

## 1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

**1A-1. CoC Name and Number:** MN-502 - Rochester/Southeast Minnesota CoC

**1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name:** Institute for Community Alliances

**1A-3. CoC Designation:** CA

**1A-4. HMIS Lead:** Institute for Community Alliances

## 1B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

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<b>1B-1.</b>	<b>Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.</b>	
	NOFO Sections V.B.1.a.(1), V.B.1.e., V.B.1f., and V.B.1.p.	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024:	
1.	select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted—including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC’s coordinated entry system; or	
2.	select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC’s geographic area:	

	Organization/Person	Participated in CoC Meetings	Voted, Including Electing CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	No
4.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	No
5.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	No	No	Yes
6.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	No
7.	Hospital(s)	No	No	No
8.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
9.	Law Enforcement	No	No	Yes
10.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	No	No
11.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	No	No
12.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Local Jail(s)	No	No	No
14.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	No
16.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	No	Yes

17.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	No	No
18.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	No
19.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	No
20.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	No
28.	Other Victim Service Organizations	No	No	Yes
29.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	Yes	No	No
30.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	No	No	No
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	No
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other: (limit 50 characters)				
34.	Legal Services Organizations	Yes	Yes	No
35.	Elder/Older Adult Service Organizations	Yes	No	No

1B-1a.	Experience Promoting Racial Equity.	
	NOFO Section III.B.3.c.	

Describe in the field below your CoC's experience in effectively addressing the needs of underserved communities, particularly Black and Brown communities, who are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(2)	

- Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1. communicated a transparent invitation process annually (e.g., communicated to the public on the CoC's website) to solicit new members to join the CoC;
  2. ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
  3. invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in your CoC's geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC invited new members year-round via postings on CoC website (bottom of every page) and at CoC member organizations, and via listserv each month as part of the CoC’s public meeting announcements. The monthly CoC invite is also shared by CoC member organizations to county-level response teams and other local contacts who may not participant directly in CoC. A formal annual invitation to CoC membership and CoC working committees occurred in October. During the annual formal invitation, the CoC Executive Committee led efforts by presenting the activities and goals of each committee and distributing an invitation for posting within all county-level homeless response team networks. The Committee and CoC staff also conducted outreach directly to groups and populations not well-represented within CoC decision-making during the formal request period.

2. Information about CoC membership and member agreements, including code of conduct and anti-discrimination policy, can be accessed, read, and completed online by any prospective member on the CoC website, with assistance and/or alternate formats available upon request. Sign-up for CoC listserv is automatic for members to ensure access to distributed information. Meeting materials were posted on the CoC website and listserv invitations were distributed prior to meetings in accessibility-enabled PDF format, including information about requesting ADA accommodations for participation in CoC activities. Detail about accessibility for virtual CoC activities (live captioning and visible speakers) and in-person activities (site accessibility and interpretive support) is on the website.

3. The CoC’s open invitation for membership was distributed directly to the Diversity Coalitions in the region, culturally specific service providers including CLUES (Chicanos Latinos Unidos en Servicios), student led LGBTQ+ groups, Centers for Independent Living (disability services), and SE MN Area Agency on Aging. The list of contacts for direct outreach is updated each year with guidance from CoC Committees and Lived Experience Working Group.

1B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(3)	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness, or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;
2.	communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information;
3.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
4.	took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC sought knowledge and opinions from a broad range of persons in regular CoC activities, needs assessment, and prioritization processes. In the past 12 months, over 200 organizations and individuals participated in CoC activities. All CoC meetings are open to the public and anyone can join the email listserv. The CoC directly solicited input via survey for service providers, planning jurisdictions, and community members; focus groups for persons with lived experience; consultation with county-level Homeless Response Teams, CDBG areas, and state agency staff. The CoC conducted public meetings advertised by website, listserv, and other public meetings to discuss data, opportunities, and priorities for action. The needs assessment was updated in Feb 2024, with priority-setting in April. The assessment and resulting priorities were posted on the CoC webpage.

2. All requests for comment are announced via listserv and announced at a Full CoC Network meeting. A meeting schedule is always publicly posted on the CoC webpage, with agendas and materials, information on stipends for people with lived experience, and what to expect in a CoC meeting. All Full CoC meetings were announced via CoC listserv, with links to documents. Meeting announcements also identified special topics and opportunities for input throughout the year.

3. All in-person CoC activities were held in physically accessible spaces and written materials are provided for attendees. Virtual meetings included live captioning and visible speakers to assist people with hearing loss. Discussion in meetings is supported by reading chat comments aloud and using visual tools such as Jamboard to share/collect information. Meeting materials were distributed prior to the meeting in accessibility-enabled PDF format with information about requesting ADA accommodations. CoC staff reviewed all documents for clear image descriptions and appropriate reading order is for people using screen readers.

4. Information gathered at public CoC meetings and via surveys informed changes to Coordinated Entry procedures, priorities for new project funding, and committee tasks for 2024. Committees revised CoC policies that were posted for public review before a vote. Voting was open to all participants (except in approval of the CoC Collaborative Application, where previous attendance is required). Participation was especially encouraged during priority-setting for the CoC’s annual workplan.

1B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Awarded CoC Program Funding.	
NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(4)		
Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:		
1.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;	
2.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications—the process;	
3.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and	
4.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC's 2023 Call for New Projects was issued on 5/8/24 via CoC listserv and posting on the CoC webpage. It was also sent directly to membership groups that may have interest, including Violence Free Minnesota, statewide homeless coalition, and county human services directors. The Call for Projects specifically invites applications from agencies that have not received CoC Program funding and identified supports available for applicants.

2. The CoC's Call for New Projects on 5/8/24 described the Local Competition process, initial timelines, and application materials. It also described both Local Competition materials and e-snaps requirements. A checklist of application materials and links to HUD and CoC guides were included to assist applicants. The Call for Projects also invited participation in webinars for new project applicants, office hours with CoC staff, and virtual lab time to help with e-snaps applications. The Call was updated 8/5/24 and reposted with remaining timelines for intent to apply, project submittal for CoC review, applicant notifications, and final e-snaps submissions.

3. The CoC published its 2024 priorities for new projects on the CoC webpage and distributed it via the CoC listserv in April 2024 to encourage early preparation for applicants. The CoC issued its formal Call for Projects on 5/8/24 with detail on eligible project types, anticipated funding available, and CoC rating criteria for projects. The CoC requires notice of intent to apply to ensure new projects propose eligible applicants, activities, and participants. Qualified projects were invited to submit a full application in e-snaps with supplemental Local Competition materials by 9/9/24. All projects submitted by that date were reviewed using the CoC's published criteria.

4. The CoC followed guidance from the MN Disability Council to ensure documents are readable and meetings accessible. This includes the use of headings, lists, meaningful hyperlinks, simple tables, alternative text for images, and use of accessible PDFs. Information about ADA accommodation for participation in CoC activities is included on all meeting invitations. Applicant webinars are recorded with subtitles enabled, and slides and notes from project applicant webinars are posted on the CoC webpage within 72 hours.

# 1C. Coordination and Engagement

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1C-1.	<b>Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	
	In the chart below:	
	1. select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC’s coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC’s geographic area.	

	Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects	Coordinates with the Planning or Operations of Projects?
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Yes
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Yes
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Nonexistent
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		

1C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	

In the chart below select yes or no to indicate whether your CoC:

1.	Consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG Program funds?	Yes
2.	Provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area?	Yes
3.	Ensured local homelessness information is communicated and addressed in the Consolidated Plan updates?	Yes
4.	Coordinated with ESG recipients in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients?	Yes

1C-3.	Ensuring Families are not Separated.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.c.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ensures emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH) do not deny admission or separate family members regardless of each family member's self-reported sexual orientation and gender identity:

1.	Conducted mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated?	No
2.	Conducted optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure family members are not separated?	Yes
3.	Worked with CoC and ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients?	Yes
4.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within your CoC's geographic area that might be out of compliance and took steps to work directly with those facilities to bring them into compliance?	Yes
5.	Sought assistance from HUD by submitting questions or requesting technical assistance to resolve noncompliance by service providers?	No

1C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:

1.	Youth Education Provider	Yes
2.	State Education Agency (SEA)	Yes
3.	Local Education Agency (LEA)	Yes
4.	School Districts	Yes

1C-4a.	Formal Partnerships with Youth Education Providers, SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	



Describe in the field below the formal partnerships your CoC has with at least one of the entities where you responded yes in question 1C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

State Education Agency partnership:

The CoC, with all the MN CoCs, entered into a new Collaborative Agreement with the MN Dept. of Education (MDE) in September 2022. This agreement outlines the roles of CoCs and MDE and our collaborative efforts in ensuring that families and youth experiencing homelessness are informed of their rights under McKinney Vento and have access to resources they need to be stably housed.

In the agreement, MDE commits to: a) Provide training to CoC Coordinators on how to use MDE aggregate public data on youth experiencing homelessness in Districts and Schools. b) Provide a list of trainings, offered to District and School Homeless Liaisons, to CoC Coordinators. c) Provide to District and School Homeless Liaisons, a list of CoC Coordinators with contact information sortable by county; and encourage Liaisons to communicate and collaborate with their CoC.

The CoC commits to MDE to: a) By Oct 1 each year, provide MDE a current list of CoC contacts. b) By Oct 1 of each year, provide information on how to become members of a CoC with District and School Homeless Liaisons. c) Invite MDE and educational entities within the CoC to become members of the CoC. d) As needed, provide clear information about date, time and agenda of agreed upon collaboration meetings.

Together, MDE and the CoC commit to collaborate to distribute a bimonthly MN Homeless Education Newsletter to all homeless school liaisons with important training dates, resources, and connections to assist LEAs with serving the needs of youth experiencing homelessness.

Local Education Agency partnership:

The CoC holds a formal agreement with Rochester Public Schools to develop a Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project proposal. In the agreement, both agencies agree to commit staff time to the development of the next YHDP application and implementation (if selected). A key task of RPS is to include CoC staff in regional homeless liaisons meetings facilitated by RPS, while the CoC commits to provide regular information on planning and funding opportunities as well as projects to the liaison group.

1C-4b.	Informing Individuals and Families Who Have Recently Begun Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC uses to inform individuals and families who have recently begun experiencing homelessness of their eligibility for educational services.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC adopted an Education for Children & Youth Policy in September 2017 with revisions as needed. The policy of the CoC is to ensure that households with children, including unaccompanied youth, are identified, informed of available educational rights and resources, and supported to access educational services available to them. The policy applies to housing projects as well as to Coordinated Entry access points, with higher expectations for housing projects with long-term engagement with children and youth. As such, programs that serve households with children (including unaccompanied youth), must ensure and document that they:

- 1) Collaborate with local education agencies to assist in the identification of homeless families as well as informing these homeless families and youth of their eligibility for McKinney-Vento education services.
- 2) Consider the educational needs of children when families are placed in emergency or transitional shelter and, to the maximum extent practicable, place families with children as close to possible to their school of origin so as not to disrupt the children’s education.
- 3) Establish policies and practices that are consistent with, and do not restrict the exercise of rights provided by the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act, and other laws relating to the provision of educational and related services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- 4) Designate a lead staff person to ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to the appropriate services within the community, including early childhood programs such as Head Start, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and McKinney- Vento education services.
- 5) Measure and document outcomes in education access and participation for children, youth and families in the housing program. Housing projects must document collaboration with local education agencies in Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) or Community Partner Agreements. The CoC, HUD, SEA, or LEAs may monitor projects for compliance with this requirement. Projects seeking CoC funding are required to provide documentation on K-12 and early childhood education access for review before project rating and ranking.

1C-4c.	Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC has written formal agreements or partnerships with the listed providers of early childhood services:

		MOU/MOA	Other Formal Agreement
1.	Birth to 3 years	Yes	Yes
2.	Child Care and Development Fund	No	No
3.	Early Childhood Providers	No	Yes
4.	Early Head Start	No	Yes

5.	Federal Home Visiting Program—(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV)	No	No
6.	Head Start	No	Yes
7.	Healthy Start	No	Yes
8.	Public Pre-K	No	Yes
9.	Tribal Home Visiting Program	No	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)		
10.			

1C-5.	Addressing Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking—Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

In the chart below select yes or no for the organizations your CoC collaborates with:

	Organizations	
1.	State Domestic Violence Coalitions	Yes
2.	State Sexual Assault Coalitions	No
3.	Anti-trafficking Service Providers	Yes
	Other Organizations that Help this Population (limit 500 characters)	
4.		

1C-5a.	Collaborating with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers to Address Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations that you selected yes to in Question 1C-5 to:

1.	update CoC-wide policies; and
2.	ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC’s geographic area are trauma-informed and can meet the needs of survivors.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Local Victim Service Providers (VSPs) are active in CoC decision-making, including updates on CoC-wide policies. A VSP (and ESG-funding recipient) is currently Co-Chair of the Coordinated Entry (CE) Committee, with responsibility to lead the group in updating CoC policies and procedures that affect access to, and quality of housing and services needed by survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, whether they are served by VSPs or Homeless Service Providers (HSPs). Other VSPs, including youth Safe Harbor providers, also participate in CoC decision-making committees, which are responsible for reviewing and updating CoC policies related to training, child/youth services, anti-discrimination, and other areas. All CoC policies are scheduled to be reviewed at least every three years.

2. The CoC works closely with local victim service providers and statewide domestic violence advocacy groups like Violence Free Minnesota to train at least annually on best practices in serving survivors for both project staff and Coordinated Entry (CE) staff. The training topics vary to address unique needs of subpopulations. Many trainings are incorporated into the regular CoC meetings and CE Provider meetings to encourage participation in both education and decision-making, and to meet staff where they are already gathered. CE Provider meetings include ESG and CoC recipients as well as providers with other funding. Annual training for CE assessors, navigators, and housing providers covers trauma-informed and victim/survivor-centered service expectations throughout interactions with the survivor. Beyond local providers, the CoC participates in a statewide working group with Violence Free Minnesota, state ESG recipient, and others to make available core training for all homeless response system providers, including trauma-informed and victim centered practices. The CoC also consults with Violence Free Minnesota and the MN Office of Justice Programs to provide and increase technical assistance to VSPs on how CoCs work and how to participate in both planning and funding opportunities to increase housing and services that meet the needs of survivors.

1C-5b.	Implemented Safety Planning, Confidentiality Protocols in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry to Address the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry addresses the needs of DV survivors by including:	
1.	safety planning protocols; and	
2.	confidentiality protocols.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Trauma-informed and victim-centered practices are incorporated into CoC protocols for Coordinated Entry (CE). The CoC plans with Victim Service Providers (VSPs) within the CoC to ensure victim-driven, trauma-informed, and culturally relevant assessment and screening tools, as well as referral policies, procedures, and access points address the physical safety, emotional safety, and privacy/confidentiality needs of survivors. All CE access points, including shelters, follow safety protocols and include safety planning as one of the first steps in CE assessment. At access, safety is assessed & referrals are immediately made to a victim advocate if safety is a concern and the individual/family allows. Regardless of whether a referral is made to a victim advocate, CE assessors assist with basic safety planning. Planning for safety and housing with survivors focuses on centering the needs of the survivor and supporting them to make choices to meet their needs. Key elements of safety planning include having phone numbers ready, collecting documents, and identifying places to go for self and, if applicable, children and pets. VSP staff and CoC CE navigators also assist survivors to identify possible housing options, as well as budgeting for housing costs and completing an assessment for CE housing if needed.

2. Confidentiality begins at CE access points with a no-wrong-door approach that allows survivors to select a VSP or non-VSP for access. CE assessments are conducted within private spaces with the individuals and do not require HMIS-based data sharing for access to housing. Prioritization within CE for survivors and minor youth occurs via anonymous non-HMIS-based list, which allows survivors to be considered for any housing opening in the CoC region. Survivors presenting at VSPs are prioritized for housing at VSPs; they are also offered the choice to be on the CE list for prioritization with non-VSP Homeless Service Providers (HSPs). When survivors choose to be considered for referral to HSPs, VSPs refer the household to the non-HMIS CE priority list with a code instead of personally identifying information. When housing openings become available, the VSP contacts the HSP directly (without identification in CE) and provides a warm handoff to the HSPs for move in.

1C-5c.	Coordinated Annual Training on Best Practices to Address the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

In the chart below, indicate how your CoC facilitates training for project staff and coordinated entry staff that addresses best practices on safety planning and confidentiality protocols:

		Project Staff	Coordinated Entry Staff
1.	Training Occurs at least annually?	Yes	Yes
2.	Incorporates Trauma Informed best practices?	Yes	Yes
3.	Incorporates Survivor-Centered best practices?	Yes	Yes
4.	Identifies and assesses survivors' individual safety needs?	Yes	Yes
5.	Enhances and supports collaboration with DV organizations?	Yes	Yes
6.	Ensures survivors' rights, voices, and perspectives are incorporated?	Yes	Yes
Other? (limit 500 characters)			

7.			
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**&nbsp;nbsp;nbsp;**

1C-5d.	Implemented VAWA-Required Written Emergency Transfer Plan Policies and Procedures for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	whether your CoC's written policies and procedures include an emergency transfer plan;
2.	how your CoC informs all households seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance about their rights to an emergency transfer;
3.	what your CoC requires households to do to request emergency transfers; and
4.	what your CoC does in response to households requesting emergency transfers.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC Coordinated Entry (CE) policy includes the model Emergency Transfer Plan (Form HUD-5381) by reference for housing providers to use. It is posted on the CoC website with guidance for providers.

2. Households are informed by their CoC housing provider. Housing providers include Emergency Transfer Plan policies and procedures in the intake/application packets for households referred to them, as required by CE policy. Housing Provider staff receive training on informing and assisting households with emergency transfers, with regular refreshers in monthly calls with CE participating agency staff.

3. Participant households request emergency transfer by notifying their housing provider, who submits a written request to the CoC CE Referral Specialist (CERS). The household can then choose if they would like to have a victim advocate and if they want help preparing their statement. The statement must address that the participant reasonably believes that imminent harm or further violence is likely if they remain in the same dwelling unit, OR that the participant was a victim of a sexual assault on the premises within 90 days prior to the request. Within 7 days, the household receives a list of possible housing options to consider. Once they select an option, they notify the housing provider, who works with the CERS to plan for transfer. Households receive regular updates and may choose help with relocation, confidential address sign up, safety requests, etc. for the new unit. If housing isn't immediately available, the VSP can arrange shelter.

3. The CERS receives emergency transfer requests from the housing provider. The CERS reviews the request, including household size, location needs, and advocate contact, and identifies housing openings within the CoC's housing inventory. If applicable, the housing provider consults with their property management company about openings at other properties. The options are shared with the participant to choose how to proceed. For options through CE, emergency transfer requests are prioritized for openings for which the participant is eligible. The CERS connects the housing providers to arrange transfer. If the participant wants to relocate outside the CoC, the CERS contacts CE staff in that region for emergency transfer. Request information, including the new housing location, remains confidential unless permission is given by the participant or disclosure is required by law.

1C-5e.	Facilitating Safe Access to Housing and Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC ensures households experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have safe access to all of the housing and services available within your CoC's geographic area.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1C-5f.	Identifying and Removing Barriers for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC ensures survivors receive safe housing and services by:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | identifying barriers specific to survivors; and |
| 2. | working to remove those barriers.               |

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1C-6.	Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+--Anti-Discrimination Policy and Equal Access Trainings.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

	1. Did your CoC implement a written CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination?	Yes
	2. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access Final Rule)?	Yes
	3. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs (Gender Identity Final Rule)?	Yes

1C-6a.	Anti-Discrimination Policy--Updating Policies--Assisting Providers--Evaluating Compliance--Addressing Noncompliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

Describe in the field below:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | how your CoC regularly collaborates with LGBTQ+ and other organizations to update its CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy, as necessary to ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed and able to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and families; |
| 2. | how your CoC assisted housing and services providers in developing project-level anti-discrimination policies that are consistent with the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy;   |
| 3. | your CoC's process for evaluating compliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies; and  |
| 4. | your CoC's process for addressing noncompliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies.   |

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC reviews its policies, including the anti-discrimination policy, upon feedback from stakeholders or at least every three years. A feedback form is available year-round on the CoC website where policies are posted, and the CoC specifically requests feedback on policies each fall, through announcement in CoC public meetings and by posting on the CoC website. The request for feedback was also extended to agencies and individuals not currently participating in CoC, but who bring knowledge and personal experience related to the policies. Four local LGBTQ+ led groups were contacted for guidance this year.

2. The CoC assisted providers in developing project-level anti-discrimination policies consistent with the CoC's by a) sharing the CoC's policy template with the CoC Agency Membership agreement, b) providing training for providers on Fair Housing, Equal Access Final Rule, and Gender Identity Final Rule as part of Fair Housing Month, and c) promoting use of the HUD TA-developed Equal Access Self-Assessment for program planning. CoC assistance in developing and updating policies is available to all CoC projects upon request.

3. The CoC evaluates compliance in two ways: a) Semi-annual Coordinated Entry Committee review of provider compliance and outcomes, which includes review of data on household access, services, and exits as well as any grievances that may have been submitted to the CoC related to providers, and b) annual review prior to the CoC program competition. All renewal and new CoC projects are required to identify how they meet HUD's requirements at the time of review, including the CoC antidiscrimination policy, the Equal Access Final Rule and Gender Identity Final Rule.

4. Noncompliance with CoC antidiscrimination policy is addressed through the CoC's grievance process if an individual or family complainant is involved. Individuals are also advised of their right to report the issue to State and Federal oversight agencies. The CoC will take immediate action to prevent recurrence of noncompliance as well as retaliation toward the complainant. Depending on the severity of the noncompliance, the CoC may provide Technical Assistance, implement a Corrective Action Plan, report the grievance (and retaliation) to program funders, and/or remove project from ranked project list for HUD CoC funding.

1C-7.	Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC's Geographic Area--New Admissions--General/Limited Preference--Moving On Strategy.	
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NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

You must upload the PHA Homeless Preference\PHA Moving On Preference attachment(s) to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter information in the chart below for the two largest PHAs highlighted in gray on the current CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report or the two PHAs your CoC has a working relationship with--if there is only one PHA in your CoC's geographic area, provide information on the one:



Public Housing Agency Name	Enter the Percent of New Admissions into Public Housing or Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2023 who were experiencing homelessness at entry	Does the PHA have a General or Limited Homeless Preference?	Does the PHA have a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On?
Mankato EDA	42%	Yes-Both	Yes
Olmsted HRA	15%	Yes-Both	Yes

1C-7a.	Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences with PHAs.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	steps your CoC has taken, with the two largest PHAs within your CoC's geographic area or the two PHAs your CoC has working relationships with, to adopt a homeless admission preference—if your CoC only has one PHA within its geographic area, you may respond for the one; or
2.	state that your CoC has not worked with the PHAs in its geographic area to adopt a homeless admission preference.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC’s workgroup on PHA partnerships has led CoC strategies to increase use of homeless, coordinated entry (CE), and Move-On preferences by the 30 PHAs in the region. Actions taken for homeless preferences include:

a) Administrative Plan revisions: Both Olmsted HRA (largest PHA) and Mankato EDA (second largest PHA) have adopted and affirmed CE/homeless preferences in their administrative plans. Olmsted is currently evaluating options to improve how their list works, so that it does not have to be closed for as long and current needs can be better met. Both PHAs have also worked with the CoC to increase vouchers available for use under these preferences and shared their experiences with other PHAs to increase implementation more broadly. Several other PHAs have now implemented a new homeless preference specific to project-based vouchers for permanent supportive housing, a model supported by the CoC workgroup for a regional approach.

b) Education and outreach: The CoC has participated with representatives of the HUD Field Office, Minnesota chapter of the National Housing And Redevelopment Authority Organization (NAHRO), and largest local PHAs to share with other PHAs how preferences for homeless/CE can be managed and meet community needs. Several PHAs are now exploring the option and developing plans for upcoming Administrative Plan updates.

c) New rental assistance with preferences: The CoC provided need data and documented commitment to make referrals from CE for PHAs applying for vouchers with homeless preferences. The assistance has resulted in over 200 new housing opportunities through HUD Mainstream Vouchers with preference as well as State Housing Trust Fund, Mental Health Bridges, or Housing Support vouchers with homeless preference. The workgroup also encouraged applicants for new vouchers to allow for portability so that homeless households can live where they have support networks. Because the new vouchers don’t require use of HMIS, the addition of units has affected HMIS bed coverage. The CoC is continuing to with PHAs to participate in HMIS for their units or vouchers that are filled in conjunction with a homeless or CE preference.

2. Not applicable.

1C-7b.	Moving On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate affordable housing providers in your CoC’s jurisdiction that your recipients use to move program participants to other subsidized housing:

1.	Multifamily assisted housing owners	Yes
2.	PHA	Yes
3.	Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments	No
4.	Local low-income housing programs	Yes
	Other (limit 150 characters)	
5.		

<b>1C-7c.</b>	<b>Include Units from PHA Administered Programs in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

In the chart below, indicate if your CoC includes units from the following PHA programs in your CoC's coordinated entry process:

1.	Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)	Yes
2.	Family Unification Program (FUP)	No
3.	Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)	Yes
4.	HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	No
5.	Mainstream Vouchers	Yes
6.	Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers	No
7.	Public Housing	Yes
8.	Other Units from PHAs:	

<b>1C-7d.</b>	<b>Submitting CoC and PHA Joint Applications for Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

1.	Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a competitive joint application(s) for funding or jointly implement a competitive project serving individuals or families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other programs)?	Yes
		<b>Program Funding Source</b>
2.	Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement.	Mainstream vouchers, FUP, Stability vouchers

<b>1C-7e.</b>	<b>Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV).</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

	Did your CoC coordinate with any PHA to apply for or implement funding provided for Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to homelessness, including vouchers provided through the American Rescue Plan?	Yes
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## 1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1D-1.	Preventing People Transitioning from Public Systems from Experiencing Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.h.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the public systems listed to ensure persons who have resided in them longer than 90 days are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs.

1.	Prisons/Jails?	Yes
2.	Health Care Facilities?	Yes
3.	Residential Care Facilities?	No
4.	Foster Care?	Yes

1D-2.	Housing First—Lowering Barriers to Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

1.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition.	
2.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.	
3.	This number is a calculation of the percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	0%

**You must enter a value for elements 1 and 2 in question 1D-2.**

1D-2a.	Project Evaluation for Housing First Compliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

	You must upload the Housing First Evaluation attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC evaluates every project—where the applicant checks Housing First on their project application—to determine if they are using a Housing First approach;
2.	the list of factors and performance indicators your CoC uses during its evaluation;
3.	how your CoC regularly evaluates projects outside of your local CoC competition to ensure the projects are using a Housing First approach; and
4.	what your CoC has done to improve fidelity to Housing First.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Before applying for CoC project funding, projects must submit a completed Housing First Assessment Tool (developed by HUD TA) with documentation of all items they have marked “Documented” or “Done”. Documentation includes program/agency policies, tenant screening criteria, lease agreements, and records of efforts to prevent terminations. At competition, the CoC Project Performance and Review (PP&R) Committee checks the Assessment and incorporates the score into the project’s overall rating. The Committee also identifies if there are inconsistencies in the Assessment Tool responses and project outcomes. In some cases, the project may be advised not to check “Housing First” and/or referred for performance support.

2. In evaluating Housing First, the CoC considers; Program policies, including tenant screening and lease provisions; Training and procedures for staff; Input from clients and CE staff; and Data reported in HMIS. Performance indicators include vacancy rate, days from housing referral to result, rate of unsuccessful referrals, reasons for unsuccessful referrals, and rate and cause of terminations.

3. The CoC conducts regular CE System Reviews to assess many aspects of CE, including Housing First. During review, denials of referrals and re-entries to CE (after exit to perm. housing) are checked to assess if programs are adhering to Housing First expectations. When issues are identified, CoC staff meet with the housing provider to discuss specific concerns. Depending on the case, a program may be asked to complete the Housing First Assessment Tool to with CoC staff and create an action plan. The plan and results are reported to the CE and PP&R Committees.

4. Actions to improve fidelity to Housing First include: a) Staff restructure. A new CoC Performance & Support Manager position provides focused assistance and leadership on program-level performance improvements. b) Increase training. Staff turnover is high, so training on key topics like Housing First has been integrated into member meetings and monthly CE calls. Meetings cover broad concepts while calls focus on making concepts actionable in daily work. c) Updated program standards. The CE committee began updating Program Standards in early 2024 to clarify Housing First practices. d) Stakeholder notice. CoC staff have increased early communication with higher-level managers, CE Committee, and funders so that staff receive support before significant or long-term issues emerge.

1D-3.	Street Outreach—Data—Reaching People Least Likely to Request Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.j.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC tailored its street outreach to people experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

The CoC has tailored outreach strategies to reach 3 key groups who experience unsheltered homelessness. The immediate impact has been an increase in households identified in unsheltered locations, but the longer-term goal impact will be more robust and rapid connections to housing and resources for all people without shelter.

a) Outreach for single adults with substance use or serious health conditions is focused in two communities where emergency services use and law enforcement encounters are highest. Outreach is shared informally between staff of day shelters, human services, mental health providers, law enforcement or corrections/probation, and street medicine teams. Weekly, they meet to coordinate contact efforts, identify new people, and share resources. The main contact meets with individuals wherever they are to offer shelter and housing connections and facilitate access to treatment as needed. This effort began as a lived experience co-design process with Mayo Clinic to connect individuals with serious health needs to safe recovery options. In 2025, it will adopt a Built for Zero coordinated case management model, with tapered services upon housing move-in.

b) Outreach for youth and families with young children also uses a multidisciplinary team model. However, because this population is more mobile in housing from night to night, the team incorporates a trusted partners/safe spaces approach so that housing assistance is brought into schools, job programs, juvenile probation, etc. where they are already active. A joint team of school liaisons, youth programs, and human services share resources so youth or families work with the contact they most trust. Contact occurs daily or weekly to develop and work a plan to stabilize housing and maintain connections to school, work, or others.

c) Rural outreach is tailored to add Navigator capacity and visibility in rural counties without shelters. Navigators are based with local agencies to provide 1:1 access, housing problem solving, and connections to shelter or housing. Community providers can refer anyone who is unsheltered, and navigators make contact within 24 hours. Services include transportation and short hotel stays as part of a housing problem solving plan. To increase access, navigators participate in local homeless response meetings to share service information with libraries, healthcare providers, food shelves, and culturally specific organizations where they exist.

1D-4.	Strategies to Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.k.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate your CoC's strategies to prevent the criminalization of homelessness in your CoC's geographic area:

Your CoC's Strategies	Engaged/Educated Legislators and Policymakers	Implemented Laws/Policies/Practices that Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness
1. Increase utilization of co-responder responses or social services-led responses over law enforcement responses to people experiencing homelessness?	Yes	Yes
2. Minimize use of law enforcement to enforce bans on public sleeping, public camping, or carrying out basic life functions in public places?	Yes	No
3. Avoid imposing criminal sanctions, including fines, fees, and incarceration for public sleeping, public camping, and carrying out basic life functions in public places?	Yes	No
4. Other:(limit 500 characters)		

1D-5.	Rapid Rehousing–RRH Beds as Reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) or Longitudinal Data from HMIS.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

	HIC Longitudinal HMIS Data	2023	2024
Enter the total number of RRH beds available to serve all populations as reported in the HIC or the number of households served per longitudinal HMIS data, e.g., APR.			

You must enter a value for both years in question 1D-5.

1D-6.	Mainstream Benefits–CoC Annual Training of Project Staff.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m.	

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains program staff annually on the following mainstream benefits available for program participants within your CoC's geographic area:

Mainstream Benefits	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1. Food Stamps	Yes
2. SSI–Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3. SSDI–Social Security Disability Insurance	Yes
4. TANF–Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
5. Substance Use Disorder Programs	Yes
6. Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
7. Other (limit 150 characters)	

1D-6a.	Information and Training on Mainstream Benefits and Other Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	works with projects to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including those that provide substance use disorder treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services, including Medicaid; and	
2.	promotes SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC works with projects to collaborate with healthcare organizations on two levels. Broadly, the CoC invites presenters in its network meetings to share resources, partnership opportunities, and new strategies. Most recently, topics have included expanding access to substance use treatment support through telehealth services, working with the Social Security office to use vulnerable population application process for SSI/SSDI, how to connect participants to MNSure (state health insurance exchange) helpers, and how to become Medicaid enrolled providers for eligible services. More directly with individual programs, the CoC offers technical assistance through its new Performance & Support Manager role. The PSM meets with individual programs at their request or at the request of a CoC Committee to identify how participant health and other goals can be better supported (and internal services budgets can be directed to other costs). Action steps may include introductions to potential healthcare partners, meeting with a peer agency that is skilled in healthcare partnerships, or hosting a broader conversation with projects that share a potential healthcare service partner. Through partnership with Housing Resource Coordinators at Counties (a state Olmstead Plan effort), project staff can collaborate to help people with institutional stays or treatment stays access mainstream housing and persons with disabilities identify community-based services beyond homeless-designated housing and service resources.

2. The CoC has offered information sessions with SOAR providers (primarily disability services agencies) in the region to promote SOAR certification with program staff. Several agencies pursued it but found they did not have the volume of clients and SOAR activity to make it financially sustainable or to maintain the high level of knowledge needed to provide SOAR services. As a result, the CoC is instead pursuing partnerships between programs and active SOAR providers as well as connecting programs directly with the local Social Security Administration office to use the vulnerable populations application process for persons in PSH.

ID-7.	Partnerships with Public Health Agencies—Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent the Spread of Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to develop CoC-wide policies and procedures that:	
1.	respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and	
2.	prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.	



**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. CoC policy is to follow guidelines of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). MDH began working more closely with CoCs & homeless service providers as part of the COVID-19 response, and in 2021 was recognized by the CDC foundation as one of three National Centers on Excellence on Public Health & Homelessness. Partnerships are now being extended to address other infectious diseases. The MDH Highly Impacted Settings team has developed infectious disease policies & procedures for homeless programs related to testing, case reporting, mitigation, and access to therapeutics. Homeless service providers can access a large supply of free COVID-19 and other tests, personal protective equipment, and supplies for on-site isolation and quarantine. MDH and local public health agencies also supported free on-site disease testing and vaccination clinics at homeless settings and provided vaccine incentives to people experiencing homelessness. The CoC actively promotes the MDH policies/procedures and resources, particularly with privately funded shelters with limited resources and high use of volunteers.

2. The CoC works closely with MDH to build connections between providers and public health agencies to support participant health and prevent disease. Within the CoC region, MDH is continuing many programs started during COVID, including testing and vaccination. MDH now has a permanent team to provide guidance & resources for homeless programs and contracts for vaccine clinics, which homeless programs can request online. CoC has encouraged participation in MDH’s Infectious Disease Trusted Messenger Program for people experiencing homelessness, where participants receive education and technical assistance from MDH on how vaccines work, how they were tested, when is your time to get a vaccine, and motivational interview teams to meet people where they are with what they’re hearing about vaccines and concerns and move them toward evidence-based practices. The program has expanded beyond COVID to include other vaccine preventable diseases. MDH is implementing a new statewide Syringe Services Program (SSP) for People Experiencing Homelessness, and homeless overdose prevention hubs in the CoC to provide holistic care to people experiencing homelessness who use drugs or are in recovery. CoC has also promoted use of MDH’s grant programs to target specific needs for people who are unhoused, including the risks of HIV, Hepatitis C, drug overdose risks, and sex trafficking.

ID-7a.	Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1.	effectively shared information related to public health measures and homelessness; and
2.	facilitated communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers to ensure street outreach providers and shelter and housing providers are equipped to prevent or limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC shared information with providers in partnership with the MN Department of Health (MDH). MDH distributed information on public health measures with homeless service providers via newsletter and quarterly provider webinars, with recent webinars focused on harm reduction and homelessness, and syphilis and homelessness. When things emerge (e.g. MPOX), MDH, CoCs, and MN Interagency Council on Homelessness coordinate on communication. MDH maintains a GovDelivery listserv to share infectious disease information with homeless service providers and other congregate settings and attends meetings with homeless service providers to learn of local public health concerns and share infectious disease updates, such as surveillance data and updated guidance. In communities of higher concern, MDH held regular meetings (e.g., outreach workers, youth shelter providers) to offer guidance and address specific concerns for those settings.

2. The CoC and its HMIS Lead Agency, the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA), partner with MDH to communicate with homeless service providers to prevent disease outbreaks. Example: During the COVID response, one staff from the COVID-19 unit at MDH was granted an HMIS read-only license to support disease response in homeless service settings. The user searched for people with a known positive COVID-19 case who reported residing in shelter to confirm whether the individual was indeed in shelter during their infectious period. This has helped to identify outbreaks and ensure shelters have the resources they need to respond to cases and set a policy for future data sharing. Through a community-led process, ICA developed a system to enable vector contact tracing within HMIS using confirmed cases and agency stayer reports. ICA, MDH, and other public health entities also partnered in a limited data matching project to track the extent to which people experiencing homelessness are accessing vaccines. Information from the match is used by MDH to monitor trends and identify disparities in vaccine uptake, and target outreach to underserved sub-populations. This partnership began in 2020 and is ongoing.

1D-8.	Coordinated Entry Standard Processes.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:

1.	can serve everybody regardless of where they are located within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	uses a standardized assessment process to achieve fair, equitable, and equal access to housing and services within your CoC;
3.	collects personal information in a trauma-informed way; and
4.	is updated at least annually using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. To cover the region geographically, Coordinated Entry (CE) uses a no-wrong-door approach with multiple access points at service agencies in each county. Access points are publicized locally via poster and available 24/7 by online map via CoC and MN Housing Benefits 101. Navigators and outreach staff also engage directly with people who are unsheltered and make connections to CE.

2. CE uses a standardized 3-step process to collect only the information needed to connect people to housing and assess equity in referrals and assistance. The CoC uses phone-based and onsite interpretation services for persons who speak languages other than English or who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing. CE begins with a limited intake and health/safety check to connect to victim or healthcare support if needed. After that, Housing Problem Solving (HPS, or diversion) consult begins, using a strengths-based approach to identify all possible housing solutions based on their needs and wants, including geographic, cultural, or age-related needs. If a solution isn't found, the CE Assessment is offered to participants who qualify for housing through CE. The Assessment addresses eligibility factors for available housing and CoC priorities, which are considered along with needs identified in HPS to make a referral. Based on data, referrals made are equitable compared to overall homeless population data.

3. CE provides trauma-informed data collection by: a) engaging in CE only after immediate health and safety needs are met, b) using strengths-based HPS to build rapport and affirm participant choice in solutions, c) using limited ROIs and using scripts to explain data use, voluntary participation, and HMIS alternatives, d) only collecting data to make housing connections and assess equity in referrals and assistance, and e) conducting CE assessments in spaces/methods selected by participants.

4. CE policies and procedures are reviewed annually to respond to changing needs. Requests for input and changes are coordinated by the CE Committee. Participating agencies provide input by participating in the CE Committee meetings or by survey. Households that use CE provide feedback by survey and/or focus groups held across the region. Feedback is considered at least twice annually as part of the CE Committee's regular evaluation of CE data. Policy changes proposed based on feedback and data are brought to the Full CoC membership for approval.

	1D-8a. Coordinated Entry–Program Participant-Centered Approach.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:
	1. reaches people who are least likely to apply for homeless assistance in the absence of special outreach;
	2. prioritizes people most in need of assistance;
	3. ensures people most in need of assistance receive permanent housing in a timely manner, consistent with their needs and preferences; and
	4. takes steps to reduce burdens on people seeking assistance.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. To reach people who are least likely to apply for assistance, access sites are advertised in locations frequented by persons experiencing homelessness, including libraries, 24-hour businesses, food/meal sites, and mobile health clinics. CoC staff outreach to agencies that serve persons of color, youth, persons with disabilities, and seniors to ensure that trusted service partners help in reaching those least likely to apply. Street outreach workers and Coordinated Entry (CE) navigators assist persons who may otherwise lose touch with CE, have difficulty documenting eligibility, or need to connect with services to remain safe and stable prior to housing enrollment. Through Case Conferencing, non-CE agencies like law enforcement can also recommend contact with individuals who aren't already connected with CE.

2. CE uses a standardized assessment and published order of priority to prioritize households who have the longest time homeless, have a disability/urgent health condition, are without shelter, and might be excluded from subsidized housing due to background. Assessment data is entered into an HMIS or non-HMIS list and sorted based on priority for each program type.

3. Assessors must immediately enter assessments to ensure rapid placement on the CE priority list. Households are prioritized for referral within their preferred geography using Order of Priority. When a housing opening occurs, a household chooses whether to accept the referral without repercussions. Housing providers and CE staff follow procedures to contact prioritized households (multiple attempts within 5 days of receiving referral) and complete the eligibility and move-in process.

4. To reduce burdens on people using CE, the CoC conducts annual review of the assessment and eliminates questions when possible. The CoC also started Housing Problem Solving as a strengths-based first step to find viable housing solutions before CE assessment. To reduce administrative barriers, the CoC proactively contacts households to update records and makes scheduled or non-scheduled assessments available onsite, in office or virtually. CE staff also engage housing providers and funders of affordable housing to remove nonrequired screening criteria and processes. Through partnership with MN Housing Finance Agency, the CoC uses simplified eligibility documentation and tenant screening for PSH, allowing for more rapid move-ins in many projects.

1D-8b.	Coordinated Entry—Informing Program Participants about Their Rights and Remedies—Reporting Violations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC through its coordinated entry:

1.	affirmatively markets housing and services provided within the CoC's geographic area and ensures it reaches all persons experiencing homelessness;
2.	informs program participants of their rights and remedies available under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws; and
3.	reports any conditions or actions that impede fair housing choice for current or prospective program participants to the jurisdiction(s) responsible for certifying consistency with the Consolidated Plan.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC and its Coordinated Entry (CE) assessment sites and housing providers use several approaches to affirmatively market housing and services. The CoC provides 24/7 access to assessment site contacts via CoC and MN Housing Benefits websites 101. The sites list access in each county, with information to identify accessibility and language resources available. Offline, access sites and county-level homeless response teams identify the specific actions needed in their community to ensure access for eligible persons. Actions include street outreach, information posted at drop-in centers, and youth-, LGBTQ+-, and culturally specific organizations, as well as schools, libraries, and programs for older adults and people with disabilities. The CoC anticipates updating approach regularly as part of bi-annual CE data reviews.

2. The CoC requires participating CE providers to inform participants of their rights at assessment and at housing application. At assessment, participants receive a summary of state and federal housing rights (including contact information for reporting offices and local legal aid) as well as CoC grievance process. At application and housing move-in, providers review the lease and tenant handbook with participants. They also provide fair housing and civil rights information from the MN Attorney General’s Office and/or HUD Fair Housing booklet.

3. The CoC is moving toward formalizing a process for notifying Consolidated Plan jurisdictions of identified impediments to Fair Housing as they occur. Currently, the CoC advises CE navigators and housing providers to advocate for their participants regarding application processes, housing conditions, and lease issues, to work with legal services with issues arise in regards to Fair Housing or civil rights concerns, and to contact the MN Human Rights office or HUD when necessary. The CoC will add a step for reporting impediments to Con Plan jurisdictions in the next update of CE procedures.

1D-9.	Advancing Racial Equity in Homelessness—Conducting Assessment.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

1.	Has your CoC conducted a racial disparities assessment in the last 3 years?	Yes
2.	Enter the date your CoC conducted its latest assessment for racial disparities.	04/15/2023

1D-9a.	Using Data to Determine if Racial Disparities Exist in Your CoC’s Provision or Outcomes of CoC Program-Funded Homeless Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

Describe in the field below:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | the data your CoC used to analyze whether any racial disparities are present in your CoC’s provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance; and       |
| 2. | how your CoC analyzed the data to determine whether any racial disparities are present in your CoC’s provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance. |

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC uses qualitative and quantitative data to assess whether racial disparities are present in our homelessness response system. **QUALITATIVE:** Triennial MN Statewide Homeless Survey (Wilder Research), Client surveys and reports from CoC participating programs, hospital community needs assessments (Mayo, Sanford, Allina), and focus groups conducted with people who currently or recently experienced homelessness. **QUANTITATIVE:** Triennial MN Statewide Homeless Survey (Wilder Research), Point in Time Count, CoC Coordinated Entry data in HMIS, Program data collected in HMIS and comparable databases, and American Community Survey (ACS) total population and poverty population by race tables.

2. The CoC analyzes racial disparities within the homeless response system using an ongoing assessment process. Twice yearly, the CoC Coordinated Entry (CE) Committee reviews six months of HMIS data on CE access, referrals to housing, referrals to navigation, referral outcomes, and CE exits broken down by race, ethnicity, and other priority subpopulations. CoC staff present the data for Committee members to evaluate. CE access by race/ethnicity is compared to data from the Point in Time Count, MN Statewide Homeless Study, and ACS counts to identify disparities. Disparities at other points in the CE process are identified by comparing to access totals. Qualitative data sources and consultation with the CoC Lived Experience Group provide context, clarity, and areas for further investigation, as well as possible next steps.

Annually, the CoC Data & Technical Assistance Committee reviews the previous calendar year HMIS and comparable DB data for Coordinated Entry and the housing/service programs participating in CE, using the approach described above. Along with CE access, referral, and exit, the D&TA Committee reviews program entries, overall participants served, exits from housing, and returns to homelessness, disaggregated by race/ethnicity. Qualitative data sources and consultation with the CoC Lived Experience Group provide context, clarity, and areas for further investigation, as well as possible next steps.

1D-9b.	Implemented Strategies to Prevent or Eliminate Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the strategies your CoC is using to prevent or eliminate racial disparities.

1.	Are your CoC's board and decisionmaking bodies representative of the population served in the CoC?	
2.	Did your CoC identify steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC?	Yes
3.	Is your CoC expanding outreach in your CoC's geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups?	Yes
4.	Does your CoC have communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups?	Yes
5.	Is your CoC training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness?	Yes
6.	Is your CoC establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector?	No

7.	Does your CoC have staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness?	Yes
8.	Is your CoC educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national nonprofit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity?	Yes
9.	Did your CoC review its coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness?	Yes
10.	Is your CoC collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system?	Yes
11.	Is your CoC conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness?	No
	Other:(limit 500 characters)	
12.		

You must select a response for elements 1 through 11 in question 1D-9b.

1D-9c.	Plan for Ongoing Evaluation of System-level Processes, Policies, and Procedures for Racial Equity.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

Describe in the field below your CoC's plan for ongoing evaluation of system-level processes, policies, and procedures for racial equity.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC’s plan addresses three areas: Coordinated Entry (CE), Program Standards, and Representation/Leadership. Based on data, evaluation focuses on inequities for people who identify as Indigenous, Black, or Hispanic/Latinx. To ensure continuous improvement, the plan assigns responsibilities to CoC staff and committees and regular review timelines.

CE: a) For ACCESS, the CoC reviews access sites in each county for local language and cultural assistance needs and site access for target populations. CoC staff lead review and report to the CE Committee. Together, they review CE entry data, select interventions and evaluate changes in access rates by race/ethnicity after intervention. b) For REFERRAL PRIORITIZATION, the CoC adjusts CE policy when inequities are identified during 6-month CE system reviews. E.g. Prioritization includes disabling conditions as a factor. However, due to racial inequities in healthcare, people in the target populations are less likely to identify having a disabling condition. The CE Committee is assigned to identify alternatives to consider service needs in prioritization, and CoC staff maps out procedures to make referral changes.

PROGRAM STANDARDS: The CoC plan addresses written standards for PSH and RRH and monitoring procedures. These areas were selected due to emerging issues in program eligibility requirements, referral contact times, and use of public criminal history databases, which appear to delay or cancel referrals for target populations. The CE and Project Performance Committees revise written standards in CoC policy. CoC staff adapts policy to CE procedures and training for housing providers, project monitoring checklists, and rating/review standards for funding renewal. Changes in referral denials and time to move-in are tracked in the 6-month CE system review noted above. Impact evaluation of CoC training and monitoring procedures on housing access occur annually and are reported publicly as part of gaps analysis.

REPRESNTATION/LEADERSHIP: The CoC plan evaluates demographics of CoC membership and committees compared to population experiencing homelessness, to identify gaps and priority areas for outreach and engagement. Actions are led by the Executive Committee, and staff provide support with contacts and materials for outreach. Outcomes are evaluated every two years by survey of CoC membership and committees.

1D-9d.	Plan for Using Data to Track Progress on Preventing or Eliminating Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	the measures your CoC plans to use to continuously track progress on preventing or eliminating racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and	
2.	the tools your CoC plans to use to continuously track progress on preventing or eliminating racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.	

(limit 2,500 characters)



1. The CoC evaluates progress in three primary areas: Coordinated Entry (CE), Housing Programs, and Representation/Leadership.

CE-related measures are reviewed jointly by the CE and Data & TA Committees every 6 months, with input from focus groups and data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and other key demographics.

Key measures evaluated for CE are: a) Entries to Housing Problem Solving (Diversion), b) Outcomes from Housing Problem Solving – resource connections, stable housing, c) CE assessment access vs. PIT count demographics, d) CE Navigation access, e) Housing referral denials, f) Housing referrals vs. successful move-ins, and g) CE exits to homeless destinations. Program-related measures are reviewed annually by the Data & TA Committee, with data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and other key demographics.

Measures evaluated for housing programs are: a) Referral acceptance rate, b) Entries to the program, c) Program entries without successful housing move-in, and d) Exits to permanent housing vs. homeless destinations.

Leadership and representation-related measures are reviewed biennially by the Executive and Equity Committees, with data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and other key demographics. Measures evaluated in this area are compared to demographics of people entering CE and those counted in the PIT Count: a) CoC membership, b) CoC leadership, and c) CE assessment site staffing.

2. Tools used to track progress: a) Participant feedback: Focus groups and listening sessions conducted by Equity Committee and other CoC partners, Biennial needs assessment survey of participant experience. b) Six-month CE evaluation summary: 20 question public report including HMIS and non-HMIS CE data, including HMIS CE Monitoring Report and non-HMIS priority list. C)Program-type and program-level reports: HMIS and comparable database reports, including APRs and statewide entry/exit reports. d) Data sets for comparison: American Communities Survey data on population and population in poverty by county, Minnesota Statewide Homeless Study, and annual Point in Time Count.

1D-10.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking–CoC’s Outreach Efforts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below your CoC’s outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decisionmaking processes.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Working in a geographically larger rural region, the CoC has found that personal invitations and outreach to build relationships are most effective to engage people in CoC and overcome the barriers that come with regional and virtual CoC activities. As a result, the CoC does not focus on social media outreach but instead provides a one-page info sheet used in targeted outreach to engage persons with lived experience in CoC activities, leadership, and decision making.

Targeted outreach occurs through four avenues: 1. CoC members with lived experience. One third of CoC members and 14% of CoC leadership members indicated lived experience of homelessness in the most recent demographic survey. Current members are most effective in outreach because they are peers who can explain the value they find in CoC, how it works, and who is involved. 2. Trusted staff. The CoC requests that staff of homeless response service and housing programs talk with current/recent participants or program advisory committee members about CoC involvement as part of their personal or professional growth goals. Staff provide information and support to engage, virtual or physical access to CoC meetings, introductions to new people, and explanation of roles. 3. CoC focus groups and listening sessions. When individuals participating in listening sessions express interest in sharing more ideas, leading on a certain topic, or getting involved in a group, the facilitator shares information on CoC participation and leadership with the individual and invites them to a CoC event or activity to learn more. CoC staff follow up with personal invitation and more information. 4. Annual request for nominations. The CoC Executive Committee specifically seeks out nominees with lived experience of homelessness for roles as committee members, committee chairs, or ad hoc members of the Executive Committee. Members explain the roles and the support available to help those new to leadership, and they encourage exploring the roles.

Beyond CoC board roles, the CoC ensures that job opportunities related to Coordinated Entry appear in more people’s job searches by removing educational requirements and specifically calling out value of lived experience in postings. The CoC is revising subgrantee agreements that affect Coordinated Entry staff at other agencies in a similar way.

1D-10a.	Active CoC Participation of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

You must upload the Lived Experience Support Letter attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter in the chart below the number of people with lived experience who currently participate in your CoC under the four categories listed:

	Level of Active Participation	Number of People with Lived Experience Within the Last 7 Years or Current Program Participant	Number of People with Lived Experience Coming from Unsheltered Situations
1.	Routinely included in the decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	16	7
2.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	12	5
3.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC’s local competition rating factors.	4	1

4. Included in the development or revision of your CoC's coordinated entry process.	40	11
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1D-10b.	Professional Development and Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness. NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	
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Describe in the field below how your CoC or CoC membership organizations provide professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

CoC member organizations provide development and employment opportunities for persons with lived experience in several ways: 1. Advisory committees or boards: As part of case management, homeless service providers share opportunities and support participants to learn and share their experience and knowledge by being part of a committee or board. Types of boards and committees where persons with lived experience are now involved include building resident councils, city/county citizen panels, state agency program advisory groups, and CoC member organization boards. 2. Workforce program partnerships: CoC member organizations have agreements with workforce programs to provide specific job skills classes, help participants prepare for applications and interviews, and identify training programs that help them reach their goals. 3. Speaking engagements: Organizations that often receive requests to speak to community groups have established protocols for including participants with lived experience in the engagement, including training for public speaking and participant compensation from the requesting group. 4. Revised job qualifications: Several CoC member organizations with open positions encourage applications from people who have lived experience by reducing/removing educational requirements and preparing for on-the-job training to develop skills.

As a CoC group, professional development and employment opportunities are provided by: 1. Promoting and supporting the MN Coalition for the Homeless conference stipend program. The annual conference provides training and networking opportunities for staff, volunteers, and participants in homeless response throughout the state. Registration, hotel, meals, and transportation are included. 2. Sharing employment training programs and member organizations' current job openings. Through the CoC email listserv, the CoC shares jobs at member organizations, jobs with employers willing to train, and workforce training programs to build skills. Staff and volunteers with organizations use the information to support clients in reaching their employment goals. 3. Deploying Special NOFO rural capacity building funds. The project includes incentives for programs and persons with lived experience to fill roles with rural homeless assistance programs and participate in shared training to build skills and professional networks.

1D-10c.	Routinely Gathering Feedback and Addressing Challenges of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness. NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	
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Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;
2.	how often your CoC gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;
3.	how your CoC gathers feedback from people who received assistance through the CoC Program or ESG Program;
4.	how often your CoC gathers feedback from people who have received assistance through the CoC Program or ESG Program; and
5.	steps your CoC has taken to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC gathers feedback from people with lived experience using surveys, focus groups, and Lived Experience group discussion. Surveys on needs, barriers, outcomes of assistance, and priorities are promoted by participating CoC members and available in English, Spanish and Somali, and in paper and online formats. Focus groups are promoted by CoC members and hosted by local organizations that ensure accessibility and comfort for participants while the CoC provides stipends. The CoC also considers any grievances that may be submitted under CoC policy by people with lived experience.

2. Surveys occur every two years as part of region-wide needs assessment. Focus groups are held 4-5 times per year, with more possible depending on emerging needs and opportunities. The Lived Experience group meets monthly to provide guidance to CoC leadership. Grievances are reviewed when received.

3. CoC and ESG programs participants are included in the feedback opportunities in #1. Surveys and grievances identify specific programs involved. Focus groups held with ESG subrecipient or CoC Program recipients are identified to ensure input specific to the programs. Monitoring visits to ESG and CoC-funded programs also consider customer satisfaction surveys, or participant interviews if surveys are not available.

4. Frequency of surveys, focus groups, and grievance reviews are addressed in #2. Monitoring is conducted annually by CoC and ESG recipient for funded programs in the CoC region.

5. The CoC has addressed challenges raised by people with lived experience related to: a) Long waits for housing openings in Coordinated Entry (CE). The CoC has far too few housing openings to meet the needs of households experiencing homelessness. Feedback confirmed that this is frustrating and scary, and sometimes results in more serious health and safety risks. People indicated need for supports even if housing wasn't available. In response, the CoC added Day Shelter with medical services, Housing Problem Solving, and expanded Navigation services. b) Stipends for participation. In response to concerns about stipends, the CoC increased the stipend budget and updated its stipend policy to address technology needs and increase the rate. The CoC was unable to accommodate requests to provide cash or gift cards because it would place the lead agency out of compliance with federal Uniform Guidance for recipients of federal funds.

1D-11.	Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.	
NOFO Section V.B.1.s.		
Describe in the field below at least two steps your CoC has taken in the past 12 months to engage city, county, or state governments that represent your CoC's geographic area regarding the following:		
1.	reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; and	
2.	reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

As part of the CoC’s partnership to review projects seeking Low Income Housing Tax Credits and other affordable housing funding through State programs, the CoC regularly engages with city, county, and state governments about barriers to housing. CoC member agencies propose and support local affordable housing projects by writing letters, attending public meetings for planning and zoning, and testifying as requested to support local policies that advance affordable housing options. In the 2024 funding round, CoC staff also supported 5 affordable housing development proposals by providing comments and data on homelessness and supportive housing availability to city officials, developers, and advocates. (In Minnesota, permanent supportive housing (PSH) is included in many proposals for state affordable housing financing. To block development, local officials may question the need for PSH and local law enforcement recommends strict crime-free housing standards.) In the past 12 months, the CoC has also consulted with the State Housing Finance Agency to simplify the administrative process of securing affordable housing development funds. Over several meetings and public comment periods, the CoC provided input to state officials on reducing the huge investment of time, forms, certifications, and other documentation needed just to apply for affordable housing financing. The CoC comments focused on retaining CoC consultation within the due diligence phase, so that developers and local officials could focus on fewer projects and better engage on local administrative and regulatory resolutions related to affordable housing development. In other action, the CoC encourages participation by members in local planning, and several CoC individual members and staff are members of their local city, county, or township planning and zoning decision-making body. The CoC and many CoC member agencies are also members of Homes for All, a legislative advocacy coalition in Minnesota. Through the Homes for All Coalition, CoC members contacted and met with state and local policy makers on issues related to increasing affordable housing, addressing homelessness, and reducing land use and regulatory barriers to housing development.

## 1E. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1E-1.	Web Posting of Advance Public Notice of Your CoC’s Local Competition Deadline, Scoring and Rating Criteria.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a. and 2.g.	

1.	Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for New Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC’s local competition.	08/05/2024
2.	Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for Renewal Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC’s local competition.	05/08/2024

1E-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. We use the response to this question and the response in Question 1E-2a along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC’s eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., 2.d., and 2.e.	

You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected project applications during your local competition:

1.	Established total points available for each project application type.	Yes
2.	At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH).	Yes
3.	At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness).	Yes
4.	Provided points for projects that addressed specific severe barriers to housing and services.	Yes
5.	Used data from comparable databases to score projects submitted by victim service providers.	Yes

6.	Provided points for projects based on the degree the projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.	Yes
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1E-2a.	Scored Project Forms for One Project from Your CoC's Local Competition. We use the response to this question and Question 1E-2. along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC's eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.  NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.	
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You must upload the Scored Forms for One Project attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.  
Complete the chart below to provide details of your CoC's local competition:

1.	What were the maximum number of points available for the renewal project form(s)?	125
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	19
3.	What renewal project type did most applicants use?	PH-PSH

1E-2b.	Addressing Severe Barriers in the Local Project Review and Ranking Process.  NOFO Section V.B.2.d.	
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Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding each project that has successfully housed program participants in permanent housing;
2.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding how long it takes to house people in permanent housing;
3.	how your CoC considered the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities experienced by program participants preventing rapid placement in permanent housing or the ability to maintain permanent housing when your CoC ranked and selected projects; and
4.	the severe barriers your CoC considered.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC analyzed data already in HMIS or an comparable database to assess successful housing placements over a calendar year. Stability in or Exits to PH: APR questions 5a.8 and 23c were used to calculate the proportion of stayers + leavers to positive destinations vs. total stayers + leavers. Stability after program exit: An HMIS-based report identified returns to homelessness within 12 months of exit from each project. Project data was compared to previous year (improvement) and to standards of >85% stability in or exit to PH and <5% returns to homelessness in 12 months.

2. The CoC analyzed Coordinated Entry referral data to identify the median days between date of referral to a program and date of program entry over one calendar year. The median was then compared to standard of entry within 20 days for PSH and 10 days for RRH/TH to calculate a score.

3. The CoC considered severity of needs and vulnerabilities of participants by using a balanced scoring tool and strategic ranking policies. The CoC rating tool scored performance outcomes as well as commitment to serving people with high need/vulnerability and using best practices. E.g. For PSH renewal projects, 40% of 125 possible points were objective performance outcomes, 16% were based on percentage of high need populations served, and 24% were related to implementing best practices for Equal Access, Housing First, and promoting self-sufficiency regardless of outcomes.

The CoC also applied its ranking policy to adjust ranks for three existing projects serving people with severe service needs. Based on score, the projects would have been ranked at the bottom of Tier 2. However, the projects are in the highest need geographies and losing them could negatively affect access to housing. To prevent that impact, the projects were placed at the top of Tier 2.

4. Severe needs and vulnerabilities considered in project rating and ranking for all projects were chronic homelessness, disability, and history of DV or other violence/abuse. In addition, each project could identify if they serve primarily people with any of the following needs that compound barriers to housing the region: previous incarceration, active substance use, no income, or large families.

1E-3.	Advancing Racial Equity through Participation of Over-Represented Populations in the Local Competition Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.e.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC used input from persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, to determine the rating factors used to review project applications;	
2.	how your CoC included persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population in the review, selection, and ranking process; and	
3.	how your CoC rated and ranked projects based on the degree that proposed projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and steps the projects took or will take to eliminate the identified barriers.	



**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC obtained input from persons of different races through membership in the Committee responsible for review, selection and ranking, and membership in the CoC’s Lived Experience Working Group. Within the CoC region, people who identify as Black/African American or are overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness (23% vs. 11% of population in poverty); people who identify as Other/Multi-racial are also overrepresented (7% vs. 4%). Rating factors for project reviews were developed and are revised each year with input from the CoC community. Input received resulted in several changes rating factors for projects: a) Advancing Equity assessment for all projects, b) new project requirement to document involvement of people who experience homelessness in the project plan, and c) points in new project scoring awarded directly by the Lived Experience Working Group.

2. The CoC’s Lived Experience Group reviewed project goals, approaches, and a description of how they involved people with lived experience in project planning. Project descriptions were shared in a focus group setting, where verbal or written input was provided to projects to adjust approaches. The members could also award up to 10 points to the project based on their own experience. The scores per project were averaged and the feedback was provided to applicants as reviewer notes. In the LE group, 70% identify as persons of color, including 30% identify as Black, African American, or African and 20% as multiple races. The CoC’s Review Committee reviewed the full project applications for scoring. The Committee is gathered from CoC membership: 32% of participants have lived experience of homelessness, 14% are persons of color, and 35% have experience with domestic violence, bringing a range of experiences and knowledge to the review process.

3. The CoC rated and ranked projects based on several factors, including Advancing Equity (5 points possible). For the scoring element, applicants identified racial, ethnic, and other groups who experience barriers to participation in their program/service, the program’s actions to address disparities found for the identified underserved groups, and the program’s actions planned for the next 12 months.

1E-4.	Reallocation–Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.	
NOFO Section V.B.2.f.		
Describe in the field below:		
1.	your CoC’s reallocation process, including how your CoC determined which projects are candidates for reallocation because they are low performing or less needed;	
2.	whether your CoC identified any low performing or less needed projects through the process described in element 1 of this question during your CoC’s local competition this year;	
3.	whether your CoC reallocated any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year; and	
4.	why your CoC did not reallocate low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year, if applicable.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC competition policies allow project reduction, rejection, and reallocation during project scoring or ranking phases of the local competition. Projects may initiate voluntary reallocation in writing for any reason. Involuntary reallocation is CoC-initiated based on any of 12 performance/project management criteria in the Local Competition Guide, e.g. evidence of noncompliance with HUD or CoC policies, failure to provide documentation for Local Competition review, ongoing low performance (<60 of 100 points or bottom 25% of projects for 2+ competitions). Reallocation criteria are applied to similar projects equally, and full or partial reallocation is based on the extent of noncompliance and efforts to resolve issues with noncompliance. The CoC identifies low performance by reviewing spending/recaptured funds reports, APRs, and project documents, and then scoring based on CoC project standards and reallocation criteria. Geographic areas with less need are clearly identified in the CoC needs assessment data and are not selected as priorities for the competition.

2. All projects met minimum standards for performance (at least 60 of 100 points possible in reviews), so no projects were identified for full reallocation. Three renewal projects were identified for potential partial reallocation during project reviews based on low overall performance over two review cycles with no explanation or improvement plan identified.

3. Three renewal projects were reduced from their initial request because the amount exceeded GIW maximums, but these reductions are not considered reallocation. The CoC did not reallocate from other projects due to performance or need in 2024.

4. The CoC did not reallocate from three projects in 2024 because the projects experienced reallocation in 2023. Because the grant cycles for 2023 funding are just beginning for many projects, the impact of reductions applied in the previous year are not yet evident. To avoid unnecessary cuts in higher need geographies, the CoC determined to include the projects at their ARA funding levels and provide support to improve performance before the next competition.

1E-4a.	Reallocation Between FY 2019 and FY 2024.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

	Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2019 and FY 2024?	No
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1E-5.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

1.	Did your CoC reject any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
2.	Did your CoC reduce funding for any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
3.	Did your CoC inform applicants why your CoC rejected or reduced their project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
4.	If you selected Yes for element 1 or element 2 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2024, 06/27/2024, and 06/28/2024, then you must enter 06/28/2024.	10/04/2024

1E-5a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New and Renewal Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2024, 06/27/2024, and 06/28/2024, then you must enter 06/28/2024.	10/04/2024
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1E-5b.	Local Competition Selection Results for All Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Selection Results attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Does your attachment include: 1. Project Names; 2. Project Scores; 3. Project Status–Accepted, Rejected, Reduced Reallocated, Fully Reallocated; 4. Project Rank; 5. Amount Requested from HUD; and 6. Reallocated Funds +/-.	Yes
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1E-5c.	Web Posting of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application 2 Days Before CoC Program Competition Application Submission Deadline.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g. and 24 CFR 578.95.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC posted the CoC-approved Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or partner’s website–which included: 1. the CoC Application; and 2. Priority Listings for Reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.	10/28/2024
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1E-5d.	Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders by Email that the CoC-Approved Consolidated Application is Posted on Website.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified community members and key stakeholders that the CoC-approved Consolidated Application was posted on your CoC's website or partner's website.	10/28/2024
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## 2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>2A-1.</b>	<b>HMIS Vendor.</b>	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Enter the name of the HMIS Vendor your CoC is currently using.	WellSky
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<b>2A-2.</b>	<b>HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.</b>	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Select from dropdown menu your CoC's HMIS coverage area.	Statewide
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<b>2A-3.</b>	<b>HIC Data Submission in HDX.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.a.	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 HIC data into HDX.	05/10/2024
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<b>2A-4.</b>	<b>Comparable Databases for DV Providers—CoC and HMIS Lead Supporting Data Collection and Data Submission by Victim Service Providers.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.b.	

	In the field below:	
1.	describe actions your CoC and HMIS Lead have taken to ensure DV housing and service providers in your CoC collect data in HMIS comparable databases; and	
2.	state whether DV housing and service providers in your CoC are using a HUD-compliant comparable database—compliant with the FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC and HMIS lead have taken several steps forward in supporting victim service providers (VSPs) are able to meet HUD’s comparable database requirements. a) The CoC’s HMIS Lead continued to engage with Violence Free Minnesota, working with a position funded through a grant from the Office of Justice Programs (MN Department of Public Safety). This role aims to identify data collection, technology, and privacy barriers for VSPs and evaluate how these barriers may have prevented VSPs from obtaining sufficient funding. This partnership between the statewide coalition and HMIS Lead is intended to provide technical guidance for VSPs via HMIS Helpdesk as they work to ensure compliance (while maintaining clear separation of client data; VSP data is not in HMIS nor shared with the HMIS lead directly). This will benefit the CoC by continuing to develop partnerships between the HMIS Lead and VSPs. c) To support DV grantees, the CoC consulted with the HUD Field Office to create a statewide cohort of Joint TH/RRH grantees to gather peer support as well as CoC, HUD Field Office, and HMIS Lead support for recipients of this unique project type. While not limited to projects serving survivors of domestic violence, VSPs grantees from the CoC participated in this cohort, which provided a unique opportunity for collaboration, learning, and support to resolve database setup and reporting issues for VSPs. d) The CoC participated with the HUD Field Office and other CoCs in Minnesota to offer a pre-competition “CoC Basics for Victim Service Providers” training. The training covered what is involved with HUD CoC grants (including data and reporting) and what it means to be part of a CoC. The training was well attended and resulted in new applications from VSPs in the CoC and across the state. e) The CoC engaged HUD TA under the Special NOFO to facilitate an assessment of Coordinated Entry access for survivors of DV, which will include comparable database use by participating VSPs.

2. VSPs receiving HUD funds in the CoC region use HUD-compliant comparable databases compliant with FY2024 HMIS Data Standards. VSPs without funding for this purpose are not.

2A-5.	Bed Coverage Rate—Using HIC, HMIS Data—CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.c. and V.B.7.	

Using the 2024 HDX Competition Report we issued your CoC, enter data in the chart below by project type:

Project Type	Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current Non-VSP Beds [Column F of HDX Report]	Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current VSP Beds [Column K of HDX Report]	Total Year-Round, Current, HMIS Beds and VSP Beds in an HMIS Comparable Database [Column M of HDX Report]	HMIS and Comparable Database Coverage Rate [Column O of HDX Report]
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	279	62	249	73.02%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	0	0	0	0.00%
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	152	40	177	92.19%
4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	151	1	151	99.34%

5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	254	0	234	92.13%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	1,054	0	764	72.49%

2A-5a.	Partial Credit for Bed Coverage Rates at or Below 84.99 for Any Project Type in Question 2A-5.
	NOFO Section V.B.3.c.
	For each project type with a bed coverage rate that is at or below 84.99 percent in question 2A-5, describe:
1.	steps your CoC will take over the next 12 months to increase the bed coverage rate to at least 85 percent for that project type; and
2.	how your CoC will implement the steps described to increase bed coverage to at least 85 percent.

(limit 2,500 characters)

**EMERGENCY SHELTER**

- Step(s): Add at least 41 ES beds in HMIS to increase coverage rate to 85% or higher.
- Implementation: The Connections Shelter project the CoC assisted in 2023 to add its 40 beds in HMIS was not able to convert to year-round shelter due to funding limitations, so that coverage increase is not reflected for 2024. While assisting the program to access funding for year-round shelter, the CoC will also guide one program, Dorothy Day Hospitality Housing (20 beds) to begin reporting in HMIS as part of a community Built for Zero data improvement effort. The CoC will also engage Von Wald Youth Shelter and MACV Veterans Voucher Program to encourage use of HMIS for all shelter beds, rather than only required for RHY or ESG, respectively. Barring other changes in ES inventory, HMIS participation of these shelters will bring coverage to 96%.

**OTHER PERMANENT HOUSING**

- Step(s): Add at least 194 OPH beds in HMIS to increase coverage rate to 85% or higher.
- Implementation: In early spring 2024, the CoC added 338 Mankato/Blue Earth County EDA beds in the Mainstream Voucher, Emergency Housing Voucher, and Stability Voucher programs in HMIS, which will be reflected in the next Housing Inventory report. Barring other changes in inventory, this change will bring the CoC bed coverage for OPH to 97%.

2A-6.	Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX 2.0.
	NOFO Section V.B.3.d.
	You must upload your CoC's FY 2024 HDX Competition Report to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Did your CoC submit at least two usable LSA data files to HUD in HDX 2.0 by January 24, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST?	Yes
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## 2B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>2B-1.</b>	<b>PIT Count Date.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2024 PIT count.	01/24/2024
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<b>2B-2.</b>	<b>PIT Count Data–HDX Submission Date.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 PIT count data in HDX.	05/10/2024
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<b>2B-3.</b>	<b>PIT Count–Effectively Counting Youth in Your CoC’s Most Recent Unsheltered PIT Count.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.b.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | engaged unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations in your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process;   |
| 2. | worked with unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations to select locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified during your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process; and |
| 3. | included youth experiencing homelessness as counters during your CoC’s most recent unsheltered PIT count.   |

**(limit 2,500 characters)**



1. PIT Count planning is led by the CoC’s Data & Technical Assistance Committee, with help from the Youth Committee. The planning occurred during multiple county-level and youth-specific meetings in late 2023 and was consolidated at the CoC level in January 2024. Youth-serving organizations participated in county-level homeless response team meetings across the 20-county area. Programs included homeless youth service programs, McKinney Vento liaisons and other school staff, Alternative Learning Centers, YMCAs, and libraries. Youth were engaged through existing local youth councils, outreach sites, and trusted school staff to guide survey procedures, incentives, and training. Youth also took on leadership roles in planning a youth/student focused resource fair where PIT surveys could be conducted.

2. Using the same types of meetings listed in #1, locations for the count were selected with guidance from youth and youth-serving programs, with priority for locations where youth feel safe and welcome to gather, both for in-school and out-of-school youth. Access to technology, food, personal supplies, and safe hangout space were identified by youth and programs as key considerations. Other locations for outreach were identified with the help of youth, including parks and certain stores/shopping areas. The CoC also partnered directly with youth-serving agencies that participate in Coordinated Entry; together, they conducted targeted outreach to youth known to be experiencing homelessness but who were not counted in another location.

3. Youth experiencing homelessness were not counters in the most recent count. They had more pressing issues of work, school, and figuring out housing arrangements. Other youth not currently experiencing homelessness volunteered as guides for the youth/student resource fair event, while school counselors and others conducted PIT surveys.

2B-4.	PIT Count–Methodology Change–CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.a and V.B.7.c.	

In the field below:	
1.	describe any changes your CoC made to your sheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;
2.	describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;
3.	describe whether your CoC’s PIT count was affected by people displaced either from a natural disaster or seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance who recently arrived in your CoCs’ geographic; and
4.	describe how the changes affected your CoC’s PIT count results; or
5.	state “Not Applicable” if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2024.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC did not make substantive changes to methodology or data quality for the shelter count between 2023 and 2024 counts.
2. The CoC did not make substantive changes to methodology or data quality for the unsheltered count between 2023 and 2024 counts.
3. The CoC PIT count was not affected by disaster or displacement.
4. No changes were made, so changes in results were due to external factors.
5. Not applicable.

## 2C. System Performance

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>2C-1.</b>	<b>Reducing the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe how your CoC determined the risk factors to identify persons experiencing homelessness for the first time;	
	2. describe your CoC’s strategies to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC has used the Minnesota Prevention Assessment Tool (MPAT) from TA-provider Abt Associates and client survey results to identify risk factors for experiencing first-time homelessness. Risk factors identified with the tool and client survey include current housing status (e.g. being doubled-up), criminal history, adverse childhood experiences, domestic violence or other major household trauma, recent discharge from an institution, low income, and previous evictions. Discrimination based on race/ethnicity, sexual orientation or gender identity, and familial status are also contributing factors. The most significant risk factor across all households is current housing status, while specific barriers to housing such as history of institutionalization affect certain portions of the population. Low income alone is not a strong predictor of experiencing homelessness.

2. The CoC strategy to prevent homelessness for individuals and families, even as they experience unstable situations, includes: a) Increased support and options for people exiting institutional settings. County-based Housing Resource Coordinators assist persons in mental health treatment and other group settings to prevent exits to homelessness, and PATH and State Corrections staff prevent exits to homelessness from institutional settings. The CoC also added a housing program with 30 units specifically to serve persons with mental illness after exit from care facilities to stabilize housing and maintain health. b) Housing Problem Solving (Diversion) as a first step at Coordinated Entry (CE) access site. Before full CE assessment, staff counsel individuals and families to identify options to resolve emerging crises. Partnerships with Legal Aid, County Human Services, and nonprofits using State funded Family Homelessness Prevention & Assistance Program funds have expanded Housing Problem Solving to serve over 1,000 more households this year. c) Expanding use of new state resources for counties (Local Prevention Aid). LPA provides flexible funding that can be targeted based on local needs and risk factors. The CoC uses LPA in some counties in partnership with schools, and the CoC is engaging counties throughout the region to target and utilize the flexible funds based on their needs and risk factors.

3. The CoC’s Coordinated Entry Committee Chair is responsible to oversee strategy and outcomes for reducing first time homelessness, with support from the CoC Director.

2C-1a.	Impact of Displaced Persons on Number of First Time Homeless.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b	

Was your CoC’s Number of First Time Homeless [metric 5.2] affected by the number of persons seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance displaced due to:

1.	natural disasters?	No
2.	having recently arrived in your CoC’s geographic area?	No

2C-2.	Reducing Length of Time Homeless—CoC’s Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.c.	

In the field below:

1.	describe your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;
2.	describe how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC strategy to reduce length of time homeless includes increased prevention/assistance services, targeted Coordinated Entry (CE) Navigation and case conferencing, and additional housing openings in the region. The CoC funds Housing Problem Solving through many sources to make the service available at CE access sites and shelters throughout the region. Housing Problem Solving uses strengths-based assessment, advocacy, and support to connect people directly with other housing options to rapidly enter housing rather than waiting for an opening via CE. In the first year of Housing Problem Solving (HPS), over half of households avoided assessment into CE and shelter stays, and instead accessed other housing. Less than 5% of HPS assisted households returned. For households needing more than HPS, the CoC prioritizes individuals in CE with long periods of homelessness and severe service needs for immediate referral to housing openings. The CoC also uses case conferencing to help CE providers and other community partners work together to help individuals and families access housing quickly. CE Housing Navigators and case managers also now play a critical role in connecting or reconnecting with individuals with long histories of unsheltered homelessness, building trust, and collecting documents to prove housing eligibility. The CoC also works to expand other housing options by meeting with landlords, supporting community-level landlord mitigation programs, and engaging with more PHAs to use their preferences and partnerships with local service providers to expand access to households experiencing homelessness.

2. Households with the longest length of time homeless are identified via CE assessment and referred to the first available permanent housing opportunity. The CE assessment addresses literal homelessness and doubled up situations to ensure that an individual's experience of homelessness and housing instability may be considered under several funding programs. For individuals who resist or distrust CE (and who may not be included in CE lists for referral), outreach workers, Day Center staff or supportive law enforcement partners engage at least weekly. These individuals are acknowledged in CE case conferencing so that connection to housing can be made as soon as individuals are ready.

3. The CoC's Coordinated Entry Committee Chair is responsible to oversee strategy and outcomes for reducing time homeless, with the support from the CoC Director.

2C-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention –CoC's Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.d.	

In the field below:

1.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
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2.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. CoC strategies to increase exits to permanent housing from temporary locations are to increase a) services devoted to developing viable pathways to permanent housing (PH) and b) housing options available for people when they exit. Because exits to non-permanent locations are rare in TH and RRH, the CoC strategy focuses on ES. In ES, exits to homelessness most often occur after short stays at shelters with limited services. In these cases, households often do not have time or support to identify viable paths to stable housing. In response, the CoC is to expand Housing Problem Solving services, add housing navigators/case managers and Day Center medical services, and expand use of Medicaid Housing Stabilization Services. Integrating Medicaid HSS assists with finding, securing, and maintaining housing. The CoC is also increasing supportive and affordable rental housing units in key markets with HUD vouchers, MN Housing Support and Local Homelessness Aid, CoCBuilds, Low Income Housing Tax Credits, CDBG, and other resources. At least 100 new units or vouchers are in the pipeline.

2. To prevent exits to homelessness from PH, CoC strategies are to a) maximize prevention resources, b) increase housing options at exit, and c) train staff on Housing First and Harm Reduction. For prevention, the CoC has doubled State funding to nonprofits and counties to offer direct assistance with deposits and other upfront costs of moving. To increase housing options, the CoC has doubled Move On vouchers available for participants leaving PSH/RRH and have long-term affordability needs. Medicaid HSS and new State rental assistance are also expanding to help eligible participants transition and maintain housing stability after exit from PSH/RRH. The CoC also encourages use of Beyond Backgrounds, a statewide program providing financial backstop for landlords renting to people with poor credit or rental history, or previous justice involvement. In training, the CoC has adopted a new training plan to deliver more targeted Housing First and Harm Reduction training, as well as requirements for training at staff turnover. With rapid staff turnover in the past two years, the need for training has expanded significantly.

3. The CoC's Project Performance & Review Committee Chair is responsible to oversee strategy and outcomes for increasing retention of or exits to permanent housing, with support from the CoC Director.

2C-4.	Reducing Returns to Homelessness—CoC's Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.e.	

In the field below:

1.	describe your CoC's strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2.	describe your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate that individuals and families return to homelessness; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC regularly reviews a standard Returns to Homelessness report in HMIS, along with client demographic reports and provider input (case conferencing) to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness. For households identified within six months of exit from PH, the previous project serving the household is responsible to follow up. After six months, a Coordinated Entry Navigator reaches out to reconnect. While returns to homelessness from short-term shelter and TH remained about the same in the past year, the CoC has seen an increase in returns to homelessness after exit from PH as rapid rent increases occur.

2. CoC strategy to reduce returns to homelessness is different for Emergency Shelter (ES) and PH. a) In exits from ES, returns often occur after short stays at shelters with limited service capacity in communities with very tight rental markets. In these cases, households often do not have time or support to identify viable paths to stable housing. To connect households experiencing homelessness with critical stability resources, the CoC is expanding Housing Problem Solving services through state and Medicaid Housing Stabilization Services. The CoC is also increasing the number of supportive and affordable rental housing units in key markets, using HUD CoC, Stability Vouchers, County ARPA funds, CoCBuils, Low Income Housing Tax Credits, HOME, and other resources as available. At least 100 new units or vouchers are in the pipeline from these sources. b) In returns after exit from PH programs, the greatest risk for household returns is unstable income as rents rise rapidly. To respond, the CoC has doubled the number of Move On vouchers available for participants leaving PSH or RRH, but who have long-term affordability needs. Medicaid Housing Stability Services is also now employed to help eligible participants transition and maintain housing stability after exit from RRH or PSH. In training, the CoC has adopted a new training plan to deliver more targeted Housing First and Harm Reduction training, as well as requirements for training at staff turnover. With rapid staff turnover in the past two years, the need for training has expanded significantly.

3. The CoC’s Project Performance & Review Committee Chair is responsible to oversee strategy and outcomes for decreasing returns to homelessness, with support from the CoC Director.

2C-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–CoC’s Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	

In the field below:

1.	describe your CoC’s strategy to access employment cash sources;
2.	describe how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their employment cash income; and
3.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to increase income from employment.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. CoC strategy to access employment cash sources includes three activities: a) Promoting job resources to ensure that staff and participants know about employment opportunities in their areas. Resources promoted include reputable job boards catering to persons with lived experience of homelessness or with previous justice involvement, short-term or on-the-job training for in-demand jobs, and job fairs and hiring events. The CoC also invites employers to share opportunities, participate in Project Community Connects events, and consider partnering with homeless programs to fill open jobs. The CoC provides template partnership documents between programs and local employment organizations to assist in formalizing agreements. b) Staff retraining/TA is vital due to the rapid staff turnover occurring in the region. Training and TA focuses on helping staff conduct effective assessments with participants to support employment, know employment resources in Minnesota and locally, work toward CoC expectations for increasing income, and record income updates correctly in HMIS. c) Policy and procedures: CoC Coordinated Entry assessments are updated to address employment, education, and literacy, so that many pathways to higher participant income are explored.

2. The CoC works with mainstream employment organizations in a few key ways: a) The CoC partners with State and local workforce development programs to cross train housing providers and workforce development staff. The training helps frontline workforce center staff across the state to better support people experiencing homelessness by connecting with homeless program staff to support participants' employment goals. It also connects homeless program staff to workforce training partners and encourages intentional partnership to support each participant. b) The CoC uses benefits specialists with the MN Department of Rehabilitation Services to guide participants with disabilities on work or income incentives that exist within SSI/SSDI and other programs that allow people with disabilities to keep benefits, increase income, and save for the future. c) CoC participates on "emerging workforce" board to align training and access to employment with the needs of CoC program participants.

3. The CoC's Data & TA Committee Chair is responsible to oversee strategy, outcomes, and training/TA for increasing employment cash income, with support from the CoC Director.

2C-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income—CoC's Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe your CoC's strategy to access non-employment cash income; and	
	2. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. To increase access to non-employment cash income, the CoC uses a multipronged approach. a) Staff training: Training on mainstream benefits is offered at least annually by the CoC, and other opportunities for training and support are shared broadly with providers. Because about two-thirds of adults in Coordinated Entry identify as having a disabling condition, access to disability benefits is especially emphasized in the training. Key resources for training are Minnesota’s Disability Benefits 101 and Housing Benefits 101. b) Policy and procedures: The CoC requires all CoC programs to screen participants for mainstream benefits, including nonemployment cash income like SSI/SSDI, TANF, and State benefits. Procedures were recently updated to integrate income and benefits assessment into Housing Problem Solving (Diversion/Prevention), Coordinated Entry, and Housing Program annual assessments. TANF for families and General Assistance for individuals are now well utilized and increase incomes by \$200-1000/month depending on household size. c) Program expansion: The CoC has increased use of a State-funded program called Housing Support by nearly 50% in the past 5 years, which provides housing and services support for individuals with disabilities in supportive housing. An additional 40-50 more Housing Support units are currently in planning and development to advance CoC goals. d) Partnerships: The CoC has new working relationships with the local Social Security office to provide vulnerable populations applications at PSH sites and support from staff to submit applications for SSI/SSDI. Partnerships with libraries and schools have placed kiosks for cash and non-cash benefits applications in accessible locations outside of county service buildings. Participants can now access and update their MN Benefits applications securely and receive support if needed to access non-employment cash benefits.

2. The CoC’s Data & TA Committee Chair is responsible to oversee strategy, outcomes, and training/TA for increasing non-employment cash income, with support from the CoC Director.



### 3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>3A-1.</b>	<b>New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Housing Resources.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.a.	
	You must upload the Housing Leveraging Commitment attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses housing subsidies or subsidized housing units which are not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	No
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<b>3A-2.</b>	<b>New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Healthcare Resources.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.b.	
	You must upload the Healthcare Formal Agreements attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	Yes
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<b>3A-3.</b>	<b>Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.</b>	
	NOFO Sections V.B.6.a. and V.B.6.b.	

If you selected yes to questions 3A-1. or 3A-2., use the list feature icon to enter information about each project application you intend for HUD to evaluate to determine if they meet the criteria.

Project Name	Project Type	Rank Number	Leverage Type
The Francis Expan...	PH-PSH	10	Healthcare

### 3A-3. List of Projects.

1. What is the name of the new project? The Francis Expansion

2. Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

3. Select the new project type: PH-PSH

4. Enter the rank number of the project on your CoC's Priority Listing: 10

5. Select the type of leverage: Healthcare

### 3B. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project application requesting \$200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction?	No
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3B-2.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below actions CoC Program-funded project applicants will take to comply with:

1.	Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u); and
2.	HUD’s implementing rules at 24 CFR part 75 to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very-low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very-low-income persons.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

Not applicable.

### 3C. Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3C-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serve Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?	No
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3C-2.	Cost Effectiveness of Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

If you answered yes to question 3C-1, describe in the field below:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and |
| 2. | how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.   |

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

Not applicable.