



2014 HUD CoC Program Rating/Ranking Process

On September 16, 2014, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Fiscal Year 2014 Continuum of Care Program Competition. The Mendocino County Continuum of Care (CoC) is eligible to apply for funding to support housing and services for homeless households. That funding breaks down as follows:

Renewal Project Funding:

This funding supports the CoC's existing housing and services. The CoC can continue to support those programs, or could choose to redirect those resources to new projects.

TBD¹

New Project Funding:

This funding can go toward new permanent supportive housing or new transitional housing.

\$0*

*In the 2014 competition, the CoC has the option to re-allocate funds from CoC renewal projects (whose budgets were reduced or eliminated) to fund new projects. New funding opportunities created through reallocation will only be available for new permanent supportive housing projects created through reallocation where all beds will be dedicated for use by the chronically homeless as defined in 24 CFR 578.3: and/or new rapid re-housing projects created for homeless households with children who originally came from the streets or emergency shelter. There is no guarantee that any reallocated funds will be available. If they are available, the Application Review Committee will have the opportunity to include an additional new project(s) in the local competition.

I. Rating and Ranking Overview

The maximum number of points both new and renewal housing projects is 100 points. For all renewal projects, 44 of the points will be based on Project Performance, HMIS, and CoC participation. **Bonus points are available for all applications that are:**

- New or renewal projects that provide permanent housing targeting 100% for the chronically homeless
- Renewal TH and PH programs where all performance benchmarks were met or exceeded
- Projects that exceed 175% leverage
- Projects that meet a "High Priority" according to the CoC NOFA FY '14 Funding Priorities

A preliminary, quantitative review of each application submitted will be completed by the CoC. This review will:

- Confirm that application was submitted on time
- Confirm that all required attachments were submitted

¹ The Pro Rata Share available for the 2013 Program Competition will be published within 72 hours upon notification of HUD, per section II (B10) of the NOFA

- Calculate performance scores
- Assign an HMIS data quality score
- Confirm matching and/or leveraging fund requirements are met

Total scores for each project are determined by adding up points in each section and then adding any bonus points if applicable. All projects are judged together, both new and renewals. The scores from each Rating and Ranking committee member is computed and averaged for each project. HMIS applications will receive full credit for each section that is not applicable to its project type. A project ranking list is then generated from highest to lowest average score. Projects will be approved for submission to HUD based on the project funding requests that fall within the final pro rata share for the CoC, split between Tiers 1 and 2², according to Section II.B.10 of the 2014 HUD NOFA. Projects scoring highest will be ranked and placed into Tier 1 until all Tier 1 funds are allocated³. The remaining projects selected for funding will be ranked and placed into Tier 2 until all Tier 2 funds are allocated. Projects that scored well but fell outside the pro rata share may be encouraged to re-submit in a future competition.

Renewal projects that were recommended for funding but did not meet two or more performance measurements may be placed on probation for a one year term due to performance concerns. The CoC will work with these projects over the next year to develop a plan to improve program performance and monitor the progress with these efforts. If these efforts are not successful, projects may not be able to submit the following year.

There also may be new projects that fail to score well enough that are held out of the competition. These projects may request that the CoC provide them with technical assistance to assist them in improving their application for future competitions. This process ensures that organizations that may lack the current capacity to receive a federal grant, can build their capacity for a future year.

II. Project Scoring

New Project Scoring: Applicants will be scored on project design, how the project addresses local priority need areas; how the project aligns with Mendocino County CoC's local strategies to end homelessness; budget appropriateness and accuracy; project match; leveraging; CoC participation; community collaboration; housing to services funding request ratio, organizational capacity and implementation timeline. Other factors in the rating of New Projects will include community involvement, and information learned through the discussion period during the rating/ranking session. New Projects will be ranked in conjunction with Renewal Projects to ensure that the best applications are forwarded to the federal competition.

Renewal Project Scoring: Applicants will be scored on project design; description of how the project continues to address community needs; budget appropriateness and accuracy; project match; CoC participation; community collaboration; performance measurements, and timely spending of HUD funds. **20% of a renewal project's score will be based on HMIS data quality and CoC participation. Please contact the HMIS Coordinator if you have questions about your data quality.**

² The Pro Rata Share available for the 2013 Program Competition will be published within 72 hours upon notification of HUD, per Section II (B10) of the NOFA.

³ The Continuum has designated approximately 1.25% of the FPRN for the CoC Planning Costs Application, which will be placed in Tier 1. The final percentage will be determined by the publication of the FPRN by HUD.

Unlike new applications which score low, the CoC Application Review Committee may forward low-scoring renewal applications to the HUD Competition so as not to create service gaps within the CoC. However, low-scoring projects will be placed on probation. A program on probation will need to demonstrate considerable improvement over the course of the year to remain competitive in future years.

Performance and HMIS are heavily weighted measures used by HUD in determining the overall CoC Application scores of local Continuums. Data taken from each project's Annual Performance Report (APR) submitted to HUD is used to calculate the overall CoC systems performance in moving to permanent housing, housing stability, and accessing mainstream resources and employment resources. Additionally, performance data collected helps the CoC to better define local homelessness issues and help to achieve the goal of ending homelessness. Participation in HMIS and quality data entry is mandatory for those agencies seeking new and renewal CoC funds.

APR performance measurements provide an objective evaluation of current program performance. They can be easily calculated measures and data entry is a limited burden on program providers. It provides the quantitative basis for scoring the performance of renewal projects in the CoC's local application process and is used by the CoC to assess the system wide progress of the region in meeting established benchmarks.

A. Leverage and Match

Recipients and subrecipients are required to provide 25% cash or in-kind match in accordance with the CoC Regulations. In addition, HUD scores the CoC on program leverage to see what other resources are supporting the programs it funds. In order to receive maximum points in the competition, applicants must have 175% leverage documented for their program.

- **Renewal Applicants:** For the 2014 NOFA Competition, HUD is requiring that renewal applicants provide a list of leveraged resources and collect match and leverage documentation as part of their application.
- **New Applicants:** New applicants are required to submit match and leverage documentation as part of their application.

Please see the Appendix for resources that provide examples of documentation and potential sources of match and leverage.

B. Performance Measurements

Performance is the most heavily weighted criteria used by HUD when scoring Homeless Assistance Program applications. The burden of performance falls on both the CoC and the individual projects funded by the CoC. It is therefore crucial that all projects make every attempt possible to meet or exceed their program outcomes. The CoC will assist projects that are having difficulty in meeting objectives in any way they can.

See the Appendix for the CoC's Standard Performance Measures matrix.

C. Application Review Committee Members

The CoC recruits Application Review Committee members who are knowledgeable about homelessness and housing in the area and who are broadly representative of the relevant Homeless Services Planning Group (HSPG) sectors, subpopulations, and geographic areas. The Application Review Committee will be composed of representatives from a cross-section of groups within the HSPG of Mendocino County CoC, as described in the HSPG Governance Charter. Complete guidelines regarding the policies and selection process of Application Review Committee Members can be found in the CoC's Governance Charter, located on the CoC's website at <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/hhsa/adult/coc.htm>

D. Appeals Process

If an applicant organization feels it has been unfairly eliminated from either the local or the federal competition, that a decision made by the Application Review Committee regarding the ranking, rejection, or funding of their project was prejudicial, unsubstantiated by project performance, or in violation of the 2013/2014 Continuum of Care Guidelines, the applying lead agency and sponsor if any may file an appeal by contacting the collaborative applicant for further instructions.

III. Assurances

By submitting the application, the project applicant assures the following:

- Applicant will complete the Project Application with the same information as contained in this application unless there were adjustments made during the rating/ranking process. Those adjustments will be included in your project ranking letter and supersede the original application submitted. The PDF of the application is available on the Mendocino County CoC website.
- Applicant agrees to participate fully in ClientTrack, the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Applicant agrees to fully participate in the Coordinated Intake and Assessment Strategy for Mendocino County CoC.
- Applicant understands that HUD funded homeless assistance projects are monitored by the CoC and may include an annual site monitoring visit, as well as the submission of the program's most recent Annual Performance Report sent to HUD and their most recent audited financial statement and any management letters if applicable when submitting their application.
- Applicant understands that if funding is awarded they are responsible to inform the CoC when:
 - Changes to an existing project or change in sub-population served that is significantly different than what the funds were originally approved for, including any budget amendments submitted to HUD
 - Increase/decrease of other funding to the project that could affect projected numbers of participants served, program staffing, performance, etc.
 - Delays in the start-up of a new project
 - Program is having difficulty in meeting projected numbers served or performance outcomes.
- Project Applicant agrees to execute the following document and submit as a part of their application to the Application Review Committee:

- A signed contract between the sub-recipient and the recipient for CoC funds

III. Timeline

This list highlights the steps your agency will take to participate in the local NOFA competition. Please take special note of these dates.

October 3, 2014:

Submit Complete Application for Rating & Ranking

Submit 1 electronic copy: Prepare a PDF version of the Project Application and email to canadays@co.mendocino.ca.us.

Additional documentation which may be required:

- Project leverage letters
- Project related MOU's (if applicable)
- HUD monitoring letter and/or related correspondence with HUD (if applicable)
- Executed Hold Harmless Agreement

Submit these materials in printed form to the following address:

Mendocino County HHSA

Adult and Aging Services

Attn: Sandi Canaday, Continuum of Care

P.O. Box 839, Ukiah, CA 95482

BOTH THE ELECTRONIC AND HARD COPIES NEED TO BE DELIVERED BY 5:00 P.M. PST on October 3, 2014. LATE AND/OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

October 6-10, 2014:

Rating & Ranking

The Application Review Committee will meet no later than October 10, 2014. At that time all project applications will be reviewed

October 20, 2014:

Notification of Funding Recommendations

On October 20, 2014, you will be notified of the results of the Rating and Ranking process. At this time, you should begin finalizing your application for submission to HUD.

October 27, 2014:

Final Application Deadline

Between October 20 and October 27, applicants should finalize their applications, incorporating recommendations from the Application Review Committee. Project applications must be uploaded by midnight on October 27. **Between October 10 and October 30, please be sure that someone familiar with your project is available to answer last minute application questions or make corrections.**

October 30, 2014:

Entire Consolidated Application Submitted to HUD (by CoC) by 4:59:59 p.m.

Appendix D: Documentation of Leveraged Resource or Cash Match

[This must be on the letterhead of the entity providing the leverage or cash resource]

In the chart below is information regarding the leveraged resource or cash match being provided by this agency. Name of organization providing the leveraged resource or cash match.

Type of contribution*

Value of the contribution

Name of project

Name of sponsor

Date the contribution will be available** [____], 2014 OR [____], 2015

Name of person authorized to commit these resources.

Title of person authorized to commit these resources.

Date

Appendix E: Examples of Leverage

Advocacy

Assistance to immigration
Benefits advocacy
Housing advocacy
Legal assistance, advocacy, representation, and referrals
Peer advocacy
Tenant rights workshops

Children

After-school children's program
Child development consultation
Child care services
Children's books, loaned television, videos, art supplies as available, training, tickets for special events
Children's art program
Children's circus program
Children's holiday party and shopping spree
K-12 homeless education
Parenting classes
Summer camp
Therapeutic day care
Weekly children's art program

Counseling

Bereavement counseling and pastoral services
Counseling services
Crisis intervention
Landlord/tenancy counseling
Pre-treatment counseling, support groups, counseling, and housing assistance
Recovery groups
Support groups
Therapy

Education, Employment and Training

After school and associated summer school activities
Aftercare services
Basic computer skills classes and individual tutoring for residents and graduates
Benefits and Work Incentive Workshops
Computer literacy training
Employment and training services
Education/courses
Education counseling

Housing

Construction loans cash match
Emergency motel vouchers

ESL

Job development and employment services
Job research
Job placement
Job retention
Leadership training
Life skills training
Literacy
Nutrition education/cooking classes
School supplies for children
Sewing classes
Training tuition
Training videos and games
Transitional housing
Tutoring
Uniform vouchers
Vocational services

Financial Services

Asset/resource management services
Money management
Representative payee services

Health

Acupuncture services
Adult day health care
AIDS-related services
Dental screening services
Dual diagnosis services
Emergency room services
Gynecological services
Health care resources and education
Healthcare services
Medical services
Medical, psychiatric and pharmacy services
Medication support
Mental health services
Peer support
Pregnancy testing
Preventative health care services
Psychiatric disability evaluations
Psychotherapy
Residential and outpatient treatment services
Respite care
Substance abuse services
Triage

Emergency shelter

Financial move in grants, housing search support and monthly housing clinics

Housing
Housing placement
Housing search assistance
Leasehold value of building
Maintenance and repair projects/beautification project
Move-in assistance
Property management
Rental assistance and financial assistance for move-in costs
Rental subsidies

Human Resources

Americorps VISTA Volunteers
Advertising
Applicant interview
Consultation staff
Mental health advocacy staff
New employee orientation
Pre-employment process
Volunteer hours

In-Kind

Cash/grants
Clothing
Equipment
Food
Furnishings
Household items
Welfare benefits

Operations

Administrative support
Clerical services
Consulting and practical support
Facility space
Indirect expenses
Mail service
Office/workshop space
Programming
Voice mail

Supportive Services

Artistic services to residents
Assessment services
CalWORKS eligibility support
Case management
Community development
Family Support Services
Grooming
Independent living services
Mentoring services

Outreach
Recreational trips and activities
Referrals
Restraining order assistance, court accompaniment and consultation
Shelter services
Story telling
Support services supervision
Team leader
Technical assistance
Translation services
Veteran's services assistance
YMCA membership & joining fees

Transportation

Subsidized/free bus passes
Transportation
Vehicle