

Before Starting the Special CoC Application

You must submit both of the following parts in order for us to consider your Special NOFO Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application, and
2. the CoC Priority Listing.

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The Special NOFO Continuum of Care (CoC) Application Detailed Instructions for Collaborative Applicants 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.

CoC Approval is Required before You Submit Your CoC's Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on behalf of your CoC.
- 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit the Consolidated Application into e-snaps.

Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You must upload the [Specific Attachment Name] attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

- Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.

- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1A-1. CoC Name and Number: PA-509 - Eastern Pennsylvania CoC

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

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Department of Commu

1A-5.	New Projects	
	Complete the chart below by indicating which funding opportunity(ies) your CoC applying for projects under. A CoC may apply for funding under both set asides; however, projects funded through the rural set aside may only be used in rural areas, as defined in the Special NOFO.	
1.	Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside	No
2.	Rural Homelessness Set Aside	Yes

1B. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1B-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for project application submission for your CoC's local competition.	08/11/2022

1B-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.a.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected new project applications during your CoC's local competition:	
	1. Established total points available for each project application type.	Yes
	2. At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH).	Yes
	3. At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness).	Yes

1B-3.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	1. Did your CoC reject or reduce any project application(s)?	Yes
	2. Did your CoC inform the applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced?	Yes
	3. If you selected yes, for element 1 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	09/22/2022

1B-3a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	09/22/2022
1B-4.	Web Posting of the CoC-Approved Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC posted its Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or affiliate’s website–which included: 1. the CoC Application, and 2. Priority Listings.	10/18/2022

2A. System Performance

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2A-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors.	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.b.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC determined which risk factors your CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;	
	2. how your CoC addresses individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time or to end homelessness for individuals and families.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

Across the entire CoC (33 counties), the CoC identified risk factors through analysis of data collected through the CE process/HMIS. Risk factors include institutional discharge w/ no home plan; loss of employment; family w/ young children; DV experience. On the local level, county hsg coalitions & regional CoC groups ID/discuss emerging trends being addressed locally. The CoC conducts an annual gaps analysis using Coordinated Entry Data to identify who is entering the system, what the service needs are, and potential disparities within the system. This gaps analysis data is used at the CoC-level and at the local county level to identify risk factors for experiencing homelessness.

2) Most recently, ERAP & ESG-CV funding have led to a significant increase in homelessness prevention efforts to help address the needs of HHS at risk of becoming homeless. During COVID, the CES system (211 and CES access sites) implemented a prevention screening tool to screen households for risk of homelessness and connect those identified as most at risk immediately to resources immediately, at the front door of the system.

Additionally, providers in the CoC have been providing diversion services since 2018 when the Cleveland Mediation Center was contracted to provide CoC-wide training. In addition, the CoC has allocated Home4Good funds to provide diversion resources (e.g., \$289k in 2021). Per the recommendations in the CE evaluation completed in Spring 2022, the CoC is now planning to create a new CoC-wide diversion strategy/implementation plan. This work is to begin in the fourth quarter of 2022 or first quarter in 2023. HMIS has been modified to facilitate CES diversion/prevention referrals & track outcomes.

In addition, the Lehigh Valley RHAB (one of the CoC's five regional working bodies) is working with the judicial system to create a court-based eviction prevention program. Multiple communities in the CoC are also working to develop strategies/interventions that will prevent homelessness, including first time homelessness, such as. This includes tenant rights workshops, landlord mediation and more.

3) DCED, in their role as Collaborative Applicant, is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategies.

2A-2.	Length of Time Homeless—Strategy to Reduce. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.c.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
	2. how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) The CoC implements many strategies to reduce to the length of time homeless for households:
 - 71% increase in RRH beds in the last five years, per HIC data (2018 = 560, 2022 = 957). CoC is applying for an additional 91 units in 2022 CoC Competition.
 - DCED prioritizes RRH resources under ESG.
 - CE system prioritizes HHs seeking assistance by vulnerability & length of time homeless
 - 100% of CoC PSH beds chronic dedicated.
 - EHVs in Allentown & Centre County are being used to moveing stable households from PSH, allowing these units to turn-over for households on CE BNL with the longest length of time homeless.
 - 100% of CoC-funded projects operate using Housing First approach & provide frequent training on HF & housing- focused case management, including a 4-part training with C4 in May-June 2021 on effective housing-focused case management to support maintenance of skills & staff turnover with C4 in May-June 2021.
 - To facilitate rapid PH placement, the CoC engaged TAC to provide a multi-session training series on landlord engagement in Spring 2022. In addition, TAC also facilitated a five- session RRH learning collaborative over the last year in order to maximize the impact of RRH investments & increase use of best practices.
 - As part of annual renewal review/scoring, projects are evaluated on the length of time b/w project entry & residential move-in, with a goal of 30 days or less.
 - Throughout the pandemic & the tighter housing market, HUD waivers were in use to provide landlord incentives, exceed FMR limits & provide housing locator services in order to identify/obtain housing units & reduce hsg search time.
 - The CoC has expanded outreach services to engage individuals with long histories of homelessness.
- 2) CoC CE assessment includes questions about length of time homeless, which impacts how households are prioritized for assistance per the CoC's written standards. The CE By Name List includes LOTH as a visible field for prioritization. CE operators regularly meet to review the list & connect households to housing.
- 3) DCED, the Collaborative Applicant, is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategies.

2A-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.d.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC will increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in:	
	1. emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and	
	2. permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC implements multiple strategies to ensure ES/TH/RRH exits to PH:

- significant increases in RRH resources (71% increase in last five years), with RRH now accounting for 51% of the total CoC award.
- Case managers &/or housing navigators seek out units that are affordable (when possible) & connections to mainstream resources (e.g., employment, childcare, benefits) to ensure long-term housing stability
- Used landlord incentives to access PH units, series of landlord engagement training sessions provided Spring 2022. CoC is using these best practices to establish a new CoC-wide initiative, which will provide landlord incentives & further landlord partnerships. The CoC is pursuing funding through PHARE, the state Housing Trust Fund, to support this effort.
- Housing stabilization is prioritized through 100% of ESG/CoC-funded projects using Housing First (HF) approach
- Case mngmtmanagement focus on increasing employment & non-earned incomes
- CoC provided training series of housing-focused case management practices (4 sessions in May-June 2021)
- Mmany projects educate participants using strategies from the "Prepared Renters Program", which includes housing placement & housing retention
- Rreferrals for diversion & prevention assistance are provided through CES coupled with an increase in diversion/prevention funding. New CoC-wide diversion initiative should to come online in 2023.
- In 2022 the CoC hosted a 4-part RRH Learning Collaborative for CoC- and ESG-funded RRH providers in order to maximize the impact of RRH investments & increase use of best practices around housing stabilization.

2) Strategies for PSH retention and/or exits to other PH include the above, as well as:

- Use of HF approach to remove barriers to program enrollment
- Training to support HF approach & other client engagement techniques (e.g., harm reduction), with significant focus on maintaining housing stability/PH retention
- Increase in landlord engagement, resulting in stronger relationships between providers & landlords. Landlords often contact case managers w/concerns, prior to moving towards eviction.
- CoC released Move On strategy in June 2022 with implementation to begin this Fall, targeting households in PSH, maintaining services for 6 months. This effort has already begun using EHV's in partnership with the Allentown & Centre County PHAs.

2A-4.	Returns to Homelessness—CoC’s Strategy to Reduce Rate. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.e.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness;	
	2. your 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 your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) When enrolling a participant in CE, the CE assessor can see previous HMIS history of the household to identify if the household is returning to homelessness. The CoC analyzes data from CE assessments, which collects data on history of homelessness, disabilities, MH/BH/SA issues, income, presence of children, evictions, etc. This data is used to understand which households have factors that puts them at higher risk for return to homelessness. The CoC also examines the exit destination of HHs returning to homelessness. Through the CE system and through HMIS, CE assessors and shelters can ID households who return to homelessness to better ID risk factors.

- 2) Strategies to reduce rate of returns to homelessness include:
- Through implementation of CE, HHs in ES are connecting more efficiently w/ RRH . This should further reduce the % of HHs returning to homelessness, as HHs in ES return at the highest rate.
 - Continue to increase RRH capacity (71% increase in last five years)
 - Annual CoC renewal scoring/ evaluation includes returns to homelessness to encourage follow-up services for up to six months after rental assistance ends.
 - Increase in prevention & diversion funding. The CoC will roll out a new diversion process in 2023 and has allocated all of its CY23 Home4Good funding to support diversion.
 - RRH providers work with landlords to ID affordable units that can be sustained upon exiting RRH.
 - Increased landlord engagement, housing navigation & ID of affordable units that can be sustained, including two communities within the CoC who are using Padmission. Following a 2022 training series on landlord engagement, the CoC is designing a new CoC-wide initiative to increase landlord partnerships & applying for PHARE (state Housing Trust Fund) to support this work.
 - CoC-wide Housing First approach, reducing program termination & returns to homelessness.
 - Housing-focused case management training & emphasis on in-home case management services have helped improve retention.
 - County Human Service Depts & Community Action Agencies in the CoC are instrumental in connecting clients to prevention asst, mainstream resources, workforce dev, transportation, childcare & other resources that promote long term housing stability.
- 3) DCED, in their role as Coll App, is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategies.

2A-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase employment cash sources;
2.	how your 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 your CoC’s strategy to increase income from employment.

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1)The CoC’s strategy to increase employment income is to build partnerships & collaborations to connect those being served with employment. Strategies include:
- Collaborating with workforce development system;
 - Foundation support to provide education & skill development;
 - Working w/local employers to expand employment opportunities;
 - Partnerships w/employers who reach out when position available.
 - CoC orgs have built partnerships to offer no barrier, same day pay employment to participants.
 - CoC orgs have built strong partnerships with local CareerLink, including some formal cooperation agreements.
 - CoC orgs employ participants in their programs.
 - Youth-serving providers partner with WIOA-funded employment programs to offer skill development, job placement & planning towards livable wage & case management.
 - In addition, Some CoC providers have hired employment navigators to assist with resumes, job training, & building partnerships with local companies to hire participants.
- 2) CoC membership includes workforce development, CareerLink & other employment/education providers. Collaboration largely occurs regionally, with Reps from these systems attending CoC’s regional meetings. CareerLinks partner with CoC-funded providers to outreach to clients, expand services for individuals exp. homelessness, pursue additional funding opportunities to expand services & more. Many CoC-funded orgs provide employment supports, especially the many Community Action Agencies, including childcare & transportation resources. CoC providers also partner with EARN program where job training and childcare is provided, and participants can be referred to employers at end of program. The CoC is participating in a statewide Coordinated Investment Planning (CIP) initiative, following attendance of HUD TA training series on CIP. Increasing employment income will be discussed w/ state agencies through this process, with a goal of increasing coordination & opportunities with mainstream employment programs for people experiencing homelessness.
- 3) DCED will be responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategies.

	2A-5a. Increasing Non-employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase non-employment cash income;	
	2. your CoC’s strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources; and	

	3. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.
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(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income includes connecting clients to mainstream income supports, to increase both employment and nonemployment sources of income. To implement this strategy, CoC-funded orgs work with participants to complete applications for TANF & other cash benefits, partner with County Assistance Offices and SSI offices, and train staff to provide SSI application assistance through SOAR. The CoC also provides training and updates to CoC-funded orgs related to mainstream benefits, to ensure they are as up-to-date as possible on resources and have the tools to connect participants to resources swiftly.

2) During COVID, this work expanded to include providing assistance to many more households to apply for & obtain unemployment benefits. This includes referrals to legal aid when needed. SOAR has been the primary strategy to increase access to non-employment cash/increase access through SSI, as many orgs are SOAR trained, which has increased SSI acceptance rates. Assistance in applying for SSI, TANF and other cash benefits is provided by CoC partners throughout the geographic area. 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. All CoC-funded providers are proficient users of COMPASS. CoC providers work with local County Assistance offices so that participants can use agency addresses/phone numbers if they do not have a mailing address. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) work with participants to submit applications for benefits through the COMPASS website & provide WIC, LIHEAP, transportation and other TANF-funded services. CoC providers also offer transportation to public benefit appointments as needed. Some CoC providers have also been trained to screen individuals for SNAP benefits. CoC providers partner with legal aid organizations, who will assist participants with issues or barriers related to benefits access.

In 2022 the CoC will begin providing annual training to support access to mainstream benefits, including non-employment cash benefits, with the first session scheduled in fourth quarter of 2022.

2) DCED, in their role as Collaborative Applicant, will be responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategies.

2B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

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2B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Sections VII.B.3.a.(1)	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022:	
	1. select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted—including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC’s coordinated entry system; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC’s geographic area:	

	Organization/Person	Participated in CoC Meetings	Voted, Including Electing of CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Agencies serving survivors of human trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	CoC-Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
13.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	Yes	No
18.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	No

20.	Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	Non-CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)			
33.				
34.				

By selecting "other" you must identify what "other" is.

2B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(2), V.B.3.g.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	communicated the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2.	ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;
3.	conducted outreach to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join your CoC; and
4.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) In advance of semi-annual CoC meetings, new members are invited to join the CoC via email & at regional meetings. Membership is frequently discussed during monthly regional meetings, as well as through CoC mailing list. CE regional managers are continually growing system capacity by engaging referral partners who are then also brought into CoC through CE partnership & encouraged to become members. Membership is established via a membership form, available year-round on the CoC website and included in each CoC email. Upon registering as a member, individuals are connected to the CoC's Slack page & added to the CoC's email distribution list (Mailchimp).
- 2) Accessible materials (PDF) are available on the CoC website. The CoC uses Slack, Mailchimp email service, and CoC website for communication, each of which provide accessible electronic formats. Meetings are held in accessible buildings/locations & live-streamed and recorded. The CoC honors translation & accessibility requests as well.
- 3) The CoC has recruited persons with lived experience for the CoC Board and committees, including most recently for the DEI Committee, Funding Committee and Special NOFO Rural Workgroup. To recruit persons with lived experience, the CoC sends out flyers with information on the committees, and multiple ways for participants to reach out/apply including QR codes or email contacts. These flyers also include information about pay rate (stipends) for persons with lived experience. Recruitment of PWLE is discussed during regional CoC meetings & semi-annual CoC-wide membership meetings. The October 2022 general membership meeting of the CoC includes engagement of PWLE on the agenda.
- 4) The membership invitation sent by the CoC included language that the CoC specifically seeks to engage organizations serving culturally specific communities in the CoC. The CoC Board and regional leaders outreach to local organizations that serve culturally specific communities (including persons of color, LGBTQ+, persons with disabilities) to engage them in the work of the CoC. Additionally, the CoC established a DEI Committee in 2021. One goal of the committee is to align racial equity and social justice goals across all CoC committees, which include the increasing diversity among the CoC's membership & leadership, including among people with lived experiences of homelessness.

2B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(3)	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
	1. solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;	
	2. communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information; and	
	3. took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC uses a regional approach & committee structure to solicit input from a broad array of partners. CoC’s org structure includes Gov Board, 5 Regional Homeless Advisory Boards (RHABs) each covering a portion of the CoC’s 33 counties, Committees & Subcommittees. Each RHAB includes a diverse range of members working to prevent/end homelessness in their communities, including veteran services, DV providers, local/ county gov, service providers, PHAs, people w/ lived experience, among others. Each RHAB has established its own meeting schedule, with each region’s meetings occurring between monthly and quarterly. The agenda & meeting materials are provided in advance of meetings, minutes are circulated following meetings. These RHAB meetings include opportunities for feedback on various issues the CoC may be working on related to preventing/addressing homelessness. The co-chairs of each RHAB represent their region as members of the Gov Board, which creates a two-way communication structure. CoC Committees (veterans, DEI, CES, DV, written standards) are also forums for soliciting feedback.

2) Meetings of the full CoC, RHABs & Committees provide Board w/ monthly opportunities to gather & share info between CoC leaders & members. The CoC hosts two annual membership meetings each April and October, as well as events & trainings throughout the year. During the April 2022 CoC meeting, for example, members divided into breakout groups to provide input on the CoC’s new strategic plan, including discussions of successful strategies, challenges/barriers at the local level, training needs, capacity-building, technical assistance, peer sharing opportunities, etc. PA DCED (CA) hosted meetings with each of the CoC’s 5 regional groups to solicit more local/regional feedback on needs & priorities.

3) Board uses input to inform the CoC’s direction/operation, set priorities & ID training needs. When the Special NOFO was released, the Board asked the CoC to identify volunteers to participate in the development of the plan, if there was interest in applying for new project funding, etc. Ultimately, the Board decided to pursue the SNOFO, based on the feedback of the membership. The CA, PA DCED, shaped the HOME-ARP allocation plan based on feedback from the CoC membership. In response to issues raised by CE users during a CES evaluation (completed Spring 2022), the Gov Board approved new project funding to increase CE capacity.

2B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(4)

Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:	
1.	that your CoC’s local competition was open and accepting project applications;
2.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;
3.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications;
4.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and
5.	how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats.

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) The CoC issued a formal RFP on 8/11/22 announcing that the CoC was accepting new project applications for the Special NOFO Rural Set Aside. The RFPs were posted on the CoC's website, announced on the CoC's Slack page & emailed to CoC distribution list.
- 2) CoC members/partners were encouraged to share the RFPs w/local agencies who may be interested. The RFP included language related to new project scoring thresholds: "Additional consideration will be given to agencies that have not previously received CoC funding". TA was made available to any org considering applying for a new project. The CoC hosted a Special NOFO Rural Set Aside Office Hours Session on 8/19/22 which provided an overview of the Special NOFO and the new project RFP and answered questions. Slide deck was provided in PDF form & office hours webinar was recorded/posted on CoC website. TA was available to new applicants to submit a competitive application for eligible activities & eligible households. The CoC's Special NOFO Rural Set Aside application includes 3 new projects from orgs not currently receiving CoC funding.
- 3) RFP packet was distributed by email, web posting & Slack, which included the RFP, due date, blank copy of application, and instructions for completing/submitting application & budget via the CoC's online survey software (Alchemer). A budget template was provided with the RFP.
- 4) RFPs stated that "All Preliminary Applications will be reviewed by the Eastern PA CoC Funding Committee based on the following criteria" and included threshold criteria as well as scoring criteria for new projects. The new project scoring tool was also posted on the CoC website. Priorities were informed by the Gaps Analysis, which was presented in May 2022 to the CoC membership & recorded/ posted to CoC website. CoC funding policies were also posted on CoC website.
- 5) Accessible application materials (PDF) were available on the CoC website, distributed via email to CoC members/stakeholders & posted on CoC's Slack page. The Special NOFO Office Hours Session hosted by the CoC included closed caption technology. If TA or accommodations are needed to apply for new project funding, the CoC is able to provide reasonable accommodations.

2C. Coordination / Engagement—with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	
	In the chart below:	
	1. select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC’s coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC’s geographic area.	

	Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects	Coordinates with Planning or Operations of Projects
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Yes
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Yes
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		

2C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG funds;
2.	participated in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients;
3.	provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area; and
4.	provided information to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions to address homelessness within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) DCED is the State ESG Recipient, the CoC's Collaborative Applicant & holds a seat on CoC Board. Annually, DCED's ESG allocation plan is to provide 40% of available ESG funding to the Eastern PA CoC. Regarding ESG-CV, the CoC provided DCED with county-level data to help inform resource allocation by county/region. Data included population size, rates of homelessness & households at risk of homelessness, CES data, COVID transmission rates, unemployment rates & other factors that increased community vulnerability to increases in homelessness. In addition, input about local needs/ priorities across the CoC was provided at gGoverning bBoard & regional CoC meetings. Early in the pandemic HP was prioritized in response to concerns that job loss among vulnerable households would increase homelessness. As the eviction moratorium impacted the ability to use HP & shelter operations evolved, local needs changed & DCED amended contracts to address changing community needs.

The City of Allentown & County of Northampton are the CoC's other ESG recipients. Representatives from both departments attend meetings of the Lehigh Valley RHAB. ESG Coordination between these jurisdictions & the CoC occurs at regional level, where reps present the plan to RHAB/CoC members for input & sign-off.

2) DCED uses performance data generated from HMIS in the evaluation of projects. The CoC rolled out a quarterly monitoring process in January 2022 for CoC and ESG funded projects to evaluate performance and data quality on a quarterly basis.

3) The CoC provides county-level HIC & PIT data to DCED as well as the other 12 Con Plan jurisdictions.

4) DCED regularly engages CoC membership to provide input for the Con Plan, including the ID of community needs & priorities for CDBG, HOME, ESG, HTF & HOPWA. As the Collaborative Applicant & HMIS Lead, DCED has access to all data needed for the Con Plan & provides data/info to local Con Plan jurisdictions. Con Plan meetings are attended by CoC providers in each of those jurisdictions.

2C-3.	Discharge Planning Coordination. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.c.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your 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.

1.	Foster Care	Yes
2.	Health Care	Yes
3.	Mental Health Care	Yes
4.	Correctional Facilities	Yes

2C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—SEAs, LEAs, School Districts. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:

1.	Youth Education Provider	Yes
2.	State Education Agency (SEA)	Yes
3.	Local Education Agency (LEA)	Yes
4.	School Districts	Yes

2C-4a.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—SEAs, LEAs, School Districts—Formal Partnerships. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC collaborates with the entities checked in Question 2C-4; and
2.	the formal partnerships your CoC has with the entities checked in Question 2C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.Reps from each of the SEA’s six regions participate in regional CoC mtgs or through county housing/coalition mtgs. The SEA rep in each region has built a strong partnership w/ providers, frequently participates in meetings & the annual PIT count. Collaborative efforts w/ school districts include helping children remain in home school district, receive transportation/ additional support, provide necessary school supplies, etc. Providers & school districts often collaborate through joint efforts, including the annual PIT count, awareness events, food pantry for student/family use, Act 80 trainings, etc. Youth Dev programs through Workforce Dev Boards collaborate w/ the CoC to provide educational services focused on literacy, GED, vocational needs & income generation for older youth. Several orgs that provide ESG/CoC-funded homeless asst also provide youth education services to children, such as Early Childhood services & Head Start. CoC providers collaborate w/ early childhood providers to prioritize children exp. homelessness for childcare. CoC also collaborates w/ education providers on PIT.

2.Regarding formal partnerships, the State Education Agency (Pennsylvania Department of Education) & CoC HMIS Lead Agency have established an interagency data sharing protocol which allows for increased identification & service coordination across homeless & education providers. Formal partnerships with LEAs/school districts include joint grant applications & cross system letters of support for grant applications. In several counties there is a Unified Family Services Systems or Healthy County Coalition for Schools, which bring schools, agencies & community members together to identify community needs & quality, uninterrupted services to children/families. Many communities across the 33-county CoC have developed joint protocols with their school district for responding to youth and family homelessness. The CoC sits on statewide Early Childhood Education/Homelessness Stakeholders group, to increase access to early childhood resources. In March 2022 the CoC provided training on Education Rights for Children, Youth and Families Experiencing Homelessness, which was facilitated by SEA McKinney-Vento reps. Topics included: the ECYEH Program; McKinney-Vento vs. HUD Homeless Definitions; rights of children exp. homelessness in public schools (transportation, enrollment, remediation, liaison duties); and strategies to support students exp. homelessness.

2C-4b.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for educational services

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC's Written Standards (last updated March 2022) requires all projects serving children/youth to designate a staff person to be responsible for ensuring that children are enrolled in school and connected to appropriate services, including early childhood program, part C of IDEA & subtitle B of title VII of the Act. Additionally, programs must take the educational needs of children into account when families are placed in housing and will, to the maximum extent practical, place families with children as close as possible to their school of origin so as not to disrupt children's education. CoC/ESG-funded projects are required to adhere to the CoC's written standards, which require that all projects inform families of their eligibility for educational services & educational rights under the McKinney-Vento Act and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). All CoC-funded organizations participated in a compliance desk monitoring process in spring 2022 which included requiring all orgs to indicate that they met the requirement of having a designated staff person to ensure children are enrolled in school/connected to services. Case Managers within CoC-funded programs have strong working relationships with local school district McKinney-Vento Act homeless liaisons and many have Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with local school districts and publicly funded Pre-K/early learning programs to ensure streamlined and prioritized access to educational programs for children experiencing homelessness.

In March 2022 the CoC provided training on Education Rights for Children, Youth and Families Experiencing Homelessness. Staff who are new to the homeless services field and/or who have not received prior training on the educational rights of children, youth and families were strongly encouraged to attend. Topics included: structure and purpose of the ECYEH Program; McKinney-Vento vs. HUD Homeless Definitions; rights of children in public schools when experiencing homelessness (transportation, enrollment, remediation, liaison duties, etc.); addressing needs of students in public schools when experiencing homelessness (removing barriers; assistance such as clothing, school supplies, etc.; working with agencies/shelters); rights of students in foster care (dDefinition and possible settings, provisions of foster care, MOU/Transportation plan, and Best Interest Determinations (BIDs)) and an introduction to establishing relationships across housing and education sectors.

2C-5.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Training of Project Staff. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains project staff annually on the following mainstream resources available for program participants within your CoC's geographic area:

	Mainstream Resource	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI—Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
4.	Substance Abuse Programs	Yes
5.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes

6. Other	Yes
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2C-5a.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Collaboration with Project Staff Regarding Healthcare Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance;
3.	provides assistance to project staff with the effective use of Medicaid and other benefits; and
4.	works with projects to promote SOAR certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) The PA DHS provides annual training on mainstream benefits to the CoC. In addition, the CoC systematically keeps providers up-to-date on mainstream benefits through the CoC's social media platform (Slack) & during monthly/quarterly regional meetings of the CoC. Updates are provided during meetings by reps from the County Assistance Offices, Community Action Agencies (CAAs) & Legal Aid, which support households applying for mainstream resources. A designee of the PA Dept of Human Services is a member of the Gov Board & provides updates. Training is regularly provided by local government in each of the CoC's 33 counties.
- 2) Enrollment in health insurance occurs online through the state's COMPASS system, an online single application system for many benefits including health care coverage (CHIP, MA, Medicaid for Former Foster Youth, MH/SA, Marketplace). All CoC-funded providers are proficient users of COMPASS & work with participants to submit COMPASS applications. CoC providers will also collaborate with healthcare providers or legal aid organizations if assistance is needed to enroll participants in health insurance.
- 3) The CoC works with community partners to ensure that participants effectively utilize Medicaid/ other benefits. Medicaid/Medicare insurance companies may attend local homeless coalition meetings to discuss benefits and how to take advantage of them. CoC agencies partner with pharmacies who can specially package & deliver medications to clients. Many CAAs throughout CoC are also the providers for WIC, LIHEAP, transportation & other TANF-funded services. Partnership w/ the CAAs ensures individuals exp. homelessness are assisted to apply for, receive, and use benefits.
- 4) CoC organizations either employ staff who are SOAR certified, or partner with neighboring organizations who have SOAR certified staff. For example, Tableland Services in Somerset County has 3 SOAR trained staff; Wayne County Human Services has 1 SOAR certified staff and 1 in process of being certified. As part of the annual CoC NOFO competition, both renewal and new projects are required to affirmatively answer that they will "Utilize a SOAR trained individual to provide technical assistance related to accessing SSI/SSDI". If grantees need assistance accessing SOAR training, the CoC will connect them with local and state resources.

3A. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects. (Rural Set Aside Only).	
	Special NOFO Section VII.A.	
	If the answer to the question below is yes, you must upload the CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project(s) under the Rural Set Aside for housing rehabilitation or new construction costs?	Yes

3B. Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	

Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?	No
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3B-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
	You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below:	
	1. how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and	
	2. how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

N/A

Submission Summary

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

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	10/13/2022
1B. Project Review, Ranking and Selection	10/13/2022
2A. System Performance	10/13/2022
2B. Coordination and Engagement	10/13/2022
2C. Coordination and Engagement–Con't.	10/13/2022
3A. New Projects With Rehab/New Construction	No Input Required
3B. Homelessness by Other Federal Statutes	10/13/2022
Submission Summary	No Input Required