

Before Starting the CoC Application

You must submit all three of the following parts in order for us to consider your Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application,
2. the CoC Priority Listing, and
3. all the CoC's project applications that were either approved and ranked, or rejected.

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

1. The FY 2023 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2023 CoC Application Detailed Instructions 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.

Your CoC Must Approve the Consolidated Application before You Submit It
- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the CoC Consolidated Application for the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition 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 an Attachment to the 4B. 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

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1A-1. CoC Name and Number: PA-601 - Western Pennsylvania CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

1B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.1.a.(1), V.B.1.e., V.B.1f., and V.B.1.p.	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023:	
	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 CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	No	No	No
6.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	No
8.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
9.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	No	No	No
12.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	No	Yes
14.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

16.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Other Victim Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	
	Other: (limit 50 characters)			
34.				
35.				

**You must select a response for elements 1 through 33 in question 1B-1.
 By selecting "other" you must identify what "other" is.**

1B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(2)	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	communicated a transparent invitation process annually (e.g., communicated to the public on the CoC's website) to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
3.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) Information about membership is available on the CoC website & in CoC emails, which include a link to become of a member of the CoC in all communications. A solicitation for membership occurs in advance of the CoC's semiannual meetings, when voting may occur among CoC members. CoC staff attend monthly county/regional housing and/or homeless coalition meetings to share CoC updates/info and solicit for new members.

2) CoC membership form is online & can be provided in alternate formats as requested. Accessible materials (PDF) are available on CoC website. Slack, Mailchimp email service & CoC website each provide accessible electronic formats. Meetings are held in accessible buildings/locations, live-streamed & recorded via Zoom, which supports closed captioning. TTY phone services are available.

3) The CoC formed a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) Committee in spring 2021. Part of the Committee's strategic plan is to increase CoC representation from diverse groups. The DEIB Chair & others reinvigorated the CoC's Membership Committee, which over the last year has revised outreach strategies, language used within outreach for Board members, the application & interview process, and a significant expansion in the number and type of organizations receiving information about the CoC's call for new Board members. These changes resulted in an unprecedented number of applications received during the 2023 recruitment effort. This Summer, the Board voted in 5 new Board members, which represent the most diverse group of applicants in the history of the CoC, this includes several new members with lived experiences of homelessness, and individuals identifying as LGBTQ+. In addition to circulating calls for new CoC & Board members to the CoC's distribution list of 500+ and asking recipients to share the information with community members, the CoC circulates membership to many other community partners to engage persons from diverse backgrounds. This includes: schools, universities and community based organizations such as NAACP; Urban League; Centers of Independent Living; Big Brothers Big Sisters; Jewish Family and Community Services; Alliance for Refugee Youth Support and Education; Black Equity Coalition; the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement; and many more.

1B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.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;	
3.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and	
4.	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’s Gov Board includes 20 members. Previously, Board members filled dedicated seats “from relevant organizations” as defined CoC Interim Rule. In 2023, the CoC began phasing out dedicated seats in lieu of other forms of diversity, such as race, ethnicity, LGBTQ+ status, & significant representation among folks w/lived experiences. This has resulted in a broader array of individuals invested in the CoC’s mission, including several outside of the homeless service system. The CoC revised recruitment for new Committee members, which has further increased the array of orgs participating in the CoC.

Semi-annual CoC meetings includes both sharing & solicitation of info relevant to CoC operation, strategy, priorities & more. During regional meetings, the CoC solicits input through in-depth discussion from members/stakeholders. CoC Committees (eg DEIB, Youth, Veterans, DV) provide leadership with input. The CoC also hosts regular trainings (DV, fair housing, DEIB, etc) that are open to the full CoC membership, and uses these as a forum for discussion and feedback.

2-Info re: semi-annual CoC mtgs, training, or other opportunities are advertised via email, Slack & CoC website. Agendas are provided in advance & meeting minutes are posted on CoC website. Semi-annual CoC meetings provide the opportunity for roundtable discussions on topics for which the CoC leadership is seeking community input. Gov Board members facilitate discussion at each table & input is brought back to the full Board to inform planning & priorities. The CoC also circulates electronic surveys to solicit input/ feedback on a range of topics, including CoC priorities, input on meeting locations, training needs, etc.

3- Accessible materials (PDF) are available on CoC website. Slack, Mailchimp email service & CoC website each provide accessible electronic formats. Meetings are held in accessible buildings/locations, live-streamed & recorded via Zoom, which supports closed captioning. Registration forms include the opportunity to indicate accessibility needs.

4-The largest project undertaken by the CoC during the last 2 years is an overhaul/ redesign of its CES, the need for which was IDed during the April 2021 CoC mtg, which focused on CES. To follow-up, an ad-hoc Committee conducted an eval of CES, followed by an RFP to ID consultants to support work. The redesign was presented at the April 2023 CoC meeting & the system rollout is imminent, as the last training will be conducted 9/28/23.

1B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Awarded CoC Program Funding.	
NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(4)		
Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:		
1.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;	
2.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications—the process;	
3.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and	
4.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) The CoC issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the CoC on 5/30/23 to inform CoC members/partners that a formal RFP for new projects would be forthcoming. In the NOI, the CoC encouraged interested applicants to reach out for TA to discuss project design, eligible activities, etc. The CoC then issued two formal new project RFPs for the CoC Competition on 7/11/23 – one for CoC Bonus funding and one for DV Bonus funding. The RFPs were posted on the CoC's website, announced on the CoC's Slack page & emailed to CoC distribution list. 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". The CoC hosted CoC NOFO Competition webinar on 7/26/23 which provided an overview of the CoC NOFO and the new project RFP and answered questions. Slide deck was provided in PDF form & webinar was recorded/posted on CoC website. TA was available to new applicants (upon request) to support the submission of a competitive application, including eligible activities & eligible households.
- 2) RFP packet was distributed by email, web posting & Slack, which included the 2 RFPs, due date, blank copy of application for reference and instructions for completing/submitting application & budget via the CoC's online survey software (Alchemer). A budget template was provided with the RFP.
- 3) RFPs stated that "All Preliminary Applications will be reviewed by the Western 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 2023 to the CoC membership & recorded/ posted to CoC website. CoC funding policies were also posted on CoC website, which articulates the project selection process – new project apps are reviewed by Funding Committee, with recommendations forwarded to the non-conflicted members of the Governing Board for final approval.
- 4) Accessible application materials (PDF) were available on the CoC website, distributed via email and posted on the CoC's Slack page. The NOFO webinar hosted by the CoC included closed caption technology. If TA or accommodations are needed to apply for funding, the CoC is able to provide reasonable accommodations.

1C. Coordination and Engagement

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
 - 24 CFR part 578;
 - FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
 - Section 3 Resources;
 - PHA Crosswalk; and
 - Frequently Asked Questions

1C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.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 the Planning or Operations of Projects?
1.	Funding Collaboratives	No
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)	Nonexistent
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	

18.		
-----	--	--

1C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG Program 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 the Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) DCED is the State ESG Recipient, the CoC's Collaborative Applicant (CA) & holds a seat on CoC Board. Annually, DCED updates their method of distribution under their annual action plan process which indicates their priorities and allocation plan for funding allocation and allows for public comment. The CoC shares opportunities for public comment & meetings with membership. Historically, non-entitlement areas receive priority, which includes 18 of the CoC's 20 counties.

To ensure consistency across funding sources, PA DCED requires ESG subrecipients to participate in CoC planning & to follow a Housing First approach. Regional projects are incentivized in order to fill capacity and service gaps across the CoC. In addition, ESG applicants must provide a letter of support from the CoC.

Washington & Westmoreland counties are the CoC's other ESG recipients. Representatives from each county are represented on the CoC Gov Board. ESG Coordination between these jurisdictions & the CoC occurs at county level, where reps present the plan to CoC members for input & sign-off.

2) DCED uses performance data generated from HMIS in the evaluation of projects. The CoC facilitates a quarterly monitoring process for CoC and ESG funded projects to evaluate performance and data quality each quarter. This process supports the CoC's submission of strong & accurate data for the SPM, LSA, CAPER reports, as well as increasing the accuracy of data for the evaluation of projects. PA DCED (State ESG recipient) also participates on CoC Funding Committee, which results in coordinated funding decisions.

3) The CoC provides CoC-wide, regional and county-level HIC & PIT data to DCED. County-level HIC and PIT data are also provided to all other 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. This coordination occurs at the CoC-level, as well as during regional CoC meetings. In addition, CoC leadership participates in DCED's regional Housing Advisory Committee, which is a formal component of the Con Plan consultation. As the CA & HMIS Lead, DCED has access to all data needed for the Con Plan & provides data/info to all Con Plan jurisdictions. The CoC is working to develop a local advocacy guide, to educate providers on the importance of Con Plan & tips for effective participation.

1C-3.	Ensuring Families are not Separated.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.c.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ensures emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH) do not deny admission or separate family members regardless of each family member's self-reported sexual orientation and gender identity:

1.	Conducted mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated.	Yes
2.	Conducted optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated.	No
3.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients.	Yes
4.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within your CoC's geographic area that might be out of compliance and took steps to work directly with those facilities to bring them into compliance.	Yes
5.	Sought assistance from HUD by submitting questions or requesting technical assistance to resolve noncompliance by service providers.	No

1C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.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

1C-4a.	Formal Partnerships with Youth Education Providers, SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Describe in the field below the formal partnerships your CoC has with at least one of the entities where you responded yes in question 1C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC collaborates & has formal partnerships with youth education providers, SEAs & LEA, local school districts. Related to formal partnerships: (1) Pennsylvania Department of Education (the State Education Agency) & CoC HMIS Lead Agency have an established formal, written interagency data-sharing protocol which allows for increased identification & service coordination across homeless & education providers. (2) The CoC has a school system representative on the Board (homeless regional coordinator).

Related to the CoC's systemwide process to partner with youth education providers: (1) The SEA participates on the YHDP implementation team; (2) A representative of the CoC participates on the statewide Early Childhood Education/ Homelessness Stakeholder group to increase access to early childhood resources; (3) CoC & SEA/LEAs collaborated in joint planning to allocate ARP funding awarded through local M-V liaisons to support homeless youth. This coordination also resulted in ARP funding to hire two system navigator positions for youth working w/16 school districts, which are employed through a CoC-funded organization. (4) In two counties within the CoC, youth education representatives, along with CYS, Juvenile Justice & homeless service providers all participated in learning collaboratives to improve the community response to youth homelessness.

- Additional examples of collaboration with youth education providers include:
- Several ESG/CoC-funded organizations also operate youth education services (e.g. Head Start, youth employment, tutoring & life skills), which are used to leverage/match CoC & documented in an MOU.
 - Head Start providers host on-site enrollment at shelters.
 - Youth education providers participate in the annual PIT count.
 - Joint submission and/or cross system letters of support for grant applications.
 - CoC orgs work w/ schools to coordinate needed transportation & supplies.
 - School district staff are CoC members.
 - Coordination also occurs during Housing/Homeless Awareness month.

1C-4b.	Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC's Written Standards (fully updated in spring 2021 and then updated annually) requires all projects serving children/youth to designate a staff person to ensure 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 to not 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. All CoC-funded organizations participated in a compliance desk monitoring process in spring 2022 which included requiring all orgs to affirm that they met the requirement of having this 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 homeless liaisons and many have MOUs with local school districts and publicly funded Pre-K/early learning programs to ensure streamlined access to educational programs for children exp. homelessness. Collaboration between CoC/ESG-funded providers and LEAs includes coordination on transportation, school supplies and additional materials needed such as school uniforms.

In 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 and an introduction to establishing relationships across housing and education sectors. This training was recorded is available on CoC website.

1C-4c.	Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC has written formal agreements or partnerships with the listed providers of early childhood services:

		MOU/MOA	Other Formal Agreement
1.	Birth to 3 years	Yes	Yes
2.	Child Care and Development Fund	Yes	Yes
3.	Early Childhood Providers	Yes	Yes
4.	Early Head Start	Yes	Yes
5.	Federal Home Visiting Program—(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV)	Yes	Yes
6.	Head Start	Yes	Yes

7.	Healthy Start	No	No
8.	Public Pre-K	Yes	Yes
9.	Tribal Home Visiting Program	No	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)		
10.			

1C-5.	Addressing Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors–Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

In the chart below select yes or no for the organizations your CoC collaborates with:

	Organizations	
1.	state domestic violence coalitions	Yes
2.	state sexual assault coalitions	Yes
3.	other organizations that help this population	Yes

1C-5a.	Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers to Address Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations indicated in Question 1C-5 to:

1.	update CoC-wide policies; and
2.	ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC's geographic area are trauma-informed and can meet the needs of survivors.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC's membership includes numerous victim service providers (VSPs), many of which are dual programs serving both DV & sexual assault survivors, and the state DV coalition (PCADV).

1) Numerous VSPs are actively involved in the Coordinated Entry Committee. During the last update of the Written Standards, which direct the operation of both ESG & CoC funded projects, the Ex Dir of a VSP served on the Committee and played a key role in ensuring the needs of survivors were incorporated into the Standards.

The CoC worked in partnership with PCADV and DV providers to develop the CoC's Emergency Transfer Plans and protocols.

The CoC has been working to redesign its CE system for the last 1.5 years, which has included significant involvement of DV/SA program staff. In addition, the CoC funds two DV CE staff positions who work to ensure that the needs of DV survivors are met through CE, and to inform CE P&P.

PCADV co-presented training in preparation for the new CES launching on housing planning for survivors.

The CoC worked closely w/PCADV in the development of their DV Housing plan for the CoC.

The CoC has begun conversations w/PCADV around supporting the forthcoming 2022 VAWA requirements. PCADV has included VAWA BLI in their FY23 new project application to support this work, to be formalized once additional details are known.

The Executive Committee of the CoC's Gov Board, which often recommends CoC-wide policy updates to the full Board, includes VSP.

2) To ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed and meet the needs of survivors, the CoC provides training opportunities each year that incorporate trauma-informed care/ practices. This includes the annual training on DV best practices, which is presented each year by PCADV housing staff. VSPs, who have extensive training on Trauma Informed Care, sit on the CoC Governing Board & participate in many of the CoC's active committees. In addition, PCADV participates in Committees and other CoC-led efforts, and also provides TA throughout the year to any homeless assistance providers & VSP to support the implementation of trauma-informed care and victim-centered services.

1C-5b.	Coordinated Annual Training on Best Practices to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC coordinates to provide training for:	
1.	project staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma-informed, victim-centered) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually); and	
2.	Coordinated Entry staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma informed care) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually).	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC provides annual training on safety & best practices in serving survivors of DV. In partnership with the PA Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) the CoC last provided DV training on 12/14/22, which included: training to educate project staff on identifying & serving individuals under category 4; safety planning best practices; VAWA, including legal protections and emergency transfer plan; eligibility for CoC resources; as well as key themes of safety, confidentiality, trauma-informed and victim-centered approaches. The training was required for all ESG/CoC-funded organizations. The next required training will be held in December 2023. The CoC's annual PIT count training also includes safety and best practice around engaging DV survivors, utilizing trauma-informed, victim-centered practices. The phrasing of questions on PIT surveys to identify any safety concerns have been vetted and revised by PCADV. In addition, the CoC's written standards training materials include the safety protocols within the CoC's Emergency Transfer Plan. All new CoC and ESG staff must complete the written standards trainings, which have been recorded and are posted on the CoC's website. The CES policies and procedures include safety planning protocols and guide CES operations to be trauma-informed and victim-centered. Two DV CE staff also support project staff with engaging/ enrolling new clients using a trauma-informed, victim-centered approach.

2) CE operators/assessors also participated in the above referenced trainings. In addition, all survivors enter the system through DV CE Assessment Centers (DVAC), unless they specifically indicate that they do not want to access DV services. DVAC services are provided by VSPs (in each of the CoC's 20 counties), who all have extensive training & must meet ongoing training requirements around safety planning, trauma-informed care, victim-centered services and DV CE best practices. DVACs, operated by VSPs also help to connect Survivors to DOJ, HHS, or other DV-specific funding sources. As needed, the Coordinated Entry Committee provides additional training, guidance & revisions for DV-related CE policies/procedures/protocols. In addition to attending the trainings listed above, CE staff includes DV CE staffing, who provide support and training to their colleagues as needed, and during weekly staffing meetings.

1C-5c.	Implemented Safety Planning, Confidentiality Protocols in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry includes:	
1.	safety planning protocols; and	
2.	confidentiality protocols.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) To provide safe, trauma-informed (TIC), victim-centered services, the CoC has designed its Coordinated Entry (CE) System to provide a Domestic Violence Assessment Centers (DV AC) throughout the CoC's 20 county geography. The CoC's CE DV Policy outlines protocols for serving those fleeing DV including:

- a-Confidential, immediate access to emergency services & CE;
- b-If a Survivor is being served at a General Assessment Center, and identifies as feeling unsafe/afraid, they are offered a warm Handoff to the DV AC. This ensures VSPs conduct the assessment & immediately provide the household with trauma-informed, victim-centered services, including safety planning & shelter resources if needed. Triage questions within the CE assessment ensure survivors are connected to the DVAC if needed/desired.

In addition, the CoC has two DV CE specialists that can support the safety needs of individuals accessing CE, including immediate safety planning, regardless of where they present.

The Co-Chair of the CE Committee worked for years as a Victim Service Provider, but recently changed jobs, and works to ensure safety, planning and confidentiality protocols are built into CE. VSP orgs & DV CE staff have been involved in the CE redesign effort, which this fall will fully conclude with the revision of all CE policies, procedures & protocols.

2) The CE workflow is set up to immediately assess whether someone is fleeing DV. Each DV AC assesses Survivors using the VI-SPDAT, outside of HMIS. The household's information is tracked in VSP HMIS-compliant database and de-identified data is entered into HMIS by the CE Lead Agency. By using deidentified Survivors have access to all CoC/ESG-funded projects for which they are eligible. During housing referral from CE, with the client's permission, the CE Lead Agency will provide the DV anonymous client's contact info to the housing provider for engagement and enrollment. To protect the DV client's safety & confidentiality, the CoC records information regarding how to safely reach out to the client to provide a housing resource.

1C-5d.	Used De-identified Aggregate Data to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	the de-identified aggregate data source(s) your CoC used for data on survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and
2.	how your CoC uses the de-identified aggregate data described in element 1 of this question to evaluate how to best meet the specialized needs related to domestic violence and homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) The CoC utilizes de-identified aggregate DV data from the following sources:
 - DV comparable databases
 - HMIS Coordinated Entry data
 - HMIS data for survivors who are not enrolled in DV-dedicated projects
 - system performance data & project-level APR data provided by DV dedicated ESG+CoC-funded projects from comparable database
 - DV shelter data is provided by VSPs & PCADV
 - aggregate PIT data, collected from HMIS & paper surveys
- 2) The CoC uses the above listed data in a number of ways, including:
 - data from comparable database is used to: add households (HHs) to By Name List & CE referrals; evaluate ESG/CoC-funded projects through CoC's quarterly monitoring process; evaluate DV-dedicated CoC-funded projects as part of the annual scoring process; track DV-dedicated ESG service delivery; CAPER data; and has most recently been used to provide data to inform 2023 CoC application.
 - The CoC has entered into partnerships with DV providers to administer the VI-SPDAT CE screening tool outside of HMIS. This info is tracked in VSP database & provides the CE Lead Agency with VI-SPDAT scores & HH needs so that anonymous client profiles are created in HMIS to ensure Survivors are prioritized housing placement.
 - Through analysis of data pulled from DV comparable databases, as well as an analysis of CE data, the CoC can better understand the needs of Survivors, where those needs are & funnel resources to address need (federal & private). Examples include: # of DV survivors in shelter in each region/county of the CoC; rate at which Survivors access services through CE & the rate of housing placement through CE BNL; # of survivors presenting w/disabilities (physical & cognitive/intellectual); and areas where additional coordination may be needed to address specialized needs, such as aging, children & youth, LGBTQ+. This data is included in the CoC's annual gaps analysis, which is used by the CoC Funding Committee to evaluate need across & within the CoC's 20 county geography.
 - VSPs provide their aggregate project-level APR data to CoC for quarterly monitoring process, which reviews performance and data quality. This allows the CoC to evaluate performance & data quality, and allows VSPs to engage in quality improvement.
 - To report PIT data, the CoC uses HMIS & paper surveys to ID # homeless due to DV fleeing.

** **

1C-5e.	Implemented Emergency Transfer Plan Policies and Procedures for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors. NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC communicates to all individuals and families seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance:	
1.	whether your CoC has policies and procedures that include an emergency transfer plan;	
2.	the process for individuals and families to request an emergency transfer; and	
3.	the process your CoC uses to respond to individuals' and families' emergency transfer requests.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC worked in partnership with PCADV & VSPs to draft the ETP & update as needed. The ETP is publicly posted on the CoC website, is included in the CoC Written Standards (WS) & Coordinated Entry Policies/Procedures. All ESG/CoC- funded projects are required to participate in WS training, which includes information on the ETP process, is conducted live & recorded with ongoing access on the CoC’s website for reference & new hires. PCADV provides annual CoC-wide training on DV best practices, which includes in-depth overview of ETP & best practices for a victim-centered trauma-informed implementation. This helps ensure that all ESG/CoC-funded orgs have the most up to date information about this policy & how to utilize it for participants. In addition, ESG/CoC RFPs for new projects inform applicants that adhering to all aspects of WS is required. Information about the ETP is made available to all participants upon enrollment into a CoC/ESG-funded project. CE Policies/Procedures include connections to DV providers for persons fleeing DV & contacting CoC for housing assistance.

2) The process to request an emergency transfer is publicly posted on the CoC website & is made available to all participants in ESG/CoC programs. To request an emergency transfer, a participant can notify their case manager/housing provider verbally or in writing. Transfer request to indicate if there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the participant were to remain in the same dwelling unit or indicating that a household member was a victim of sexual assault that occurred on the premises during the preceding 90 calendar-day period.

3) Providers must act as quickly as possible to move a participant requesting ETP, subject to availability & safety of a unit within the provider’s own inventory. If that is not possible, ETP can be processed through CE System. Upon request by provider receiving ETP request, the CE staff will work quickly, following the established protocol/policies/procedures, to help identify an alternate safe unit & coordinate providers & resources to facilitate transfer. The implementation of the ETP is furthered through RRH projects that cover all counties, including PCADV’s CoC-wide DV RRH project; FCCAA’s Southwest Regional RRH project; & MCHA’s Northwest Regional RRH project; which collectively provide 321 units across all 20 counties. All ETP P&P will be reviewed/updated as part of redesigned CES & 2022 VAWA requirements.

1C-5f.	Access to Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	ensures that survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have safe access to all of the housing and services available within the CoC’s geographic area; and
2.	proactively identifies systemic barriers within your homeless response system that create barriers to safely house and provide services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) Coord Entry P&P and Written Standards ensure the DV survivors have equal access to all housing/services within the CoC. CE protects the safety & confidentiality of people fleeing/attempting to flee and all survivors of domestic violence while simultaneously providing them with access to housing and services. During the CE Triage Assessment, all households are asked basic questions to determine if they are fleeing/attempting to flee DV, dating violence, stalking, SA, or HT. If yes, the household can opt to be assessed by DV Assessment Center (DV AC), if not already presenting for services from DV provider. DV providers operate DV ACs throughout the CoC, providing safety planning & CE services including administering the VISPDAT CE screening tool outside of HMIS. This info is tracked in VSP HMIS compliant database & provided to CE Lead Agency with VI-SPDAT scores & HH needs (e.g. bedroom size) so that anonymous client profiles are created in HMIS for prioritization on CES By Name List (BNL) for all housing & services for which they are eligible. All vacancies in ESG/CoC-funded projects are required to be filled by households on BNL, which is tracked for CoC-funded projects. Some projects funded with other funding sources also use BNL as a referral source. Robust coordination w/ DV advocates has assisted all providers to understand how to best serve DV survivors, in addition to increased ESG & CoC funding for DV-dedicated projects through CoC ARD, CoC Bonus DV bonus fund, ESG & ESV-CV.

2) The CoC incorporates the needs of Survivors in all discussions to proactively identify systemic barriers and to address barriers, both proactively & reported issues. This is accomplished through close coordination with local VSPs & Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV). DV advocates participate on the CoC's Gov Board, Executive Comm, all Committees, are employed to operate the CE system, and more. This coordination/ integration of DV advocates allows for input in the planning & development of all CoC policies, procedures & operations, as well as the needs of Survivors proactively incorporated into the design of the system. In addition, this close coordination helps to facilitate quick responses if issues are identified within the operation of the system. The redesign of the CoC's CES is a great example of meaningful coordination w/ DV advocates. As the new system launches this Fall, we hope to see a reduction in systemic barriers for Survivors.

1C-5g.	Ensuring Survivors With a Range of Lived Expertise Participate in Developing CoC-Wide Policy and Programs.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	ensured survivors with a range of lived expertise are involved in the development of your CoC-wide policy and programs; and	
2.	accounted for the unique and complex needs of survivors.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) For many years, the Western PA CoC has included people with lived experience into the CoC's leadership structure, workforce, and all aspects of CoC operations. Currently, the CoC has a robust Youth Action Board (YAB), Homeless Action Board (HAB), and is working to grow its new Youth Justice Action Board. YAB & HAB representatives have dedicated seats on the CoC's Gov Board & CoC Committees, allowing for the expertise of PWLE to inform the operations & policy development, and helps to facilitate robust discussion & input from these Advisory Boards. Both the YAB & HAB incorporate members with lived experiences of DV, dating violence, SA & stalking. All CoC members, including a significant number of VSPs & PCADV, are asked to share recruitment efforts with program participants. The CoC's trauma-informed human-centered recruitment & engagement process for YAB/HAB membership does not ask participants to share their homeless status/history or Survivor status/history at any point, although many eventually do. Both the YAB & HAB follow group-established community agreements, which incorporate safety and confidentiality for all participants. The CoC has a compensation process, which allows all participants the opportunity to be paid for their time through check, Venmo, and pre-paid debit card. If a Survivor needed an alternate pay option, that would be accommodated & incorporated into options made available to all members, as payment options have been added/ removed over time to meet participant needs. In addition, PCADV, which is the largest recipient of CoC funding, has recently established a Survivor Advisory Council to provide survivors who are engaging in or have recently completed services with an opportunity to influence, design & provide direct feedback for the DV housing system. This feedback will be used to inform DV RRH programming & operational changes, and shared with relevant CoC Committees/Board for further integration of survivor feedback.

2) All efforts to include the expertise of PWLE include addressing participants by their preferred name, gender & language preferences. All meetings begin with introductions that make these details known to all participants. Participation in meetings/events can occur in-person, video conferencing or phone calls. Name & contact info about Survivors, and any YAB/HAB participants, is provided only with the individual's consent. No information about their personal history is shared, unless self-disclosed.

1C-6.	Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+--Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

	1. Did your CoC implement a written CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination?	Yes
	2. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access Final Rule)?	Yes
	3. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs (Gender Identity Final Rule)?	Yes

1C-6a.	Anti-Discrimination Policy—Updating Policies—Assisting Providers—Evaluating Compliance—Addressing Noncompliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

Describe in the field below:

	1. how your CoC regularly collaborates with LGBTQ+ and other organizations to update its CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy, as necessary to ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed and able to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and families;
	2. how your CoC assisted housing and services providers in developing project-level anti-discrimination policies that are consistent with the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy;
	3. your CoC's process for evaluating compliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies; and
	4. your CoC's process for addressing noncompliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1-The CoC's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) Committee, which includes representation of LGBTQ+ individuals & orgs serving LGBTQ+ households, reviewed/updated the CoC's antidiscrimination policy, which was then approved by the Gov Board in Sept 2022. This new policy was presented at the semi-annual CoC membership meeting in October 2022. Our very rural CoC has no LGBTQ+ specific service providers. The Gov Board's membership, which approves all CoC policies, includes representatives of the LGBTQ+ community, including PWLE. In addition, the Director of a statewide LGBTQ+ advocacy org that recently relocated to Western PA was just voted onto the Gov Board in Sept 2023. Each of these members bring expertise/experience to support non-discrimination policy development. The CoC has a longstanding relationship with the Fair Housing Law Center, who is available to assist/ advise on discrimination-related issues as needed.

2-The CoC's policy includes the requirement that projects must operate consistent with HUD's Equal Access & Gender Identity Final Rules, as well as anti-discrimination requirements. Sample language & templates were provided for use to help CoC providers develop/update their own policies. This includes policies that LGBTQ+ households must receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination. CoC provides TA upon request. Jan 2023: LGBTQ+ service orgs (from outside CoC) provided training to support LGBTQ+ competencies, implementation of best practices, services that are trauma-informed, and how to be an organizational ally. Training provided annually. April 2023: Training on Fair Housing laws, equal access rules & LGBTQ+ projections. Provided annually.

3-The CoC has reviewed provider non-discrimination policies in the past through a compliance desk monitoring review. Most recently, to ensure compliance with the CoC's Sept 2022 policy, the FY2023 renewal scoring process included the CoC's review of project-level anti-discrimination policies.

4-Project policies not compliant with CoC requirements must revise and resubmit to the CoC, with TA & support available to providers currently out of compliance. In extreme cases, the CoC's funding policies allow for reallocation due to non-compliance with CoC policies, including non-discrimination. If discrimination related to the enrollment/termination of a LGBTQ+ household is reported to the CoC, the CoC may consult with and/or refer client to Fair Housing Law Center

1C-7.	Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC's Geographic Area--New Admissions--General/Limited Preference--Moving On Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

You must upload the PHA Homeless Preference\PHA Moving On Preference attachment(s) to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter information in the chart below for the two largest PHAs highlighted in gray on the current CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report or the two PHAs your CoC has a working relationship with--if there is only one PHA in your CoC's geographic area, provide information on the one:

Public Housing Agency Name	Enter the Percent of New Admissions into Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2022 who were experiencing homelessness at entry	Does the PHA have a General or Limited Homeless Preference?	Does the PHA have a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On?
Lawrence County Housing Authority	31%	Yes-Public Housing	No
Westmoreland County Housing Authority	21%	Yes-HCV	No

1C-7a.	Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences with PHAs.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

Describe in the field below:

1. steps your CoC has taken, with the two largest PHAs within your CoC's geographic area or the two PHAs your CoC has working relationships with, to adopt a homeless admission preference--if your CoC only has one PHA within its geographic area, you may respond for the one; or
2. state that your CoC has not worked with the PHAs in its geographic area to adopt a homeless admission preference.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC has positive relationships with many of the 24 PHAs in the geographic area, including the participation of the Clarion County PHA’s Executive Director as a member of the Gov Board. In addition to the data presented above, McKean County PHA, Mercer County PHA, City of Dubois PHA & Jefferson County PHA each have reported a homeless preference. Several PHAs also have preferences that benefit households served within the CoC, including veterans, households fleeing domestic violence & displaced households. Examples of partnership include:

- Working with Westmoreland County and Indiana County Housing Authorities to design and implement a process and MOU for allocated Emergency Housing Vouchers
- McKean County PHA created a program for families and youth at risk of homelessness who are child welfare involved and has a preference for transition aged youth experiencing homelessness. In addition, this PHA manages/operates the CoC’s diversion program.
- The CoC is working to encourage additional preferences. Butler County PHA is currently working with CoC partners to develop a Move On Strategy. Much of this work is conducted on the county level through county housing/homeless coalitions where PHA staff often attend and/or partner with coalition members on various local initiatives. Greene County Human Services, a CoC-grantee & representative on the Gov Board, has been working w/ Greene PHA on increasing Move On.
- Some PHAs have worked with their local child welfare agencies to apply for Foster Youth Initiative vouchers, including Jefferson County PHA who has been awarded FYI vouchers.
- Many PHAs are members of the CoC and coordinate with the CoC in several ways. This includes: coordination/implementation of special purpose vouchers; recent Mainstream & FUP applications; VASH vouchers (Butler PHA, Indiana PHA & Lawrence PHA); CoC-funding (currently Dubois PHA, McKean PHA, Butler PHA; Clarion PHA; previously Mercer PHA).
- The CoC’s new strategic plan prioritizes expanding affordable housing resources in partnership with PHAs, including mutual applications to further expand special purpose vouchers, preferences, and more.
- The CoC provided letters of support for Stability Vouchers to the Butler, Clarion, Elk & Indiana PHAs.
- The CoC has presented/co-presented at the PA Association of Housing & Redevelopment Authorities conferences several times over the last few years in order to increase knowledge of CoC-work & partnerships.

2) n/a

1C-7b.	Moving On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers.	
	Not Scored–For Information Only	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate affordable housing providers in your CoC’s jurisdiction that your recipients use to move program participants to other subsidized housing:

1.	Multifamily assisted housing owners	No
2.	PHA	Yes
3.	Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments	No
4.	Local low-income housing programs	No

Other (limit 150 characters)	
5. Units operated by non-profit housing developers	Yes

1C-7c. Include Units from PHA Administered Programs in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry. NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

In the chart below, indicate if your CoC includes units from the following PHA programs in your CoC's coordinated entry process:

1. Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)	Yes
2. Family Unification Program (FUP)	No
3. Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)	No
4. HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	No
5. Mainstream Vouchers	No
6. Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers	No
7. Public Housing	No
8. Other Units from PHAs:	

1C-7d. Submitting CoC and PHA Joint Applications for Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness. NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

1. Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a competitive joint application(s) for funding or jointly implement a competitive project serving individuals or families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other programs)?	Yes
	Program Funding Source
2. Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement.	FYI; Stability Vouchers

1C-7e. Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV). NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

Did your CoC coordinate with any PHA to apply for or implement funding provided for Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to homelessness, including vouchers provided through the American Rescue Plan?	Yes
--	-----

1C-7e.1.	List of PHAs with Active MOUs to Administer the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program.	
Not Scored—For Information Only		

	Does your CoC have an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any PHA to administer the EHV Program?	Yes
--	--	-----

If you select yes to question 1C-7e.1., you must use the list feature below to enter the name of every PHA your CoC has an active MOU with to administer the Emergency Housing Voucher Program.

PHA
Westmoreland Coun...
Indiana County Ho...

1C-7e.1. List of PHAs with MOUs

Name of PHA: Westmoreland County Housing Authority

1C-7e.1. List of PHAs with MOUs

Name of PHA: Indiana County Housing Authority

1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1D-1.	Discharge Planning Coordination.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.h.	

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

1D-2.	Housing First—Lowering Barriers to Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

1.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2023 CoC Program Competition.	56
2.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2023 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.	56
3.	This number is a calculation of the percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, SSO non-Coordinated Entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	100%

1D-2a.	Project Evaluation for Housing First Compliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

You must upload the Housing First Evaluation attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC evaluates every project—where the applicant checks Housing First on their project application—to determine if they are using a Housing First approach;
2.	the list of factors and performance indicators your CoC uses during its evaluation; and
3.	how your CoC regularly evaluates projects outside of your local CoC competition to ensure the projects are using a Housing First approach.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) CoC policy & Written Standards require all ESG/CoC-funded orgs to implement a Housing First (HF) approach. Outside of the CoC Competition, the CoC conducted desk monitoring of each grantee in 2022, which included a review of HF compliance. The desk monitoring process will continue to be completed at regular intervals with grantees. In spring 2023, again outside of CoC competition, the CoC reviewed all grantee policies related to HF (e.g. admissions, program rules, discharge) & provided written feedback to each grantee on updates/edits needed to policies. Grantees were given a timeline to update all policies in alignment with HF, and will be required to resubmit their policies later this year for review. The CoC will continue to use policy reviews, the quarterly monitoring process, & other methods to evaluate HF compliance through the local CoC competition & at regular intervals outside of the competition.

2) The CoC evaluated providers on 9 elements of HF including: 1-screening based on sobriety, use of substance, completion of treatment, or participation in service; 2-screening out for no income, criminal convictions, or lack of “housing readiness”; 3-housing-focused services emphasize housing procurement over therapeutic goals; 4-participation in services/compliance not a condition of staying in program; 5-use of alcohol or drugs in itself not a reason for program dismissal; 6-prioritize those with highest needs; 7-staff trained in evidence-based practices such as motivational interviewing/client-centered approach; 8-services are informed by a harm reduction philosophy; 9-primary focus is assisting with swift PH placement.

3) The CoC prepares, analyzes and distributes data & data quality reports as part of the quarterly monitoring process. If a project’s data was to show increased patterns of turnover, the project would be expected to explain reasons for the #/% of exits to explain cause.

The CoC’s redesigned CE System, set to launch in Q4 of 2023, will provide new opportunities for evaluating HF compliance. The CoC will be implementing “push” referrals vs. the current “pull” system. In addition, community-level case conferencing & housing problem solving will increase provider accountability for rapidly housing referred households. Newly hired CE staff will provide additional oversight to ensure referred households are eligible & aren’t screening out. TA is also available as needed.

1D-3.	Street Outreach—Scope.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.j.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	your CoC’s street outreach efforts, including the methods it uses to ensure all persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness are identified and engaged;
2.	whether your CoC’s Street Outreach covers 100 percent of the CoC’s geographic area;
3.	how often your CoC conducts street outreach; and

4.	how your CoC tailored its street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.
----	--

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC has made intentional efforts to provide street outreach (SO) through a variety of methods. Veteran outreach workers are actively engaged throughout the CoC. If someone is identified as unsheltered but not a veteran, referrals & CE assessment are provided. Funding sources for SO workers include: SSVF, ESG, PATH & VAMC. YHDP navigators also support SO for youth. In addition to formal paid SO efforts, some counties conduct regular outreach through community agencies & volunteers. In addition, the CoC has identified hot spots for youth & methods for youth engagement.

2) Street outreach covers 100% of the CoC's geographic area.

3) Weekly SO is conducted in 80% of the CoC's geo area through ESG & SSVF funding, focusing mostly on known locations. SO is provided in the remaining 20% of the CoC, which is largely rural, as they receive reports of unsheltered households.

100% of the CoC is covered in the annual unsheltered PIT count.

In many of the most rural areas of the CoC, providers have relationships/partnerships with local law enforcement, park rangers, EMT, and others who "phone in" any sightings of someone believed to be unsheltered. Homeless assistance providers then go to the location to conduct outreach.

4) Street outreach providers have worked to build relationships w/ orgs within their communities (such as VFWs, 24-hour establishments, soup kitchens, police dept) to ID individuals and/or locations where unsheltered may be located. LanguageLine is available for translation, including ASL. Street outreach workers engage individuals consistently & are often able to provide tangible asst (food vouchers, sleeping bags, coats, hygiene items & transportation passes), in addition to shelter/housing resources. Street outreach workers are trained to engage those with MH/BH/physical health issues & in cultural competency. SO workers are equipped to provide CE assessments "in the field" to eliminate the need for appointments, transportation to CE centers & other obstacles that may prevent the person from seeking services. CE Assessment Centers are expected to advertise/market CE services. As such, marketing materials are posted within the community. CoC/ESG resources require orgs to serve all HH types, in compliance with non-discrimination policies.

1D-4.	Strategies to Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.k.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate strategies your CoC implemented to ensure homelessness is not criminalized and to reverse existing criminalization policies in your CoC's geographic area:
--

	Your CoC's Strategies	Ensure Homelessness is not Criminalized	Reverse Existing Criminalization Policies
1.	Engaged/educated local policymakers	Yes	No
2.	Engaged/educated law enforcement	Yes	No
3.	Engaged/educated local business leaders	Yes	No

4. Implemented community wide plans	Yes	No
5. Other:(limit 500 characters)		
CoC has Reentry Committee; Re-entry RRH to prevent prison exits to homelessness, funded through Home4Good; new Youth Justice Action Board working for system's change to prevent youth exiting juvenile justice settings from exiting to homelessness & identify appropriate interventions.	No	No

1D-5.	Rapid Rehousing–RRH Beds as Reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) or Longitudinal Data from HMIS.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.I.	

		HIC Longitudinal HMIS Data	2022	2023
	Enter the total number of RRH beds available to serve all populations as reported in the HIC or the number of households served per longitudinal HMIS data, e.g., APR.	Longitudinal HMIS Data	910	877

1D-6.	Mainstream Benefits–CoC Annual Training of Project Staff.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m.	

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

	Mainstream Benefits	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI–Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	SSDI–Social Security Disability Insurance	Yes
4.	TANF–Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
5.	Substance Use Disorder Programs	Yes
6.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
7.	Other (limit 150 characters)	
	Child care; LIHEAP	Yes

1D-6a.	Information and Training on Mainstream Benefits and Other Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

- systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, SSDI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
- works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services; and

3.	works with projects to promote SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.
----	---

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) The PA Department of Human Services (DHS) provides annual training to the CoC on mainstream benefits to the CoC, most recently on 9/25/23. PA DHS staff will also attend semi-annual CoC meetings to provide announcements/updates to benefit programs. In addition, the CoC provides updates on mainstream benefits through the CoC's social media platform (Slack) & during monthly regional meetings of the CoC. Updates are provided during county-level housing coalition meetings by reps from the County Assistance Offices (CAOs), Community Action Agencies (CAAs) & Legal Aid. More in-depth training is primarily provided at county level, through the CAOs & local collaboratives.
- 2) The CoC has been working to support homeless assistance providers coordinate/ leverage partnerships between health care, MH, & SA treatment providers. This includes partnerships with FQHC, Medicaid-reimbursable service providers, Community HealthChoices, the state's managed care program and more. The CoC also provides TA to support incorporating leveraged healthcare services into project design. The CoC works with community partners to ensure that participants effectively utilize Medicaid/ other benefits. Medicaid/Medicare insurance companies (MCOs) may attend local housing/homeless coalition meetings to discuss benefits/how to access. 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 & use benefits.
- 3) CoC orgs either employ staff who are SOAR certified, or partner with neighboring organizations who have SOAR certified staff. For example, Fayette County Community Action Agency serves as the Western PA lead for SOAR and has two staff who are SOAR trained. They can support other orgs w/SOAR certification or TA. Previously, through a foundation grant, FCCAA hosted a SOAR certification program that offered organizations reimbursement for the cost of staff to attend/participate in training & become SOAR certified, which increased the # of SOAR certified providers. As part of the annual CoC NOFO, renewal & 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/state resources. The CoC hosted a SOAR training for CoC members/partners on 9/6/23.

1D-7.	Increasing Capacity for Non-Congregate Sheltering.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC is increasing its capacity to provide non-congregate sheltering.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has expanded its non-congregate shelter capacity over the past 3 years. In 2020 the CoC reported 28 non-congregate (including hotel/voucher beds) on the HIC vs. 33 non-congregate beds on the 2023 HIC. The PA Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), is the state ESG, CDBG, HOME recipient, as well as the CoC Collaborative Applicant. DCED has made non-congregate shelter a priority within their HOME-ARP allocation plan (accounting for 20% of total allocation). This will bring over \$15M into Pennsylvania to support the development of non-congregate shelter. DCED will prioritize funds for non-entitlement communities, which means these funds will be able to serve non-urban areas across 18 of CoC’s 20 counties. The application for these funds is expected in Q4 of 2023 & will greatly expand the CoC’s capacity to provide non-congregate shelters. CoC leadership and members participated in HOME-ARP input sessions to help directly inform the allocation plan. In addition to HOME-ARP funds, ESG-CV funds were used to significantly increase non-congregate shelter capacity. State ESG/-CV funds were used to expand non-congregate shelter capacity in Butler County in order to provide reduce the number of people in shelters & to respond to the increased demand for shelter. Several DV agencies operating in the CoC also increased non-congregate shelter access to prevent the spread of COVID and respond to an increase in demand for assistance. In Lawrence County, hotels were used in-lieu of shelter in order to prevent the spread of COVID. While this effort significantly increased local non-congregate sheltering, it did not increase shelter capacity overall.

ID-8.	Partnerships with Public Health Agencies–Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent Spread of Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to:	
1.	develop CoC-wide policies and procedures to respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and	
2.	prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) No parts of the CoC's 20 county geography have their own public health department. As such, the entire CoC falls under the PA Dept of Health (DOH). PA DOH & Dept of Human Services (DHS) are both integral agencies in the response to & prevention of infectious diseases. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the CoC strengthened its relationship with DOH & DHS, including participation in the State's Sheltering Task Force, which included the distribution of safety planning protocols (including social distancing, de-densifying shelter, hand washing, masks, vaccinations), identification of shelter needs, & the procurement of resources. The information/resources resulting from this partnership helped decrease the spread of COVID-19 & ensured safety measures were implemented.

During the height of COVID, the CoC established procedures to be redeployed in the case of future infectious disease outbreaks, including: communication procedures to gather info from the State (as well as other sources such as CDC & HUD) & disseminate this info quickly to providers via: CoC Office Hour calls; online communication platforms (Slack and email mailing list); & via regional meetings of the CoC. These communication enhancements & practices adopted during COVID will allow the CoC to respond quickly & strategically during any future public health crisis.

2) The CoC & CA are members of the PA Sheltering Task Force, which continues to meet quarterly, in order to provide updates & maintain established systems/ contacts in place.

CoC providers have established protocols to act swiftly for future public health emergencies to prevent infectious diseases outbreaks among people exp. homelessness. These include de-densifying programs (including use of hotels/motels), isolation/quarantining protocols, testing protocols, handwashing/cleaning protocols, screening protocols, vaccination protocols, and staffing. CoC providers have also established/enhanced partnerships with local healthcare providers for access to testing and vaccines.

In addition, as of July 2023, the state Medicaid agency is providing reimbursement for street medicine services. As such, the CoC will be working in partnership with PA DHS to identify opportunities for how the CoC can intentionally increase the availability of these services throughout the 20-county geography. The expansion of these services will help the CoC to prevent/respond to any infectious disease outbreaks in the future.

ID-8a.	Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	shared information related to public health measures and homelessness, and	
2.	facilitated communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers to ensure street outreach providers and shelter and housing providers are equipped to prevent or limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the CoC strengthened its relationship with the PA Dept of Health (DOH) & Dept of Human Services (DHS), who oversee public health activities for the CoC, by participating in their Sheltering Task Force. The Task Force was the communication hub for updates from FEMA/PEMA, CDC, DOH, DHS, and HUD. The CoC disseminated this information to providers quickly/regularly via: CoC Office Hour calls (which started 2x/week at the beginning of the pandemic & reduced frequency based on need); online communication platforms (Slack & email mailing list); and via regional meetings of the CoC. This included sharing best practices for non-congregate shelter, info about hotel chains partnering with the state to provide shelter, info about needed supplies & medical/prevention related equipment, available funding sources and more. This task force also created an opportunity for the CoC to share local needs with state officials.

2) The CoC provided contact info for all homeless providers in the CoC so DOH /DHS could work directly w/providers in deferent counties related to safety planning protocols including social distancing, de-densifying shelter, hand washing, masks, & vaccinations, as different parts of the CoC were experiencing very different levels of positive COVID cases. The two-way communication established between state officials & local homeless providers helped to inform the state regarding what assistance was needed, and helped the CoC to understand the impact & needs of different communities within the CoC's geography.

This info was used throughout the CoC to establish/expand partnerships w/public health providers. Through the joint efforts of homeless providers & public health workers, resources were allocated to provide hotel vouchers & other non-congregate sheltering options. The CoC is still seeing positive results stemming from these efforts, including providers reporting future planning/ resource development w/ public health agencies. In addition, the CoC is hopeful that many communities will apply for non-congregate shelter funding to be available Q4 of 2023 through PA DCED's HOME-ARP application process. The CoC will be working w/DHS later this year to ID opportunities to provide street medicine services throughout the CoC, using a new reimbursable service added under the state's Medicaid plan, which will help to prevent/ limit future health emergencies among individuals sleeping in unsheltered locations.

1D-9.	Centralized or Coordinated Entry System–Assessment Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:	
1.	covers 100 percent of your CoC's geographic area;	
2.	uses a standardized assessment process; and	
3.	is updated regularly using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) CES covers & serves all 20 counties w/in CoC (covering 100% of the CoC). This includes a General Assessment Center (GAC) & DV Assessment Centers (DV AC) in nearly every county to provide CE services & direct all households needing homeless assistance to the appropriate intervention, while also maintaining client choice. In addition to CE services, assistance w/safety planning is available from DV ACs. CE services can be provided by walking into GAC/DVAC or by calling these Centers. Street outreach & CE staff are also available to do provide CE services in any location. In addition, 211 is accessible CoC-wide through 24/7 (live voice & texting options) to direct households needing homeless assistance to the local GAC, DVAC or shelters.

2) Currently, all CE Assessors use a standardized Triage/Safety Protocol & a Triage Assessment to determine homeless status & if household is fleeing DV. The VI-SPDAT is used to assess for vulnerability & informs prioritization of BNL, which is the required referral source for ESG/CoC-funded providers. The CoC has been working with ICF to re-design its CE system, with implementation beginning in Q4 of 2023, will center housing problem solving (HPS) strategies, which includes services & financial assistance for diversion & rapid exit, as the first step of CE. Additional resource allocation will be conducted through case conferencing meetings within the CoC's four CES regions. Factors considered include VISPDAT assessment score, length of time homeless, # of prior homeless episodes, chronicity, info gained during 30-day HPS period, as well as other vulnerability factors including risk of experiencing violence, among other factors.

3) The CES redesign process was launched as a result of input from providers during CE Committee meetings, which led to a more robust conversation with the full CoC membership. The resign process, which has been ongoing for 18 months, has included many opportunities for CoC members/providers to pilot new workflow options, provide feedback to planning, participate in training & provide additional feedback. The redesign included input/feedback from PWLE who had recently received CE services. In addition, each region will be working to identify an "anchor agency" and establish variances to CE P&P for local implementation. In addition, the CE Committee meetings, regional case conferencing meetings create opportunities for ongoing input & updates to the system as needed.

1D-9a.	Program Participant-Centered Approach to Centralized or Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:	
1.	reaches people who are least likely to apply for homeless assistance in the absence of special outreach;	
2.	prioritizes people most in need of assistance;	
3.	ensures people most in need of assistance receive permanent housing in a timely manner, consistent with their preferences; and	
4.	takes steps to reduce burdens on people using coordinated entry.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC's street outreach providers are an extension of the CE system by providing mobile/remote CE services and/or connecting the most vulnerable and/or disconnected households to CE services delivered through a General or Domestic Violence Assessment Centers (GAC/DVAC). Street outreach teams include PWLE, which has been helpful to engage folks who may be least likely to seek out assistance. The CES uses Language Line, which provides translation services for 240 languages & ASL. Individuals needing assistance who call 211 will be directed to local GAC/DVAC and/or shelter.

2) Currently, all CE Assessors use a Triage/Safety Protocol to determine homeless & DV status. The VI-SPDAT assessment is used to determine vulnerability. GAC/DVAC make direct referrals to shelter, prevention and/or diversion resources. HHs needing TH/RRH/PSH are placed on the By Name List (BNL). Priorities for program enrollment include vulnerability, including chronic status, VI-SPDAT score & LOT homeless.

Under the CoC's new CE system (rolling out in Q4, 2023), all HHs will be provided w/housing problem solving services, prior to assessment & referral for PH resources. This will allow the CoC to provide services to more HHs, while prioritizing short/medium-term assistance for HHs most in need & otherwise unable to end their homelessness.

3)HHs most in need receive priority enrollment into PH programs, which includes participant choice/preferences. All ESG/CoC providers are required to fill openings through the BNL, using the above-listed prioritization criteria. Diversion funds help to prioritize HHs w/most significant needs. To facilitate rapid placement, multiple RRH projects, including DV RRH, provide flexible resources throughout CoC's geography.

Providers are evaluated on rapid placement through the annual renewal scoring process.

To expedite housing placement, the new CE system (Q4 launch) will incorporate referrals for HHs most in need, document readiness & coordination of regional resources to support housing search, cross county transportation needs, etc.

4) The redesigned CE system delays the VISPDAT in place of a more phased assessment process that includes housing problem solving services, resulting in a more client-centered, less intrusive process. In addition, once the new CE system is implemented, the CoC will be looking to replace the VISPDAT with a new, less invasive, assessment tool. Participation from PWLE will be incorporated into that process.

1D-9b.	Informing Program Participant about Rights and Remedies through Centralized or Coordinated Entry-Reporting Violations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC through its centralized or coordinated entry:

1.	affirmatively markets housing and services provided within the CoC's geographic area and ensures it reaches all persons experiencing homelessness;
2.	informs program participants of their rights and remedies available under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws; and
3.	reports any conditions or actions that impede fair housing choice for current or prospective program participants to the jurisdiction(s) responsible for certifying consistency with the Consolidated Plan.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC’s written standards have incorporated the CoC’s “Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Fair Housing Policy”, which includes and describes the CoC’s expectations of the CE System & individuals providers. Specifically, it states, “To ensure the coordinated entry process assists CoC Program and ESG Program recipients in meeting the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing requirement, Western PA CoC is committed to providing marketing resources, auxiliary aids and other services necessary to ensure effective communication with persons accessing the homeless response system, which includes ensuring that information is provided in appropriate accessible formats as needed, such as Braille, audio, large type, assistive listening devices, and sign language interpreters, as well as accommodation for persons with limited English proficiency.” In addition, the policy provides definitions and examples of reasonable accommodations & modifications.

The CoC provides annual Fair Housing training to ensure that all homeless assistance providers understand their role/ responsibilities to further fair housing efforts. Many organizations providing homeless assistance throughout the CoC are also involved with local efforts to increase access to positive social determinates of health, which can be furthered through affirmative marketing of housing.

1D-10.	Advancing Racial Equity in Homelessness—Conducting Assessment.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

1.	Has your CoC conducted a racial disparities assessment in the last 3 years?	Yes
2.	Enter the date your CoC conducted its latest assessment for racial disparities.	05/16/2023

1D-10a.	Process for Analyzing Racial Disparities—Identified Racial Disparities in Provision or Outcomes of Homeless Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	your CoC’s process for analyzing whether any racial disparities are present in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and
2.	what racial disparities your CoC identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC has conducted four racial disparities since 2019 (2019, 2020, 2022, 2023). These analyses reviewed homeless system access & outcomes by race & ethnicity using data from HMIS, including CE & SPM data. The CoC Lead Agency conducted the analyses & solicits feedback from community partners and providers to inform the analysis. The most recent analysis in 2023 included an analysis of CE access and outcomes by race and ethnicity, which including looking at access to CE by race/ ethnicity, VI-SPDAT score by race/ethnicity, length of time on By Name List by race/ethnicity, and coordinated entry outcomes (e.g., PH destinations, temporary destinations, unknown outcome) by race/ethnicity. This analysis was displayed using Tableau software, which allows community partners/providers to view data CoC-wide and/or to drill down the data to a specific county/ies and region, which is very important in our 20-county CoC, as resources, needs and disparities may vary at the regional and county level. The Tableau dashboard/analysis is publicly available for community partners and providers. Previous racial disparities analyses have also included an analysis of system performance measure outcomes by race and ethnicity (exits to permanent housing, length of time in housing, increasing income). These annual analyses are shared with the full CoC, and community partners can drill into their local data and discuss challenges and solutions at their regional and county level housing meetings.

2) The CoC identified the following disparities:

- Black or African American households are over-represented in the homeless population, as this group makes up a greater proportion of households seeking homeless assistance (13%) versus the general population of Black or African American households (3%). Further, 75% of Black households were in the Southwest Region (7 of 20 counties), and 30% of the total in Washington County specifically.
- On average, white households scored higher than Black/African American households on the VI-SPDAT CE assessment (1.1 average point difference).
- there are very few Hispanic/Latino(a)(x) households in the CoC (1.5% of the general population). The rate of Hispanic/Latino(a)(x) households seeking homeless assistance services in the CoC was 2.7%.
- Black or African American households had lower rates of exit to permanent housing than White households (39% vs. 45%).

1D-10b.	Implemented Strategies that Address Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the strategies your CoC is using to address any racial disparities.

1.	The CoC's board and decisionmaking bodies are representative of the population served in the CoC.	No
2.	The CoC has identified steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC.	Yes
3.	The CoC is expanding outreach in geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups.	Yes
4.	The CoC has communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups.	Yes
5.	The CoC is training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness.	Yes
6.	The CoC is establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector.	Yes

7.	The CoC has staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness.	Yes
8.	The CoC is educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national nonprofit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity.	Yes
9.	The CoC reviewed coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes
10.	The CoC is collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system.	Yes
11.	The CoC is conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes
Other:(limit 500 characters)		
12.	The CoC's DEI Committee created a strategic plan, which will include recommendations on operations, funding & governance	Yes

1D-10c.	Implemented Strategies that Address Known Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below the steps your CoC is taking to address the disparities identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

While the CoC recently updated the racial disparities analysis, several action steps were taken following the previous analysis. Specifically:

- The Gov Board approved updated non-discrimination & inclusion policies.
- Disparities analyses in 2022 & 2023 allow for regional/county data drilldown.
- CoC grantees were evaluated on their completion of an organizational equity analysis (looking at org policies, practices, training) during the 2022 renewal scoring. The 2023 renewal scoring included evaluation of equity narrative providing description of recent and/or current actions taken to address disparities and advance equity in organizational service delivery.
- The CoC hosted racial equity training series in 2020, 2021 and 2022 (required for ESG/CoC providers). In 2022, the 5-part training series included these topics presented from an equity lens: harm reduction; culturally responsive services; understanding racial disparities; uncovering implicit bias; & lived experience in service system. These topics continue to be reinforced throughout all training.
- In 2021 the CoC formed DEIB Committee to assess diversity & equity at the Board level & throughout CoC operations. This Committee has advanced this work via:
 - a)Opens every Board & CoC meeting with “centering around equity” mini training sessions aimed at increasing education/awareness & reminder to place equity at the center of discussion & decision making.
 - b)Assessed Board diversity & training needs; designed a 6-part training series that all Board members were mandated to attend; ongoing DEIB training now provided bimonthly.
 - c)Revised the CoC’s mission statement to support diversity & equity.
 - d)Created DEIB truths & values ethical statement endorsed by all Board members.
 - e)Completed a DEIB strategic plan. Goals include: Board members accountable to support/embody the values & truths statements; recruit Board & Committees members more inclusively, intentionally; incorporate diverse voices of PWLE; strategic relationships w/ orgs that represent diverse perspectives & align with CoC’s mission; Develop continuous quality improvement process to center diversity, equity & inclusion within all CoC policies, practices & procedures; Partner w/ Funding Comm to ID new DEI-centered methods to evaluate projects & engage applicants.
 - f)Work w/ CES redesign comm to guide dev. of equity-centered strategies.
 - g)2023-pilot in 2 orgs providing 9 month learning collab focused on DEIB to support organizational change

1D-10d.	Tracked Progress on Preventing or Eliminating Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	the measures your CoC has in place to track progress on preventing or eliminating disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and	
2.	the tools your CoC uses.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC uses the annual gaps analysis to track progress on preventing/eliminating disparities. For example, in the 2022 gaps analysis, the CoC identified that BIPOC had lower CE assessment scores overall than White households. The CoC is able to track progress over time via the gaps analysis. The CoC has just completed an 18-month process to redesign the CE process, which includes deprioritizing the assessment score & move to more equitable service provision. The CoC also uses the gaps analysis to monitor LOT homeless by race/ethnicity & exits to PH by race/ethnicity. Since the CoC conducts this gaps analysis annually, and uses the interactive Tableau dashboard software, the CoC is able to track progress over time. The CoC also disaggregates the System Performance Measure outcomes by race/ethnicity to identify disparities, and can track progress over time with each new dataset.

In addition to these quantitative measures, the CoC Funding Committee evaluated equity-related factors each year as part of the annual renewal scoring process. In 2023 the scoring criteria asked grantees to describe recent or current actions to address disparities and advance equity in provision of services. The CoC is able to use this information to analyze efforts at the organization/program level to identify and address disparities. In 2022 CoC grantees completed an equity self-assessment tool, which will be used again over time to analyze whether grantees identify areas of progress, or areas where additional support is needed.

The Gov Board has redesigned the recruitment process for new Board, Committee & CoC membership. This includes revising language used in outreach materials & the application process; expanding outreach efforts & targeting organizations that serve BIPOC & other diverse populations. A demographic assessment was completed by the Board, to create a baseline against to measure progress.

2) To measure whether the CoC is making progress on preventing/elimination disparities, the CoC uses: a) gaps analysis, which utilized HMIS, CE data, and data from DV comparable database, including data disaggregated by race; b) SPM data, which analyzes outcomes by race at the CoC/organization/program level; c) self-report from providers (qualitative data) related to recent/current actions to address disparities, and an overall organizational self-assessment related to equity; and d) a demographic assessment tool to capture the characteristics of the Board's membership.

1D-11.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking—CoC's Outreach Efforts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Describe in the field below your CoC's outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decision making processes.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC established a Youth Action Board (YAB) several years ago once the CoC began to actively seek out solutions to address youth homelessness. Building on that success, the CoC launched a new Homeless Action Board this year, made up of PWLE of homelessness, but not limited to youth. To recruit persons with lived experience for the YAB, HAB, CoC Board and Committees, the CoC sends out periodic recruitment emails to the 500+ on its listserv, including all CoC-funded orgs, and also reaches out directly to targeted organizations to discuss opportunities. This includes a specific recruitment flyer & for YAB membership this is also shared with youth-serving entities. The CoC also used a paid Facebook ad which included the HAB/YAB application link. In 2023 the Board created a Membership Committee that was tasked with diversifying the Board. The group created a new recruitment process that included a new application & interview process that reprioritized factors consideration when selecting new Board members, shifting from representation based on geography & sector, to focus more on demographics, in hopes of intentionally diversifying the Board. As a result of this new strategy, the CoC had 15 people apply for open Board seats (the highest ever received), including 5 persons with lived experience of homelessness.

The CoC has a long history of including PWLE in leadership positions and recognizes the importance of these advisory boards & PWLE within the governance charter & structure. Currently, there are currently two (at large) seats on the Board for PWLE, two seats on the Board for Youth Action Board (YAB) members, and two additional seats for the HAB are being added with the next round of Gov Charter updates. These board members are also engaged in the CoC's working committees. Stipends are provided for PWLE who are participating as individuals vs. representing an organization for which they are employed and being paid for their Board participation. CoC staff supports the YAB & HAB membership & meets with members to provide ongoing training/support for meaningful engagement in the CoC. Computers are provided, if needed, to ensure PWLE have the ability to participate in Zoom meetings & to review materials before/after Board & Committee meetings.

Beginning in Sept 2023, the CoC will launch its "Board Buddies" program, which pairs PWLE & other new Board members with seasoned Board members in order to support engagement, inclusion & belonging.

1D-11a.	Active CoC Participation of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

You must upload the Letter Signed by Working Group attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter in the chart below the number of people with lived experience who currently participate in your CoC under the four categories listed:

	Level of Active Participation	Number of People with Lived Experience Within the Last 7 Years or Current Program Participant	Number of People with Lived Experience Coming from Unsheltered Situations
1.	Included in the decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	18	7
2.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	18	7
3.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's local competition rating factors.	1	1

4.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's coordinated entry process.	3	1
----	--	---	---

1D-11b.	Professional Development and Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC or CoC membership organizations provide professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC, in partnership with CoC partner orgs, has provided professional development opportunities for individuals with lived experience who are working with the CoC. In addition, CoC & partner orgs have helped connect individuals w/ lived experience / employment opportunities.

Professional Development:

- CoC staff does quarterly goal setting with YAB members. Those goals are divided into group/shared goals and personal goals. Staff then works with Gov Board members and/or CoC members orgs to ensure that YAB members are supported both personally and professionally.
- WCA (CoC funded org) has provided free training around professionalism and goal setting to YAB.
- CoC Board member (from Slippery Rock University) has provided free training to the YAB around facilitating difficult conversations, public speaking, and meeting facilitation.
- CoC partner org (North Hills Community Outreach) presented on professional goal setting and helped set up YAB members with informational interviews.
- All YAB members were invited to attend the NAEH conference for professional development opportunities
- 3 YAB members attended PA Homes Within Reach Conference in Dec 2022
- All CoC funded orgs connect participants with professional development opportunities through local CareerLinks and other employment partners, including support with resume building, interviewing skills, etc.
- DCED (CoC Collaborative Applicant) provides scholarships annually to support attendance of at the PA Homes Within Reach Conference among PWLE, beyond the YAB.

Employment:

- WCA (CoC funded org) and Union Mission (CoC funded org) both offered a YAB member a paid position in their org.
- CHAPS (CoC funded org) hired a YAB member as peer support specialist
- Other CoC funded orgs employ persons with lived experience. For example, Catholic Charities Butler County hired two individuals that are former clients, and they contract with a cleaning company that is owned by a former client. Greene County Human Services has also supported a person with lived experience to be hired within the county's maintenance department. A number of VSPs frequently hire Survivors to work for the organization once no longer receiving services.
- Within the CoC's YHDP planning grant, funding was allocated to provide parttime employment opps to 2 YAB members to support YHDP CCP implementation.
- Computers are provided to all YAB and HAB members that need them in order to participate in CoC/Board/ Committee meetings.

1D-11c.	Routinely Gathering Feedback and Addressing Challenges of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC routinely gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;	
2.	how your CoC routinely gathers feedback from people who have received assistance through the CoC or ESG Programs; and	

3.	the steps your CoC has taken to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness.
----	--

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC has two lived experience committees – the Youth Action Board (YAB) and Homeless Action Board (HAB). YAB and HAB members share feedback directly to CoC lead on areas for improvement and focus. Two members are employed by CoC organizations and provide feedback to CoC leadership frequently. Feedback of the YAB was been solicited throughout the CoC’s work to prepare for YHDP, when submitting a YHDP application, through the development of the Coordinated Community Plan, the YHDP project selection process, and to advise on implementation. The YAB remains involved in YHDP work & will participate in the development and implementation of a Continuous Quality Improvement monitoring for YHDP projects. The HAB launched earlier this year, but the CoC will be working to fully integrate HAB members in similar types of projects.

2) An example of feedback from users of CoC/ESG-funded programs is the CoC’s CE system redesign. As part of this system redesign, ICF (consultants) engaged persons who had recently received CE services to provide feedback on the CE system and areas of improvement. This included two live feedback sessions (one DV specific and one non-DV specific), as well as participant surveys. Persons with lived experience were compensated for their time. The CE Lead Agency will continue to seek out/obtain input from system users at least annually & as needed.

3) Based on the feedback of PWLE who have used the CE system, the CE redesign includes changes to the assessment process, including a less intrusive phased assessment process. In addition, the CoC has increased funding & capacity to the CE system by adding new staff positions. These new staff will help support a more robust response to households seeking homeless assistance. Services added will include: housing problem solving solutions including diversion; case conferencing; document readiness; and transportation as needed.

Another example of addressing challenges occurred when YAB members shared feedback about difficulty integrating fully into the work of the CoC as persons with lived experience. As a result of this feedback, the CoC created a truths and values statement & is implementing a new process to engage PWLE on Board and Committee by creating a Board Buddy/mentor program. This includes prepping and debriefing before and after Board and Committee meetings.

1D-12.	Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.t.	

Describe in the field below at least 2 steps your CoC has taken in the past 12 months to engage city, county, or state governments that represent your CoC’s geographic area regarding the following:

1.	reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; and
2.	reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Western PA CoC includes a total of 720 municipalities across its 20 counties. Some of these municipalities have a zoning ordinance, either because they have enacted their own zoning ordinance or because they have chosen to be covered by a county's zoning. In addition, a substantial number of municipalities don't have zoning.

1) Due to the size of the CoC, much of the work related to reforming local zoning and land use policies happens at the municipal/county level. Examples of activities conducted to reform zoning and land use policies within the last 12 months include: a) The CoC consultant has worked with some municipalities within the CoC to amend their zoning to allow for innovative affordable housing options (such as elder cottages); b) Fayette County Community Action Agency (CE lead, and CoC grantee) has met with county commissioners, attended commissioner's meetings, and met with township supervisors to discuss zoning and land use policies.

2) In the last 12 months, the CoC and its member orgs have taken the following steps: The CoC consultant has presented at state housing and CAA conferences on zoning special exceptions for innovative affordable housing options, to support communities in understanding zoning allowances & opportunities for innovation.

In addition, the CoC is exploring how to utilize Act 58, which was signed into law 7-11-22, granting more powers to municipalities to approve tax abatements and other incentives for affordable-housing projects. This law allows municipalities to grant 10-year tax exemptions on multi-unit buildings where 30% of units qualify as affordable housing or when a project repairs a blighted property, among other provisions to increase affordable housing development.

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

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1E-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC’s Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. NOFO Section V.B.2.a. and 2.g. You must upload the Web Posting of Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	
-------	---	--

1.	Enter your CoC’s local competition submission deadline date for New Project applicants to submit their project applications to your CoC—meaning the date your CoC published the deadline.	07/11/2023
2.	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for Renewal Project applicants to submit their project applications to your CoC’s local competition—meaning the date your CoC published the deadline.	07/28/2023

1E-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. We use the response to this question and the response in Question 1E-2a along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC’s eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below. NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., 2.d., and 2.e. You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen. Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected project applications during your 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
4.	Provided points for projects that addressed specific severe barriers to housing and services.	Yes

5.	Used data from comparable databases to score projects submitted by victim service providers.	Yes
6.	Provided points for projects based on the degree the projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.	Yes

1E-2a.	Scored Project Forms for One Project from Your CoC's Local Competition. We use the response to this question and Question 1E-2. along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC's eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.	

You must upload the Scored Forms for One Project attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
 Complete the chart below to provide details of your CoC's local competition:

1.	What were the maximum number of points available for the renewal project form(s)?	100
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	53
3.	What renewal project type did most applicants use?	PH-PSH

1E-2b.	Addressing Severe Barriers in the Local Project Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.d.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding each project that has successfully housed program participants in permanent housing;
2.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding how long it takes to house people in permanent housing;
3.	how your CoC considered the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities experienced by program participants preventing rapid placement in permanent housing or the ability to maintain permanent housing when your CoC ranked and selected projects; and
4.	considerations your CoC gave to projects that provide housing and services to the hardest to serve populations that could result in lower performance levels but are projects your CoC needs in its geographic area.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC renewal scoring criteria (updated/formally adopted February 2023) is used to evaluate annual performance of CoC-funded renewal projects & inform ranking decisions. For successful permanent housing (PH) placement/retention, the CoC uses HMIS APR data (or APR data from a comparable database) to analyze the % of households that exit to PH and/or retain PH (PSH). This element accounts for 10% of the project's total score (10/100 points).

Outside of CoC competition, the CoC publishes quarterly monitoring reports which looks at performance including exits to PH/retention in PH. This includes a Tableau dashboard accessible to CoC grantee which shows performance over time related to exits to PH. This uses HMIS APR data or APR data from comparable database.

2)As part of the renewal scoring, the CoC analyzes LOT between project start and housing move-in, specifically the % of households who moved into housing within 30 days. The threshold for points is 90% of households move into PH within 30 days (for PSH) & 80% within 30 days for RRH. This criteria is scored using data from HMIS or DV comparable database.

3)The CoC factors in severity of needs/ vulnerabilities experienced by participants when conducting annual evaluation. Severity of need criteria account for 10/100 points. The severity of needs factors the CoC considered during scoring were:

- Health Conditions: % of participants with 1+ physical and/or mental condition
- Zero Income at Entry: % adults w/ zero income at program entry
- Chronically homeless: % chronically homeless at entry
- Unsheltered: % adults coming from unsheltered locations at entry
- Domestic Violence: % adults w/ history of DV

These criteria are scored using data from HMIS or DV comparable database.

4)The severity of need criteria above account for 10/100 possible points. Projects can earn partial points for many questions, even if performance doesn't meet top benchmark. Benchmarks adjusted by project type, recognizing some project types serve more vulnerable HHs. Add'l measures such as non-earned income are included to ensure projects serving households w/ highest vulnerabilities are evaluated fairly. CoC provides training to grantees explaining that severity of need criteria are designed to provide balance in the project evaluation process, as projects serving participants with the highest severity of needs may struggle in other areas (increasing income, exits to PH).

1E-3.	Advancing Racial Equity through Participation of Over-Represented Populations in the Local Competition Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.e.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC used the input from persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, to determine the rating factors used to review project applications;
2.	how your CoC included persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population in the review, selection, and ranking process; and
3.	how your CoC rated and ranked projects based on the degree to which their project has identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC's local funding process is implemented by the Funding Comm, including determining rating factors, new project selection, reallocation & ranking. Upon the conclusion of the annual renewal scoring process, the CoC distributes the renewal scoring criteria to the CoC for comments/ feedback. This is the opportunity for all providers, stakeholders & community members to provide input. While this process is open/available to all, the race/ethnicity of those responding is unknown. This input is reviewed & considered by Funding Comm who recommends final renewal scoring criteria to the non-conflicted Gov Board for final approval. Both groups reviewing/ approving these factors includes PWLE.

Methods for obtaining input from persons of different races, particularly those overrepresented in CoC, will be discussed w/DEIB Comm.

2) The DEIB Comm has helped to create a new membership recruitment process to diversify CoC leadership, which will include Funding Comm membership. There is intention to identify PWLE as new members, as well as persons of different races, particularly black & brown HHs, who (while these #s are small) are overrepresented w/in homeless population. The Funding Comm does benefit from having members that work with some of the CoC's most vulnerable households, including Veterans, DV households, youth & the criminal justice. 1 PWLE currently on Funding Comm. The non-conflicted Gov Board, which approves all final funding recommendations now includes six non-conflicted members w/ lived experience.

The Comm will continue to recruit PWLE & persons of different races in partnership w/DEIB Committee.

3) Renewal scoring criteria has included equity criteria for 3 years. In 2023, grantees provided a narrative on recent or current actions to ID/address disparities & advance equity within their orgs. This narrative was worth 4 points in the renewal scoring process. The CoC's 2022 renewal scoring criteria included an equity self-assessment tool, which assessed steps orgs are taking to increase equity & an equity-analysis of org policies, practices, training, etc. Specifically, the analysis reviewed: Org Commitment, Leadership & Governance; Equity Policies & Implementation; Org Climate, Culture & Communications; Service-Based Equity; Service-User Voice; Workforce Composition; Community Collaborations; Continuous Quality Improvement. These responses have assisted in designing equity-related training & inform strategies to increase diversity & equity.

1E-4.	Reallocation—Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	your CoC's reallocation process, including how your CoC determined which projects are candidates for reallocation because they are low performing or less needed;
2.	whether your CoC identified any low performing or less needed projects through the process described in element 1 of this question during your CoC's local competition this year;
3.	whether your CoC reallocated any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year; and
4.	why your CoC did not reallocate low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year, if applicable.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC’s reallocation process is outlined in the Funding Policies, which is updated annually & approved by the Board. The document is circulated to the full CoC, including CoC-funded providers & publicly posted on the CoC website at the start of the renewal scoring process annually (April 2023). The CoC identifies projects that were low performing, underspending, or had cost effectiveness concerns via the annual project evaluation/scoring process. The CoC’s gaps analysis is also used to ID where funding is needed. The CoC may consider reallocation based on the following factors: underperformance; underspending; cost effectiveness; lack of need; funds needed to respond to an urgent/emerging CoC need; or monitoring indicates serious problems (e.g. discrimination & Housing First violations such as barriers to entry or project termination). Projects are considered for involuntary reallocation if they have underperformance or underspending for 2 or more years. If a project has underperformance or underspending for 2+ years, the CoC provides an official letter outlining the concerns, offers TA, and requests the grantee to provide a written response outlining challenge areas & how issues will be resolved. If performance does not improve after receiving this official notice, the CoC may consider the project for potential reallocation. Recommendations for full or partial reallocation are submitted by the Funding Committee, to the group of non-conflicted Board members for final approval. Projects subject to reallocation are provided with an opportunity to submit an appeal, as indicated in CoC’s Funding Policies.

2) Following the 2023 renewal scoring process, the CoC identified 6 projects w/ concerns – 2 for both underspending & underperformance, 2 for underspending, and 2 for underperformance. The CoC informed each of these projects regarding concerns via letter and offered TA.

3) While 6 projects were identified as having concerns, no projects were subject to involuntary reallocation this year.

4) The CoC opted not to involuntarily reallocate, in full or in part, any of the 6 projects flagged because each has participated in TA & have shown improvement over the last year. Two orgs voluntarily reallocated CoC funding in 2023: Clarion Co PHA voluntarily reallocated an older TH project, in full; and Dubois PHA voluntarily reallocated a portion of project funding.

1E-4a.	Reallocation Between FY 2018 and FY 2023.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

	Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2018 and FY 2023?	No
--	---	----

1E-5.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

1.	Did your CoC reject any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
2.	Did your CoC reduce funding for any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
3.	Did your CoC inform applicants why your CoC rejected or reduced their project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
4.	If you selected Yes for element 1 or element 2 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, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2023, 06/27/2023, and 06/28/2023, then you must enter 06/28/2023.	08/23/2023

1E-5a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New and Renewal Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2023, 06/27/2023, and 06/28/2023, then you must enter 06/28/2023.	09/12/2023
--	--	------------

1E-5b.	Local Competition Selection Results for All Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Selection Results attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Does your attachment include: 1. Project Names; 2. Project Scores; 3. Project accepted or rejected status; 4. Project Rank–if accepted; 5. Requested Funding Amounts; and 6. Reallocated funds.	Yes
--	---	-----

1E-5c.	Web Posting of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application 2 Days Before CoC Program Competition Application Submission Deadline.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g. and 24 CFR 578.95.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC posted the CoC-approved Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or partner’s website—which included: 1. the CoC Application; and 2. Priority Listings for Reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.	09/26/2023
--	--	------------

1E-5d.	Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders that the CoC-Approved Consolidated Application is Posted on Website.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	

You must upload the Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

	Enter the date your CoC notified community members and key stakeholders that the CoC-approved Consolidated Application was posted on your CoC's website or partner's website.	09/26/2023
--	---	------------

2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2A-1.	HMIS Vendor.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Enter the name of the HMIS Vendor your CoC is currently using.	Eccovia/ClientTrack
--	--	---------------------

2A-2.	HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Select from dropdown menu your CoC’s HMIS coverage area.	Multiple CoCs
--	--	---------------

2A-3.	HIC Data Submission in HDX.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.a.	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2023 HIC data into HDX.	04/11/2023
--	---	------------

2A-4.	Comparable Database for DV Providers—CoC and HMIS Lead Supporting Data Collection and Data Submission by Victim Service Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.b.	

	In the field below:	
1.	describe actions your CoC and HMIS Lead have taken to ensure DV housing and service providers in your CoC collect data in HMIS comparable databases;	
2.	state whether DV housing and service providers in your CoC are using a HUD-compliant comparable database—compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards; and	

3. state whether your CoC's HMIS is compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC has encouraged VSPs applying for ESG/CoC-funding over the years to include funds within their budget to update their database to meet the HUD comparable database requirements. 100% of ESG/CoC-funded DV housing and service providers in the CoC use one of two DV comparable databases. ETO and EmpowerDB, with both collecting the required HUD data elements. Additionally, all VSPs, receiving VOCA funding enter data into ETO. VSPs participating in the CoC-wide DV RRH project w/ PCADV use EmpowerDB. All other ES, TH, RRH, PSH projects are reported into ETO. PCADV provides TA, reporting & other database related supports to DV agencies who use ETO & Empower. PCADV is able to pull aggregated reports for all programs that participate in either of these databases. Data is provided to the CoC/HMIS Lead/ ESG Recipient for a number of purposes, including for the CAPER and for annual CoC renewal scoring. VSPs are currently able to submit deidentified aggregated APR data for their projects out of their comparable databases directly into SAGE.

De-identified aggregated data is also used to score CoC-funded VSPs as part of the annual renewal scoring process. The CoC & HMIS Lead also coordinated with VSPs who are CoC and ESG grantees to collect their performance data as part of its quarterly monitoring process. This includes data related to system performance such as length of time from enrollment to move-in, increased income, exits to PH destinations, as well as data quality. VSPs are able to submit their aggregated APRs on a quarterly basis to the CoC and are provided with performance reports and a Tableau dashboard to monitor their data quality and performance over time. The CoC has assisted VSPs to troubleshoot issues within their APRs, such as technical errors that are identified through the annual renewal scoring process or quarterly monitoring process, which can then be addressed with the VSP comparable database vendor.

The CoC/HMIS Lead is able provide high level technical assistance about HUD's requirements around data standards and the submission of APR data.

2) Yes, DV housing and service providers in the CoC are using a HUD-compliant comparable database –compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards.

3) Yes, the CoC's HMIS is compliant with 2022 HMIS Data Standards.

2A-5.	Bed Coverage Rate—Using HIC, HMIS Data—CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.c. and V.B.7.	

Enter 2023 HIC and HMIS data in the chart below by project type:

Project Type	Total Year-Round Beds in 2023 HIC	Total Year-Round Beds in HIC Operated by Victim Service Providers	Total Year-Round Beds in HMIS	HMIS Year-Round Bed Coverage Rate
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	763	180	187	32.08%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	0	0	0	
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	310	18	234	80.14%

4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	579	143	436	100.00%
5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	1,228	80	1,004	87.46%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	52	0	20	38.46%

2A-5a.	Partial Credit for Bed Coverage Rates at or Below 84.99 for Any Project Type in Question 2A-5.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.c.	

For each project type with a bed coverage rate that is at or below 84.99 percent in question 2A-5, describe:

1.	steps your CoC will take over the next 12 months to increase the bed coverage rate to at least 85 percent for that project type; and
2.	how your CoC will implement the steps described to increase bed coverage to at least 85 percent.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) To increase HMIS coverage, the CoC: a) provides bonus points within the renewal scoring criteria to CoC-funded orgs that voluntarily enter HMIS data when not required by funder; b) pays for HMIS user licenses to remove barriers to participation.

-ES and TH: Many ES and TH projects have not historically participated in HMIS because not required by funders. CoC will engage other funders to discuss benefits of HMIS participation, including faith-based orgs (FBO), State of PA, United Way.

-OPH: 13 beds not on HMIS are operated by a veterans program that is very engaged in the CoC's efforts to end veteran homelessness. The CoC will request that these beds are added to HMIS.

2) To increase bed coverage, the CoC will work to educate/engage funders about the benefits of aligning data collection to CoC/HMIS.

-Faith based orgs: Executive Director of Union Rescue Mission (CoC Board member, CE Committee Co-Chair & CE Lead Agency) volunteered to assist w/ engaging FBO in HMIS & CE implementation. The CoC's new CE system (rollout Q4, 2023) will include deepened engagement with ES providers around diversion & other housing problem solving approaches. This will help to build relationships w/ FBO providing shelter to understand the importance of data sharing.

-Additional HMIS/CE enhancements include "push" referral system & live bed inventory. These additional features will be useful to providers, thereby increasing participation.

-New HMIS staff is a former provider in area Community Action Agency, who can help to strategize furthering engagement with non-HMIS participating orgs.

-The CoC is participating in Coordinated Investment Planning process, in partnership with several state agencies. Increased coordinated data collection has been identified as a need. State-funded ES participation in HMIS would significantly increase bed coverage rates.

-Coordination with VAMCs is very strong through the CoC's Veteran Committee. HMIS participation will continue to be requested of VAMC partners.

-The CoC has hired five new CES staff, one new HMIS staff person, is currently advertising for two new CoC staff positions, and is looking to further increase its capacity through the increased planning grant. This increase in capacity will support the CoC's efforts to build relationships & further engage all geographic parts of the CoC & broaden those to further advance the CoC's goals and priorities, including increasing HMIS participation rates.

2A-6.	Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX 2.0.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.d.	
	You must upload your CoC's FY 2023 HDX Competition Report to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

Did your CoC submit at least two usable LSA data files to HUD in HDX 2.0 by February 28, 2023, 8 p.m. EST?	Yes
--	-----

2B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2B-1.	PIT Count Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2023 PIT count.	01/25/2023
--	---	------------

2B-2.	PIT Count Data–HDX Submission Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2023 PIT count data in HDX.	04/11/2023
--	---	------------

2B-3.	PIT Count–Effectively Counting Youth in Your CoC’s Most Recent Unsheltered PIT Count.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.b.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
	1. engaged unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations in your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process;	
	2. worked with unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations to select locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified during your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process; and	
	3. included youth experiencing homelessness as counters during your CoC’s most recent unsheltered PIT count.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) To effectively count youth, the CoC has engaged community stakeholders & youth w/ lived experience to incorporate youth-specific strategies into the overall PIT count. CoC-wide planning & county-level planning in each of the CoC's 20 counties occurs to successfully conduct the unsheltered PIT count. This includes, cross-systems planning between the PIT county contact & stakeholders serving youth exp. homelessness, including schools. These stakeholders help ID locations where youth are known to congregate, spread information about the count, and plan/host/market "come and be counted events". CoC-wide efforts included: providing contact info for youth orgs; sharing info with state/regional/local homeless edu liaisons; youth-focused training to county unsheltered coordinators; and the use of the CoC's PIT count standards for counting homeless youth, which include engaging local youth in the planning process. The CoC offered stipends to support the participation of youth in the planning of the PIT count, as well as stipends for participation in the actual PIT count. Several youth-serving orgs participated as PIT count leads and/or volunteers in their respective counties, which included recruiting/engaging youth with lived experience as part of the PIT count.
- 2) The PIT planning team has used HMIS data, PIT data from previous years, and local edu system data to ID counties with higher numbers of youth exp. homelessness. Each county has a designated unsheltered PIT count coordinator, who works in partnership with local youth, McKinney-Vento liaisons, youth-serving providers & other stakeholders to identify locations in their counties to find youth. The CoC provided training on youth-specific PIT strategies including where communities may identify youth exp. homelessness. The Youth Action Board (YAB) also weighs in on locations. The CoC's YHDP projects are fully operational now, including a CoC-wide youth navigation project, which will be able to provide key data on locations to target during 2024 PIT count.
- 3) The CoC provided stipends to support the participation of youth in PIT planning & conducting the actual PIT count. The CoC assisted with youth recruitment efforts. At the county level, some counties with a higher prevalence of youth homelessness were able to successfully engage youth with lived exp. in their local planning process and/or to participate in the actual count. Some YAB members also participated in the PIT count at the local level.

2B-4.	PIT Count–Methodology Change–CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.a and V.B.7.c.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe any changes your CoC made to your sheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2022 and 2023, if applicable;	
	2. describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2022 and 2023, if applicable; and	
	3. describe how the changes affected your CoC's PIT count results; or	
	4. state "Not Applicable" if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2023.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) There were no changes to the 2023 sheltered PIT count implementation methodology or data quality. However, there was an influx of COVID-related ES funds in 2022 (specifically ESG-CV and ERAP funds), including non-congregate sheltering. These resources for the most part had ended prior to the 2023 PIT Count, which resulted in a reduction of persons in ES in 2023.
- 2) There were no changes to the 2023 unsheltered PIT count implementation related to methodology or data quality. The CoC did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2022 due to COVID-19 concerns. The last full unsheltered PIT count that the CoC conducted was in 2020 (2021 was a headcount only count).
- 3) There was an influx of COVID-related ES funds in 2022 (specifically ESG-CV and ERAP funds), including non-congregate sheltering. These resources for the most part had ended prior to the 2023 PIT Count, which resulted in a reduction of persons in ES in 2023.
- 4) N/A

2C. System Performance

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless–Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe how your CoC determined the risk factors to identify persons experiencing homelessness for the first time;	
	2. describe your CoC’s strategies to address 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	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) Through strategic plan & Consolidated Plan listening sessions, and an analysis of HMIS data, the following most significant risk factors for first time homelessness have been identified: history of DV; exiting from institutions; recent eviction; doubled up; and lack of employment income. 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. On the local level, county housing coalitions & regional CoC groups identify & discuss emerging trends being addressed locally.

2) CoC uses a homeless prevention screening/prioritization tool to connect HHs to prevention resources more quickly. In addition, the CoC launched a diversion program in 2019, which targets households that can be diverted from shelter and/or exited from shelter quickly. Beginning in Q4, 2023, the CoC will begin implementation of new CE system, which includes case conferencing & 30-day housing problem solving (HPS). HPS will include increased resources (staffing & financial) to support prevention & diversion activities. Many of the CoC's CE General Assessment Centers are in Community Action Agencies (CAA). These centers have diverse resources to prevent/stabilize HHs prior to becoming homeless. This includes connections to benefits & using state Homeless Asst Program funds to provide diversion/prevention (first/last/security, eviction prevention funds). CAAs work with landlords to set up payment plans to prevent eviction. The CoC uses several funding streams to support prevention efforts, including: ESG, state HAP, SSVF, FEMA, BH Reinvestment Funds, HHS Opioid-Dedicated hsg funding, criminal justice RRH to prevent discharges to homelessness, Home4Good diversion & social determinates of health funding. Through YDHP implementation, CYS partnerships have led to investments in housing to prevent homelessness among TAY.

3) The CoC's Gov Board, in their oversight of all CoC Committees, is responsible for overseeing strategies to reduce first time homelessness.

2C-1a.	Impact of Displaced Persons on Number of First Time Homeless.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b	

Was your CoC's Number of First Time Homeless [metric 5.2] affected by the number of persons seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance displaced due to:
--

1.	natural disasters?	No
2.	having recently arrived in your CoCs' geographic area?	No

2C-2.	Length of Time Homeless—CoC's Strategy to Reduce.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.c.	

In the field below:
1. describe your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;
2. describe 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 various strategies to reduce length of time homeless (LOTH), including:

- Significant investment in RRH over the last 6 years. CoC-funded RRH has increased from \$1.9M in 2017 to \$7M in 2023. The CoC is applying for additional RRH in the 2023 NOFO Competition.
- RRH is priority project type under ESG.
- Diversion/ prevention resources preserve resources for households needing more intensive services.
- Flexible funds can help pay PHA debt to move in homeless household & other opportunities to quicken housing move-in
- Written standards/CE system prioritizes vulnerable households (e.g. HHs with longest LOTH).
- CoC PSH beds 100% chronic dedicated.
- 100% of CoC-projects operate using Hsg First (HF) approach, including significant training in the past to support HF implementation & additional training planned for 2024. CoC conducted HF policy review in 2023 & provided feedback where policy/practice needs strengthened.
- As part of annual renewal review/scoring, projects are evaluated on the length of time b/w project entry & residential move-in.
- The CoC has been redesigning its CE system for the last 18 months & will be providing the last training before rollout begins on 9-28-23. The redesigned system includes housing problem solving (HPS) for all households engaging in the system, unless doing so would risk the safety/welfare of the household. HPS services will include rapid exit, to ID households that can exit homelessness with short-term/ limited financial assistance. The CoC has regional & CoC-wide RRH projects that will support rapid exits. In addition, the new CES will assist providers with document readiness & will leverage regional resources to facilitate an expedited PH placement.

2) CoC CE assessment includes questions about LOT homeless, which impacts how HHs are prioritized for assistance, per the CoC's written standards & adoption of CPD Notice 16-11. The CE By Name List includes LOTH as a visible field. Street outreach engages individuals with long histories of homelessness, including conducting CE assessments.

3) The CoC's Gov Board, in their oversight of all CoC Committees & CoC operations, is responsible for overseeing strategies to reduce LOTH.

2C-3.	Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations/Retention of Permanent Housing—CoC's Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.d.	

In the field below:

1.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
2.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC implements various strategies to increase PH placement from ES, TH & RRH, including:

- all CoC-funded projects are evaluated on exits to PH. SSO & TH projects can be awarded up to 8 points (8% of scoring) and TH/RRH & RRH can be awarded up to 10 points (10% of scoring) for this metric. All project types must achieve 83% positive exits, or higher, to be awarded points.
- through reallocation & setting data driven priorities the CoC has significantly expanded RRH capacity. CoC-funded RRH has increased from \$1.9M in 2017 to \$7M in 2023.
- Hsg First approach, prioritizing housing stabilization over program rules. HHs that are evicted by landlord are rehoused.
- CoC provided 4-part training series of housing-focused case management practices in 2021. In 2022, training series included harm reduction & culturally responsive services to further strengthen case mngmt.
- many projects educate participants using strategies from the "Prepared Renters Program", which educates tenants on maintaining housing/ housing stability
- case mngrs support increasing income and/or cash/ mainstream benefits, resulting in more money in HHs budget to support rent
- Increased partnership with PHAs throughout the CoC, coupled with flexible funding that allows the CoC to pay back rent or other barrier to accessing PHA resources, increasing exits to PH
- redesigned CE system & increased resources for housing problem solving (HPS), case conferencing & CE staffing will help support exits to PH. HPS will include rapid exit, supporting more HHs to exit ES to PH. Case conferencing will support referrals to most appropriate intervention. CE staff will support document readiness, increasing eligibility for PH projects/resources.

2) Retention of PH and/or exits to other PH destinations includes the above & the following strategies:

- PSH projects are evaluated on this metric for 10 points (10% of scoring). Points are only awarded for outcomes of 83% positive PH exit/retention, or higher.
- CoC emphasizes the importance of providers having good communication with landlords so that problems can be addressed before they lead to eviction
- enhanced housing-focused case mngmt has increased housing stabilization
- coordination with mainstream resources such as MH/BH supports
- increased income, including through SSI. The CoC has several providers with SOAR trained staff and CoC has provides SOAR training from PA MH agency (OMHSAS).

3)The CoC's Gov Board will oversee these strategies.

2C-4.	Returns to Homelessness—CoC's Strategy to Reduce Rate.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.e.	

	In the field below:
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2.	describe 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) Providers are encouraged to maintain contact with program participants upon exit & provide housing stabilization services for up to six months, including connections to additional resources such as prevention, if needed.

The CoC analyzes data from CE tool, 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 put them at higher risk for returns to homelessness.

Through the CE system & HMIS, CE assessors & shelters can ID HHs who return to homelessness to quickly expedite assessments/ referrals, & better ID risk factors.

In addition, the CoC looks at individual returns to homelessness from CoC-funded projects as part of the annual CoC evaluation/scoring.

2) The CoC continues to implement strategies to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness including:

- Expansion of PH resources using ESG/CoC funds
- Through the implementation of CE, the CoC is more effectively connecting HHs in ES with RRH, which will reduce the % of HHs returning to homelessness.
- Ensuring that assistance is appropriate based on HHs needs. For example, if the HH cannot sustain housing the provider can extend RRH assistance (up to 24 mos). Additionally, the CoC's written standards outline the conditions/prioritization of RRH clients to transfer to PSH.
- RRH providers work to connect HHs to long-term affordable units & provide support/ connections/ opportunities for unit to be sustained upon exit. While not limited to RRH, this strategy is supported by flex funds that allow the CoC to pay off PHA debts, increasing the # of households eligible for these affordable housing resources. This has resulted in increased enrollments in PHA units, as many PHAs have preferences for homelessness.
- 100% Hsg First results in HHs being rehoused if evicted by landlord. Hsg focused case mngmt training & emphasis on in-home case mgmt services have improved retention.
- Effective use of prevention & diversion funding
- County Human Service Depts & CAAs are instrumental in connecting clients to prevention asst, mainstream resources, workforce devt, transportation, childcare, LIHEAP & other resources that promote long-term housing stability.
- Youth navigators, just added to the system, which will help youth enrolled in school make connections to support housing stability

3) The CoC's Governing Board is responsible for overseeing these strategies.

2C-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income—CoC's Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	

In the field below:

1.	describe your CoC's strategy to access employment cash sources;
2.	describe how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their employment 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 opportunities. Strategies include: collaborating with workforce development system; foundation support to provide education & skill development; working with local employers to expand employment opportunities.

CoC orgs have built strong partnerships with local CareerLink, including some formal cooperation agreements. CoC orgs employ participants in their programs. YHDP CCP includes increasing youth connection to WIOA-funded employment programs to offer skill development, job placement & planning towards livable wage & case management.

The CoC includes increases in total income as part of the annual renewal scoring. This measure is weighted worth 7 points (out of 100) and specifically measures % of all adult participants who increased income from any source from entry to exit/annual assessment (leavers and stayers). Grantees are also evaluated on % of participants with any source of income at annual/exit (3 points out of 100).

2) Strategies to increase employment income are implemented through partnerships with CareerLink, Workforce Development, OVR & programs through the PA Dept of Human Services targeted to TANF & SNAP recipients to prepare for, find, and keep employment. Many Community Action Agencies throughout the CoC provide both homeless assistance, as well as employment/workforce development assistance. These orgs are able to provide these & other services to support employment for clients, including funding to support training & obtaining licenses/ certificates, subsidized childcare, transportation assistance & more. Specifically, CAAs in 15 counties provide employment training, job dev, supported work, and/or youth employment. Transportation services are provided by CAAs in 6 counties.

The CoC has encouraged homeless assistance providers to hire PWLE, including current/ former clients. The Greene County, for example, has hired two individuals from their CoC-funded projects, including one in their maintenance department & the other in the Parks and Rec Department. Connect, Inc. offers participants employment opportunities to work in their ES, D&A Center for Excellence & housing programs. In addition, the CoC provides cash stipends to PLWE participating in CoC leadership/ activities.

3) The CoC’s Governing Board is responsible for overseeing these strategies.

2C-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income–CoC’s Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	

	In the field below:
1.	describe your CoC’s strategy to access non-employment cash income; and
2.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to increase non-employment cash income.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) To increase non-employment cash income, the CoC strategy is to increase access to SSI through SOAR & ensure CoC partners are educated on mainstream benefits & able to quickly connect participants to benefits. The CoC coordinates with PA State SOAR contact to provide annual training, with the most recent training on 9-6-23. The CoC also has a significant # of providers who are SOAR certified.

Assistance in applying for SSI, SSDI, TANF & other cash benefits is provided by CoC partners throughout the geo area. Enrollment in mainstream benefits occurs online through the state's COMPASS system, an online single application system for many health/human service programs. All CoC providers are proficient users of COMPASS.

CAAs work w/participants to submit applications for benefits through COMPASS & are most often the local providers for WIC, LIHEAP, transportation & other TANF-funded services. This partnership w/CAAs ensures individuals exp. homelessness have assistance to apply for, receive, and utilize non-employment cash benefits. Neighborhood Legal Service assists with appeals if individuals are denied benefits and will speak with the state to navigate complex cases.

The CoC keeps program staff up-to-date regarding mainstream benefits through monthly county housing/homeless meetings, regional CoC meetings & semiannual full CoC meetings.

The CoC coordinates with PA DHS to provide annual training on mainstream benefits (TANF, SSI/SSDI, Employment Assistance Program, Substance Abuse Programs, SNAP, etc) with the most recent training occurring 9-25-23. This training covered eligibility, access, benefits maintenance/renewals, advocacy tips, and program updates.

Ongoing updates are shared with CoC-program staff through posts on the CoC's social media platform (Slack).

Increasing income is included in annual renewal scoring criteria. Specifically, this measure is weighted worth 7 points (out of 100) and specifically measures % of all adult participants who increased income from any source from entry to exit/annual assessment (leavers and stayers). COVID stimulus & COVID unemployment created new opportunities for households to increase non-employment cash income. CoC providers assisted HHs to ensure stimulus was received & appeal unemployment decisions if needed. CoC orgs offer transportation to public benefit appointments as needed.

2) The CoC's Gov Board is responsible for strategies to Increase nonemployment cash income.

3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Housing Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.a.	
	You must upload the Housing Leveraging Commitment attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses housing subsidies or subsidized housing units which are not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	Yes
--	--	-----

3A-2.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Healthcare Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.b.	
	You must upload the Healthcare Formal Agreements attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	Yes
--	--	-----

3A-3.	Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.6.a. and V.B.6.b.	

If you selected yes to questions 3A-1. or 3A-2., use the list feature icon to enter information about each project application you intend for HUD to evaluate to determine if they meet the criteria.

Project Name	Project Type	Rank Number	Leverage Type
PA0780-Greene Cou...	PH-RRH	37	Healthcare
Arise DV PSH Project	PH-PSH	33	Both
PA0718-Veterans R...	PH-RRH	34	Healthcare

3A-3. List of Projects.

1. What is the name of the new project? PA0780-Greene County Rapid Rehousing Expansion Project
2. Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): F5NZJQ9JN1T9
3. Select the new project type: PH-RRH
4. Enter the rank number of the project on your CoC's Priority Listing: 37
5. Select the type of leverage: Healthcare

3A-3. List of Projects.

1. What is the name of the new project? Arise DV PSH Project
2. Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): TGMJVKKPK493
3. Select the new project type: PH-PSH
4. Enter the rank number of the project on your CoC's Priority Listing: 33
5. Select the type of leverage: Both

3A-3. List of Projects.

1. What is the name of the new project? PA0718-Veterans RRH Expansion

2. Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): NQ2JY2S5JES3

3. Select the new project type: PH-RRH

4. Enter the rank number of the project on your 34
CoC's Priority Listing:

5. Select the type of leverage: Healthcare

3B. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	

Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project application requesting \$200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction?	No
--	----

3B-2.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	

If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below actions CoC Program-funded project applicants will take to comply with:

1.	Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u); and
2.	HUD’s implementing rules at 24 CFR part 75 to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very-low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very-low-income persons.

(limit 2,500 characters)
 N/A

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

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3C-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

	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
--	--	----

3C-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

If you answered yes to question 3C-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

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants for New DV Bonus Funding

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

4A-1.	New DV Bonus Project Applications.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.	

Did your CoC submit one or more new project applications for DV Bonus Funding?	Yes
--	-----

4A-1a.	DV Bonus Project Types.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the type(s) of new DV Bonus project(s) your CoC included in its FY 2023 Priority Listing.

	Project Type	
1.	SSO Coordinated Entry	No
2.	PH-RRH or Joint TH and PH-RRH Component	Yes

You must click "Save" after selecting Yes for element 1 SSO Coordinated Entry to view questions 4A-2, 4A-2a. and 4A-2b.

4A-3.	Assessing Need for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects in Your CoC's Geographic Area.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(c)	

1.	Enter the number of survivors that need housing or services:	2,066
2.	Enter the number of survivors your CoC is currently serving:	171
3.	Unmet Need:	1,895

4A-3a.	How Your CoC Calculated Local Need for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(c)	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC calculated the number of DV survivors needing housing or services in question 4A-3 element 1 and element 2; and	
2.	the data source (e.g., comparable databases, other administrative data, external data source, HMIS for non-DV projects); or	
3.	if your CoC is unable to meet the needs of all survivors please explain in your response all barriers to meeting those needs.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. To calculate the number of survivors needing housing or services the CoC combined 3 data points from July 1 – 31, 2023:
 A) the # of individuals from HMIS on the CE By Name List awaiting housing who self-reported fleeing DV = 143,
 B) the # of adult victims served by DV programs (including shelters) within the CoC in ETO = 1752, and
 C) the number of survivors the CoC is currently serving =171.
 Because of the confidential nature of DV data, it was not possible to fully de-duplicate between HMIS data & ETO data; therefore, it is possible that this # may include duplicates.
 To calculate the number of survivors the CoC is currently serving (171), the CoC combined 2 data points:
 D) the number of DV survivors being served from July 1-31, 2023 by CoC permanent housing projects who enter data into HMIS = 81, and
 E) the number of DV survivors being served from July 1-31, 2023 by CoC permanent housing projects that use the DV comparable database Empower DB = 90.

2. HMIS and ETO (comparable database) were used as the data sources to calculate need. HMIS and Empower DB (comparable databases) were used as the data sources to calculate number served.

3. According the Western CoC 2023 gaps analysis, DV survivors made up 25% of the households accessing Coordinated Entry during 2022 (789 DV survivor households). Only 44% of these DV survivor households (347 households) exited the BNL to a permanent housing destination in 2022. This data clearly indicates that there is a significant gap in resources in the Western PA CoC to serve all DV survivor households experiencing homelessness. In addition, DV survivors benefit from specialized, victim-centered and trauma-informed services from providers who are trained in working with DV survivors, which is currently limited in capacity. While DV survivors can be served by non-DV dedicated programs, often survivors prefer to receive services from an agency specializing in serving DV survivors, especially in regard to ensuring safety and confidentiality.

4A-3b.	Information About Unique Project Applicants and Their Experience in Housing Placement and Housing Retention for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)	

Use the list feature icon to enter information on each unique project applicant applying for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus projects—only enter project applicant information once, regardless of how many DV Bonus projects that applicant is applying for.

Applicant Name
Pennsylvania Coal...

Project Applicants Applying for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH DV Bonus Projects

4A-3b.	Information About Unique Project Applicants and Their Experience in Housing Placement and Housing Retention for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(d)	

Enter information in the chart below on the project applicant applying for one or more New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects included on your CoC's FY 2023 Priority Listing for New Projects:

1.	Applicant Name	Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV)
2.	Project Name	FY 23 NEW Western PA CoC DV RRH
3.	Project Rank on the Priority Listing	62
4.	Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)	L3ALQVRJLU71
5.	Amount Requested	\$1,270,005
6.	Rate of Housing Placement of DV Survivors–Percentage	93%
7.	Rate of Housing Retention of DV Survivors–Percentage	82%

4A-3b.1.	Applicant Experience in Housing Placement and Retention for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)	

For the rate of housing placement and rate of housing retention of DV survivors reported in question 4B-3b., describe in the field below:

1.	how the project applicant calculated both rates;
2.	whether the rates accounts for exits to safe housing destinations; and
3.	the data source (e.g., comparable databases, other administrative data, external data source, HMIS for non-DV projects).

(limit 1,500 characters)

1. Rate of housing placement is calculated as % of DV survivors enrolled in Rapid Rehousing (RRH) in EmpowerDB (comparable database) who successfully moved to permanent housing from 7/1/22-6/30/23. Rate of housing retention is calculated as % of DV survivors (leavers) in permanent housing who retained permanent housing after RRH rental assistance ended.
2. PCADV's member programs prioritize the exit of survivors from RRH to safe, permanent housing destinations. The rates account for exits to safe housing destinations.
3. All PCADV member programs who provide RRH services and rental assistance are provided with access to EmpowerDB (comparable database) to securely and confidentially manage and report data. As such, Empower DB was the data source for housing placement/retention rates.

4A-3c.	Applicant Experience in Providing Housing to DV Survivor for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)		
Describe in the field below how the project applicant:		
1.	ensured DV survivors experiencing homelessness were quickly moved into safe affordable housing;	
2.	prioritized survivors—you must address the process the project applicant used, e.g., Coordinated Entry, prioritization list, CoC's emergency transfer plan, etc.;	
3.	determined which supportive services survivors needed;	
4.	connected survivors to supportive services; and	
5.	moved clients from assisted housing to housing they could sustain—address housing stability after the housing subsidy ends.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) In 2022, over 12,000 people were served by PCADV's member programs (MPs) in the CoC. Since 2020, 264 HH have been served, and program has expanded from 9 to 19 counties. To assist survivors to move into PH quickly, DV programs partner with private landlords, PHAs, affordable housing providers, LIHTC properties, etc. PCADV provides robust onboarding to MPs including: Domestic Violence Housing First; RRH basics; Landlord engagement. PCADV hired a Community Engagement Specialist who works on: relationships with landlords, training MPs on document readiness and barriers to renting, connecting MPs to financial resources to resolve barriers to renting, coordinating with community resources to support housing retention.
- 2) MPs serve as CE access sites. The program contacts Union Mission (CE lead) to place survivors on the BNL. When the program has an RRH opening, they contact CE lead who provide the names of 5 DV HH from the BNL (following CE prioritization). The DV program contacts the HH in order of score. MPs also prioritize survivors needing emergency transfer where safety has been compromised.
- 3) DV MPs provide a range of services, including RRH case management. Survivors can access housing and financial education, credit repair/building & job readiness & education. All services are provided based on survivor choice. Service options are identified both through the expressed needs of the survivor and through a Housing Stability and Economic Stability Assessment. Assessments are updated yearly. PCADV hired an Economic Justice Specialist who connects MPs to resources for educational development, credit repair, banking, job training, and general financial education.
- 4) DV programs regularly connect survivors to community supports including public benefits, ongoing case management, transportation, furniture, & employment services. DV programs focus on community engagement to ensure that survivors have resources other than the DV program.
- 5). Ability to retain housing post RA is assessed monthly through budget planning & increased income. RRH for survivors must be flexible to be successful. An advocate will support a survivor w/additional RA, past 12 months, if that is what will lead to housing retention. If additional RRH isn't sustainable for the HH, advocate and survivor work to secure a more affordable unit, or long-term subsidy. Support after exit is determined by the survivor, and can continue as long as needed.

4A-3d.	Applicant Experience in Ensuring DV Survivor Safety for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)	
	Describe in the field below examples of how the project applicant ensured the safety and confidentiality of DV survivors experiencing homelessness by:	
1.	taking steps to ensure privacy/confidentiality during the intake and interview process to minimize potential coercion of survivors;	
2.	making determinations and placements into safe housing;	
3.	keeping information and locations confidential;	
4.	training staff on safety and confidentiality policies and practices; and	
5.	taking security measures for units (congregate or scattered site), that support survivors' physical safety and location confidentiality.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1) Intake into services is done in a private space, either a private office or location that meets the needs of the survivor- e.g., a park where survivor's children can play, safe relative's home, or location where the survivor receives other services. While very rare for a couple to present for DV services together, if this occurs, interviews are conducted separately to minimize potential safety risks. Providers will also not conduct interviews in the presence of minor children.
- 2) Advocates use a Housing Stability and Economic Stability assessment to help survivors identify housing barriers such as credit score, debt, and evictions, and needed resources to eliminate those barriers, such as financial counseling, credit resolution, connection to benefits, and payment of previous debt. These assessment tools were developed by PCADV to support service provision, and can be adapted to best fit individual member program needs. The assessments are updated and reviewed yearly. An advocate supports a survivor with identification of location and type of housing that is most safe and preferred (e.g., close to school, transportation). Advocates support a survivor through the entire process of renting a unit, including housing search assistance & landlord relationship development. The process is driven by client choice.
- 3) Survivors' rental locations are kept confidential in comparable database & paper files stored in manner required by PCADV and federal standards. While there is no requirement to keep the location of one's own rental unit confidential, advocates assist survivors in the ID of safe visitors & safe ways to disclose their address. DV shelter locations are kept confidential.
- 4) All PCADV member program (MP) staff are required to have 40 hrs. of training that covers extensive safety planning, survivor driven trauma informed services, including trauma informed intakes & assessments. The 40-hour training also includes confidentiality policies and best practice. PCADV provides ongoing training and technical assistance regarding safety planning and confidentiality as needed.
- 5) MPs assure that physical security measures are in place (alarm systems, key coded entry, security cameras). MP staff pay special attention to lighting (rooms are well lit), space configuration & ability to provide privacy. MP staff discuss physical safety concerns with survivors and support them if they wish to keep their location confidential.

4A-3d.1.	Applicant Experience in Evaluating Their Ability to Ensure DV Survivor Safety for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)	

Describe in the field below how the project has evaluated its ability to ensure the safety of DV survivors the project served in the project, including any areas identified for improvement during the course of the proposed project.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Safety is evaluated both formally and informally by PCADV member programs. During every meeting with the survivor, a DV advocate who is an expert in safety planning, discusses safety with the survivor, as safety needs often change as a survivor becomes independent of their abusive partner. RRH services and case management are adjusted based on a change in safety needs. PCADV DV RRH member programs have seen success with monthly calls after exit, as it allows the survivor to process any current/residual trauma and discuss barriers to maintaining housing. Many survivors also choose to say engaged in non-CoC funded supportive services when RRH ends, such as support groups or counseling. Safety is at the forefront of all these services. Formally, upon exit, survivors are given a questionnaire & asked: "The services I received helped me plan for my safety". The survivor reports an answer from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The program offers ongoing services to the survivor, such as support group, counseling, activities for children, and ongoing financial education. Survivors may engage in services after exit for as long as this wish, as there is no time limit on community DV services.

PCADV has applied for funding from the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, to create a staff position for housing program evaluation. If awarded, the position will start January 2024. This position will be responsible for: ensuring contract compliance by member programs regarding integration of survivor feedback, coordinating and facilitation survivor focus groups, meeting with community stakeholders to solicit feedback and identify methods to make meaningful changes in program design and delivery. This position will also track program outcomes; then, make recommendations and implement changes to improve outcomes.

4A-3e.	Applicant Experience in Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Approaches for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)	

Describe in the field below examples of the project applicant's experience using trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches to meet needs of DV survivors by:

1.	prioritizing placement and stabilization in permanent housing consistent with the program participants' wishes and stated needs;
2.	establishing and maintaining an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions are based on equality and minimize power differentials;
3.	providing program participants access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing program participants with information on the effects of trauma;

	4. emphasizing program participants' strengths, e.g., strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans worked towards survivor-defined goals and aspirations;
	5. centering on cultural responsiveness and inclusivity, e.g., training on equal access, cultural competence, nondiscrimination, language access, improving services to be culturally responsive, accessible, and trauma-informed;
	6. providing a variety of opportunities for connection for program participants, e.g., groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs; and
	7. offering support for survivor parenting, e.g., trauma-informed parenting classes, childcare, connections to legal services.

(limit 5,000 characters)

- 1) PCADV practices DV Housing First (DVHF) to ensure that survivor-centered services and Housing First principles are grounded in the work to support survivors' access to permanent housing. Services are flexible and tailored to survivors needs. PCADV supports stabilization in PH through survivor-driven trauma-informed mobile advocacy, which is a core DVHF component. This means that survivor & advocate agree upon a time/place to meet to ease the burden of travel for the survivor. All services are voluntary, advocates provide the survivor with all of the service options & provide support based on what the survivor identifies they need. Advocates work quickly to support a survivor in housing identification, as the period from a survivor choosing to leave an abusive situation and the time they find safe housing can be highly lethal. Prioritizing safety during this time is essential. If a survivor agrees, an advocate will accompany the survivor to resolve debt, access benefits, search for rental housing, and meet with landlords. Once a survivor is housed, stabilization is prioritized by visits from the housing advocate, connection to employment resources, financial education, budgeting resources and access to non-CoC flexible funding.
- 2) All DV services, including RRH, are voluntary, trauma informed, and survivor driven. There are no mandates to participate. There are no enforced rules, and program guidelines are centered around common lease requirements. Each HH is given clear information, both verbally and in writing, regarding expectations of both the survivor and DV program, the grievance procedure, and protocols re: client records safety, confidentiality, & release of information. Advocates emphasize developing trust in the relationship. All advocate training is rooted in the reality that service providers hold power that participants do not have. That power must be continually acknowledged and work to be diminished. Advocates are trained in tools to do so, such as developing an authentic professional relationship with survivor, relying on the survivor's expertise in their own life, and asking about and prioritizing the survivor's goals.
- 3) DV programs consistently integrate opportunities to share the impacts of trauma w/ survivors. PCADV has partnered w/National Center on DV, Trauma & Mental Health to assist programs in sustaining survivor-driven, Trauma-informed services. A key component of this training is providing tools for advocates to share w/survivors during counseling and safety planning conversations regarding the impacts of trauma on their lives, such as equity based version of the Power and Control Wheel, strategies for quick resolution of anxiety, and readings that validate the survivor's experience.
- 4) PCADV uses Housing Stability Assessment & Stability Plan tools to assist survivors to maintain housing & pursue goals. Advocate & participant work together to identify strengths & resources—income, good credit, current job, prior employment history, education/training, positive rental or landlord experiences & support systems. The plan is tailored to what participants want, what they see as achievable & what support they need. The plan is revisited during every meeting, as needs and priorities often change as a survivor gains safety and independence.
- 5) Trauma-informed, survivor-centered approaches are included throughout PCADV training, both in online modules & in-person training. PCADV provides training and resources to help local DV programs serve historically marginalized communities in a meaningful way. PCADV's Training Institute offers courses for advocates to develop these skills, including advocacy around LGBTQ+ & underserved communities, trauma sensitivity, & working w/ survivors who have experienced brain injury. All PCADV Programs have language translation services, many programs have Spanish speakers on staff, and for programs located in areas with large populations of non-native speakers of English or

Spanish, they often employ advocates who speak the spoken language(s) of the region.

6) Opportunities for connection among survivors are prioritized by member programs through support groups, parenting support & other opportunities to break isolation & build authentic connection, as we know that supportive community is often a part of the solution to living a life free of violence.

7) PCADV member programs support parents by:

a- Offering children’s support group/childcare during adult DV support groups & court hearings.

b- Providing support and information regarding discipline.

c- Coaching regarding age-appropriate ways to talk to children & providing child development info/referrals.

d- Providing referrals to head start, WIC, public benefits, parenting classes, diaper banks.

e- Assisting with enrollment for school/arranging transportation.

f- PCADV provides funding for legal services, which includes parenting related issues.

4A-3f.	Applicant Experience in Meeting Service Needs of DV Survivors for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)	

Describe in the field below examples of supportive services the project provided to domestic violence survivors while quickly moving them into permanent housing and addressing their safety needs.

(limit 5,000 characters)

Examples of supportive services PCADV member programs have provided to DV survivors over the last funding year include:

- Elimination of Financial Barriers to Housing: Using DV RRH case management, the advocate works with the survivor to identify financial and economic barriers to house by pulling credit report & begin paying down debt, to both increase their credit score when leasing a unit, & to improve their overall financial health.
- Landlord Engagement & Housing Search: Using DV RRH housing search assistance, advocate & survivor partner to find a safe & retainable rental unit. The advocate uses connections with previous landlords to support the survivor in finding housing, while building relationships with new landlords where the survivor is interested in living. The advocate supports the survivor in looking for a unit, provides transportation to visit units, & supports in negotiations with landlords.
- Survivor-Driven, Trauma-Informed Mobile Advocacy: Once housed, the advocate meets with the survivor in their home, or another location that is most convenient for the survivor where safety needs, budgeting, referrals to community resources & opportunities for increases in income/benefits are discussed.
- Flexible Funding Support: Advocates have access to private funding that can be braided with CoC funds to support the retention of a unit. Examples would be funds that support education, children’s needs, or auto repair.
- Economic Justice Advocacy: All survivors are provided with the opportunity to learn about their finances – build a budget, plan to increase income, financial literacy curriculum & match savings opportunities.
- Ongoing support: All survivors are offered services upon completion of RRH. Many continue to meet with their advocate for legal or children’s needs, or to attend a community support group. Survivors are also able to receive financial support to retain housing outside of RRH.
- Additional supportive services are available to all survivors that enter the RRH program & upon completion of RRH including, but not limited to:
 - Core services (24-hour crisis response, transportation access, & individual advocacy)
 - Legal services (assistance with issues such as custody, divorce, child & spousal support; legal advice/representation)
 - Community Referrals/Partnerships (thrift store vouchers, job training, connections to employers, connection to healthcare and mental health services, referrals to substance use support, childcare, food banks, furniture donations)
 - Scholarships for educational enrichment (financial assistance is provided to survivors for the costs of schooling, books, job training, and/or other educational endeavors to further economic stability)

4A-3g.	Plan for Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Practices for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(e)	

Describe in the field below examples of how the new project(s) will:	
1.	prioritize placement and stabilization in permanent housing consistent with the program participants’ wishes and stated needs;
2.	establish and maintaining an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions are based on equality and minimize power differentials;

3.	provide program participants access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing program participants with information on the effects of trauma;
4.	emphasize program participants' strengths—for example, strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans work towards survivor-defined goals and aspirations;
5.	center on cultural responsiveness and inclusivity, e.g., training on equal access, cultural competence, nondiscrimination, language access, improving services to be culturally responsive, accessible, and trauma-informed;
6.	provide a variety of opportunities for connection for program participants, e.g., groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs; and
7.	offer support for survivor parenting, e.g., trauma-informed parenting classes, childcare, connections to legal services.

(limit 5,000 characters)

- 1) PCADV & its member programs (MPs) will continue to practice DV Housing First (DVHF) to ensure that survivor-centered services and Housing First principles will remain centered in the work to support survivors' access to permanent housing. Services will continue to be flexible and tailored to survivors needs. This includes housing choice. As such, DV programs continue to expand their staff's capacity to engage with landlords to provide choice & rapid placement. Program supports Stabilization in PH through survivor-driven trauma-informed mobile advocacy, which is a core DVHF component. This means that survivor & advocate agree upon a time/place to meet to ease the burden of travel for the survivor. All services are voluntary, advocates provide the survivor with all of the service options & provides support based on what the survivor identifies they need. PCADV also continues to expand capacity internally around landlord engagement and other community support for subrecipients by hiring staff that will focus on engaging housing providers and supporting member programs to build those community based relationships to further support survivors to identify affordable housing resources.
- 2) All DV services, including RRH, are, and will continue to be voluntary, trauma informed, and survivor driven. There are no mandates to participate. There are no enforced rules, and program guidelines are centered around lease requirements. Each HH is given clear and consistent information, both verbally and in writing, regarding expectations of both the survivor and DV program, the grievance procedure, how to release information, and how records are kept safe and confidential. Advocates continue to emphasize developing trust in the relationship; this trust facilitates a problem-solving approach.
- 3) DV programs will consistently integrate opportunities to share the impacts of trauma w/ survivors. PCADV has entered into an ongoing partnership w/ National Center on DV, Trauma & Mental Health to assist programs in sustaining survivor-driven, trauma informed services and plans to continue that relationship. A key component of this training is providing tools for advocates to share w/ survivors during counseling and safety planning conversations regarding the impacts of trauma on their lives.
- 4) PCADV & member programs will continue to use the Housing Stability Assessment & Stability Plan tools to assist survivors in obtaining/maintaining housing & pursue goals. Advocate & participant will work together on a plan to identify strengths—like income, good credit, prior employment history, education/training, positive rental, or landlord experiences & support systems. The plan is tailored to what participants want, what they see as achievable & what support they need. PCADV reviews the Housing Stability Assessment yearly, and works with programs to update as needed.
- 5) Trauma-informed, survivor-centered approaches are included throughout PCADV training for member programs, both in online modules & in-person training. PCADV will continue to provide training and resources to help local DV programs serve historically marginalized communities in a meaningful way. PCADV's Training Institute offers trainings for advocates to develop these skills, including advocacy around LGBTQ+ & underserved communities, trauma sensitivity, & working w/ survivors who have experienced brain injury. All PCADV programs have language translation services available, many programs have Spanish speakers on staff, and for programs located in areas with large populations of non-native speakers of English or Spanish, they often employ advocates who speak the spoken language(s) of the region. CoC-related policies around discrimination & equal access are followed & DV programs continue to attend and participate in all required/relevant trainings. PCADV's Training Institute regularly revisits the training curriculum for member

programs to ensure all aspects of holistic case management are thoroughly described and updates are made when new techniques and resources become available.

6) Service offerings will include support groups, parenting support & other opportunities to break isolation & build authentic connection, as we know that supportive community is often a part of the solution to living a life free of violence.

7) MPs will continue to support parents by providing the following core services:

a- Offering children’s support group/childcare during adult DV support groups & court hearings.

b- Providing support and information regarding discipline.

c- Coaching regarding age-appropriate ways to talk to children & providing child development info/referrals.

d- Providing referrals to head start, WIC, public benefits, parenting classes, diaper banks.

e- Assisting with enrollment for school/arranging transportation.

f- PCADV provides funding for legal services, which includes parenting related issues.

4A-3h.	Involving Survivors in Policy and Program Development, Operations, and Evaluation of New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(f)	

Describe in the field below how the new project will involve survivors:

1.	with a range of lived expertise; and
2.	in policy and program development throughout the project’s operation.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. PCADV understands the importance of centering survivors in the work of ending domestic violence. The vast majority of both PCADV and member program staff self-identify as survivors of interpersonal violence. While this identity and experience gives a personal connection to mission engagement, survivor voice from those directly receiving services needs to be incorporated in an ongoing manner. PCADV member programs use various anonymous feedback tools to gather lived expertise during and after a survivor's interaction with the program; such feedback is used to modify project design and delivery to better meet survivors' needs.

Over 20 years ago, PCADV's member programs developed identity specific caucuses to center the experience and expertise of survivors and marginalized voices. The Survivors of DV Caucus, along with PCADV delegates and Board, helps develop and execute strategy that incorporates the realities of lived experience. This caucus has helped guide PCADV's work for over half of the time the Coalition has functioned, showing PCADV's dedication to centering survivor voice.

2. Under the leadership of PCADV's Community Engagement Specialist, a Survivor Advisory Council has been implemented to provide survivors who are engaging in or have recently completed services with an opportunity to influence, design and provide direct feedback for the DV system. The Council is responsible for providing input to the CoC re: survivor-centered RRH policies and reviewing current DV RRH projects. The Council is involved at every step of the process, providing recommendations and insight into personal experience of DV RRH. PCADV and DV program staff meet with the council quarterly, reporting on data and program outcomes. The Council will be involved in PCADV's yearly evaluation of DV RRH and will provide support with evaluation of the broader CoC RRH, if requested. Feedback from the evaluation will be integrated into the project, assuring that DV RRH is survivor driven and able to quickly pivot to meet the needs of survivors seeking safe housing options. This group is open to any survivor who wants to join and includes a process conducted by PCADV membership's statewide Survivor Caucus. It will ensure that survivors are paid for their time, provided leadership opportunities, and given flexibility with engagement. No identifiable participant information will be shared and the safety of the survivors in RRH & Caucus will be prioritized.

Submission Summary

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

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	08/02/2023
1B. Inclusive Structure	Please Complete
1C. Coordination and Engagement	09/26/2023
1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd	09/26/2023
1E. Project Review/Ranking	09/26/2023
2A. HMIS Implementation	09/26/2023
2B. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count	09/26/2023
2C. System Performance	09/26/2023
3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare	09/22/2023
3B. Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs	09/22/2023
3C. Serving Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes	09/22/2023
4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants	09/26/2023

Submission Summary

No Input Required