Special NOFO Informational Session 07/14/2022

Present: Courtney Cochran, Laura Birnbaum, Stacy Radosevich, Erich Lutz, Adam Venne, Allisson Uthke-Scaletta, Anita Skutevick, Colleen Kelly, Elise Strader, Ida Watson-Souther, Jennifer Krenz, Jessie Kowarsch, Kelly Looby, Kim Fultz, Kiara, Lenelle, Lexy Redenbaugh, Liz, Nancy, Tiffany Macklin, Kate Bradley

* Note this is a totally separate/new process than the traditional NOFO – this NOFO prioritizes new funds.
* Local materials are available through the SLC CoC website – linked in the power point as well.
* Will fill out HUD application and local application (also known as the supplemental application) in E-Snaps. You may notice a few more questions on the application this time.
  + There is a significantly large narrative for the consolidated application (15 pages) where we will need information from grantees in order to answer. We are hoping we can pull this from your application by doing it this way but may need to follow up as well.
* This NOFO targets rural homelessness and unsheltered homelessness. Will share more re how HUD defines this.
* HUD has not actually opened their application – Courtney will email you immediately when they do.
* We haven’t published our timeline as the CoC yet. When HUD released this, they said that they would release the traditional NOFO to be published any day now and will have a deadline for submission prior to the Special NOFO (Special NOFO is due October 20).
  + We will work hard to align our timelines as much as possible to make it easier for all – this is why we haven’t published the timeline yet.
* Goal today is to get out as much info today as we can but also note there is a lot of unknowns still at this time.
* Please visit SLC CoC website to see the draft of the supplemental application and scoring tool for this Special NOFO. These are still in draft form and going through CoC committees. If you have feedback, please provide it now.
* HUD priorities:
  + Reducing unsheltered homelessness
  + Reducing rural homelessness
  + Projects on Tribal lands
  + Housing First approach
  + Involving a broad array of stakeholders
  + Advancing equity – *how are we engaging people who have experienced or faced homelessness, how are people from the LGBTQIA2S+ community, how is racial equity embedded in policies, etc.*
* 2 pots of funds in this NOFO:
  + Rural set aside – the way that HUD defines rural for this NOFO is different. The only entity that qualifies based on HUD’s definition is Bois Forte Tribal Nation or organizations they agree to partner with. Also note – that this is only $10,115 over 3 years that our CoC is eligible for.
  + Unsheltered set aside:
    - Any government, Tribal Nation or nonprofit within our CoC is eligible
    - All new projects
    - New applicants welcomed and encouraged!
    - Our CoC is eligible for up to $4m
      * No guarantee we would receive the entire $4m or any funding
      * Competitive national process
      * We need to come to a conclusion as a community – are there enough agencies willing to put in the work to put forward a strong application
      * HUD will award either all or nothing (whole CoC package, not individual projects).
    - Cannot fund emergency shelter projects but can fund any NEW project in the CoC that targets unsheltered homelessness such as PSH projects (PSH, RRH, Joint TH-RRH) or support service Only (including street outreach)
      * Supportive Service Only-Coordinated Entry grants
      * HMIS grants are eligible as well
      * Even if going for PSH project, is there a way can build in admin costs or supports service budget line so that Coordinated Entry assessments can be built into this – how can support
      * Can apply for additional CoC Planning grant funds (can’t exceed more than 4% of total award)
      * All grants will have 3-year terms, with up to 5 years for execution. As long as terms are met, grants will roll into the Annual Renewal.
    - Cannot use to build, rehab or acquire a building (see slides and chart or CoC Program Rule 24 CFR 578
    - Points:
      * Up to 50 will be awarded on collaborative app
      * Up to 40 based on CoC Ranking
      * Up to 10 points for serving structurally disadvantaged areas
      * CoC bonus for high PIT count – we are eligible for 0 of 30 points as starts at count – 341 other CoCs are with us here across the nation so still competitive
      * Wanting to be completely transparent around scoring and possibilities
    - MOUs/letters of support/commitment
      * This is where we are still needing more clarification from HUD
      * App is all about collaboration and instead of writing about collaboration, HUD wants to see signed contracts/MOUs to show partnerships
      * We know we’ll need 4 different letters attached, most of which will come from projects that are submitting
        + One showing commitment to developing new units
        + Hospitals/healthcare/public health/FQHCs/drug treatment commitment demonstrating the types of services being made available, the value of the commitment and the dates the healthcare resources will be provided
        + Working group comprised of persons with lived experience – that there has been input and involvement, especially around the priorities. We have this with our Racial Equity Accountability Project (REAP) Leadership team – will schedule time for projects to present to REAP and will have members serve on ranking and review team.

If you have a body like this that you work with, please get a letter from that group and attach it to your application as well.

* + - * + Public housing authorities (PHAs – HRAs) serving the CoCs – demonstrating commitment. Would be Duluth and Virginia HRAs since they are the ones with vouchers.
        + Our understanding is need to have one of each of these as a community/consolidated app, not for every project but we are not sure yet – waiting for guidance on this. Will make applicants more competitive if have these letters.
    - Tips for application – please see slide and…
      * Please read through the Full Special NOFO and details – you know your projects best and may catch details we would miss with HUD’s language on project eligibility
      * HUD scores each question separately and it is not always the same person scoring each question so repetition is your friend. You may feel that you are typing the same thing over and over but this is good.
      * Double check all attachments!
      * Form 2880 – all applicants will need to fill this out and attach. Link in slides for guidance on how to complete this form
      * Remember the match requirement (will need to cover 25% of overall project budget – could be cash match or service match)
        + Cannot match with other CoC funds or ESG funds
      * Start early and ask a lot of questions!

Questions:

1. Could apply for wages for a staff person who then could provide assessments?
   1. Yes in thinking about supportive services and where does coordinated entry fit into that. Could be a budget line item for supportive services or administration. Want to be sure we’re not putting more strain on an already strained CES system. Could also apply for support service only just for CES/assessments.
2. Can existing projects that are underfunded apply?
   1. No, all new projects. But could look at supports services only (SSO) tied to an existing project. However, HUD won’t put this into a project where beds are funded by the CoC or ESG.
3. Idea – see project expansion for CE that adds a position or staff to do assessments and clean up the CE list
4. Can have site-based vouchers from PHAs in mix with SSO?
   1. HUD only considers it a double dip if CoC or ESG funds. So could use SSO if attached to section 8 or housing choice voucher (even though upstream, this is HUD funding 😊)
5. Will there be new project money in the traditional NOFO? Or will it all be here?
   1. Great question! This is what we are waiting on. If there are Bonus funds in the traditional NOFO and better match – projects will need to weigh which one makes the most sense for them. Also why trying to be transparent re where we rank nationally with the bonus points.
   2. Also you cannot submit an application for the same project in both NOFOs.