

Summary of FY 2021 NOFO and Request for Proposals (RFP)  
HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance  
Merced County Continuum of Care (CA-520)  
Issued: September 13, 2021  
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## INTRODUCTION

The Merced County Continuum of Care (CoC), is accepting proposals for Continuum of Care funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), in collaboration with the Collaborative Applicant. HUD released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition on August 18, 2021. The HUD CoC Program provides federal funds to help local organizations and governments deliver housing and services to people who experience homelessness.

Additional details about items found in this summary can be found at:

[https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/SPM/documents/FY21\\_Continuum\\_of\\_Care\\_Competition.pdf](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/SPM/documents/FY21_Continuum_of_Care_Competition.pdf)

## BACKGROUND

The CoC Program (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth, while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

Each year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) releases a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Continuum of Care Program, signifying the beginning of a funding competition among the Continuums of Care (CoC), which are coalitions of community stakeholder groups that guide local responses to homelessness. The FY 2021 CoC NOFO was released on August 18, 2021, opening the competition making available over \$2.6 billion to serve homeless people nationally. The information in the NOFO sets forth the national competition rules and processes for 2021. This RFP summarizes the highlights of the NOFO and includes the local funding processes, deadlines, etc. Please refer to the HUD NOFO for FY 2021 CoC Competition for more detail. Additional guidance will be shared as HUD issues updates and the local committee meets to update and finalize details.

Before the consolidated application is submitted to HUD, the CoC is required to hold a local competition to determine which projects will be included in the consolidated application, along with their relative priority. The results of the local competition, overseen and approved by the CoC Board, dictate which projects will move forward in the funding process.

## FUNDS AVAILABILITY

The amount of funding estimated to be available for CA-20 from HUD is \$858,212, which is based on the amount of currently funded projects eligible for renewal funding. Any bonus funds made available by HUD would be in addition to that amount. New projects can be funded only through reallocation of existing project funding or through bonus funds. Below is a summary of the funds for which our CoC is eligible to apply.

### NC-504 Guilford County CoC Amounts

- Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN): \$1,142,013
- Estimated Annual Renewal Demand (ARD): \$858,212
- CoC Bonus: \$57,101
- Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus: \$171,302
- CoC Planning (Planning Grants are available only to the Collaborative Applicant and are not ranked): \$34,260

For further information, please see: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/FY-2021-CoC-Estimated-ARD-Report.pdf>

## DEADLINES

Renewals (letters of intent and associated documentation) must be submitted to the Collaborative Applicant by Tuesday, September 21, 2021 at 5:00 PM and new project proposals worksheets must be submitted to the Collaborative Applicant by Monday, September 24, 2021, at 5:00 PM.

Submission procedures are described below in the sections labeled SUBMISSION PROCEDURES and KEY INFORMATION. Organizations failing to meet these criteria may be disqualified from the application process.

The FY 2021 NOFO was published on August 18, 2021, with a deadline to HUD of November 16, 2021, at 5:00 PM EST. The Merced County CoC's internal deadlines are as follows:

- Thursday, October 7, 2021, at 11:00 AM Renewal and New Project Applications for CoC Board Review, Rating, Ranking, and Approval

The Collaborative Applicant, acting on behalf of the Merced County CoC, reserves the right to publish additional information subject to HUD updates or new information. Other important deadlines will be forthcoming.

As prescribed by HUD, a single, consolidated submission of all selected and ranked projects in Merced County will be submitted to HUD. Funding will be derived from Federal Fiscal Year 2021 allocations of HUD funds and is subject to funding availability under the NOFO. The Collaborative Applicant, acting on behalf of the Merced County CoC, reserves the right to request that applicant organizations submit adjusted project budgets based on the amount of funding made available by HUD.

## HUD NOFO INFORMATION SESSION

An information session on the HUD NOFO for FY 2021 CoC Competition will be held on September 16, 2021, at 10:00 AM. For additional questions, contact [collabapp@countyofmerced.com](mailto:collabapp@countyofmerced.com).

## FY 2021 HUD CoC POLICY PRIORITIES

HUD has developed the following seven system-level performance measures to help communities better understand how the selection criteria support the goal of ending homelessness:

1. Ending homelessness for all persons.
2. Use a Housing First approach.
3. Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness.
4. Improving System Performance.
5. Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies.
6. Racial Equity.
7. Persons with Lived Experience.

## RENEWAL PROJECTS

See page 31 of the 2021 HUD CoC NOFO for more information. Awards made under the CoC Program are eligible for renewal with FY 2021 funds if they are currently in operation and have an executed grant agreement that is dated no later than December 31, 2021 and expire in CY 2022 (the period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022). Projects renewed under the FY 2021 CoC Program Competition NOFO are renewable as set forth in 24 CFR 578.33 to continue ongoing leasing, operating, supportive services, rental assistance, HMIS, and project administrative costs. Grant agreements for FY 2020 funds must be executed by December 31, 2021, to be eligible for renewal.

## REALLOCATION

See Section III.B.2.w (page 24) of the HUD CoC NOFO for more information. Reallocation is a process that CoCs use to shift funds in whole or part from existing eligible renewal projects to create one or more new projects without decreasing the CoC's ARD. New projects created through reallocation must meet the requirements set forth in Section II.B.1 of the HUD CoC NOFO and the project eligibility and project quality thresholds established by HUD in Sections V.C.3.b and V.C.3.c of the HUD CoC NOFO. CoCs may only reallocate eligible renewal projects that have previously been renewed under the CoC Program. To create a Transition Grant (see Section III.C.2.z of the HUD CoC NOFO), the CoC must wholly eliminate one or more projects and use those funds to create the single, new transition grant.

For a CoC to receive funding for a new project, other than through reallocation, the CoC must demonstrate that all project applications are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they improve the CoC's system performance.

## NEW PROJECTS

See page 32 of the 2021 HUD CoC NOFO for more information. Applicants may submit new projects created through reallocation, CoC Bonus, or a combination of reallocation and CoC Bonus, and new DV Bonus projects. Section V.B of the HUD CoC NOFO covers all Eligibility Information. Please review the details therein, especially those that pertain to Program Specific Requirements, which begin on page 30.

## COC BONUS

See Section III.B.2.c (page 20) of the HUD CoC NOFO for more information. Collaborative Applicants may include new project applications of up to 5% of its CoC Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN). New projects created through the CoC Bonus must meet the project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements established by HUD in Sections V.C.3.b and c of this NOFO. To be eligible to receive a CoC Bonus project, a Collaborative Applicant must demonstrate its CoC ranks projects based on how they improve system performance as outlined in Section VII.B.2.b of the NOFO.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV) BONUS

See Section II.B.5 (pages 11-12) of the HUD CoC NOFO. The 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act provides up to \$52 million for rapid re-housing projects and supportive services projects providing coordinated entry, and for eligible activities that the Secretary determines are critical in order to assist survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.” Additionally, up to \$50 million is added to the amount from the 2020 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act as HUD did not conduct an FY 2020 CoC Program Competition, but instead only awarded eligible renewal projects. Therefore, the total amount of DV Bonus funding is \$102 million which will be used for new DV-specific project applications where 100% of the participants are or will be survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

## EXPANSION PROJECT

See Section III.B.2.j (page 23) of the HUD CoC NOFO for more information. HUD will allow project applicants to apply for a new expansion project through reallocation, CoC Bonus, and DV Bonus processes to expand existing projects will increase the number of units, persons served, services provided to existing program participants, or to add additional activities to HMIS and SSO-Coordinated Entry projects. The new expansion project application must meet the project eligibility and project thresholds.

## CONSOLIDATION PROJECT

See Section II.B.6 (page 12) of the HUD CoC NOFO for more information. Project applicants can consolidate two but no more ten eligible renewal projects during the application process. The projects being combined during a grant consolidation will continue uninterrupted. To be eligible for consolidation, the projects must have the same recipient and be for the same component; and will only be funded in this Competition with FY 2021 funds (meaning no funds recaptures from prior years will be awarded to the project).

## KEY INFORMATION

- a. Threshold Requirements: All projects must meet the threshold criteria shown in the attached Appendix A Threshold Criteria for Continuum of Care Grant Proposals.
- b. Proposed funding for new projects cannot supplant funding from other sources.
- c. Participants in CoC-funded projects must meet HUD's eligibility requirements, which vary by program component. More information on the CoC regulations is found below.
- d. Permanent supportive housing projects may serve families or individuals. An adult participant in each household served in any permanent supportive housing program must be disabled.
- e. Projects may not charge participants program fees in any program.
- f. Funds are not available for transitional housing, except in the new joint component, which combines transitional housing and rapid re-housing.
- g. Funds are not available for supportive services, unless they are part of a renewal project, or a new project created through reallocation for coordinated assessment.
- h. Emergency shelter and services are not eligible for funding under the CoC Program.
- i. 24 CFR 578.73 provides the information regarding match requirements. Project applicants that intend to use program income as match must provide an estimate of how much program income will be used for the match.
- j. All projects will be limited to requests for one year of assistance. Upon expiration, projects may be renewed subject to HUD requirements, local priorities, satisfactory performance, and availability of funds.
- k. Collaborative efforts by community agencies are encouraged.

## PROJECT RANKING PROCESS

HUD requires that all projects be ranked and prioritized in a two-tiered list. Tier 1 will be the top priority projects. Tier 2 will be lower priority projects. Either new or renewal projects may be ranked in Tier 1 or Tier 2. The placement of each project on the priority list will be determined through a multi-stage process including review by the Merced County CoC and Collaborative Applicant.

Based on the highly competitive nature of the grant program, ranking of each project will be critical in determining the likelihood of funding. Projects ranked in Tier 2 have a low probability of funding. New projects created through reallocation or bonus funding may be included in either Tier 1 or Tier 2.

Renewal projects will be reviewed and ranked through the CoC process based on performance. New project proposals will be reviewed in reference to organizational capacity, strategic priority, project approach and design, and cost effectiveness and ranked through the CoC process.

## HUD PROGRAM INFORMATION

All parties intending to apply for funding are strongly encouraged to review the program regulations, including those organizations that are currently or were previously funded. Proposals that do not conform to the regulations will not be considered for funding. The regulations and other information for the Continuum of Care Program may be found at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>.

## FUNDS AVAILABILITY

Once awarded by HUD, grant funds are estimated to be made available by HUD by the third quarter of calendar year 2022. However, the awarding of funds and the timing of awards and grant-making by HUD is outside of the control of the Merced County Continuum of Care and the Collaborative Applicant. Agencies seeking renewal funding must be aware of all operating year start and end dates and must plan to accommodate any period for which a HUD funding award is denied or delayed. It should be noted that projects created through reallocation are not renewal projects and may have different start dates than the grants from which funds were taken.

## SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

### Renewals

Please complete and submit a project letter of intent (LOI) that was released on September 7, 2021 via email from the Merced County Collaborative Applicant which includes the following information:

- Nature of Project (Renewal Project):
- Contact person and contact information
- Project Title:
- Signature Page
- Project Summary
- Proposed Funding Amount
- Source and Amount of Match Funding

By Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 5:00 PM, please submit the Letter of Intent in PDF format to [collabapp@countyofmerced.com](mailto:collabapp@countyofmerced.com).

NOTE: Project proposals submitted or arriving after the due date cannot be accepted.

### New Projects

Please complete a HUD Consolidated Grant Project Worksheet and submit to the Collaborative Applicant by 9/24/2021 at 5pm via the Collaborative Applicant inbox at [collabapp@countyofmerced.com](mailto:collabapp@countyofmerced.com)

The CA will review this Project Worksheet and schedule time with applicants to discuss Project Worksheets if necessary.

If additional information is needed, the CA will inform the applicant. Applicant can make changes to the Project Worksheet and use that information to fill out a new project grant application(s) via HUD's e-SNAPS online portal By Tuesday, September 27, 2021, by 5:00 PM, **. But WILL NOT hit "Submit" in the Esnaps system.**

The applicant will create a PDF version of the application and provide to the CA by 9/27/2021, 5:30PM, via the Collaborative Applicant inbox at [collabapp@countyofmerced.com](mailto:collabapp@countyofmerced.com) for review.

The CA will review the PDF version of the Esnaps application and provide feedback.

Applicant may use feedback to make any necessary changes to the Esnaps application and then hit "Submit" in the Esnaps system by 9/28/2021 by 5:00 PM

NOTE: Project responses must comply with the time deadlines above or cannot be accepted.

The Collaborative Applicant, acting on behalf of the Merced County CoC, may request additional information for any project, if needed pursuant to the CoC NOFO or related materials. If your project is selected for submission to HUD, you may be requested to provide additional information within a timeframe to be specified by the Administrative Agent (PEH).

This RFP and the FY 2021 CoC NOFO Information will be added to the Merced County website <https://www.co.merced.ca.us/3780/Collaborative-Applicant>

Please direct any questions to

Christy McCammond [Christy.McCammond@countyofmerced.com](mailto:Christy.McCammond@countyofmerced.com) (209) 385-3000 ext. 5144 or

Maribel Baron [Maribel.Baron@countyofmerced.com](mailto:Maribel.Baron@countyofmerced.com) (209) 385-3000 ext 5210

## Appendix A Threshold Criteria for Continuum of Care Grant Proposals

### I. Criteria for Continuum of Care Grant Participation

- A. Must have documentation of having served HUD-eligible homeless persons or families, through activities that are eligible under the CoC Interim Rule, during the twelve months prior to the deadline stated in the Request for Proposals.
- B. Must propose an eligible activity for an eligible homeless population, pursuant to HUD requirements.
- C. Must be an eligible contractor for federal funds per <https://www.sam.gov>, must have a current tax-exempt status as verified by the IRS, and must not owe any overdue tax debts, as documented on IRS 990 submissions to the IRS.
- D. Must not propose to use HUD funds to supplant current funding.
- E. Must identify matching funds prior to application submission,
- F. Must provide the information listed below in Section II and must have satisfactory organizational status, experience, and capacity to submit, implement and operate the proposed project, as determined by the CoC's Collaborative Applicant.

### II. Information on Organizational Status

Applicants must provide the following items to the Collaborative Applicant for review:

- A. Signed letter of intent (LOI) to apply for CoC Funding. (Renewals)
- B. Signed PDF version of application submitted in e-SNAPs (New Projects)
- C. Most recent IRS 990, as submitted to the IRS.
- D. By-Laws.
- E. Articles of Incorporation.
- F. IRS 501(c)3 designation letter (status in place for at least one year prior to application deadline).
- G. Current Board of Directors roster, including demographic details regarding gender, racial/cultural identity and lived experience.
- H. Copies of organizational (not CoC project) budgets for last year, current year and next year (if available).
- I. Copies of Code of Conduct (as adopted and/or on file with HUD), Personnel Policies, Procurement Policies, Accounting Procedures for the Organization, and Conflict of Interest Policy (as applicable).
- J. Current NC Solicitation license or exempt letter.
- K. Notarized statement of no overdue taxes.
- L. Renewal projects must also submit verification of all project drawdowns during the past project year from eLOCCS.
- M. Most current APR on file with HUD and please indicate the date the APR was submitted.
- N. Copy of signed HMIS data sharing agreement with CoC.
- O. Listing of any grant amounts recaptured in previous years.

- P. Listing of staff participation in annual trainings on Equal Access, Racial Disparity, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, Stalking and other topics of relevance to CoC work and policies, including course name, dates of training, name of presenting organization, and names and titles of participants.
- Q. Other organizational information needed to meet HUD or CoC requirements.