

Special NOFO – Rural Set Aside

RFP Overview and Q&A Session

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Agenda

- HUD Priorities
- Rural Set Aside Funds Available
- Rural Counties
- Eligible Project Types
- Grant Terms
- Eligible Costs
- Leveraging Housing/Healthcare
- Match
- CoC Requirements
- Process to Apply
- Questions

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HUD Policy Priorities – Special NOFO

1. Unsheltered Homelessness
2. Unsheltered Homelessness and Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs in Rural Areas
3. Providing Assistance on Tribal Lands
4. Involving a Broad Array of Stakeholders in the CoC's Efforts to Reduce Homelessness
5. Advancing Equity
6. Use a Housing First approach

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HUD Special NOFO – Rural Set Aside

- HUD has \$54,500,000 to award for Rural Set Aside
- For CoCs with counties meeting HUD's definition of rural. Projects can only serve those in rural counties.
- Eastern CoC is eligible to apply for **\$6,110,040** (annualized at \$2,036,680 b/c of 3-year contracts)

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Eligible Project Types

- Permanent Housing
 - Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH)
 - Permanent Housing- Rapid Re-housing (PH-RRH)
- Joint TH and PH-RRH (TH-RRH)
- Supportive Service Only
 - Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE)
 - Supportive Services Only – Outreach
 - Supportive Services Only – Other (*non-Coordinated Entry and non-Outreach*)
- NOTE: Hard costs (acquisition, new construction, and rehabilitation) may be funded under the Rural Set Aside

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Supportive Service Only Projects

- **Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry**
 - This project type is for projects that will administer the CoC's centralized or coordinated entry process
- **Supportive Services Only – Outreach**
 - Street outreach offers services necessary to reach unsheltered homeless individuals and families to connect them with emergency shelter, housing, or critical services and provide urgent non-facility-based care to those who are unwilling or unable to access emergency shelter, housing, or an appropriate health facility.

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Supportive Service Only Projects

- **Supportive Services Only – Other (non-Coordinated Entry and non-Outreach)**
 - This project type is for **stand-alone support services** to individuals and families experiencing homelessness or who have been homeless in the prior 6-months but are now residing in permanent housing (that is not PSH or RRH).
 - This means, the recipient is providing supportive services to individuals and families who were recently or are currently experiencing homelessness for whom the applicant is not also providing housing or housing assistance.
 - **Examples:**
 - housing navigation activities for people experiencing homelessness when the applicant is not also providing any ongoing housing assistance through this same grant;
 - childcare services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness;
 - drop-in centers that provide supportive services to people experiencing homelessness;
 - family reunification services to reunite people experiencing homelessness with their families;
 - funding for the provision of supportive services to households moving into Public Housing Authority funded units, or other housing units in the community.

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Grant Terms

- Projects funded by HUD will initially be **3-year grants** and will be eligible for annual renewal, dependent on the availability of funding from HUD and program performance.
- Acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction projects will be funded for up to 5-year initial grant term. Acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction costs will not be eligible for renewal.

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Eligible Costs

- **Acquisition, Rehabilitation, New Construction**
 - Permanent housing projects MAY request funds for acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation. Hard costs will not be renewable after the initial grant term concludes.
- **Operations** – to operate a site owned or leased by your agency
- **Rental Assistance** – to assist a household in paying their rent. Household holds the lease with the landlord.
- **Leasing** - Under a Leasing model, the provider enters into the lease with the landlord and has a sublease or rental agreement with the program participant
- **Supportive Services**
 - *Including Special Rural Set Aside Activities (next slide)*
- **Administrative Costs** – up to 10% of total project
- **Rural Capacity Building Activities**
 - An applicant may apply for up to 20% of funds requested for capacity building activities.
 - Eligible capacity building activities include employee education, job training, staff retention activities such as financial incentives to staff, paying for continuing education opportunities, cross training within an organization, staff training and professional licensing or certification, and other professional development activities.

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Supportive Services - Special Rural Set Aside Activities

Rural Set Aside projects may apply for the following eligible costs (in addition to Supportive Services costs normally eligible under CoC Program):

- Up to **6 months of rent or utility arrears** after 2 months of nonpayment of rent or utilities
- **Short-term emergency lodging** in motels or shelters, either directly or through vouchers
- **Repairs necessary to make housing habitable** to be used for transitional or permanent housing. Up to \$10,000 per structure.
- **Capacity building activities**, such as employee education, job training, staff retention activities such as financial incentives to staff, paying for continuing education opportunities, cross training within an organization, staff training and professional licensing or certification, and other professional development activities. Up to 20% of funds requested.
- **Emergency food and clothing assistance**
- Costs associated with **making use of Federal Inventory property programs** to house individuals and families experiencing homelessness

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Leveraging Housing Resources

CoC's will receive additional points for leveraging housing resources to create new permanent housing projects:

- CoCs must **demonstrate that they have applied for permanent housing project(s)**, including permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing, that utilizes housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs (e.g., Housing Choice Vouchers, HOME-ARP, HOPWA). The CoC must demonstrate that these housing units, which are not funded through the CoC or ESG programs, will:
 - In the case of a permanent supportive housing project(s), **provide at least 50 percent of the units** included in the project; or
 - In the case of a rapid re-housing project(s), **serve at least 50 percent of the program participants** anticipated to be served by the project.
- CoCs must attach **letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents** that clearly demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project. To receive full points, **the CoC must attach a letter from a PHA** committing to work with the CoC to pair vouchers with CoC-funded supportive services; to work with the CoC and other stakeholders to develop a prioritization plan for a potential allocation of Stability Voucher or a preference for general admission to Housing Choice Voucher program through the coordinated entry process for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

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Leveraging HealthCare Resources

CoC's will receive additional points for leveraging healthcare resources to create new permanent housing projects:

- CoCs must demonstrate through **a written commitment from a health care organization**, including organizations that serve people with HIV/AIDS, that the value of assistance being provided by the healthcare organization is at least:
 - In the case of a substance abuse treatment or recovery provider, it will provide access to treatment or recovery services **for all program participants who qualify and choose those services**; or
 - An **amount that is equivalent to 50% of the funding** being requested for the project(s) will be covered by the healthcare organization.

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Participant Eligibility – Rural Set Aside

- Includes Categories 1, 2 & 4
 - Category 1 – literally homeless (in shelter, or unsheltered)
 - Category 2 - at risk of homelessness
 - Category 4 – fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual assault
- See RFP for additional details about eligibility. For example, Permanent Supportive Housing projects must serve households with a disabling condition.

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Match

- CoC funding requires a 25% match – either cash or in-kind. The only exception is that leasing costs do not require a match.
 - If your project is awarded \$100,000 in CoC funds (not including leasing dollars), must secure additional \$25,000 in matching funds (cash or in-kind).
 - Subtract leasing dollars from total budget to calculate required match

CoC Requirements

- CoC grantees must follow CoC Written Standards
- CoC grantees must use a Housing First Approach
- All participants must be enrolled through CoC's Coordinated Entry System
- CoC grantees must enter data into HMIS
- CoC grantees must participant in COC meetings and training
- CoC grantees must adhere to HUD requirements including submitting annual performance report, drawing down funds quarterly, and expending all grant funds
- CoC grantees must comply with HUD's CoC Program Interim Rule

Threshold Requirements and Scoring Factors

- See RFP for details about threshold requirements and scoring factors. The preliminary application questions align with these requirements and scoring factors.
- Funding Committee uses these factors to assess and score new projects
- ***NOTE: Projects that can leverage housing or healthcare resources will receive additional points when Funding Committee assesses applications.***

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Process to Apply

- **Preliminary applications due September 12th at 5pm**
 - Submitted via Alchemer. You can view a hard copy of the application questions – we recommend working on application questions on paper first, then enter into Alchemer.
 - Must attach a budget (template provided). Budget requests information on 1-time costs (hard costs) as well as 1-year budget for ongoing costs. The budget template then calculates the total 3-year budget. **The amount you are applying for is the total 3-year budget.**
- Funding Committee will review and score applications, and will notify selected projects **no later than Friday, September 30th**

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Next Steps if Selected

- **Selected applicants will have a mandatory briefing meeting on Monday, October 3rd from 1pm-2:30pm.**
- If your organization does not have a SAM account and UEI number (necessary for applying for federal funds), we recommend requesting that now.
- Selected applicants will have a short window (less than 1 week) to complete their draft application in e-snaps (HUD's application portal). You should use your preliminary application when working on the application in esnaps (many of the questions are identical or similar, and the preliminary application notes the e-snaps question number when applicable)
- Selected applicants will receive feedback on draft application from DMA and will have a short window of time to make corrections and submit final application in esnaps.

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Questions?

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Contact Info

- Submit questions to: **easterncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org**