

## Before Starting the CoC Application

You must submit all three of the following parts in order for us to consider your Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application,
2. the CoC Priority Listing, and
3. all the CoC's project applications that were either approved and ranked, or rejected.

As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The FY 2024 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2024 CoC Application Detailed Instructions which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachment are provided.

Your CoC Must Approve the Consolidated Application before You Submit It  
- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the CoC Consolidated Application for the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition on behalf of your CoC.

- 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit the Consolidated Application into e-snaps.

### Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

### Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You Must Upload an Attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

- Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.

- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

## 1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

**1A-1. CoC Name and Number:** VT-501 - Burlington/Chittenden County CoC

**1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name:** City of Burlington

**1A-3. CoC Designation:** CA

**1A-4. HMIS Lead:** Institute for Community Alliances

## 1B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

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<b>1B-1.</b>	<b>Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.</b>	
	NOFO Sections V.B.1.a.(1), V.B.1.e., V.B.1f., and V.B.1.p.	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024:	
	1. select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted—including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC’s coordinated entry system; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC’s geographic area:	

	Organization/Person	Participated in CoC Meetings	Voted, Including Electing CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
9.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	No	No
14.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	No	No

17.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	No
18.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Other Victim Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	Yes	No	No
30.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	Yes	No	No
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other: (limit 50 characters)			
34.	Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission	Yes	No	No
35.				

<b>1B-1a.</b>	<b>Experience Promoting Racial Equity.</b>	
	NOFO Section III.B.3.c.	

Describe in the field below your CoC's experience in effectively addressing the needs of underserved communities, particularly Black and Brown communities, who are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

VT-501 is implementing a Strategic Planning process to update strategies and planning cognizant of the impacts of the pandemic, an almost threefold increase in the population experiencing homelessness in CoC area, and increases in the proportion of black and brown people experiencing homelessness. The process sought input from people with lived experience, including BIPOC members of the community. BIPOC community members are represented on the Steering Committee of the CoC. The membership committee has conducted outreach to include organizations led by and serving BIPOC community members. VT-501 CoC produces and analyses data on a regular basis to identify disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance. Data and reports are reviewed and discussed at Steering, Executive and Sub-Committee meetings to ensure that disparities are unidentified, understood and action steps may be planned to address disparities, consistent with federal nondiscrimination requirements.

VT-501 Governance charter change adopted in 2021 requires ‘ensure sub-committees identify and respond to systemic inequities, utilizing data and feedback of those with lived experience, especially from the BIPOC community, to develop policies and practices through continuous assessment of disparities. Sub-Committees report change and progress to the Steering Committee. VT-501 recently reviewed HMIS program data, including Coordinated Entry data for racial disparities. The analysis showed that exits to permanent housing and length of time homeless indicated no disparities, by race. The enrollments in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), showed some level of disparity for Black/African American/African participants. The PSH projects and CoC leadership are reviewing the analysis and data, to understand the cause and possible resolution of any disparity in access. Further, the CoC is seeking to strengthen its relationship with organizations advocating for and serving BIPOC community members, bringing them into membership to reduce disparities and better serve BIPOC community members.

<b>1B-2.</b>	<b>Open Invitation for New Members.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(2)	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
	1. communicated a transparent invitation process annually (e.g., communicated to the public on the CoC’s website) to solicit new members to join the CoC;	
	2. ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and	
	3. invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in your CoC’s geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.VT-501 CoC operates an open invitation process to actively solicit new members. Monthly board meeting notices are distributed via list serv, website, social media and county-wide e-boards. Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA) website invites “The CCHA welcomes and invites any interested party or community member to join the CCHA and to contact our facilitator xx@xx for more information.” CCHA invites potential new members to learn about CoC through community meetings. CCHA solicits new Steering Committee members through the email listserv, website, social media and targeted individual outreach. VT-501 CoC operates via an affirmative outreach and marketing policy and its Outreach and Membership Committee identifies potential interested and qualified candidates for positions on the Steering Committee, including officer positions; conducts outreach to the public to increase participation in CCHA activities; works to increase the input and advocacy of community members with lived experience; and plans Community Meetings. To increase accessibility, meetings are remote and in person, plain language is used, along with an acronym key to highlight common acronyms.

2. VT-501 CCHA webpage and mailings invite “CCHA materials are available in alternative formats for persons with disabilities”. CoC Board includes a statewide disabilities organization, providing input on communicating effectively with people living with disabilities. CoC Information is accessible via email, telephone, and website. CoC offers virtual and in-person access to meetings, translation services, and uses a variety of accessible spaces for community meetings.

3. VT-501 invites organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness to address equity by: conducting outreach with and participation by those organizations, including direct outreach by the membership committee, the list serve, and member outreach. CCHA charter change includes the commitment to “conduct outreach to ensure that the membership is reflective of our community and includes BIPOC representation to increase participation, leadership, and decision-making within CCHA activities”. Membership and CoC partnerships include organizations led by or serving LGTBQ+ & DV/SV, peer organization and organizations led by and serving people with disabilities, and organizations led by or serving BIPOC and refugee, immigrant community members, along with VT-211, Vermont Legal Aid, and Pathways-VT.

1B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(3)	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness, or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;	
2.	communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information;	
3.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and	
4.	took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.VT-501 CoC strategic planning process includes workshops, focus groups, and surveys of people with lived experience, shelter and service, affordable housing, youth service, mental health, seniors, community action, DV/SV, healthcare, substance use, veteran, disability, families, seniors and organizations led by or serving BIPOC and refugee and immigrant community members to bring the widest input on preventing and ending homelessness. CoC Community meetings attended by community members, legislators & councilors. CoC uses human-centered design approach. Monthly board meetings open to all & include monthly updates from members & partners. Trainings and workshops from a diverse range of partners including harm reduction, trauma informed practice, understanding racial disparities, outreach and supports to unsheltered populations.

2.VT-501 communicates information via CCHA list serv, monthly board Meetings, community meetings, forums, CCHA website, & partner org list serv. Website and meeting openings include “Our CCHA meetings are open to the community. We welcome input from community members, especially those with lived experience of homelessness and offer stipends. We also welcome those who have worked or volunteered serving people who are homeless, employees of government agencies, representatives of the business community, members of religious and secular organizations, and others who want to make a positive difference in our community.” Agenda items for questions & discussion to solicit information from community & other stakeholders.

3.VT-501 CoC webpage informs readers “Materials are available in alternative formats for persons with disabilities”. CoC Board includes a statewide disabilities organization, providing input on communicating effectively with people living with disabilities. CCHA Information is accessible via email, telephone and website, a variety of electronic formats. CoC meetings are hybrid, with translation services and in a variety of accessible spaces. Meetings include discussion and public comments. Membership outreach to individuals with disabilities and peer organizations.

4. Information gathered through extensive consultation process central to the formation of strategies and priorities. CoC Board meetings facilitated to strengthen participation and encourage reflection. Information collection informed expanded non-congregate shelter, expanded low barrier shelter, CE prioritization changes, & permanent housing planning.

1B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Awarded CoC Program Funding.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(4)	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:	
1.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;	
2.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications—the process;	
3.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and	
4.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 CoC notified the public that the local competition was open and accepting proposals with the Request for Proposals published on the publicly available CoC website and local City Government website, shared with partner networks and CoC list serve that is wider than membership (200+). The notification was published in a newspaper with general circulation in the CoC’s geographic area. Notification shared with Town Clerks and libraries across the CoC for public posting, on partner websites, social media and list servs. All VT-501 email, public notices, and advertisements contained the wording “Organizations that do not currently receive CCHA CoC program funding are encouraged to submit proposals.”

2. All VT-501 public notices, advertisements, public meetings, and notifications include a link to the combined RFP and application form, directs applicants to complete the form and submit it electronically to the Collaborative Applicant (with email), submission deadline, and encourages enquires and questions.

3. The VT 501 RFP and application form explains the process for review of project proposals. The Ranking Policy & Tools are available on the CCHA website and linked for applicants. The following statement from the RFP: “The unbiased Application Ranking Committee will use the CoC-approved Policy & Tool, along with HUD CoC NOFO thresholds and guidance, to make funding determinations and rank approved projects to be submitted to HUD for consideration. The Chittenden County Homeless Alliance Steering Committee will review and approve the recommendations”, the appeals process is fully described. The process is described in a training/information webinar, available live and online.

4. VT-501 CCHA webpage, public meetings and notices, and the RFP application document inform “the CCHA 2024 Request for Proposals is available in alternative formats for persons with disabilities” and provides contact name, position title, email, and phone number. The Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL) available for consultation on alternative formats. The RFP posted in different electronic formats, accessible websites, listservs, social media. CoC and Collaborative Applicant staff are available by phone and email and to assist with inquiries and any needed translation services. Online and In-person information sessions offered and recorded.



## 1C. Coordination and Engagement

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

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<b>1C-1.</b>	<b>Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	
	In the chart below:	
	1. select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC's coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC's geographic area.	

	Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects	Coordinates with the Planning or Operations of Projects?
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Yes
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Yes
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		

<b>1C-2.</b>	<b>CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	

In the chart below select yes or no to indicate whether your CoC:

1.	Consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG Program funds?	Yes
2.	Provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area?	Yes
3.	Ensured local homelessness information is communicated and addressed in the Consolidated Plan updates?	Yes
4.	Coordinated with ESG recipients in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients?	Yes

<b>1C-3.</b>	<b>Ensuring Families are not Separated.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.c.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ensures emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH) do not deny admission or separate family members regardless of each family member's self-reported sexual orientation and gender identity:

1.	Conducted mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated?	Yes
2.	Conducted optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure family members are not separated?	Yes
3.	Worked with CoC and ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients?	Yes
4.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within your CoC's geographic area that might be out of compliance and took steps to work directly with those facilities to bring them into compliance?	Yes
5.	Sought assistance from HUD by submitting questions or requesting technical assistance to resolve noncompliance by service providers?	Yes

<b>1C-4.</b>	<b>CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:

1.	Youth Education Provider	Yes
2.	State Education Agency (SEA)	Yes
3.	Local Education Agency (LEA)	Yes
4.	School Districts	Yes

<b>1C-4a.</b>	<b>Formal Partnerships with Youth Education Providers, SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Describe in the field below the formal partnerships your CoC has with at least one of the entities where you responded yes in question 1C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

VT 501 CoC maintains a formal relationship with the SEA Vermont Agency of Education through the adopted the Education Services Policy. This ensures all children and youth experiencing homelessness, as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, can access free and appropriate education, including the requirement to support Vermont's Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program. The EHCY ensures that students experiencing homelessness have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other Vermont children, with the opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards. The EHCY program is authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, and seeks to identify and address the challenges that children and youth experiencing homelessness may face in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. A policy requirements is that all CoC family programs will include a staff person designated to ensure children are enrolled in school & connected to the appropriate services in the community. Additionally, VT-501 collaborates with the State AOE sharing LEA reported data on homelessness to inform CoC needs assessments. AOE provides training for LEAs and partners to access coordinated entry and understand the rights of children, youth and families experiencing homelessness.

As an example of developing system wide processes with school districts, in 2022 VT-501 welcomed Champlain Valley School District (CVSD), the largest area school district serving 3877 students in grades K-12 (FY23 Annual report), as a voting member, formalizing the relationship between the CoC and CVSD. During 2023-4, services expanded to a second school district (Winooski) and the CoC executed an MOU to enable these school districts to participate in the Coordinated Entry System. In 2024, the VT501 CoC worked in collaboration with the Burlington School District (BSD) to engage in case consultation for families with children within the BSD exited from the State General Assistance Emergency Housing Program.

1C-4b.	Informing Individuals and Families Who Have Recently Begun Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC uses to inform individuals and families who have recently begun experiencing homelessness of their eligibility for educational services.

(limit 2,500 characters)

VT-501 CoC has adopted a written education policy & procedure to ensure all individuals and families who become homeless are informed of their eligibility for education services & are enrolled in free education. Including:

1. Establishing policies and practices that are consistent with, and do not restrict the exercise of, the educational rights afforded to students experiencing homelessness under federal law.
2. For CoC-funded programs that provide housing or services to families, designating a staff person to ensure that children are enrolled in school & are connected to appropriate services.
3. Taking the educational needs of children into account when families are placed in emergency or transitional shelter & to the maximum extent practicable, placing families w/ children as close as possible to their school of origin so as not to disrupt the children's education.
4. Collaborating with schools to assist in the identification of children & youth experiencing homelessness & to ensure that these children and youth are informed of their eligibility for school-based McKinney-Vento services.
5. Seeking the continuing input of school homeless liaisons to make the CoC's coordinated entry process welcoming & easily accessible for youth & families with children. The State of VT's Education for Homeless Children & Youth program ensures that families experiencing homelessness are informed of their eligibility for educational services.

Homeless students have equal access to the same free, appropriate, public education (including public preschool) provided to other Vermont children & all HOP funded programs (federal ESG funded & State funded) are required to refer children & youth to their local homeless education liaison. Local agencies use a Self Sufficiency Matrix for households receiving Housing Navigation services to help identify issues of concern & includes a category of "Child Development and Education" specifically noting whether the child is enrolled in school.

A pilot project with two CoC districts brings one FTE housing navigator and assessment coordinator to provide housing stability and navigation services to families who are homeless or at-risk of being homeless. This has expanded access to families with school-age children to HOP/ESG and other housing resources.

1C-4c.	Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC has written formal agreements or partnerships with the listed providers of early childhood services:

		MOU/MOA	Other Formal Agreement
1.	Birth to 3 years	No	Yes
2.	Child Care and Development Fund	No	No
3.	Early Childhood Providers	No	Yes
4.	Early Head Start	No	Yes
5.	Federal Home Visiting Program—(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV)	No	No
6.	Head Start	No	Yes

7.	Healthy Start	No	Yes
8.	Public Pre-K	No	Yes
9.	Tribal Home Visiting Program	No	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)		
10.			

1C-5.	Addressing Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking–Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

In the chart below select yes or no for the organizations your CoC collaborates with:

	Organizations	
1.	State Domestic Violence Coalitions	Yes
2.	State Sexual Assault Coalitions	Yes
3.	Anti-trafficking Service Providers	Yes
	Other Organizations that Help this Population (limit 500 characters)	
4.		

1C-5a.	Collaborating with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers to Address Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations that you selected yes to in Question 1C-5 to:

1.	update CoC-wide policies; and
2.	ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC's geographic area are trauma-informed and can meet the needs of survivors.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.VT-501 CoC includes in its voting membership Steps to End Domestic Violence (Steps), taking the lead in the CoC’s collaborative work to assist in the transition to a safe, independent life for those who have been affected physically, sexually, emotionally or economically by domestic abuse and to promote a culture that fosters justice, equity and safety. This provides for CoC collaboration with HUD CoC and HUD ESG programs and victim service providers to address needs of domestic violence, Dating violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and stalking survivors. These are collaborations within both CoC and ESG Programs. Steps provide leadership and participation on the Steering Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Coordinated Entry Committee, enabling the CoC to utilize Steps knowledge and experience to inform all CoC-wide policy development and planning. As an example, Steps was a lead collaborator in development of the Coordinated Entry system to ensure safe and trauma informed practice. Additionally, the CoC collaborates with other victim service provider organizations, and State DV and SV coalitions through these networks. The CoC consults with stakeholders to update policy and reviews discussion at sub-committee, steering committee and community meetings to receive input and inform policy update.

2. VT-501 CoC offers via its member organizations CoC wide training opportunities focused on trauma informed practice and care that meets the needs of survivors. Within the VT-501 CoC, training is required for any provider conducting CE assessments to ensure a trauma-informed response, centering client safety. In addition, Steps to End Domestic Violence offers training on trauma – its neurobiology, its impact on those we serve (with an emphasis on domestic violence survivors), vicarious trauma among staff, and how to be a trauma informed organization. Additional trainings are offered in partnership with the State Office of Economic Opportunity on VAWA requirements, and an online training on Domestic Violence. The Vermont Pride Center has presented to the Coordinated Entry committee on the unique needs of LGBTQ+ survivors

1C-5b.	Implemented Safety Planning, Confidentiality Protocols in Your CoC’s Coordinated Entry to Address the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC’s coordinated entry addresses the needs of DV survivors by including:	
1.	safety planning protocols; and	
2.	confidentiality protocols.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. VT-501's Coordinated Entry protocols allow survivors to choose between specialized & general access hubs. Both include confidentiality protocols. Specialized access hubs provide a separate confidential HMIS comparable data collection system & specialized victim services. General access hubs participate in trainings on trauma-informed, victim-centered services. Hubs and referral partners work with survivors to connect them with the appropriate hub in order to center their needs and ensure they are receiving the appropriate specialized services. Additionally, general access hubs have access to de-identified protocols, to ensure that households with safety concerns remain confidential. VT-501's safety planning protocols include an approved Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of DV. It provides clear guidance on eligibility for & process to obtain an emergency transfer. A tenant who is a victim of DV/SV or stalking (per HUD regulations) is eligible for emergency transfer if the tenant reasonably believes there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if they remain in the unit. A tenant may be eligible to transfer if a sexual assault occurred on the premises within the preceding 6-month period. Emergency transfer requests immediately reviewed & tenant advised of determination. If approved, tenant offered a referral to a local agency providing services. Based on needs, the agency will assist with accessing housing. Programs transfer as quickly as possible to safe TH or PH. Tenant may choose to vacate the assisted unit immediately. Victim services organizations available to assist tenant with planning.

2. VT-501 Coordinated Entry System confidentiality protocols understand that maintaining the confidentiality of a person's sensitive information is an important way of gaining the trust of those accessing the Coordinated Entry System and ensuring vulnerable populations are protected from potential harm resulting from the collection and disclosure of sensitive information about their lives. All participating agencies and staff adhere to privacy protocols including:

- A person may not be denied access to the coordinated entry process on the basis of the person's status or history as a victim of domestic violence.
- Records containing personally identifying information must be kept secure and confidential.
- The address of any family violence project must not be made public.

1C-5c.	Coordinated Annual Training on Best Practices to Address the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

In the chart below, indicate how your CoC facilitates training for project staff and coordinated entry staff that addresses best practices on safety planning and confidentiality protocols:

		Project Staff	Coordinated Entry Staff
1.	Training Occurs at least annually?	Yes	Yes
2.	Incorporates Trauma Informed best practices?	Yes	Yes
3.	Incorporates Survivor-Centered best practices?	Yes	Yes
4.	Identifies and assesses survivors' individual safety needs?	Yes	Yes
5.	Enhances and supports collaboration with DV organizations?	Yes	Yes
6.	Ensures survivors' rights, voices, and perspectives are incorporated?	Yes	Yes

Other? (limit 500 characters)			
7.	VT-501 provides all staff participating in CE with training and knowledge of VT-501's Coordinated Entry confidentiality protocols to best serve survivors.	Yes	Yes

**&nbsp;**

1C-5d.	Implemented VAWA-Required Written Emergency Transfer Plan Policies and Procedures for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking. NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
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Describe in the field below:

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | whether your CoC's written policies and procedures include an emergency transfer plan;                                       |
| 2. | how your CoC informs all households seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance about their rights to an emergency transfer; |
| 3. | what your CoC requires households to do to request emergency transfers; and  |
| 4. | what your CoC does in response to households requesting emergency transfers.   |

(limit 2,500 characters)



1. VT-501’s adopted policy and procedures for an “Emergency Transfer Plan for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, or Stalking Emergency Transfers” (ETP) .
2. All individuals and families seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance receive a copy of the ETP, regardless of known survivor status. ETP available on the VT-501 website and at housing resource centers and operating organizations’ offices. All program participants made aware of the ETP upon entry to programs. Program documentation provides clear guidance on eligibility for & process to obtain emergency transfer and ensures participants have options for housing and services. ETP describes tenants eligible for an emergency transfer, documentation needed to request emergency transfer, confidentiality protections, how emergency transfer may occur, and guidance to tenants on safety and security. ETP based on a model emergency transfer plan published by HUD.

In accordance with VAWA and HUD regulations a tenant who is a victim domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking may request and is eligible for emergency transfer if the tenant reasonably believes there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if they remain in the unit. A tenant may be eligible to transfer if a sexual assault occurred on the premises within the preceding 6-month period.

3. VT-501 CoC’s adopted ETP for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors provides clear guidance on the emergency transfer process. Emergency transfer requests submitted to an identified staff via a form detailed in participant documentation. Emergency transfer requests immediately reviewed by the agency & the tenant advised of determination.
4. VT-501 CoC’s adopted ETP for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors provides clear guidance on the emergency transfer process The CoC procedures require agency to maintain confidentiality. If approved, tenant offered a referral to a local agency providing services. Based on needs, the agency will assist with accessing housing, with location choice subject to availability and safety. Programs transfer as quickly as possible to safe TH or PH, giving priority over other non-VAWA eligible transfers. Tenant may choose to vacate the assisted unit immediately. Victim services organizations are available to assist tenant with planning.

1C-5e.	Facilitating Safe Access to Housing and Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC ensures households experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have safe access to all of the housing and services available within your CoC’s geographic area.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

VT-501 CoC provides the same access to housing and services to survivors as all other populations experiencing homelessness and does not restrict access to just assistance from victim service organizations. Program procedures ensure client-driven, trauma-informed, and culturally-relevant assessment and screening tools; referral policies and procedures; and address program participants’ physical, emotional, safety, privacy, and confidentiality needs. CoC wide training for staff ensures trauma-informed care and victim-centered support with a deeper understanding of the specific needs of survivors. Training and policy and procedures ensure that participants physical, emotional, safety, privacy and confidentiality needs are assured. The CoC Coordinated Entry System (CES) ensures survivors of domestic & dating violence, sexual assault & stalking access resources by choice that are either specific to them or community-wide resources by allowing choice between accessing the system through designated special confidential access hubs or through general access hubs. The Coordinated entry System combines confidential anonymous identifiers from the HMIS comparable survivor database into the community-wide CE system master list to ensure that access is available to all resources. The CES ensures client-driven, trauma-informed, and culturally-relevant assessment and screening tools. In addition, Steps to End Domestic Violence advocates attend community service provider meetings (Community Housing Review Committee) to review all available housing opportunities and to match households to options meeting their needs.

1C-5f.	Identifying and Removing Barriers for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC ensures survivors receive safe housing and services by:	
1.	identifying barriers specific to survivors; and	
2.	working to remove those barriers.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC works to proactively identify systemic barriers for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual violence and stalking by working with stakeholders to ensure policy, procedures, training and review are in place, implemented and updated. Steps to End Domestic Violence serves as a resource and partner to non-victim service providers within the CoC to train and develop understanding. Training may include identifying trauma informed approaches and responsive practices, including responses to enhance the health and well-being of trauma exposed clients.

2. The CoC works to remove barriers through implementation and review of procedures, practices, and training. Policies, procedures and training ensure referrals and support survivors to access housing and services. All coordinated entry assessment partners and agencies are trained on survivor support to ensure access to housing and resources is not limited or restricted. The CoC coordinates to identify agency level practices and changes that improve access to housing and services for survivors. This includes reviewing resource allocation, reviewing referral processes, connecting to legal referrals to respond to inequity of access and employment issues, and ensuring social services and public benefits are understood and accessible by clients. The CoC works to ensure a range of options are available including, emergency shelter, transitional and rapid re-housing and permanent housing, housing vouchers, mortgage assistance, and federally subsidized housing. The CoC continues to work to ensure that survivors can access services and are equipped for success with living wage jobs, tax credits, benefits, childcare, financial literacy and job training.

1C-6.	Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+--Anti-Discrimination Policy and Equal Access Trainings.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

	1. Did your CoC implement a written CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination?	Yes
	2. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access Final Rule)?	Yes
	3. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs (Gender Identity Final Rule)?	Yes

1C-6a.	Anti-Discrimination Policy--Updating Policies--Assisting Providers--Evaluating Compliance--Addressing Noncompliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC regularly collaborates with LGBTQ+ and other organizations to update its CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy, as necessary to ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed and able to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and families;
2.	how your CoC assisted housing and services providers in developing project-level anti-discrimination policies that are consistent with the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy;
3.	your CoC's process for evaluating compliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies; and

4. your CoC's process for addressing noncompliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. VT-501 CoC adopted an Anti- Discrimination Policy available to members on its website and reviewed by Steering Committee and relevant sub-committees. VT-501 CoC updates policy based on stakeholder feedback, via direct consultation, and also through regular Steering Committee and Community Meetings, including LGBTQ+ organizations  
The CoC amended the Governance Charter to include a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement. This includes commitments to create and sustain inclusive environments and support policy and practices that ensure fairness and equity throughout the homeless and housing system. The Charter commits to enhance and promote training and resources among homelessness services and housing providers and to ensure sub-committees identify systemic inequities, utilize data and feedback of those with lived experience, and to develop policies and practices through continuous assessment of disparities.
2. VT-501 CoC seeks the advice and input of member organizations such as the Pride Center, with the skills and knowledge to assist providers in developing anti-discrimination policies ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination  
VT-501 CoC conducts and maintains and circulates links to, and information on, training on equal access and ant-discrimination policy and practice and also directs members and stakeholders to State of Vermont Office of Economic Opportunity online training and resources to ensure consistent and compliant project level anti-discrimination policies.
3. VT-501 CoC adopted a monitoring policy that includes monitoring for appropriate policy, including anti-discrimination policies. Monitoring serves to assist members to improve organizational capacity management or technical skills
4. VT-501 CoC monitoring policy includes a process for addressing non-compliance. Where there is an identified deficiency that results in a finding of non-compliance the CoC will identify a required corrective action needed to resolve the problem and a timeframe for the member to respond and correct and suggest or recommend actions to address any non-compliance. Corrective action includes development and implementation of project-level policies that are consistent with the CoC policy, ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination. Non-compliance would impact scoring on renewal applications.

1C-7.	Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC's Geographic Area–New Admissions–General/Limited Preference–Moving On Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

You must upload the PHA Homeless Preference\PHA Moving On Preference attachment(s) to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter information in the chart below for the two largest PHAs highlighted in gray on the current CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report or the two PHAs your CoC has a working relationship with—if there is only one PHA in your CoC's geographic area, provide information on the one:

Public Housing Agency Name	Enter the Percent of New Admissions into Public Housing or Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2023 who were experiencing homelessness at entry	Does the PHA have a General or Limited Homeless Preference?	Does the PHA have a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On?
Burlington Housing Authority	44%	Yes-HCV	No
Vermont State Housing Authority	42%	Yes-HCV	No

<b>1C-7a.</b>	<b>Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences with PHAs.</b>	
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NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

Describe in the field below:

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | steps your CoC has taken, with the two largest PHAs within your CoC's geographic area or the two PHAs your CoC has working relationships with, to adopt a homeless admission preference—if your CoC only has one PHA within its geographic area, you may respond for the one; or |
| 2. | state that your CoC has not worked with the PHAs in its geographic area to adopt a homeless admission preference.  |

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.VT-501 Chittenden CoC engaged with the largest Vermont PHA (VT State Housing Authority-VSHA) through public CoC discussion to expand VSHA Homeless Admission Preferences, preceded by requests from key stakeholders: VT Veterans Committee, VT Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs, Pathways Vermont (mental health provider/peer organization), and VT Agency of Human Services (ESG-CV CARE vouchers). VSHA adopted an expanded “Move-Up Strategy” to serve currently/recently homeless persons residing in state-funded RRH (VT Rental Subsidy Program), Domestic Violence Transitional Housing (DOJ-funded), Family Unification Program (families/youth), VA-SSVF RRH (veterans), and ESG-CV RRH (VT Agency of Human Services-CARES vouchers serving households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic). VSHA adopted a limited preference for homeless individuals & families (persons fleeing domestic and/or sexual violence, stalking, human trafficking) for Emergency Housing Vouchers with a policy adopted in 2021 and is still in current use. VSHA has a preference for transition from time-sensitive TBRA (HOME vouchers) to permanent TBRA/HCV

VT-501 Chittenden CoC engaged with the VSHA to determine specific population to serve (persons fleeing domestic violence, sexual violence and human trafficking) by new Emergency Housing Vouchers-EHV and how the EHV Service Fees would be distributed (VT Network Against DV/SV) – approved by Chittenden CoC Board with an MOU executed between VSHA, VT BoS CoC, Chittenden CoC and VT Network Against DV/SV.

VSHA adopted a limited preference for homeless individuals & families (persons fleeing domestic and/or sexual violence, stalking, human trafficking) for Emergency Housing Vouchers with a policy adopted in 2021 and is still in current use.

VT-501 worked with Burlington Housing Authority (BHA) as the largest PHA in VT-501’s geographic area. As funding allows, BHA utilizes a Local Preference option to quickly serve vulnerable applicants through the Housing Choice Voucher program, including persons who lack stable housing.. Additionally, for all BHA waiting lists, families, elderly and disabled applicants are given preference over all other single applicants. BHA continues to participate in the Steering Committee and receive Coordinated Entry referrals from the CCHA Community Housing Review Committee.

2. Not applicable – Our CoC works with PHAs to adopt homeless preferences.

1C-7b.	Moving On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers.	
	Not Scored–For Information Only	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate affordable housing providers in your CoC’s jurisdiction that your recipients use to move program participants to other subsidized housing:

1.	Multifamily assisted housing owners	No
2.	PHA	No
3.	Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments	Yes
4.	Local low-income housing programs	Yes
	Other (limit 150 characters)	
5.		

1C-7c.	Include Units from PHA Administered Programs in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry. NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	
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In the chart below, indicate if your CoC includes units from the following PHA programs in your CoC's coordinated entry process:

1.	Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)	Yes
2.	Family Unification Program (FUP)	No
3.	Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)	No
4.	HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	Yes
5.	Mainstream Vouchers	Yes
6.	Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers	Yes
7.	Public Housing	No
8.	Other Units from PHAs:	
	RAD	Yes

1C-7d.	Submitting CoC and PHA Joint Applications for Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness. NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	
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1.	Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a competitive joint application(s) for funding or jointly implement a competitive project serving individuals or families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other programs)?	No
		<b>Program Funding Source</b>
2.	Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement.	

1C-7e.	Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV). NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	
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	Did your CoC coordinate with any PHA to apply for or implement funding provided for Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to homelessness, including vouchers provided through the American Rescue Plan?	Yes
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## 1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1D-1.	Preventing People Transitioning from Public Systems from Experiencing Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.h.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the public systems listed to ensure persons who have resided in them longer than 90 days are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs.

1.	Prisons/Jails?	Yes
2.	Health Care Facilities?	Yes
3.	Residential Care Facilities?	Yes
4.	Foster Care?	Yes

1D-2.	Housing First—Lowering Barriers to Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

1.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition.	5
2.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.	5
3.	This number is a calculation of the percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, SSO non-Coordinated Entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	100%

1D-2a.	Project Evaluation for Housing First Compliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

You must upload the Housing First Evaluation attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.  
Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC evaluates every project—where the applicant checks Housing First on their project application—to determine if they are using a Housing First approach;
2.	the list of factors and performance indicators your CoC uses during its evaluation;
3.	how your CoC regularly evaluates projects outside of your local CoC competition to ensure the projects are using a Housing First approach; and
4.	what your CoC has done to improve fidelity to Housing First.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 PSH and RRH projects are required to implement a Housing First approach. The CoC determines that a Housing First approach is used through the yearly funding application process and scoring, through project monitoring and evaluation and the Coordinated Entry System and assessment that prioritizes by need and identifies households with the most complex needs.

2. VT-501 CoC factors and performance indicators include that participants will not be screened out for; a) too little, loss of, or no income, b) active or history of substance use, c) criminal record (with some exceptions under local/state/federal law such as lifetime sex offender registry, etc), d) history of domestic violence (e.g. lack of a protective order, period of separation from abuser, or law enforcement involvement), e) failure to participate in supportive services or to make progress on a service plan, f) any other activity not covered in a typical lease agreement

3. The CoC implements a self-evaluation, using the Housing First Evaluation Checklist Tool and brings providers together to discuss and reflect upon Housing First implementation. Housing First compliance includes prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization and not requiring service participation or preconditions of service participants. All CoC PSH and RRH projects are required to operate via referrals from CE, following Housing First practices, CE consults with projects and participants with an annual evaluation and community survey of the quality and effectiveness of the system. Annual training reinforces implementation of Housing First across the CE system.

4. The CoC works continuously to review and improve fidelity to Housing First and through policy and practice is committed to providing low barrier projects without service participation requirements or preconditions to entry and that prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing. This commitment is exemplified by CoC Housing First implementers hosting information and education events including a recent viewing and discussion panel on the ‘Beyond the Bridge’ documentary

1D-3.	Street Outreach—Data—Reaching People Least Likely to Request Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.j.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC tailored its street outreach to people experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.
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**(limit 2,500 characters)**

The CoC operates coordinated street outreach (SO) teams and utilizes practices tailored to people experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance. SO teams meet at least monthly to ensure coordination and coverage and warm hand offs to the most appropriate outreach personnel. SO is low barrier, trauma informed and person centered. SO teams are multidisciplinary have mental health expertise, offer medical services and permanent & regular skilled staff allow trusted relationships. CoC members offer telephone interpretation services for limited English proficiency and effective communications for people with disabilities. SO offers a variety of communication resources to ensure that housing and supportive services connect regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, familial status, or disability, mental health status, substance use or a variety of other barriers that might impact contact

1. SO Safe Harbor includes social work and medical staff & mobile clinic, offering medical care and service access points outside.
2. City of Burlington public safety departments pair EMT's, social work, other street outreach staff, and community service liaisons to provide coordinated responses and extend contact to those least likely to engage with services and provides an alternative to 911 police response.
3. The Community Outreach Resource and Advocacy Team connects clients to case management and provides direct support to people in encampments and other remote, community-based locations in Chittenden County.
4. The area designated provider for mental health and developmental disability supports two SO teams. The first operates in the City of Burlington downtown and the second in the rest of Chittenden County.
5. SSVF conducts SO within the CoC to ID veterans requiring access to services.

SO workers develop relationship and trust with the people they serve to connect clients with Coordinated Entry; ensuring both basic needs provision and housing-focused services.

The CoC street outreach strategies seek input from people with lived experience of homelessness, food banks, human services and community organizations, town managers and city depts, public library, public transit authorities, hospitals, health care workers, first responders, law enforcement, criminal justice reform orgs, school and college administrations, neighborhood groups and other community members.

1D-4.	Strategies to Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.k.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate your CoC's strategies to prevent the criminalization of homelessness in your CoC's geographic area:

Your CoC's Strategies	Engaged/Educated Legislators and Policymakers	Implemented Laws/Policies/Practices that Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness

1.	Increase utilization of co-responder responses or social services-led responses over law enforcement responses to people experiencing homelessness?	Yes	Yes
2.	Minimize use of law enforcement to enforce bans on public sleeping, public camping, or carrying out basic life functions in public places?	Yes	Yes
3.	Avoid imposing criminal sanctions, including fines, fees, and incarceration for public sleeping, public camping, and carrying out basic life functions in public places?	Yes	Yes
4.	Other:(limit 500 characters)		

1D-5.	Rapid Rehousing–RRH Beds as Reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) or Longitudinal Data from HMIS.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

		HIC Longitudinal HMIS Data	2023	2024
	Enter the total number of RRH beds available to serve all populations as reported in the HIC or the number of households served per longitudinal HMIS data, e.g., APR.	HIC	53	56

1D-6.	Mainstream Benefits–CoC Annual Training of Project Staff.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m.	

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains program staff annually on the following mainstream benefits available for program participants within your CoC's geographic area:

	Mainstream Benefits	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI–Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	SSDI–Social Security Disability Insurance	Yes
4.	TANF–Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
5.	Substance Use Disorder Programs	Yes
6.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
7.	Other (limit 150 characters)	

1D-6a.	Information and Training on Mainstream Benefits and Other Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1.	works with projects to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including those that provide substance use disorder treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services, including Medicaid; and
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2.	promotes SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.
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**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 CoC includes membership of a number of healthcare and recovery organizations and partners with other organizations in the geographic area, to assist program participants in receiving healthcare services, including Medicaid. Our partner organizations provide meeting and list serve updates and training opportunities to our partners including:  
 Community Health Centers of Burlington operate the Homeless Healthcare Program services including medical and mental health/psychiatry at no-cost for adults and families experiencing homelessness. CHCB provides regular updates to CoC members at meetings and via list serve.  
 Vermonter for Criminal Justice Reform provide regular training on their services for harm reduction and access to healthcare services.  
 Turning Point Center is a CoC member and offers regular information, training and updates on recovery services and specific recovery outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness.  
 UVM Medical Center is a Steering Committee member and provides a variety of information resources and funding for community health projects. The medical center partners with the CoC on the Here 2 Help clinic, a collaboration of UVM Medical School Schweitzer Fellow and the CoC, designed to improve physician experience and knowledge of those experiencing homelessness.
  
2. VT- 501 works with mainstream programs that assist clients to utilize mainstream benefits via street outreach, case management and supportive services. The State has a single online VT Consolidated Benefits Application for benefit programs. VT SOAR supports service providers in the CoC and provides the CoC’s participants with a high rate of access to mainstream programs, VT SOAR training of VT-501 member staff in Vermont supports increased access to SSDI for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and experience mental illness, substance use or other medical impairment. CoC member agencies, SOAR-trained Caseworkers participate in refresher courses. VT Agency of Human Services Field Directors participate in the CoC, at board and committee level, supporting coordination for access to assistance. The CoC website refers to training available at the State OEO website on subjects including, food insecurity, WIC, food stamps, Substance Use and other relevant webinars.

ID-7.	Partnerships with Public Health Agencies—Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent the Spread of Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to develop CoC-wide policies and procedures that:

1.	respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and
2.	prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 CoC collaborates with state and local public health agencies to develop CoC policies and procedures to respond to infectious disease outbreaks. The pandemic strengthened systemic responses and collaboration between the CoC, shelter and service providers, community health organizations, local hospitals and other health providers, and state agencies, including the VT Department of Health (VDH). Shelter and housing providers have local working relationships to respond, in partnership. Connections and systems built during the pandemic remain in place and leveraged for future public health emergencies to allow for quick distribution and sharing of resources, guidance, etc. particularly in the early response when information is evolving. Policies and procedures held at State level and in partnership with the CoC will be fully codified.

2. VT-501 CoC collaborates with state and local public health agencies in a number of ways to prevent infectious disease outbreaks among those experiencing homelessness. Public health guidance and protocols for providers included infection prevention training from the VDH to implement universal infection prevention methods, through shelter administration, vaccination and testing, masking, physical distancing, and facility operations. VDH makes available free Narcan, drug test strips, COVID PCR tests, and other harm reduction tools. VDH established Homeless Health Equity Care Capacity Building Grants. Community Health Center and local teaching hospital (CHCB and UVM MC) are members of the CoC and collaborate at Steering Committee and through information sharing to prevent infectious disease outbreaks. In addition to coordinated state action to deconcentrate shelters and provide open access to hotels during the pandemic, CHCB provided access to mobile testing, vaccination and treatment at shelters, hotels and in public spaces to ensure access to services to prevent infectious disease spread. The CoC actions and policies to prevent infectious disease spread included actions to encourage housing stability, and reducing congregate spaces. CHCB pilot program, using SoV Opioid Settlement funds, of nurse presence in emergency shelters is an innovative and effective practice, enriching shelter operations.

The CoC has seen emergency systems successfully in action this year in response to both local flooding emergencies and the EEE outbreak, impacting our community experiencing homelessness.

ID-7a.	Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases. NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	
Describe in the field below how your CoC:		
1.	effectively shared information related to public health measures and homelessness; and	
2.	facilitated communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers to ensure street outreach providers and shelter and housing providers are equipped to prevent or limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. VT-501 responded to the pandemic, establishing the CoC COVID Homeless Response Team and utilized CoC communication tools and listserv as primary means of communication to homeless service providers. Public health information is shared from Vermont Department of Health and its field offices and the CDC and other federal entities. Information is shared statewide utilizing list serve to distribute information and notice meetings and training. Local team meetings daily, and twice-weekly statewide meetings pass on information and answer questions on implementation of public health safety procedures and protocols, including Vermont’s Department of Health, guidance on safety measures, trainings on cleaning, PPE access and use, other prevention strategies. The CoC and statewide agencies shared information on providing safe shelter for homeless individuals testing positive, access to testing and to vaccination. The City of Burlington provided access to funding and information to improve ventilation. Public presentations and webinars were utilized for information sharing.

2. The structure of VT-501 CoC and its large and diverse membership enabled facilitated communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers. As a public health response information may be shared via the Department of Health daily or less frequent virtual meetings to share information and provide online access to experts to respond to questions and concerns. Written materials are shared via list serve to all members and social media and websites. Information is available to homeless service providers, including outreach and case managers, shelter and housing providers and their staff, public sector workers involved in working with those in the homelessness system, clients and members of the public.

We have seen effective use of these systems in information sharing and communication during recent flooding emergencies and the EEE outbreak that impacted our community members experiencing homelessness.

1D-8.	Coordinated Entry Standard Processes.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC’s coordinated entry system:	
1.	can serve everybody regardless of where they are located within your CoC’s geographic area;
2.	uses a standardized assessment process to achieve fair, equitable, and equal access to housing and services within your CoC;
3.	collects personal information in a trauma-informed way; and
4.	is updated at least annually using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1.VT-501 CE covers 100% of the geographic area of the CoC and takes a ‘no wrong door’ approach to accessing CE to lower the burden on those accessing the system. 2-1-1 is a virtual access point in Chittenden County, providing full geographic coverage & makes referrals to assessment hubs for CE Providers. CE has a centralized email and phone number for ease of access. VT-501 CoC has five street outreach teams throughout the geographic area of the CoC for quick identification, assessment, and engagement of those unsheltered. The teams operate using a variety of methods and priorities to ensure contact and engagement with all persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

2. To ensure fair and equal access to resources, the CoC CE utilizes a standardized assessment process. The CoC developed specialized assessments to meet the needs of different populations and to capture inherent vulnerability differences. Baseline assessments expand with specific questions adjusted for families, DV survivors, and youth and their needs. Assessments developed in coordination with family, DV, and youth providers and feedback from their service users. The information gathered in the assessment process is reviewed in weekly case conference meetings (Community Housing Review Committee). CE prioritization was created for families with minor children, to address vulnerability of minor children experiencing homelessness.

3. CE is trauma informed & enrollment is entirely voluntary. De-identified enrollment is offered for confidentiality, with few agencies included in the release. CE structures intakes as a conversation with the household. Intakes start with the name, date of birth, and other demographic information before the assessment, helping assessors to develop a rapport before getting to more personal questions. Assessors are trained to be trauma informed and to listen and empathize with the household.

4. Chittenden CE routinely updates policies, procedures, and forms in response to feedback from providers and service users. VT-501 has a CoC subcommittee, the CE Subcommittee, dedicated to CE governance. The CE subcommittee recommends policy changes to the CoC. The CE subcommittee completes a yearly evaluation of the CE process, including feedback from providers and service users.

1D-8a.	Coordinated Entry–Program Participant-Centered Approach.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:
1.	reaches people who are least likely to apply for homeless assistance in the absence of special outreach;
2.	prioritizes people most in need of assistance;
3.	ensures people most in need of assistance receive permanent housing in a timely manner, consistent with their needs and preferences; and
4.	takes steps to reduce burdens on people seeking assistance.



**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 Coordinated Entry includes outreach staff to focus on those experiencing unsheltered homelessness and/or otherwise difficult to engage. CE outreach staff make contact at encampments, daytime shelters, emergency shelters and with providers around the geographic area. VT-501 CE works with a variety of access points and referral partners for expanded outreach to secure connection to a homelessness service provider. Expanded outreach supports contact for services with those least likely to apply for assistance. Medical and mental health providers operating as assessment points expand outreach and contact. Alongside street outreach, medical and mental health, the CE system partners with VT 211, youth service and outreach providers, Vermont Center for Independent Living, Pride Center, city departments, law enforcement, and other service providers.
2. VT-501 CE assessment process utilizes a scored Vulnerability Assessment tool that prioritizes people according to severity of service need. CE policies & procedures establish an order of priority based on severity of service need & length of time homeless for PSH. The order of priority for RRH also incorporates severity of service need and self-sufficiency assessment.
3. Post-assessment, CE connects those assessed with a housing navigator within one week. Housing navigators work with households in the CE process to identify eligible housing placements. Those experiencing homelessness have say at every step to direct the work towards the desired permanent housing outcome. The vulnerability assessment informs the CE prioritization process for PSH and mainstream resources through public housing authorities and the community land trust.
4. VT-501 CE takes a ‘no wrong door’ approach to accessing CE to lower the burden on those accessing the system. Providers offer assessment to clients, collecting only required information. Health services, daytime centers, and other providers refer directly to coordinated entry staff to lower barriers. CE outreach staff and other outreach teams work together to ensure CE assessment is wherever is most accessible and comfortable for the household, at hotels in the emergency system, encampment sites, drop-in and resource centers, in parks, and at shelters etc. CE staff have access to interpretation services. All households connected to a housing navigator to assist with completing housing applications, identity documents, and other supports to ease the housing process.

1D-8b.	Coordinated Entry—Informing Program Participants about Their Rights and Remedies—Reporting Violations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC through its coordinated entry:

1.	affirmatively markets housing and services provided within the CoC’s geographic area and ensures it reaches all persons experiencing homelessness;
2.	informs program participants of their rights and remedies available under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws; and
3.	reports any conditions or actions that impede fair housing choice for current or prospective program participants to the jurisdiction(s) responsible for certifying consistency with the Consolidated Plan.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1.The CCHA advertises the Coordinated Entry process in order to inform people how to get connected to housing resources experiencing homelessness, using the CCHA website, community partner websites, 211, and community partners themselves. The system uses access points to give information or make referrals. These access points include outreach services, libraries, the hospital, Economic Services Division of the Department of Children and Families, drop-centers, and food shelf. These access points are dispersed throughout the community, which enables our CoC to have a no wrong door approach for access to our CE system. To serve the underserved, access points also include the Association of Africans Living in Vermont, the Pride Center, and street outreach teams connecting with people unsheltered and harder to engage. The CoC has multiple translation service access points.

2.All persons receiving services through the Chittenden Coordinated Entry system are referred to housing navigators who work with them on their housing goals. Housing navigators work as advocates for clients and inform them of their rights. This is often focused on their ability to appeal denials from apartments or different housing programs. Housing navigators regularly help clients get through these difficult appeals processes and make sure the clients are aware of their rights. The Fair Housing Program, based out of one of our local agencies CVOEO, is a valuable resource that clients and service providers are directed to gain additional information about housing related rights under local, state, and federal law. When there are issues around rights violations, the persons receiving services are directed to Vermont Legal Aid and Fair Housing Program as appropriate.

3.The CoC CE Committee reports, via the CoC, any conditions or actions that impede fair housing choice for current or prospective program participants to CEDO, City of Burlington, the jurisdiction responsible for certifying consistency with the Consolidated Plan.

1D-9.	Advancing Racial Equity in Homelessness—Conducting Assessment.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

1.	Has your CoC conducted a racial disparities assessment in the last 3 years?	Yes
2.	Enter the date your CoC conducted its latest assessment for racial disparities.	08/30/2024

1D-9a.	Using Data to Determine if Racial Disparities Exist in Your CoC’s Provision or Outcomes of CoC Program-Funded Homeless Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

Describe in the field below:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | the data your CoC used to analyze whether any racial disparities are present in your CoC’s provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance; and       |
| 2. | how your CoC analyzed the data to determine whether any racial disparities are present in your CoC’s provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance. |

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 CoC conducted its first analysis of racial disparities in a racial equity review in 2019. This was updated in 2021, and annual reviews of whether racial disparities are present in the CoC’s provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance now occur. Qualitative data is drawn from the Point in Time count, the Census or American Communities survey, HMIS, Stella P, and CE. The CoC reviews for disparities in the experience of homelessness, access to shelter, housing and services and outcomes of those projects and services. People with lived experience of homelessness were interviewed during the strategic planning process to improve understanding of disparities in access and outcomes. People with lived experience have co-chaired the PIT and Data committees.

2. Data analysis has been provided by ICA staff, CoC member organization staff, with review and assistance by data analysts from the City of Burlington. Reports and presentations are made to CoC Steering and Community meetings and to sub-committees. The CoC utilized the CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool across a number of years. This analysis was strengthened by in-depth analysis of HMIS data by ICA and a review of PIT data by CoC members. The CoC is hosting annual conversations to follow up on the analysis, to develop understanding and broaden our thinking on the impacts of structural racism on our programs and services.

In addition to this systemic analysis the CoC includes in its Governance Charter the requirement to ‘ensure sub-committees identify systemic inequities, utilizing data and feedback of those with lived experience, especially from the BIPOC community, to develop policies and practices through continuous assessment of disparities.’ This continual assessment and review is intended to strengthen and ensure ongoing analysis and assessment of racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

1D-9b.	Implemented Strategies to Prevent or Eliminate Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the strategies your CoC is using to prevent or eliminate racial disparities.

1.	Are your CoC’s board and decisionmaking bodies representative of the population served in the CoC?	No
2.	Did your CoC identify steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC?	Yes
3.	Is your CoC expanding outreach in your CoC’s geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups?	Yes
4.	Does your CoC have communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups?	Yes
5.	Is your CoC training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness?	Yes
6.	Is your CoC establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector?	No
7.	Does your CoC have staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness?	Yes
8.	Is your CoC educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national nonprofit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity?	Yes

9.	Did your CoC review its coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness?	Yes
10.	Is your CoC collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system?	Yes
11.	Is your CoC conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness?	Yes
	Other:(limit 500 characters)	
12.		

1D-9c.	Plan for Ongoing Evaluation of System-level Processes, Policies, and Procedures for Racial Equity. NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	
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Describe in the field below your CoC’s plan for ongoing evaluation of system-level processes, policies, and procedures for racial equity.

(limit 2,500 characters)

VT 501 CoC commits to continued work to address racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of CoC funded homeless assistance. To drive system change the CoC must continually address and evaluate CoC-level processes, policies and procedures. The VT-501 CoC charter change of 2021: “CCHA recognizes the role played by current and past discriminatory policies that, to this date, impede access to housing and lead to homelessness for many community members; the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, LGBTQ+, low income, and other marginalized populations. CCHA stands alongside these populations as we affirm that racial equity, inclusion, and belonging are important and interdependent components that contribute to building a just society.

CCHA will:

Support policy and practices that ensure fairness and equity throughout the homeless and housing system

Strive to provide safe, decent, affordable homes to all individuals regardless of their origin and background

Enhance and promote training and resources to support cultural awareness and anti-racist policy and practices among homelessness services and housing providers

Ensure sub-committees identify systemic inequities, utilizing data and feedback of those with lived experience, especially from the BIPOC community, to develop policies and practices through continuous assessment of disparities.”

With this important change to governance, the CoC commits to require each committee to use data and analysis to review the impacts of policy and procedure to understand disparities.

1D-9d.	Plan for Using Data to Track Progress on Preventing or Eliminating Racial Disparities. NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	
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Describe in the field below:

1.	the measures your CoC plans to use to continuously track progress on preventing or eliminating racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and
2.	the tools your CoC plans to use to continuously track progress on preventing or eliminating racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT 501 CoC commits to data driven change to reduce disparities and support racial equity in the provision and outcomes of homeless assistance, including; Strategic Planning, continue work on assessment and analysis of disparities; Outreach and Membership, outreach to ensure membership is reflective of community and includes BIPOC representation to increase participation, leadership, and decision-making; Data Quality, PIT, and HMIS will review collect and analyze specific data metrics to identify whether and how racial disparities exist and Coordinated Entry will continue to examine CE processes and assessment tools to understand and repair disparities.

The CoC will use measures of access, participation and outcomes in all services and projects to track progress on preventing or eliminating racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance

2. The CoC will continue to use the CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool, internal analysis from HMIS, PIT and ACS data, and qualitative and quantitative data collected from our member CE, daytime shelter, outreach, emergency shelter and housing programs. The CoC is working with member organizations to strengthen the collection of data that is disaggregated by race and ethnicity to enable additional analysis and interruption of disparities experienced by BIPOC community members.

1D-10.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking—CoC’s Outreach Efforts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below your CoC’s outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decisionmaking processes.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 CoC is committed to ensuring that those with lived experience are informing and guiding the work of the CoC and its programs. Including through gathering feedback and addressing challenges of those with lived experience of homelessness. More than 10% of the CoC community members experiencing homelessness were connected, interviewed, or joined focus groups, to provide input to the CoC strategic planning process.

The membership and outreach committee is charged with and conducts regular outreach to identify and recruit membership of those with lived experience in leadership and decision making processes. Member organizations are requested to ensure that staff and volunteers with lived experience are aware of opportunities to participate in leadership and decision making processes (often the source of participants). All CoC meetings are noticed and advertised to encourage the participation of those with lived experience and a stipend is offered for participation by those with lived experience of homelessness. Twice yearly community meetings are noticed widely on social media and websites and posters that free food is available to all and stipends are available to those experiencing homelessness. This includes posting flyers and information on the VT-501 CoC website, the City website and social media. Paper flyers are delivered and posted at day stations and with service providers.

Outreach teams within VT-501 CoC are made aware of meetings and opportunities to engage those with lived experience and distribute information and assist attendance.

VT-501 CoC and its member organizations and service provider partners understand the fundamental importance of the voices of those with lived experience of homelessness (VLEH) in all aspects of the work of combatting homelessness. VT-501 is creating an Advisory Group of VLEH, to inform the policy and practice of the CoC, to further engage VLEH in leadership roles and decision making processes. The group will identify professional development or training opportunities to support and enhance its work, while also supporting the development of advocacy and to elevate the discussion of our commitment to make homelessness rare and brief. The Advisory Group is supported with stipends for participants, and working on an action plan with focused activities to ensure coordinated input.

1D-10a.	Active CoC Participation of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

You must upload the Lived Experience Support Letter attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter in the chart below the number of people with lived experience who currently participate in your CoC under the four categories listed:

	Level of Active Participation	Number of People with Lived Experience Within the Last 7 Years or Current Program Participant	Number of People with Lived Experience Coming from Unsheltered Situations
1.	Routinely included in the decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	25	20
2.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	3	3
3.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's local competition rating factors.	1	1
4.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's coordinated entry process.	1	1

1D-10b.	Professional Development and Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC or CoC membership organizations provide professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

VT-501 CoC maintains an agreement with two providers of professional development and employment opportunities for community members experiencing homelessness. 1. The Vermont Association of Business Industry and Rehabilitation as a participant of Creative Workforce Solutions to provide job training opportunities and job placement for youth and adults experiencing homelessness in the geographic area of the CoC. VABIR provides information on local training opportunities to develop job skills, provides opportunities for mock interview, job shadows, work experience and on the job training as well as information on the local labor market and open employment opportunities. 2. ReSource is a non-profit organization providing job training opportunities with stipends for youth and adults experiencing homelessness in the geographic area of the CoC. The job training opportunities include the YouthBuild Program, shorter term construction training and training programs in construction. The City of Burlington partners with ReSource and focuses projects including training for PCA's on people who are, low-income, BIPOC, women, immigrants and refugees and other vulnerable individuals. Chittenden Community Action operates a Kitchen Academy chef training school at the foodshelf. Pathways VT operates One-on-One Peer Support & Employment Support for individuals who identify as having lived experience with issues such as mental health crises, trauma, substance use, and homelessness. Staff are trained in Peer Support as a service delivery distinct from traditional mental health services. This unique approach to relationships with service recipients has been proven effective in engaging individuals who might otherwise avoid mental health services and in promoting hope, resiliency, and well-being. The CoC offers payment for participation in any CoC activity and training for those with lived experience of homelessness or those experiencing housing insecurity. This provides a basis of additional security to allow access to training and advocacy. Training, including online and at will training opportunities, is offered as part of the CoC's newly formed advocacy group for people with lived experience. Individual member organizations promote volunteer and job opportunities, actively engaging and recruiting those with lived experience of homelessness.

1D-10c.	Routinely Gathering Feedback and Addressing Challenges of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

- Describe in the field below:
1. how your CoC gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;
  2. how often your CoC gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;

3.	how your CoC gathers feedback from people who received assistance through the CoC Program or ESG Program;
4.	how often your CoC gathers feedback from people who have received assistance through the CoC Program or ESG Program; and
5.	steps your CoC has taken to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 CoC is committed to ensuring that those with lived experience are informing, guiding, and advocating to strengthen the work of the CoC and its programs. During the strategic planning process, more than 10% of our population experiencing homelessness took part in paid focus groups, meetings, and conversations, driving the priorities and strategies coming out of the process. This strong advocacy led to the development of an Advisory Group supported by stipend payment, aiming to formalize advocacy within the CoC. All CoC meetings are noticed to encourage the participation of those with lived experience and a stipend is offered.
2. Community Meetings are a twice yearly, designed specifically for community feedback from people with lived experience of homelessness. The Advisory Group is intended to meet monthly to inform CoC activity. When new projects are in development, community members are engaged thorough interviews or focus groups for input on design and policy.
3. The programs of the CoC and ESG require regular review that includes gathering feedback and addressing challenges of those with lived experience of homelessness. The CE system includes regular review and evaluation. All CoC meetings are noticed to encourage the participation of those that have received assistance and a stipend is offered for those with experience of homelessness or housing instability.
4. The RRH and PSH programs benefit from an organizational Housing First Participant Committee that meets monthly to improve program and services and receive feedback from current clients, former clients, as well as community members and stakeholders. Data is shared with staff and promotes client-led growth and change within our program. The Coordinated Entry Committee consults with participating projects and project participants for an annual evaluation on the quality and effectiveness of CE.
5. The VT-501 CoC strategic planning process framed its strategies and actions to address the challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness. The CoC prioritizes the voices of those with lived experience in all aspects of the work of combatting homelessness for leadership, advocacy, and change. Participation for people with lived experience is supported with stipends. Projects and programs approved by the CoC were reviewed by people with lived experience of homelessness.

1D-11.	Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	
	Describe in the field below at least two steps your CoC has taken in the past 12 months to engage city, county, or state governments that represent your CoC's geographic area regarding the following:	
1.	reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; and	
2.	reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.	



**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT 501 CoC members met with officials and provided comments in support of the bill that better balances promoting housing growth and environmental conservation to work towards solving the severe housing crisis in Vermont. The change should clear red tape and encourage compact housing development amid our acute housing shortage. VT-501 CoC membership engaged through emails, social media and other connections with state government to discuss this important reform of zoning and land use policies to permit affordable housing development. CoC membership informed State legislature studies on impacts of simplifying the complexity of the regulatory model for new development on affordable mixed income, transitional and emergency, and middle income housing. The CoC membership was informed of the proposals at meeting discussion and through list serve and was able to communicate support through social media, emails and calls.

2. The VT-501 CoC membership responded to a number of information and feedback sessions on the Burlington Neighborhood Code. The Neighborhood Code is a zoning ordinance in Burlington, Vermont that aims to create a new framework for the city's residential zoning districts. The code was approved by the Burlington City Council on March 26, 2024, and will allow for more housing types and options, including: Multifamily homes: Allows people to build multifamily homes where they were previously banned. Denser development: Allows more than one building on a residential lot, and those buildings can take up a greater portion of the property. Neighborhood-scale housing: Allows for housing types like duplexes, fourplexes, and cottage courts. The Neighborhood Code also includes new zoning standards along transportation corridors, and creates greater flexibility for existing homes. The code was developed after a nine-month engagement period, and included revisions from the plan presented in February. The CoC membership engaged with presentations, discussion and provided responses and feedback via discussion, emails and calls and discussed with City officials present during CoC meetings.

## 1E. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1E-1.	Web Posting of Advance Public Notice of Your CoC’s Local Competition Deadline, Scoring and Rating Criteria.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a. and 2.g.	

1.	Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for New Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC’s local competition.	08/23/2024
2.	Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for Renewal Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC’s local competition.	08/23/2024

1E-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. We use the response to this question and the response in Question 1E-2a along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC’s eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., 2.d., and 2.e.	

You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected project applications during your local competition:

1.	Established total points available for each project application type.	Yes
2.	At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH).	Yes
3.	At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness).	Yes
4.	Provided points for projects that addressed specific severe barriers to housing and services.	Yes
5.	Used data from comparable databases to score projects submitted by victim service providers.	Yes

6.	Provided points for projects based on the degree the projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.	Yes
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1E-2a.	Scored Project Forms for One Project from Your CoC's Local Competition. We use the response to this question and Question 1E-2. along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC's eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.  NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.	
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You must upload the Scored Forms for One Project attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.  
 Complete the chart below to provide details of your CoC's local competition:

1.	What were the maximum number of points available for the renewal project form(s)?	100
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	7
3.	What renewal project type did most applicants use?	Tie

1E-2b.	Addressing Severe Barriers in the Local Project Review and Ranking Process.  NOFO Section V.B.2.d.	
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Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding each project that has successfully housed program participants in permanent housing;
2.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding how long it takes to house people in permanent housing;
3.	how your CoC considered the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities experienced by program participants preventing rapid placement in permanent housing or the ability to maintain permanent housing when your CoC ranked and selected projects; and
4.	the severe barriers your CoC considered.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. VT-501 CoC collects and makes data analysis via the information submitted in project application and reviews, HMIS data and reporting, comparable DV database data, and other CoC and partner records. The CoC HMIS Lead tool combined APRs to compare; review of performance data - including utilization rates, rates of participants remaining in PH or exiting to PH, and other measures. Individual project applications include project administration and project description & design, including the outreach plan, how it fills an identified need, & project scale (# of units, type of units, configuration of units and how these fit needs of participants), and type of supportive services available to obtain/maintain permanent housing and mainstream resources.
2. VT-501 analyzes HMIS data on how long it takes to house people in permanent housing including reviewing average # of days from project entry to residential move-in date.
3. VT-501 assessed the following severity of needs and vulnerabilities when ranking and selecting projects during this year’s process: serving those experiencing chronic homelessness, project commitment to implementing a housing first approach including removing barriers to entry such as not screening out clients for too little income, active or history of substance use, criminal record (except for federal, state or local restrictions) or victim status and serving people who have disabilities. Projects must not exclude/terminate clients for failure to participate or engage in services, make progress on service plans, fail to make income gain, DV status or other activity not included in any typical lease agreement.
4. VT 501 considered the following barriers: People with severe barriers to accessing housing and services: Project describes how it prioritizes entry by severity of need and identifies applicants with severe barriers to accessing housing and services (including but not limited to length of time homeless/unsheltered; a history of victimization/abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse; criminal histories; chronic homelessness; low or no income; current or past substance abuse; is the only project of its kind in the CoC’s geographic area serving a special homeless population/subpopulation. VT-501 considered projects that may result in lower performance but are needed; using a scoring tool that provided scoring and priority to projects prioritizing hardest to house populations

1E-3.	Advancing Racial Equity through Participation of Over-Represented Populations in the Local Competition Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.e.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC used input from persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, to determine the rating factors used to review project applications;	
	2. how your CoC included persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population in the review, selection, and ranking process; and	
	3. how your CoC rated and ranked projects based on the degree that proposed projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and steps the projects took or will take to eliminate the identified barriers.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. VT-501 CoC used input from persons of different races and ethnicities particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population to determine rating factors used to review project applications. The CoC Steering Committee and the NOFO and Ranking Committee includes membership to reflect the racial and ethnic identity make-up of the CoC geographic area and the CoC membership is committed to ensuring representation and input, particularly from those most over-represented in the population experiencing homelessness.

VT-501 data demonstrates that Black, African American or African community members comprise 3% of our community, according to the 2020 Census, and 18% of our population experiencing homelessness. Rating factors were created, discussed, voted and approved by committees including representation from over-represented racial identities.

2. VT-501 CoC included persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those overrepresented in the local homeless population in the review, selection and ranking process. The NOFO Ranking Committee included persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homeless population. People from over-represented races reviewed, selected, and ranked projects in the local CoC competition, as members of the NOFO Ranking committee.

3. VT-501 CoC application process includes points and scoring on equity measures as a factor in determining project selection. The application requires the project to evidence measures to identify and address identity based barriers to participation in the program and the application is required to include information on planned outreach to participants to address disparities to access and receipt of services for Black, Indigenous, Hispanic (non-white), and LGBTQ participants who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness. The CoC continues to conduct analysis of racial and other disparities in access and outcomes of projects and to work to eliminate identified barriers and disparities.

<b>1E-4.</b>	<b>Reallocation—Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	your CoC's reallocation process, including how your CoC determined which projects are candidates for reallocation because they are low performing or less needed;
2.	whether your CoC identified any low performing or less needed projects through the process described in element 1 of this question during your CoC's local competition this year;
3.	whether your CoC reallocated any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year; and
4.	why your CoC did not reallocate low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year, if applicable.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 CoC Ranking and Review Policy includes the reallocation process: “Reallocation Process: The Steering Committee will review the Grant Inventory Worksheet and grant line up in sufficient time to allow for potential reallocation of funds. The Steering Committee will duly advertise any upcoming vote or discussion on the reallocation process. The Steering Committee reviews CCHA’s projects in light of the CoC’s and HUD’s priorities. The Steering Committee will consider reallocation during an upcoming meeting and rank the following in priority status: 1) Permanent Supportive Housing; 2) Rapid Rehousing and 3) Other eligible activities.”

VT-501 operates a Reallocation Process that allows the CoC Board to review the GIW and application line up in time to allow for reallocation of funds. The CoC Ranking reviewed projects in light of CoC and HUD priorities, minimum grant requirements and the project rating/scoring tool. Projects were reviewed for performance, utilization of beds and funding. Projects and project performance were presented to the CoC Steering Committee and Project Ranking Committee. Project performance is discussed with project applicants. Funding reductions and reallocations are considered on these combined factors and projects are invited to offer any voluntary reduction or reallocation.

2. The CoC utilized performance reporting and did not identify any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition.

3. The CoC did not reallocate any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition

4. There were no low performing or less needed projects.

1E-4a.	Reallocation Between FY 2019 and FY 2024.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

	Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2019 and FY 2024?	No
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1E-5.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

1.	Did your CoC reject any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
2.	Did your CoC reduce funding for any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
3.	Did your CoC inform applicants why your CoC rejected or reduced their project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
4.	If you selected Yes for element 1 or element 2 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2024, 06/27/2024, and 06/28/2024, then you must enter 06/28/2024.	10/13/2024

1E-5a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New and Renewal Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2024, 06/27/2024, and 06/28/2024, then you must enter 06/28/2024.	10/13/2024
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1E-5b.	Local Competition Selection Results for All Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Selection Results attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Does your attachment include: 1. Project Names; 2. Project Scores; 3. Project Status–Accepted, Rejected, Reduced Reallocated, Fully Reallocated; 4. Project Rank; 5. Amount Requested from HUD; and 6. Reallocated Funds +/-.	Yes
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1E-5c.	Web Posting of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application 2 Days Before CoC Program Competition Application Submission Deadline.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g. and 24 CFR 578.95.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC posted the CoC-approved Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or partner’s website—which included: 1. the CoC Application; and 2. Priority Listings for Reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.	
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**You must enter a date in question 1E-5c.**

1E-5d.	Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders by Email that the CoC-Approved Consolidated Application is Posted on Website.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified community members and key stakeholders that the CoC-approved Consolidated Application was posted on your CoC’s website or partner’s website.	
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**You must enter a date in question 1E-5d.**



## 2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>2A-1.</b>	<b>HMIS Vendor.</b>	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Enter the name of the HMIS Vendor your CoC is currently using.	BitFocus Clarity
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<b>2A-2.</b>	<b>HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.</b>	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Select from dropdown menu your CoC's HMIS coverage area.	Statewide
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<b>2A-3.</b>	<b>HIC Data Submission in HDX.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.a.	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 HIC data into HDX.	05/10/2024
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<b>2A-4.</b>	<b>Comparable Databases for DV Providers—CoC and HMIS Lead Supporting Data Collection and Data Submission by Victim Service Providers.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.b.	

	In the field below:	
1.	describe actions your CoC and HMIS Lead have taken to ensure DV housing and service providers in your CoC collect data in HMIS comparable databases; and	
2.	state whether DV housing and service providers in your CoC are using a HUD-compliant comparable database—compliant with the FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1.The VT-501 CoC HMIS Lead (Institute for Community Alliances-ICA) maintains a contract to analyze the comparable database. HMIS Lead (ICA) ensures DV housing and service provider in our CoC submit de-identified aggregated system performance measures data for each project in the comparable database to our CoC and to the HMIS lead.

As VT-501’s sole organization providing domestic violence services and housing in Chittenden County, Steps to End Domestic Violence uses an HMIS comparable database and maintains active participation in the COC. The database collects the data elements required in the HUD published 2024 HMIS data standards. Steps coordinates data from its HMIS comparable database with the community master list from HMIS so that there is an unduplicated monthly count of all households experiencing homelessness within the coordinated entry system. Steps to End Domestic Violence provides summary data including reports on established performance measures as recorded in the HMIS comparable database.

2.The DV Housing and Service provider in the CoC is using a HUD-compliant comparable database—compliant with the FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards

2A-5.	Bed Coverage Rate—Using HIC, HMIS Data—CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.c. and V.B.7.	

Using the 2024 HDX Competition Report we issued your CoC, enter data in the chart below by project type:

Project Type	Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current Non-VSP Beds [Column F of HDX Report]	Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current VSP Beds [Column K of HDX Report]	Total Year-Round, Current, HMIS Beds and VSP Beds in an HMIS Comparable Database [Column M of HDX Report]	HMIS and Comparable Database Coverage Rate [Column O of HDX Report]
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	659	139	325	40.73%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	0	0	0	0.00%
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	3	7	10	100.00%
4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	98	9	65	60.75%
5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	88	0	56	63.64%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	128	0	23	17.97%

2A-5a.	Partial Credit for Bed Coverage Rates at or Below 84.99 for Any Project Type in Question 2A-5.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.c.	

For each project type with a bed coverage rate that is at or below 84.99 percent in question 2A-5, describe:

1.	steps your CoC will take over the next 12 months to increase the bed coverage rate to at least 85 percent for that project type; and
2.	how your CoC will implement the steps described to increase bed coverage to at least 85 percent.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. ES: HMIS ES coverage is low because the State funded Motel ES program no longer utilizes HMIS for data. The State instead opted to utilize its own internal database. The CoC did not have control over or input to this decision. The CoC will continue to lobby the State to utilize HMIS for data for all ES projects.

PSH: VT – 501 CoC will take the following steps over the next 12 months to increase the bed coverage rate to at least 85% for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Other Permanent Housing (OPH). The CoC Executive Committee, Collaborative Applicant, and HMIS lead will continue to meet with Vermont State Housing Authority and Vermont Veterans Committee to develop a plan for the VASH Voucher project data entry in to HMIS and provide training, as required.

RRH: The VT Rental Subsidy Program is not entered into HMIS. The CoC did not have control over or input to this decision. The CoC will continue to lobby the State to utilize HMIS for data for all ES projects.

OPH: To increase the Other Permanent Housing bed coverage to at least 85% the CoC and HMIS lead will work with the providers to enter information into HMIS and provide training, as required. (COTS and EHV - follow up)

2. VT-501 CoC and HMIS offer non-participating projects technical support and training. The statewide HMIS Committee will continue identify and discuss barriers to participation and report back to the CoC Steering Committee. The CoC Executive Committee, Collaborative Applicant, and HMIS lead will meet with Vermont State Housing Authority and Vermont Veterans Committee to develop a plan for the VASH Voucher project data entry in to HMIS and provide training, as required. The recent change of HMIS software vendor could provide the option to increase PSH participation rates.

2A-6.	Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX 2.0.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.d.	
	You must upload your CoC's FY 2024 HDX Competition Report to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

Did your CoC submit at least two usable LSA data files to HUD in HDX 2.0 by January 24, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST?	Yes
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## 2B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>2B-1.</b>	<b>PIT Count Date.</b> NOFO Section V.B.4.a	
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	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2024 PIT count.	01/24/2024
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<b>2B-2.</b>	<b>PIT Count Data—HDX Submission Date.</b> NOFO Section V.B.4.a	
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	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 PIT count data in HDX.	05/02/2024
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<b>2B-3.</b>	<b>PIT Count—Effectively Counting Youth in Your CoC’s Most Recent Unsheltered PIT Count.</b> NOFO Section V.B.4.b.	
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	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	engaged unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations in your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process;	
2.	worked with unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations to select locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified during your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process; and	
3.	included youth experiencing homelessness as counters during your CoC’s most recent unsheltered PIT count.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.VT-501 CoC conducts its planning process for the 2024 PIT Count via open meetings of the PIT and Data Quality and Outreach Committee. All PIT Count planning is notified via Steering Committee meetings and listserv notifications, as well as via social media and website postings. Spectrum Youth and Family Services is the CoC geographic area member agency of the Vermont Coalition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs. Spectrum Youth and Family Services is a member of the PIT Planning and Data Quality and Outreach Sub-Committee. Spectrum Youth and family Services operates the CoC area youth warming shelter, youth supportive housing, youth drop-in center, youth health center, counselling services, skills programs, prevention services, mentoring, multicultural youth program and on the job training program, and was a full participant in the 2024 PIT count.

2.The PIT Count Planning committee engages with area service providers that work with homeless youth. The committee holds a series of planning meetings with homelessness outreach teams and service providers to map and identify locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified and to ensure coverage of those locations, by workers familiar with the youth, during the PIT Count. All shelters with youth were included in the count, and the drop-in centers were able to identify youth that were not staying in a shelter and make sure they were included. Outreach in the community was able to connect with folks who did not access either service.

3.As an active member of the CoC, Spectrum values gathering youth voice and input. Youth have opportunities to participate in many programmatic functions, including the PIT count, program design/evaluation, and overall agency activities. Spectrum’s mission aligns with this, stating that it will empower teenagers, young adults, and their families to make and sustain positive changes through prevention, intervention, and life skills services.

2B-4.	PIT Count–Methodology Change–CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.a and V.B.7.c.	

In the field below:	
1.	describe any changes your CoC made to your sheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;
2.	describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;
3.	describe whether your CoC’s PIT count was affected by people displaced either from a natural disaster or seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance who recently arrived in your CoCs’ geographic; and
4.	describe how the changes affected your CoC’s PIT count results; or
5.	state “Not Applicable” if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2024.

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1. None
- 2. None
- 3. N/A
- 4. N/A
- 5. Not Applicable

## 2C. System Performance

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>2C-1.</b>	<b>Reducing the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe how your CoC determined the risk factors to identify persons experiencing homelessness for the first time;	
	2. describe your CoC’s strategies to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time	

(limit 2,500 characters)

In VT-501 CoC the number of first time homeless increased by 46 – alongside a threefold increase in people experiencing homelessness since the beginning of the pandemic.

1. VT 501 CoC uses tools to determine risk factors leading to first time homelessness. CoC reviews the PIT count special populations for risk factors. A statewide study identified nonpayment of rent as the main factor leading to eviction. Publicly funded housing organizations required to identify, annually, the causes of eviction and report to the CoC. Census information provides numbers of households paying more than 50% of income for rent. Our CE standard assessment tool determines risks: if a conflict with family or friends, a relationship breakdown or an abusive relationship, substance use, mental health or a trauma or abuse contributed to homelessness, and income at entry. CoC gathers information through interview and data analysis from peer group and service providers, Housing needs assessments and partnership with local agencies identify risk factors within specific populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

2. VT-501 CoC strategies to address individuals & families at risk of being homeless include the identification of risk factors and connection to supports. This may include; CARES/ARPA assistance, back rent up to 3 months; a back-rent loan program; utility payments; a payee program and rent vrending; housing retention supportive services; tenant/landlord & credit repair educational programs; intervention with landlords via case managers or Legal Aid; connection to mainstream resources; relocation for those fleeing DV. The local affordable housing organization invites PHA's Housing Retention Team & local service providers work with tenants & landlords on tenancy risk behavior. VT SOAR train staff on income and employment assistance, medical & mental health services, benefit applications. VT Dept of Labor for career resources. VT-501 CoC Retention Committee has reorganized and strengthened and identifies and explores current homelessness prevention services and strategies used by agencies in Chittenden County. CoC is a collaborative system that provides broadly accessible housing stabilization services in the community.

3. VT-501 CoC Strategic Planning Committee, Retention Committee and the CoC Co-Chairs are responsible for overseeing the CoC strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time

<b>2C-1a.</b>	<b>Impact of Displaced Persons on Number of First Time Homeless.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b	

Was your CoC's Number of First Time Homeless [metric 5.2] affected by the number of persons seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance displaced due to:
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1.	natural disasters?	No
2.	having recently arrived in your CoC's geographic area?	No

2C-2.	<b>Reducing Length of Time Homeless—CoC’s Strategy.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.c.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
	2. describe how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 CoC main strategy for reducing the Length Of Time (LOT) individuals and persons in families remain homeless is our robust, no-wrong door approach coordinated entry system, by name list, and partnership agreements with housing providers. Secondly, Increasing the number of affordable units, dedicated PSH units, and funding sources for supportive services are priorities for the CoC and found in the Consolidated Plan. With a local rental vacancy rate at a pandemic low of below 0.5%, lack of vacant housing stock is a major barrier to reducing LOT homeless. CARES Act funds and ARPA expenditures for permanent affordable housing are bringing an increase in rehabilitated and new units, often with requirements for homeless set asides, referred via Coordinated Entry, enabling the CoC to prioritize those with the longest LOT homeless. Services resources and other housing resources were supported by State Rapid Resolution Housing Initiative funding. Housing First is a community-wide strategy to move folks directly into housing. Linking to mainstream resources and job training also are helpful strategies. Ensuring those who experience homelessness have access to a variety of affordable housing options, the needed services to stay housed and the subsidy to pay for housing are the 3 pillars to move people quickly into housing in our community.

2.VT-501 CoC Coordinated Entry system uses the standardized assessment tool and HMIS data review to identify those individuals & families with the highest severity of need including length of homelessness to access available PH subsidies and units. For those living in shelters or places not meant for human habitation and not in HMIS, then case management works to collect interviews and other third party documentation to support LOT records. HUD CoC funded PSH programs prioritize CE referrals with the longest LOT.

3.VT-501 CoC Co-Chairs along with the Coordinated Entry Committee of the CoC oversee the CoCs strategies to reduce the LOT individuals and families remain homeless.

2C-3.	<b>Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention –CoC’s Strategy.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.d.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe your CoC’s strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;	
	2. describe your CoC’s strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations; and	



3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing.
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**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 CoC strategies to increase exit to permanent housing and retention: Ensure residents have access to a variety of affordable housing options, the services needed to stay housed & subsidy to pay for housing are the 3 pillars to move people into permanent housing (PH). VT-501 plans to increase the rate of PH placement through the coordinated entry (CE) system & weekly community housing review team meetings. Case managers review the CE by-name list & vulnerability scores compared to availability of housing & subsidy, on a weekly basis. Local PHA maximizes homeless preference vouchers. Landlords refer vacant units to coordinated entry under partnership agreements. Case conferencing matches households with appropriate supportive service provider & housing retention services. Development of additional affordable housing continues to be a local & statewide priority, utilization of CARES and ARPA funding for new and rehabilitation of units, including set aside for homelessness.

2. To retain permanent housing or exit to permanent housing the VT-501 CoC created a Retention Committee and will bolster housing retention teams, identify gaps in services & expand support. Landlords & tenants access retention assistance through PHA's retention team. Training for retention teams to support tenant self-sufficiency. The CoC CE is working with affordable housing providers on MOU's with service providers for retention services. Local hospital pays for retention services. Targeted technical assistance/cross training of best practices by CoC available including training through the Governor's Council on Homelessness & the state network of non-profit housing providers. Local housing providers offer transfer options to new PH opportunities. Agencies operate Rent Right & tenant based classes to ensure participants gain skills needed to be better tenants. Program participants have access to temporary financial assistance.

3. The VT-501 CoC Co-Chairs and the Retention Committee and CE Committee Co-Chairs are responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing.

2C-4.	Reducing Returns to Homelessness—CoC's Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.e.	

	In the field below:
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2.	describe your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate that individuals and families return to homelessness; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

- 1.VT-501 CoC strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness include the following:
- Coordinated Entry (CE) Committee uses data reports in aggregated form to connect common factors contributing to homeless return after exit and highlight barriers to remaining housed
  - CE system tracks data on exits and return to homelessness.
  - Data available to case managers for continued work with household and to connect applicants with previous known resources.
  - The CE and Case Managers teams also connect applicants to any previous known resources.
  - By- Name List tracking enables the CoC to understand the cause of a return to homelessness in real time
  - The Retention Committee works to identify and explore current homelessness prevention services provided by and strategies used by agencies in Chittenden County. Establish a collaborative system that provides broadly accessible housing stabilization services in the community, including enrolling eligible households into the Coordinated Entry System
  - With the rate of 6.9% of individuals/persons in families who return to homelessness over a 0-12 month period, VT-501 CoC identifies the following common factors contributing to those who return to homelessness: Lack of income to maintain housing; lack of money/finance skills; substance use or mental health issues; domestic violence leading to failure to make timely rent payments; other lease violations.
2. To reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness, VT501 CoC strategies include the following activities:
- VT-Soar training for providers to increase participant incomes
  - CE committee uses data reports in aggregated form to connect common factors contributing to homeless return after exit and highlight barriers to remaining housed
  - CE system tracks data on exits and return to homelessness.
  - Increase use of HMIS to better track data to analyze returns to homelessness
  - Data available to case managers for continued work with household and to connect applicants with previous known resources.
  - The CE and Case Managers teams also connect applicants to any previous known resources.
  - Training staff on substance use issues and trauma
  - Housing stability services and eviction prevention assistance through Vermont State Housing Authority
3. The VT-501 CoC CoChairs and Retention Committee chairs are responsible for overseeing strategies to reduce returns to homelessness.

2C-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–CoC’s Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC’s strategy to access employment cash sources;	
2.	describe how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their employment cash income; and	
3.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to increase income from employment.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 CoC strategy to access employment cash sources includes:
  - Member organizations and partners providing direct assistance to clients with employment and employability resources
  - Staff training and presentations at CoC meetings on mainstream resources, training and vocational opportunities and reducing barriers to employment.
  - CoC projects (PSH and RRH) provide employment resources, training and vocational training, access to resources and services through service provider partners.
  - VT-501 CoC provides access to partnerships with mainstream employment organizations and information via training, meeting presentations and regular listserv mailings
  
2. VT-501 CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their cash income in the following ways:
  - CoC has executed an MOU with ReSource, a service provider that provides job training.
  - CoC members attend local Workforce Development Board meetings to promote referrals & enrollment preference for persons experiencing homelessness or recently housed
  - VT-501 CoC connects with employment organizations to access job listings, employment readiness resources and training and job fairs.
  - CoC Co Chair Spectrum Youth and Family Services, in partnership with the VT Dept of Labor, operated a social enterprise, Detail Works; youth with barriers to employment gain experience in a supportive environment. & access to resume & interviewing assistance & soft skill development.
  - Local Community Action Program agency refers clients to the Individual Career Advancement Network (ICAN) program, which assists job searches, connect with employers, enhance job finding skills, gain new job skills & work experience.
  - Pathways Vermont provides job training, & referrals to their Individualized Placement Support Supported Employment Program.
  - Howard Center offers employment councilors through the Career Connections program.
  - United Way, a CoC Board member, works with local employers through its Working Bridges program to help low-income and homeless workers gain and retain employment, access earned income cash benefits such as the EITC and access promotion opportunities for higher income
  - CoC PSH service providers provide employment opportunities to PSH residents.
  
3. The VT-501 CoC CCHA Steering Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and CoC Co-Chairs are responsible for overseeing the CoC Strategy.

2C-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income–CoC’s Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe your CoC’s strategy to access non-employment cash income; and	
	2. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to increase non-employment cash income.	
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**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. VT-501 CoC has implemented the following strategies to access to non-employment cash income through education, connection to resources and follow up services:

VT 501 partners closely with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) who also attend CoC meetings, other benefit providers also attend CoC Service providers use Vermont's single online Consolidated Benefits Application for 4 benefit programs with the ability for case managers to follow up with clients.

VT SOAR supports several service providers to increase access to SSDI for eligible individuals and assistance with application and appeals,

The local Community Action agency, is also a VITA site, which helps working household's access the Earned Income Tax Credit.

CoC project application and review includes scores on participant links to non-employment income sources

2. VT-501 CoC Co-Chairs and Strategic Planning Committee Co-Chairs working with the Vermont Agency of Human Services are responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.

### 3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>3A-1.</b>	<b>New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Housing Resources.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.a.	
	You must upload the Housing Leveraging Commitment attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses housing subsidies or subsidized housing units which are not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	No
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<b>3A-2.</b>	<b>New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Healthcare Resources.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.b.	
	You must upload the Healthcare Formal Agreements attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	No
--	--	----

<b>3A-3.</b>	<b>Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.</b>	
	NOFO Sections V.B.6.a. and V.B.6.b.	

If you selected yes to questions 3A-1. or 3A-2., use the list feature icon to enter information about each project application you intend for HUD to evaluate to determine if they meet the criteria.

Project Name	Project Type	Rank Number	Leverage Type
This list contains no items			

### 3B. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project application requesting \$200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction?	No
--	----

3B-2.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below actions CoC Program-funded project applicants will take to comply with:

1.	Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u); and
2.	HUD’s implementing rules at 24 CFR part 75 to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very-low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very-low-income persons.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

### 3C. Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3C-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serve Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?	No
--	----

3C-2.	Cost Effectiveness of Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

If you answered yes to question 3C-1, describe in the field below:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and |
| 2. | how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.   |

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

# 4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants for New DV Bonus Funding

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>4A-1.</b>	<b>New DV Bonus Project Applicants.</b>	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.j.	

	<b>Did your CoC submit one or more new project applications for DV Bonus Funding?</b>		No
<b>Applicant Name</b>			
This list contains no items			



## 4B. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

We have provided the following guidance to help you successfully upload attachments and get maximum points:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | You must include a Document Description for each attachment you upload; if you do not, the Submission Summary screen will display a red X indicating the submission is incomplete.  |
| 2. | You must upload an attachment for each document listed where 'Required?' is 'Yes'.  |
| 3. | We prefer that you use PDF files, though other file types are supported—please only use zip files if necessary. Converting electronic files to PDF, rather than printing documents and scanning them, often produces higher quality images. Many systems allow you to create PDF files as a Print option. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you should consult your IT Support or search for information on Google or YouTube.     |
| 4. | Attachments must match the questions they are associated with.  |
| 5. | Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process.  |
| 6. | If you cannot read the attachment, it is likely we cannot read it either.<br><br>. We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).<br><br>. We must be able to read everything you want us to consider in any attachment. |
| 7. | After you upload each attachment, use the Download feature to access and check the attachment to ensure it matches the required Document Type and to ensure it contains all pages you intend to include.  |
| 8. | Only use the "Other" attachment option to meet an attachment requirement that is not otherwise listed in these detailed instructions.   |

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1C-7. PHA Homeless Preference	No		
1C-7. PHA Moving On Preference	No		
1D-10a. Lived Experience Support Letter	Yes		
1D-2a. Housing First Evaluation	Yes		
1E-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes		
1E-2a. Scored Forms for One Project	Yes		
1E-5. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes		
1E-5a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes		
1E-5b. Local Competition Selection Results	Yes		
1E-5c. Web Posting—CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes		
1E-5d. Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes		

2A-6. HUD's Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) Competition Report	Yes		
3A-1a. Housing Leveraging Commitments	No		
3A-2a. Healthcare Formal Agreements	No		
3C-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
Other	No		

## Attachment Details

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## Submission Summary

Ensure that the Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	10/22/2024
1B. Inclusive Structure	10/24/2024
1C. Coordination and Engagement	10/24/2024
1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd	10/24/2024
1E. Project Review/Ranking	Please Complete
2A. HMIS Implementation	10/24/2024
2B. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count	10/24/2024
2C. System Performance	10/24/2024
3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare	10/24/2024
3B. Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs	10/24/2024
3C. Serving Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes	10/24/2024

<b>4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants</b>	10/24/2024
<b>4B. Attachments Screen</b>	Please Complete
<b>Submission Summary</b>	No Input Required