

FY2021 Continuum of Care Program NOFO Announcement **FY2021 CoC Program NOFO Released**

As Collaborative Applicant for the Northern Panhandle Continuum of Care (NPCoC), the Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless (GWCH) is announcing the release of the FY2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). A complete copy of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) which governs the competition can be found at <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=335322>. Interested parties should read this NOFO in its entirety in conjunction with the CoC Program interim rule (24 CFR part 578) in order to ensure a comprehensive understanding of and compliance with all CoC Program requirements. In consideration of the policy priorities established in this NOFO, and in conjunction with local priorities, this funding is currently used in the NPCoC for projects which provide centralized intake and assessment of people who are homeless, permanent housing for people with disabilities, and local CoC planning duties.

Renewal /Current CoC Funded Projects

Based on existing NPCoC project reviews, two renewal projects currently exist. After an initial review of renewal projects based on performance and local priorities, the CoC has determined through an objective scoring process that the renewal projects will be submitted in the FY2021 CoC application to HUD. Both renewal projects have been determined to be high performing and do not qualify for reallocation during the FY2021 competition. As indicated in the NPCoC Memorandum of Understanding, all previously funded renewal projects in good standing will be given priority in the review and rank process. The ranking and review committee will officially rank the renewals in October.

Opportunity for New Bonus Projects

In FY2021, HUD has made funding available to the NPCoC for new bonus projects, including up to \$121,005 for the DV Bonus. To fully adhere to and implement responsibilities listed in the *NPCoC Community Strategic Plan to End Homelessness* and the *NPCoC Memorandum of Understanding*, which includes maintaining CoC-wide matching practices, new project applicants will agree to receive funds as a sub-recipient of the Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless in the event new funding is approved through HUD. This decision was made with guidance from the Technical Assistance Center and in conjunction with HUD's preferences. Please note, all new applicants must undergo a review and ranking after a determination that threshold requirements have been met. In order to apply for DV Bonus funding, all new project applicants must contact GWCH via email at jharris@wheelinghomeless.org no later than September 10, 2021 with a statement of their intent to apply for DV Bonus funding. Once the intent statement is received, GWCH will set a time to discuss further instruction for submitting a full project application in accordance with this NOFO no later than October 1, 2021. See details below.

HUD has also made funding available to the NPCoC for up to \$40,335 for the CoC Bonus. In August 2021, the Collaborative Applicant received instruction from the Emergency Solutions Grant that funding of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), specifically the

activities pertaining to CoC-based responsibilities, was no longer eligible for funding. As endorsed in the *NPCoC Community Strategic Plan to End Homelessness*, support and continued use of the HMIS is a priority goal of the NPCoC, as four organizations rely on its mandated use to receive a combined total of \$1.7 million for homeless programs across the NPCoC. Given HUD's mandate for utilization of the system and significant gaps in funding for its support, the CoC intends to apply for a CoC Bonus project to cover HMIS expenses which have rose by 841% since the previous HUD-dedicated HMIS grant of \$11,200 was eliminated in the 2015 CoC Competition.

Internal CoC Competition Deadlines

In adherence to provisions at 24 CFR 578.9, the NPCoC is implementing the following internal competition deadlines for the FY2021 Competition process. These deadlines are intended to meet the standards outlined in Section VII.B.2.g of the FY2021 NOFO.

NPCoC Local Competition Deadlines:

1. All applicants interested in applying for DV Bonus project funding are required to contact GWCH at jharris@wheelinghomeless.org and provide a statement of their intent to apply no later than **September 10, 2021**.
2. All NPCoC project applications are required to be submitted in full on esnaps at www.hud.gov/esnaps.com no later than **October 1, 2021**.
3. The NPCoC will notify all project applicants who submitted their project applications to the NPCoC by the September 10, 2021 deadline, in writing and outside of esnaps, whether their project application(s) will be accepted and ranked on the CoC Priority Listing, rejected, or reduced by the CoC no later than **October 22, 2021**.
4. All parts of the FY2021 CoC Program Competition Application for the NPCoC will be made publicly available on the Collaborative Applicant's website three business days prior to the full application submission by the Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless, in order to meet the FY2021 application deadline.
5. The FY2021 CoC Program application, including the Consolidated Application, Project Priority Listing, and Project Applications will be submitted to HUD via esnaps no later than **November 10, 2021**.