WIC, LIHEAP, transportation and other TANF-funded services.

This partnership with the CAAs ensures individuals experiencing homelessness have accessible assistance to apply for and receive mainstream benefits. To ensure this connection, the CoC's annual renewal project review includes scoring on the project's provision of the following services: transportation assistance; use of a single application form for 4+ mainstream programs; at least annual follow-ups with participants to ensure mainstream benefits are received/ renewed; ensuring access to SSI/SSDI tech asst.

To increase SOAR enrollments, foundation funding was provided to off-set the cost of 25 staff to complete SOAR training, which has increased SSI acceptance rates.

2) The CoC keeps program staff up-to-date regarding mainstream benefits through county-level housing/homeless coalition meetings. As information becomes available, updates are shared with CoC-program staff through posts on the CoC's social media platform (Workplace by Facebook). In addition, the Executive Housing Director at the PA Dept of Human Services is an advisory liaison to the Governing Board and provides relevant updates.

3) The CoC's strategy for mainstream benefits will be overseen by the Governing Board.

**4A-2.Housing First:  Applicants must report:**
**(1) total number of new and renewal CoC Program Funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe-Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC is applying for in FY 2018 CoC Program Competition; and**
**(2) total number of new and renewal CoC Program Funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe-Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC is applying for in FY 2018 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach–meaning that the project quickly houses clients without preconditions or service participation requirements.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Total number of new and renewal CoC Program Funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe-Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC is applying for in FY 2018 CoC Program Competition. | 74 |
| Total number of new and renewal CoC Program Funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe-Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC is applying for in FY 2018 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach–meaning that the project quickly houses clients without preconditions or service participation requirements. | 74 |
| Percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, Safe-Haven, SSO non-Coordinated Entry projects in the FY 2018 CoC Program Competition that will be designated as Housing First. | 100% |

**4A-3. Street Outreach.  Applicants must:**
**(1) describe the CoC's outreach;**
**(2) state whether the CoC's Street Outreach covers 100 percent of the CoC's geographic area;**
**(3) describe how often the CoC conducts street outreach; and**
**(4) describe how the CoC tailored its street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance. (limit 2,000 characters)**

1) The CoC has made intentional efforts to provide street outreach through a variety of modes & methods. Three of the CoC's Committees: Youth, Veteran,

and Coordinated Entry have been working to ensure that unsheltered HHs are IDed & actively engaged by service providers. Through the CE & Veterans Master List Scrub process, unsheltered homeless are known by name/location. Local providers who employ street outreach workers and/or mobile case managers dispatch staff to locate & engage those persons. This outreach occurs daily (both those on the lists & new HHs who need assistance). Funding sources for street outreach workers include: SSVF, ESG, PATH & VAMC.

In addition to formal paid street outreach efforts, some counties conduct weekly outreach through community agencies & volunteers.

2) Street outreach covers 100% of the CoC's geographic area.

3) Weekly street outreach is conducted in 80% of the CoC's geo area through ESG & SSVF funding. Street outreach is provided regularly in the remaining 20% of the CoC. 100% of the CoC is covered in the annual unsheltered PIT count.

4) Street outreach providers have worked to build relationships w/ orgs within their communities (such as VFWs, 24 hour establishments, soup kitchens, police dept) to ID individuals and/or locations where unsheltered may be located. Street outreach workers engage individuals consistently & are often able to provide tangible asst (food vouchers, sleeping bags, coats, emergency items, hygiene items, transportation passes & non-perishable foods), which can be a first step to developing a trusting relationship. Once relationships are established, those who are least likely to engage in services, are more likely to allow themselves to be screened/referred for asst. Street outreach workers are trained/equipped to provide CE assessments "in the field" to eliminate the need for appointments, transportation to CE centers & other obstacles that may prevent the person from seeking services.

**4A-4. Affirmative Outreach. Applicants must describe:**
**(1) the specific strategy the CoC implemented that furthers fair housing as detailed in 24 CFR 578.93(c) used to market housing and supportive services to eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identify, sexual orientation, age, familial status or disability; and**
**(2) how the CoC communicated effectively with persons with disabilities and limited English proficiency fair housing strategy in (1) above.**
**(limit 2,000 characters)**

1) All CoC-funded resources are allocated through the Western PA CoC's CE. The CoC's prioritization of HHs is designed to provide resources to the most vulnerable households, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, familial status or type of disability. This language is reflected in the CE Policy & Procedures and applies to all projects participating in the CoC's CE system, regardless of funding source.

The CoC has a formal partnership with SW PA Legal services through the implementation of their Fair Housing Initiatives for Private Enforcement and Education and Outreach. This partnership includes: participation on the CE Committee; providing assistance to policy development, they specifically helped to create the CoC's Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Fair Housing Policy; and

providing assistance around education & enforcement of fair housing policies.

DCED, the state's ESG recipient, includes anti-discrimination and fair housing language within their ESG contracts & require all ESG-funded organizations to have policies around anti-discrimination/ fair housing.

Fair housing & equal access training is provided annually, with the next training occurring in Oct 2018.

2) To effectively communicate w/ persons w/ disabilities & limited English proficiency, the CoC makes CE marketing materials available in Spanish & all CE assessment centers have access to LanguageLine. LanguageLine is accessible by phone & can facilitate conversations in over 200 different languages.
CoC-providers' staff are trained to engage those w/disabilities & many have staff who can communicate using sign-language & provide materials in large print, Braille (including leases) & in multiple languages. Offices are in buildings & locations that are accessible. TTY phone services are available. Social media is also used by community agencies to advertise services. Reasonable accommodations are provided as needed.

**4A-5. RRH Beds as Reported in the HIC. Applicants must report the total number of rapid rehousing beds available to serve all household types as reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) for 2017 and 2018.**

|  | 2017 | 2018 | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| **RRH beds available to serve all populations in the HIC** | 368 | 480 | 112 |

**4A-6. Rehabilitation or New Construction Costs. Are new proposed project applications requesting $200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction?**     No

**4A-7. Homeless under Other Federal Statutes. Is the CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO or TH projects to serve families with children or youth defined as homeless under other Federal statutes?**     No

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   Attachment 1C-5 PHA Admin Plan - Homeless
Preference

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   Western PA CoC - CE Assessment Tool

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   Western PA CoC - 1E-1

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   Western PA CoC - 1E-3

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   Western PA CoC - 1E-4

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   Western PA CoC - project accept

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   Western PA CoC - project reduce

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   Western PA CoC - 1E-5 - 30 day deadline

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   CoC HMIS MOU

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   HMIS Gov Charter

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   Western PA CoC - HDX Competition Report

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   PSH Prioritization Policy

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**   Racial Disparities Summary, PA-601

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**

# Attachment Details

**Document Description:**

# Submission Summary

**Ensure that the Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.**

| Page | Last Updated |
|---|---|
| **1A. Identification** | 09/11/2018 |
| **1B. Engagement** | 09/14/2018 |
| **1C. Coordination** | 09/16/2018 |
| **1D. Discharge Planning** | 09/13/2018 |
| **1E. Project Review** | 09/13/2018 |
| **2A. HMIS Implementation** | 09/15/2018 |
| **2B. PIT Count** | 09/11/2018 |
| **2C. Sheltered Data - Methods** | 09/13/2018 |
| **3A. System Performance** | 09/15/2018 |
| **3B. Performance and Strategic Planning** | 09/16/2018 |
| **4A. Mainstream Benefits and Additional Policies** | 09/15/2018 |
| **4B. Attachments** | Please Complete |

**Submission Summary**                                         No Input Required