**ST. LOUIS COUNTY MINNESOTA (MN-509) CONTINUUM OF CARE FY2021 LOCAL COC PROGRAM COMPETITION CALL FOR NEW PROJECTS RELEASED: August 1st, 2022**

 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 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants (FR-6600-N-25) on August 1st, 2022. HUD has yet to open e-snaps for applications.

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 $2,794,000,000 is available in this FY 2022 CoC Program NOFO, including approximately $80,000,000, available for non-competitive YHDP renewal and replacement expiring grants, and at least $52,000,000 available for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Bonus (DV Bonus) projects, described in Section II.B.5 of this NOFO. Per HUD guidelines, the St. Louis County CoC is eligible to apply for $3,429,881 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 for CoC planning, HMIS, and 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 FY2022 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-andhomeless-programs/continuum-of-care-coc>.

Eligible project applicants for the CoC Program Competition are found at 24 CFR 578.15 and include nonprofit organizations; state governments; local governments; instrumentalities of state and local governments; Indian Tribes and tribally designated housing entities, as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103); and public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100, are eligible without limitation or exclusion. Individuals, foreign entities, and sole proprietorship organizations are not eligible to compete for, or receive, awards made under this announcement. Individuals, foreign entities, and sole proprietorship organizations are not eligible to compete for, or receive, awards made under this announcement.

FUNDING AVAILABLE ANNUAL RENEWAL DEMAND FUNDING: 2021 Annual Renewal Demand: $3,429,881 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 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 DV BONUS FUNDS DV Bonus Funding: 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, 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: 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 August 20th, 2022 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 FY2022 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: • 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 FY2022 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-humanservices/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 September 8th, 2022, 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 Webpage to allow applicants to view and ask questions about the ranking criteria prior to the scoring and ranking process. By September 15th 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 esnaps must be made and the e-snaps project application resubmitted by September 20th 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 FY2022 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.

Tier 1 is equal to 95 percent of the CoC’s Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) as described in Section III.B.2.a of this NOFO minus the Annual Renewal Amounts (ARAs) of YHDP renewal and YHDP replacement projects. Project applications in Tier 1 will be conditionally selected from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC, provided the project applications pass both project eligibility and project quality threshold review, and if applicable, project renewal threshold. In the event insufficient funding is available to award all Tier 1 projects, Tier 1 will be reduced proportionately, which could result in some Tier 1 projects falling into Tier 2. HUD will select new and renewal project applications in Tier 1 in accordance with the criteria set forth in the FY2022 NOFO. Tier 2. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation, and CoC Bonus funds that a CoC can apply for but does not include YHDP renewal or YHDP replacement projects, CoC planning projects, and if applicable, UFA Costs projects or projects selected with DV Bonus funds. If a DV Bonus project ranked in Tier 2 is selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will be removed from this tier and the projects below it will move up one rank position. However, if a new DV Bonus project is not selected with DV Bonus funds, the project will retain its ranked position (see Section II.B.11.e of this NOFO). If a project application straddles the Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding line, HUD will conditionally select the project up to the amount of funding that falls within Tier 1. Using the CoC score, and other factors described in Section II.B.11 of this NOFO, HUD may fund the Tier 2 portion of the project. If HUD does not fund the Tier 2 portion of the project, HUD may award the project at the reduced amount, provided the project is still feasible with the reduced funding (e.g., is able to continue serving homeless program participants effectively).

 Following CoC & HUD review, HUD will notify successful applicants of their selection for funding. HUD will also notify all other applicants, whose applications were received by the deadline, but have not been chosen for award. Notifications will be sent by email to the person listed as authorized representative in item 21 of the SF-424. 24 CFR 578.35 provides the appeal process options. Sections 578.35(b)(3), (b)(4), (c)(1), and (d)(2) authorize HUD to establish requirements for the form and manner of submissions for appeals by Solo Applicants, applicants with denied or decreased funding, and from competing CoCs. For HUD to consider an appeal under 24 CFR 578.35(b) or (c), the solo project applicant must follow the applicable application process set forth in this NOFO. This NOFO also provides guidance to CoCs and applicants regarding appeals of a jurisdiction’s refusal to sign the Consolidated Plan certification for a project under 24 CFR 578.35(c).

COC NOFO APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

• CoC Office hours, Weekly office hours throughout federal grant season to discuss projects, receive TA support and meet as needed with the CoC Coordinator. These are open, drop-in office hours every Thursday from 11am to 12:30pm via Microsoft Teams. Email Cochranc@stlouiscountymn.gov to receive the link for these sessions.

* 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 FY2022 HUD CoC Program Competition: [FY 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=342855) 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\_Formatte dVersion.pdf](https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule_Formatte%20dVersion.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.

• 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/mailinglist. 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.