

Western PA CoC FY2021 CoC Renewal Scoring Webinar



PRESENTED BY: DMA - DIANA T. MYERS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
MAY 5TH, 2021

- FOR THE WESTERN PA CONTINUUM OF CARE
- UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE PA DEPT OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Webinar Agenda

- NOFA Updates
- Why Renewal Scoring?
- How does the CoC decide what criteria to use to score projects?
- Renewal Scoring Criteria
 - Brief overview of all criteria
 - New criteria
- Renewal Scoring Process -- **NEW info for 2021!**
 - Process for submitting Required Information
 - Timeline
 - Appeals
- Questions

NOFA Updates

- No word yet from HUD on NOFA timeline; however, HUD has indicated that there WILL be a CoC Competition.
- The CoC is beginning the scoring process earlier this year (before release of NOFA), to make the process less rushed. Ranking will not occur until after NOFA is released.



Why does the CoC score and rank grantees during the annual CoC NOFA Competition process?

Why Score & Rank Projects?

HUD Requirement. CoCs are charged with:

- Using objective criteria to review and rank projects
- Reviewing performance of projects and implementing a standard process for reallocating funding from lower performing projects to create new high performing projects
- Funding projects that are effectively serving people experiencing homelessness and that help improve the overall function of the system
- Funding projects that meet needs within the system

Why Score & Rank Projects?

The CoC Strives to Make Data-Driven Funding Decisions

- Is the project still meeting a need within the CoC?
- Is the project effectively serving participants?
 - Each project's individual performance impacts the CoC's overall System Performance Measures, which impact the overall amount of funding the CoC receives from HUD (*more on that later*)
- Is the project effectively using their funds?
- Are project staff fully participating as members of the CoC?



How does the CoC decide what criteria to use to score projects?

Process for deciding renewal scoring criteria

- HUD requires CoCs to include certain criteria as part of their scoring/ranking process, including:
 - Criteria for evaluating severity of needs
 - For projects who serve participants with high vulnerability/high severity of needs, are you taking this into consideration in some way during the scoring process?
 - Performance related criteria
 - Examples: exits to permanent housing, increases in income, returns to homelessness
 - Criteria for evaluating victim service providers
 - Method for evaluating DV providers utilizing data generated from a comparable database and evaluated domestic violence projects based on the degree they improve safety for the population they serve.
- Funding Committee is made up of non-conflicted representatives
 - Non-conflicted = their organization/program does not receive CoC funding
- Funding Committee reviews and updates the scoring criteria, and Non-Conflicted Members of CoC Board approve/finalize the criteria

Process for deciding renewal scoring criteria

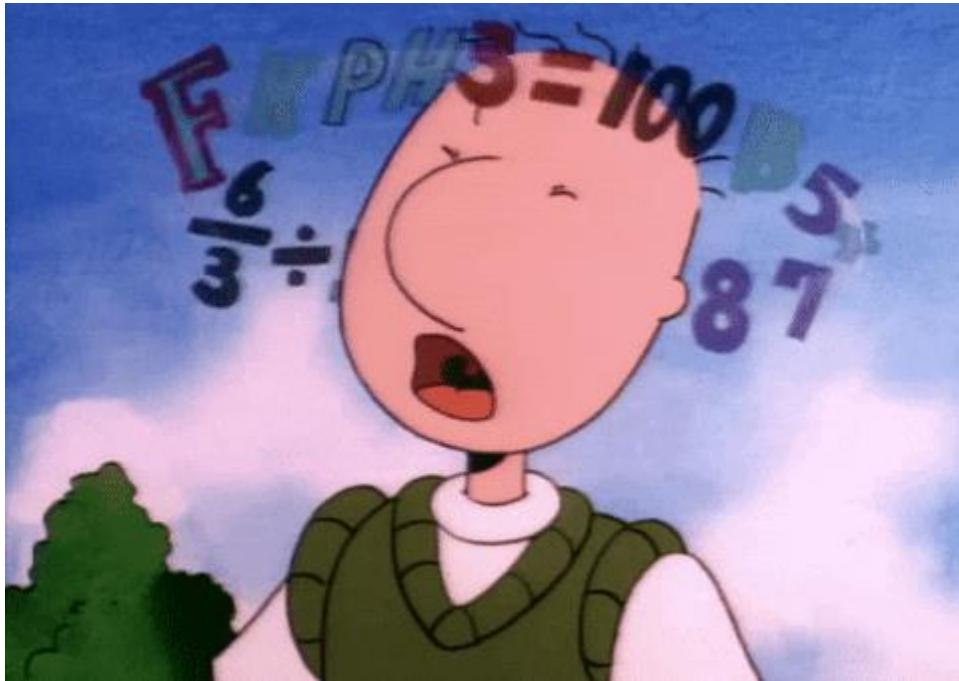
- Funding Committee reviews project performance from the previous year to set scoring thresholds for each criteria
 - May decide to raise or lower point thresholds based on previous years performance
- Funding Committee may also decide to add new criteria (to respond to HUD requirements or NOFA requirements or to reflect the work the CoC is doing).

Important Notes for SSO-CE, HMIS, and Planning Grants

- The Funding Committee has worked with DMA to design evaluation tools specifically for SSO-CE, HMIS, and Planning Grants for the 2021 CoC Competition.
 - SSO-CE (Coordinated Entry), HMIS, and Planning Grant projects will not be scored and evaluated using the criteria for all other grantees.
- SSO-CE, HMIS, and Planning grant grantees will receive specific instructions on the survey they are to complete.

Renewal Project Scoring Criteria

FY21 Renewal Scoring



CoC's FY21 Scoring Criteria Areas:

- Performance= 43 points (42 for SSO)
- Monitoring= 24 points (17 for SSO)
- HUD Priorities= 23 points
- CoC Participation= 10 points
- 0.5 possible bonus points

CoC's FY21 Renewal Scoring Period:

- January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

Performance
43 Points (42 for SSO)

Why does the CoC score projects based on performance criteria?

- HUD wants CoC's to use objective criteria to score and rank projects, including factors related to improving system performance (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, length of time homeless, increasing income)
- CoC's must show that they actively review performance of existing CoC Program-funded projects and have a standard process for reallocating funding from lower performing projects to create new high performing projects.
- HUD measures whether CoCs are performing well as an overall system through HUD's CoC System Performance Measures. **Individual project performance directly contributes to the overall system performance.**
- ***The CoC's System Performance Measures directly impact the amount of funding the CoC receives***
 - If the CoC has positive performance outcomes, the CoC will likely receive increased funding from year to year. If the CoC has negative performance outcomes, the CoC is at risk of losing funding or not receiving funding increases.

What are the HUD System Performance Measures (SPM)?

Length of Time Homeless: The length of time individuals and families experience homelessness.

Returns to Homelessness: The extent to which individuals and families who leave homelessness experience additional episodes of homelessness.

Number of homeless persons: Overall reduction in the number of homeless individuals and families. This includes reducing homelessness for subpopulations (e.g. veterans, families, chronically homeless)

Employment and income growth for homeless individuals and families: Includes earned income, non-employment cash income, and total income. Unlike other SPMs, only CoC-funded projects contribute to this measure.

First Time Homelessness: Success at reducing the number of individuals and families who become homeless for the first time

Permanent Housing Placement/Retention: Successful housing placement to or retention in a permanent housing destination

Renewal Scoring Criteria: Performance

- Housing Stability – 12 points for RRH/TH-RRH and PSH; 10 points for TH/SSO
 - Exits to Permanent Housing (RRH/TH-RRH/TH/SSO)
 - Exits to Permanent Housing/Retention in Permanent Housing (PSH)
 - Thresholds lowered for 2021, due to potential impact of COVID-19
- Returns to Homelessness – 2 points
 - Low point value due to low HMIS participation of shelters in the CoC
 - N/A for DV providers
- Projects Dedicated to DV survivors – 2 points
- Length of Stay/Average (TH and SSO Only) – 1 point
- Length of Stay/Longer than 12 months (TH and SSO Only) – 1 point

Renewal Scoring: Performance

- Length of Time between Project Start Date and Housing Move in Date
 - Not scored in 2021
- Income Growth/Increase in TOTAL Income – 12 points
 - Thresholds lowered for 2021, due to potential impact of COVID-19
- Connecting Participants to Mainstream Benefits – 4 points
- Participants Connected to Health Insurance – 2 points
- High Quality Data Entry – 9 points
 - Note: Grantees will not be penalized for “Clients Don’t Know/Clients Refused” related to Personally Identifiable Information for clients fleeing DV who do not want to disclose this information due to confidentiality concerns
 - This year, separating out PII into separate measures (increased from 7.5 to 9 points total)
- Timeliness of HMIS Data Entry – 2 points
 - Looks at timeliness of project entry record and exit record input (within 10 days)

Monitoring

24 points (17 for SSO)

Renewal Scoring Criteria: Monitoring

- Project Participant Eligibility – 2 points
 - % of heads of households whose prior living situation was literally homeless or fleeing DV
- Unit Utilization Rate – 5 points
 - Average utilization rate over 4 points in time (Note: SSO projects not scored on this criteria)
 - Total points lowered for 2021, due to potential impact of COVID-19
 - New for 2021 scoring: For projects under 10 units (scattered site **OR** site based), will use a 3-year average if the project is under utilization threshold.
- Drawdown Rates – 3 points
 - Quarterly drawdowns
- Funds Expended – 8 points
 - % of grant funds expended

Renewal Scoring Criteria: Monitoring

- Timely APR Submission – 2 points
- Cost effectiveness – 4 points (2 points each of the factors below)
 - Cost per household served- Average cost per household served compared to average of other projects. Points awarded in quartiles. SSO/TH/RRH projects ranked together. PSH projects ranked together.
 - Cost per exit to permanent housing destination- Average cost per exit to permanent housing. Points awarded in quartiles. SSO/TH/RRH projects ranked together. PSH projects ranked together.
- HUD Monitoring
 - 5 points deducted if HUD monitoring findings not resolved

HUD Priorities

23 points

Renewal Scoring Criteria: HUD priorities

Severity of Need - Why does the CoC score projects using criteria related to severity of need?

- HUD requirement -- For projects who serve participants with high vulnerability/high severity of needs, HUD wants to ensure that CoCs are taking this into consideration in some way during the scoring process.
- Projects who serve participants with high severity of needs may struggle in other areas (e.g. increasing income, exits to permanent housing) as a result of serving participants with high severity of need. These criteria are intended to factor that into the scoring.
- Projects are not intended to receive all points in all areas of the renewal scoring criteria. Criteria are intended to allow for a balanced evaluation of the project.

Renewal Scoring Criteria: HUD Priorities

Severity of Need - Why does the CoC score projects using criteria related to severity of need?

- Examples:
 - Project A serves many participants with high service needs/severity of need. Project A lost a few points related to increasing income and exits to permanent housing. However, Project A adds points in Severity of Need related to Health Conditions, Zero Income at Entry, and Unsheltered.
 - Project B serves participants with less intense service needs. Project B scores well in areas related to increasing income, exits to permanent housing, and cost per household. However, Project B receives few points related to Severity of Need related to Health Conditions, Zero Income at Entry, and Domestic Violence history.

Renewal Scoring Criteria: HUD Priorities

- Severity of Need/Health Conditions – 2 points
 - % of adult participants with 1+ physical and/or mental health condition(s)
- Severity of Need/Zero Income at Entry – 2 points
 - % of adult participants with zero income at program entry
- Severity of Need/Chronically Homeless – 2 points
 - % of chronically homeless households at entry
- Severity of Need/Unsheltered – 2 points
 - % of adult participants coming from unsheltered locations at entry
- Severity of Need/Domestic Violence – 2 points
 - % of adult participants with history of DV

Renewal Scoring Criteria: HUD Priorities

- Project Type – 3 points
- Housing First Approach – 10 points
 - Org responds affirmatively to questions on Housing First questionnaire to receive points

CoC Participation 10 points

Renewal Scoring Criteria: CoC Participation

- CoC Meeting Attendance – 2 points
- RHAB Meetings -2 points
 - Attendance at 50% of all RHAB meetings in 2019
 - N/A if NW Region and not a member of the RHAB
- County LHOT or housing coalition meetings
 - Attendance at 75% of all county LHOT/housing coalition meetings
 - 4 points for NW non-RHAB members; 2 points all others
- CoC Training Events – 4 points

Renewal Scoring Criteria: CoC Participation

- Coordinated Entry Participation – Not Scored in 2021
- BONUS – Full HMIS Participation – 0.5 points
 - HMIS participation among homeless assistance projects operated by your organization that are not required to participate in HMIS, or partnering with another organization/program to enter their data into HMIS
- Late Submission (Penalty) – 2 points penalty

Scoring Calculations

Scoring calculations are available in the 2021 Renewal Scoring Criteria document, if you want to see how any of the criteria are calculated (e.g. which APR table, which data points, etc.). Example:

8	<p>CONNECTING PARTICIPANTS TO MAINSTREAM BENEFITS Percent of adult participants with 1+ source of Non-Cash benefits (SNAP, WIC, TANF, others, etc.)</p>	<p>APR Q20b: Number of Non-Cash Benefit Sources; APR Q18: Client Cash Income Category - Earned/Other Income Category - by Entry and Annual Assessment/Exit Status</p> <p><u>Numerator:</u> (Q20b Benefit at Latest Annual Assessment for Stayers-1 + Source(s)) + (Q20b Benefit at Exit for Leavers-1+ Source(s))</p> <p><u>Denominator:</u> (Q20b Benefit at Latest Annual Assessment for Stayers-Total) + (Q20b Benefit at Exit for Leavers-Total) – (Q18 Number of Stayers-Number of adult stayers not yet required to have an annual assessment) – (Q20b Benefit at Latest Annual Assessment for Stayers-Client Doesn't Know/Client Refused) – (Q20b Benefit at Exit for Leavers-Client Doesn't Know/Client Refused)</p>
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Questions

Questions so far?



Renewal Scoring Process

Process for Submitting Required Information

There are some (positive) changes to the process for submitting renewal scoring information to the CoC this year.



Grantees will not be required to manually enter their APR data this year.

Grantees will still be required to submit other information for scoring, as in previous years.

Process for Submitting Required Information

Renewal summary form submitted via Alchemer

- Upload documentation from eLOCCS, documentation that APR was submitted on time, and answer questions related to unit utilization, Housing First, HUD Monitoring, RHAB participation, training participation, and DV services (if applicable)
- DV providers will be required to submit a copy of their APR from DV comparable database.

CoC agencies will have a limited time to submit this data.

- All agencies, particularly those with multiple projects, are encouraged to **begin as soon as the survey tool is released** to ensure that the submission deadline is met.

Grantees will NOT have to manually enter their APR this year. The HMIS team has created a report that will generate your APR data.

Grantees have been asked to review/clean up their data in advance of scoring (by 5/4/21). There will be only one version of the outcomes/scoring report. There will NOT be multiple iterations of the Scoring Calculator released.

Upon release of the preliminary outcomes and scoring report, the window for submitting appeals of the outcomes and scoring will be open.

Process for Submitting Required Information

Info for DV Providers, SSO-CE Providers, and New Projects

- **SSO-CE (Coordinated Entry), HMIS, and Planning Grant projects** will submit a different version of the Renewal Summary Form survey. This information will be emailed to you directly.
- **DV Providers:** You will be asked to attach a copy of your APR when submitting the Renewal Summary Form survey. If you need assistance running your APR, please reach out to ETO.
- **New Projects:** If you are operating a new project and your project did not start operating until after January 1st, 2020, you will NOT be required to submit the full survey as your project will not be competitively scored. However, you still need to submit a survey for your project.

Process for Submitting Required Information

DMA will provide a video walk-through of the Renewal Summary Form for grantees who want more details/guidance on completing the surveys.

Unit Utilization Rates

23. Please indicate the number of units included in your FY2019 Renewal Application:

Note: FY20 Projects were renewed at FY19 levels due to no competitive CoC NOFA, and no project application was submitted in FY20. Therefore, we are requesting this information from your 2019 Renewal Application.

*

24. Is this consistent with the number of units in your 2017 and 2018 CoC applications? *

- Yes
- No

Drawdown Rates from eLoccs

25. What are the start and end dates of your last fully completed grant year? *

Start Date *

End Date *

Please ATTACH/UPLOAD a summary page from eLOCCS showing dates and amounts of drawdowns for THE LAST FULL GRANT YEAR.

Please name the file according to the following naming convention: “[First 6 digits of grant number]_[Project Name]_eLOCCSDrawdowns”

Appeals

- Renewal scoring results will be circulated to all CoC-funded grantees.
- If an error on the Renewal Scoring Sheet is identified, DMA will work to resolve that error directly or with the Funding Committee as needed.
- If a grantee is not satisfied with the outcome of an issue raised, the grantee may opt to submit an appeal. Appeals will be submitted via Alchemer. Grantees should provide as much detail and documentation as possible to support their appeal. All appeals will be discussed, deliberated and decided by the Funding Committee.

Appeals

Examples of appeals with good documentation

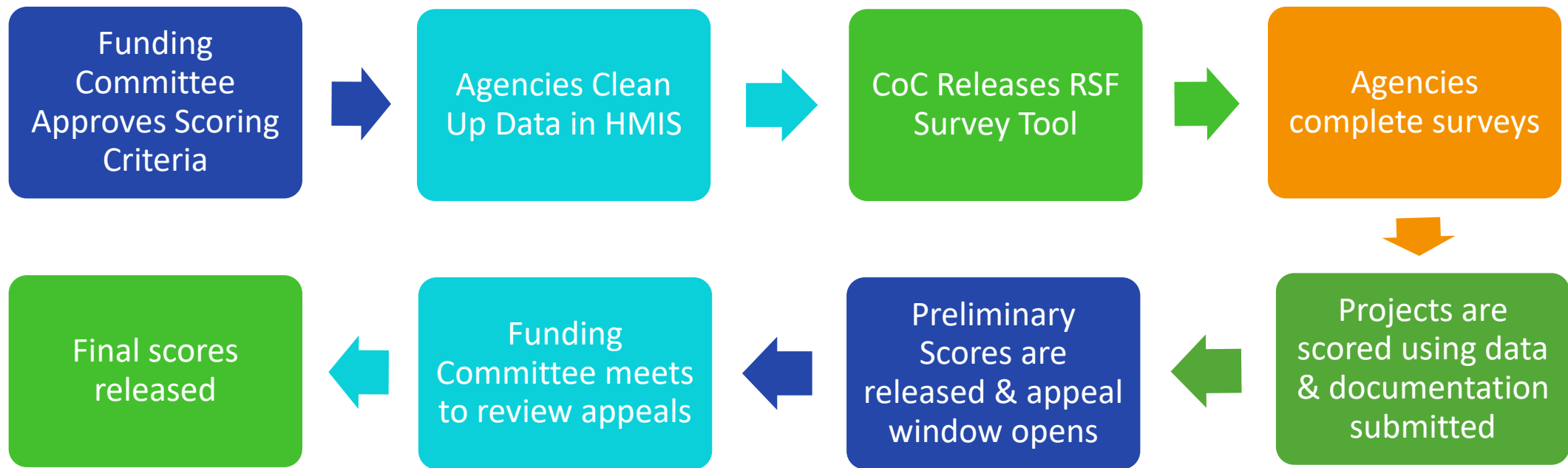
- Project A submitted their APR late due to an HMIS issue. Project A submits clear documentation including: 1) correspondence with HMIS team showing attempts to resolve the issue, 2) correspondence with HUD Field Office to inform them of the issue, and 3) correspondence with CoC about this issue.
- Project B has two participants who have been in the project for 10+ years. The rules for project eligibility were different at the time when these participants were enrolled in the program, which resulted in the project losing points related to Participant Eligibility. The project submitted the following documentation: 1) proof of participants' enrollment date, 2) proof of participants' living situation at enrollment, 3) HUD guidance re: enrollment eligibility at date of participants enrollment.

Appeals

Examples of appeals with weak or no documentation

- General complaints about criteria but no specific documentation of why your project should be granted an appeal. Example: “It is hard to increase income for our clients.”
- “We are a small program and are penalized more harshly on this criteria”, but no documentation related to the specific clients this applies to.

Summary of 2021 Scoring Process



Timeline

- **May 5th (LATER TODAY)** – Renewal Summary Form Survey launches
 - Look out for an email from the CoC email address (westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org) with detailed information
- **Thursday, May 27th at 12pm (noon)** - Renewal Summary Form Survey DUE
- **June 18th**– DMA release renewal preliminary project scores
- **June 21st-June 25th**– Grantees may submit appeals related to renewal project scores
- **July 2nd**– Final renewal project scores released

- **NOTE:** If HUD releases the NOFA during this timeline, this timeline may need to be adjusted or moved up. The CoC will communicate any changes related to the timeline as soon as possible upon release of a NOFA.

Happy CoC scoring!

- To help us ensure a smooth CoC scoring process please:
 - Promptly and carefully read all emails from the CoC
 - Follow instructions
 - Ask questions well in advance of deadlines
 - Meet all deadlines
- If you have questions, send them to westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org.
- You can also call DMA at 215-576-1558 and leave a message and someone from the team will call you back.
- Please do NOT wait until the last minute to review materials, submit surveys and/or resolve problems/questions.

Q&A



USE THE CHAT TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS

Contact Info

Diana T. Myers and Associates, Consultant for the Western PA CoC

- westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org
- 215-576-1558 (leave a message and someone will get back to you)