



HUD Continuum of Care Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness

Lowcountry CoC Request for Applications

Background

The Lowcountry Continuum of Care (CoC) plans, develops, and implements comprehensive and coordinated strategies to address homelessness in Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, and Jasper Counties. The Lowcountry CoC is governed by a Governing Council comprised of individuals representing our Continuum's diverse geography and homeless services focus. Various members of this Council, excluding members representing HUD CoC-funded agencies, make up the Project Selection Committee, the committee responsible for reviewing and selecting applications to be submitted as part of the community's Collaborative Application to HUD.

On June 22, 2022, HUD released a first-of-its-kind package of resources to address unsheltered homelessness and homeless encampments, including funds set aside specifically to address homelessness in rural communities. Through the Supplemental Notice of Funding Availability to Address Unsheltered Homeless and Rural Homelessness (Special NOFO), HUD will award funding to communities to implement coordinated approaches -- grounded in Housing First and public health principles -- to reduce the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness, and improve services, health outcomes, and housing stability among highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families. HUD expects applicant communities to partner with health and housing agencies to leverage mainstream housing and healthcare resources.

Overview

The \$322 million available under this NOFO will enhance communities' capacity to address unsheltered homelessness by connecting vulnerable individuals and families to housing, healthcare, and supportive services.

CoCs can submit projects for two funding opportunities through this Special NOFO:

(1) Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside and (2) Rural Set Aside. CoCs may apply for projects under one or both funding opportunities as follows:

- a. *Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside.* Projects included in this funding opportunity may serve any geographic area within the CoC and must meet all eligibility and quality threshold requirements established in this Special NOFO. The initial grant term for projects awarded under this Set-Aside is 3 years.
- b. *Rural Set Aside.* Projects included in this funding opportunity must serve geographic areas that meet the definition of "rural area" as defined in Section III.C.2.k of the NOFO and meet all eligibility and quality threshold requirements established in this Special NOFO. The initial grant term for projects awarded under this Set-Aside is 3 to 5 years.

Available Funding

CoC Number and Name	Maximum Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside Amount	Maximum Rural Homelessness Set Aside Amount	Maximum CoC Planning Grant Amount
SC-500 Charleston/Low Country CoC (Lowcountry Continuum of Care) <i>*The available amounts are for the full 3-year grant term for Unsheltered and 3- or 5-year grant term for Rural.</i>	\$3,431,192	\$267,377	\$102,935

Project Review and Ranking

Project Applications submitted to the CoC for inclusion on the FY22 CoC Priority Listing as part of the CoC Consolidated Application must be reviewed and either approved and ranked or rejected by the CoC. All project applications approved by the CoC must be listed on the CoC Priority Listing in rank order, including the CoC Planning Grant.

Project Applications must clearly detail how the proposed project will support the CoC's Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs. To ensure a comprehensive and coordinated community effort to address unsheltered and rural homelessness and HUD's Policy Priorities, the Lowcountry CoC will score and rank higher projects and organizations that:

- Demonstrate the ability to locate and engage those living in unsheltered locations in rural communities and connect them to resources in areas that lack services and infrastructure (for organizations applying under the Rural Set-Aside).
- Demonstrate the ability to locate and engage homeless people with the highest barriers, including those living in encampments, and connecting them with health and housing resources.
- Have established relationships with healthcare providers.
- Demonstrate a commitment to advancing equity through identifying and addressing the needs of subpopulations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness.
- Utilize evidenced-based approaches to providing supportive services to those with the highest needs, including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness.
- Correctly implement a Housing First Approach and demonstrate how the project will maintain fidelity to the evidence-based model.
- Incorporate the viewpoints of those with lived expertise of homelessness in program design, implementation, and operation, preferably through paid employment.
- Work collaboratively and do not duplicate services within a single geography.
- Have a plan to accurately collect and report data. All organizations currently using HMIS must be in good standing with the Lowcountry CoC's HMIS Committee.
- Demonstrate the ability to build and sustain relationships with landlords and property owners and leverage non-CoC or ESG-funded housing resources.

The Lowcountry CoC's Rating and Ranking Tool is available at <https://lowcountrycoc.org/>.

Application Process

1. Carefully read the Special NOFO released by HUD (General and Program sections). The HUD NOFA and related guidance can be accessed here:
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO
2. Prepare and submit a Project Application for each project in e-snaps. Applicants should review the NOFO for eligible project types and eligible expenses and ensure their e-snaps submission responds to the Rating Factors for New Project Types as outlined in the NOFO.

Instructions on how to register for e-snaps and set up the required applicant profile can be found here: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/#general-resources>.

- a. There are several steps to this process.
 - i. Register for e-snaps and create an applicant profile if you are not an existing user,
 - ii. Register for the funding opportunity,
 - iii. Create a project, and
 - iv. Complete the submission.

Do NOT wait until the last minute to begin this process. Please note that all Project Applicants must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and active SAM Registration. This process may take several weeks to complete.

3. Export and save the project application to a PDF file. Please follow all directions in e-snaps.
4. Email the PDF of the Project Application to hcarver@lowcountrycoc.org by **September 16th at 5:00 PM**. Organizations who have not been a recipient of HUD CoC funding within the past three years must submit the following additional information, along with the PDF of the Project Application, as outlined above.
 - a. Application Supplement, available at <https://lowcountrycoc.org/>
 - b. Current list of board of directors with affiliations
 - c. Most recent audit
 - d. Most recent Form 990
 - e. Proof of current SAM.gov registration
 - f. Project Policy and Procedures/Operational Manual

If any of the above documents are listed on your website, you may submit a link to the appropriate page on your site.

No late applications will be accepted. If you have difficulty with e-snaps, please contact Heather Carver immediately at hcarver@lowcountrycoc.org

Important Notes

The Lowcountry CoC reserves the right to request additional information from project applicants during the application and review process. The Project Selection Committee will determine if any additional information is necessary. All grants are subject to the scrutiny outlined in the Special NOFO which includes being put through the Ranking and Scoring process. Final decisions regarding awards will be made by HUD via the national competition.