



2015 HUD CoC Program Process for Project Review, Ranking, Selection and Reallocation

On September 18, 2015, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Fiscal Year 2015 Continuum of Care Program Competition. This year's CoC Program Competition requires more intensive strategic resource allocation than has been necessary in past competitions. Specifically, this year HUD requires that 15% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) be ranked in Tier 2 (compared to 2-5% in past competitions). Additionally, HUD is offering CoCs the opportunity to apply for expansion funding for certain project types that would require reallocation from renewal projects and/or increases to the amount of funding ranked in Tier 2.

Mendocino County Annual Renewals Demand (ARD):	\$2,140,714.
Tier 1: 85% of ARD	\$1,819,604
Tier 2: 15% of ARD	\$321,107

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 chose to redirect those resources to new projects.	\$2,140,714
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Expansion Funding:

This funding can go toward new permanent supportive housing projects that serve only chronically homeless households, new rapid re-housing programs that serve individuals or families with children.	\$321,107*
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*In the 2015 competition, the CoC has the option to reallocate funds from CoC renewal projects (whose budgets would be 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 created for individuals or households with children who are experiencing homelessness and originally came from the streets or emergency shelter; and/or new HMIS projects; and/or new Supportive Services Only projects for Centralized or Coordinated Assessment Systems.

Applicant Resources:

FY 2015 CoC Program Competition Funding Availability information and resources can be located at:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/fy-2015-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/#forms>

I. Rating and Ranking Overview

The maximum number of points both new and renewal permanent housing projects is 31 points. For all renewal transitional housing projects the maximum number of points available is 24. For all non housing projects including HMIS and SSO for Coordinated Entry, the maximum number of points awarded is 27.

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
- 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 2, according to Section II.B.10 of the 2015 HUD NOFA. Projects scoring highest will be ranked and placed into Tier 1 until all Tier 1 funds are allocated. 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.**

Unlike new applications which score low, the CoC Application and 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 sub-recipients 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 2015 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.

C. Rating and Ranking 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 Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care (MCHS CoC) sectors, subpopulations, and geographic areas. The Application Review Committee will be composed of representatives from a cross-section of groups within the MCHS CoC, as described in the MCHS CoC Governance Charter. Complete guidelines regarding the policies and selection process of Application Review Committee Members can be found in the MCHS CoC 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 2015 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 will 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 Entry and Assessment Strategy for Mendocino County Homeless Services 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 and Review Committee:
 - A signed contract between the sub-recipient and the recipient for CoC funds

IV. 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 13, 2015:

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:

- o Project leverage letters
- o Project related MOU's (if applicable)
- o HUD monitoring letter and/or related correspondence with HUD (if applicable)
- o 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 13, 2015. LATE AND/OR INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

October 13-16, 2015:

Rating & Ranking

The Application Review Committee will meet no later than October 16, 2015. At that time all project applications will be reviewed

October 16, 2015:

Notification of Funding Recommendations

On October 16, 2015, 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.

November 10 , 2015:

Final Application Deadline

Between October 16 and November 10, applicants should finalize their applications, incorporating recommendations from the Application Review Committee. Project applications must be uploaded by midnight on November 10. **Between October 16 and November 10, please be sure that someone familiar with your project is available to answer last minute application questions or make corrections.**

November 19, 2015:

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

Any project applicant that submits a project that was rejected by the CoC in the local competition will be notified in writing by the CoC, outside of *e-snaps*, with an explanation for the decision to reject the project(s). Project applicants whose project was rejected may appeal the local CoC competition decision to HUD if the project applicant believes it was denied the opportunity to participate in the local CoC planning process in a reasonable manner by submitting a Solo Application in *e-snaps* directly to HUD prior to the application deadline of **7:59:59 p.m. eastern time on November 20, 2015**. The CoC's notification of rejection of the project in the local competition must be attached to the Solo Application.

V. Reallocation Process:

Each renewal project will be assessed by CoC staff to determine if reallocation should be considered, and to determine a reallocation amount for consideration by the Governing Board. CoC staff will assess each renewal project using the following questions:

1. Has the project had significant recaptures in the past two completed grant cycles? If so, what amounts have been recaptured?
2. Would the project have the capacity to continue operations (at the same or a reduced level) with a decreased CoC award?
3. Do CoC survey results related to funding priorities and CoC service needs indicate that this project type should be considered for reallocation?
4. What are the projects contributions toward CoC progress in meeting HUD's Policy Priorities (taken from Renewal Application)?

Completed Reallocation Assessments will be provided to the Application Review Committee to inform decision making process related to reallocation.

Appendix A: Rating and Ranking Score Sheet

Application Name

Project Name

Mendocino County Homeless Services CoC Funding Application Rating & Ranking

			Available	Received
C.		Project Type. Up to 10 points will be based on the type of project application submitted and the population that will be served with the following points available for the following project types:		
	(1)	10 points for renewal and new permanent housing (permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing), renewal Safe Haven, Homeless Management Information System, Supportive Services Only (SSO) for Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System, or transitional housing that exclusively serve homeless youth projects;	10	
	(2)	3 points for renewal transitional housing, except those transitional housing projects that exclusively serve homeless youth which will be scored as discussed in paragraph (1); and	3	
	(3)	1 point for renewal SSO project applications	1	
			14	
		Commitment to Policy Priorities	Total Available	Total Received
d.		Commitment to Policy Priorities. Up to 10 points for how the permanent housing project application commits to applying the Housing First model. Transitional housing projects and SSO projects that are not for centralized or coordinated assessment can receive up to 10 points for how the project demonstrates that it is low-barrier, prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions to entry (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). HMIS projects and SSO projects for a centralized or coordinated assessment system will automatically receive 10 points.	10	
			10	
		New Permanent Housing–Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing Applications	Total	Total

			Available	Received
(1)		To be considered as meeting project quality threshold, new permanent housing–permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing–project applications must receive at least 3 out of the 5 points available for the criteria below. New permanent housing project applications that do not receive at least 3 points will be rejected.	3 min / 5 max	
	(a)	Whether the type, scale, and location of the housing fit the needs of the program participants (1 point);	1	
	(b)	Whether the type and scale of the supportive services fit the needs of the program participants–this includes all supportive services, regardless of funding source (1 point)	1	
	(c)	Whether the specific plan for ensuring program participants will be individually assisted to obtain the benefits of the mainstream health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible to apply meets the needs of the program participants (1 point)	1	
	(d)	Whether program participants are assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs (1 point)	1	
	(e)	Whether at least 75 percent of the proposed program participants come from the street or other locations not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, safe havens, or fleeing domestic violence (1 point) .	1	
			5	
		New SSO Projects for Centralized or Coordinated Assessment Systems	Total Available	Total Received
(2)		To be considered as meeting project quality threshold, new SSO projects for centralized or coordinated assessment systems must receive at least 2 out of the 4 points available for the criteria below. SSO projects for centralized or coordinated assessment systems that do not receive at least 2 points will be rejected.		
	(a)	Whether the centralized or coordinated assessment system is easily accessible for all persons within the CoC’s geographic area who are seeking information regarding homelessness assistance (1 point)	1	
	(b)	Whether there is a strategy for advertising the program that is designed specifically to reach homeless persons with the highest barriers within the CoC’s geographic area (1 point)	1	
	(c)	Whether there is a standardized assessment process (1 point)	1	
	(d)	Whether the program ensures that program participants are directed to appropriate housing and services that fit their needs (1 point) .	1	
			4	
		New HMIS project Applications	Total Available	Total Received

(3)		To be considered as meeting project quality threshold, new HMIS project applications must receive at least 3 out of the 4 points available for the criteria below. New HMIS projects that do not receive at least 3 points will be rejected.		
	(a)	How the HMIS funds will be expended in a way that is consistent with the CoC's funding strategy for the HMIS and furthers the CoC's HMIS implementation (1 point)	1	
	(b)	Whether the HMIS collects all Universal Data Elements as set forth in the HMIS Data Standards (1 point);	1	
	(c)	Whether the HMIS un-duplicates client records (1 point)	1	
	(d)	Whether the HMIS produces all HUD-required reports and provide data as needed for HUD reporting (e.g., APR, quarterly reports, data for CAPER/ESG reporting) (1 point)	1	
			4	
		Collaborative Applicant's Application for New CoC Planning Funds	Total Available	Total Received
(4)		To be considered as meeting project quality threshold, the Collaborative Applicant's application for new CoC planning funds must receive at least 6 out of 10 points using the criteria below. Applications that do not receive at least 6 points will be rejected. Applications for UFA Costs are not subject to a threshold review, as UFA status was determined as part of Registration.	6 min / 10 max	
	(a)	Governance and Operations. Whether the CoC conducts meetings of the entire CoC membership that are inclusive and open to members and whether the CoC is able to demonstrate that it has a written governance charter in place that contains CoC policies (2 points).	2	
	(b)	CoC Committees. Whether the CoC has CoC-wide planning committees, subcommittees, or workgroups to the address homeless needs in the CoC's geographic area that recommend and/or set policy priorities for the CoC (2 points).	2	
	(c)	The proposed planning activities that will be carried out by the CoC with grant funds are compliant with the provisions of 24 CFR 578.7 (4 points); and	4	
	(d)	The funds requested will improve the CoC's ability to evaluate the outcome of both CoC Program-funded and ESG-funded projects (2 points).	2	
			10	
		New Projects Meeting Project Quality Threshold	Total Available	Total Received
(5)		Additionally, HUD will assess all new projects for the following minimum project eligibility, capacity, timeliness, and performance standards. To be considered as meeting project quality threshold, all new projects must meet all of the following criteria:	PASS/FAIL (+1 or -1)	

	(a)	Project applicants and potential subrecipients must have satisfactory capacity, drawdowns, and performance for existing grant(s) that are funded under the SHP, S+C, or CoC Program, as evidenced by timely reimbursement of subrecipients, regular drawdowns, and timely resolution of any monitoring findings;	(+/-)	
	(b)	For expansion projects, project applicants must clearly articulate the part of the project that is being expanded. Additionally, the project applicants must clearly demonstrate that they are not replacing other funding sources; and	(+/-)	
	(c)	Project applicants must demonstrate they will be able to meet all timeliness standards per 24 CFR 578.85. Project applicants with existing projects must demonstrate that they have met all project renewal threshold requirements of this NOFA. HUD reserves the right to deny the funding request for a new project, if the request is made by an existing recipient that HUD finds to have significant issues related to capacity, performance, or unresolved audit/monitoring finding related to one or more existing grants. Additionally, HUD reserves the right to withdraw funds if no APR is submitted on the prior grant.	(+/-)	
			3	
		Project Renewal Threshold	Total Available	Total Received
f.		<i>Project Renewal Threshold.</i> A CoC must consider the need to continue funding for projects expiring in CY 2016. Renewal projects must meet minimum project eligibility, capacity, timeliness, and performance standards identified in this NOFA or they will be rejected from consideration for funding.	PASS/FAIL (+1 or -1)	
(1)		When considering renewal projects for award, HUD will review information in LOCCS; Annual Performance Reports (APRs); and information provided from the local HUD CPD Field Office, including monitoring reports and A-133 audit reports as applicable, and performance standards on prior grants, and will assess projects using the following criteria on a pass/fail basis:		
	(a)	Whether the project applicant's performance met the plans and goals established in the initial application as amended;	(+/-)	
	(b)	Whether the project applicant demonstrated all timeliness standards for grants being renewed, including that standards for the expenditure of grant funds have been met;	(+/-)	
	(c)	The project applicant's performance in assisting program participants to achieve and maintain independent living and record of success, except HMIS-dedicated projects are not required to meet this standard; and	(+/-)	
	(d)	Whether there is evidence that a project applicant has been unwilling to accept technical assistance, has a history of inadequate financial accounting practices, has indications of project mismanagement, has a drastic reduction in the population served, has made program changes without prior HUD approval, or has lost a project site.	(+/-)	

			4	
			Total Available	Total Received
(2)		HUD reserves the right to reduce or reject a funding request from the project applicant for the following reasons:	PASS/FAIL (+1 or -1)	
	(a)	Outstanding obligation to HUD that is in arrears or for which a payment schedule has not been agreed upon;	(+/-)	
	(b)	Audit finding(s) for which a response is overdue or unsatisfactory;	(+/-)	
	(c)	History of inadequate financial management accounting practices;	(+/-)	
	(d)	Evidence of untimely expenditures on prior award;	(+/-)	
	(e)	History of other major capacity issues that have significantly affected the operation of the project and its performance;	(+/-)	
	(f)	History of not reimbursing subrecipients for eligible costs in a timely manner, or at least quarterly; and	(+/-)	
	(g)	History of serving ineligible program participants, expending funds on ineligible costs, or failing to expend funds within statutorily established timeframes.	(+/-)	
			7	

NOTES:

Appendix B: 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**

[____], 2016 OR [____], 2017

Name of person authorized to commit these resources.

Title of person authorized to commit these resources.

Date

Appendix C: 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

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

Housing

Construction loans cash match
Emergency motel vouchers
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