

Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care – Requests for Applications for Inclusion in the 2019 Collaborative Application for HUD Continuum of Care Funding

Date: July 17, 2019

Invitation to Apply

On behalf of the Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care, the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA)¹ invites eligible organizations² to submit new or renewal applications for CoC funding to be included in the 2019 Collaborative Application to HUD. In order to be eligible to submit a renewal application, organizations must either be current HUD CoC grantees with a grant with an end date in calendar year 2020 or have entered into a contract with HUD for FY 2018 funding prior to December 31, 2019. Grantees awarded DV Bonus funding in 2018 must submit renewal applications as part of this competition.

Any eligible organization may apply for new project funding. Eligible organizations include: nonprofit organizations, Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), or units of local government.

All new and renewal applications must be completed using HUD's online application platform, the E-SNAPS system. HUD has set the deadline for the CoC application at Sept. 30, 2019. HUD requires that all project applications be submitted to the CoC no later than 30 days prior to the application deadline.

Applications must be submitted in E-SNAPS by the following schedule:

- **New and Renewal project applications** must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm EDT on August 16, 2019**
- Applications not submitted according to the above schedule may not be considered for funding.
- All organizations will be notified in writing whether their applications were accepted, accepted but with reduced funding, or rejected from the competition no later than September 6, 2019. Rejected applicants will be provided written explanations for the rejection.

Information and Resources

All information required for this competition will be posted on the CoC website at: (www.in.gov/ihcda/indianabos/). Information posted on the website includes:

- The NOFA published by HUD and supporting information provided by HUD.
- The CoC's policies for review and ranking of new and renewal applications
- CoC's policies regarding reallocation – including voluntary and mandatory reallocation.
- Scoring factors for the review of renewal applications
- Scoring factors for new project applications.

¹ IHCDA is the Collaborative Applicant for the Indiana Balance of State Continuum of Care.

² Eligible organizations include nonprofit organizations and government entities including public housing agencies. Individuals and for-profit entities are **ineligible** to apply.

- Links to resources available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in support of the competition.

Possible application types:

Eligible organizations may submit one or more of the following application types:

- **Renewal application.** Any organization with a CoC funded grant that is expiring in calendar year 2020 may submit a renewal application. The amount requested for renewal grants may not exceed the total amount shown for the grant on the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW), which can be found here: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-giw-reports/?filter_Year=2019&filter_State=IN&filter_CoC=IN-502&program=CoC&group=GIW.
- Renewal grants may elect to not renew or to renew at a dollar amount below that shown on the GIW. In these instances, the amounts not applied for will be added to the pool of funds made available to potential new projects through reallocation. Current grantees not intending to renew their grants or those willing to reduce the size of their grants should contact IHCD as soon as possible so the unapplied for funds can be added to the pool available for relocation.

All renewal projects that have at least one full year of operational experience will be ranked in the competition according to the scores received in the renewal evaluation process. Projects that do not meet the minimum threshold score for renewal must either submit and obtain approval for a Project Improvement Plan or agree not to renew the grant and to reallocate the funding. Projects that have not been operational for a sufficiently long period to have a full year's worth of operations, will not be subject to renewal evaluation until they have secured this experience. These grants will be ranked without a score in the 2019 competition.

- **New project application.** New project applications may be for any of the eligible new project categories:
 - Permanent Supportive Housing where 100% of the beds are either dedicated to individuals and families meeting the definition of chronically homeless or DedicatedPLUS³.
 - Rapid Rehousing projects serving individuals and families who meet the HUD definition of homelessness under categories 1, 2, or 4.⁴
 - Joint TH-RRH. The TH component should consist of short-term crisis housing and the resources earmarked for the RRH component should be twice those designated for the TH component. Eligible participants are individuals and families who meet the HUD definition of homelessness under categories 1, 2 or 4.

New in 2019, new project applications may submit a new project requesting 1 year of funding but with a longer initial grant term not to exceed 18 months. This will permit the project to start-up and become fully operational.

³ To understand who qualifies to reside in a 'DedicatedPLUS' project, please see this FAQ from HUD:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3284/what-is-a-dedicatedplus-project/>

⁴ Information on HUD Homeless definition found here:

https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf

Funding for new projects will come from bonus funding and from any funds that may be available from reallocation. In the 2019 competition, the Indiana Balance of State CoC may apply for up to \$1,180,887 in bonus funds and \$2,161,833 in DV Bonus funds.

- **Transition application.** An existing renewal application may be submitted as a ‘transition’ application – this was a new option for the 2018 competition. A transition application will start the program year as one component (TH, for example) and through the course of the program year, the project will transition from that component to one of the eligible new project components. No more than 50% of the project funding may be used for the prior component and at the completion of the program year, the project will renew under the new component. A transition application may be the most effective way to accomplish a ‘voluntary’ reallocation where the grantee with funds to reallocate is also the planned grantee for the reallocated project. Grantees interested in the transition application process must contact and obtain approval from the CoC. Transition grants are new project applications and the grant must ‘transition’ to an eligible new project activity during the program year.
- **Consolidated Application.** Another new option introduced in 2018 is a consolidated application: a grantee with more than one grant with the same program component (e.g., RRH, PSH, TH) may consolidate those individual grants into a single grant. Up to four grants could be consolidated through this process. To submit a consolidated application, applicants must submit renewal applications for each project and a single new application that will include all the funding from the renewal applications. The totals of the budget line items in the individual renewal grants must match each the budget lines for the new project. If all the renewal grants are ranked so that each is funded by HUD, HUD will fund the new project in lieu of the renewal grants. Each of the individual project applications must be given its own unique rank in the project priority list and the fully consolidated application must have a duplicate rank with one of the individual project applications. Applicants interested in submitting a consolidated application must contact their HUD Field Office representative to confirm that the project is eligible for consolidation. The CoC has established a policy that requires grantees who are eligible to consolidate grants to do so.
- **Expansion Applications.** Grantees may choose to submit a new project application that expands a currently funded CoC grant to serve additional persons, provide additional units, or provide additional services to existing program participants. HMIS may also be expanded. Applicants seeking an expansion grant must submit three project applications: the renewal project application for the existing grant; a new project application identifying the expansion; and a renewal project application combining the budget lines, units and persons served of the two projects. If HUD selects the expansion, the project will take the ranked position of the renewal project.

Domestic Violence Bonus Projects

For the second consecutive year, applications may be submitted for a new type of bonus project: a **Domestic Violence Bonus Project** in which all persons served are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking. The following types of new projects may be submitted for the DV Bonus – please

note, all projects applying for the DV bonus are required to be low barrier on entry and use trauma-informed and victim-centered approaches.

- Rapid rehousing exclusively serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless.
- Joint TH-RRH projects exclusively serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless.

Unlike 2018, there is no limit on the number of projects that can be submitted for DV bonus funding; there is only a requirement that each project be for at least \$25,000. The CoC was successful in getting new DV bonus projects funded in each eligible category in 2018. In order to receive this funding this year, the CoC will have to demonstrate a continuing unmet need and how the requested project(s) will address that gap.

Rating and Ranking of Projects

Renewal projects will be ranked in the Collaborative Application according to the rating score provided as part of the renewal evaluation process. New project applications will be reviewed by an independent panel with subject matter expertise but no conflicts of interest with regard to the application. The new projects will be evaluated according to criteria set by HUD in the project rating tool found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5292/project-rating-and-ranking-tool/>.

The primary factors affecting the ranking of renewal projects have to do with project performance and the extent to which the project is contributing to an overall improvement in the CoC's system performance. Projects submitted by victim services providers are evaluated based on data from non-HMIS comparable systems regarding housing and income outcomes and on the extent to which the project improved the safety of participants.

Invitation to organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding:

The CoC actively seeks applications from organizations that have not previously received HUD CoC funding. HUD places considerable requirements on grantees and the application process can be challenging. Organizations without CoC grant experience are invited to reach out to the CoC at: IHEDA Community Services <communityservices@iheda.IN.gov> and request assistance in understanding program requirements or the application process. Requirements on eligible participants and activities are very stringent and organizations are encouraged to discuss potential projects and the application process.

Presentation and Question and Answer Session

The CoC will conduct an informational session regarding this request for applications on Friday, July 26, 2019, at 10:00 AM EDT. Interested parties can register to attend by clicking on: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8255076526611008269>. To help understand and access the E-SNAPS grant management system, a webinar will be held on this topic on Monday, July 29, 2019, at 3:30 PM EDT. To register for this webinar, please click on: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6907408423311417100>.

Following the completion of these sessions, a recording of each webinar will be posted on: www.in.gov/iheda/indianabos/.

Funding Amounts

According to HUD, the Indiana Balance of State CoC can apply for bonus funding for new projects up to:

- \$1,180,887 in Bonus funding for new projects is potentially available to the CoC;
- Up to \$2,161,833 may be applied for by projects seeking the DV Bonus;
- Additional new projects may be created using reallocated funding – it is expected that there will be approximately \$150,000 in reallocated funds available to support new projects.
- Tier 1 – the level of funding that is most assured of funding by HUD is \$16,083,162; there is \$811,616 in renewal funding that is in Tier 2 and is dependent on the CoC score and project ranking to determine whether the projects in Tier 2 will be funded.

Youth Serving Providers

The appropriations act of 2019 expanded the ability of ‘youth serving providers’ [private non-profits with a primary mission to serve youth aged 24 and under] to serve youth. Under the 2019 NOFA any youth-serving provider can serve youth 24 and under who have an unsafe nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence. Additionally, youth aged 24 and under must not be required to provide third party documentation that they meet the homeless definition. Applicants meeting the definition of ‘youth-serving provider’ should note the expanded ability to serve youth in need.