CT Balance of State (CT BOS) Continuum of Care (CoC) Steering Committee Meeting

August 16, 2024

Agenda

- Welcome and Chairs Introductions
- Group Agreements for meetings
- Adopt July Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
- Announcements
- CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- CoC Builds Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Partner Announcements
- Other Business

CT BOS Group Agreements for Meetings

Developed by Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP)

- Be present and listen actively
- Choose courage over comfort
- Participate to the fullest of your ability
- Take space, make space
- Assume good intent, but also acknowledge impact
- Challenge ideas, not people
- Use "I" statements
- Recognize emotional tax, extra labor, and burden that Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Latino/a/x, LGBTQ+, persons with Behavioral Health issues, DV survivors, Veterans and people with lived expertise/experience of homelessness face in some conversations
- Honor the Conflicts of Interest Policy

Reminders

- Input is welcome!

- Please unmute or use chat.

- To provide anonymous input, please send a message to a member of the CT BOS support team:

  - Liz Isaacs
  - Lauren Pareti

Approve CT BOS July 2024 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

[CT BOS July 2024 SC Minutes](#)

Announcements

Point-in-time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness
Tuesday, January 28, 2025

2024 State of CT Annual Point-in-time Count of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

2024 CT PIT Report

Welcome New CT BOS Youth Representatives!

Jayse Frost Payton

Cami Mae-Lynn Hawkins

Reminder: Post Steering Committee Debrief

- Anyone who has questions or comments about Steering Committee business can stay on at the end of the monthly zoom meeting.

- As always, questions/comments can also be sent CTBOSCoC@gmail.com or call a team member any time!

Contact Sonya Jelks, CT DOH to join a group: Sonya.Jelks@ct.gov

CT Interagency Council on Homelessness Workgroup Information

- Homeless System Operations Workgroup
- Prevention/Crisis Interventions Workgroup
- Workforce Development and Homeless System Funding Workgroup
- Diversified Housing Blueprints
- Homeless System Hubs Workgroup
- PWLE Housing Advocate
- HMIS Reboot Workgroup

CCEH Updates on Civic Roundtable

CoC Eligible Expenses: Transportation

Eligible costs on the **Supportive Services budget line item (BLI)**:

- Participants' travel on public transportation or in a provider's vehicle for case management and other eligible supportive services activities

- Purchasing or leasing a vehicle in which staff transports participants and/or staff serving participants;
  - Includes gas, insurance, taxes, and maintenance for the vehicle

- If public transportation in area is not sufficient, one-time payment for car repairs or maintenance required to operate a participant's personal vehicle (limits apply)

- Mileage allowance for staff to visit participants and inspect units

- Costs for staff to accompany/assist participants to use public transportation

How can we pay for furniture?

◦ Furniture for participant units is eligible under the Operating Budget Line Item (BLI).

◦ In this NOFO, can shift up to 10% of a BLI item to another BLI (For example, support services to operating)

◦ Rental Assistance Projects cannot have an Operating BLI.

How can we pay for household supplies?

- Supplies used to maintain/repair housing units are **Operating** costs.
  - If necessary to assist participant to obtain/maintain housing and function independently in the community, costs of teaching life skills are Supportive Services expenses (life skills training)
  - E.g., kitchen wares, linens & cleaning supplies necessary to teach household management and nutrition skills.

- Costs of activities to engage participants for the purpose of providing immediate support and identifying potential participants are eligible **Supportive Service** expenses (outreach)
  - includes addressing "urgent physical needs" such as providing blankets, clothes and toiletries.

Making Changes to Renewal Evaluation Standards

- CoC adopted revised performance standards for renewing PSH, RRH, TH and Joint TH-RRH for 2025 evaluation

- Rollout will require extensive database (RED) testing to ensure accuracy.

- HUD released 2 NOFOs at the same time.
  - Increased risk for renewal funding in 2024.
  - Focus on the Competitions is critical to increase chances of all renewals continuing to receive funding and of securing funding for new projects.

- Rollout of changes tabled for next year when the CoC competition will require fewer resources.

2024 CoC Program NOFO Highlights

CT BOS must submit an application to HUD for existing projects to renew and for new funds – must compete with other CoCs.

Estimated Maximum funding available for CT BOS*:

- Tier 1: $48,355,371 (90% of Annual Renewal Demand)

- Tier 2: $15,008,998
  - $5,372,819 (10% of Annual Renewal Demand)
  - CoC Bonus (new funds): $6,876,029
  - Domestic Violence Bonus (new funds): $2,760,150

- YHDP Renewals: $3,572,048

- Planning Grant: $1,500,000 – not Ranked in any Tier

TOTAL: Approximately $68.4 Million -* Info above is estimated - final info from HUD pending

IT'S COMPETITION TIME!

What's the Same?

Project applications very similar to 2023.

Scoring and CoC Application questions very similar to 2023:

- System Performance (30% of Score)

- Coordination with & Engagement of Diverse Stakeholders (42% of Score)
  - *Includes involving PLEH, advancing race equity, meeting the needs of LGBTQ+ population, use of Housing First*

- Evaluating and Ranking Projects (14% of score)

- HMIS & Point in Time Count (7% of Score)

- Housing & Healthcare Leveraging (7% of Score)

What's New?
More $$, Potential for More New Projects + More Risk

- Supportive Services and HMIS Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLA)!!!!
  - Applied by HUD post application to SS and HMIS budget line items
  - Estimated at 4.8% of the current budget lines
  - Requires additional match
- All YHDP grants will be renewed non-competitively.
- CoC Bonus amount is 12% of final pro rata need (7% last year)
  - Enough to fund all new projects that passed threshold review with $ to spare
- DV Bonus Project amount is 15% of preliminary pro rata need
  - 10% last year
  - Can apply for more money for new DV Bonus projects
- Tier 1 decreased from 93% to 90% - more renewal funds at risk
  - Level of risk depends on CoC Application score
  - BOS 2023 Application Score was 175.5 (highest score was 185.5 & median was 151.5)
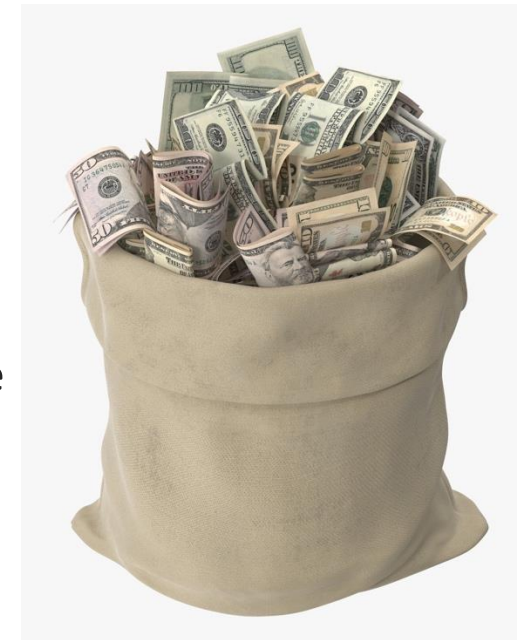
What's New? Two Year NOFO

- New and renewal projects still apply for a one-year term.

- Grants renewed in 2024 will automatically renew without a project application in 2025.

- SNOFO projects and new projects awarded in 2024 will submit project applications in 2025.

- HUD will apply FMR adjustments.

- No CoC Application in 2025 so 2024 score is even more important!

- If Congress allocates sufficient funding for new projects, there may be a new project competition – will use 2024 CoC application score.

What's New? CoC Application Changes

Points for CoC applications:

- ✓ Increase in rate of exits from street outreach to positive destinations
- ✓ Steps to improve fidelity to the Housing First model
- ✓ Increased use of social services in lieu of law enforcement for unsheltered
- ✓ Preventing homelessness for people leaving public systems
- ✓ How CoC collaborated with underserved communities to design or operate programs that equitably benefit them and addressed their needs
- ✓ How the CoC successfully advanced racial equity
- ✓ How homeless information is communicated and addressed in the Con Plans

Renewal Application Deadlines – eSnaps Open

Applications due in Zengine by: 8/21/24

- Renewal Application Webinar: 8/15

  - Renewal Application Webinar Slides

  - Renewal Application Webinar Recording

- Renewal Application Office Hours: 8/20 – 11am-12pm

  Zoom Link; Meeting ID: 862 3330 3697; Passcode: 071634

- Export the app, including attachments, to PDF in esnaps and submit in Zengine Zengine Document Submission Instructions. Do not submit the application in esnaps.

- Housing Innovations will provide feedback and instructions on when to submit in esnaps.

New Projects Application Timeline

- Providers will be notified by the end of August if application has been accepted to submit to HUD.

- Providers will have 2 weeks to complete initial draft.

- Housing Innovations will hold office hours & provide technical assistance – date TBA.

- Export the application with attachments to PDF in esnaps and submit in Zengine

- Housing Innovations will provide feedback and instructions on when to submit in esnaps.

Proposed 2024 Ranking & COLA Policy

Discussion Today, Vote by Survey Monkey

Ranking and Tiering Background

- HUD requires CoCs to rank projects based on project performance on system performance measures and local priorities.

- HUD sets the amount of funding that CoCs can put in each of two "Tiers".

  - Projects in **Tier 1** ($ 48,355,371) are ensured funding assuming HUD requirements met.
    - 90% of the money needed to fund existing renewal projects is in Tier 1.

  - **Tier 2:** Projects in Tier 2 ($ 15,008,998) are scored on 100-point basis and compete nationally – funded in order of project scores until all CoC funds exhausted

    - Projects ranked higher in Tier 2 are more likely to get funded

Ranking and Tiering Background - 2

- In 2024, HUD will renew YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Projects) "non-competitively" meaning CoCs won't rank YHDP projects

- CoC Planning grant applications are not ranked

- Historically, the CoC has ranked projects using a combination of
  - *performance evaluation scores*
  - *new project application scores*
  - *model type and*
  - *best mathematical approach to increase score in Tier 2 and maximize funds received*

Prior Ranking Strategies

- Renewal projects have been ranked above new projects in order of evaluation score
  - Prevents housing loss for people living in existing projects
  - CT BOS works with renewals to correct performance issues.
  - Renewals with repeated, long-standing performance issues are reallocated.
  - Renewal projects that have not been evaluated have been ranked below scored projects, but before new projects.
- Coordinated Entry and HMIS placed in Tier 1 to ensure funding.
  o These are system-wide services that are required by HUD.
- New projects have been ranked in Tier 2.
- *Projects at greatest risk of not being funded are new – reduces housing risks for existing participants.*

Established Principles for New Projects

UNCHANGED FROM 2023 SEE PROPOSED POLICY DETAILS.

RA ADMINISTRATOR, SERVICES CAP, OBJECTIVITY/EQUITY

Related Decisions Made by the Steering Committee in 2024

- Set-aside funding for enhanced services in existing CoC-funded PSH and RRH with a preference for proposals for services in PSH projects with no designated services funding.
- Set-aside funding for projects targeting people aged 60 and older.
- Preference for projects that qualify for HUD Housing Leverage points
  - At least 25% of the units designated to serve people experiencing homelessness are subsidized by a source other than CoC or ESG
- CoC Competition funds may be used to support Coordinated Entry if funding is available.

Proposed 2024 Ranking Order

1. **Renewal** PSH, RRH and Joint TH-RRH Projects that have been evaluated in order of 2024 score. Projects with identical scores ranked based on budget from largest to smallest.
2. **Renewal** HMIS and Coordinated Entry projects will be ranked at the bottom of Tier 1 to ensure continued funding.
3. The remaining evaluated **Renewal** Projects will be ranked at the top of Tier 2 in order of evaluation score.
4. **Renewal** Projects that have not been evaluated will follow in an order that considers the maximum advantage on HUD's relative need scoring factor.

Proposed 2024 Ranking Order (2)

Proposed General Ranking Order (con't)

5. **Expansion** applications for existing PSH projects with no services funding applying for services funds.

   ◦ The ranking will start with those projects serving people 60 and older and follow in order of application score.

6. **Expansion** applications for existing PSH and RRH with services funds below $5,000 per household applying for services funds to reach the $9000 cap.

   ◦ The ranking will start with those projects for people 60 and older and follow in order of application score.

7. **New** Coordinated Entry projects.

8. **New** PSH projects starting with those projects for people 60 and older and then in order of application score.

Proposed 2024 Ranking Order (3)

Proposed General Ranking Order (con't)

9. **New** RRH projects in order of application score.

10. **DV Bonus** projects ranked in an order based on the project application score followed by unscored DV Bonus Projects (submitted subsequent to the scoring process in order to ensure that CT BOS applies for as much DV Bonus funding as possible). DV Bonus Projects will be funded regardless of ranking if selected by HUD in the DV Bonus competition

11. If applications don't fully expend the available CoC or DV Bonus funds, final budgets will be increased based on need across CANs using the BNL or other similar equitable standard and provider capacity.

12. If the CoC bonus allocation decreases the amount of funds for new projects below current projections, final budgets will be reduced based on need across CANS using the BNL or other similar equitable standard.
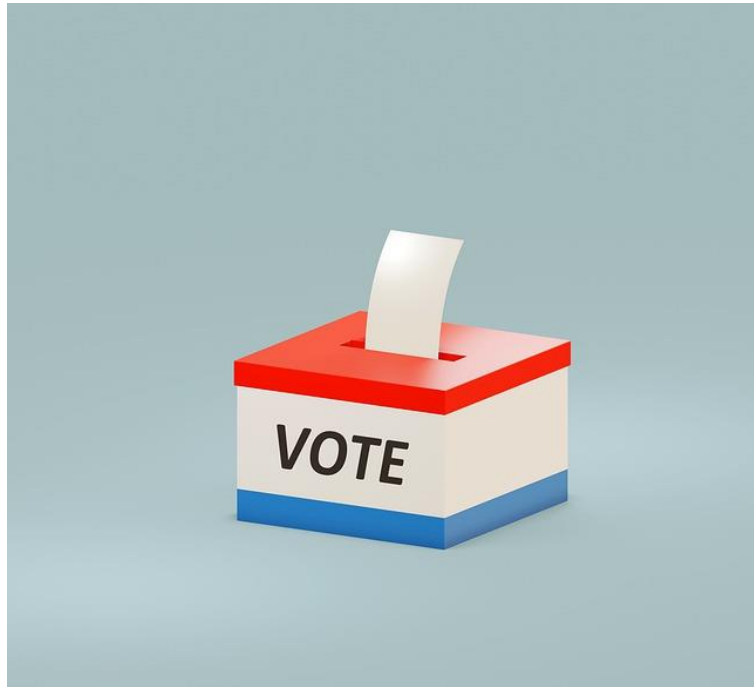
Proposed COLA Policy

- HUD will apply a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

- Estimated at 4.8% for renewal project budgets on the HMIS and Supportive Services Budget Line Items (BLI's).

- ***Proposal: CT BOS will apply a COLA adjustment to new project budgets and raise the Supportive Services budget cap from $9000 per household to $9500.***

Vote on Proposed 2024 Ranking & COLA Policy

- This is a vote limited to Steering Committee members who do not have a conflict of interest (see next slide)
- Vote by Survey Monkey - due 8/23/24
- Met with Community Reps yesterday. Can convene another discussion next week if requested.

Vote on Ranking Policy: Non-conflicted SC Members

- Community Reps: Melissa Dzierlatka, Tania Banks, Aleena Durant, Sonia Soto, Heather Craven, Theresa Miles, Jayse Frost Payton, CT Department of Labor: Robert Bongiolatti or Heriberto Cajigas
- CT Department of Social Services: Cassandra Norfleet-Johnson or Theresa Rivera
- CT Department of Education: Louis Tallerita
- CT Department of Correction: Joy Zavarella

- CT Department of Children and Families: Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez or William Seals
- CT Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division: Michael Aiello or Michael Labianca
- United Way/211: Annette Buckley or Ronette Daniels
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Maureen Pasko or Jen Moriarty
- Partnership for Strong Communities: Danielle Hubley or Carline Charmelus

CoC Builds Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Letters Of Interest Due 8/19/24

- **Permanent Supportive Housing Only:**
  - Must include new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation budget line items
  - No more than 20% of awards can be spent on non-capital budget lines, which may be eligible for renewal (project-based rental assistance, supportive services, operating, project admin)

- **VERY COMPETITIVE:** Total funding is $175 million nationally, HUD expects to make 25 awards ($65M reserved for small states, 3 awards reserved for Tribes)

  - BOS can request one project - up to $10M (minimum application amount: $1M)

- Must Submit a Letter of Interest to ctboscoc@gmail.com to apply - LOI Instructions

- Project selected responsible for completing all application materials in October 2024. CT BOS will review and provide feedback prior to submission to HUD.
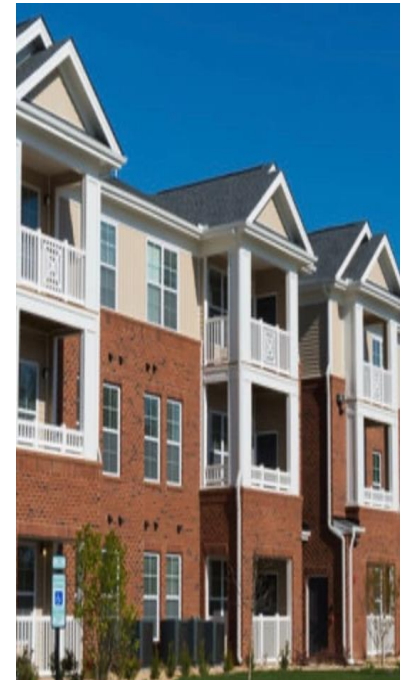
Partner Announcements

Other Business?

Upcoming BOS SC Meetings

Meetings held from 11-12:30

- September 20, 2024
- October 18, 2024
- November 15, 2024
- December 20, 2024
- January 17, 2025
- February 21, 2025
- March 21, 2025
- April 11, 2025
- May 16, 2025
- June 20, 2025

Zoom Info for all SC meetings:

- Meeting link
- Meeting ID: 956 4487 8479
- Password: 414595
- Call-in number: 646-876-9923

CT BOS Team (Housing Innovations)

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