

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY MINNESOTA (MN-509) CONTINUUM OF CARE 2021 LOCAL
COC PROGRAM COMPETITION CALL FOR NEW PROJECTS RELEASED:**

August 31st, 2021

BACKGROUND

The St. Louis County Minnesota Continuum of Care is seeking project applicants for FY 2021 funding via the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Program competition. HUD released its Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOF) for FY2021 Continuum of Care Program Competition (FR-6500-N-25) on August 18th, 2021. The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

Nationwide, approximately \$2,656,000,000 is available in this FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO, including approximately \$77,000,000, available for non-competitive YHDP renewal and replacement expiring grants, and up to \$102,000,000 available for Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus projects (of which up to \$50,000,000 is carried over from the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020), described in Section II.B.5 of this NOFO. Per HUD guidelines, the St. Louis County CoC is eligible to apply for \$3,266,071 for existing renewal projects and new projects created through reallocation. This amount is called the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). The CoC is also eligible to apply for approximately \$113,950 for CoC planning \$189,917 CoC bonus funds for new projects to serve any eligible population, and approximately \$569,752 in bonus funding specifically to serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless under 24 CFR578.3.

This Call for Projects advises all potential applicants of the general requirements that must be met in any project application for consideration of submission to HUD through the St. Louis County Minnesota Continuum of Care (SLC CoC) Local Competition. Project applicants may receive funds to support Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, Joint Transitional/Rapid Re-housing, HMIS, or Coordinated Entry in the SLC CoC For more details, please review the HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY2021 Continuum of Care Program Competition (FR-6500-N-25), and the CoC Program Rule found in 24 CFR 578. All information for the SLC CoC Local Competition is posted on the CoC NOFO webpage at <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/public-health-human-services/housing-and-homeless-programs/continuum-of-care-coc>.

FUNDING AVAILABLE ANNUAL RENEWAL DEMAND FUNDING:

2021 Annual Renewal Demand: \$3,266,071

These funds are limited to the projects listed on the SLC CoC's Grant Inventory Worksheet. Eligible project component types are those defined for each renewal project through the Grant Inventory Worksheet process. Projects seeking renewal funding may not change project component type or exceed the allowed funding levels by line item or in total, as shown on the Grant Inventory Worksheet. Projects may reduce budget line items, which would be considered voluntary reallocation. The CoC can also eliminate or reduce funding for these

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projects (involuntary reallocation) in accordance with the CoC's Ranking & Review Policy. Such changes create a reallocation fund which can be used to fund certain types of new projects described below.

NEW PROJECTS CREATED FROM REALLOCATED FUNDS OR COC BONUS FUNDS:

CoC Bonus Funding: \$189,917

Reallocation Funding: To Be Announced (if any)

New projects in this category may be proposed as standalone projects or as expansions of existing CoC-funded projects seeking renewal in the current funding round. Eligible new project component types for projects created from reallocation and/or bonus funds:

- Permanent Housing-Permanent Supportive Housing Projects for chronically homeless at program entry or who meet the definition of DedicatedPLUS.
- Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing Projects for people who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3 (and paragraph (3) if the CoC is approved to serve this population).
- Rapid Rehousing or Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing Component Projects for people who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3 (and paragraph (3) if the CoC is approved to serve this population).
- Dedicated HMIS project for the costs at 24 CFR 578.37(a)(4) that can only be carried out by the HMIS Lead, which is the recipient or subrecipient of an HMIS grant and is listed on the HMIS Lead form in the CoC Applicant Profile in e-snaps. Additionally, if the CoC has organizations within its geographic area that are victim service providers, the HMIS Lead, or subrecipient, may request HMIS funds for a comparable database. Victim service providers may also request HMIS funds in their project application budgets to enter data into a comparable database. The Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) is the SLC CoC HMIS Lead.
- Supportive Services Only Projects for Coordinated Entry Project to develop or operate a centralized or coordinated assessment system.

For new projects, preference will be given to housing projects that leverage other housing subsidies and healthcare resources to qualify the CoC for Housing and Healthcare Bonus Points.

NEW PROJECTS CREATED FROM DV BONUS FUNDS

DV Bonus Funding: \$569,752

New projects in this category may be proposed as standalone projects or as expansions of existing CoC-funded projects. DV Bonus funding may be used to expand an existing renewal project that is not dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking so long as the DV Bonus funds for expansion are solely for additional units, beds, or

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services dedicated to persons eligible to be served with DV Bonus funding. Eligible project component types for projects created with DV Bonus funds:

- Permanent Housing-Rapid re-housing projects dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3); (b)
- Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects defined in Section III.B.2.q of this NOFO dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3); or (c)
- Supportive services only (SSO)-coordinated entry project to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking
- Per HUD guidelines for the DV Bonus funds, new DV Bonus project applications may not request less than \$50,000. In addition, victim service providers are required to use or create an Alternate Database comparable to HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) to produce reports for HUD and aggregate unduplicated count data for CoC planning.

COC PLANNING FUNDS:

CoC Planning Funding: \$113,950

This funding supports CoC planning activities, and only the collaborative applicant – St. Louis County Public Health & Human Services – may apply for it. The planning grant will not be ranked in this year's competition and is not competitive with housing or service projects.

PROJECT APPLICATION

By September 27th, 2021 all project applicants must submit a complete and correct Project Application in e-snaps AND submit documentation required for the CoC Local Competition or for use in the regional CoC-wide application (which includes all project applications). E-snaps is available at <https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf>. See the resources section for further guidance. Project applications with all attachments must be submitted electronically in e-snaps for consideration for the FY2021 CoC Program national competition. Applicants must print a copy of the Submission Summary form from the CoC Project Application before closing their internet browser after the CoC Project Application has been submitted in e-snaps. This is the Applicant's receipt of submission and proof of compliance with the application deadline. The CoC will not give funding consideration to any applicant whose Application is determined to be late and that is unable to provide the CoC with a record of submission that verifies the Project Application was submitted prior to the application deadline date and time.

Required HUD national competition application (e-snaps) requirements for all projects:

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- Complete, correct, and consistent Project Application, with complete and current Applicant Profile
- HUD required forms and attachments (in e-Snaps applicant profile and application)
- Match Letters dated between dates specified in FY2021 NOFO
- New & Renewal Project Application Elements for CoC Local Competition:
 - CoC Supplemental Application which includes Housing First Questionnaire, Financial Assessment Form (for all agencies currently receiving HUD CoC funds), and Supplemental Questions

All Project Application supplementary materials will be publicly available on the SLC CoC NOFA webpage at <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/public-health-human-services/housing-and-homeless-programs/continuum-of-care-coc>.

SELECTIONS AND AWARD NOTICES COC LOCAL COMPETITION

The SLC CoC Ranking and Review Committee will review project applications the week of October 6th, 2021, using the CoC Project Scoring & Ranking Criteria was approved by Heading Home Advisory Committee, the CoC Governing Board on August 19th, 2021. The CoC Project Scoring & Ranking Criteria is available on the SLC CoC 2019 NOFA Webpage to allow applicants to view and ask questions about the ranking criteria prior to the scoring and ranking process. By October 22nd, 2021 the Ranking and Review Committee via SLC CoC Coordinator will provide all project applicants final notice of project acceptance/rejection, any funding changes, score, rank, Tier 1/Tier 2 status, and source of funds expected for the project (i.e. reallocated funds, CoC Bonus, or DV Bonus). The notification will also include any required changes applicants must make in e-snaps to meet project quality thresholds. All corrections in e-snaps must be made and the e-snaps project application resubmitted by November 10th, 2021 to be ranked and included in the project list submitted for review in the national CoC Program Competition.

HUD COC PROGRAM COMPETITION

HUD will conduct a threshold review of ranked projects for all CoCs that submit the CoC Consolidated Application by the application deadline. Projects and applicants that do not meet threshold eligibility and capacity requirements set forth in Sections V.C.3.b-c of the FY2021 NOFO will be rejected. HUD may also place conditions on a grant award that must be satisfied before HUD will execute a grant agreement with the applicant for the project. HUD may issue up to two conditional funding announcements, which have generally occurred between January and March following the CoC Collaborative Application deadline. HUD will select new and renewal project applications in Tier 1 in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section II.B.11.a of the FY2021 NOFO. The project application score(s), which will incorporate the CoC Collaborative Application score, will determine which projects in Tier 2 will be conditionally selected for award as set forth in Section II.B.11.b of the FY2021 NOFO. HUD may employ rating panels to review and rate all or part of the CoC Applications according to the rating criteria in Section VII of the FY2021 NOFO. Projects with rental assistance, leasing, or operations may be adjusted by

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HUD during the review process to reflect changes in Fair Market Rents (FMRs) for the project area. Following the evaluation process, HUD will notify successful applicants of their selection for funding. Notification of project awards will be posted on the HUD website and distributed via the HUD Homeless Assistance Listserv. HUD will notify all other applicants, whose applications were received by the deadline, that have not been chosen for award by email. Award information will be sent by mail to the authorized representative(s) named in form SF424, lines 8 and 21. Administrative and reporting requirements for successful applicants is outlined in Section IX.B-E of the FY 2021 NOFO.

COC NOFO APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

- CoC Coordinator Assistance: Courtney Cochran, SLC CoC Co-Coordinator is available to provide technical assistance to Project Applicants in completing their E-snaps applications and supplemental documents. Courtney Cochran: Cochranc@stlouiscountymn.gov or (218) 725-5158.
- Project Applicant TA Lab: Representatives from the Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH) will be available to provide technical assistance to project applicants to complete and submit their project applications in E-snaps. This lab will be held at the St. Louis County Government Services Center in Duluth, MN or via a video call platform. The time/date for the lab will be sent to project applicants once determined.

HUD RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY2021 HUD CoC Program Competition: [FY 2021 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants | HUD.gov / U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\)](#) **Questions regarding specific program requirements for this NOFO should be directed to CoCNOFO@hud.gov.**
- HUD CoC Program Rule (24 CFR 578)
https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule_FormattedVersion.pdf
- E-snaps guides: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>
- Other Training and Resources: Project applicants that need assistance competing the applications in e-snaps or understanding the program requirements under the CoC Program may access the Rule, training materials, and program resources via the HUD Exchange at <http://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance>.
- HUD Exchange Ask A Question (AAQ): Project applicants that require information and technical support concerning this NOF) and the applications in e-snaps may submit an electronic inquiry via the HUD Exchange e-snaps AAQ at www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/ The AAQ is accessible 24 hours each day. Starting 2 days prior to the application deadline for FY 2021 funds, the AAQ will respond only to emergency technical support questions up to the deadline of 8:00 PM Eastern time. Applicants experiencing technical difficulty should contact the e-snaps AAQ immediately for assistance and document their attempts to obtain assistance.

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- HUD Homeless Assistance Listserv: HUD may provide Collaborative Applicants and Project Applicants with additional information through HUD websites located at www.hud.gov and www.hudexchange.info and via the CoC Program email-based listserv. To join the listserv, visit www.hudexchange.info/maillinglist. This additional information will not change the selection criteria or selection process in this NOFA but may include items such as updates on the status of e-snaps and reminders of impending deadlines. This listserv will also include information only applicable to Collaborative Applicants (not project applicants), and project applicants are encouraged to contact your CoC Coordinator if questions arise from list serv posts.