BACKGROUND: The St. Louis County Minnesota Continuum of Care (MN-509) is seeking project applicants for the 2022 Continuum of Care Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness funding via the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Program competition (FR-6500-N-25S) released on June 22nd, 2022. Today, HUD open the E-Snaps grant portal for applications.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a first-of-its-kind package of resources to address unsheltered homelessness and homeless encampments, including funds set aside specifically to address homelessness in rural communities.

The purpose of this Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Special NOFO) is to target efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness, particularly in communities with very high levels of unsheltered homelessness and homelessness in rural areas. Through this Special NOFO, HUD will award funding to communities to implement coordinated approaches -- grounded in Housing First and public health principles -- to reduce the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness, and improve services engagement, health outcomes, and housing stability among highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families. **This Special NOFO strongly promotes partnerships with healthcare organizations, public housing authorities and mainstream housing providers, and people with lived expertise of homelessness.**

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, Indian Tribes, 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) (TDHEs)), and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or 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. 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.

Approximately $322,000,000 is available nationwide in this Special NOFO. Of this amount, $54,500,000 is available only for projects that serve rural areas as defined in section III.C.2.k and $267,500,000 is available for projects as part of the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside.

CoCs will have the opportunity to submit projects for two funding opportunities through this Special NOFO: (1) Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside and (2) Rural Set Aside. CoCs may apply for projects under one or both funding opportunities as follows:

1. *Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside*. Projects included in this funding opportunity may serve any geographic area within the CoC and must meet all eligibility and quality threshold requirements established in this Special NOFO. A CoC’s maximum award amount for this funding opportunity is described in Section III.J of the NOFO.
2. *Rural Set Aside.* Projects included in this funding opportunity must serve geographic areas that meet the definition of “rural area” as defined in Section III.C.2.k of the NOFO and meet all eligibility and quality threshold requirements established in this Special NOFO. CoCs whose geographic areas do not include any rural areas are not eligible for funding under this funding opportunity. A CoC’s maximum award amount for this funding opportunity is described in Section III.J of the NOFO.

Per HUD guidelines, the **St. Louis County CoC is eligible to apply for $10,115 for Rural Set Aside projects**. Given the definition of Rural for this NOFO, only projects located on the Boise Forte Tribal Nation’s land are eligible for the rural Bonus. This amount is the total available for the three-year grant contract. **The CoC is also eligible to apply for approximately $4,129,591for CoC of Unsheltered Set Aside**. This amount is the total available to the CoC for the three-year grant contract.

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. All Project applicants should review the full HUD Special NOFO and all local competition requirements.

Project applicants may receive funds to support new Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, Joint Transitional/Rapid Re-housing, Support Services Only, CoC Planning Grants, HMIS, or Coordinated Entry Grants. The Unsheltered Set Aside is open to all applicants in the CoC including new applicants.

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>.

PROJECT APPLICATION: By **October 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).

* The CoC deadline for applications will be a minimum of 30 days prior to the HUD deadline of October 20th and will be aligned with the traditional CoC NOFO deadline as much as possible.
* The full timeline of deadlines will be available soon. 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 2022 Special NOFO 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.

Materials needed for submission:

* 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 the NOFO • 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
    - 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 applicationsusing the CoC Project Scoring & Ranking Criteria that will be created and approved by Heading Home Advisory Committee, the CoC Governing Board. The CoC Project Scoring & Ranking Criteria will be available on the SLC CoC NOFA Webpage to allow applicants to view and ask questions about the ranking criteria prior to the scoring and ranking process.

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, 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 prior to the October 20th HUD deadline 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 may employ rating panels to review and rate all or part of the CoC Applications according to the rating criteria in this special NOFO. Projects with rental assistance, leasing, or operations may be adjusted by 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. Administrative and reporting requirements for successful applicants is outlined in the NOFO.

COC NOFO APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

• CoC Office Hours: Every Thursday from 11am to 12:30pm via Microsoft Teams. To get the meeting link email Courtney Cochran: [Cochranc@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:Cochranc@stlouiscountymn.gov).

* 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 Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness FR-6500-N-25S](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC/Unsheltered-and-Rural-Homelessness-NOFO-FR-6500.pdf)

* Questions regarding specific program requirements for this NOFO should be directed to SpecialCoCNOFO@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/](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 NOFO and the applications in E-snaps may submit an electronic inquiry via the HUD Exchange E-snaps AAQ at [www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/](http://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.