



## **2021 Home4Good Request for Proposals** **Addendum: Priorities of the Eastern PA CoC**

As a Continuum of Care participating in the Home4Good process, the Eastern PA CoC will be responsible to:

- disseminate program information to regional service providers within its respective geographic area;
- receive, evaluate, and rank proposals submitted before the deadline from interested service providers in its geographic area using an inclusive, outcome-oriented process by which projects/ programs are reviewed based on the CoC's priority activities/projects, previous performance, anticipated outcomes, and compliance with the goals and objectives of the request for proposals; and
- submit a proposal package to PHFA on behalf of itself and the eligible service provider(s), which will include all project applications, by the close of business on September 30, 2021.

Per the Home4Good RFP, to be eligible for funding consideration, each Home4Good service provider applying for funds must address one of the following program goals.

- **Prevention and/or Diversion:** Projects, programs or activities that assist households seeking to avoid homelessness by maintaining their current housing situation or being diverted to alternative options.
- **Innovative Solutions:** Projects, programs or activities that provide innovative solutions that seek to end homelessness.
- **Critical Need:** Any project, program or activity serving homeless individuals and families that is determined to be critically needed by the relevant community or CoC area entity for the Region/County

Please ensure your project is aligned to the CoC's strategic plan, which can be viewed on the CoC website and is linked at - [Eastern PA CoC Five-Year Strategic Plan to Reduce and End Homelessness](#).

Additionally, the Eastern PA CoC Board has created a list of priority unmet needs. **As such, projects responding to these needs will be given priority consideration within the CoC's project ranking.** (Per the Home4Good RFP, all projects submitted will be reviewed, ranked, and included with the CoC's application packet.)

## EASTERN PA COC'S PRIORITY NEEDS

The below list summarizes the Eastern PA CoC's priority needs.

- Landlord engagement and outreach to increase availability and access to affordable rental units for households experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness, including
  - supporting a landlord engagement specialist/ housing navigator position
  - Landlord mitigation fund. Partnerships with landlords are critical to ending homelessness and there are many strategies involved in engaging and recruiting landlords, including risk mitigation funds<sup>1</sup>. These funds provide an added protection for landlords willing to rent to someone with limited income, a poor rental history, or a criminal history. The funds can cover a range of activities including excessive damages to the rental unit, addressing bed bugs, protecting landlords against lost rent, among others. Reimbursement limits are set in advance and landlords typically submit a claim for reimbursement.
    - CoC-wide and/or multi-county projects are encouraged.
    - For more information, visit
      - <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/6035/covid-19-homeless-system-response-landlord-engagement/>
      - <https://www.usich.gov/solutions/housing/landlord-engagement/>
      - <https://www.usich.gov/tools-for-action/engaging-landlords-risk-mitigation-funds-community-profiles>
      - <https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/eastern-pa-coc-home4good-2021> to access the Housing Alliance of PA's Recommendations for How to Create Win-Win Partnerships with Landlord
- Rehabilitation of rental units to bring them up to Habitability Standards or Housing Quality Standards to increase availability of and access to affordable rental units for households experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness, including
  - Offering grants or reimbursement (amounts offered should be reasonable) to landlords to bring unit(s) up to Habitability Standards for ESG Program or Housing Quality Standards for CoC Program if the landlord commits to renting the unit to households experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness for some period of time (for example, 3-5 years),

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<sup>1</sup> Language used from United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Engaging Landlords: Risk Mitigation Funds Community Profiles

which means the rent for the unit(s) will have to remain at or below Fair Market Rent or meet Rent Reasonable Standards

- CoC-wide and/or multi-county projects are encouraged.
- Homelessness Diversion. Diversion assistance is a process that assists households who are on the brink of becoming or who are literally homeless to identify a short-term or permanent housing solution, rather than entering the homeless system. This approach uses a combination of motivational interviewing, conflict resolution, creative problem solving, and, if needed, a small amount of one-time financial assistance. Homeless diversion financial assistance is a flexible pot of funding to be used to divert individuals/families from entering a shelter or the streets. An example of how diversion funding could be used may include the provision of a gift card for groceries for the aunt who allows her family member to sleep at her home, rather than entering shelter. Other examples of diversion activities may include support with housing start-up supplies; pay for back utilities and/or back rent; shallow rental assistance (for a household with income but the income is slightly below what is needed to independently cover rental costs); and transportation assistance provide transportation assistance; and to employ staff to provide [SOAR services](#). Applicants are encouraged to propose innovative ideas and solutions to reducing homelessness within your community.
  - CoC-wide and/or multi-county projects are encouraged.
  - NOTE: Any projects applying for diversion funding must agree to accept referrals from the Eastern PA CoC's Coordinated Entry System, [Connect to Home](#), in order to be considered for priority ranking.
- Homelessness Prevention, including financial assistance, rental assistance, and services provided for households meeting Category 2 of HUD's Homelessness Definition (at imminent risk), designed to target / prioritize assistance to households that would most likely become homeless if they lost their current housing versus first come, first serve. This may include households that are formerly homeless, living in a subsidized unit, or other high-risk situations. Projects should be designed to have the greatest impact for preventing homelessness, based on the where households are coming from prior to entering a homeless shelter or seeking homeless assistance.
  - CoC-wide and/or multi-county projects are encouraged.
  - Entities applying for homelessness prevention projects that mirror the Eastern PA CoC's process, including the use of the CoC's ESG Homelessness Prevention Prioritization Tool, will be more favorably scored.  
<https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/resources/eastern-pa-coc-esg-homelessness-prevention-prioritization-tool>
  - NOTE: Any projects applying for homeless prevention funding must agree to accept referrals from the Eastern PA CoC's Coordinated Entry System, [Connect to Home](#), in order to be considered for priority ranking.

## ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROJECT RANKING

As stated, the Eastern PA CoC will be responsible for reviewing and ranking each project applying for Home4Good funding within the CoC's 33-county region. In addition to the above listed priority projects, the CoC's internal ranking process will award points to projects that make the following commitments within their project application:

- The project will accept referrals from the Eastern PA CoC's Coordinated Entry System, *Connect to Home*;
- The project will enter data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
  - If the project applicant is a Domestic Violence provider, the project applicant should enter data into an HMIS comparable database.
- The project is aligned to the CoC's strategic plan, which can be viewed on the CoC website and is linked at - [Eastern PA CoC Five-Year Strategic Plan to Reduce and End Homelessness](#).

## QUESTIONS

Questions regarding the Home4Good RFP and/or this Addendum should be emailed to [easterncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org](mailto:easterncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org).

## SUBMITTAL DUE DATE AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED

Please refer to the Home4Good RFP for proposal requirements. All applications should be responsive to the requirements described in the Home4Good RFP.

Per the timeline included in the Home4Good RFP, project applications are due to the Eastern PA CoC by **close of business on August 31, 2021**. Applications should be submitted via email to [easterncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org](mailto:easterncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org).