

# Western PA Continuum of Care (CoC) FY2024 Request for Proposals Domestic Violence Bonus

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## Preliminary Application due by 12pm (noon) on Thursday, August 29th

The Western PA CoC submits an annual application<sup>1</sup> to HUD in order to secure federal funding for new and existing projects that work to reduce and end homelessness throughout the CoC's 20-county geographic area. This year, HUD will make additional funds available nationally to specifically fund Domestic Violence projects, through a "DV Bonus". The Western PA CoC is soliciting Preliminary Applications from agencies interested in applying for new domestic violence-dedicated projects to be submitted as part of the FY2024 Continuum of Care (CoC) Application this fall. The official total amount of the DV Bonus funds that the Western PA CoC can apply for has not yet been released from HUD. We anticipate that the amount will be approximately **\$1,808,458**. The CoC may choose to release a revised RFP if the available amount differs significantly from this estimate.

**Important note:** As of the FY24 CoC Competition, HUD will be moving from an annual competition to a biennial competition (every 2 years). Depending on funding available from Congress, there may not be new CoC project funding in 2025. The CoC encourages applicants interested in new projects to apply this year, as there may not be an opportunity to apply in 2025.

### In the Western PA CoC, the eligible program types under the DV Bonus include:

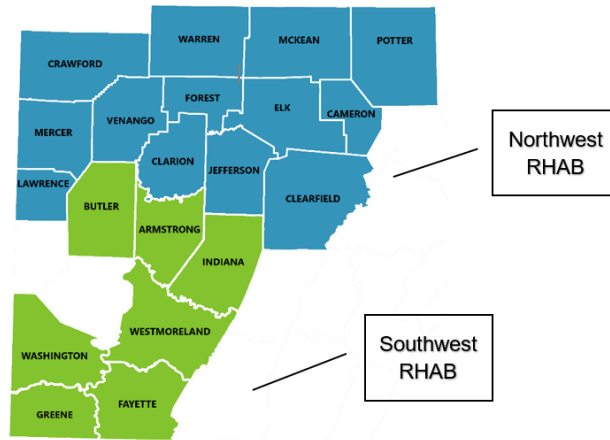
- **Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)**
- **Joint Transitional Housing – Rapid Re-Housing Component (TH-RRH)**
- **Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE)**
- NOTE: Existing DV-dedicated RRH, TH-RRH, and SSO-CE projects can request an expansion through DV Bonus RFP. Expansion activities must also be dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence.

The Western PA CoC includes 20 counties located in two regions, represented by Regional Housing Advisory Boards (RHABs):

- Southwest – Armstrong, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, Westmoreland
- Northwest – Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren

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<sup>1</sup> \*NOTE: As of the FY24 CoC Competition, HUD will be moving from an annual competition to a biennial competition (every 2 years)



**Please note: The DV Bonus New Project RFP is not limited to Victim Service Providers/VSPs (i.e., non-VSPs can apply); however, non-VSPs must have a formal partnership with a VSP to operate the proposed project in order to apply under this RFP.** Organizations that are not VSPs are encouraged to discuss this funding opportunity with the VSP in their community. HUD’s definition of a VSP [can be found here](#).

- Applicants are encouraged to provide services in multiple counties; however, single-county applications will also be considered.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to use the CoC’s 2024 Gaps Analysis to identify needs and gaps within the CoC. The 2024 Gaps Analysis (including recording of webinar presentation and link to Tableau data) can be found here: <https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/resources/western-pa-coc-2024-gaps-analysis>. Applicants can also review 2024 Point in Time Count data here: <https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/2024-point-time-pit-count-and-housing-inventory-count-hic>.
- Any activities funded through this RFP must be designed to ensure the CoC provides a survivor driven, trauma informed housing/ homeless assistance response to survivors across the Western PA CoC.
- Leveraging housing or healthcare: Applicants are highly encouraged to submit new housing projects that will leverage housing or healthcare resources. New projects that will leverage housing or healthcare resources within the project will likely be prioritized by the Funding Committee. See pages 5-7 of this RFP for additional details.

Funding is not guaranteed to the organization(s) selected through this RFP. Funding will be made available by HUD based on the performance of the Western PA CoC in the 2024 Continuum of Care national competition. If funded by HUD, the project will initially be awarded a 1-year grant, which will be eligible for annual renewal, dependent on the availability of ongoing funding from HUD and project performance.

To indicate your interest in a new project, please submit a Preliminary Application by **12pm (noon) on Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>**.

- **The Preliminary Application must be submitted via Alchemer at the following link:**  
<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7806815/Western-PA-CoC-FY2024-New-Project-Preliminary-Application-DV-Bonus>
- **You will also be asked to attach a budget using the Excel template provided, which you can attach/upload in Alchemer:**  
[https://mcusercontent.com/e1a442ef49ad7761f7575387a/files/fb6b21b0-560f-d7e9-8ed8-988b9b209313/Western\\_PA\\_CoC\\_2024\\_CoC\\_New\\_Project\\_Budget\\_Form.xlsx](https://mcusercontent.com/e1a442ef49ad7761f7575387a/files/fb6b21b0-560f-d7e9-8ed8-988b9b209313/Western_PA_CoC_2024_CoC_New_Project_Budget_Form.xlsx)
- **A copy of the Preliminary Application is available at**  
[https://mcusercontent.com/e1a442ef49ad7761f7575387a/files/ef501dee-e941-f5b3-2561-e48b8c90abb1/HARD\\_COPY\\_Western\\_PA\\_CoC\\_FY2024\\_New\\_Project\\_Application\\_DV\\_Bonus.docx](https://mcusercontent.com/e1a442ef49ad7761f7575387a/files/ef501dee-e941-f5b3-2561-e48b8c90abb1/HARD_COPY_Western_PA_CoC_FY2024_New_Project_Application_DV_Bonus.docx) so the questions can be reviewed prior to beginning the application in Alchemer.

**Training:** The CoC conducted a 2-part new project training series on April 16<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024. ***Any applicant interested in applying for a new project is strongly encouraged to watch the recording and view the materials from this training.*** Materials can be found at: <https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/resources/coc-new-project-training-sessions-april-2024-easternwestern-pa-cocs>

**Webinar:** A webinar to review the 2024 CoC Competition NOFO for the Eastern and Western PA CoCs will be held on Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup> from 9am-11am. You can join the webinar by registering at <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYqdOygrjkuG9RweubhOzuI3sxvEQSfb7cK>.

The webinar will cover various issues related to this year's CoC NOFO, including:

- An overview of the 2024 CoC NOFO and HUD priorities
- Important updates to the NOFO process
- Available funding, tiering and ranking
- Timelines for NOFO activities
- New projects options and process
- Renewal project application options and process
- Q&A

**Target Audience for Webinar:** Current CoC grantees; Organizations interested in applying for new project funds; Any CoC partner who is interested in learning more about the 2024 CoC NOFO

**Additional Information to review prior to submitting a Preliminary Application:**

**Please review the information provided below regarding project type, eligible participants, eligible activities, expectations and requirements of the project recipient, and selection/ scoring criteria to be used in the selection of new project applicants.**

- **Rapid Re-Housing:** Rapid Re-Housing is a model of housing assistance that is designed to assist those experiencing homelessness, with or without disabilities, move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Rapid Re-Housing assistance is time-limited, individualized, and flexible.
  - Eligibility for RRH under the DV Bonus is limited to households qualified under Category 4 of the HUD Homeless Definition. This includes persons who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking situations.
  - Victim Service Providers who lack experience providing rental assistance, conducting inspections to ensure units meet Housing Quality Standards and/or operating HUD CoC grants are encouraged to pursue local partnerships with organizations that provide housing and/or homeless assistance.
  
- **Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing (TH-RRH) Joint Component Projects :**
  - The Joint TH and PH-RRH component project (also known as TH-RRH) combines two existing program components—transitional housing and permanent housing-rapid rehousing—in a single project to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Recipients should prioritize those with the highest needs using an evidence-based approach designed to provide stable housing and services that, to the greatest extent possible, move the participant towards self-sufficiency and independence.
  - When a program participant is enrolled in a Joint TH and PH-RRH component project, the recipient or subrecipient must be able to provide both components, including the units supported by the transitional housing component and the tenant-based rental assistance and services provided through the PH-RRH component, to all participants. A program participant may choose to receive only the transitional housing unit or the assistance provided through the PH-RRH component, but the recipient or subrecipient must make both types of assistance available. For more information about the Joint TH and PH-RRH component project, see HUD materials at <https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/joint-th-rrh-component-projects/2941/>
  - **Note:** Any agencies interested in creating a Joint Component Project will need to describe (in narrative and data) why the Transitional Housing component of the project is needed in their community.
  - Eligibility for TH-RRH under the DV Bonus is limited to households qualified under Category 4 of the HUD Homeless Definition. This includes persons who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking situations.
  - Victim Service Providers who lack experience providing rental assistance, conducting inspections to ensure units meet Housing Quality Standards and/or operating HUD

CoC grants are encouraged to pursue local partnerships with organizations that provide housing and/or homeless assistance.

- Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE):
  - The purpose of this RFP is to identify new projects that will increase the Coordinated Entry System capacity to best serve Survivors. If funding is used to support additional DV CE staff capacity, this project is expected to collaborate with the current DV CE Specialist to coordinate the delivery of services and prevent duplication of efforts.

**What will the HUD CoC grant pay for?** The HUD grant can be used towards:

- Housing Costs:
  - **Operating funds** to operate a site owned or leased by your agency (*TH Component of TH-RRH Only*)
  - **Leasing** of a single site or scattered site housing units (*TH Component of TH-RRH Only*)
    - Under a Leasing model, the provider enters into the lease with the landlord and has a sublease or rental agreement with the program participant. The provider pays 100% of the rent (up to Fair Market Rent) and the program participant pays 30% of household income to the provider.
  - **Rental Assistance** to assist a household pay their rent;
    - Note: If applying for Rapid Rehousing, Rental Assistance is the only eligible housing cost. It cannot be combined with Operating.
    - Under a Rental Assistance model, the program participant enters into the lease with the landlord and pays 30% of their income to the landlord with the provider paying the balance of rent owed.
  - **Leveraging housing costs:** HUD is providing CoCs with additional points for submitting Rapid Re-Housing and/or Permanent Supportive Housing project applications that utilize non-CoC resources to cover housing and healthcare costs. Specifically, to receive points for leveraging housing costs in the Western PA CoC's new project scoring process:
    - PSH projects need to provide housing subsidies or subsidized housing units for at least 25% of the units included in the project.
    - RRH projects must provide housing subsidies or subsidized housing units to serve at least 25% of the participants in the project.

These housing resources may come from private organizations, state/local government, Public Housing Agencies, including use of a set aside or limited preference, Faith-Based organizations, and/or Federal programs other than the CoC or ESG Programs. Examples of leveraging housing resources may include: an allocation of Section 8/ Housing Choice Vouchers from your local Public Housing

Authority, versus utilizing CoC funding to provide Rental Assistance; an allocation of units at a Low Income Housing Tax Credit building that provides subsidized housing; among other opportunities. See the FY2024 NOFO for more information or reach out to DMA with specific questions.

*Please note that any project proposing to bring in housing leveraging must be able to provide a formal MOU/letter outlining this agreement. This MOU/letter is not required as part of the preliminary application; however, this will be required if your new project is selected for funding when you complete your application to HUD. DMA will provide TA around the requirements for this MOU/letter to ensure it meets HUD's requirements.*

- **Supportive Services Costs:** Case management to assist households in obtaining and maintaining their housing. Where possible, applicants are encouraged to leverage existing services provided through your own organization and/or community partners to provide supportive services. In addition, connecting program participants to mainstream benefits is expected. Per 24 CFR § 578.53 Supportive services, eligible supportive service costs include:
  - Annual Assessment of Service Needs
  - Assistance with moving costs
  - Case management
  - Child care
  - Education services
  - Employment assistance and job training
  - Food
  - Housing search and counseling services
  - Legal services
  - Life skills training
  - Mental health services
  - Outpatient health services
  - Outreach services
  - Substance abuse treatment services
  - Transportation
  - Utility deposits

Note: Housing Search services (costs of assisting eligible program participants to locate, obtain, and retain suitable housing) are eligible costs under Supportive Services for projects utilizing Rental Assistance. ***Applicants are encouraged to design RRH and TH-RRH projects that incorporate housing navigation and housing search assistance, separate from case management roles (e.g., housing navigator in addition to case management staff).***

- **Leveraging healthcare costs:** HUD is providing CoCs with additional points for submitting Rapid Re-Housing and/or Permanent Supportive Housing applications that that utilize non-CoC resources to cover housing and healthcare related costs.

Specifically, to receive points for leveraging healthcare costs in the Western PA CoC's new project scoring process, applicants must demonstrate that they are housing healthcare resources that are direct contributions from a public or private health insurance provider to the project, or provision of health care services by a private or public organization tailored to the program participants of the project. Note: Eligibility for the project must be based on HUD CoC Program fair housing requirements and cannot be restricted by the health care service provider. As such, the Western PA CoC is interested in partnering with organizations that can leverage 25% or more of the project's healthcare/ service needs through community partnerships. Examples of leveraging healthcare services may include: in the case of a substance abuse treatment or recovery provider, it will provide access to treatment or recovery services for all program participants who qualify and choose those programs. Services may also be mental/behavioral health or other types of services. See the FY2024 NOFO for more information or reach out to DMA with specific questions.

*Please note that any project proposing to bring in healthcare leveraging must be able to provide a formal MOU/letter outlining this agreement. This MOU/letter is not required as part of the preliminary application; however, this will be required if your new project is selected for funding when you complete your application to HUD. DMA will provide TA around the requirements for this MOU/letter to ensure it meets HUD's requirements.*

**Note regarding Supportive Services Costs for SSO-CE:**

- HUD notes that project applicants for SSO-CE projects should only request Supportive Service funds in eligible cost categories that are directly related to carrying out the CoC's coordinated entry processes (e.g. Assessment of Service Needs).
- \*Project applicants may only include category 17. "Operating Costs" (maintenance, repair, building security, furniture, utilities, and equipment) in the Supportive Services budget, if the costs are for a facility that is used to provide supportive services for program participants.
  - Note: while Operating Costs are an eligible expense, these costs could instead be provided in-kind towards the match requirements.
- **HMIS:** While Victim Service Providers are not permitted to enter into HMIS, data must be entered into a HMIS comparable database. If your organization has not added the HMIS Program enhancements to your DV comparable database, this cost can be included under the HMIS Budget Line Item.
- **Administrative Costs:** Eligible administrative costs are limited to: the general management, oversight and coordination of the grant; training on CoC requirements; and environmental review. Admin costs do not include staff and overhead costs directly related to carrying out eligible activities, as these are eligible under the corresponding Budget Line

Items. Please review 24 CFR § 578.59 for more information about eligible administrative costs.

- **There are two additional eligible budget line items under the FY2024 CoC NOFO:**
  - These budget line items can be requested for new projects, or for expansion projects.
  - **VAWA Costs Budget Line Item**
    - The NOFO indicates that this budget line item can be used for “Facilitating and coordinating activities to ensure compliance with the emergency transfer plan requirement in 34 U.S.C. 12491(e) and monitoring compliance with the confidentiality protections in 34 U.S.C. 12491(c)(4).”
    - While the CoC is not limiting this budget line item to Victim Services Providers, both Victim Services Providers and non-Victim Services Providers must provide a justification for why they are requesting this budget line item, and how the activities will be carried out. This information will be requested within the budget template form.
    - More details on eligible activities can be found in **Appendix A of this RFP.**
  - **Rural Costs Budget Line Item**
    - The NOFO indicates that this budget line item can be used for the following activities, if the project is operating in a rural area as defined by HUD.
      - (a) Payment of short-term emergency lodging, including in motels or shelters, directly through vouchers.
      - (b) Repairs to units in which homeless individuals and families will be housed; or are currently not fit for human habitation.
      - (c) Staff training, professional development, skill development, and staff retention activities.
    - **See Appendix B of this RFP for more information.**
    - Providers requesting this budget line item must provide justification for why they are requesting this budget line item, and how the activities will be carried out. This information will be requested within the budget template form.
    - The list of HUD-defined rural counties can be found here: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC/FY-2023-Rural-Area-Report.pdf>. Applicant can review this list of HUD-defined rural areas to determine if the area the project is serving may be designated as rural. See **Appendix B of this RFP.**

More detail on these two budget line items can be found in Appendices A and B of this RFP. If applicants are interested in requesting either of these new budget line items as part of their new project application, this can be included in the budget template.

- More details on eligible costs are available in HUD’s CoC Binder:



<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/coc-eligible-activities/coc-eligible-activities-overview/>

**What is my project budget?** Projects may apply for a maximum of **\$1,808,458**, which is the approximate maximum amount of funds the CoC is eligible to apply for through the CoC Bonus. While a budget is requested in the Preliminary Application, if your project is selected, the CoC's Funding Committee reserves the right to approve an amount other than the amount requested.

**Are there match requirements?** The grantee must provide a 25% match – either cash or in-kind. In-kind match, for example, can be any of the eligible services listed above. Match commitments require an MOU and documentation.

**Are there any special considerations that I need to be aware of?**

- Housing First in a DV Context (or DV Housing First). All projects funded through the CoC are expected to operate in accordance with a Housing First approach, which includes:
  - Participants are not screened out based on the following:
    - Having too little or no income
    - Active or history of substance use
    - Having a criminal record with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions
    - Being a survivor of domestic violence
  - Participants are not terminated from the program based on the following:
    - Failure to participate in supportive services
    - Failure to make progress on a service plan
    - Loss of income or failure to improve income
    - Being a survivor of domestic violence
    - Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found in the project's geographic area
- All providers are expected to provide tailored services to each project participant, based on the survivor's individual needs, using a trauma-informed and survivor-centered approach.
  - Trauma-informed: This includes approaches delivered with an understanding of the vulnerabilities and experiences of trauma survivors, including the prevalence and physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma. A trauma-informed approach recognizes signs of trauma in staff, clients, and others and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings. Trauma-informed approaches place priority on restoring the survivor's feelings of safety, choice, and control.
  - Survivor-centered: Placing the individual's priorities, needs, and interests at the center of the work with the survivor; providing nonjudgmental assistance, with an emphasis on client self-determination and assisting survivors in making informed choices; ensuring that restoring survivors' feelings of safety and security are a priority and safeguarding against policies and practices that may inadvertently re-

traumatize survivors; ensuring that survivors' rights, voices, and perspectives are incorporated when developing and implementing system- and community-based efforts that impact survivors.

- Applicants must follow the [Western PA CoC's Written Standards for providing assistance](#).
- The [Western PA CoC's Written Standards](#) include Case Management Standards for all project types. The frequency of case management services should depend on the unique needs and situation of every program participant. Case Managers should be in direct contact with their clients at least once a month. The frequency of direct contact may increase due to the household's homeless status, acute needs, and overall lack of housing stability. Per HUD CoC regulation, a minimum of monthly case management is required for participants in Rapid Re-Housing projects.
- All project participants enrolled must come from the CoC's Coordinated Entry By Name List, a prioritized waiting list.
- Data entry into a HMIS comparable database, including adherence to the data quality and data timeliness expectations outlined within the HMIS User Agreement.
- Applicants will be expected to participate in the monthly meetings of the local Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB). In addition, all applicants must be or must become a member of the Western PA CoC, attend semi-annual meetings of the full CoC, and attend trainings provided through the CoC.
- All CoC-funded projects will be expected to have the capacity to operate this program in accordance with HUD requirements including:
  - Submitting an Annual Progress Report (APR) to HUD on time/ no more than 90 days after the end of the grant period
  - Drawing down funds at least quarterly
  - Expending all of grant funds within the 12-month grant period
- All CoC-funded projects will be expected to comply with the CoC Program Interim Rule. Those unfamiliar with the CoC Program Interim Rule are advised to carefully review "Subpart F—Program Requirements" of the HUD CoC Program Interim Rule: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2033/hearth-coc-program-interim-rule/>

**How will projects be selected for submission to HUD?** All Preliminary Applications will be reviewed by the Western PA CoC Funding Committee based on the following criteria.

Please note that the CoC's Funding Policies can be found here:  
<https://pennsylvaniacoc.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2024-03/Western%20PA%20CoC%20-%20FY2024%20CoC->

[funding%20Process%20and%20Policies\\_FINAL%203\\_20\\_24.pdf](#). The Funding Policies outline the new project selection process that is followed by the Western PA CoC Funding Committee.

- **Threshold:** to be considered, applicants must:
  - Project must be submitted by an eligible applicant (non-profit, state or local government or instrumentality of state or local government, public housing authority)
  - Application must be for an eligible project type and eligible geography (as outlined in the RFP)
  - Applicant organization must either be a Victim Service Provider, OR have a formal partnership with a Victim Service Provider.
  - Use a Housing First approach
  - Provide program participants with assistance to access Mainstream Benefits (*RRH and TH-RRH only*)
  - Have experience working with the population to be served
  - Provide ongoing case management for all participants, following the guidance as outlined in the [Written Standards](#). See Written Standards for more details about case management expectations for all CoC-funded projects (pages 22- 25). See project-type specific sections of the Written Standards for specific case management expectations by project type. A minimum of monthly case management meetings are required as part of the Rapid Re-Housing program. This can be facilitated through mobile advocacy where the advocate or counselor meets with the survivor, in person, at an agreed upon interval and location that works for both the survivor and the grantee. (*RRH and TH-RRH only*)
  - Participate in the Western PA CoC Coordinated Entry System
  - Follow the CoC's [written standards](#) for prioritizing and providing assistance
  - Enter data into HMIS comparable database
  - Participate in the RHAB/CoC
  - Must be in good standing with HUD and PA DCED, with no outstanding monitoring findings or debts.
  
- **Selection Criteria (TH-RRH and RRH):** Projects will be scored based on several factors, including the below listed criteria:
  - Demonstration of need, through both data and narrative.
  - Geographic area: Preference given to regional and/or multi-county projects OR single county projects with strong explanation in project description why single county project needed
  - Organizational capacity to operate a CoC-funded project, including fiscal capacity and grant management capacity.
  - **Strategic partnerships with community providers, including:**
    - **the ability to document leveraged housing cost (maximum points awarded for 25% or more of your housing costs from community housing partners)**
    - **the ability to document leveraged healthcare/services cost (maximum points awarded for 25% or more of your budget leveraged from community**

**service partners)**

- Approach for providing case management and supportive services, including case management ratio
  - Coordination and integration with other mainstream health, social services, and employment partners
  - Cost effectiveness of approach, as compared to similar projects within the CoC
  - Experience operating programs with using a DV Housing First approach
  - Experience providing trauma-informed, survivor centered and culturally competent services to any household qualifying under Category 4 of the HUD homeless definition.
  - Experience providing community-based housing/homeless assistance to survivors of domestic violence, either directly or with the assistance of a community partner, including the ability to provide housing search and location services
  - Strategy for providing housing search and location services, using either staff funded through the proposed CoC-funded project or services leveraged through other resources or community partners
  - If applicable, capacity of the applicant to implement a regional project, either directly or through partnerships with other organizations throughout the region
  - Organizational capacity and experience to ensure successful and inclusive program operation. Specifically, the CoC will determine if the applicant organization has experience serving and improving outcomes for communities that have been historically marginalized (e.g. people of color, LGBTQ+, people that do not speak English as their primary or first language) and experience providing culturally responsive services.
    - **Note: the new project application will include questions about organizational capacity to promote racial equity, including within the project design and the delivery of services; organizational diversity; and what financial commitments they are making to promote equity.**
  - Experience incorporating persons with lived experience of homelessness/DV survivors into project decision-making, including design and delivery of services
  - Experience with/ability to support the safety and confidentiality of DV survivors
  - For current and previous CoC/ESG project providers, considerations will include meeting HUD/DCED's grant management requirements, implementation of HUD policy priorities such as housing first, as well as performance outcomes of current/previous grants
  - Additional consideration will be given to agencies that have not previously received CoC funding
- **Selection Criteria (SSO-CE):** Projects will be scored based on several factors, including the below listed criteria:
- Demonstration of need, through both data and narrative.
  - Capacity of the applicant to implement a regional project.
  - Experience partnering with the CoC's Coordinated Entry System.

- Experience providing trauma-informed, survivor centered and culturally competent services to any household qualifying under Category 4 of the HUD homeless definition.
- Organizational capacity to operate a CoC-funded project, including fiscal capacity and grant management capacity.
- Organizational capacity and experience to ensure successful and inclusive program operation. Specifically, the CoC will determine if the applicant organization has experience serving and improving outcomes for communities that have been historically marginalized (e.g. people of color, LGBTQ+, people that do not speak English as their primary or first language) and experience providing culturally responsive services.
- Experience incorporating persons with lived experience of homelessness into project decision-making, including design and delivery of services
- For current and previous CoC/ESG project providers, considerations will include meeting HUD/DCED's grant management requirements, implementation of HUD policy priorities such as housing first, as well as performance outcomes of current/previous grants

The CoC Funding Committee will use a new project scoring tool to evaluate new project applications. A blank copy of the scoring tool will be posted on the [CoC website 2024 CoC Competition page](#). Please note that the score awarded to each applicant via the scoring tool is one component of how the Funding Committee will determine new projects that are selected to be submitted for funding under the CoC Competition. The Funding Committee will also factor in need for the project based on gaps analysis data, when compared to other projects submitted under this RFP, as well as prior performance of the applicant operating CoC or ESG-funded projects.

### **Next Steps if Selected**

- You will be notified if your project has been selected and your final budget amount no later than September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024. At that time, you will receive instructions for submitting the new project application in [e-snaps, HUD's CoC Program Applications and Grants Management System](#). This process will require your organization to be registered with [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) and have a UEI (Unique Entity ID) Number (Note: The UEI Number replaced the DUNS Number. The Unique Entity ID is assigned automatically to entities when they register on SAM.gov or when they [request a Unique Entity ID](#)).
- **In addition to completing a new project application in e-snaps, organizations with projects that have been selected under the DV bonus will be required to work with the CoC to draft responses to a number of required questions in the CoC Consolidated Application**, related to the experience of the applicant serving survivors of domestic violence and the proposed activities within the project. These questions will be similar to the questions you will be asked to answer in the preliminary application. DMA (CoC

Consultant) will provide your organization with the questions and required timeline and will also provide technical assistance with this process.

- **If your project has been selected, there will be a mandatory briefing meeting on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am-11:30am.** The meeting will be recorded. If you are applying for new project funding through this RFP, please save the date for this meeting. Additional details will be sent out when new projects are notified of whether they are selected.

**If I have questions about this who should I contact?** Please contact the Western PA CoC's Consultant (DMA) at [westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org](mailto:westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org).

#### **Appendix A –VAWA Costs Budget Line Item**

Excerpt from pages 47-48 of the [FY2024 CoC NOFO](#) related to this budget line item:

**(2)** Section 605(a)(2) of VAWA 2022 amended section 423(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to add the following eligible activity to the CoC program: “Facilitating and coordinating activities to ensure compliance with the emergency transfer plan requirement in [\[34 U.S.C. 12491\(e\)\]](#) and monitoring compliance with the confidentiality protections in [\[34 U.S.C. 12491\(c\)\(4\)\]](#).”

HUD has determined that eligible activities paid for under the VAWA costs category are not subject to the CoC program’s spending caps on administrative costs under section 423(a)(10), (11), and (12). This activity may be included in new project applications, added to eligible renewal projects through expansion or added to eligible renewal projects by shifting up to 10 percent of funds from one eligible activity to the VAWA costs line item.

**(a)** Examples of eligible costs for emergency transfer facilitation include the costs of assessing, coordinating, approving, denying and implementing a survivor’s emergency transfer which includes:

(i.) Assistance with moving costs. Reasonable moving costs to move survivors for an emergency transfer.

Page 47 of 128

(ii.) Assistance with travel costs. Reasonable travel costs for survivors and their families to travel for an emergency transfer.

(iii.) Security Deposits. Grant funds can be used to pay for security deposits of the safe units the survivor is transferring to via an emergency transfer.

(iv.) Utilities. Grant funds can be used to pay for costs of establishing utility assistance in the safe unit the survivor is transferring to.

(v.) Housing Fees. Fees associated with getting survivor into a safe unit via emergency transfer, includes but not limited to application fees, broker fees, holding fees, trash fees, pet fees where the person believes they need their pet to be safe, etc.

(vi.) Case management. Grant funds can be used to pay staff time necessary to assess, coordinate and implement emergency transfers.

(vii.) Housing navigation. Grant funds can be used to pay staff time necessary to identify safe units and facilitate moves into housing for survivors through emergency transfers.

(viii.) Technology to make an available unit safe. Grant funds can be used to pay for technology that the individual believes is needed to make the unit safe, including but not limited to doorbell cameras, security systems, phone and internet service when necessary to support security systems for the unit, etc.

**(b)** Examples of eligible costs for monitoring compliance with the VAWA confidentiality requirements include the costs of ensuring compliance with the VAWA confidentiality requirements which includes:

- (i.) Monitoring and evaluating compliance with VAWA confidentiality requirements.
- (ii.) Developing and implementing strategies for corrective actions and remedies.
- (iii.) Program evaluation of confidentiality policies, practices and procedures.
- (iv.) Training on compliance with VAWA confidentiality requirements.
- (v.) Reporting to Collaborative Applicant, HUD and other interested parties on compliance with VAWA confidentiality requirements.
- (vi.) Costs for establishing methodology to protect survivor information.
- (vii.) Staff time associated with maintaining adherence to confidentiality requirements.

**Appendix B– Rural Costs Budget Line Item**



Excerpt from pages 48-49 of the [FY2024 CoC NOFO](#) related to eligible activities under this budget line item:

requirements

**(3)** Section 5707 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (PL 117-263, December 23, 2022, 136 Stat 2395) amended section 423(a) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to allow projects in rural areas [as defined in section I.B.2.b.(26) of this NOFO] to use program funds to pay for the following eligible Continuum of Care Program activities:

- (a)** Payment of short-term emergency lodging, including in motels or shelters, directly or through vouchers.

Page 48 of 128

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- (b)** Repairs to units in which individuals and families experiencing homelessness will be housed; or are currently not fit for human habitation.
- (c)** Staff training, professional development, skill development, and staff retention activities.

HUD has determined that eligible activities paid for under the Rural costs category may be included in new project applications or added to eligible renewal projects through expansion.

HUD will publish a list of CoCs located in rural areas as defined in section I.B.2.b.(26) of this NOFO.

The list of HUD-defined rural counties can be found here:

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC/FY-2023-Rural-Area-Report.pdf>.

Applicant can review this list of HUD-defined rural areas to determine if the area the project is serving may be designated as rural.