

**FY 2024 and 2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) Application**

**Detailed Instructions for**

**Collaborative Applicants**

Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS)

**Revised September 9, 2024 Revisions are highlighted in green.**

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## Purpose

This document provides **Collaborative Applicants** applying for funding under the *Notice of*

*Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY 2025 Continuum of Care Competition and Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grants* with:

* a list of required attachments you must submit with your CoC Application;
* each question in the CoC Application with NOFO references as displayed in ***e-snaps***–

HUD’s online application system for the CoC Program Competition;  guidance you must use to receive maximum points; and  a list of other resources.

The **CoC Application** and the **CoC Priority Listings** are separate submissions in *e-snaps*. You must submit the CoC Application and the CoC Priority Listings–with all project applications approved, ranked where required, or rejected–in *e-snaps* prior to the

**October 30, 2024**, CoC Program Competition application submission deadline, unless HUD extends the deadline.

Renewal grants that do not meet the renewal eligibility requirements for the FY 2024

CoC Program Competition and YHDP Funding Opportunity but are eligible for renewal when

FY 2025 Congressional Appropriations are made available and new grants created through CoC, YHDP or DV Reallocation, must submit applications for FY 2025 funding by the application submission deadline of **August 29, 2025,** at 8:00 p.m. EDT, unless HUD extends the deadline.

Your CoC must approve the **Consolidated Application** before you submit it.

* 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit your CoC’s Consolidated Application for the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition.
* 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit your CoC’s Consolidated Application into *e-snaps*.

## Other CoC Program/Application Resources

The CoC Program Competition page on HUD’s website provides resources to assist you in completing the CoC Application, including:

* *Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and FY 2025 Continuum of Care Competition and Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grants*;
* 24 CFR part 578–Continuum of Care Program Regulations;
* CoC Application Navigational Guide which includes how to access the CoC Application in *e-snaps*;
* Frequently Asked Questions, if applicable; and
* Current CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report, developed by a HUD-approved TA provider, to assist you in answering **Question 1C-7** regarding Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC’s Geographic Area.

## About the FY 2024 and 2025 CoC Application

1. **200 total points available**.
2. If you imported information from the FY 2023 CoC Application, you must review all pre-populated information to ensure it is current and accurate.
3. **Answering Multi-Element Narrative Questions–**Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Respond to these questions in the same order as we ask them and number your response to each element using the same numbers we use. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.
4. **Each application question stands on its own unless we refer to another question** in the guidance. We will not award points if we do not refer to another question in the guidance and your response refers to another question and does not respond to the element(s) in the question you are responding to.
5. **When drafting narrative responses**, you should use a word processing program with a character counter to ensure your responses do not exceed the character limit allowed in the text field–then copy and paste your response to the correct response field in *e-snaps*.
6. Unless otherwise noted, dates referred to as **Fiscal Year (FY)** are from **October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023**.
7. We use **Section 4A** **Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Project Applicants** to assess the capacity of project applicants to administer **New DV Bonus Projects** proposing to serve **survivors** fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The points associated with **Section 4A** are **not part** of the CoC Application’s **200 available points**. If your CoC **is not requesting DV Bonus funding**, you must only answer one question in this section. If your CoC is requesting DV Bonus funding, you must complete this section once for **each unique project applicant** regardless of how many projects they are applying for–if your CoC includes their projects on its **New Project Priority Listings**. Project applicants must submit **New DV Bonus project applications** in *e-snaps* because **Section 4A** does not replace the ***e-snaps*** project application process or project threshold requirements. NOFO Section I.B.3.j. describes how we will competitively award DV Bonus funding nationally. We will determine each **DV Bonus Project Score** by combining:

**up to 50 points** from **Section 4A**; and **up to 50 points** from the **CoC Application score**.

We will apply that **DV Bonus** **Project Score** to all project applications that **unique project applicants** apply for using available funding amounts listed on the **FY 2024 Estimated ARD Report**:

* + only **one** Supportive Services Only-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) project; and
  + as many housing projects as fall within available funding, but limited to the following component types:
    - Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing (**PH-RRH**); and
    - Joint Transitional Housing-Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing (**Joint TH and PH-RRH**) projects.

## 4B. Attachments Screen for All CoC Application Questions

**The following guidance will help you successfully upload attachments to receive 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 **you upload**, it is likely we cannot read it either.
   * We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring systemgenerated 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).
   * 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.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Question** | | **Attachment Name** | **Required?** |
| **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 |
| **1A.** | | **Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification** | | | |

We prepopulated the read-only information displayed in **Questions** **1A-1** through **1A-3** based on information in your CoC’s *e-snaps* **Applicant Profile.** The **Question 1A-2 Collaborative Applicant Name** displayed must match the Collaborative Applicant registered during the **FY 2024 and 2025 CoC Program Competition Registration** process. If this information is different, we had to approve the change as outlined in Section I.G. of the NOFO. You cannot change the Collaborative Applicant name in *e-snaps*. If the information in this section is not correct, or if the field is blank, send an email to CoCNOFO@hud.gov. If prepopulated information in **Question 1A-4 HMIS Lead** is not correct, please update the information and save the page.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1B.** | **Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation** |

**1B-1. Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.** NOFO Sections V.B.1.a.(1), V.B.1.e., V.B.1f., and V.B.1.p.

**Guidance–**

* 1. If you select yes for **Participated in CoC Meetings**, you must select yes or no in the other two columns.
  2. If you select no for **Participated in CoC Meetings**, you can select yes for **Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry**.
  3. **Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System** (CES) indicates a partner is involved in the assessment and/or referral process, not whether the partner participated in developing the CES.
  4. Elements **34 and 35 Other** are optional–you can provide additional information if you choose to. You must enter information in the other field in *e-snaps* and save the page, then select the appropriate responses.

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 of CoC**  **Board Members** | **Participated in**  **CoC’s**  **Coordinated Entry** |
| **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 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Organization/Person** | **Participated in CoC**  **Meetings** | **Voted, Including**  **Electing of CoC**  **Board Members** | **Participated in**  **CoC’s**  **Coordinated Entry** |
| **8.** Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities  (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations) | Nonexistent | Yes/No | Yes/No |
| **9.** Law Enforcement | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **10.** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **11.** LGBTQ+ Service Organizations | Yes | Yes | No |
| **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 | No | No | No |
| **31.** Youth Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **32.** Youth Homeless Organizations | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **33.** Youth Service Providers | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| **34.** Other: CCRPC | Yes | No | No |
| **35.** Other: | Yes/No/Nonexistent | Yes/No | Yes/No |

**1B-1a. Experience Promoting Racial Equity.** NOFO Section III.B.3.c.

**Guidance–**You must respond to this question based on **element 16** of question

**1B-1. Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color*.***

* 1. If you selected yes to **Participated in CoC Meetings** for **element 16** of **question 1B-1**, your response must describe:
     1. how your CoC collaborated with underserved communities, particularly Black and Brown communities to design or operate programs that equitably benefit them; or
     2. your CoC’s experience successfully advancing racial equity in other ways.
  2. If you selected no to **Participated in CoC Meetings** for **element 16** of question 1B-1, your response must describe your CoC’s experience soliciting, obtaining, and applying input from such groups when designing, planning, or implementing programs and activities.

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 for better service to BIPOC community members.

**1B-2. Open Invitation for New Members.**

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

**Guidance–**For **element 2** of this question, your response must describe how people with disabilities can access communication your CoC provides to the public on how to join your CoC, for example:

* + online invitation;
  + in-person invitation–virtual/remote meetings; and  invitations offered at other public events/venues.

1. 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 participation 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, 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;

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 1** of this question, we consider mentioning meetings **in addition** to other activities, such as, but not limited to, workshops or training as part of a strategy.

1. communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information;
2. ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and

**Guidance–**

**B.** For **element 3** of this question, describe how people can provide input on preventing and ending homelessness, for example:

* + - online solicitation for public input;
    - in-person solicitation for public input–virtual/remote meetings; and solicitations for input offered at other public events/venues.

1. 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 with people with lived experience, shelter and service, affordable housing, youth service, mental health, seniors, community action advocates, 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 & city 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 in programs and outcomes, 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. All 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 are 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)

**Guidance–**

* 1. Examples of public notifications include, but are not limited to:
     + postings on your CoC’s website or a partner’s website;
     + postings in newspapers with general circulation within your CoC’s geographic area; and
     + publicly accessible forums.
  2. All mediums your reference in your response must be open to the public–we **will not award points** for:
     + forums that **do not** reach the general public;
     + email to the **existing membership**, for example, mass email; or  notes from CoC meetings.

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

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 3** of this question, your response should explain how your CoC scored applications, minimum requirements for applications to be considered, threshold requirements, subpopulations, etc.

1. ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats.

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 4** of this question, describe how people can access communication your CoC provides to the public on how to apply as an organization not previously funded through your CoC, for example:

 online posting of the application process;  in-person meetings–virtual/remote; and  other public events/venues.

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 form 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–Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

**1C-1. Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations.** NOFO Section V.B.1.b.

**Guidance–**

1. Your CoC must consult with the organizations that award funds–at the recipient level, not the subrecipient level.
2. Element **18 Other** is optional–you can enter entities not listed if you choose to. You must enter information in the **Other** field in *e-snaps*, save the page, then select the appropriate response.

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 |
| **Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects** | **Coordinates with the**  **Planning or**  **Operations of Projects?** |
| **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 |
| **18.** Other | Yes/No/Nonexistent |

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

**Guidance–**

* 1. Consultation **must be** with ESG Program recipients–metropolitan cities, urban counties, territories, and states, as defined in 24 CFR 576.2–not subrecipients.
  2. If there is **no local** ESG allocation within your CoC’s geographic area, your CoC **must consult with the state ESG recipient–**meaning you must respond to

this question by either answering the questions based on your CoC’s consultation with the state ESG recipient or stating that your CoC did not consult with the state ESG recipient.

* 1. **If your CoC’s Collaborative Applicant is an ESG recipient**, you must still respond to each element in this question.
  2. For **element 3** of this question, the Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) Update could include a ConPlan Amendment or Action Plan.

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 |

**1C-3. Ensuring Families are not Separated.** NOFO Section V.B.1.c.

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **elements 1 and 2** of this question, your CoC could meet the requirement through stand-alone trainings or part of another training, so long as the training has a separate section for family separation.
  2. **Separation of the perpetrator** is the only allowable exception to the prohibition against family separation of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

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? | No |

**1C-4. CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.** NOFO Section V.B.1.d.

**Guidance–**Youth education providers may include: public and private or charter schools; trade schools; job training; and other specialized programs such as Youth Build and Job Corps or there might be other types of youth education providers within your CoC not directly related to the SEA or LEA.

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 |

**1C-4a. Formal Partnerships with Youth Education Providers, SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.**

NOFO Section V.B.1.d.

**Guidance–**

1. We are looking for a **systemwide process**, not the process for one project or one shelter within your CoC.
2. **Formal** partnerships must be in writing–examples include:
   * policy and procedures;
   * Memorandums of Understanding (MOU);
   * governance charter that specifies a reserved seat for one of the organizations selected in **question 1C-4** on your CoC’s board, committee, or working group; and  other written documents.

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 SectionV.B.1.d.

**Guidance–**

1. Examples of **formal** written agreements include:  Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs),  Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs).
2. Examples of **other types** of agreements include, but are not limited to:
   * agreements to attend each other’s planning meetings or conduct formal cross training;
   * coordinating housing is a joint rapid rehousing pilot/program that includes early childhood services and supports for families; and
   * support and document referral processes between Coordinated Entry providers and early childhood services and supportive services providers.
3. Only **element 5** requires a formal written agreement with federally funded organizations. Your CoC may have written agreements for all other elements listed with state or locally funded organizations.
4. Element **10 Other** is optional–you can provide additional information if you choose to. You must enter information in the **Other** field in *e-snaps* and save the page, then select the appropriate response.

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 | Yes |
| **6.** Head Start | No | Yes |
| **7.** Healthy Start | No | Yes |
| **8.** Public Pre-K | No | Yes |
| **9.** Tribal Home Visiting Program | Yes/No | Yes/No |
| **10.** Other | Yes/No | Yes/No |

**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.

**Guidance–**

1. For this question, collaboration could include:
   * discussions in CoC meetings;
   * working groups; and
   * CoC-lead or CoC-sponsored technical assistance.
2. Checking yes for **element 4** of this question indicates that your CoC collaborates with organizations that provide housing and services to households experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, which may include organizations funded by:
   * HUD CoC Program;
   * HUD Emergency Solutions Grants Program;
   * U.S. Department of Justice Programs; and
   * U.S. Department of Health and Human Services programs.

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organizations** |  |
| **1.** State Domestic Violence Coalitions | No |
| **2.** State Sexual Assault Coalitions | Yes |
| **3.** Anti-trafficking Service Providers | Yes |
| **4.** Other Organizations that Help this Population | Yes |

**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.

**Guidance–**For both elements of this question, your response must specifically address collaborations with the:

1. CoC Program; and
2. ESG Program.

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.** NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

**Guidance–**

* 1. Meaning of terms:

**Trauma-informed:** Approaches delivered with an understanding of the vulnerabilities and experiences of trauma survivors, including the prevalence and physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma. A trauma-informed approach recognizes signs of trauma in staff, clients, and others, and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings. Trauma-informed approaches place priority on restoring the survivors’ feelings of safety, choice, and control. Programs, services, organizations, and communities can be trauma-informed.

**Survivor-centered:** Placing the crime survivor's priorities, needs, and interests at the center of the work with the survivor; providing nonjudgmental assistance, with an emphasis on client self-determination, where appropriate, and assisting survivors in making informed choices; ensuring that restoring survivors’ feelings of safety and security are a priority and safeguarding against policies and practices that could inadvertently re-traumatize survivors; ensuring that survivors' rights, voices, and perspectives are incorporated when developing and implementing system- and community-based efforts that affect crime victims.

* 1. For this question, virtual, self-paced training is acceptable if your CoC requires the training at least annually.
  2. For **element 7** of this question, the other best practice must address a best practice on safety planning different than the other best practices identified in the chart.

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 |
| **7.** | Other? character limit 500 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 |

**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.

**Guidance–**

**A.** Under the Violence Against Women’s Act (VAWA), all CoC Program recipients must develop an emergency transfer plan, which is a written policy that defines the process allowing individuals and families experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking to request and receive a transfer from their current, unsafe unit to a new, safe unit. See https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/VAWA-Requirements-forCoCs-CoC-Recipients-and-ESG-Recipients.pdf.

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;

**Guidance–**

**B.** For **element 2** of this question, your response must address how your CoC informs **all households** about the emergency transfer plan, **regardless of known survivor status**. Examples include, but are not limited to:

* + - * all program participants are made aware of the emergency transfer plan;
      * the process clearly explains how program participants can use their rights to an emergency transfer; and
      * ensure program participants have options for housing and services under an emergency transfer plan or other similar process.

1. 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.

**Guidance–**

* + 1. CoCs should provide the same access to housing and services to survivors as all other populations experiencing homelessness–not just assistance from victim service organizations.
    2. Examples of facilitating safe access include, but are not limited to:
       - client-driven, trauma-informed, and culturally-relevant assessment and screening tools;
       - referral policies and procedures; and
       - addressing program participants’ physical, emotional, safety, privacy, and confidentiality needs.

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 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 that meet needs.

**1C-5f**. **Identifying and Removing Barriers for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.** NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

**Guidance–**

* + 1. Your CoC should proactively identify issues rather than waiting for or responding to something negative, like a reactionary response based on an Inspector General audit finding or a noncompliant situation.
    2. Barriers are obstacles embedded within local social structures and institutions that prevent access or opportunities to achieving equitable outcomes; examples include:
       - resource allocation;
       - disparate impacts;
       - zoning and redlining;
       - equal access;
       - access to services; and
       - economic opportunity-wage gaps.

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 antidiscrimination 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**. |  |

**Guidance–**

**A.** This section applies specifically to your CoC’s coordination with PHA programs, including the Public Housing program and the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program (tenant-based vouchers, project-based vouchers (PBVs), and special purpose vouchers, as further indicated below). **B.** Description of preferences:

**General Preference–**Places all the members of a certain category (or categories) of households above other households on a list.

**Limited Preference–**Often referred to as a “set-aside”, is a defined number of public housing units or Housing Choice Vouchers (HCV) made available on a priority basis to a certain type of applicant for housing assistance.

**Moving On Strategy–**How recipients move current CoC Program participants, who no longer require intensive supportive services and want to move out of CoC Program funded-PSH to other housing assistance programs (including, but not limited to, Housing Choice Vouchers and Public Housing) to free up CoC Program funded-PSH beds to be used for persons experiencing homelessness. For purposes of this section, CoCs will only receive points for a Moving On Strategy developed in connection with PHA programs.

**Project-Based Waiting List Preference–**PHAs may choose to establish a separate waiting list for admission to PBV units or may use the same waiting list for both tenant-based and PBV assistance. PHAs that choose a separate PBV waiting list may use a separate waiting list for PBV units in individual projects or buildings (or for sets of such units) or may use a waiting list for the PHA’s whole PBV program. In either case, the waiting list may establish preferences (general or limited) for occupancy of particular units.

1. Enter the **higher percentage** of total new admissions who were experiencing homelessness at entry into the Public Housing or HCV program during FY 2023.

**Example–**A PHA had a 3 percent admission rate of people experiencing homelessness at the **time of entry** to its Public Housing Program and an admission rate of 8 percent of people experiencing homelessness **at the time of admission to the HCV program**. The Collaborative Applicant would enter the higher number, HCV admissions of 8 percent into the chart.

1. All new **admissions** of people experiencing homelessness at the time of entry count toward the percentage, regardless of the voucher type.
2. **Upload to** the **4B. Attachments Screen** a copy of an excerpt from the PHA(s) Administrative Plan, Admission and Continued Occupancy Policy (ACOP), or a letter from the PHA(s) that addresses:
   1. **Homeless preference** (whether general or limited)**–**name the attachment **PHA Homeless Preference**
   2. **Moving On preference**–this may include the Administrative Plan or ACOP–name the attachment **PHA Moving On Preference**.

**WARNING:** **We will not go to any website** for information regarding preference documentation. We will only consider preference documentation in attachments you submit in ***e-snaps*** with your CoC Application.

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?** |
| **Name**  BHA | Percent of New Admissions  44.44% | Yes-Both | No |
| **Name**  VSHA | Percent of New Admissions  41.84% | Yes-HCV | No |

**1C-7a. Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences with PHAs.** 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**

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

1. 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).

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. BHA's

Mainstream Voucher program includes a preference for applicants who are

homeless, at risk of homelessness, exiting publicly funded institutions, or at

risk of institutionalization. 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

**Guidance–**

* 1. Moving On Strategy is how recipients in your CoC move current CoC Program participants, who no longer require intensive services–who are able and want to move out of CoC Program funded-PSH beds with a rental subsidy–to other housing assistance programs (including, but not limited to, Housing Choice Vouchers and Public Housing) to free up CoC Program funded-PSH beds to be used for persons experiencing homelessness.
  2. **Element 5. Other** is optional–you can provide additional information if you choose to. You must enter information in the other field in *e-snaps* and save the page, then select the appropriate response.

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 Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments | Yes |
| **4.** local low-income housing programs | Yes |
| **5.** Other | No |

**1C-7c. Include Units from PHA Administered Programs in Your CoC’s Coordinated Entry.**

NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

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.

**Guidance**–

**A.** Only select **yes** if your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application to a competitive program **after January 2021,** including a joint application for a project **not dedicated** to people experiencing homelessness. **B.** You **must select no** if your CoC:

1. **only** coordinated with a PHA to submit a joint application to non-competitive programs, such as:
   * HUD-VASH; and
   * Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV);
2. **did not** coordinate with a PHA to submit a joint application; or
3. **only** coordinated with a PHA to submit a joint application to the **CoC Program**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 |
| **2.** Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement. | Program  Funding  Source |

**1C-7e. Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV).**

NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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  ((VSHA -EHV, Stability Vouchers and mainstream 811 Vouchers) HOME ERAP |

## 1D. Coordination and Engagement–Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations–Continued

**1D-1. Preventing People Transitioning from Public Systems from Experiencing Homelessness.**

NOFO SectionV.B.1.h.

**Guidance–**You must indicate whether your CoC coordinates with state or local planning

efforts to prevent homelessness among people transitioning from public systems

(prisons, jails, health care facilities, residential care facilities, and foster care). This coordination may include:

* supporting state and local efforts to identify people who are at-risk of experiencing homelessness from these settings and to assist them to secure stable, accessible, and affordable housing, including reunifying with family members where appropriate;
* data and information sharing;
* education and training on such areas as assessing housing needs and homelessness risk, housing problem-solving, reunifying families, housing navigation and landlord engagement, housing quality, and housing case management; and
* encouraging state and local partners to leverage mainstream health care, corrections, child welfare, and other resources to meet housing needs where possible.

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.

**Guidance–**

1. Do not include data related to YHDP renewal or replacement projects.
2. **Housing First** for this question means providing low barrier projects that do not have service participation requirements or preconditions to entry and prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing. Preconditions to entry that are **not Housing First compliant** include but are not limited to:
   1. income requirements;
   2. current or past substance use;
   3. history of victimization (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse); and
   4. a criminal record–except restrictions imposed by federal, state, or local law or ordinance (e.g., restrictions on serving people who are listed on sex offender registries.)
3. The chart below lists questions where you gather data from project application(s) included on your CoC’s Priority Listing. We will score this question based on the responses in the related **Project Applications** questions as submitted in *e-snaps*.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Related Project Application Questions** |
| Low Barriers to Project Entry | **New:** Screen 3B, question 5b  **Renewal**: Screen 3B, question 3b |
| Housing First | **New:** Screen 3B, questions 5a, 5b, 5c, and 5d  **Renewal**: Screen 3B, questions 3a, 3b, 3c, and 3d |

1. **Element 3** of this question is read-only and will auto calculate after you save the page.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Number** |
| **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**.

**Guidance–**

1. This question assesses how your CoC regularly evaluates projects to ensure those that commit to using a Housing First approach are prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and are not requiring service participation or preconditions of program participants.
2. **Housing First** for this question means providing low barrier projects that do not have service participation requirements or preconditions to entry and prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing. Preconditions to entry that are **not Housing First compliant** include but are not limited to:
   1. income requirements;
   2. current or past substance use;
   3. history of victimization (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse); and
   4. a criminal record–except restrictions imposed by federal, state, or local law or ordinance (e.g., restrictions on serving people who are listed on sex offender registries.)
3. Your CoC must evaluate **every CoC-funded project** outside of your CoC’s local competition rating and ranking process. Your CoC may use the same tool and process it uses during your CoC’s local competition.
4. You must upload an example of an actual evaluation of at least one project, conducted outside of your CoC local competition process–containing information about that project–not a blank form.
5. Name the attachment **Housing First Evaluation**.
6. For resources related to Housing First implementation and an example of a Housing First assessment tool, see:
   * https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/toolkit/responsibilitiesand-duties/housing-first-implementation-resources/
   * https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5294/housing-first-assessmenttool/

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.

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 4** of this question, **fidelity** refers to how closely the project applicants that select Housing First in the application adhere to the core principles and practices of the Housing First model, as described in **Guidance B** above.
  2. If your CoC believes that it has already met the fidelity standard, then your response must describe how your CoC met the standard.

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.

**Guidance–**

* 1. We will score this question using data your CoC submitted in HDX for **metric 7a.1** and your narrative response below.
  2. An example of an effective street outreach strategy tailored to address the needs of people experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance could include collaborating and coordinating with partners like:
     + people with lived experience of homelessness;
     + food bank staff;
     + human services organizations;
     + culturally informed organizations;
     + faith-based organizations;
     + public library staff;
     + sanitation/public works departments;
     + public transit authorities;
     + hospitals;
     + health care workers;
     + landlords;
     + Tribes or Tribally Designated Housing Entities;
     + first responders;
     + law enforcement;
  3. Other examples of street outreach strategies tailored to people experiencing homelessness least likely to request assistance include:
     + forming multidisciplinary outreach teams that include community health workers, case managers, hospital liaisons, social workers, and other relevant staff; and
     + using warm hand-offs, or a gradual, comfortable transitions between the outreach phase and the housing or service engagement phase.

Describe in the field below how your CoC tailored its street outreach to people experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.

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, sec, 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 work to develop relationship and trust with the people they serve, with the ultimate goal of connecting 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 bank staff, 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 organizations, school and college administrations, neighborhood groups, and other community members.

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

**Guidance–**For this question, strategies can include prioritizing the health, safety, and civil rights of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness by adopting or implementing community-wide laws or ordinances, policies, and practices that do not criminalize homelessness.

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 | Yes | Yes |
| carrying out basic life functions in public places? |  |  |
| **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 | Y | Yes |

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

**Guidance–**There are two acceptable sources for the RRH data for this question:

1. HIC–only enter RRH bed data for projects that have an inventory type of “Current”; or
2. Longitudinal HMIS data, e.g., APR or comparable data base–enter aggregate household data for all RRH projects, regardless of funding source.
   * If using longitudinal HMIS data, only use rapid rehousing data where there is a recorded **move-in date**.
   * If using longitudinal HMIS data, you may choose a recent 12-month period, but it should not have a starting period earlier than January 1, 2023 (with an ending period of December 31, 2023). The previous period would be the 12-month period immediately preceding the recent period that you choose.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Data Source** | **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  Longitudinal  HMIS Data | 53 | 56 |

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

**Guidance–**

1. Effective use of benefits may include assisting with appointments, transportation, etc.
2. Element **7 Other** is optional–you can provide additional information if you choose to. You must enter information in the other field in *e-snaps* and save the page, then select the appropriate response.

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains program staff annually on the following mainstream resources 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 | Yes–No |

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

**Guidance–**

**A.** Your response must describe what your CoC is doing, not what individual projects are doing.

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
2. promotes SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.

**Guidance–**

**B.** For **element 2** of this question, if your CoC is located in a U.S. Territory where SSI/SSDI benefits are federally prohibited, state this fact in your response.

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.

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

**Guidance–**While we recognize that some CoCs might still be responding to Corona Virus (COVID 19) or COVID-strain outbreaks; this question is also about responding to and preventing infectious diseases outbreaks like Hepatitis A, Tuberculosis, Measles.

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 among people experiencing homelessness; 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 resulted in the formation of systemic responses to infectious disease response for the homelessness system 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 response are 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 on how to implement universal infection prevention methods, including through shelter administration, vaccination and testing, masking, physical distancing, and facility operations. These protocols are discussed and disseminated via the CoC. VDH makes available free Narcan, drug test strips, COVID PCR tests and other harm reduction tools.

VDH in consultation with State OEO office established Homeless Health Equity Care Capacity Building Grants to build on the new partnerships and support future and ongoing planning and collaboration at the local and state level.

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 in action this year in response to both local flooding emergencies and the EEE outbreak, impacting our community experiencing homelessness.

**1D-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 **Guidance–**For **element 1** of this question, examples include:
   * public presentations or resources on the impact of public health and homelessness; and
   * communication for homeless service providers about how to protect the people they serve from a public health concern.
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;

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 1** of this question, examples include:
     1. your CoC widely published a 211 or other housing and services hotline number(s) to persons experiencing homelessness that includes information about housing and services available in your CoC’s geographic area; and
     2. using street outreach staff to engage people living in encampments.

1. uses a standardized assessment process to achieve fair, equitable, and equal access to housing and services within your CoC;

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 2** of this question, examples include how your CoC:
     1. determines the assessment for specific subpopulations;
     2. uses assessment information in case conferences/by-name list meetings; and
     3. determines prioritization of specific household types.

1. collects personal information in a trauma-informed way; and
2. is updated at least annually using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry. Limit 2,500 Characters
3. 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 serves as a virtual access point in Chittenden County, providing full geographic coverage & makes referrals to assessment hubs for CE Providers to offer assessment to clients. CE has a centralized email and phone number for ease of access. VT-501 CoC has five street outreach teams to ensure availability throughout the geographic area of the CoC. This allows for quick identification, assessment, and engagement of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. 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 for all persons experiencing a housing crisis in the CoC. The CoC developed specialized assessments to meet the needs of different populations and to capture inherent vulnerability differences that exist on a population level. The baseline assessments are mostly the same with some specific questions adjusted for families, DV survivors, and youth and their needs. These were identified through coordination with family, DV, and youth providers and their knowledge and experience and feedback from their service users. The information gathered in the assessment process serves as the basis for case conference done our weekly meeting for case managers, the Community Housing Review Committee. CE prioritization for specific household types was done for families with minor children to address vulnerability of minor children experiencing homelessness. Households are given this priority if they present with minor children.

3. Part of being trauma informed for CE, is that households are offered enrollment but are not obligated to enroll. The process is voluntary. Those concerned about confidentiality are offered to enroll de-identified with only one or a few agencies being included in the release they sign. CE structures its intakes as a conversation with the household seeking services. Intakes start with the name, date of birth, and other demographic information before getting into the assessment. These types of questions are standard across social services and generally expected. This helps assessors to develop a rapport before getting into more personal questions. Assessors are trained to be compassionate, understanding 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, 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

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 3** of this question, you must describe your CoC’s process that is currently in place to ensure people most in need of assistance receive assistance in a timely manner.

1. takes steps to reduce burdens on people seeking assistance.

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 4** of this **question**, you must describe the steps your CoC is taking to reduce burdens such as not asking invasive questions or collecting unnecessary information during assessment.

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 are connected to a housing navigator to assist with completing housing applications, identity documents, and other supports to alleviate the burden of the housing processes

**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

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 3** of this question, you must describe your CoC’s process that is currently in place to ensure people most in need of assistance receive assistance in a timely manner.

1. takes steps to reduce burdens on people seeking assistance.

**Guidance–**

1. For **element 4** of this **question**, you must describe the steps your CoC is taking to reduce burdens such as not asking invasive questions or collecting unnecessary information during assessment.

Limit 2,500 Characters

See above

**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;

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 1** of this question, your CoC must advertise housing and supportive services to eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identify, sexual orientation, age, familial status, or disability–that furthers fair housing as detailed in 24 CFR 578.93(c).

1. informs program participants of their rights and remedies available under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws; and
2. 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.

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 3** of this question, your response must describe your CoC’s **process** for reporting observed conditions or actions that impede fair housing– which could include, but is not limited to, reporting impediments to fair housing while participating in the consolidated planning process of the jurisdiction(s) in your CoC’s geographic area.

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.

**Guidance**–Refer to the HUD Exchange for resources for equity data tools: Racial EquityHUD Exchange.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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. | August 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

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 1** of this question, your response must include your CoC’s assessment process and data sources.
     1. Examples of **quantitative data sources** include but are not limited to:
        + Point-in-Time count;
        + American Community Survey; and
        + Stella Performance Module (Stella P).
     2. Examples of **qualitative data sources** include but are not limited to:
        + focus groups, interviews, or surveys of people experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons; and
        + including people with lived expertise on your CoC’s data or HMIS committees.

1. 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.

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 2** of this question, an example is the CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool.

Limit 2,500 Characters

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 identity 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.

**Guidance–**Element **12 Other** is optional–you can provide additional information if you choose

to. You must enter information in the other field in *e-snaps* and save the page, then select the appropriate response. Any actions taken must be consistent with federal nondiscrimination requirements.

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? | No |
| **12.** Other | Yes–No |

**1D-9c. Plan for Ongoing Evaluation of System-level Processes, Policies, and Procedures for Racial Equity.** NOFO Section V.B.1.p.

**Guidance**–

1. Your response to this question must describe your CoC’s plan to prevent or eliminate racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance that:
   1. addresses CoC-level processes, policies, and procedures; and
   2. includes ongoing evaluation of the plan.
2. This question is different than **question 1D-9d** because it focuses on evaluating your CoC-level **processes, policies, and procedures**, while **question 1D-9d** focuses on using racial disparity data in the evaluation process.

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, polices 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.

**Guidance**–

**A.** This question is different than **question 1D-9c** because it focuses on using **racial disparity data** in your CoC’s evaluation process, while **question 1D-9c** focuses on evaluating your CoC-level processes, policies, and procedures.

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.

**Guidance–**

**B.** For **element 2** of this question, an example is the CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool.

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 SectionV.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 experiencing 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 SectionV.B.1.q.

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

**Guidance**–

1. You must enter a value of ‘0’ or more in both columns for all five elements of this question.
2. People with lived experience **must have current knowledge** of homeless crisis response systems, which can be experience and/or professional understanding. **C. Attachment requirements**:
   1. Who **must sign** the Lived Experience Support Letter(s):
      1. an **authorized representative** of a workgroup consisting of at least three individuals with lived experience (for example, a working chair) **and** evidence the person signing the letter is authorized to represent the group; **or**
      2. **at least three members** involved in the working group (for example, advisory committee, subcommittee) comprised of individuals with lived experience; **or**
      3. **three individuals** with lived experience involved on different committees, subcommittees, workgroups may **sign individual letters**;
   2. the letter(s) **must state** support for your CoC’s priorities for serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness **with severe service needs** in your CoC’s geographic area; and
   3. people with lived experience may sign letters using pseudonyms to protect their privacy.
   4. Name the attachment **Lived Experience Support Letter**.

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 | 2 |
| **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 SectionV.B.1.q.

**Guidance–**Examples of professional development include: internships, continuing education, skill-based training.

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 SectionV.B.1.q.

**Guidance–Elements 1 through 4** refer to two categories of people experiencing homeless who:

1. your CoC **did not** provide CoC Program or ESG Program assistance to– **Elements 1 and 2**; and
2. your CoC **provided** CoC Program or ESG Program assistance to– **Elements 3 and 4**.

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.

**Guidance–**

**C.** Your response to **element 5** of this question must address steps your CoC has taken based on challenges raised by anyone with lived experience, regardless of whether your CoC provided them with CoC Program or ESG Program assistance.

Limit 2,500 Characters

1. VT-501 CoC is committed to ensuring that those with lived experience are informing and 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 that have driven the priorities and strategies coming out of the planning process. This strong advocacy has 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 for those experiencing homelessness.

2. Community Meetings are a twice yearly events, designed specifically for community feedback form people with lived experience of homelessness. The Advisory Group is intended to meet monthly to provide input to various areas of CoC activity. When new projects are in development, it has become the practice of members to engage 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 discuss ways to improve program and services and receive feedback from current clients, former clients, as well as community members and stakeholders. This committee administers its own annual survey, gathering data about the quality of services received. This 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. In a recent update to the assessments the process for providing feedback and information on what worked and what didn’t, centered on the front-line staff who performed the assessments and the feedback received from those experiencing homelessness when completing them.

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 through conversation and project display at the Community Resource Center. Through conversation, interviews, advocacy and anonymous systems such as post it notes on displays, feedback was gathered from our community to understand needs and required changes.

**1D-11. Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.** NOFO SectionV.B.1.s.

**Guidance–**Examples of steps include, but are not limited to:

* + meeting with elected/non-elected officials;
  + attending zoning meetings;
  + submitting comments to officials; and letter writing campaigns.

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** |

**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.

**Guidance–**

* 1. Your CoC is not required to open its local competition for 30 days, rather your

CoC’s local competition submission deadline must **be no later than**

**September 30, 2024–**which is 30 days before HUD’s CoC Program Competition submission deadline of **October 30, 2024**–unless HUD extends the deadline; in such cases the extended deadline is 30 calendar days before the HUD-approved extension deadline.

* 1. Your CoC **may require** applicants to submit project applications in *e-snaps* prior to our CoC Program Competition submission deadline to be considered for funding as part of your CoC’s local competition process.
  2. For our purposes, you must submit all project applications in *e-snaps* and rank/or include them on the appropriate Priority Listing by our

**October 30, 2024,** submission deadline–unless HUD extends the deadline– submission deadline for us to consider projects for funding.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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. | Date  08/23/24 |
| **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. | Date  08/23/24 |

**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 SectionV.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**. |  |

**Guidance–**

* 1. **To be eligible for CoC Bonus and DV Bonus funding consideration**, you must demonstrate that your CoC used at least one criterion relating to improving system performance.
  2. Upload to the **4B. Attachments Screen** the scoring tool your CoC used in your local competition to score new and renewal ranked projects and all project application component–**e.g., PSH, RRH, TH, SSO, Joint TH-RRH–**types, which must include:
  3. maximum points available for each **project**;
  4. maximum points available for **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);
  5. maximum points available for **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);
  6. maximum points available for projects that addressed specific **severe barriers** to housing and services; and
  7. data from comparable databases used to score projects submitted by victim service providers.

1. If your CoC **does not use** a tool that includes maximum points available **for all component types** (for example, PSH, RRH) used in its local competition, then you must combine and upload the scoring tool for each component type your CoC used during its local competition that include maximum points available.
2. **Do not include** all scored project applications submitted by project applicants as part of the attached evidence for this question.
3. For **element 4** of this question, examples of barriers include:
   * high utilization of crisis or emergency services to meet basic needs, including but not limited to emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities
   * history of victimization/abuse including domestic abuse, sexual assault, and childhood abuse
   * length of time homeless
   * low income
   * no income
   * only project of its kind in their CoC’s geographic area serving a special homeless population/subpopulation
   * risk of continued homelessness
   * significant challenges or functional impairments, including physical, mental, developmental or behavioral health disabilities regardless of the type of disability, which require a significant level of support to maintain permanent housing (focuses on the level of support needed not disability type)
   * substance abuse–current or past
   * unsheltered homelessness–especially youth and children
   * vulnerability to illness or death
   * vulnerability to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking or sex work
4. For **element 6** of this question, if your CoC **does not use** a tool that includes maximum points available to projects, then you must describe how your CoC rated and ranked the projects based on the degree the projects identified any barriers to participation 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.
5. Renewal and replacement YHDP, CoC Planning, and UFA Costs projects are not included in the criteria because they are not ranked.
6. Name the attachment **Local Competition Scoring Tool**.

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 |

**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 SectionV.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| You must upload the **Scored Forms for One Project** attachment to the **4B. Attachments** | |
| **Screen**. |  |

**Guidance–**

* 1. Upload to the **4B. Attachments Screen** a copy of completed score forms used for **one renewal project** submitted in your local competition, which must include:
     1. the objective criteria and system performancecriteriaand their **respective** maximum point values–if your CoC uses multiple score forms, you must include maximum point values for everything your CoC awarded points that made up the final project score for the one scored renewal project; and
     2. the actual points your CoC awarded for all score forms for the one scored renewal project.
     3. **If your CoC uses different score forms for different types of renewal projects**, upload the most commonly used score form(s) that includes the maximum point values and the actual points your CoC awarded for one scored renewal project:
        1. if your CoC used several score forms for **each renewal project**, combine and upload all score forms used for one project; or
        2. if your CoC only used one renewal project score form or one set of score forms for **all renewal projects**, upload it or combine and upload the set; or
        3. if your CoC only used one score form or one set of score forms for **renewal and new projects**, upload it or combine and upload the set.
     4. **If yo**u**r CoC has no renewal projects**, upload all score forms for one **new** project that includes:
        1. objective criteria with maximum point values and actual points your CoC awarded; and
        2. system performancecriteria (if used) with maximum point values and actual points your CoC awarded.
  2. **Do not upload** as evidence ***e-snaps* project applications** submitted by project applicants*.*
  3. **Element 3** of this question relates to the attachment requirement. If the renewal form type most commonly used is a tie, you may submit the renewal form(s) for either renewal project type.
  4. Renewal and replacement YHDP, CoC Planning, and UFA Costs projects are not included in the criteria because they are not ranked. **E.** Name the attachment **Scored Forms for One Project**.

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)? | Number  100 |
| **2.** How many renewal projects did your CoC submit? | Number  7 |
| **3.** What renewal project type did most applicants use? | PH-RRH  PH-PSH  SSO  Tie |

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

**Guidance–**

* 1. Include in your response considerations your CoC gave to projects that provide housing and services to the hardest to serve populations that could result in lower performance levels but are projects needed in your CoC’s geographic area.
  2. Below are examples of needs and vulnerabilities that you should consider when answering this question (these examples are not exhaustive) and you should describe any other vulnerabilities your CoC took into consideration:
     + history of victimization/abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse;
     + criminal history;
     + chronic homelessness;
     + low or no income;
     + current or past substance abuse;
     + the only project of its kind in your CoC’s geographic area serving a special homeless population/subpopulation.
  3. Your response to this question must agree with the information you provided in question **1E-2.’s Local Competition Scoring Tool** attachment and demonstrated in question **1E-2a.’s** **Scored Renewal Project Application** attachment.
  4. Renewal and replacement YHDP, CoC Planning, and UFA Costs projects are not included in the criteria because they are not ranked.

Describe in the field below:

1. how your CoC analyzed data regarding each project that has successfully housed program participants in permanent housing;

**Guidance–**

**E.** An example of acceptable data is HMIS/Comparable database exit destination data.

1. how your CoC analyzed data regarding how long it takes to house people in permanent housing;
2. 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
3. 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;

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **elements 1** of this question, your response must specifically identify the race(s) and ethnicities over-represented.

1. how your CoC included persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those overrepresented in the local homelessness population in the review, selection, and ranking process; and

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 2** of this question, your response must describe how persons of different races and ethnicities:
     1. participated in the review and selection workgroup, committee, etc., that reviewed, selected, and ranked projects in your CoC’s local competition; and
     2. how people of over-represented races and ethnicities participated on the workgroup, committee, etc., that reviewed, selected, and ranked projects in your CoC’s local competition.

1. 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.

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 3** of this question, your response must explain how your CoC’s equity criteria was a factor in determining where your CoC ranked projects. Merely stating we give points for equity is **not sufficient**.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 disproportionally 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.

**1E-4. Reallocation–Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.** NOFO Section V.B.2.f.

**Guidance–**

**A.** We may award maximum points if your CoC followed its reallocation process and did not reallocate lower performing projects.

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;

**Guidance–**

**B.** For **element 1** of this question, your response **must describe:**

* + - * 1. your CoC’s **reallocation process**–merely referring to your CoC’s process without describing the process is **not sufficient**; and
        2. **how your CoC determines** whether to reallocate lower performing or less needed projects to create new higher performing projects.

1. **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;

**Guidance–**

**C.** For **element 2** of this question, your response must state **whether your CoC** **identified** any low performing or less needed projects.

1. **whether your CoC reallocated** any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year; and

**Guidance–**

**D.** For **element 3** of this question, your response must state **whether your CoC** **reallocated** any low performing or less needed projects–stating “not applicable” or similar words are **not sufficient** responses.

1. **why your CoC did not** **reallocate** low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year, if applicable.

**Guidance–**

**E.** For **element 4** of this question, your response must state **why your CoC did not reallocate** any low performing or less needed projects, **or** state there were no low performing or less needed projects–stating “not applicable” or similar words are **not sufficient** responses. 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.

**Guidance–**To determine if your CoC cumulatively reallocated at least 20 percent, add the reallocated amounts for FY 2019, FY 2021, FY 2022, FY 2023, FY 2024 and divide the sum by your CoC’s FY 2019 Annual Renewal Demand (ARD).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2019 and FY 2024? | No |

**1E-5. Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of *e-snaps*.** NOFO SectionV.B.2.g.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| You must upload the **Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced** attachment to the | |
| **4B. Attachments Screen**. |  |

**Guidance–**

* 1. If your CoC rejected or reduced any project(s), upload to the **4B. Attachments**

**Screen** evidence that your CoC provided notification no later than

**October 15, 2024**, which is 15 days before HUD’s FY 2024 CoC Program Competition Application submission deadline of **October 30, 2024**–unless HUD extends the deadline, in such cases the extended deadline is 15 calendar days before the extension deadline. This does not apply to renewal and replacement YHDP projects, CoC Planning, and UFA Costs projects because you do not rank them; unless one of these project types were submitted by an ineligible applicant (for example, a non-Collaborative Applicant submitted a CoC planning project).

* 1. If your CoC **did not** reject or reduce any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition:
     1. **upload** at the **4B. Attachments Screen** a statement that your CoC did not reject or reduce any project during your CoC’s local competition; and
     2. select **No** for elements **1 through 3** of this question.

1. Acceptable evidence that your CoC notified project applicants 15 days before the CoC Program Competition submission deadline–that clearly displays a systemgenerated date and time–include:
   1. **mass email notification** to all project applicants or **individual email notifications** to each project applicant that your CoC posted to your CoC’s or partner’s website a listing that includes:
      * 1. all projects;
        2. all project rankings;
        3. all project scores; and **(d)** all funding amounts.
   2. **individual email notifications** to project applicants, e.g., email or email with a letter attached that includes:
      * 1. project name;
        2. **the reason(s)** why your CoC reduced or rejected the project– **which could be the project score**; and **(c)** rank order of the project.
2. **We will not award points** for the following:
   1. documents that are not readable;
   2. documents with manually added times and dates;
   3. notification to any applicant that does not meet the deadline;
   4. attachments that include dated letters with no evidence your CoC sent the letters to applicants by the deadline–we recommend you send notifications by email;
   5. individual email that does not include **who sent the email** and **who the email was sent to**; or
   6. mass email that **does not include who sent** the email **and all** email addresses the email was sent to.
3. Name the attachment **Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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. | Date  10/13/24 |

**1E-5a. Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of *e-snaps*.** NOFO SectionV.B.2.g.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| You must upload the **Notification of Projects Accepted** attachment to the **4B. Attachments** | |
| **Screen**. |  |

**Guidance–**

* + 1. Upload to the **4B. Attachments Screen** evidence that your CoC provided notification no later than **October 15, 2024**, which is 15 days before HUD’s FY 2024 CoC Program Competition Application submission deadline of **October 30, 2024**–unless HUD extends the deadline, in such cases the extended deadline is 15 calendar days before the HUD-approved extension deadline.
    2. If your CoC did **not** accept any project(s), upload to the **4B. Attachments Screen** a statement that your CoC did not accept any project during your CoC’s local competition.
    3. Acceptable evidence that your CoC notified project applicants 15 days before the CoC Program Competition submission deadline–that clearly displays the date and time–include:

**(1) mass email notification** to all project applicants or **individual email notifications** to each applicant that your CoC posted to your CoC’s or partner’s website a listing that includes:

all projects;

all project rankings;

all project scores; and **(d)** all funding amounts.

**(2) individual notifications** to project applicants, e.g., email **or** email with a letter attached that includes:

project name;

project ranking;

project score; and

funding amount.

**D. We will not award points** for any of the following:

* + - 1. documents that are not readable;
      2. documents with manually added times and dates;
      3. notification to any applicant that does not meet the deadline;
      4. attachments that include dated letters with no evidence your CoC sent the letters to the applicants by the deadline;
      5. individual email that does not include **who sent the email** and **who the email was sent to**; or
      6. mass email that **does not include who sent** the email **and all** email addresses the email was sent to.

**E.** Name the attachment **Notification of Projects Accepted.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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. | Date  10/13/24 |

**1E-5b. Local Competition Selection Results for All Projects.** NOFO SectionV.B.2.g.

|  |
| --- |
| You must upload the |
| **Attachments Screen** |

**Local Competition Selection Results** attachment to the **4B.**

.

**Guidance–**

**A.** Upload to the **4B. Attachments Screen** the **Local Competition Selection Results** for all projects your CoC considered during its local competition, including:

* + - * 1. new projects, including CoC Planning and UFA Costs projects;
        2. renewal projects;
        3. **fully** or **partially** reallocated projects;
        4. rejected projects–include all projects your CoC rejected regardless of the reason for rejection; and
        5. renewal and replacement YHDP projects.

**B. Illustration 1** below identifies the six columns you must use to display information in the attachment you upload. **We will not award points** for evidence submitted that **does not** include **at least the six elements listed** in this question. The *e-snaps*-generated Priority Listings are **not sufficient** evidence.

# Illustration 1



**C.** In the **Amount Requested from HUD** column:

1. you must enter the amount your CoC submitted to HUD for funding for each project, regardless of whether the amounts match what project applicants applied for in your CoC’s local competition; and
2. could include available **CoC Bonus funds** and available **Reallocated Funds** as illustrated in **row 6** to request **New Project** funding. **D.** In the **Reallocated Funds** column, you must:
3. list the amounts your CoC reallocated from projects as illustrated in **rows 13 and 14**; and
4. list reallocated amounts your CoC used to request **New Projects** as illustrated in **rows 5 and 6.**
5. Name the attachment **Local Competition Selection Results**.
6. **WARNING:** If you amend project applications back to project applicants in ***e-snaps*** for them to make changes, **you must approve** the project applications in *e-snaps* those applicants resubmit. **If you do not**, their project applications will not be included on your CoC’s Priority Listings, which could result in your CoC **losing funding–ARD**–or HUD **funding lower priority projects**, but not funding the project you intended to approve after the project applicant changed and resubmitted their project application in ***e-snaps***. **We lack the authority** to fund projects unless they are included on the Priority Listings, which informs us which projects your CoC is prioritizing.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 |

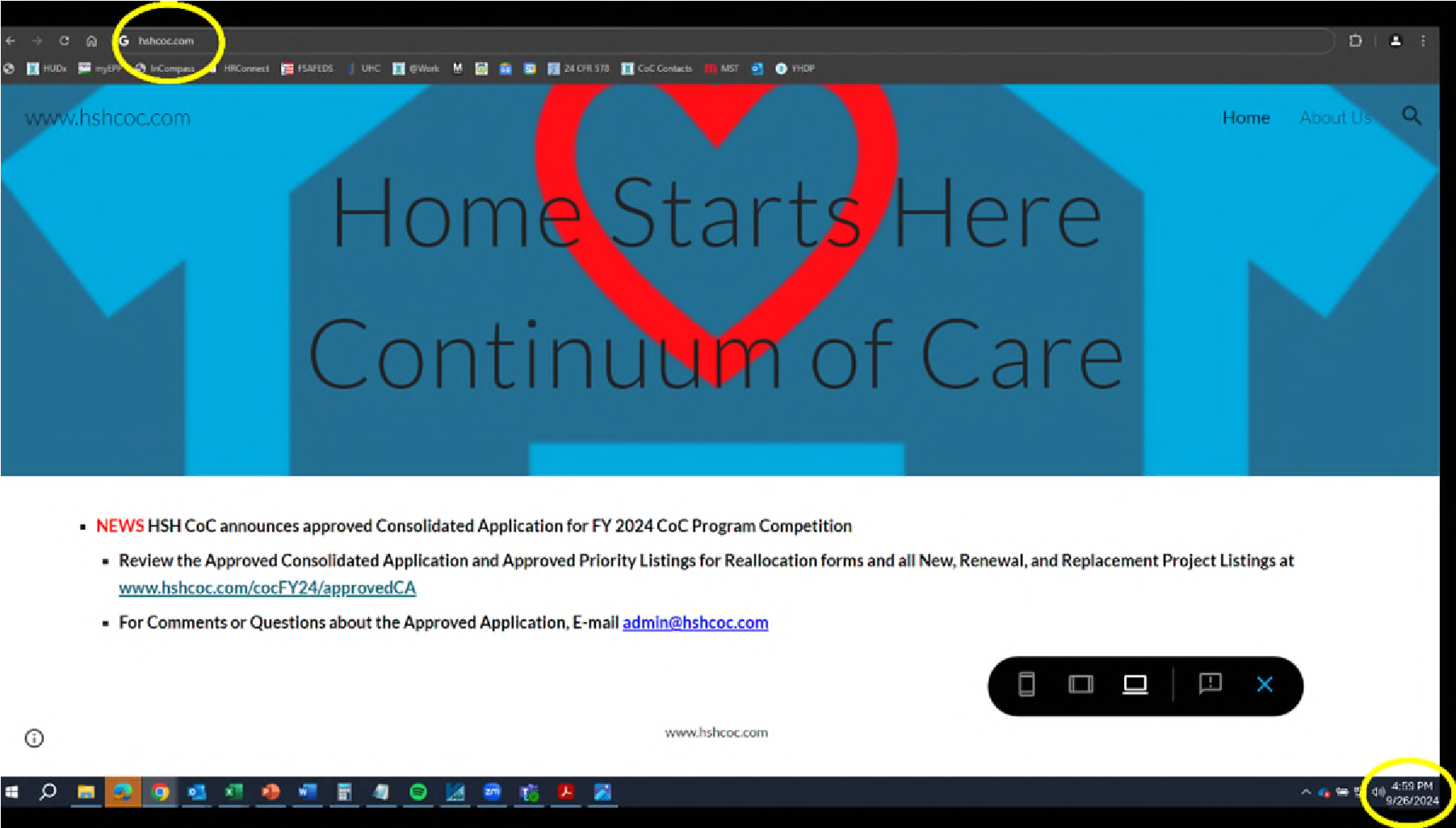
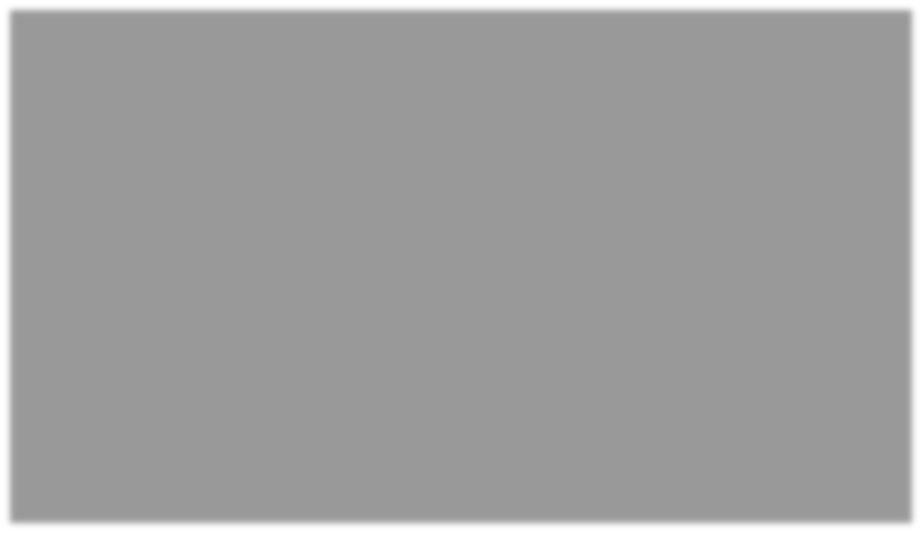
**1E-5c. Web Posting of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application 2 Days Before CoC** **Program Competition Application Submission Deadline.** NOFO Section V.B.2.g. and 24 CFR 578.95.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| You must upload the **Web Posting–CoC-Approved** **Consolidated Application** attachment to | |
| the **4B. Attachments Screen**. |  |

**Guidance–**

**A.** Upload to the **4B. Attachments Screen** a screenshot of a website posting that legibly displays a system generated date and time demonstrating your CoC posted the CoC-Approved version of your CoC’s Consolidated Application at least 2 days before the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition application submission deadline (e.g., screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar). See **Illustration 2** below for an example of sufficient evidence.

# Illustration 2



1. We will only award points for the **CoC-approved version** of your CoC’s Consolidated Application–this means your CoC must approve and post your

CoC’s Consolidated Application no later than **October 28, 2024, which is**

2 days before the FY 2024 CoC Program application submission deadline of

**October 30, 2024**–unless HUD extends the deadline, in such cases the

extended deadline is 2 days before the HUD-approved extension deadline. The 2-day notice gives communities the opportunity to review and comment on your CoC’s Consolidated Application submission. CoCs may post revisedapproved Consolidated Applications after the original posting based on community feedback.

Your CoC **must have a process for approving the Consolidated Application** as documented in your CoC’s governance charter or other governing document(s). Your CoC **may designate** its CoC board, a committee, or the Collaborative Applicant to approve the application or your CoC may approve the application at a full CoC membership meeting in accordance with conflictof-interest provisions at 24 CFR 578.95.

1. We **will not award points** for submitted evidence:
2. that is posted on **Facebook** or other such platforms not available to the public without accounts or subscriptions–the evidence **must be** on a website landing page;
3. that is **not readable**;
4. with **manually** added times and dates;
5. **without** system-generated dates and times; or
6. that is a **draft Consolidated Application**–CoCs must approve the Consolidated Application posted to meet this requirement.
7. We recommend you export a **PDF version** of your CoC’s Consolidated Application from ***e-snaps***for public posting*–*as approved by your CoC that includes:
   1. the CoC Application; and
   2. Priority Listings that include reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.
8. If **your CoC** does not have its own webpage, your CoC may use any partner’s website to meet the public posting requirement.
9. **Do not** include any project application(s) in the attachment to respond to this question.
10. Name the attachment **Web Posting–CoC-Approved** **Consolidated Application**.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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. | Date |

**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**. |  |

**Guidance–**

* + 1. Upload to the **4B. Attachments Screen** evidence demonstrating your CoC notified CoC members and key stakeholders by email that your CoC posted the final version of your CoC’s Consolidated Application by **October 28, 2024**, which is **2 days before** the FY 2024 CoC Program application submission deadline of **October 30, 2024**–unless HUD extends the deadline, in such cases the extended deadline is 2 calendar days before the HUD-approved extension deadline.
    2. Email notification must be sent to:
       1. **project applicants**; and
       2. **key stakeholders**–the broader CoC membership and other key stakeholders.

**C.** Examples of acceptable evidence with system-generated dates that your CoC notified CoC members and key stakeholders include:

* + - * mass email; or
      * individual email.

**D.** We **will not** award points for attachments:

* + - 1. that are not readable;
      2. with **manually** added dates and times;
      3. **without** system-generated dates and times;
      4. individual email that does not include **who sent the email** and **who the email was sent to**;
      5. mass email that **does not include who sent** the email **and all** email addresses the email was sent to; or
      6. individual or mass email that **does not include** key stakeholders.

**E.** Name the attachment **Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application**.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 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. | | Date | |
| **2A.** | | **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)–Implementation** | |

**2A-1. HMIS Vendor Name.**

Not Scored–For Information Only

Enter the name of the HMIS Vendor your CoC is currently using. Bitfocus Clarity

Limit 75 Characters

**2A-2. HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.** Not Scored–For Information Only

**Guidance–**

* + 1. Term meanings:

**Single CoC**–the only CoC participating in HMIS

**Multiple CoC**–the CoC is one of many participating, unless the HMIS is statewide

**Statewide**–the CoC is part of a statewide HMIS

* + 1. Some implementation areas fall into both “Statewide” and “Multiple CoCs” coverage areas. For Multiple CoCs implementation that includes all CoCs in one state, only select “Statewide.”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Select from dropdown menuyour CoC’s HMIS coverage area. | Statewide |

**2A-3. HIC Data Submission in HDX.** NOFO SectionV.B.3.a.

**Guidance–**

* + 1. HUD’s submission deadline was **May 10, 2024, 8:00 p.m. EST**. If we granted your CoC an extension to submit data, we will verify whether your CoC submitted the data by the extension deadline:
    2. Unfortunately, the date your CoC submitted this data is not included in the **2024 HDX Competition Report** we sent to your CoC. Please enter the date you submitted the data. If you are unclear about the date, but you know you submitted it on time, you may use the due date in **Guidance A** above. We will verify the dates during our scoring process.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 HIC data into HDX. | Date  05/10/24 |

**2A-4. Comparable Databases for DV Providers–CoC and HMIS Lead Supporting Data Collection and Data Submission by Victim Service Providers.** 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.

1. 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.

**Guidance–**

* 1. If the bed coverage rate is **84.99 percent or lower**, you **could** receive partial points by completing **question** **2A-5a.**
  2. The bed coverage rate is the number of HMIS participating beds divided by the number of year-round beds dedicated to persons experiencing homelessness in your CoC’s geographic area.
  3. The chart below is a crosswalk of the data required in ***e-snaps*** and the columns where you can find the data in the **2024 HDX Competition Report.**

***e-snaps* Header Column in**

**HDX Report**

Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current Non-VSP Beds 954

Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current VSP Beds **155**

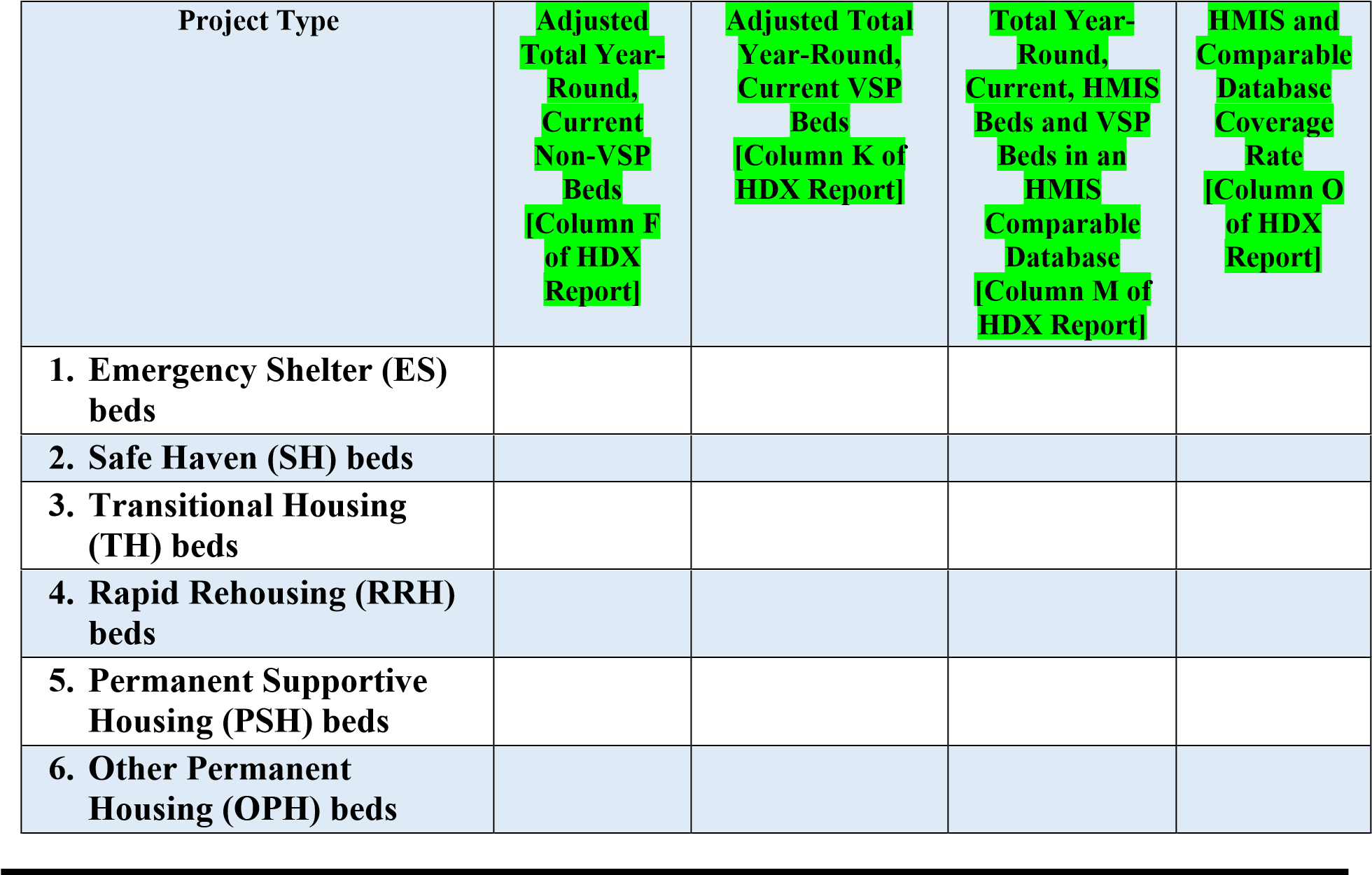
Total Year-Round, Current, HMIS Beds and VSP Beds in  **478**  HMIS Comparable Database

HMIS and Comparable Database Coverage Rate **43.1%**

* 1. In the 2024 HIC–and applicable to the chart below–the field for victim service provider included both victim service providers and organizations that are not victim service providers but are otherwise prohibited from participating in HMIS.
  2. If your CoC reported a **merger** in the FY 2023 **or** FY 2024 CoC Program Registration processes, we will assess the merged CoC on the same coverage rate as in Section V.B.3.b. of the CoC Program NOFO, but using the **higher** of:
     + the bed coverage rate reported by the combined, newly merged CoC in the 2024 Housing Inventory Count (HIC); **or**
     + the highest bed coverage rate reported by one of the merged CoCs from the 2023 HIC.
  3. Enter “0” for all cells if a project type does not exist in your CoC.
  4. For HIC Data, only enter the bed data for projects that have an inventory type of

“current.”

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



|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | F | K | M | O |
| ES | 659 | 139 | 325 | 40.73% |
| SH | 0 | 0 | 0 | NA |
| TH | 3 | 7 | 10 | 100% |
| RRH | 98 | 9 | 65 | 60.75% |
| PSH | 88 | 0 | 56 | 63.64% |
| OPH | 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 **2024 HDX Competition Report** to the **4B. Attachments** | |
| **Screen**. |  |

**Guidance–**

**A.** To meet the attachment requirement, HUD will send an Excel version of **2024** **HDX Competition Report** by **August 30, 2024**, to your CoC’s Primary contact and other contacts listed in HDX 2.0. If your CoC’s contacts do not receive the file by August 30, 2024, send an email to CoCNOFO@hud.gov requesting a copy of the report. Include **2024 HDX Competition Report** in the email subject line, and include your name, CoC number, and email address in the body of the email. The **2024** **HDX Competition Report** will include:

* + 2024 PIT Count Data
  + 2024 HIC Data
  + FY 2023 Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM) Summary Report
  + FY 2023 SysPM Data Quality
  + Submission and Count Dates **B.** This question focuses on:
  1. whether your CoC submitted the LSA data by the **submission deadline** of **January 24, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST**; and
  2. whether HUD determined that **at least 2** **of the LSA files were usable–**as part of our review and score for this question, we will verify whether your CoC’s submission included at least two usable files–you can identify how many files we determined were usable by referring to the **2024 HDX Competition Report**.

**C.** If we **extended the deadline** for your CoC or all CoCs to submit LSA data:

* 1. select ‘**Yes**’ if your CoC submitted the LSA data by the HUD-approved extension deadline; or
  2. select ‘**No**’ if your CoC did not submit the data by the HUD-approved extension deadline.

We will verify whether your CoC’s submission included at least two usable files and whether your CoC submitted data by the HUD-approved extension deadline

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 |
| **2B.** | | **Point-in-Time (PIT) Count** | | |

**2B-1. PIT Count Date.**

NOFO Section V.B.4.a.

**Guidance–**If we granted your CoC an extension, we will verify that your CoC conducted its PIT count during the agreed-upon time frame.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2024 PIT count. | Date  1/24/24 |

**2B-2. PIT Count Data–HDX Submission Date.** NOFO Section V.B.4.a.

**Guidance–**

* 1. HUD’s submission deadline was **May 10, 2024, 8:00 p.m. EST**. If we granted your CoC an extension to submit data, we will verify that your CoC met the submission extension deadline.
  2. Unfortunately, the date your CoC submitted this data is not included in the **2024 HDX Competition Report** we sent to your CoC. Please enter the date you submitted the data. If you are unclear about the date, but you know you submitted it on time, you may use the due date in **Guidance A** above. We will verify the dates during our scoring process.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 PIT count data in HDX. | Date  5/2/24 |

**2B-3. PIT Count–Effectively Counting Youth in Your CoC’s Most Recent Unsheltered PIT Count.**

NOFO Section V.B.4.b.

**Guidance–**We will only award points if the Youth Count is conducted in coordination with and at the time when your CoC conducts its full PIT count.

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 listserve 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 Sections V.B.5.a. and V.B.7.c.

**Guidance–**

* 1. Changes in your CoC’s PIT count implementation may include:
     + changes in **methodology,** such as a change from conducting a samplebased count to a complete census count or adding a service-based count component to the count; or
     + changes in **data quality**, which are actions your CoC implemented to improve the implementation of the count, including enhanced training, additional volunteers, and changes in providers contributing data for the count.
  2. If your CoC reported a **merger** in the FY 2023 **or** FY 2024 CoC Program Registration processes, state in your response if the process of merging impacted your CoC’s 2024 PIT count.

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 area; and

**Guidance–**

**C.** For **element 3** of this question, your response must include data explaining the impact of people displaced by either a natural disaster or the number of people **seeking short-term shelter** or **housing assistance** who **recently arrived** in your CoC’s geographic area. If you are not including data in your response, describe the impact on your CoC’s 2024 PIT count.

1. describe how the changes affected your CoC’s PIT count results; or
2. 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** |

**2C-1. Reducing the Number of First Time Homeless–Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.** NOFO Section V.B.5.b.

**Guidance–**

* 1. We will score this question using data your CoC submitted in HDX for **metric 5.2.** and your narrative response below.
  2. Your response to this question must address **your CoC’s current strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families that experience homelessness for the first time**, not the specific metric in **A** above.

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 gathers 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 vendoring; 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

**2C-1a. Impact of Displaced Persons on Number of First Time Homeless.** 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: |  |
| **1.** natural disasters? | No |
| **2.** having recently arrived in your CoC’s geographic area? | No |

If you selected yes to **element 1 or 2**, describe in the field below how the number of First Time Homeless was affected by persons seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance displaced due to natural disasters or due to having recently arrived in your CoC’s geographic area.

Limit 2,500 Characters

**2C-2. Reducing Length of Time Homeless–CoC’s Strategy.** NOFO SectionV.B.5.c.

**Guidance–**

1. We will score this question using data your CoC submitted in HDX for **metric 1.2** and your narrative response below.
2. Your response to this question must address **your CoC’s current strategy to reduce the average length of time individuals and families remain homeless**, not the specific metric in **A** above.

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.

1. 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.
2. 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. Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention–CoC’s Strategy.** NOFO Section V.B.5.d.

**Guidance–**

* 1. We will score this question using data your CoC submitted in HDX for **metrics 7b.1 and 7b.2** and your narrative response below.
  2. Your response to this question must address **your CoC’s current strategy** **to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing**, not the specific metrics in **A** above. 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.

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.

**Guidance–**

* 1. We will score this question using data your CoC submitted in HDX for **metric 2a** and your narrative response below.
  2. Your response to this question must address **your CoC’s current strategy to reduce the rate that individuals and families return to homelessness**, not the specific metric in **A** above.

In the field below:

1. describe your CoC’s strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness;

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 1** of this question, your response must address how your CoC **identifies** individuals and families who return to homelessness.

1. describe your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate that individuals and familiesreturn to homelessness; and

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 2** of this question, your response must address your CoC’s **process** for reducing the rate of returns to homelessness.

1. 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.

**Guidance–**

* 1. We will score this question using data your CoC submitted in HDX for **metric 4.4** and your narrative response below.
  2. Your response to this question must address **your CoC’s current strategy to increase employment cash income**, not the specific metric in **A** above.

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 listserve 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 have attended local Workforce Development Board meetings to promote referrals & enrollment preference for persons experiencing homelessness or recently housed
* VT-501 CoC has relationships 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, has their own social enterprise, Detail Works, where youth with barriers to employment gain experience in a supportive environment. Youth have 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 significant 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 SectionV.B.5.f.

**Guidance–**

* 1. We will score this question using data your CoC submitted in HDX for **metric 4.5** and your narrative response below.
  2. Your response to this question must address **your CoC’s current strategy to increase non-employment cash income**–e.g., SSI, SSDI, TANF–not the specific metric in **A** above.

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.

Limit 2,500 Characters

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

**3A-1. New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Housing Resources.** NOFO Section V.B.6.a.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| You must upload the **Housing Leveraging Commitment** attachment to the **4B. Attachments** | |
| **Screen**. |  |

**Guidance–**

1. **Combine and upload a copy** of letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support all the new projects that leverage housing to the **4B. Attachments Screen** and name the attachment **Housing Leveraging Commitments**.
2. We will use the information in the **Housing Leveraging Commitment** attachment and the information submitted in **question 3A-3** when determining potential points.
3. Your Housing Leveraging Commitment attachmentmust include:
   1. project name;
   2. source of commitment which could be:
      * Private organizations;
      * State or local government, including using HOME funding provided through the American Rescue Plan;
      * Public Housing Agencies, including using a set aside or limited preference;
      * Faith-based organizations; and
      * Federal programs other than the CoC or ESG Programs.
   3. number of housing units for a new PSH proposed project or number of program participants in the RRH and Joint TH-RRH proposed project, which are not funded through the CoC Program or ESG Program. For these new projects, the number of units or the number of project participants must be at least **25 percent** of the total units or program participants to be served for full points. We may award partial points for responses that demonstrate less than the thresholds described.

**Illustration 3** below shows what we will use to score this question.

# Illustration 3

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Housing Type** | **Unit of**  **Measurement** | **Source for**  **Total Number of Units** or  **Total Number of**  **Program Participants** |
| PSH | Units | 4B |
| RRH | Program participants | 5A |
| Joint TH-RRH | Program participants | 5A |

**(4)** date the units will be available for program participants consistent with the **New Project’s** period of performance.

**D.** Though your CoC may submit several new projects–including expansion projects–meeting these criteria, the NOFO states CoC’s will receive full points by demonstrating that they have applied for at least one PSH or RRH project that uses housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC Program or ESG Program.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 |

**3A-2. New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Healthcare Resources.** NOFO Section V.B.6.b.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| You must upload the **Healthcare Formal Agreements** attachment to the **4B. Attachments** | |
| **Screen**. |  |

**Guidance–**

**A.** Combine and upload a copy of formal written agreements to the **4B Attachment Screen** and name the attachment **Healthcare Formal Agreements**.

**(1)** For **healthcare organizations**, to demonstrate leverage you must provide a written commitment that documents:

1. the new PH-PSH, PH-RRH, or Joint TH-RRH project name;
2. the value of the commitment of healthcare resources being provided is 25 percent of the funding being requested for the new project(s) to receive full points–we may award partial points for responses that demonstrate less than the thresholds described;
3. the dates the healthcare resources will be provided consistent with the **New Project’s** period of performance; and
4. a statement that project eligibility for program participants in the new project **will be based on** CoC Program fair housing requirements and **will not be restricted** by the health care service provider.

**(2)** For **substance abuse treatment or recovery providers**, to demonstrate leverage you must provide a written commitment that documents:

1. the new PH-PSH, PH-RRH, or Joint TH/RRH **project name**;
2. the **value** of substance abuse or recovery resource being provided is **25 percent** of the funding being requested for the new project to receive full points–we may award partial points for responses that demonstrate less than the thresholds described; or
3. the value of providing access to substance abuse or recovery resource for **all program participants** in the new project who qualify and choose those services;
4. the dates the substance abuse or recovery resource will be provided consistent with the **New Project’s** period of performance; and
5. a statement that project eligibility for program participants in the new project **will be based** on CoC Program fair housing requirements and **will not be restricted** by the health care service provider.
6. The **healthcare resource** commitment **must be for healthcare-related services** that will be provided to program participants in the housing portion of the project.
7. For this question, **healthcare includes** treatment for **physical** health, **mental** health, and **substance abuse**.
8. **Healthcare resources may include**:
   1. **direct contributions** from a public or private health insurance provider to at least one project;
   2. **provision of health care services** by a private or public organization (including Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and state or local health departments) tailored to the program participants of the project; and
   3. **direct partnerships** with organizations that provide healthcare services to individuals and families (including FQHCs and state or local public health departments) experiencing homelessness who have HIV/AIDS.
9. **In-kind resources** **must be** valued at local rates consistent with the amount paid for services not supported by the proposed project.
10. We will use information in the **Healthcare Formal Agreements** attachment and the information submitted in **question 3A-3.** when awarding points.
11. Though your CoC may submit several new projects–including expansion projects–meeting these criteria, the NOFO states CoC’s will receive full points by demonstrating that they have applied for at least one PSH or RRH project that uses healthcare resources not funded through the CoC Program or ESG Program.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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 |

**3A-3. Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.** 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** What is the name of the new project? | | Project Name |
| **2.** Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): | | Number |
| **3.** Select the new project type: | | PH-PSH/PH-RRH/Joint  TH-RRH |
| **4.** Enter the rank number of the project on your CoC’s Priority Listing: | | Rank Number |
| **5.** Select the type of leverage: | | Housing/Healthcare/Both |
| **3B.** | **New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs** | | |

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

**Guidance–**The chart below lists questions where you gather data from project application(s) included on your CoC’s Priority Listing. We will score this question based on the responses in the related **Project Applications** questions as submitted in *e-snaps*.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Related Project Application Questions** |
| Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs over $200,000 | **New:** Screen 3B, question 2a Screen 6A, question 5 Screen 6B, 6B. |
| 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.

**Guidance–**

1. This does not affect your CoC’s existing responsibilities to provide training, employment, and other economic opportunities per Section 3 that result from the receipt of other HUD funding.
2. If more than one applicant is requesting **$200,000** or more in funding, you must provide a response for each applicant.
3. Refer to HUD Section 3 Business for self-certified businesses in your locality and About Section 3 for more information.

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

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

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

**Guidance–**

1. In the FY 2024 CoC Application, CoCs may request that up to 10 percent of funding for the fiscal year awarded under the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition NOFO be approved to serve homeless households with children and youth defined as homeless under other federal statutes who are unstably housed (paragraph 3 of the definition of homeless found at 24 CFR 578.3).
2. Approved CoCs are limited to using up to 10 percent of the total amount awarded for each fiscal year appropriation to their CoCs to serve this population and must determine which project(s) will be permitted to use some or all their funding for this purpose. These projects must be Transitional Housing, Supportive Services Only, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component.
3. Upload an attachment at the **4B. Attachments Screen** that identifies the specific project(s) that will use the funding for this purpose that includes:
   1. project name(s) as listed on your CoC’s Priority Listing; and
   2. amount of funding in the project or per project that will be used for this purpose.
4. Name the attachment **Project List for Other Federal Statutes**.

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**

**4A-1. New DV Bonus Project Applications.** NOFO Section I.B.3.j.

**Guidance–**

* 1. The total DV Bonus amount submitted by your CoC may not exceed the DV Bonus amount listed on the FY 2024 Estimated ARD Report. We will reduce or remove the lowest ranked New DV Bonus project(s) submitted if the amount requested exceeds the total DV Bonus amount available.
  2. We will only remove New DV Bonus projects from the Priority List **if they are conditionally selected with DV Bonus funding**, otherwise the projects maintain their rank order. Your CoC **should not assume** that New DV Bonus project applications will score high enough to receive DV Bonus funding.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Did your CoC submit one or more **New Project** applications for DV Bonus Funding? | Yes–No |

**4A-1a. DV Bonus Project Types.** NOFO Section I.B.3.j.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the type(s) of new DV Bonus project(s) your CoC included in its FY 2024 Priority Listing.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1.** SSO Coordinated Entry | No |
| **2.** PH-RRH or Joint TH and PH-RRH Component | No |

**4A-2. Information About the Project Applicant for the New Support Services Only Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) DV Bonus Project.** NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(3)

**Guidance–**Your CoC may only apply for **one New SSO-CE DV Bonus project–**we will reject any other projects after the first one on the New Project Priority List.

Enter in the chart below information about the project applicant that applied for the new SSOCE DV Bonus project:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | Applicant Name |  |
| **2.** | Project Name |  |

**4A-2a. Addressing Coordinated Entry Inadequacies through the New SSO-CE DV Bonus Project.**

NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(3)(c) Describe in the field below:

1. the inadequacies of your CoC’s current Coordinated Entry that limits its ability to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and
2. how the proposed project addresses inadequacies identified in **element 1** of this question.

Limit 2,500 Characters

**4A-2b. Involving Survivors in Policy and Program Development, Operations, and Evaluation in the New SSO-CE DV Bonus Project.** NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(3)(d)

Describe in the field below how the new project will involve survivors:

1. with a range of lived expertise; and

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 1** of this question, range of lived expertise means a broad experience-based knowledge and skills gained from living as homeless and as a survivor of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

1. in policy and program development throughout the project’s operation.

**Guidance–**

**B.** For **element 2** of this question, your response must describe steps and actions the new project will take to include survivors in the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies and procedures–this response is not about how survivors have been involved in past projects.

Limit 2,500 Characters

**4A-3. Data Assessing Need for New DV Bonus Housing Projects in Your CoC’s Geographic Area.**

NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(c) and I.B.3.j.(3)(c)

**Guidance**–

* 1. For **element 1** of this question, enter the total number of survivors of domestic violence in your CoC’s geographic area that need housing or services, including survivors projects are currently serving.
  2. For **element 2** of this question, enter the number of survivors your CoC is currently serving.
  3. *e-snaps* will calculate the difference between elements 1 and 2, which represents the unmet need for housing and services for survivors of domestic violence in your CoC.
  4. **Element 1** represents the total need, while **element 2** is the subset of element 1 that are currently being served. For example:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Enter the number of survivors that need housing or services** | **100** |
| **2. Enter the number of survivors your CoC is currently serving.** | **75** |
| **Unmet Need** | **25** |

The difference between how many survivors need housing and services and the number your CoC is currently serving is 25–which represents the unmet need for this example.

* 1. A negative number in the **Unmet Need** field indicates there is no unmet need for DV survivors in your CoC.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | Enter the number of survivors that need housing or services |  |
| **2.** | Enter the number of survivors your CoC is currently serving |  |
| **3.** | Unmet Need |  |

**4A-3a. How Your CoC Calculated Local Need for New DV Bonus Housing Projects.** NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(c)Describe in the field below:

1. how your CoC calculated the number of DV survivors needing housing or services in **question** **4A-3.** element 1 and element 2; **and**

**Guidance**–

* 1. For **element 1** of this question, the data you provide **must indicate** that the number of people associated with domestic violence are people seeking **housing and services**. Merely stating the number of people who reported domestic violence experience or the number of domestic violence incidents reported by law enforcement are **not sufficient responses unless there is a further tie to housing or services**.

1. the data source (e.g., comparable databases, other administrative data, external data source, HMIS for non-DV projects); **or**
2. if your CoC is unable to meet the needs of all survivors please explain in your response all barriers to meeting those needs.

**Guidance**–

**B.** Only respond to **element 3** of this question if you do not have data to support unmet need.

Limit 2,500 Characters

**4A-3b. Information About Unique Project Applicant Requesting New DV Bonus Housing Project(s).**

NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)

**Guidance–**

* 1. Only submit information **once** for each **unique applicant** applying for PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH DV Bonus funding regardless of the number of new projects the **unique applicant** is applying for in the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition. If you **do not submit information** for any applicant applying for
     1. Bonus funding, project applications that applicant submits **will not be**

**eligible** for DV Bonus funding and those projects will compete with all other projects your CoC ranks in its New Project Priority Listings.

* 1. Your CoC may apply for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH component
     1. Bonus projects up to the DV Bonus amount listed on the **FY 2024**

**Estimated ARD Report**. We will reduce or remove the lowest ranked New DV Bonus project(s) submitted if the amount your CoC’s funding requests exceeds your CoC’s total available DV Bonus amount.

* 1. **Questions 4A-3. through 4A-3g.** address the **applicant’s experience** providing housing and services to DV survivors–you must provide information based on experience with the applicant’s latest funding cycle, regardless of the funding source.
  2. Q**uestions 4A-3h.** **through 4A-3j.** address how the applicant plans to implement the new project(s) if we award funding.
  3. To calculate the **rate of housing placement** and **housing retention** you must enter the percentage of DV survivors applying for housing that were placed into permanent housing (**element 6** of this question), and the percentage of those DV survivors that remained housed (**element 7** of this question).
  4. We will only remove New DV Bonus projects from New Projects Priority Lists **if we conditionally select them for DV Bonus funding**, otherwise the projects maintain their rank order. Your CoC **should not** assume that New DV Bonus project applications will score high enough to receive DV Bonus funding.
  5. Use the list feature icon  to enter information on each unique project applicant applying for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus projects–only enter project applicant information once, regardless of how many DV Bonus projects that applicant is applying for.

Enter information in the chart below on the project applicant that applied for one or more New DV Bonus housing projects included on your CoC’s **FY 2024 Priority Listing for New Projects**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | Applicant Name |  |
| **2.** | Rate of Housing Placement of DV Survivors–Percentage |  |
| **3.** | Rate of Housing Retention of DV Survivors–Percentage |  |

**4A-3b.1. Applicant’s Housing Placement and Retention Data Explanation.** NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(d)

For the rate of housing placement and rate of housing retention of DV survivors reported in **question** **4B-3b.**, describe in the field below:

1. how the project applicant calculated the rate of housing placement;
2. whether the rate for housing placement accounts for exits to safe housing destinations;
3. how the project applicant calculated the rate of housing retention; and
4. the data source (e.g., comparable databases, other administrative data, external data source, HMIS for non-DV projects).

Limit 1,500 Characters

**4A-3c. Applicant’s Experience Housing DV Survivors.**

NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(d)

Describe in the field below how the project applicant:

1. ensured DV survivors experiencing homelessness were quickly moved into safe affordable housing;
2. prioritized survivors–you must address the process the project applicant used, e.g., Coordinated Entry, prioritization list, CoC’s emergency transfer plan;
3. determined survivors’ supportive services needs;
4. connected survivors to supportive services; and
5. moved survivors from assisted housing to housing they could sustain–address housing stability after the housing subsidy ends.

Limit 2,500 Characters

**4A-3d. Applicant’s Experience in Ensuring DV Survivors’ Safety.**

NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(d)

Describe in the field below examples of how the project applicant ensured the safety and confidentiality of DV survivors experiencing homelessness by:

1. taking steps to ensure privacy/confidentiality during the intake and interview process to minimize potential coercion of survivors;
2. making determinations and placements into safe housing;
3. keeping survivors’ information and locations confidential;
4. training staff on safety and confidentially policies and practices; and
5. taking security measures for units (congregate or scattered site), that support survivors’ physical safety and location confidentiality.

Limit 2,500 Characters

**4A-3d.1. Applicant’s Experience in Evaluating Its Ability to Ensure DV Survivors’ Safety.**

NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(d)

Describe in the field below how the project evaluated its ability to ensure the safety of DV survivors the project served in the project, including any areas identified for improvement throughout the project’s operation.

Limit 2,500 Characters

**4A-3e. Applicant’s Experience in Placing and Stabilizing Survivors in Permanent Housing Using Trauma-Informed, Survivor-Centered Approaches.** NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(d)

**Guidance–**

**A.** For this question, you must explain the applicant’s experience **operating an existing project**.

Describe in the field below the project applicant’s experience in:

1. prioritizing placement and stabilization of survivors;
2. placing survivors in permanent housing;

**Guidance–**

**B.** For **element 2** of this question, your response must address the **project’s experience** in placing survivors in permanent housing**, not Transitional housing**. Examples of permanent housing include, but are not limited to:

* 1. HUD-funded projects:
     + Permanent Housing;
     + Permanent Supportive Housing, for household with at least one member with a disability;
     + Rapid Rehousing, which provides up to 24 months of rental assistance;
     + Housing Choice Voucher (HCV); and
     + HUD-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH).
  2. Non-HUD-funded projects:
     + rental by program participant, no ongoing housing subsidy;
     + rental by program participant, ongoing housing subsidy;  staying or living with family, permanent tenure; and  staying or living with friends, permanent tenure. **3.** placing and stabilizing survivors consistent with their preferences; and

**4.** placing and stabilizing survivors consistent with their stated needs.

Limit 2,500 Characters

**4A-3f. Applicant’s Experience in Trauma-Informed, Survivor-Centered Approaches.** NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(d)

**Guidance–**Though you can provide examples of experience not listed, **you must address elements 1 through 6**.

Describe in the field below examples of the project applicant’s experience using traumainformed, victim-centered approaches to meet needs of DV survivors by:

1. establishing and maintaining an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures survivors and staff interactions are based on equality, and minimize power differentials;
2. providing survivors access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing survivors with information on the effects of trauma;
3. emphasizing survivors’ strengths, e.g., strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans worked towards survivordefined goals and aspirations;
4. centering on cultural responsiveness and inclusivity, e.g., training on equal access, cultural competence, nondiscrimination, language access, improving services to be culturally responsive, accessible, and trauma-informed;
5. providing a variety of opportunities for survivors’ connections, e.g., groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs; and
6. offering support for survivor parenting, e.g., trauma-informed parenting classes, childcare, connections to legal services.

Limit 5,000 Characters

**4A-3g. Applicant’s Experience Meeting Service Needs of DV Survivors.** NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(d) **Guidance–**Examples include:

* + **Child custody–**ABC project assisted DV survivors to pursue child custody by making legal services available through its partner EFG Legal Services, provided transportation, and provided a support group for others experiencing similar challenges. ABC ensured that the survivors’ safety needs were addressed by maintaining confidentiality, using harm reduction.
  + **Bad Credit History–**ABC project used case management to quickly assess whether survivors needed credit repair services, provided through our partner, Credit Repair, Inc., which specializes in assisting survivors to restore their credit, which is often necessary to obtain affordable housing for survivors whose credit has been damaged.
  + **Housing Search and Counseling**–ABC project employed a housing navigator to identify local landlords and apartments. Using the housing navigator resulted in a 3-week decrease in the amount of time it previously took survivors to locate units.
  + **Crisis DV Services**–ABC project employed advocates that staff a 24/7 DV crisis helpline and provide trauma-informed support, including safety planning, emergency shelter, and assistance in navigating restraining order processes.
  + **Long-term housing stability safety planning**–ABC project works with program participants to develop long-term housing safety plans in preparation for the program participant exiting the project, which includes self-advocacy, systems advocacy, legal support, representative support, community accompaniment.
  + **Education Services**–ABC partnered with a local community college to enroll 5 survivors in GED classes, a 100 percent increase from last year where we did not have the funding to provide this service. Currently there are 10 survivors on the waiting list for future GED classes.

Describe in the field below examples of supportive services the project provided to domestic violence survivors while quickly moving them into permanent housing and addressing their safety needs. Limit 5,000 Characters

**4A-3h. Applicant’s Plan for Placing and Stabilizing Survivors in Permanent Housing Using Trauma-Informed, Survivor-Centered Approaches in the New DV Bonus Housing Project(s).**

NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(e)

**Guidance–**

**A.** This question requires you to explain how the applicant **will implement the new project**, not the applicant’s experience operating an existing project.

Describe in the field below how the project(s) will:

1. prioritize placement and stabilization of program participants;
2. place program participants in permanent housing;

**Guidance–**

**B.** We recognize that applicants may apply for **Joint TH and PH-RRH** component projects. However, for **element 2** of this question, your response must address how the project will place program participants in Permanent Housing, **not** Transitional housing, in the **PH-RRH** component of the new project. Examples of permanent housing include, but are not limited to:

* 1. HUD-funded projects:
     + Permanent Housing;
     + Permanent Supportive Housing, for household with at least one member with a disability;
     + Rapid Rehousing, which provides up to 24 months of rental assistance;
     + Housing Choice Voucher (HCV); and
     + HUD-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH).
  2. Non-HUD-funded projects:
     + rental by program participant, no ongoing housing subsidy;
     + rental by program participant, ongoing housing subsidy;  staying or living with family, permanent tenure; and  staying or living with friends, permanent tenure.

1. place and stabilize program participants consistent with their preferences; and
2. place and stabilize program participants consistent with their stated needs.

Limit 2,500 Characters

**4A-3i. Applicant’s Plan for Administering Trauma-Informed, Survivor-Centered Practices in the New DV Bonus Housing Project(s).** NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(e)

**Guidance–**

* 1. This question requires you to provide examples of how the applicant **will implement the new project**, not the applicant’s experience operating an existing project.
  2. Though you can provide other examples of how the applicant will implement the new project(s), **you must address elements 1 through 6**.

Describe in the field below examples of how the new project(s) will:

1. establish and maintain an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant and staff interactions are based on equality, and minimize power differentials;
2. provide program participants access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing program participants with information on the effects of trauma;
3. emphasize program participants’ strengths–for example, strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans work towards survivor-defined goals and aspirations;
4. center on cultural responsiveness and inclusivity, e.g., training on equal access, cultural competence, nondiscrimination, language access, improving services to be culturally responsive, accessible, and trauma-informed;
5. provide a variety of opportunities for program participants’ connections, e.g., groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs; and
6. offer support for survivor parenting, e.g., trauma-informed parenting classes, childcare, connections to legal services.

Limit 5,000 Characters

**4A-3j. Applicant’s Plan for Involving Survivors in Policy and Program Development, Operations, and Evaluation in the New DV Bonus Housing Project(s).** NOFO Section I.B.3.j.(1)(f)

**Guidance–**

**A.** This question requires you to provide examples of how the applicant **will implement the new project**, not the applicant’s experience operating an existing project.

Describe in the field below how the new project will involve survivors:

1. with a range of lived expertise; and

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 1** of this question, range of lived expertise means a broad experience-based knowledge and skills gained from living as homeless and as a survivor of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

1. in policy and program development throughout the project’s operation.

**Guidance–**

* 1. For **element 2** of this question, your response must describe steps/actions the new project will take to include survivors in the development, implementation, and evaluation of policies and procedures.

Limit 2,500 Characters