



# Annual CoC Competition: Summary for State ESG Recipients

## ANNUAL CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM COMPETITION

Each year HUD publishes a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Discretionary Programs. The NOFA includes a General Section containing requirements for all of HUD's competitive grant programs, followed by program-specific sections for each competitive funding opportunity. The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition is published annually through the Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD). CoCs generally have 90 days to complete and submit their consolidated application.

Information, resources, and application instructions for the CoC Competition can be found on the [HUD Exchange](#).

## CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) COMPETITION NOFA AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Each Continuum of Care designates a Collaborative Applicant to submit the CoC Registration, CoC Consolidated Application (which includes the CoC Application and CoC Priority Listing), and apply for CoC planning funds on behalf of the CoC during the CoC Program Competition. The CoC may assign additional responsibilities to the Collaborative Applicant so long as these responsibilities are documented in the CoC's Governance Charter.

### CoC Program Registration

The first step of the CoC Program Application process is registration. In order to register, each Collaborative Applicant must complete the following on behalf of the CoC in the HUD on-line data system known as e-snaps:

- Update and complete the Applicant Profile
- Confirm or update the claimed CoC geographic area and identify merger or split status.
- Acknowledge the amount HUD apportioned for Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) for each CoC based on the geographic area.
- Apply for Unified Funding Agency (UFA) designation (if applicable).
- Apply for High Performing Community (HPC) designation (if applicable).
- Confirm their intent to submit a CoC Consolidated Application.

## Consolidated Application

The Collaborative Applicant works with providers and stakeholders within the CoC jurisdiction to assemble the annual Consolidated Application. This process, which varies among CoCs, is dictated by the CoC Governance Charter and guided by the HUD NOFA. The Consolidated Application is comprised of three parts:

- 1. The CoC Application:** This part includes information about the CoC planning body, governance structure, overall performance, and the strategic planning process (This part of the application is scored and determines the order in which CoCs are funded.)
- 2. Individual Project Applications:** Project applications must be completed by project applicants for new and renewal project requests. New project applicants must provide a description of the proposed project including the population/sub-population it will serve, the type of housing and services that will be provided, and the budget activities being requested. Typically, most funding is devoted to renewal projects and very little funding is available to fund new project requests. As a result, CoCs are required to rank and prioritize renewal projects based on CoC need and individual project performance. In addition, CoCs are encouraged to reallocate funds from existing projects to higher-performing new projects that can serve populations with greater needs and better achieve HUD's policy priorities. Reallocation of renewal funding to new projects is achieved by reducing or eliminating funding from existing CoC funded projects. HUD conducts a threshold review of eligible new, renewal, and planning project applications to ensure that the projects meet all HUD rules and requirements.
- 3. CoC Project Priority Listing:** In this section, the CoC ranks project applications in order of funding priority and identifies any projects that have been rejected by the CoC. This section also includes a signed Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan or Plan(s) associated with the jurisdiction in which each CoC project is located.

## STATE ESG RECIPIENT AND OTHER STATE AGENCY PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Requirements

CoCs are required to consult with each Con Plan jurisdiction and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program recipient within their geography. Note that state ESG recipients are required to consult with all CoCs within their boundaries. In addition, as a part of the Consolidated Application, the CoC must describe how it participates with the Consolidated Plan jurisdiction(s), including the frequency and type of interactions between the CoC and the Consolidated Plan jurisdiction. The [HUD Exchange](#) includes resources designed to assist Consolidated Plan jurisdictions and CoCs in meeting consultation requirements. Link to these documents from the Additional Resources section below. Required consultation topics include the following:

- Coordinated entry
- CoC Program written standards for administering assistance
- Allocation planning, performance evaluation, and reporting for ESG
- Homelessness portions of the Consolidated Plan, including homelessness data
- Ensuring consistency between CoC Program project applications and the Consolidated Plan(s) for the applicable jurisdictions

## Opportunities

The CoC application process highlights several opportunities for state ESG recipients to participate in the work of the CoCs. They include the following:

1. Participate in the project application process by helping to develop rating and ranking criteria, outreach to potential applicants, provide technical assistance to potential applicants or ensuring that CoC priorities are aligned with ESG priorities.
2. Provide match dollars to project applicants.
3. Become an active member of the CoC Governance Board to ensure that priorities continue to be aligned through allocation planning and performance evaluation.
4. Participate on CoC work groups and committees, such as unsheltered homelessness, emergency shelter or homelessness prevention.
5. Assist the CoC with the annual homeless Point-in-Time count by providing funding or staffing.

## SUMMARY

State ESG recipients can play an important and integral role in the CoC competition and ongoing operations within their states. The annual CoC competition provides an opportunity for State ESG recipients to become more involved in CoC decision-making and ensure that new and renewal CoC-funded projects complement ESG-funded activities. State ESG recipient agencies can assist CoCs in reviewing project applications, encouraging state subrecipients to participate in CoC activities, deciding on CoC funding priorities, and collaborating on a CoC's system performance measures. In fact, CoCs are required to consult with ESG recipients in establishing a coordinated entry system and written standards for the CoC Program (see 24 CFR 578.7 (a)(8) and (9)). ESG recipients are required to consult with CoCs in determining how to allocate ESG funds for each program year as well as on developing performance standards for evaluating outcomes of ESG-funded projects and activities. They must also consult on developing the funding, policies and procedures for administering and operating the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

The CoC Competition provides an important opportunity for CoCs and ESG recipients to ensure consistent plans for addressing homelessness in their communities.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[CoC Program Competition](#)

[CoC Con Plan Jurisdiction and ESG Recipient Crosswalk](#)

[Coordination and Collaboration for CoCs and Con Plan Jurisdictions Guide and Video](#)