

Greater Nashua Continuum of Care



NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE FY 2023 CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) PROGRAM COMPETITION

Released: July 5, 2023

GENERAL OVERVIEW

On July 5, 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Grants. The CoC is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness.

Harbor Care is the Collaborative Applicant responsible for completing and submitting an annual application for CoC Program funding on behalf of the GNCOC which will include Project Applications funded under this Request for Proposal (RFP).

The GNCOC is soliciting requests for projects and is providing notice that there are funds available through the **NH-502 Greater Nashua CoC FY 2023 NOFO Competition**. Available funding amounts and deadlines are found below.

PROSPECTIVE TIMELINE

Deadline	Description
Completed	Ranking System Updates – Approval by Board
Completed	GIW becomes available on HUD Exchange
July 05, 2023	FY2023 NOFO Released
July 14, 2023	CoC Program Competition Opens
July 31, 2023	Project Applications become available in E-Snaps
July 6 & 21, 2023	Public Posting: CoC releases an Announcement of the Local Competition for Renewal and New Projects containing Eligibility, Deadlines, and a Ranking System.
July 21, 2023	Notice of Intent to Reapply for all Renewal Projects due to CoC, including requests for voluntary reallocation.
July 28, 2023	Notice of Intent to Apply for New Projects due to CoC; must include the project type and estimated dollar amount.
August 21, 2023 – 3 pm	Deadline: Submit New Project and Renewal Project Applications in E-Snaps
August 23, 2023 - 1 -3 pm	Ranking Committee Meeting to Review and Rank Applications
August 29, 2023	GNCOC notifies applicants of all projects selected for ranking (based on HUD threshold requirements.)
August 31, 2023 – 3 pm	Appeals in writing to GNCOC
September 4, 2023	Public Posting: Ranking Committee releases Ranking Results to the Board and to the Public.

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September 13, 2023	HUD Deadline – Notification of acceptance/denial to applicants
September 13, 2023	Public Posting: CoC Application, Attachments, & Priority List
September 15, 2023 – 3 pm	Comments due on COC Application
September 19, 2023	Final COC Application and Priority List Posted for Review
September 21, 2023	GNCOC Target Deadline
September 28, 2023	Deadline: NOFO Due – HUD Deadline

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS and COSTS

I. Who is Eligible?

24 CFR 578.15 details eligible Program Applicants, including: nonprofit organizations, states, local governments, instrumentalities of state and local governments, Indian Tribes, and TDHEs (as defined in 25 U.S.C. §4103). Public Housing agencies (as defined in 24 CFR 5.100) are also eligible without limitation or exclusion. For-profit entities are ineligible to apply for grants and are prohibited from being subrecipients of CoC Program grant funds.

II. What are Eligible Costs?

The CoC Program provides funding for those costs listed in 24 CFR 578.37 through 578.63. Broadly, this includes costs associated with CoC Planning Activities, Unified Funding Agency Costs, Acquisition, Rehabilitation, New Construction, Leasing, Rental Assistance, Supportive Services, Operating Costs, HMIS, Administrative Costs, Relocation Costs, and Indirect Costs used to establish and operate projects under five program components: permanent housing; transitional housing; supportive services only; HMIS; and, in some cases, homelessness prevention.

AVAILABLE AWARD INFORMATION

Funding of *approximately* \$3,134,000,000 is available through this NOFO.

Approximately \$147,000,000 of this amount is available for the competitive renewal and replacement of expiring Round 1 YHDP Grants and the non-competitive renewal and replacement of expiring YHDP grants initially funded in FY 2017 (Round 2) or later.

At least \$52,000,000 is available for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Bonus (DV Bonus) Projects.

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The Estimated Annual Renewal Demand for the GNCOC is \$2,039,441. Of this dollar amount, \$1,896,680 is earmarked in Tier One, The GNCOC can receive up to \$142,761 in Bonus Funds, and \$50,000 in Domestic Violence Bonus Dollars.

A Planning Grant of \$101,972 is available to the GNCOC.

PROJECT APPLICATION TYPES

- I. Renewal Projects**
- II. New Bonus Projects**
- III. New Reallocation Funding Projects**
- IV. New Domestic Violence Bonus Projects**

MATCH REQUIREMENT

The recipient or subrecipient must match all CoC Program grant funds, except for leasing funds, with no less than 25% of cash or in-kind contributions from other sources in accordance with 24 CFR 578.73. Match is not required to be provided as a Budget Line Item, but instead as an aggregate sum.

CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS NOFOS

Below are some key changes between previous NOFOs and FY23's NOFO:

I. CoC Planning Grant Increase

HUD previously capped the maximum amount for CoC planning grants to 3% of the final pro rata need (FPRN). This year, HUD has replaced and increased the 3% cap with a new provision. The funding cap for planning activities under 24 CFR 578.39 will now be the greater of \$50,000 or 5% of the applicable FPRN, provided the total CoC planning grant does not exceed \$1,500,000.

II. New Eligible CoC Activities

HUD has added two new Budget Line Items (BLIs) to reflect new legislation under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 and §5707 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, respectively.

A. VAWA Costs: Grants funds for facilitating and coordinating activities to ensure compliance with the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022

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(VAWA). An overview of applicability of this line item is available on [HUD's website](#).

- i. This new activity category is not subject to the CoC program spending caps on administrative costs under section 423(a)(10 -11).
- ii. This activity may be included in new project applications.
- iii. This activity may be added to eligible renewal projects through expansion or added to eligible renewal projects by shifting up to 10% of funds from one eligible activity to the VAWA BLI.
- iv. Examples of eligible costs for emergency transfer facilitation include the costs of assessing, coordinating, approving, denying, and implementing a survivor's emergency transfer (i.e., moving costs, travel costs, utilities, housing fees, program evaluation of confidentiality policies, training on VAWA compliance, etc.)

B. Rural Costs: Grants funds for activities that address barriers to transitioning families in rural areas to permanent housing and additional activities to increase capacity for serving persons experiencing homelessness in rural areas. Some of these costs could include:

- i. Payment of short-term emergency lodging, including motels or shelters, directly or through vouchers.
- ii. Repairs to units in which homeless individuals and families will be housed; or are currently not fit for human habitation.
- iii. Staff training, professional development, skill development, and staff retention activities.

This new eligible "Rural Cost" may be included in new project applications or added to eligible renewal projects through expansion.

III. Federal Relay Service

This NOFO utilizes FCC relay services to aid individuals who are deaf or heard of hearing, or who have speech or communication disabilities. More information can be found at <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-services-trs>.

IV. New Criteria for "Homelessness" Qualification

Authorized by the McKinney -Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the VAWA 2022 §605 requires HUD to include in its definition of homelessness:

- Any individual or family who-
- (1) Is experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to, or fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized;

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- (2) Has no other safe residence; and
- (3) Lacks the resources to obtain safe, permanent housing.

This new definition applies to all references to “homeless” in this NOFO and should be implemented by recipients and subrecipients to make corresponding changes to the applicable written standards, coordinated entry policies, and documentation policies used to qualify persons as “homeless” under the CoC Program.

V. Round 1 YHDP Grants and YHDP Special Activities

HUD will competitively renew or replace projects that it initially funded in FY2016 YHDP (Round 1). These Round 1 YHDP projects may be reallocated by CoCs to create new CoC grants. IF a Round 1 YHDP grant is reallocated to create a new CoC grant, the reallocated funds are no longer eligible to be used for YHDP Special Activities.

Additionally, the CoC Program NOFO permits YHDP project applicants to integrate YHDP Special Activities into the project design through the selection of these activities in YHDP Renewal and YHDP Replacement project applications. If a recipient of YHDP funding determines that changing the project model of their grant would better serve youth experiencing homelessness in the area, the recipient must submit an application to replace the YHDP project through this competition.

PROJECT APPLICATION ATTACHMENTS – NEW AND RENEWAL

In preparing your application you should make sure you include the following in your submission:

1. Documentation of Applicant and Subrecipient Eligibility
2. Applicant Code of Conduct

The following are also listed attachments by the NOFO, but are built into E-Snaps:

3. SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance (*built into e-snaps*)
4. SF-424 Supplemental, Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunities (*built into e-snaps*)
5. Form HUD 2880 dated between Aug. 19, 2021, and Nov. 16, 2021 (*built into e-snaps*)
6. Form HUD 50070, Certification for Drug Free Workplace (*built into e-snaps*)
7. SF- LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (*built into e-snaps*)
8. SF 424B (*built into e-snaps*)
9. SF-424D (*built into e-snaps*)

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HUD'S PRIORITIES

HUD's Strategic Plan sets the focus and priorities of its programs and staff to create strong, sustainable, and inclusive communities to provide quality, affordable homes for all. **You are expected to align your application with the following priorities and strategic goals.**

Four of the Five HUD Strategic Plan goals are applicable to this NOFO:

- 1. Support Underserved Communities:** Fortify support for underserved communities and support equitable community development for all people.
- 2. Ensure Access to and Increase the Production of Affordable Housing:** Ensure housing demand is matched by adequate production of new homes and equitable access to housing opportunities for all people.
- 3. Promote Homeownership:** Promote homeownership opportunities, equitable access to credit for purchase and improvements, and wealth-building in underserved communities.
- 4. Advance Sustainable Communities:** Strengthen climate resilience and energy efficiency, promote environmental justice, and recognize housing's role as essential to health.

In addition, HUD has provided further information regarding selection criteria within the NOFO. The following priorities provide applicants additional context for the criteria HUD will be using during the selection process:

I. Ending Homelessness for All Persons

The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) presented a Federal Strategic Plan in 2022 to Prevent and End Homelessness. The plan is built around (6) pillars: three foundations – equity, data and evidence and collaboration – and three solutions – housing and supports, crisis response, and prevention. Work funded through this NOFO should be in furtherance of these proposed pillars and strategies.

II. Using a “Housing First” Approach

Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements of preconditions. Housing First emphasizes low or no barrier entry and stands for the proposition that providing persons experiencing homelessness with a safe and stable environment first will lead to success and recovery in other areas of their lives.

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III. Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness

The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness has risen dramatically in the past few years, including a rising number of encampments. People in unsheltered living have extremely high rates of physical and mental illness and substance use disorders. CoCs should explore resources to provide supportive services and permanent housing options for these populations.

IV. Improving System Performance

CoCs should conduct system performance measures (i.e., average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, rates of exit to permanent housing, etc.) to determine the efficiency of its services to people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, CoCs should use the Coordinated Entry process to promote participant choice, coordinate homeless assistance, and ensure rapid, transparent responses.

V. Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service

Agencies

CoCs should use cost performance and outcome data to improve how all available resources are utilized to end homelessness. CoCs should partner and work closely with public and private healthcare organizations, PHAs and state and local housing authorities, local workforce development centers to improve employment options, and work with Tribal organizations to ensure they have access to CoC funded assistance.

VI. Racial Equity

Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population. A CoC's response to preventing and ending homelessness must address racial inequities to ensure successful outcomes for all. CoC's should review local policies and procedures to identify barriers that result in racial disparities and take steps to eliminate these barriers.

VII. Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals

Discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation manifests differently for individuals and often overlaps with other forms of discrimination. CoCs should address the needs of LGBTQ+, transgender, gender non-conforming, and nonbinary individuals and families in their planning processes and should ensure the privacy, respect, and safety of this community when selecting projects.

VIII. Persons with Lived Experience

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Those who know the best solutions to the struggles that people experiencing homelessness are facing are those who have experienced it first-hand. CoCs should include people with lived homeless expertise and experience in the local planning and decision-making process and CoC leaders should prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed.

IX. Increasing Affordable Housing Supply

The lack of affordable housing is the main driver of homelessness. CoCs must educate local leaders about the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing and the specific consequences of the continued lack of affordable housing. This FY23 CoC NOFO awards points to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supplies.

APPEALS PROCESS

Once rankings have been posted on Aug. 29th, applicants have until August 31st to submit an appeal. The GNCOC Ranking Committee will accept written appeals submitted in accordance with the published policies and procedures of the CoC. If an applicant disagrees with their score, or placement on the ranking list, then they may express their grievance in writing to the CoC Program Administration by the deadline.

The Committee will hold an emergency conference call to discuss the grievance and to make a final decision. The applicant will be notified of the Committee's decision in writing by the CoC Program administrator within one business day of the meeting.

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