Eastern PA CoC FY2022 CoC Renewal Scoring Webinar

Presented by: DMA - Diana T. Myers and Associates, Inc.
May 3rd, 2022
For the Eastern PA Continuum of Care, under contract with the PA Dept of Community & Economic Development

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Webinar Agenda

- What's New for 2022
- Why Renewal Scoring?
- Renewal Scoring Criteria
  - Brief overview of all criteria
  - Highlight new criteria
- Renewal Scoring Process
  - Process
    - Info for DV providers, New Projects, Consolidations
  - Timeline
  - Appeals
- Questions

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NOFO Updates

- No word yet from HUD on NOFO timeline
- Next steps:
  - GIW Review

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New for 2022

- Projects dedicated to DV survivors (narrative) - added a rubric for how this criteria will be scored
- Length of time between project start date and housing move in – lowered threshold for RRH projects (80% moved in to housing within 30 days of project enrollment = 1 point)
- High quality data entry – lowered from 11 to 9 points
- Timeliness of HMIS Data Entry- Increased point value to 2 and changed thresholds
  - 80% of project entry records input within 10 days = 1 point (threshold was previously 100% and was worth 0.5 points)
  - 80% of project exit records input within 10 days = 1 point (threshold was previously 100% and was worth 0.5 points)

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New for 2022

- Equity: Non-Discrimination Policy (2 points)
  - Grantee submits organization non-discrimination policy
  - The CoC approved a non-discrimination policy in October 2020, which included a requirement that CoC funded agencies adopt an organizational non-discrimination policy. This policy and requirement was presented at the October 2020 full CoC meeting.
- Equity: Disaggregating data to examine potential disparities (1 point)
  - Narrative question
  - Has your program disaggregated data by race/ethnicity/gender/household type/etc. to examine potential disparities within your program? If yes, describe your process, what you learned, and any goals you're working on as a result of the process?
  - If not, does your program have a plan for doing so within the next year? If so, please explain your plan and timeline?
  - Non-scored question: What support, if any, does your program need to analyze your data for potential disparities?

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New for 2022

- Timely APR submission lowered from 4 to 2 points
- List of trainings updated
- Late submission penalty
  - 2-point penalty for late submission of documents (unless provided an extension for extenuating circumstances)
  - If a grantee needs to request a submission extension due to extenuating circumstances, this must be requested via email (to CoC email address) at least 2 business days in advance. Extensions will be reviewed and approved by the Funding Committee Chair. No extensions will be provided for submissions greater than 5 days after the stated deadline. Grantees are strongly encouraged to work ahead of the deadline to avoid the need to request an extension.

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Why does the CoC score and rank grantees during the annual CoC NOFO 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?

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

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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.

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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 NOFO requirements or to reflect the work the CoC is doing).

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

- SSO-CE and HMIS grants will be evaluated using an abbreviated evaluation process, focusing primarily on grant management (spending and APR submission).
- SSO-CE and HMIS grantees will receive specific instructions on the survey they are to complete.
- Planning grant will not need to submit renewal evaluation information.

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Renewal Project Scoring Criteria

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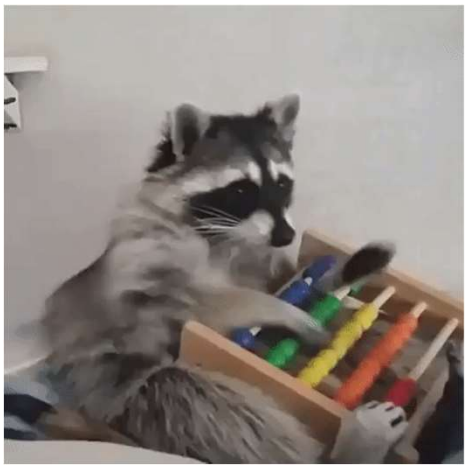

- CoC's FY22 Scoring Criteria Areas:
  - Performance= 38 points (35 for SSO)
  - Monitoring= 19 points (17 for SSO)
  - HUD Priorities= 23 points
  - CoC Participation= 20 points
- Total Points:
  - RRH, TH-RRH, PSH = 100 points
  - SSO = 95 points (will be converted to 100-point scale)
  - Up to 0.5 bonus points
- CoC's FY22 Renewal Scoring Period:
  - October 1, 2020-September 30, 2021

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Performance

38 Points (35 for SSO)

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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)
  - HUD indicates that performance criteria should account for at least 25% of points and objective criteria should account for at least 33% of points
- 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.

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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. 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

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Renewal Scoring Criteria: Performance

- Housing Stability – 10 points
  - Exits to Permanent Housing (RRH/TH-RRH/SSO)
  - Exits to Permanent Housing/Retention in Permanent Housing (PSH)
  - Note: Thresholds were lowered for RRH and TH-RRH in 2021 due to potential impact of COVID-19 and remain lowered.
- 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 Time between Project Start Date and Housing Move in Date – 1 point
  - Only includes households who have moved into housing.
    - PSH: 90% of households moved into housing within 30 days of project enrollment
    - RRH/TH-RRH: 80% of households moved into housing within 30 days of project enrollment
  - N/A for SSO

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Renewal Scoring Criteria: Performance

- Income Growth/Increase in TOTAL Income – 10 points
  - Note: Thresholds were lowered for RRH and TH-RRH in 2021 due to potential impact of COVID-19 and remain lowered.
- Participants Connected to Non-Cash/Mainstream Benefits – 2 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
- Timeliness of HMIS Data Entry – 2 points
  - Looks at timeliness of project entry record and exit record input (within 10 days)

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Monitoring

19 points
(17 for SSO)

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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 – 2 points
  - Average utilization rate over 4 points in time
  - Note: Point value was lowered due to potential impact of COVID-19.
  - For projects under 10 units (site based OR scattered site), will use a 3-year average if the project is under 85% threshold.
- Drawdown Rates – 4 points
  - Quarterly drawdowns
- Funds Expended – 3 points
  - % of grant funds expended
  - Note: Point value was lowered in 2021 due to potential impact of COVID-19 and remains lowered.

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Renewal Scoring Criteria: Monitoring

- Timely APR Submission – 2 points
- Cost effectiveness – 6 points (3 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 positive exit - 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

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HUD Priorities

23 points

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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.

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Renewal Scoring Criteria: HUD Priorities

- Severity of Need/Health Conditions – 2 points
  - % of 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/Unsheltered – 2 points
  - % of adult participants coming from unsheltered locations at program entry
- Severity of Need/Age – 2 points
  - % of adult participants who are youth aged 24 and under or adults aged 55+
- Severity of Need/Domestic Violence – 2 points
  - % of adult participants with history of DV

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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 participant 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.

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Renewal Scoring Criteria: HUD Priorities

- Housing First Approach – 10 points
  - Org responds affirmatively to questions on Housing First questionnaire to receive points
- Equity: Non-Discrimination Policy (2 points)
  - Grantee submits organization non-discrimination policy
  - The CoC approved a non-discrimination policy in October 2020, which included a requirement that CoC funded agencies adopt an organizational non-discrimination policy. This policy and requirement was presented at the October 2020 full CoC meeting.
- Equity: Disaggregating data to examine potential disparities (1 point)
  - Narrative question
  - Has your program disaggregated data by race/ethnicity/gender/household type/etc. to examine potential disparities within your program? If yes, describe your process, what you learned, and any goals you're working on as a result of the process?
  - If not, does your program have a plan for doing so within the next year? If so, please explain your plan and timeline?
  - Non-scored question: What support, if any, does your program need to analyze your data for potential disparities?

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CoC Participation

20 points

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Renewal Scoring Criteria: CoC Participation

- RHAB Participation and CoC leadership – 10 points
  - RHAB participation - % of 10 points, based on % of RHAB meetings attended
  - CoC leadership - If less than 10 points were awarded for RHAB participation, 1 additional point will be awarded for each Committee/ Sub-Committee meeting attended, up to 3 points.
- CoC Meeting Attendance – 4 points
- CoC Webinars and Trainings – 6 points
- 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-point penalty for late submission of documents (unless provided an extension for extenuating circumstances)

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Scoring Calculations

Scoring calculations are available in the 2022 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:

6	PARTICIPANTS CONNECTED TO MAINSTREAM BENEFITS: Percentage of adult participants with 1+ source of Non-Cash benefits (SNAP, WIC, TANF, others, etc.)	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 Numerator: (Q20b Benefit at Latest Annual Assessment for Stayers-1 + Source(s)) + (Q20b Benefit at Exit for Leavers-1+ Source(s)) Denominator: (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)

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Questions

- Questions so far?

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Renewal Scoring Process

Process for Submitting Required Information

Renewal summary form submitted via Alchemer

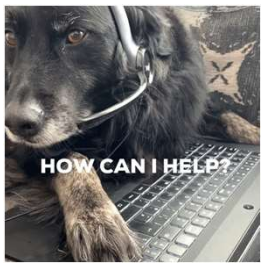
- Upload documentation from eLOCCS, documentation that APR was submitted on time, and answer questions related to unit utilization, Housing First, HUD Monitoring, RHAB participation, training participation, and DV services (if applicable)
- There will also be a chance to upload information for Equity bonus.
- Grantees will also have to provide some data points from HMIS/ETO/client records.
- DV providers will be required to submit a copy of their APR.

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.

Process for Submitting Required Information

DMA will provide a walk-through video if anyone needs additional help with the Alchemer survey. Please watch this video if you need extra help or run into questions! (you can also email us but recommend starting here!)



Process for Submitting Required Information

DMA Tip:

We recommend completing survey on paper and gathering all your required documents first. Then sit down and complete the online survey in one sitting. We will provide a hard copy of online survey with instruction materials.

Renewal Scoring Process

Grantees have been asked to review/clean up their data in advance of scoring (by 5/2/21). There will be only one version of the outcomes/scoring report.

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

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Info for DV Providers and New Projects

- **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 your database vendor.
- **New Projects:** If you are operating a new project and your project did not start operating until after October 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.***
  - This also applies to projects where the grant was transferred from one recipient to another.

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Important Info Regarding Consolidations

- If you requested to consolidate grants in the FY2021 Competition **you will be submitting ONE renewal summary form for all consolidated grants.**
- If questions are asking for data, please provide COMBINED data for all projects within the consolidation (e.g., if project A served 10 people from 10/1/20-9/30/21 and project B served 9 people from 10/1/20-9/30/21, then the consolidated project served 19 people).
  - ***You can run a combined APR in HMIS to review data for consolidated projects together***
- In places where you need to attach documentation such as eLOCCS or documentation of APR submitted on time, you will attach documentation for ALL grants included in the consolidation

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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.

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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.

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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.

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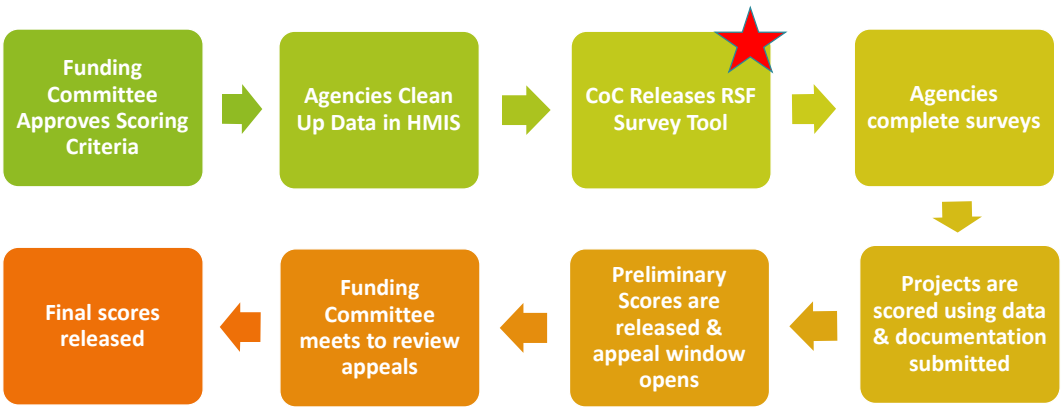
Summary of 2022 Scoring Process



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Timeline

- **May 3rd (LATER TODAY)** – Renewal Summary Form Survey launches
  - Look out for an email from the CoC email address (easterncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org) with detailed information
- **Friday, May 27th at 12pm (noon)** - Renewal Summary Form Survey DUE
- **June 20th** – DMA release renewal preliminary project scores
- **June 20th – June 24th** – Grantees may submit appeals related to renewal project scores
- **Week of July 4th** – Final renewal project scores released

NOTE: If HUD releases the NOFO 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 NOFO.

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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 easterncoc@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.

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Q&A

Use the chat to submit questions

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Contact Info

- Diana T. Myers and Associates, Consultant for the Eastern PA CoC
  - easterncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org
  - 215-576-1558 (leave a message and someone will get back to you)