

Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care**Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Governance Board**
Approved September 14, 2021**2021 Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Competition**

The Georgia Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) is issuing the following guidance for the 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) competition. This guidance applies to all renewing Continuum of Care grants for permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and Coordinated Assessment projects as well as for new applications submitted either for rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, Joint TH and PH-RRH component, or Domestic Violence bonus projects. This announcement is being provided in accordance with the HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the 2021 Continuum of Care Program Competition (Docket No. FR-6500-N-25) at: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition. Information can also be found at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/fy-2021-coc-program-competition/>.

The HUD NOFO allows for non-competitive renewal and replacement of expiring Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) grants. However, there are currently no expiring YHDP grants in the CoC. As such, these will not be addressed further in this policy document.

Funding for new projects is only available through the process of reallocation, the CoC bonus, or the Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus. The Balance of State CoC may only create new project(s) through the permanent housing bonus up to 5% of the Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN) amount, which is expected to be around \$1,192,227 based on the Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) amount. The Balance of State CoC may only create new project(s) under the DV bonus up to 15% of the PPRN amount, which is expected to be around \$3,576,680 to create DV Bonus projects. Applications for new projects made available through reallocation will only be considered if an active renewal project does not submit an application for renewal funding or if the application review sub-committees determine the need to reallocate from eligible renewal projects due to those projects not meeting threshold, poor performance, and underspending due to significantly operating under capacity. There is no estimated amount to be reallocated at this time.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), designated as the Collaborative Applicant for the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC), is responsible for overseeing and managing the application process for the FY 2021 HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance funding process. HUD requires that the CoC develop a process for submitting one consolidated application for the FY 2021 CoC program. The Collaborative Applicant works with the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee to develop and recommend the process for CoC Board approval. The BoS CoC Board approved this policy on September 14, 2021.

The following document outlines the policy and process for the FY 2021 funding cycle.

Timeline

June 11, 2021 - GIW Change Forms due to HUD.

May 14, 2021 - Final CoC Review Step for the CoC Registration submitted.

August 18, 2021 – NOFO released by HUD.

September 9, 2021 - Standards, Rating, and Review Committee meeting to approve policy, materials, and recommend process for scoring and ranking held.

September 14, 2021 - CoC Board meeting to approve policy, materials, and process recommended by the Standards, Ratings, and Review Committee held.

September 15, 2021 – 2021 Balance of State CoC NOFO Competition Policy, Process, Timeline, Review Applications, Scoring Criteria, Addendum, and other Competition materials released (approved by the BoS CoC Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee and the Balance of State CoC Board).

September 17th & 20th, 2021 - Informational Webinar for renewal PSH and RRH applicants held by DCA, and materials from the webinar were distributed to each renewal applicant.

September 21, 2021 – Proposal Outlines for New PSH, RRH, Joint TH & PH-RRH Component, or SSO-CE projects due.

September 17th & 22nd, 2021 - Informational Webinar for New PSH, RRH, Joint TH & PH-RRH Component, & SSO-CE applicants, and materials from the webinar posted.

September 28, 2021 – Review Applications for Renewing PSH and RRH projects and supplemental documents (listed on pages 10-11 of this document) due by 3:00 PM. This includes the Certification Policy Addendum, Coordinated Entry Policy Addendum, supportive documents showing timely drawdowns (LOCCS reports), most recent monitoring, HUD APR from Sage, HUD Data Quality Report from HMIS, Notice of Intent to consolidate grants (as applicable), and the change designation form (for DedicatedPLUS projects as applicable).

September 29, 2021 - Review Applications (including both Addendums) for NEW PSH, RRH, and Joint TH & PH-RRH Component projects, as well as all required copies and supplemental documents (listed on pages 12-13 of this document), due by 3:00 pm.

September 29, 2021 - Proposals for NEW SSO-CE DV Bonus project, due 3:00 pm.

September 28-October 12, 2021 – Internal review

October 13-14, 2021 – Review Team Sub-Committee application review of renewal and new projects.

October 13, 2021 – ALL project applications (Renewal PSH, RRH, HMIS, CoC Planning, Coordinated Assessment, and HMIS as well as New PSH, RRH, Joint TH & PH-RRH Component, and HMIS) and updated certifications must be entered into *e-snaps* by 5:00 pm.

October 20 or 21, 2021 - Standards, Rating, and Review Committee meeting to approve and recommend ranking of projects held.

October 27, 2021 - CoC Board meeting to approve ranking recommended by the Standards, Ratings, and Review Committee held.

October 29, 2021 - Notification given to applicants of placement in scoring and ranking for all projects (due 11/1/21).

November 3, 2021 - ALL project application corrections (if applicable) should be completed in *e-snaps* by 2:00 pm.

November 12, 2021 – Estimated public posting of CoC Application (due 11/14/21).

November 14, 2021 – Estimated CoC application submission to HUD (due 11/16/21).

Summary of Changes and Policy Priorities for the FY 2021 Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Funding Cycle

Please note that there have been significant changes in the process and method by which local CoCs are being scored under Federal priorities in recent years. All applicants and interested parties are strongly encouraged to read this document, as well as the HUD FY 2021 Continuum of Care NOFO and any supplemental materials (<https://www.dca.ga.gov/safe-affordable-housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/2021>) and (<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>) in their entirety to ensure there is complete understanding of the information provided. Some of the major changes and policy priorities include:

- Renewing Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH) projects will be eligible for ranking and renewal. In addition, renewing PSH projects will have the opportunity to change the classification of project type to DedicatedPLUS where 100% of the beds will be dedicated to serve individuals, households with children, and unaccompanied youth as defined in Section III.B.2.g of the 2021 HUD NOFO. Additional guidance for DedicatedPLUS projects can be found on the HUD Exchange website at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>.
- PSH projects that were awarded as DedicatedPLUS in a previous CoC Program Competition are required to include households with children to qualify as a DedicatedPLUS project in the FY 2021 CoC Program Competition.
- In order to be eligible for renewal in FY 2021, projects must be currently in operation and have an executed grant agreement dated no later than December 31, 2021 and expire in CY 2022 (January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022). Grant agreements for FY 2020 funds must be executed by December 31, 2021. If a project application is not executed by December 31, 2021, HUD will withdraw any funds conditionally awarded for FY 2021.
- Projects implemented prior to the 2018 competition or transferred prior to 2019 that underspend and/or are significantly operating under capacity may be subject to full or partial reallocation. Reallocation of underperforming projects is contingent on appropriate high-scoring new project

applications. If there are not adequate new project applications to include in the final ranking, the CoC reserves the right to include the lower scoring renewal project. Any project that has less than \$10,000 at the end of the grant, that is not deemed to be underperforming or operating under capacity as defined in this policy, will not be in jeopardy of having the grant amount reduced.

- As in previous years, HUD will continue the Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding process. Tier 1 is equal to 100 percent of the combined Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) minus the Annual Renewal Amounts (ARA) of YHDP renewal and YHDP replacement projects. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation, and CoC bonus funds that a CoC can apply for, but does not include YHDP renewal or YHDP replacement projects, CoC planning projects, or projects selected with DV Bonus funds. Tier 1 is estimated to be \$19,505,138 and the CoC bonus amount is \$1,192,227.
- Projects that were awarded for the first time under the 2019 CoC Competition as first-time grants, that have not yet been up and running for a full year, will automatically receive median performance scores for like applications for performance in the scoring and ranking process. Those points will then be averaged with that project's original 2019 application score in order to take into account project design and other important factors related to the implementation of that project.
- Fully operational projects providing permanent housing that were transferred in the last year, or are pending transfer, will be held harmless and automatically included in Tier 1.
- Project evaluation of renewal project applications submitted by victim service providers will be completed utilizing data generated from a comparable database where the CoC can review performance on housing stability and other factors to determine the level projects improve safety for the population they serve. Where complete performance data related to the scoring criteria is not provided, the CoC will assign median points for that criteria.
- Through this competition the following types of new project applications will be accepted: (a) PSH for the chronically homeless individuals and families; (b) PSH where 100% of the beds meet the NOFO requirements of a DedicatedPLUS project for individuals, households with children, and unaccompanied youth; (c) RRH for individuals and families; (d) Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects; and (e) a SSO-Coordinated Entry project under the DV Bonus.
- New project applications requesting funding for new construction or rehabilitation activities will not be accepted.
- Points in the scoring criteria will be available for permanent housing projects (PSH or RRH) that are currently using, or commit to using, the Housing First model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. To receive any of these points, applicants should demonstrate that the project is low-barrier, prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and has no service participation requirements and no preconditions to entry. Please note, renewal applicants must meet, or improve, the level committed in a project application submitted in a previous competition. Renewal projects will also be scored on whether or not they have policies and procedures that support commitment to rapid placement into housing without preconditions (other than mandated exceptions).

- Points in the scoring criteria will be available to all project applications that are low barrier projects (or commit to being low barrier projects) and do not terminate program participants for failure to participate in supportive services, make progress on a service plan, loss of income or failure to improve income, or other activities not covered in a lease agreement typically found for unassisted persons in the area. Please note that renewal applicants must meet, or improve, the level committed in a project application submitted in a previous competition.
- Beginning with the 2015 competition, any project application(s) that indicates a Housing First approach and/or commits to operating as a low barrier program and is reviewed, approved, and ranked by the CoC and awarded CoC Program funds is required to operate as a Housing First and/or low barrier project. Projects that indicate they will not continue as such in the required Certification Policy Addendum will not receive the points for the Housing First and low barrier scoring criteria and may be determined out of compliance and placed in the bottom of Tier 2.
- BoS CoC bonus points will be available for new projects that exclusively dedicate units/beds in order to prioritize Veterans or youth households where the head of household is aged 18-24. Bonus points will be available for new projects proposed by applicant actively serving as a lead agency in a Coordinated Entry implementation and for renewal projects critical to current Implementation communities for Coordinated Entry. Actively serving as a lead agency is defined as managing the local assessment, prioritization, and referral process for Coordinated Entry. Bonus points will be available for PSH renewal projects dedicated to providing housing to people who are homeless with a disability and for renewal projects that increased the number of beds dedicated to serving persons who are chronically homeless. Bonus points will be available for applicants who worked to prepare and train volunteers as a coordinator for the 2021 Homeless Count in January, in an effort to assist the CoC to identify people experiencing homelessness in their area.
- All renewal BoS CoC PSH projects that do not already have 100% of their beds dedicated to people who are chronically homeless will be required to prioritize at least 90% of their non-dedicated beds to people who are chronically homeless*. The BoS CoC is prioritizing homeless individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness consistent with *Notice CPD 16-011: Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status*. Chronically homeless individuals and families should be given priority for permanent supportive housing beds not currently dedicated to this population as vacancies become available through turnover. Permanent supportive housing renewal projects serving specific disabled subpopulations (e.g., persons with mental illness or persons with substance use disorder) must continue to serve those subpopulations, as required in the current grant agreement. However, chronically homeless individuals and families within the specified subpopulation should be prioritized for entry. The full notice can be found at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5108/notice-cpd-16-11-prioritizing-persons-experiencing-chronic-homelessness-and-other-vulnerable-homeless-persons-in-psh/>. *Projects that committed to prioritizing 100% of non-dedicated beds to people who are chronically homeless in previous competitions are required to continue at 100%.
- In order maintain alignment to HUD priorities for this funding and to keep homeless people with disabilities who are residing in PSH projects from becoming homeless, with the exception of the HMIS grants, and the Coordinated Assessment grants, which are critical to the operations of the CoC, and will therefore be placed mid-Tier 1, the BoS CoC will rank projects within the following groupings:

- Renewal PSH and RRH projects that are currently housing people who are homeless, without significant capacity, compliance, or performance issues that have been in operation over a year (based on score), operational projects transferred in the last 12-months or pending transfer, HMIS, and Coordinated Assessment projects
 - New RRH and PSH projects awarded in the 2019 competition that have not been operational for a full year, and do not have data for a complete year to report on (based on score)
 - New PSH, RRH, and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component projects that are designated by the CoC to utilize any reallocated funds, if available (based on score)
 - Renewal PSH and RRH projects determined to be significantly underperforming (based on the degree to which they do NOT improve system performance in the areas of serving eligible participants less than 75%, have low rates of housing stability, or a high rate of participants returning to homelessness), operating significantly out of compliance, or operating significantly under capacity (projects that are both utilizing 50% or less of the units and returning a significant amount of funds with the exception of projects transferred in the last year).
 - New PH Bonus PSH, RRH, and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component projects (based on score)
 - New DV Bonus RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH projects (based on score)
 - New DV Bonus SSO-CE project (1 based on score)
- Projects implemented prior to the 2018 competition that underspend and/or are significantly operating under capacity may be subject to full or partial reallocation. Reallocations, if necessary, will be made based on the guidance in the 2021 NOFO. The two lowest scoring renewal RRH and PSH projects determined to be significantly underperforming, operating under capacity, or found to be operating significantly out of compliance may be subject to replacement by new RRH, PSH, or Joint TH & PH-RRH Component projects, provided the applications pass the threshold review and score highly enough. Project level performance will be further assessed to determine impact on CoC System Performance Measures as part of decisions to reallocate. Reallocation of underperforming projects is contingent on appropriate high-scoring new project applications. If there are not adequate new project applications to include in the final ranking, the CoC reserves the right to include the lower scoring renewal project(s) at the bottom of Tier 2.
- HUD will score new and renewal projects ranked in Tier 2 using a 100-point scale (please see full details on page 14 of the NOFO):
- CoC Score – up to 50 points will be in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application;
 - CoC Project Ranking – up to 40 points will be based on the CoC’s ranking of the project application(s);
 - Commitment to Housing First – up to 10 points will be based on project’s commitment to follow a housing first approach.
- As noted above, HUD is also allowing for CoCs to apply for permanent housing bonus funding. More than one project can be submitted for the bonus funding. HUD guidance shows that for CoCs to receive grants for new projects, other than through reallocation, CoCs must competitively rank projects based on how they improve system performance as outlined in Section VII.B.2.b of the NOFO.

HUD is allowing for CoCs to apply for Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus funding again this year. The CoC is only allowed to submit one project application for the SSO-CE project type, but again this year the CoC will be able to submit multiple applications for PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH housing project

types. For the SSO-CE project type, the CoC will submit the highest ranked project that passes eligibility and quality threshold review. For the highest ranked housing projects that pass eligibility and quality threshold review, the CoC will submit as funding availability allows. Any additional DV focused housing projects submitted under the DV Bonus would then be ranked with any regular permanent housing CoC bonus projects (see Section III.B.2.c of the NOFO).

- Compliance with Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Rule. On November 16, 2016, HUD published its VAWA final rule (81 FR 80798), which provides various protections to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking under the CoC Program and other HUD programs. The grants to be awarded under this NOFO must comply with the VAWA rule as provided in 24 CFR 578.99(j). To enable full compliance with this rule, the CoC established an emergency transfer plan under 24 CFR 578.7(d) and made related updates to the written standards for administering CoC program assistance under 24 CFR 578.7(a)(9)(ii), (iii) and (v) on 6/20/17. All CoC-funded projects must follow the *Georgia Balance of State CoC Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Policies and Procedures* established on 6/20/17 (located at: <https://www.dca.ga.gov/housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/policies>) and be fully compliant. New and first-time renewal projects should be fully compliant by the time the local CPD Field Office issues the FY 2021 grant agreement for a project in the CoC's geographic area.
- The Collaborative Applicant will submit an application for planning funds as allowed by HUD. CoC Planning applications are not required to be ranked, and the funds are not part of the pro rata amounts available for projects.
- The CoC will not reallocate any funding to Transition Projects. While the FY 2021 HUD NOFO is allowing Transition Grants as described in Section III.B.2.z of the NOFO, there are no projects where this is applicable. Requirements include no more than 50% of the grant may be used for costs of eligible activities of the program component originally funded in order to transition, and it would require the CoC to eliminate an eligible renewal project and reallocate the project amount to a new Transition Project that would replace the eligible renewal for a 1-year period.
- Applicants that will not be submitting and application for the renewal of a project currently funded through the CoC is requested to submit a letter with a completed *GA BoS CoC Notice of Intent – Non-Renewal of Project* form to Tina Moore at tina.moore@dca.ga.gov as soon as possible.

General Information

In addition to the information presented in this document, it is expected that all applicants read the HUD FY 2021 Continuum of Care NOFO, related scoring criteria, and any supplemental materials (<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2021-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/> and https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition) in their entirety to ensure there is complete understanding of the information provided.

All agencies submitting an application, whether for a new project or a renewal project, must submit a complete application packet, as described below, in order to be considered for scoring.

It is the responsibility of the agencies to ensure that all the application materials are received by DCA, by the established deadlines. Applications are required to be scored and ranked by the CoC in order to be

included in the CoC's project listing submitted to HUD, and an applicant's failure to meet deadlines may result in the denial of an applicant's request for funds.

In FY 2021, eligible renewal project applications will continue to have the ability to consolidate two or more eligible renewal projects (but no more than ten projects) into one project application during the application process as described in Section II.B.6 of the HUD NOFO. To be eligible for consolidation, projects must have the same recipient and be for the same component. Applicants that are eligible must submit separate renewal projects for each of the grants that are proposed to be consolidated (to the CoC for scoring and ranking and in *e-snaps*). Each project application will identify the grant number that will survive after consolidation, which must be the grant number with the earliest start date. Project applications for the grants that are proposed to be consolidated will be ranked (individually), and if all those grants are selected, HUD will conditionally award the single consolidated grant based on its ranked position to include the amount of funding of all grants included in the consolidation. Full details can be found in Section V.B.4.a.(7) of the FY 2021 NOFO.

Applicants requesting renewal of grants for rental assistance are permitted to request a per-unit amount less than the Fair Market Rent (FMR), if the actual rent per unit under lease is less than the FMR. If a per-unit amount reduction is requested, applicants must provide copies of the leases to establish the actual rents.

All renewal project applications must pass a threshold review and will then be scored according to specific criteria. The criteria will consist of current data in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) including system performance measures, participation in the CoC's Coordinated Entry System, project performance, cost effectiveness, project commitment to serving the most vulnerable participants with severe needs and vulnerability, the most recent HUD or DCA monitoring visit, and the scoring of the review application. will be scored by an independent review panel. The independent review panel will submit their results to the Collaborative Applicant who will consolidate all scores, rank projects, and publish the results with the BoS CoC Board's approval.

All new project applications must pass an organizational threshold review and will then be scored according to specific criteria.

New project applications that score high enough will be eligible to be included in the prioritization tiering presented to HUD. Please note, however, eligibility does not guarantee funding. The BoS CoC Board will make the final determination of which projects will be ranked and presented to HUD for funding consideration within the limited funding available.

In addition to the application packet required to score and rank projects, all renewing and new projects must also complete the HUD application in *e-snaps*. Completing the application in *e-snaps* does not guarantee that the project will be put forth in the HUD application, nor does it guarantee that the project will be funded. Please note that within *e-snaps* previously submitted renewal applications may be able to import data into the FY 2021 renewal project application.

The BoS CoC is required by CoC regulations to operate a HMIS, establish a "centralized or coordinated assessment system," and carry out planning activities in accordance with the Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule. Therefore, all new and/or renewal applications for HMIS and coordinated assessment will be prioritized for placement in Tier 1.

DCA, as the Collaborative Applicant, will post any additional details of the competition and HUD resources as they become available on the Continuum of Care webpage. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they check the both the BoS CoC (<https://www.dca.ga.gov/safe-affordable-housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/2021>) and the HUD CoC (https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition AND <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>) websites regularly for the latest updates. Please note that all of HUD's competition and e-snaps materials, notices, and training guides can be accessed on the HUD pages.

Project applicants must agree to enter client data into Georgia's BoS Homeless Management Information System (ClientTrack), participate in the CoC's Coordinated Entry System, and participate in the homeless counts in Georgia's BoS jurisdiction. However, in accordance with Section 407 of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act, any victim service provider that is a recipient or subrecipient must not disclose, for purposes of HMIS, any personally identifying information about a client. Victim service providers must use a comparable database that meets the needs of the local HMIS.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs, as the Collaborative Applicant, believes in a commitment to end homelessness throughout the State of Georgia. To this end, DCA encourages all grantees to ensure that no household is turned away because they have previously resided in a differing Continuum. However, as these projects are funded to address homelessness in the Balance of State Continuum of Care, each project should demonstrate how they are targeting, providing outreach, and participating in local coordinated entry implementation areas (as applicable), or working with providers in the county(ies) of the project's location, in order to reduce homelessness in the Balance of State CoC.

Project applicants are required to register with Dun and Bradstreet to obtain a DATA Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, if they have not already done so, and complete or renew their registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) per Section V.A.1 of the FY 2021 HUD NOFO. For more information on DUNS numbers and SAM registration go to: https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo. HUD will not enter into a grant agreement with an entity that does not have a DUNS Number or an active SAM registration.

All project applicants must ensure their organization has a Code of Conduct that complies with the requirements of 2 CFR part 200 and is on file with HUD at: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/conductgrants. If the organization's Code of Conduct does not appear on HUD's website, the project must attach its Code of Conduct that includes all required information to its Project Applicant Profile in *e-snaps*.

All project applicants must have a Certification of Consistency from the jurisdiction in which each of the proposed project(s) will be located. This assures the application for funding is consistent with the jurisdiction's HUD-approved consolidated plan as described in the NOFO. DCA staff will work with applicants and the appropriate Consolidated Planning jurisdiction for the required form *HUD-2991 - Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan*, but it is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with respective jurisdictions to ensure those jurisdictions have the project information they need to provide the certification(s) in a timely manner.

Project applicants must ensure that applications (Review Application and HUD application in the E-Snaps system) are complete and the information within the application is consistent throughout the

application. Narratives must be fully responsive to the question being asked, and responses should meet all of the criteria for that question as required by the NOFO and the detailed instructions provided in E-Snaps. Applicants must also ensure that proposed program participants are eligible for the program component type selected, and proposed activities are eligible under 24 CFR part 578. Applicants should also ensure that all required attachments correspond to the attachments as required in E-Snaps contain accurate and complete information.

In accordance of CoC review criteria, the CoC strongly encourages HUD-funded projects to have written agreements in place with educational supports and services for children ages 0-5, such as Public Pre-K, Head Start, Child Care (Child Care and Development Fund), and home visiting (including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV). To the extent that renewal projects serve households with children and have written agreements as noted, the CoC requests any written agreements to be submitted within the renewal submission packages (electronically).

Appeals

In accordance with *24 CFR part 578.35* and Section X of the NOFO, applicants have the right to appeal if they believe that they were improperly denied the right to participate in the CoC planning process in a reasonable manner; were improperly denied or decreased funding; or were improperly denied a Certification of Consistency from the local government with the Consolidated Plan. The appeal MUST be carried out in the timeframe and process announced by HUD within the NOFO.

Renewal Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing (Including Legacy Shelter Plus Care)

All applicants for renewing PSH and RRH projects must submit the following no later than September 28, 2021 at 3:00 pm. The following materials must be received for each project in order for an application to be considered complete:

- The 2021 BoS CoC Renewal Project Review Application;
- The Competition Certification and Policy Addendum document for all projects;
- The Competition Coordinated Entry System Policy Addendum for all projects;
- The Notice of Intent - 2021 PSH Change to DedicatedPLUS (where applicable);
- The Notice of Intent 2021 Grant Consolidation (where applicable);
- Written agreements with educational supports and Services for children ages 0-5 (as applicable);
- Written narrative document describing how this project works with local employment agencies and employers to prioritize training and employment opportunities for participants (or how project will do so);
- HUD APR from Sage (applicants will need to pull the data from HMIS and then upload the CSV-APR into Sage using the Test run function in order to create the required report (for 8/1/2020-7/31/2021);
- HUD Data Quality Report (8/1/2020-7/31/2021);
- Most recent monitoring (HUD monitoring for Non-S+C projects and DCA monitoring for S+C projects), including corrective action plans and documentation regarding resolution of findings, when applicable; and
- Supportive documents showing timely draw downs (eLOCCS reports).

For renewal projects that were consolidated under the FY 2019 CoC Competition, the consolidated project replaces the individual projects. As such, the review application and all materials submitted for each consolidated project should represent the combined projects. Applicants should be able to run an

APR covering the required period of 8/1/2020-7/31/2021 in HMIS for the combined projects, so that when the CSV-APR is uploaded into Sage, it will produce an APR with the combined data. Applicants who need technical assistance with this should contact Chandra.McGhee@dca.ga.gov or tina.moore@dca.ga.gov.

The CoC continues work to assess racial disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance. In order for the CoC to assess each project, the 2021 review application for renewal projects includes a question assessing racial equity in housing. Renewal applicants will be provided racial demographics of the number/percentage of people served (using APR data from 8/1/2020-7/31/2021) and the number of people exiting to permanent destination (using an Active Client List from HMIS covering the period of 8/1/2020-7/31/2021). Renewal applicants will need to pull census data for their county and add it to their application alongside their HMIS demographic information that is being provided. If a project serves multiple counties, please use the census data for the county where the majority of the units are located. This year Renewal applicants are requested to identify any barriers to participation in their project(s) (e.g. lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homeless population. Additionally, how they identified those barriers, what steps have been taken, and will be taken to eliminate the identified barriers must be provided. Applicants for New projects are asked to identify steps they will take to identify barriers to participation in their project faced by person of different races and ethnicities, and what steps will be taken to eliminate identified barriers. All projects reviewed will be scored on this.

Application materials can be emailed to Tina Moore, CoC Program Coordinator at BoSMonitoring@dca.ga.gov.

In addition to the BoS CoC application materials required to score and rank projects, all renewal projects must complete and submit the HUD application in *e-snaps* by 5:00 pm on October 13, 2021.

Late submissions of the supplemental materials to an application package for a renewal project will result in a deduction of points.

New Project Application Information

In line with information presented in the NOFO, the BoS CoC will seek applications for new permanent supportive housing (PSH) projects that will serve 100 percent chronically homeless individuals and families, new PSH projects classified as DedicatedPLUS that will serve individuals, households with children, and unaccompanied youth, new rapid re-housing (RRH) projects that will serve homeless individuals and families, and new Joint TH & PH-RRH Component that will serve unsheltered homeless and youth. Applications may be submitted for the Expansion of an eligible project, and projects may be assigned reallocated funds or bonus funds as applicable (depending on project type), and as funds are available, in the final ranking.

As noted in Section III.C.2.j of the NOFO, for project applicants that are proposing to expand a current CoC Program-funded project and combine it with a current eligible CoC Program renewal project, applicants will be required to submit two project applications to include: the renewal project application that will be expanded; and a new project application with just the expansion information. Applicants that are proposing to expand a project that is currently funded with other sources, the applicant will submit only a new project application for the expansion portion. For expansion of non-CoC funded projects there is a prohibition against replacing state or local funds for that project.

Eligible applicants for new PSH, RRH, Joint TH and PH-RRH Component, and SSO-CE projects include all agencies with existing CoC NOFO grants within the Balance of State and nonprofit providers, states, local government, Indian Tribes or Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), as defined in Section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103), and Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) that wish to make application for new grants.

All agencies interested in applying for a new PSH, RRH, Joint TH and PH-RRH Component, or SSO-CE project should complete and submit a Proposal Outline (Letter of Intent) to alert the Collaborative Applicant of their intent no later than September 21, 2021. The Proposal Outline form is attached to the notice, and it will also be available at: <https://www.dca.ga.gov/safe-affordable-housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/2021>. Submitting a Proposal Outline will signal DCA staff to forward information to organizations (intending to submit a new project application) regarding the New Applicant webinar, HUD training events, webinars, etc., as well as any updated CoC policies, updated scoring criteria, notice of CoC changes, etc. This information will be sent to renewal applicants automatically.

HUD will allow new reallocated projects, DV Bonus projects, and new expansion projects of existing CoC Program-funded projects to request funding limited to 1 year. For projects requesting the regular permanent housing bonus funds, the grant term for new project applications requested should be limited to 1-year. However, as additional funding is available, the review team may allow higher scoring new project to request a term allowed as defined on pages 32-33 of the HUD NOFO, as match requirements can be met. However, the CoC may elect to decrease the term for any new project that is approved for the final priority ranking list to allow additional projects to be included in the request for funding. Additionally, as indicated on page 32 of the NOFO, HUD will allow new projects to request a 1 year of funding with a longer initial grant term of 12 months to 18 months) not to exceed 18 months to that will allow for the additional start-up process (within electronic E-Snaps application).

There will be **two webinars for NEW Applicants on Friday, September 17, 2021, at 1:00 P.M. AND Wednesday, September 22, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. to** discuss the Review Application document, competition policy, scoring criteria, etc. To receive login details for these webinars, you will need to register, and once registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar. **Please click below to register for the webinar time slot you prefer (the second webinar is a repeat of the first):**

- To register for 2021 Balance of State Continuum of Care New Application Webinar #1 on Friday, September 17, 2021, at 1:00 PM EDT go to: [Cisco Webex Meetings - Meeting Detail](#)
- To register for 2021 Balance of State Continuum of Care New Application Webinar #2 on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 10:00 AM EDT go to: [Cisco Webex Meetings - Meeting Detail](#)

All agencies submitting an application for a new PSH, new RRH, new Joint TH and PH-RRH component, or SSO-CE project must submit a complete application package to the Department of Community Affairs. A complete application package includes:

- The Review Application or SSO-CE proposal (as applicable) for new projects (including match/leveraging documentation and both required Addendum documents (*CoC Competition Certification-Policy Addendum* and *BoS Competition Coordinated Entry System Policy Addendum*) in each of the copies);
- The agency 501(c)(3), if applicable (the 501(c)(3) for any sub-recipients must also be attached);

- A current list of Board of Directors;
- The most recent independent financial audit, or equivalent financial statement; and
- A current 990 IRS Form: Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, if applicable.

All complete new project packages must be received by the CoC Collaborative Applicant, the Department of Community Affairs, by September 29, 2021 at 3:00 pm. Submissions must be emailed to Tina Moore, CoC Program Coordinator at BoSMonitoring@dca.ga.gov.

It is the responsibility of the agencies to assure that a complete copy of all application materials are received by Tina Moore, by the above deadline. No late submissions for new projects will be accepted.

In addition to the application packet described above, applicants for new RRH, PSH, Joint TH and PH-RRH Component, and SSO-CE projects must also complete, and submit, the HUD application (including all required certifications and documentation) in *e-snaps*.

The complete scoring criteria for new PSH, RRH, and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component projects will be posted on the Balance of State Continuum of Care webpage at: <https://www.dca.ga.gov/safe-affordable-housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/2021>. Applicants are strongly advised to review the criteria before submitting an application.

The average proposal size for a new RRH project will depend on the area and coverage of the proposed program and funding available. While there is no minimum or maximum award amount, the CoC anticipates the average size of a large regional or metro area application to be approximately \$250,000. Smaller program designs, particularly in southern or rural parts of the State must be a minimum of \$100,000.

The average proposal size for a new PSH project will depend on the area and coverage of the proposed program and funding available. While there is no minimum or maximum award amount, the CoC anticipates the average size of a large regional or metro area application to be approximately \$250,000. Smaller program designs, particularly in southern or rural parts of the State must be a minimum of \$100,000.

The average proposal size for a new Joint TH and PH-RRH Component project will depend on the area and coverage of the proposed program and funding available. While there is no minimum or maximum award amount, the CoC anticipates the average size of a large regional or metro area application to be approximately \$250,000. Smaller program designs, particularly in southern or rural parts of the State must be a minimum of \$100,000. As previously noted, the CoC is not accepting applications for capital costs in this competition.

The average proposal size for a new SSO-CE project is not expected to exceed \$150,000. More information on this type of project, submission requirements, and review criteria is noted below.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate that they have experience and sufficient capacity to serve fragile, chronically homeless, and service resistant clients, and that sufficient services will be provided to clients proposed to be served.

Bonus points will be awarded to new PSH or RRH projects that will utilize housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through CoC or Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). For PSH, at least 25% of

units in project are subsidized by Non-CoC, Non-ESG source. For RRH, at least 25% of program participants are served by Non-CoC, Non-ESG source. Applicants will be required to submit letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project.

Bonus points will be awarded to new PSH or RRH projects that utilize healthcare resources to help participants. Value of healthcare services provided must be at least 25% of funding requested. Applicants will be required to submit formal written agreements that include the value of commitment and dates the healthcare resources will be provided.

Threshold Criteria for All New Permanent Supportive Housing (100% Chronic and DedicatedPLUS), New Rapid Re-Housing, and Joint TH and PH-RRH component project applications.

The CoC reserves the right not to review incomplete applications or projects that don't meet eligibility requirements. Applications may receive a threshold denial for any of the following reasons;

- Agency does not meet HUD's eligibility criteria.
- Agency does not demonstrate adequate capacity to carry out grant.
- Application proposes ineligible costs or activities.
- Application proposes to serve ineligible populations.
- Application does not show required match or insufficient commitments for leveraging.
- Proposed project does not have a specific plan to coordinate and integrate with other mainstream health, social, and employment programs to ensure that program participants are assisted to obtain benefits from the mainstream programs for which they may be eligible (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, Food Stamps, local Workforce office, early childhood education).
- Compliance or performance issues on current projects.
- Project does not demonstrate adequate impact or cost effectiveness.
- Project does not meet key federal requirements.
- New proposals must be located within Georgia's 152 county Balance of State Continuum of Care jurisdiction. Applications proposing projects in the following jurisdictions are not eligible to be submitted under the BoS CoC application: Atlanta, Fulton County, DeKalb County, Cobb County, Columbus-Muscogee County, Augusta-Richmond County, Athens-Clarke County, Savannah, and Chatham County. To submit an application in one of the listed jurisdictions, you should contact the appropriate CoC jurisdiction for information.
- Agency submits an incomplete application, which includes not submitting the necessary documents listed above, or certifications/documentation as required in the HUD application.
- Agency does not utilize, or commit to utilize, ClientTrack HMIS (or a comparable family violence HMIS alternative) to capture client-level data on all clients in the project.
- Agency does not follow, or commit to follow, the Balance of State CoC's Coordinated Entry System policy and process.
- Project does not demonstrate compliance with the Fair Housing Act and 24 CFR 5.105(A)(2) – Equal Access to HUD.

Additional Threshold Criteria for Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects are as follows:

- Given the large number of sheltered and unsheltered homeless in the BoS CoC, Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects must serve people who meet the homeless definition under paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homelessness in 24 CFR 578.3.
- Joint component projects must

- Demonstrate that project will be low barrier and prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing.
- Use a Housing First approach with client-driven service models and a focus on helping people move to permanent housing as quickly as possible.
- Have low-barriers to entry and accommodate people with possessions, partners, pets, or other needs.
- Incorporate client-choice by helping participants find permanent housing based on their unique strengths, needs, preferences, and financial resources. Participants will choose when they are ready to exit the crisis housing portion of the project and move to permanent housing, with providers assisting participants with this move.
- Provide or connect participants to resources that help them improve their safety and well-being and achieve their goals.
- Target and prioritize people experiencing homelessness with higher needs and who are most vulnerable.
- Joint component projects must also:
 - Target people who are living in unsheltered locations or homeless youth in areas in which the PIT demonstrates a need for more housing options for homeless households.
 - Demonstrate that the proposed service area is not covered by any crisis housing **and** either have a street outreach team or be in a location where Coordinated Entry planning is occurring.
 - Demonstrate need of high rates of unsheltered homelessness or unsheltered youth homelessness

Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Projects

The FY 2021 HUD Appropriations Act provides additional funding for DV Bonus projects for rapid re-housing projects and supportive service projects providing coordinated entry and for eligible activities determined critical in order to assist survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. In the FY 2021 CoC Program Competition, the CoC is able to apply for a DV Bonus for PH-RRH projects, Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects, and SSO projects for coordinated entry (SSO-CE). The CoC is only allowed to submit one project application for SSO-CE under the DV Bonus, but there is no limit to the number of PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH project applications that can be submitted this, which are limited to a 1-year funding request and must demonstrate trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches.

Allowed project types under the FY 2021 HUD NOFO are:

1. Rapid Re-housing (PH-RRH) projects that follow a housing first approach.
2. Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects as defined in Section II.B.2.q that follow a housing first approach.
3. SSO Projects for Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) (see below for requirements).

The Balance of State CoC is only allowed to submit one project application for SSO-CE under the DV Bonus. The CoC is able to submit any number of PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH projects provided that each application is for at least \$50,000. For DV Bonus projects submitted, the Balance of State CoC will rank projects that pass eligibility and quality threshold review according to their application score, as funding allows. DV focused housing projects may be submitted under the DV Bonus, CoC bonus, or utilizing reallocated funds and would then be ranked with any other new projects in the funding area designated. An applicant may apply to expand an existing renewal project in accordance with Section III.B.2.j of the NOFO, including one that was previously funded

with DV Bonus funding. DV Bonus funding may be used to expand an existing renewal project that is not dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that meet the definition of homeless in paragraph (4) of 24 CFR 578.3 so long as the DV Bonus funds for expansion are solely for additional units, beds, or services dedicated to persons eligible to be served with DV Bonus funding.

As noted, only one SSO-CE project will be included in the final CoC project ranking submitted to HUD. The CoC will consider proposals submitted by interested agencies who meet organizational threshold and demonstrate ability to:

- Implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (e.g., to implement policies and procedures that are trauma-informed, client-centered or to better coordinate referrals between the CoC's coordinated entry and the victim service providers coordinated entry system where they are different;
- Include planning where the centralized or coordinated assessment system will be easily available/reachable for all persons within the CoC's geographic area who are seeking information regarding homelessness assistance. The system must also be accessible for persons with disabilities within the CoC's geographic area;
- Include a strategy for advertising that is designed specifically to reach homeless persons with the highest barriers within the CoC's geographic area;
- Utilizes a standardized assessment process;
- Ensures program participants are directed to appropriate housing and services that fit their needs; and
- Cover the entire 152-county Balance of State CoC jurisdiction.

SSO-CE Applicants interested should submit a proposal to request these funds detailing how listed criteria will be addressed, which includes a budget request itemizing requested funds. The average proposal size is not expected to exceed \$150,000. The grant term is limited to 1-year.

For projects submitted by the CoC to be considered as part of the DV Bonus, following final submission, HUD will award a point value to each project application combining both the CoC Application score and responses to the domestic violence bonus specific questions in the CoC Application using the following 100-point scale:

- (1) For Rapid Re-Housing and joint TH and PH-RRH component projects:
 - (a) *CoC Score*. Up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application
 - (b) *Need for the Project*. Up to 25 points based on the extent the CoC quantifies the need for the project in its portfolio, the extent of the need, and how the project will fill that gap.
 - (c) *Quality of the Project Applicant*. Up to 25 points based on previous performance of the applicant in serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, and their ability to house survivors and meet safety outcomes.
- (2) For SSO Project for Coordinated Entry:
 - (a) *CoC Score*. Up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application.
 - (b) *Need for the Project*. Up to 50 points based on the extent to which CoC demonstrates the need for a coordinated entry system that better meets the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking, and how the project will fit this need.

Match and Leveraging

Applications must meet HUD's match requirements and have at least 25% of the amount of the HUD funding request in total match (outside of the amount for leasing), as well as the CoC's requirement to report an additional 75% of the amount of the HUD funding request in total leveraging, to score the maximum amount of points available for match and leveraging for the BoS CoC scoring (100% match and leveraging). Leveraging includes all funds, resources, and/or services that the applicant can secure on behalf of the client being served by the proposed project. While leveraging includes all cash and in-kind matching resources, it is broader in scope, including any other services, supplies, equipment, space, etc. that are provided by sources other than HUD.

Review Application guidelines for New projects state that projects should only report match and leveraging where there are commitment letters on file that are dated July 1, 2021 or later, and documentation should be submitted to HUD as required. New project application packages are required to include match and leveraging documentation for the scoring and ranking process.

E-Snaps Information for All Renewal and New Applications

Applicants should review and follow the steps as outlined herein and in the NOFO to ensure that applications are complete and submitted in a timely manner.

For reference, the Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule was published in the Federal Register on July 31, 2012, and was effective on August 31, 2012. This information can be accessed at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2033/hearth-coc-program-interim-rule/>.

For information on accessing HUD's *E-Snaps* system to complete and submit a full BoS CoC Project Application, please go to: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>. Note that once the competition begins, there will be a significant time delay if applicants need to register new users on the *E-Snaps* system. All applicants should ensure that they have access to the system immediately.

Federal Disaster Area Notification

Applicants administering projects in counties that have been impacted by a major disaster, as declared under Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act that occurred in the 12 months prior to the application deadline of the HUD NOFO should submit a letter indicating this with the supplemental review packages due on September 28, 2021. This would only include a major disaster that resulted in the Collaborative Applicant, the CoC, or its project(s) inability to continue operations due to flooding, destroyed facilities, lack of power for a long duration, etc. News releases related to Georgia can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/disasters>. CoCs in impacted areas are required to notify HUD of this prior to the close of this competition.

Other Information

DCA is committed to providing equal access to all of its programs, services and activities regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. Any individual who needs an accommodation because of a disability or documents in accessible electronic formats (e.g. PDF) should contact Tina Moore at 404-327-6870 or email fairhousing@dca.ga.gov. Individuals who are hearing- or speech-impaired should use the Georgia Relay services at 1-800-255-0056 or by dialing 7-1-1 (no charge to use Georgia Relay within the local calling area). More information on Georgia Relay can be found at <https://georgiarelay.org/>.

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Attached is one (1) document:

- 1) 2021 Balance of State CoC Proposal Outline