



# Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care Grant Competition

August 28, 2024

## NOTIFICATION OF INTERNAL COMPETITION FOR HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE FUNDS

The Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition (TX-604 Waco/McLennan County Continuum of Care) announces the internal competition for HUD Continuum of Care Funding.

This competition is to award funding made available through the HUD Continuum of Care Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) issued on July 31, 2024. Below is a list of resources for this NOFO competition.

- Complete information on the HUD NOFO can be found at [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/coc/competition](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition)
- HOTHc guidance on the HUD NOFO can be found at <https://www.heartoftexashomeless.org/fy-2024-coc-yhdp-nofo/>
- Potential applicants for funding are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the extensive resources for the application process found on this HUD website. Instructions and resources for the application process are found at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

All organizations interested in obtaining funding through the HUD NOFO – **including both new/expansion and renewal** project applicants – must submit their application in the e-snaps grant management system. Renewal, bonus, DV bonus, and expansion projects are due no later than **September 16, 2024, at 7 am Central Standard Time**. For agencies applying for CoC Bonus and DV Bonus projects, if you are unable to meet the September 16<sup>th</sup> deadline, please contact [heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com). YHDP renewal and replacement projects are due no later than **September 27, 2024, at 5 pm Central Standard Time**.

## LETTER OF INTEREST & INQUIRIES

If your organization intends to apply for a new or expansion project using CoC Bonus or DV Bonus funds or intends to do a YHDP replacement project, please fill out the Letter of Interest form at <https://forms.gle/PpWG1G7own1TNXvX9>. Applicants should review the information available in this Internal Competition Notification and the Notice of Funding Opportunity from HUD. Please review those materials prior to starting the application or submitting an inquiry to HOTHc. Inquiries are to be submitted to [heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com).

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

### *Renewal Applications*

- Only existing HUD CoC/YHDP grants are eligible for renewal. The only eligible renewal grants are those with an existing grant agreement with HUD.
- The renewal amount must be consistent with the Final Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) for the CoC. The renewal amount may not be exceeded, and the budget lines must conform to those indicated on the GIW.

## *New Project Applications*

New project applications are requested from qualified nonprofit and local government organizations for the FY 2024-2025 Continuum of Care Program Competition. Applications are sought for projects that can make maximum efficient, economical, and effective use of the prospective allocation of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) funds. New projects must meet threshold requirements laid out in the NOFO. All funded projects will be required to participate in the [Heart to Home Coordinated Entry System](#) and utilize a [Housing First](#) approach. Our CoC has been allotted \$324,236 in CoC Bonus and \$405,295 in Domestic Violence Bonus funds for FY 2024 funding process.

There are three allowable types of housing projects:

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Projects**
  - Housing for homeless individuals and families in which the head or co-head of household is disabled.
  - Permanent supportive housing must be 100% dedicated to serving chronically homeless individuals and families or meet qualifications as a “DedicatedPLUS” PSH project. DedicatedPLUS projects may serve the chronically homeless and they may also serve a broader range of homeless people in need of PSH. Please refer to the HUD NOFO resources for detailed information on DedicatedPLUS PSH projects.
  - PSH may provide housing assistance through tenant, sponsor or project based rental assistance, through leasing, or by providing operating support to a PSH facility. Because coordinated entry emphasizes participant choice in housing, tenant based rental assistance is the preferred housing type.
  - Admissions must come from the CoC’s Heart to Home coordinated entry process.
  
- **Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Projects**
  - For individuals and families targeting households that are living in the following settings:
    - Residing in place not meant for human habitation,
    - Residing in emergency shelter,
    - Meet Domestic Violence (DV) criteria in homeless definition (Category 4),
    - Residing in Transitional Housing (TH) funded part of a joint TH PH-RRH project, and/or
    - Receiving assistance from a Veteran’s Affairs (VA) homeless program and met one of the above criteria on intake into the VA program.
  - RRH includes housing assistance through housing navigation, tenant based rental assistance (providing only on a short term or medium term – Not to extend past 24 months), and supportive services to assist participants secure housing, maintain housing and increase income and employment.
  - Admissions must come from the CoC’s Heart to Home coordinated entry process.
  
- **Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH) Projects**
  - This HUD initiative is intended to serve homeless families and individuals who need temporary, safe accommodations while they secure permanent housing, assemble needed documents to secure housing or have other barriers to immediate placement in housing. In Joint TH-RRH projects, the provider must be able to offer both TH and RRH to all participants, but all participants are not required to participate in both components. Participants should remain in the TH component for as short a period as possible; there should be no program requirements to complete, and the need for continuing stay in TH should be determined on a case-by-case basis.
  - For the TH component, housing assistance may be provided through operating support for existing facilities or leasing assistance. In the RRH component, housing assistance can only be provided through tenant based rental assistance. Supportive services may be provided to participants in both components. As in all RRH, rental assistance is limited to short term or medium term (not to extend beyond 24 months).
  - Eligible persons to be served in Joint TH-RRH projects include:

- Residing in place not meant for human habitation,
  - Residing in emergency shelter, and/or
  - Meet DV criteria in homeless definition (Category 4).
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Expansion Projects – Eligible for HMIS Lead Agency Only**
    - Funding can be used to expand the HMIS system to include more providers, more analysis of data submitted to HMIS, more training and support to HMIS contributing agencies, further outreach to non-participating agencies, expansion of rural utilization of HMIS, or other services to improve data quality or utilization.
    - Only the designated HMIS Lead Agency, the City of Waco, is permitted to apply for HMIS funding.
  - **Planning Project – Eligible for CoC Lead Agency Only**
    - Only the Collaborative Applicant is permitted to apply for Planning funding and funds may be used as described in 24 CFR 578.39.

***Of the above project types, all qualify for funding through reallocation and/or through the CoC bonus except for Planning Projects, which can apply for the maximum amount listed in the CoC Estimated Annual Renewal Demand Report from HUD.***

### *Expansion Projects*

In the 2024 competition, HUD is allowing renewal projects to apply for a new project that will EXPAND an existing renewal project. To apply for an Expansion project, a grantee must have an eligible renewal project. Please see the NOFO for rules regarding Expansion Projects.

### *Consolidation Projects*

In the 2024 competition, eligible renewal project applicants will have the ability to consolidate two or more eligible renewal projects. See instructions in the NOFO.

### *Transition Grants*

In the 2024 competition, eligible renewal projects can transition from one CoC Program component to another during the CoC Program Competition. See instructions in the NOFO.

### *Domestic Violence Bonus*

In the FY 2024-2025 CoC Program Competition, CoCs will be able to apply for a DV Bonus for PH-RRH projects, Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects, and SSO projects for Coordinated Entry. This project type is designated for HUD Homeless Category 4, which includes victim service providers who serve those fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking, and for those under twenty-five, fleeing any unsafe situation. Our CoC is allotted \$405,295 in DV Bonus funds for FY 2024. For more information see the NOFO.

## FUNDING PRIORITIES

Within the NOFO, HUD has identified the following policy priorities applicable to our CoC:

- Ending homelessness for all persons.
  - To end homelessness, CoCs should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness.
- Using a Housing First approach.
  - Prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions.

- Engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt service delivery methods that respond to the preferences and needs of the individual or family presenting for assistance.
- Minimal barriers to program entry. There cannot be a requirement for sobriety prior to being housed and prior background (criminal history, lack of credit, or eviction history) cannot be used on a blanket basis to exclude potential participants. Participants cannot be required to participate in services as a condition of entry and failure to participate in services cannot be used as grounds for termination from the program.
- All participants must be provided with a standard annual residential lease that does not include clauses that are not standard for residential leases in the community. Individuals and families can only be terminated from the program in conformance with the lease agreement.
- All participants must be accepted from the Coordinated Entry System.
- Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness.
  - CoCs should explore all available resources, including CoC and ESG funded assistance, housing subsidies, and supportive services to provide permanent housing options for people who are unsheltered.
- Improving System Performance.
  - CoCs should be using system performance measures (e.g., average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, rates of exit to permanent housing destinations) to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness.
- Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies.
  - HUD encourages CoCs to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness.
- Racial Equity.
  - HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address racial equity within CoCs.
- Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals.
  - CoCs should address the needs of LGBTQ+, transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary individuals and families in their planning processes.
  - When considering which projects to select in their local competition to be included in their application to HUD, CoCs should ensure privacy, respect, safety, and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation in projects.
  - CoCs should also consider partnering with organizations with expertise in serving LGBTQ+ populations.
- Persons with Lived Experience included in planning process.
  - HUD is encouraging CoCs to include in the local planning process people who are currently experiencing or have formerly experienced homelessness.
- Building an Effective Workforce
  - HUD recognizes that homeless assistance providers need effective, well supported staff to provide quality assistance, however, recruiting and retention of qualified staff has proved challenging due to the challenging nature of the work and the low pay. To assist, HUD is applying cost of living adjustments to supportive service activities and other staffing-focused budget line items to allow CoC budgets to better keep up with rising costs. HUD also encourages CoCs to work with their funders and other community stakeholders to improve pay and support for people who work in the homeless sector.
- Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.
  - The lack of affordable housing is the main driver of homelessness. CoCs play a critical role in educating local leaders and stakeholders about the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing and the specific consequences of the continued lack of affordable housing.

## Application submission through e-snaps

Applications must be completed in the e-snaps grants management system by the specified deadline. Applications not completed in e-snaps will not be reviewed and will not be funded. Once the application has been completed in e-snaps, **do not hit SUBMIT**, instead, save the application (in e-snaps), download the pdf, and save (on your computer, etc.). Submission in e-snaps will occur after the competition process if the application is accepted by the Scoring and Ranking Committee of the Heart of Texas Continuum of Care. A notification letter will be sent to all applicants notifying them of their acceptance or rejection and at what funding amount. Applications may require budget adjustments based on the outcome of the funding recommendation from the Scoring and Ranking Committee. If this occurs, the application will need to be adjusted to the amount in the notification letter before submission. Once the notification letter has been received, all applications that have been accepted are to be submitted in e-snaps within five business days.

## Application Submission to the Scoring and Ranking Committee

All CoC renewal, expansion, and bonus projects are due on September 16, 2024, by 7am and all YHDP renewal and replacement projects are due on September 27, 2024, by 5pm. Please submit the below items to the Scoring and Ranking Committee by the due date via email to [heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:heartoftexashomelesscoalition@gmail.com).

### Application Package Materials

- PDF Copy of Application from e-snaps
- Housing First Assessment Worksheet
- Racial Equity Questionnaire
- Agency Financial Audit
- For renewal projects, last submitted Annual Performance Review from SAGE for the last closed grant term.
- For renewal projects, a screenshot from eLOCCS project portfolio budget tab showing the amount authorized versus amount disbursed for each budget line item for the grant for the last closed grant term.

## Scoring and Ranking of Projects

All projects will be evaluated with a Board-approved Scoring Tool and ranking of the projects will follow the policies and procedures laid out in the CoC Competition Policies and Procedures Manual found in Appendix E of the Heart of Texas Homeless Coalition TX-604 Waco/McLennan County Continuum of Care Governance Charter & Policies and Procedures Manual. The scoring tools and policies will be posted at the [HOTHC FY 2024-2025 NOFO Resource Page](#). After scoring, the projects will receive a notification letter of project acceptance or rejection. If an agency wishes to file a grievance, this must be done so between October 10-24<sup>th</sup>, prior to the submission of the Priority List Application to HUD by the CoC, which will be reviewed by the Grievance Committee.

# FY 2024-2025 CoC NOFO

## Important Dates & Deadlines

