

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

Instructions:

Guidance for completing the application can be found in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability and in the FY 2019 CoC Application Detailed Instructions.

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1A-1. CoC Name and Number: MN-508 - Moorhead/West Central Minnesota CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Housing & Redevelopment Authority of Clay County

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

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

1B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Engagement

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1B-1. CoC Meeting Participants.

For the period of May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019, applicants must indicate whether the Organization/Person listed:

- 1. participated in CoC meetings;**
- 2. voted, including selecting CoC Board members; and**
- 3. participated in the CoC’s coordinated entry system.**

| Organization/Person | Participates in CoC Meetings | Votes, including selecting CoC Board Members | Participates in Coordinated Entry System |
|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| Local Government Staff/Officials | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Law Enforcement | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Local Jail(s) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Hospital(s) | Yes | No | Yes |
| EMS/Crisis Response Team(s) | Yes | No | Yes |
| Mental Health Service Organizations | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Substance Abuse Service Organizations | Yes | No | Yes |
| Affordable Housing Developer(s) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Disability Service Organizations | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Disability Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Public Housing Authorities | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations | Yes | Yes | Yes |

| | | | |
|--|----------------|-----|-----|
| Youth Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons | Yes | No | Yes |
| CoC Funded Victim Service Providers | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Non-CoC Funded Victim Service Providers | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Domestic Violence Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Street Outreach Team(s) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| LGBT Service Organizations | Not Applicable | No | No |
| Agencies that serve survivors of human trafficking | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other homeless subpopulation advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Mental Illness Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Substance Abuse Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Other:(limit 50 characters) | | | |
| Legal Services of NW Minnesota | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| White Earth Tribe (WET) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Veterans, Rural Aids Network, Aging Home | Yes | Yes | Yes |

1B-1a. CoC’s Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing/Ending Homelessness.

Applicants must describe how the CoC:

- 1. solicits and considers opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness, or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;**
- 2. communicates information during public meetings or other forums the CoC uses to solicit public information;**
- 3. takes into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness; and**
- 4. ensures effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats, e.g., PDF. (limit 2,000 characters)**

1. The CoC's multi-level engagement strategy assures participation from a broad array of stakeholders including: Homeless to Housed (HTH) Task Force membership (quarterly CoC membership meetings); Board meetings (elected & appointed CoC leadership); Local Homeless Advisory Committees (HACs); Consumer Advisory Boards (CABs are operated by the HACs); CARES Governance (joint Coordinated Entry Board & committees); and adhoc committees/workgroups. In addition to the CABs, lived experience representatives serve on the the CoC Board, HTH and LHACs. In addition, the CoC will invite additional feedback through focus groups, an annual meeting, joint meetings with other partners, and online surveys. The CoC includes our mission, "Coming together to make homelessness rare, brief and one-time" on our meeting invites and agendas, as well as focuses planning and meeting agendas around furthering this mission.

2. The CoC staff attend other public meetings, maintain a website, and utilize

CoC email updates and newsletters to communicate and solicit information to CoC members and other regional stakeholders.

3. Our annual meeting and an annual coordinated entry system survey are the primary sources for gathering broad input from both members and other stakeholders on annual CoC goals and priorities. The CoC structure is also set-up to provide two-way communication to and from local committees and CoC leadership. The CoC also hosted a CDBG forum in June and partnered in a conference in October that provided opportunities for stakeholder input.

4. The CoC membership form asks if meeting accommodations are needed, meetings are held in accessible locations, members can participate in person or via phone or online, and staff have access to interpreter services and to a PDF software to use as needed or upon request. The CoC has also relied upon the MN Dept of Human Services to advocate for a consumer who had a complex disability and needed a special interpreter.

1B-2. Open Invitation for New Members.

Applicants must describe:

- 1. the invitation process;**
 - 2. how the CoC communicates the invitation process to solicit new members;**
 - 3. how the CoC ensures effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;**
 - 4. how often the CoC solicits new members; and**
 - 5. any special outreach the CoC conducted to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join the CoC.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

1. The CoC has a standing open membership invite to individuals, organizations and agencies who support the mission and vision of the CoC, with an application, membership power point and code of conduct on our website. The CoC also conducts an annual membership drive and reviews membership documents annually.

2. The membership information is located on our CoC website, sent to identified potential members, emailed upon request, and distributed (email, handouts at CoC and other meetings) during our annual membership drive.

3. As described above, the membership drive and application include an option to request accommodations, options for staff to respond to requests for accommodations with interpreters and adapted PDF documents. Meetings are held in accessible locations.

4. Our annual membership drive occurs annual in December and January, but members may join at anytime during the year.

5. The CoC has a dedicated seat for a representative with lived experience on the board and HTH, providing a stipend for time and transportation expenses. This seat has an application process and is solicited annually. Additionally, the CoC recently established four local Consumer Advisory Boards (CAB) to further enhance and formalize engagement from persons with lived experience.

1B-3. Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded.

Applicants must describe:

- 1. how the CoC notifies the public that it is accepting project application proposals, and that it is open to and will consider applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding, as well as the method in which proposals should be submitted;**
- 2. the process the CoC uses to determine whether the project application will be included in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition process;**
- 3. the date(s) the CoC publicly announced it was open to proposal;**
- 4. how the CoC ensures effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and**
- 5. if the CoC does not accept proposals from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding or did not announce it was open to proposals from non-CoC Program funded organizations, the applicant must state this fact in the response and provide the reason the CoC does not accept proposals from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding.
(limit 2,000 characters)**

1. The CoC has an open local competition process that is announced on the CoC website, Facebook page, at regional meetings (including HACs) and via CoC mass emails. The notice includes CoC polices, competition timeline with deadlines, and submission instructions. The CoC invites pre-applications and threshold assessments from both renewal and new applications, including those who have never received CoC funding previously. This year one new agency applied and was ranked.

2. The CoC has a formalized Application Packet which includes CoC policies, process overview, ranking criteria, applicant score card, threshold assessment/pre-application, and timeline. Applicants must first successfully complete the threshold assessment/pre-application. Projects passing the threshold assessment and meeting the submission deadline will be invited to apply. Projects submitting their application materials (Score Card, Application, and required supporting documents) by the CoC deadline will progress to the Ranking Committee. All projects who were ranked were included in the FY19 Collaborative Application.

3. Monday, July 22, 2019.

4. The CoC announced at meetings and on the website that accommodations can be made upon request. The CoC has the ability to utilize interpreters and PDF documents if needed. There were no requests.

5. N/A

1C. Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordination

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1C-1. CoCs Coordination, Planning, and Operation of Projects.

Applicants must select the appropriate response for each federal, state, local, private, other organizations, or program source the CoC included in the planning and operation of projects that serve individuals experiencing homelessness, families experiencing homelessness, unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, persons who are fleeing domestic violence, or persons at risk of homelessness.

| Entities or Organizations the CoC coordinates planning and operation of projects | Coordinates with Planning and Operation of Projects |
|---|---|
| Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) | Not Applicable |
| Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | Yes |
| Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) | Not Applicable |
| Head Start Program | Yes |
| Funding Collaboratives | Not Applicable |
| Private Foundations | Yes |
| Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Funded Housing and Service Programs | Yes |
| Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Funded Housing and Service Programs | Yes |
| Housing and service programs funded through other Federal resources | Yes |
| Housing and services programs funded through State Government | Yes |
| Housing and services programs funded through Local Government | Yes |
| Housing and service programs funded through private entities, including foundations | Yes |
| Other:(limit 50 characters) | |
| White Earth Tribal Government | Yes |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Services provided through Faith Communities | Yes |
|---|-----|

1C-2. CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.

Applicants must describe how the CoC:

- 1. consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG funds;**
- 2. participated in the evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients; and**
- 3. ensured local homelessness information is communicated and addressed in the Consolidated Plan updates.**
(limit 2,000 characters)

1. Minnesota’s Dept. of Human Services (DHS) Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) is the ESG recipient for the balance of state. In the ESG RFP process, CoC staff to the reviewing and scoring of proposals which lead to funding recommendations. CoC HMIS and PIT count data, CoC goals and CoC strategies contribute are used in the review process. Scoring Criteria includes: CoC priorities, applicant past performance, program design, program policy and procedures, and budget. CoC staff attended the annual OEO training for project sub-recipients. The CoC established Written Standards in 2014 which were updated in 2016 with ESG recipient and sub-recipient input. The standards are in the process of review currently with recommendations going to CoC annual meeting in December.

2. The CoC reviewed all ESG-funded program APRs, providing feedback to projects when corrective action was required. The CoC also contacts OEO when performance concerns are identified. Likewise OEO contacts the CoC. The CoC provides TA to under-performing projects, partnering with OEO staff when appropriate.

3. CoC and state agency staff, including those responsible for the ConPlan, participate in the MN Heading Home Alliance monthly meetings where statewide planning and priorities related to preventing and ending homeless are discussed. The CoC receives input from local ESG sub-recipients at CoC meetings and relays this at state meetings. PIT and HIC data is shared with the HHA and ConPlan staff. Additional local homeless information (such as market housing trends, rental and transportation barriers) was provided by CoC members to DEED and OEO, the agencies responsible for submitting the ConPlan, through public hearings, written comments, and directly to state staff who regularly attend CoC meetings. The current plan goes through 2021. The CoC will host ConPlan input and review opportunities during the development of the new plan.

1C-2a. Providing PIT and HIC Data to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions. Yes to both

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC provided Point-in-Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area.

1C-2b. Providing Other Data to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions. Yes

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC ensured local homelessness information is communicated to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions within its geographic area so it can be addressed in Consolidated Plan updates.

1C-3. Addressing the Safety Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.

Applicants must describe:

- 1. the CoC’s protocols, including protocols for coordinated entry and the CoC’s emergency transfer plan, that prioritize safety and incorporate trauma-informed, victim-centered services; and**
- 2. how the CoC, through its coordinated entry, maximizes client choice for housing and services while ensuring safety and confidentiality. (limit 2,000 characters)**

1. CoC policies, training and protocols were developed and are regularly reviewed with input from regional victim services providers. CoC protocols addressing safety include: a) assessing safety first at Access and Assessment, requiring staff to offer a referral to law enforcement or victim service provider if safety is identified; b) hosting a secure data base outside of HMIS for CARES Coordinated Entry with no identifying information; c) requiring online training on safety, Equal Access, trauma informed care, and client centered care for all program staff; d) policy on allowing victims to request an emergency transfer to or from another CoC or within the CoC for safety reasons; and e) incorporating client choice and safety questions in Assessment; f) prioritizing victims for open units if other factors are equal. The CoC also hosted a live training and panel discussion with victim service providers at our August full membership meeting in which safety was discussed.

2. The CoC required trainings address the importance of trauma informed practices including the importance of empowering victims to be at the center of decision making, as well as data safety and choice to not share data without compromising access to CARES and housing programs. CARES tools included targeted questions on client choice (housing type, location, safety features, etc.). Emergency transfers and denials are allowed for safety reasons. Safety planning is also included in essential stabilization case management.

1C-3a. Training–Best Practices in Serving DV Survivors.

Applicants must describe how the CoC coordinates with victim services providers to provide training, at least on an annual basis, for:

- 1. CoC area project staff that addresses safety and best practices (e.g., trauma-informed, victim-centered) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence; and**
- 2. Coordinated Entry staff that addresses safety and best practices (e.g., Trauma Informed Care) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence.**

(limit 2,000 characters)

1. CoC policies, training and protocols were developed and are regularly reviewed with input from regional victim service providers (VSP). The CoC provides online training on Safe Harbor, Trauma Informed Care, Client Centered Care, Equal Access and Safety that is required and available to all providers on an ongoing basis. Additionally, the CoC partnered with two victim services providers to host a CoC training and panel discussion on working with victims/survivors in August. Topics covered at the training include; person centered care, impacts of trauma, trauma informed program design, identifying survivors, how to support survivors, VSP resources, the cycle of abuse, the power and control wheel (including LBGQTQ+ and youth specific wheels), types of intimate partner violence (relationship, domestic, dating and stalking).

2. Victim service providers are members of the CoC and participate at Local Homeless Advisory Committees (HAC), CoC and CARES meetings where system design, forms, policies and protocols are discussed. Additionally, these providers are CARES partners and serve as CARES access sites and referral agencies. All CARES partners are required to attend annual CARES training, take the required online training's, and abide for CARES policies which include safety, client choice, and use of trauma informed principles.

1C-3b. Domestic Violence–Community Need Data.

**Applicants must describe how the CoC uses de-identified aggregate data from a comparable database to assess the special needs related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
(limit 2,000 characters)**

The CoC alternative data base used for CARES is located in Google Docs. Victim Service Agencies are required to enter this this data base and other programs are able to enter into the data base if households wish to to share or safety is a concern. It is password protected and does not include any identifying information. The CoC priority list manager runs a monthly report for the CoC leadership and pulls referrals at least bi-monthly (it may be pulled outside of the bi-monthly meeting if a housing provider has an identified opening between meetings). The document includes household ID (established by the person assessing the household) versus name and bedroom size versus number of members or ages of children, and does not include race as this can be an identifiable factor in a rural community. However, it does include other eligibility and vulnerability information like length of time homeless, chronic homeless status, age group (youth vs. adult household), whether a household is fleeing or a recent victim, veterans status, and disability status. For our PIT we had victim services providers enter cumulative data for residents served on the night of the count in an alternative data base after doing individual surveys. This assures data safety, but allows our CoC to have valuable de-duplicated data on our regional needs. The CoC also participates in a tri-annual statewide homeless study that provides valuable, detailed de-duplicate data. In addition to the CoC alternative data base, the analyzes aggregate data from the CARES Coordinated Entry Core and Management reports and CoC APR (both taken out of HMIS) to identify system needs, including those of survivors.

***1C-4. PHAs within CoC. Attachments Required.**

Applicants must submit information for the two largest PHAs or the two PHAs with which the CoC has a working relationship within the CoC’s geographic area.

| Public Housing Agency Name | % New Admissions into Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program during FY 2018 who were experiencing homelessness at entry | PHA has General or Limited Homeless Preference | PHA has a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On |
|--|--|--|--|
| Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Clay County | 58.49% | Yes-Both | Yes-HCV |
| Moorhead Public Housing | 59.00% | Yes-Both | No |

1C-4a. PHAs’ Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences.

Applicants must:

1. provide the steps the CoC has taken, with the two largest PHAs within the CoC’s geographic area or the two PHAs the CoC has working relationships with, to adopt a homeless admission preference—if the CoC only has one PHA within its geographic area, applicants may respond for one; or

2. state that the CoC does not work with the PHAs in its geographic area. (limit 2,000 characters)

1. The CoC has provided examples of polices to all housing authorities in our region. Four housing authorities are members of the CoC and four additional PHA’s are on local Homeless Committees and receive regular CoC updates via CoC mass emails. Two (Clay County HRA and Moorhead Public Housing) of the four member agencies have staff representatives elected to our CoC Board, one is a past chair and one is the current chair elect. Both have established homeless admission preferences and are also CARES (our Coordinated Entry system) agency partners. Both have also helped educate and encourage other PHA’s in the region to establish preferences. Another PHA who serves on a local advisory committee within the CoC has partnered to build a new 8-plex and master lease it to a local homeless provider to serve as TH-RRH in a portion of our region that does not have emergency shelter. One exciting result of the Moorhead PHA establishing a preference, after one year they went from 59% admissions who were experiencing homelessness at entry for FY18 to 83% of current households.

2. N/A

1C-4b. Moving On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC has a Moving On Strategy with affordable housing providers in its jurisdiction.

Yes

If “Yes” is selected above, describe the type of provider, for example, multifamily assisted housing owners, PHAs, Low Income Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments, or local low-income housing programs. (limit 1,000 characters)

The Clay County Housing Redevelopment Authority, the largest housing authority, has established a Moving On preference for their Housing Choice Voucher program. Additionally, the Minneapolis Field Office Director, Michele Smith, has worked with the MN CoC Coordinators to create Move Up MN marketing materials and presented the topic at the Minnesota NAHRO (National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials) conference to try and generate interest among PHAs to adopt a preference.

1C-5. Protecting Against Discrimination.

Applicants must describe the actions the CoC has taken to address all forms of discrimination, such as discrimination based on any protected classes under the Fair Housing Act and 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2) – Equal Access to HUD-Assisted or -Insured Housing. (limit 2,000 characters)

The CoC requires all State and Federally funded providers to take the CoC online Equal Access and Fair Housing Trainings. All CoC funded agencies must certify that they are willing to implement policies and practices that assure equal access and fair housing. The CoC created and began requiring a CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy in August 2018. Agencies attest to having non-discrimination and low barrier policies and are reviewed by the CoC for compliance. The CoC assisted two agencies in updating policies in 2019. If needed, the CoC would responded to concerns from community, clients or other CoC members with an inquiry and corrective action. Following a 2018 concern in a border region, the CoC developed a Disability Awareness and Sensitivity training for agencies to utilize in training new staff.

***1C-5a. Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training.**

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC implemented an anti-discrimination policy and conduct training:

| | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Did the CoC implement a CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy that applies to all projects regardless of funding source? | Yes |
| 2. Did the CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively address discrimination based on any protected class under the Fair Housing Act? | Yes |
| 3. Did the CoC conduct annual training on how to effectively address discrimination based on any protected class under 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2) – Equal Access to HUD-Assisted or -Insured Housing? | Yes |

***1C-6. Criminalization of Homelessness.**

Applicants must select all that apply that describe the strategies the CoC implemented to prevent the criminalization of homelessness in the CoC’s geographic area.

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Engaged/educated local policymakers: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|-------------------------------------|

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 2. Engaged/educated law enforcement: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Engaged/educated local business leaders: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Implemented communitywide plans: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. No strategies have been implemented: | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Other:(limit 50 characters) | |
| Request cities adopt a Homeless Bill of Rights | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1C-7. Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System. Attachment Required.

Applicants must:

- 1. demonstrate the coordinated entry system covers the entire CoC geographic area;**
 - 2. demonstrate the coordinated entry system reaches people who are least likely to apply for homelessness assistance in the absence of special outreach; and**
 - 3. demonstrate the assessment process prioritizes people most in need of assistance and ensures they receive assistance in a timely manner.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

1. CARES covers the entire WC region, including part of the White Earth Nation. CARES shares a single priority list with multiple access and assessment sites. To simplify flow for persons who are homeless and to support access to cross-border agencies CARES partners with the ND CoC.

2. To ensure those who are least likely to access services are reached, CARES includes: phone access, walk-in access, street outreach (youth, veterans and disability) and agency in-reach (shelters, detox, on-site meal programs, domestic violence shelters, counties, mental health/CD treatment facilities, jails, etc.). To ensure ease of access for all populations CARES has population specific Access and Assessment sites including mental health, veterans, tribal, schools, victims service providers, jails, shelters, youth, and treatment programs. CARES also includes other partners who are vital to participants getting linked to Access sites, mainstream resources, public housing, and stability services. These include: counties, hospitals, law enforcement, detox, public housing, disability advocates, and the faith community.

3. The CoC has prioritization policies for emergency shelter, state prevention funds and housing programs listed on the HIC. Within local preferences, the CoC prioritizes those most in need of as determined by VI-SPDAT score and length of time homeless as primary factors. Secondary factors (pregnancy, fleeing, compromised immune system, tri-morbidity) are used for secondary prioritization. CARES policies also include requirements for timing of assessments, data entry, notification of openings (shelter or housing

beds/units), and updates to assure households are served in a timely manner. Housing navigators are assigned CH households. Bi-monthly case consults are used to triage the most difficult cases, with the most vulnerable households on the list being triaged and having an assessor being assigned to follow-up to help house that individual more rapidly.

1D. Continuum of Care (CoC) Discharge Planning

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1D-1. Discharge Planning Coordination.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC actively coordinates with the systems of care 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. Check all that apply (note that when "None:" is selected no other system of care should be selected).

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Foster Care: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Health Care: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Mental Health Care: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Correctional Facilities: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| None: | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1E. Local CoC Competition

Instructions

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*1E-1. Local CoC Competition–Announcement, Established Deadline, Applicant Notifications. Attachments Required.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC:

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. informed project applicants in its local competition announcement about point values or other ranking criteria the CoC would use to rank projects on the CoC Project Listings for submission to HUD for the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition; | Yes |
| 2. established a local competition deadline, and posted publicly, for project applications that was no later than 30 days before the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Application submission deadline; | Yes |
| 3. notified applicants that their project application(s) were being rejected or reduced, in writing along with the reason for the decision, outside of e-snaps, at least 15 days before the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Application submission deadline; and | Yes |
| 4. notified applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the CoC Priority Listing in writing, outside of e-snaps, at least 15 days before the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Application submission deadline. | Yes |

1E-2. Project Review and Ranking–Objective Criteria.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC used the following to rank and select project applications for the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition:

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Used objective criteria to review and rank projects for funding (e.g., cost effectiveness of the project, performance data, type of population served); | Yes |
| 2. Included one factor related to improving system performance (e.g., exits to permanent housing (PH) destinations, retention of PH, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness, job/income growth, etc.); and | Yes |
| 3. Included a specific method for evaluating projects submitted by victim services providers that utilized data generated from a comparable database and evaluated these projects on the degree they improve safety for the population served. | Yes |

1E-3. Project Review and Ranking–Severity of Needs and Vulnerabilities.

| | | |
|------------------------|---------|------------|
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|------------------------|---------|------------|

Applicants must describe:

1. the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities the CoC considered when reviewing and ranking projects; and

2. how the CoC takes severity of needs and vulnerabilities into account when reviewing and ranking projects.

(limit 2,000 characters)

1-2. The CoC considers and weighs severity of need in various manners in ranking. These include: a) issuing points to permanent housing projects for increasing or totally dedicating beds as chronic homeless as reported on the HIC; b) establishing lower APR performance thresholds for chronic and permanent supportive housing projects (i.e. PSH projects have a target of 40%+ households will have increased income to receive the maximum score but RRH projects have a 50%+ threshold); c) providing points for projects targeting highest need (selecting the top score from the priority list from eligible households in the project range) as reported by the priority list manager; d) providing points for level of acuity based on the percentage of households served who are chronic homeless (i.e. 1 point for over 75%); e) points for serving households with 'conditions'(i.e. 1 point for all households having at least one condition and 1 point for having at least 50% of households having two or more conditions) as reported on the APR; and f) points for regional need (being the only project of its kind in the CoC geography serving the population/sub-population).

1E-4. Public Postings–CoC Consolidated Application. Attachment Required.

Applicants must:

1. indicate how the CoC made public the review and ranking process the CoC used for all project applications; or

2. check 6 if the CoC did not make public the review and ranking process; and

3. indicate how the CoC made public the CoC Consolidated Application—including the CoC Application and CoC Priority Listing that includes all project applications accepted and ranked or rejected—which HUD required CoCs to post to their websites, or partners websites, at least 2 days before the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition application submission deadline; or

4. check 6 if the CoC did not make public the CoC Consolidated Application.

| Public Posting of Objective Review and Ranking Process | | Public Posting of CoC Consolidated Application including: CoC Application, CoC Priority Listing, Project Listings | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Email | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 1. Email | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Mail | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Advertising in Local Newspaper(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Advertising in Local Newspaper(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 4. Advertising on Radio or Television | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Advertising on Radio or Television | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | 5. Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Did Not Publicly Post Review and Ranking Process | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Did Not Publicly Post CoC Consolidated Application | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1E-5. Reallocation between FY 2015 and FY 2018.

Applicants must report the percentage of the CoC’s ARD that was reallocated between the FY 2015 and FY 2018 CoC Program Competitions.

Reallocation: 7%

1E-5a. Reallocation–CoC Review of Performance of Existing Projects.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe the CoC written process for reallocation;**
 - 2. indicate whether the CoC approved the reallocation process;**
 - 3. describe how the CoC communicated to all applicants the reallocation process;**
 - 4. describe how the CoC identified projects that were low performing or for which there is less need; and**
 - 5. describe how the CoC determined whether projects that were deemed low performing would be reallocated.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

1. The CoC Board, Ranking Committee and staff may all identify projects to be considered for reallocation due to performance, need, capacity or alignment with CoC funding priorities. If targeted, projects are asked to create a project improvement plan. If a project is uninterested or is unresponsive to an improvement plan, it is targeted for reallocation. The CoC will notify the project in person and in writing and offer to help form a transition plan. The transition plan helps assure compliance with other funding commitments and prevent anyone from becoming homeless as a result of reallocation. Projects may also offer all or a portion of their renewal funding for reallocation during the local CoC Competition.
2. The CoC Task Force approved policy updates in May ‘19.
3. The policy is posted on the CoC website. All project applicants are sent the policy in the Project Applicant Packet.
4. No projects warranted reallocation due to reallocation or regional needs. The CoC considered regional need, APR performance outcomes, fiscal management, project capacity, and other system needs.
5. No projects were reallocated in FY’19. All project applicants were determined to be needed and capable of improving performance outcomes if underperforming. Projects below performance thresholds were either able to identify a quality improvement plan or show that outcomes were unrelated to project design or performance. The CoC worked individually with projects to identify performance improvement steps related to the deficient goals (i.e.

editing policies or identifying and following up with new partnerships and processes to increase income goals). Prior to FY15, over 75% of CoC funding was reallocated to improve outcomes and address regional needs. However, the CoC also values strengthening existing projects through training and assistance but will reallocate when necessary. This is essential in our rural region where collaboration is strong and there are few rural partners.

DV Bonus

Instructions

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Warning! The CoC Application score could be affected if information is incomplete on this formlet.

1F-1 DV Bonus Projects.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC is requesting DV Bonus projects which are included on the CoC Priority Listing: Yes

1F-1a. Applicants must indicate the type(s) of project(s) included in the CoC Priority Listing.

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. PH-RRH | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Joint TH/RRH | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. SSO Coordinated Entry | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Applicants must click “Save” after checking SSO Coordinated Entry to view questions 1F-3 and 1F-3a.

*1F-2. Number of Domestic Violence Survivors in CoC’s Geographic Area.

Applicants must report the number of DV survivors in the CoC’s geographic area that:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Need Housing or Services | 186.00 |
|--------------------------|--------|

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| the CoC is Currently Serving | 311.00 |
|------------------------------|--------|

1F-2a. Local Need for DV Projects.

Applicants must describe:

- 1. how the CoC calculated the number of DV survivors needing housing or service in question 1F-2; and**
- 2. the data source (e.g., HMIS, comparable database, other administrative data, external data source).**
(limit 500 characters)

1-2. For the unmet need, the CoC used the two CoC priority lists (HMIS Coordinated Entry Monitoring Report and alternative Coordinated Entry list in Google Docs) for the period ending June 30, 2019. The CoC housing assessment asks if a household is homeless due to fleeing domestic violence, stalking or trafficking. The CoC used an HMIS APR and contacted the 2 domestic violence shelters for the total number the CoC is serving for the night of July 1, 2019.

1F-4. PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Project Applicant Capacity.

Applicants must provide information for each unique project applicant applying for PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH DV Bonus projects which the CoC is including in its CoC Priority Listing—using the list feature below.

| Applicant Name | DUNS Number |
|----------------------|-------------|
| West Central Minn... | 020494852 |

1F-4. PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Project

Applicant Capacity

| | |
|---|---|
| DUNS Number: | 020494852 |
| Applicant Name: | West Central Minnesota Communities Action, Inc. |
| Rate of Housing Placement of DV Survivors--Percentage: | 54.00% |
| Rate of Housing Retention of DV Survivors--Percentage: | 93.00% |

1F-4a. Rate of Housing Placement and Housing Retention.

Applicants must describe:

- 1. how the project applicant calculated the rate of housing placement and rate of housing retention reported in the chart above; and**
- 2. the data source (e.g., HMIS, comparable database, other administrative data, external data source). (limit 500 characters)**

1. WCMCA APR reports with data extracted for participants who were survivors. Street outreach, motel vouchers, Transitional Housing and and Rapid Rehousing were used for placement. For RRH alone it was 100%. Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing for retention.
2. HMIS as WCMCA is not a victim service provider, nor do we have any current VSP housing services in our CoC, but serves a high percentage of survivors and partners with Someplace Safe, a Victim Service agency.

1F-4b. DV Survivor Housing.

Applicants must describe how project applicant ensured DV survivors experiencing homelessness were assisted to quickly move into permanent housing. (limit 2,000 characters)

WCMCA utilizes CARES, the WC coordinated entry system, to meet service needs and assure survivors are assisted to quickly move into permanent housing while addressing their safety needs. WCMCA is an Access, Assessment and Housing site. Access services include: i) outreach/in-reach to help identify persons rapidly; ii) diversion screening to assist with guided resolution vial linking to natural connections and mainstream community resources; iii) prevention assistance including deposits (both security and as added indemnification incentives) to rehouse households; and iv) motel vouchers to assist with sheltering. Assessments are conducted via CARES policy to assure rapid linking, including phone and community based assessments to accommodate timely and safe meetings. Housing vouchers are filled rapidly with staff assisting with document and tenant education prior to move in. Staff also actively seek out and foster relationships with landlords and housing authorities, including assisting with applications and helping to search for or advocate to secure units. WCMCA provides education on fair housing and tenant's rights, working with legal services when necessary.

1F-4c. DV Survivor Safety.

Applicants must describe how project applicant:

- 1. ensured the safety of DV survivors experiencing homelessness by:**
 - (a) training staff on safety planning;**
 - (b) adjusting intake space to better ensure a private conversation;**
 - (c) conducting separate interviews/intake with each member of a couple;**
 - (d) working with survivors to have them identify what is safe for them as it relates to scattered site units and/or rental assistance;**
 - (e) maintaining bars on windows, fixing lights in the hallways, etc. for congregate living spaces operated by the applicant;**
 - (f) keeping the location confidential for dedicated units and/or congregate living spaces set-aside solely for use by survivors; and**
- 2. measured its ability to ensure the safety of DV survivors the project served.**

(limit 2,000 characters)

- 1. WCMCA ensures survivor safety by:
 - (a) Staff attended the annual CoC training on working with Survivors which included training on power and control, cycle of abuse, identification, and program design best practices. Staff also trained on data safety and First Touch training focusing on assisting organizations to build cultures of service, safety and healing.
 - (b) Staff ensure that all screenings, assessments, intakes and case management meetings respect the privacy of persons served. Private offices are used for most appointments and in-home meetings are preferred once enrolled in housing.
 - (c) CARES protocol is used which includes offering couples the opportunity to be assessed separately.
 - (d) CARES Housing Receipts are used and Supplemental Client Choice assessment is used to help participants identify the type and location of housing that best meets their individual needs, include choosing between fixed vs. scattered site programs or secure vs. un-secure buildings (i.e. staffed front desk or locked entry).
 - (e) In 2018 WCMCA renovated the Transitional housing facility to be used with this proposal with improvements to safety (windows, playground, lighting and building access) and aesthetics. WCMCA is also in the process of building a new TH/Shelter location with a local public housing authority that will include locked, staffed access and safety lighting.
 - (f) Neither of WCMCA fixed site locations have signage indicating they are homeless programs, nor are their locations publicized.
- 2. Staff and participant safety is a top concern of WCMCA. The agency has and will continue to follow agency, CoC and funder guidelines for data and physical safety of participants. If funded, WCMCA will seek additional trainings and checklists that will help our agency continue to improve our focus on staff and participant safety. The agency also has good working relationships with law enforcement which can help identify and respond rapidly to safety issues.

1F-4d. Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Approaches.

Applicants must describe:

- 1. project applicant’s experience in utilizing trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches to meet needs of DV survivors; and**

2. how, if funded, the project will utilize trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches to meet needs of DV survivors by:

- (a) prioritizing participant choice and rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing consistent with participants' preferences;**
 - (b) establishing and maintaining an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions are based on equality and minimize power differentials;**
 - (c) providing program participants access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing program participant with information on trauma;**
 - (d) placing emphasis on the participant's strengths, strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans include assessments of program participants strengths and works towards goals and aspirations;**
 - (e) centering on cultural responsiveness and inclusivity, e.g., training on equal access, cultural competence, nondiscrimination;**
 - (f) delivering opportunities for connection for program participants, e.g., groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs; and**
 - (g) offering support for parenting, e.g., parenting classes, childcare.**
- (limit 4,000 characters)**

1. WCMCA program staff have been trained on trauma-informed and client centered practices through CoC required trainings. Additionally, staff have taken Building Sustainability through First Touch. First Touch is a program aimed at assisting organizations in building cultures of service, safety, and healing. Training's have helped staff understand how trauma can affect how participants engage with housing and service providers and their ability to achieve personal goals.

2. The proposed project will utilize these approaches by:

- (a) WCMCA will utilize the CARES Assessment tool which includes client choice questions and places households on the regional priority list. If required or the client chooses, WCMCA will use the CoCs alternative data base to enter assessments. WCMCA will also follow CARES policy to assure we notify the Priority List Manager of openings within CoC guidelines. Housing search assistance and low barrier access will be incorporated into the program. WCMCA will use client-centered, housing first, motivational interviewing, and trauma informed practices when enrolling and establishing a housing stability plan with each household. Staff will strive to empower participants to direct their individualized plans.
- (b) Participants will be informed of all steps in the CARES and housing enrollment process. When possible, participants will be given control over decisions in each stage. Per CARES policy, participants will be allowed to move units or deny housing offers due to safety, without penalty. Participants will choose whether to continue case management, although services will continually be offered in a creative engaging manner to encourage utilization of support if it appears it is still needed. Staff will strive to respond in non-judgmental manner.
- (c) Staff will link households to Someplace Safe services to receive information on the impact of trauma and support to heal.
- (d) Two administrative staff are currently trained on Strengths-based Approach. Additional staff will be trained and plan to incorporate the approach into practice in our housing programs.
- (e) WCMCA has taken the CoC Fair Housing and Discrimination training series

(HUD Equal Access & Gender Identity Rules Webinar, Fair Housing into practices, Fair Housing Mistakes of Landlords, Disability Awareness & Sensitivity Training) and completed the True Colors Assessments, making adaptations as necessary to agency policy and practices, and will be attending the CoC required Cultural Sensitivity and Equity Training in December. CARES policies and tools are also designed to support equal and fair access for all populations.

(f) WCMCA has strong community relations that include community and faith groups, which provide opportunities for participants to link to volunteer, spiritual, educational, social and other community activities based on the individual interests and needs of each participant.

(g) WCMCA operates Head Start and Safe Kids, which is a safe exchange and supervised site that also offers education and referrals for parenting, child care and child development. WCMCA also fosters strong relationships with other agencies providing parenting education and support and child care including; Alexandria Public Schools, Lutheran Social Services and Douglas County.

1F-4e. Meeting Service Needs of DV Survivors.

Applicants must describe how the project applicant met services needs and ensured DV survivors experiencing homelessness were assisted to quickly move into permanent housing while addressing their safety needs, including:

- **Child Custody**
- **Legal Services**
- **Criminal History**
- **Bad Credit History**
- **Education**
- **Job Training**
- **Employment**
- **Physical/Mental Healthcare**
- **Drug and Alcohol Treatment**
- **Childcare**

(limit 2,000 characters)

WCMCA utilizes CARES to meet service needs and assure survivors are assisted to quickly move into permanent housing while addressing their safety needs. Staff will inform survivors about the CARES process and help them understand their rights when it comes to sharing and disclosing information, including their right to opt out of sharing information and still have access to services. Safety is assessed at Access and referrals are immediately made to crisis centers and/or law enforcement when safety is a concern. WCMCA works closely with Someplace Safe and NW MN Legal Services for participants legal, advocacy, supervised visitation, information, and safe exchange needs. Both agencies are engaged CoC members and CARES planning. The CARES Assessment asks client choice questions to identify transportation, physical location, and building security needs. A services checklist on the CARES Receipt is used to identify desired mainstream and community services, including; child custody, legal, criminal, credit repair, education, training, treatment, employment, health, financial assistance, chemical health, mental health, transportation, food support, and childcare. Assistance is offered to

connect with services both prior to program admittance and once enrolled. Case Managers have strong community relationships with employers, workforce programs, clinics, hospitals, mental health providers, housing authorities, county social services, staffing programs, legal services, victim advocates, staffing agencies, schools, and many others to help foster smoother connections and advocate when necessary. Case Managers use client centered and trauma informed approaches to work with participants on setting goals related to their individual service needs. Transportation assistance is provided to help participants attend appointments. Within the agency, WCMCA provides MNSURE Navigators, Head Start, Energy Assistance, and applications for public housing and county assistance.

2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

Intructions:

Guidance for completing the application can be found in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability and in the FY 2019 CoC Application Detailed Instructions.

Please submit technical questions to the HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question at <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

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Warning! The CoC Application score could be affected if information is incomplete on this formlet.

2A-1. HMIS Vendor Identification. WellSky

Applicants must review the HMIS software vendor name brought forward from FY 2018 CoC Application and update the information if there was a change.

2A-2. Bed Coverage Rate Using HIC and HMIS Data.

Using 2019 HIC and HMIS data, applicants must report by project type:

| Project Type | Total Number of Beds in 2019 HIC | Total Beds Dedicated for DV in 2019 HIC | Total Number of 2019 HIC Beds in HMIS | HMIS Bed Coverage Rate |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Emergency Shelter (ES) beds | 85 | 26 | 59 | 100.00% |
| Safe Haven (SH) beds | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Transitional Housing (TH) beds | 112 | 0 | 112 | 100.00% |
| Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds | 109 | 0 | 109 | 100.00% |
| Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds | 602 | 0 | 592 | 98.34% |
| Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds | 38 | 0 | 38 | 100.00% |

2A-2a. Partial Credit for Bed Coverage Rates at or Below 84.99 for Any Project Type in Question 2A-2.

For each project type with a bed coverage rate that is at or below 84.99 percent in question 2A-2., applicants must describe:

- 1. steps the 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 the CoC will implement the steps described to increase bed coverage to at least 85 percent.**
(limit 2,000 characters)

N/A - All are over 84.99%

***2A-3. Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission.**

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC submitted its LSA data to HUD in HDX 2.0. Yes

***2A-4. HIC HDX Submission Date.**

Applicants must enter the date the CoC submitted the 2019 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data into the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX). 04/30/2019
(mm/dd/yyyy)

2B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time Count

Instructions:

Guidance for completing the application can be found in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability and in the FY 2019 CoC Application Detailed Instructions.

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2B-1. PIT Count Date. 01/23/2019

Applicants must enter the date the CoC conducted its 2019 PIT count (mm/dd/yyyy).

2B-2. PIT Count Data–HDX Submission Date. 04/30/2019

Applicants must enter the date the CoC submitted its PIT count data in HDX (mm/dd/yyyy).

2B-3. Sheltered PIT Count–Change in Implementation.

Applicants must describe:

1. any changes in the sheltered count implementation, including methodology or data quality methodology changes from 2018 to 2019, if applicable; and

2. how the changes affected the CoC’s sheltered PIT count results; or
3. state “Not Applicable” if there were no changes.

(limit 2,000 characters)

1. MN utilized a PIT Redesign Team that included CoC coordinators, ICA (HMIS Lead Agency) staff, state agency staff, and other state-level representatives. The team identified the following changes that were implemented by ICA in HMIS and Google Docs (for non-HMIS reporting agencies): a) Simplified unsheltered chronic homelessness qualifying question series while ensuring it meets PIT standards. We removed LTH questions (with HHA approval) and reduced the overall number of questions used to qualify; b) Added questions to report the total number of people in a household and used this for overall person counts. Last year we relied on tallying up survey responses, which could

undercount in cases where not all household members were available to be surveyed; and c) Automated error and duplicate checks (instead of using manual Excel calculations) to improve their accuracy. Additionally, the CoC provided extensive training on the new data elements and updated CH questions in addition to our transitional PIT training.

2. The change may have increased the number of CH persons counted and increased the number of persons in households.

3. The changes are listed above.

***2B-4. Sheltered PIT Count–Changes Due to Presidentially-declared Disaster.**

Applicants must select whether the CoC added or removed emergency shelter, transitional housing, or Safe-Haven inventory because of funding specific to a Presidentially-declared disaster, resulting in a change to the CoC’s 2019 sheltered PIT count. No

2B-5. Unsheltered PIT Count–Changes in Implementation.

Applicants must describe:

1. any changes in the unsheltered count implementation, including methodology or data quality methodology changes from 2018 to 2019, if applicable; and

2. how the changes affected the CoC’s unsheltered PIT count results; or

3. state “Not Applicable” if there were no changes. (limit 2,000 characters)

1. MN utilized a PIT Redesign Team that included CoC coordinators, ICA (HMIS Lead Agency) staff, state agency staff, and other state-level representatives. The team identified the following changes that were implemented by ICA in HMIS and Google Docs (for non-HMIS reporting agencies): a) Simplified unsheltered chronic homelessness qualifying question series while ensuring it meets PIT standards. We removed LTH questions (with HHA approval) and reduced the overall number of questions used to qualify; b) Added questions to report the total number of people in a household and used this for overall person counts. Last year we relied on tallying up survey responses, which could undercount in cases where not all household members were available to be surveyed; c) Automated error and duplicate checks (instead of using manual Excel calculations) to improve their accuracy; and d) Observations were included by default rather than on an opt-in basis. However, we reviewed observations and excluded any that appeared to be duplicates or of doubtful quality. Additionally, the CoC provided extensive training on the new data elements and updated CH questions in addition to our transitional PIT training (outreach safety, de-duplication, utilizing our phone/tablet GIS application, and basic motivational interviewing).

2. The change may have increased the number of CH persons counted and increased the number of persons in households.

3. The changes are listed above.

***2B-6. PIT Count–Identifying Youth Experiencing Homelessness.**

Applicants must:

Indicate whether the CoC implemented specific measures to identify youth experiencing homelessness in their 2019 PIT count. Yes

2B-6a. PIT Count–Involving Youth in Implementation.

Applicants must describe how the CoC engaged stakeholders serving youth experiencing homelessness to:

- 1. plan the 2019 PIT count;**
 - 2. select locations where youth experiencing homelessness are most likely to be identified; and**
 - 3. involve youth in counting during the 2019 PIT count.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

1-2. The CoC utilized County Count Coordinators to assure a thorough and consistent count across the CoC. The county coordinators engaged local experts (school staff/liaisons, youth outreach staff, homeless providers (shelters, victims programs, service providers), faith partners, law enforcement, counties, persons with lived experience who are aware of local locations where youth may be staying. The CoC provides a list of potential locations, but local communities brainstorm on additional locations and create a map of outreach areas. CoC and local planning meetings and training's were held and flyers were used to spread awareness. Two youth providers hosted events on the night of the count with giveaways and food.

3. Youth with lived experience were used to help identify locations where youth may be staying and to spread awareness including handing out PIT flyers to friends.

2B-7. PIT Count–Improvements to Implementation.

Applicants must describe the CoC’s actions implemented in its 2019 PIT count to better count:

- 1. individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness;**
 - 2. families with children experiencing homelessness; and**
 - 3. Veterans experiencing homelessness.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

1-2. The CoC utilized County Count Coordinators to assure a thorough and consistent count across the CoC. The county coordinators engaged local experts in planning including: schools, outreach staff (youth, Veterans, mental health), other homeless providers (shelters, victims programs, transitional housing, service providers), faith partners, homeless health, law enforcement, counties, persons with lived experience who are aware of local locations where persons may be staying. The CoC provides a list of potential locations, but local communities also brainstorm on additional locations and create a map of places to canvass. CoC and local planning meetings and trainings were held and flyers

were used to spread awareness. Two youth providers hosted events on the night of the count with giveaways and food. Persons with lived experience were used to help identify locations where Veterans, youth, families and single individuals may be staying and to spread awareness including handing out PIT flyers to friends. Additionally, the CoC provided extensive training on the new data elements and updated CH questions in addition to our transitional PIT training (outreach safety, de-duplication, utilizing our phone/tablet GIS application, and basic motivational interviewing). When encountering persons who were unsheltered, the CoC offered supplies and linkage to shelter and either conducted or schedule housing assessments.

3. In addition to the above, the VA outreach staff engaged in street outreach with giveaways on the night of the count and had flyers at the VA hospital.

3A. Continuum of Care (CoC) System Performance

Instructions

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***3A-1. First Time Homeless as Reported in HDX.**

Applicants must:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Report the Number of First Time Homeless as Reported in HDX. | 824 |
|--|-----|

3A-1a. First Time Homeless Risk Factors.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe the process the CoC developed to identify risk factors the CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;**
- 2. describe the CoC’s strategy 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 the CoC’s strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time. (limit 2,000 characters)**

1. Prevention and Diversion are part of CES (a.k.a. CARES) Access. In 2017 a CoC Centralized Prevention subcommittee researched prevention targeting tools and data from five prevention studies resulting in identifying the following factors included to include in our local prevention targeting tool: child under 2, pregnancy, imminent/past homelessness, safety, over 60 years, unaccompanied youth, poor/no credit, pending eviction, and criminal history. CoC members also participated in a HUD TA presentation by Matt White on Prevention Targeting. In July 2018 an initial 1-year analysis of the pilot used HMIS data on denials matching to entries into shelter or CES. It revealed that only 2.7% of the 286 persons denied from January-June 2018 became

homeless so no adaptations to the tool were made. The group is currently reviewing data again.

2. The CoC utilizes both diversion and prevention targeting tools to help reduce first time homelessness. The 3 community action agencies (CAPs), White Earth Tribe (WET), and shelters are access sites for diversion and the CAPs and WET are access sites for prevention. The CoC uses centralized prevention in each sub-region, with the CAP in the largest region serving as central access for 7 funders including the Salvation Army and faith partners, and hiring a diversion specialist. The CoC is currently working on expanding diversion tools to include increased guided use of natural supports. The CAPs have met with DV providers to enhance prevention re-housing assistance to persons fleeing. The CoC provides education to members and community partners on the importance of housing stability focused case management to prevent homelessness. The CAPs also provide tenant landlord mediation and partner with landlords to education on preventing eviction.

3. CoC Coordinator and CARES (Coordinated Entry System) Specialist.

***3A-2. Length of Time Homeless as Reported in HDX.**

Applicants must:

Report Average Length of Time Individuals and Persons in Families Remained Homeless as Reported in HDX.

112

3A-2a. Strategy to Reduce Length of Time Homeless.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe the CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;**
 - 2. describe how the 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 the CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

1. Our primary strategy is to strengthen CARES, our coordinated entry system, by expanding outreach and access services used to rapidly identify and engage households. A diversion tool is first used to help identify natural and mainstream supports to rehouse, which is currently being updated to enhance identification of natural supports. When diversion is not possible, assessments are conducted within the first two weeks (allowing time for self and guided resolution). Housing navigators assist those with the highest scores. The CoC applied for and received additional navigators in 2019 and has one pending application that if funded would help reach our desired staffing pattern. Housing providers must notify the Priority List Manager (PLM) within 3 days of an opening. The PLM has 2-days to respond and offers must be made at least 3 times within 5 days. The CoC also seeks and advocates for additional affordable and supportive housing opportunities and expanded indemnification funding. One Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) is partnering with a large rental firm on a pilot project which will take 1% of their units and fill them with persons served through CARES using housing first, low barrier entry qualifications.

2. LOT is a primary criteria in the CARES prioritization policy. Additionally, it is used for assigning Housing Navigation and for case consulting of the most vulnerable at bi-monthly prioritization meetings.
3. CARES Board and PLM.

***3A-3. Successful Permanent Housing Placement and Retention as Reported in HDX.**

Applicants must:

| | Percentage |
|--|------------|
| 1. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing that exit to permanent housing destinations as reported in HDX. | 40% |
| 2. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families in permanent housing projects, other than rapid rehousing, that retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations as reported in HDX. | 92% |

3A-3a. Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations/Retention of Permanent Housing.

Applicants must:

1. describe the CoC’s strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
2. provide the organization name or position title responsible for overseeing the CoC’s strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
3. describe the CoC’s strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in permanent housing projects, other than rapid rehousing, retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations; and
4. provide the organization name or position title responsible for overseeing the CoC’s strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in permanent housing projects, other than rapid rehousing, retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.

(limit 2,000 characters)

1. The CoC supports new supportive and tax credit affordable housing applications providing letters of support and engaging in planning projects. Two PHAs have homeless preferences, with the largest also adopting a Moving-On Preference for TH and RRH programs. Case managers and navigators support exits to permanent destinations by: a) linking to natural supports and mainstream resources including advocacy and application assistance; b) assistance with housing applications, search and obtaining documents; c) conducting housing assessments; d) assisting with other stabilization goals (income, employment, physical/mental health, etc.); and e) engaging landlords. Housing assessments (VI-SPDAT + client choice/eligibility supplement) help match households to the best intervention and prioritize those with the highest obstacles to obtaining housing on their own. Prioritization is used to assign housing navigation and case consult the most vulnerable and other difficult

cases. The CoC provides both required and optional housing stability trainings online, at quarterly trainings and at the fall coalition conference. 2019 trainings include: Harm Reduction, Creative Engagement, Crisis Intervention, Landlord Engagement, Motivational Interviewing, Housing First, Client Centric Care, Stopping Evictions, Cultural Awareness, and Equality in housing.

2. CoC Board and CoC Coordinator.

3. In addition to increasing housing, the Moving-On Preference, training, housing search, landlord engagement, and mainstream linkage strategies listed above, the CoC: a) established core components for housing stabilization; b) works with HACs to monitor and support housing stability goals, providing technical assistance to underperforming projects; and c). analyzes data on returns and retention including; working with a local doctorate student to analyze what contributes to housing retention and with Moorhead State University to analyze negative exits.

4. CoC Board and CoC Coordinator.

***3A-4. Returns to Homelessness as Reported in HDX.**

Applicants must:

| | Percentage |
|--|------------|
| 1. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families returning to homelessness over a 6-month period as reported in HDX. | 4% |
| 2. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families returning to homelessness over a 12-month period as reported in HDX. | 2% |

3A-4a. Returns to Homelessness–CoC Strategy to Reduce Rate.

Applicants must:

1. describe the strategy the CoC has implemented to identify individuals and persons in families who return to homelessness;

2. describe the CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness; and

3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.

(limit 2,000 characters)

1. The MN Family Homeless Assistance and Prevention Projects (FHPAP) funder conducts an annual study of returns for the FHPAP program and identifies common characteristics that it has used to create a targeting tool used by local FHPAP projects. The CoC utilized this data when looking at prioritizing shelter and prevention resources. The CoC utilized the HMIS Returns Report in our equity review and intends to work with the same university that conducted our equity study to further analyze data on those who returned or had negative exits from transitional, rapid and permanent housing to search for common traits. The CoC also uses the HMIS Returns report to review and score project performance for CoC and ESG projects.

2. As stated above, one the monitoring criteria for CoC and ESG projects is returns. If a project exceeds the annual CoC targets, the Coordinator will work with the project to identify goals to decrease returns. The CoC has also included

stabilization as a stage of coordinated entry and has established core components as a framework for our CoC to identify and prioritize housing stability goals. The CoC also provides both required and optional training on our online site and through Homelessness 201 trainings and our fall Homeless Coalition conference. The framework is included in our CES policy and the trainings are referenced in question 3A-3a. above.

3. CoC Coordinator and CoC Board.

***3A-5. Cash Income Changes as Reported in HDX.**

Applicants must:

| | Percentage |
|---|------------|
| 1. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families in CoC Program-funded Safe Haven, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing projects that increased their employment income from entry to exit as reported in HDX. | 15% |
| 2. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families in CoC Program-funded Safe Haven, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing projects that increased their non-employment cash income from entry to exit as reported in HDX. | 45% |

3A-5a. Increasing Employment Income.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe the CoC's strategy to increase employment income;**
 - 2. describe the CoC's strategy to increase access to employment;**
 - 3. describe how the CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their cash income; and**
 - 4. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase jobs and income from employment.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

1-2. To further state and CoC income goals, the CoC Income Advancement committee worked to create educational and awareness tools for employers, providers and clients. Employer tools educated on programs that can support employees, incentive programs and the benefits of hiring persons who are homeless or at-risk. They were marketed to local HR associations and the committee presented at an association meeting. Provider tools identify why staff should focus on earned income and what resources can support clients in obtaining and maintaining earned income. Client tools identify benefits of earned income, address common obstacles and beliefs that prevent persons from seeking earned income, and provides information on mainstream and homeless programs and training opportunities. The committee also encouraged increased homeless specific trainings and supportive employment programs. The VA and two of our three sub-regions have supportive employment programs specifically for persons who are homeless. The CoC also monitors outcomes for ESG and CoC projects on earned income and works with under-performing projects to identify strategies to increase earned income.

3. The Income Committee included Workforce/Career Force Center (WFI) staff. Local agencies also partner with WFI staff and other disability advocates/specialized employment programs. The CoC lists mainstream

employment programs on our Coordinated Entry referral forms. CoC staff and board members serve on a regional transportation committee that engages regional large businesses in offering transportation benefits. Members have also been active in creating workforce housing within the region. The CoC provides a training on how to rapidly introduce income goals, including employment, into case management, regardless of disability status, recognizing that persons with disabilities can also be employed successfully.

4. CoC Board and local Stability Committees.

3A-5b. Increasing Non-employment Cash Income.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe the CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income;**
- 2. describe the CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources;**
- 3. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.**

1-2. To further state and CoC income goals the CoC Income Advancement committee developed tools for clients and providers (described in the previous question). The tools offer information on mainstream programs, resources, and contact information. The CoC promotes the online SOAR training to agencies. WC has two dedicated SOAR advocates and additional staff trained on SOAR basics. The CARES coordinated entry receipts have a checklist of mainstream and community programs to support comprehensive assessment and linkage. Local community actions (CAPs) offer county social services applications onsite to facilitate rapid and simplified access. The CoC provides trainings on prioritizing linkage to mainstream services as well as the importance of early integration of earned and unearned income goals in case management. County, veterans, public housing, disability, mental health, workforce, SOAR mainstream service providers are active members of the CoC at the Task Force, Board and Committee levels.

3. CoC Board and local Stability Committees.

3A-5c. Increasing Employment. Attachment Required.

Applicants must describe how the CoC:

- 1. promoted partnerships and access to employment opportunities with private employers and private employment organizations, such as holding job fairs, outreach to employers, and partnering with staffing agencies; and**
- 2. is working with public and private organizations to provide meaningful, education and training, on-the-job training, internship, and employment opportunities for residents of permanent supportive housing that further their recovery and well-being.**
(limit 2,000 characters)

1. The CoC Income Advancement Committee (with membership from WFI, United Ways, homeless programs, disability programs, CoC, VA) promotes the benefits of employment (paid or unpaid) as a means of increasing a person's stability because of its financial and emotional benefits. The committee presented at a quarterly regional Human Resources Committee on resources

for and benefits of hiring persons who have been homeless. We included a panel of employers who our supportive employment programs have worked with and one former shelter resident who has been successfully employed and moved into housing thanks to the partnership of the shelter staff and HR staff. The committee also marketed a brochure to the HR email list and a local business association. Individual supportive employment programs outreach to employers and partner with workforce centers, training programs, and staffing agencies to help clients obtain and maintain employment. The CoC has co-hosted a Second Chance Job Fair with a two local Work Force Centers, the VA, and the Dept. of Corrections, which is held annually. This year the CoC helped promoted the event.

2. Two regional Career Force Centers are members of the CoC and actively participate in CoC meetings. One has an MOU with the CoC to increased income opportunities. Two of the homeless supportive employment programs provide job training programs in partnership with local trade schools (welding and CNA classes have been offered). They also work 1:1 to provide individualized education and training based on the persons skills and interests. Other housing case managers will assist individuals in linking to disability or Career Force/Workforce programs or offer volunteer opportunities or assist with filling out employment or educational applications. Two PSH housing programs recognize that some residents are not able to maintain employment and offer incentives to residents for volunteer to support their well-being.

3A-5d. Promoting Employment, Volunteerism, and Community Service.

Applicants must select all the steps the CoC has taken to promote employment, volunteerism and community service among people experiencing homelessness in the CoC’s geographic area:

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. The CoC trains provider organization staff on connecting program participants and people experiencing homelessness with education and job training opportunities. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The CoC trains provider organization staff on facilitating informal employment opportunities for program participants and people experiencing homelessness (e.g., babysitting, housekeeping, food delivery). | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The CoC trains provider organization staff on connecting program participants with formal employment opportunities. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. The CoC trains provider organization staff on volunteer opportunities for program participants and people experiencing homelessness. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The CoC works with organizations to create volunteer opportunities for program participants. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The CoC works with community organizations to create opportunities for civic participation for people experiencing homelessness (e.g., townhall forums, meeting with public officials). | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Provider organizations within the CoC have incentives for employment. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. The CoC trains provider organization staff on helping program participants budget and maximize their income to maintain stability in permanent housing. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3A-6. System Performance Measures Data–HDX Submission Date 05/30/2019

Applicants must enter the date the CoCs submitted its FY 2018 System Performance Measures data in HDX. (mm/dd/yyyy)

3B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Performance and Strategic Planning Objectives

Instructions

Guidance for completing the application can be found in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability and in the FY 2019 CoC Application Detailed Instructions.

Please submit technical questions to the HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question at <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

Resources:

The FY 2019 CoC Application Detailed Instruction can be found at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/guides/coc-program-competition-resources>

The FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2019-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/#nofa-and-notices>

Warning! The CoC Application score could be affected if information is incomplete on this formlet.

3B-1. Prioritizing Households with Children.

Applicants must check each factor the CoC currently uses to prioritize households with children for assistance during FY 2019.

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. History of or Vulnerability to Victimization (e.g. domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Number of previous homeless episodes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Unsheltered homelessness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Criminal History | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Bad credit or rental history | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Head of Household with Mental/Physical Disability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

3B-1a. Rapid Rehousing of Families with Children.

Applicants must:

1. describe how the CoC currently rehuses every household of families with children within 30 days of becoming homeless that addresses both housing and service needs;

2. describe how the CoC addresses both housing and service needs to ensure families with children successfully maintain their housing once

assistance ends; and

3. provide the organization name or position title responsible for overseeing the CoC’s strategy to rapidly rehouse families with children within 30 days of them becoming homeless. (limit 2,000 characters)

1. The WC CoC strategy is to operate a dynamic coordinated system (CES) that reduces barriers to attaining and sustaining permanent housing, to increase housing capacity, including RRH beds, and to improve the quality and level of housing stability services. WC has identified essential components for each stage of CES and organized planning around Access, Assessment/Assignment, and Stabilization. To assure rapid identification and connection to needed services outreach, centralized access (for shelter, prevention and housing), guided resolution, mainstream linkage forms, and multiple published access points are used. Policies on timelines for housing referral/offer, case consults, prioritization, and housing navigation help shorten this stage. Developing landlord relationships, public housing preferences/move on strategies, housing search assistance, and indemnification funds help support more rapid housing location. RRH expanded thanks to state funded Homework Starts with Home (HWSWH) vouchers and services targeted at early identification, rapid assistance and stabilization in home and school.

2. In addition to increased vouchers, the CoC has emphasized housing stability as an essential aspect of CARES and subsequently enhanced training, sought additional staffing resources, and established standards for core housing stability services. Standards include: a) monthly in-home visits and weekly contact during the first year; b) creative engagement strategies; c) comprehensive assessment prior to move in, quarterly during the first year, and at least annually thereafter; d) training and integration of client centered, creative engagement, harm reduction, housing first, income focused, and culturally appropriate practices; and e) fostered linkage to mainstream and community services. The CoC also monitors outcomes and has created a dashboard to share with projects and local advisory committees quarterly.

3. CoC Coordinator and local Homeless Committee lead.

3B-1b. Antidiscrimination Policies.

Applicants must check all that apply that describe actions the CoC is taking to ensure providers (including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH)) within the CoC adhere to antidiscrimination policies by not denying admission to or separating any family members from other members of their family or caregivers based on any protected classes under the Fair Housing Act, and consistent with 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2) – Equal Access to HUD-Assisted or - Insured Housing.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. CoC conducts mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded housing and services providers on these topics. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. CoC conducts optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded housing and service providers on these topics. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. CoC has worked with ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

4. CoC has worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within the CoC geographic area that might be out of compliance and has taken steps to work directly with those facilities to come into compliance.

3B-1c. Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness–Addressing Needs.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC’s strategy to address the unique needs of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness who are 24 years of age and younger includes the following:

| | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Unsheltered homelessness | Yes |
| 2. Human trafficking and other forms of exploitation | Yes |
| 3. LGBT youth homelessness | Yes |
| 4. Exits from foster care into homelessness | Yes |
| 5. Family reunification and community engagement | Yes |
| 6. Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, and the use of Risk and Protective Factors in assessing youth housing and service needs | Yes |

3B-1c.1. Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness–Prioritization Based on Needs.

Applicants must check all that apply that describes the CoC’s current strategy to prioritize unaccompanied youth based on their needs.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. History of, or Vulnerability to, Victimization (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Number of Previous Homeless Episodes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Unsheltered Homelessness | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Criminal History | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Bad Credit or Rental History | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

3B-1d. Youth Experiencing Homelessness–Housing and Services Strategies.

Applicants must describe how the CoC increased availability of housing and services for:

1. all youth experiencing homelessness, including creating new youth-focused projects or modifying current projects to be more youth-specific or youth-inclusive; and
 2. youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness including creating new youth-focused projects or modifying current projects to be more youth-specific or youth-inclusive.
- (limit 3,000 characters)

1. The WC CoC has prioritized ending youth and family homelessness in 2020, as has the largest United Way and Homeless Coalition in the region. Expanded housing and services through state funded Homework Starts with Home (HSWH) provided increased rental assistance and services to school aged children and youth and increased collaboration through written agreements with local schools, counties, housing authorities, and homeless providers. HSWH leveraged county and city funds to cover gaps in services and has a foundation request pending to round out the need. HSWH engages participants in quarterly advisory meetings. MN Housing Supports also expanded providing rent and services to help reduce and prevent people from living in institutions and being homeless. All providers took the True Colors assessments to assure services were improved for youth identifying as LGBTQ+. In 2018 new youth outreach started through a contract with Youthworks. The CoC received state Housing Youth Act (HYA) funds for housing and services. The CoC is working to implement the Tenant Protection Vouchers for Foster Youth to Independence Initiative to support homeless & at-risk youth access Section 8 vouchers for a three-year period. The Notice on the initiative requires Public Housing Authorities to create a partnership with "Public Child Welfare Agencies".

2. School liaisons and youth providers participate in local and task force level CoC planning to ensure our system and services address the unique needs of youth. The CoC has established standards for access, assessment and housing stability that each local Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) is using to establish local goals and priorities to improve local homeless response systems. The HAC is responsible for hosting Consumer Action Boards to assure consumer input is included in local planning. Youth are invited and participating in these meetings.

3B-1d.1. Youth Experiencing Homelessness—Measuring Effectiveness of Housing and Services Strategies.

Applicants must:

- 1. provide evidence the CoC uses to measure each of the strategies in question 3B-1d. to increase the availability of housing and services for youth experiencing homelessness;**
- 2. describe the measure(s) the CoC uses to calculate the effectiveness of both strategies in question 3B-1d.; and**
- 3. describe why the CoC believes the measure it uses is an appropriate way to determine the effectiveness of both strategies in question 3B-1d. (limit 3,000 characters)**

1. The CoC utilizes a combination of measures to determine increased, as well as improved housing and services. Data reports are used at a project and system level including: APRs, Coordinated Entry Reports (Management and Core), Returns to Homelessness, and the CoC Dashboard. The CoC also established standards for access, assessment and housing stability in 2019 that each local Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) is using to establish local goals and priorities to improve local homeless response systems. The CoC and CARES (CES) Boards monitor progress on these goals.

2. Data points used include: returns to homelessness, LOT, earned income, increased income, connection to mainstream services, housing retention, and housing exits (positive, neutral or negative). The CoC is working on how to add measuring permanent connections and social emotional well-being for 2020. The CoC Board and HACs review CARES outcomes monthly, dashboard

outcomes quarterly and APR and SPM outcomes annually. As part of the equity review in 2019, the CoC also looked at outcomes related to age to identify if age was a factor in service delivery and outcomes.

3. The measures are used to align with System Performance Measures and the 4 outcomes in the Framework for Ending Youth Homelessness. The measurements help the CoC determine progress towards ending youth homelessness. Regular monitoring allows the CoC to provide system and project improvement plans if the progress trends in a negative direction.

3B-1e. Collaboration–Education Services.

Applicants must describe:

- 1. the formal partnerships with:**
 - a. youth education providers;**
 - b. McKinney-Vento LEA or SEA; and**
 - c. school districts; and**

- 2. how the CoC collaborates with:**
 - a. youth education providers;**
 - b. McKinney-Vento Local LEA or SEA; and**
 - c. school districts.**

(limit 2,000 characters)

1. The CoC and/or CoC programs have formalized partnerships with 13 school districts, one university, and three head start programs. The agreements are a commitment to collaboratively work together to serve school age and/or preschool age youth. The CoC is in process of entering into MOU's with all early childhood and public schools that would further outline the partner relationship by identifying the roles of each partner so the schools clearly understand the support the CoC and it's members provide and the schools understand their role providing McKinney-Vento services.

2. In the past year, formalized partnerships and collaboration with educational entities due to a new state funded grant serving our entire region called HSWH. HSWH provides rental assistance and support services to families with school age children to stabilize them in housing and increase success in school (stay enrolled, increase attendance, increase grades). The schools, counties, homeless providers and participants/former participants meet quarterly to review outcomes and identify areas to strengthen the program. The meetings are held in conjunction with CoC meetings to increase alignment with CoC goals to end youth and family homelessness. The project enrolled over 60 households within its first 9 months. The CoC local HACs also have active participation from local school liaisons. The Community Action programs lead the HACs, as well as operate Head Start and Early Head Start programs, which all provide a preference for children who are homeless.

3B-1e.1. Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homeless about Education Services Eligibility.

Applicants must describe policies and procedures the CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for education services.

(limit 2,000 characters)

CoC Policy states the educational and service needs of families with minor children will be fully assessed with expediency upon entry to the program. School-aged youth will be enrolled in school immediately, working collaboratively with the designated school homeless liaison in the Local Educational Agency (LEA) to ensure that all educational assessments are completed. To the extent feasible, students in homeless situations should be kept in their school of origin (defined as the school the student attended when permanently housed or the school in which the student was last enrolled), unless it is against the parent’s or guardian’s wishes. Students in homeless situations must have access to the educational and other services they need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same challenging state student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. Appropriate referrals will be made in the community to address the individual needs of all the children and other family members. The CoC staff and board shall strive to establish an MOU with all early education and public or private elementary and secondary schools in the region to support this policy.

3B-1e.2. Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers.

Applicant must indicate whether the CoC has an MOU/MOA or other types of agreements with listed providers of early childhood services and supports and may add other providers not listed.

| | MOU/MOA | Other Formal Agreement |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------|
| Early Childhood Providers | Yes | No |
| Head Start | Yes | No |
| Early Head Start | Yes | No |
| Child Care and Development Fund | No | Yes |
| Federal Home Visiting Program | No | Yes |
| Healthy Start | No | Yes |
| Public Pre-K | No | Yes |
| Birth to 3 years | No | Yes |
| Tribal Home Visting Program | No | No |
| Other: (limit 50 characters) | | |
| | | |
| | | |

3B-2. Active List of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness.

Applicant must indicate whether the CoC uses an active list or by-name list to identify all veterans experiencing homelessness in the CoC. Yes

3B-2a. VA Coordination–Ending Veterans Homelessness.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC is actively working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and VA-funded programs to achieve the benchmarks and criteria for ending veteran homelessness. Yes

3B-2b. Housing First for Veterans.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC has sufficient resources to ensure each veteran experiencing homelessness is assisted to quickly move into permanent housing using a Housing First approach. Yes

3B-3. Racial Disparity Assessment. Attachment Required.

Applicants must:
 1. select all that apply to indicate the findings from the CoC’s Racial Disparity Assessment; or
 2. select 7 if the CoC did not conduct a Racial Disparity Assessment.

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. People of different races or ethnicities are more likely to receive homeless assistance. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. People of different races or ethnicities are less likely to receive homeless assistance. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. People of different races or ethnicities are more likely to receive a positive outcome from homeless assistance. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. People of different races or ethnicities are less likely to receive a positive outcome from homeless assistance. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. There are no racial or ethnic disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The results are inconclusive for racial or ethnic disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. The CoC did not conduct a racial disparity assessment. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3B-3a. Addressing Racial Disparities.

Applicants must select all that apply to indicate the CoC’s strategy to address any racial disparities identified in its Racial Disparities Assessment:

| | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. The CoC is ensuring that staff at the project level are representative of the persons accessing homeless services in the CoC. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. The CoC has identified the cause(s) of racial disparities in their homeless system. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The CoC has identified strategies to reduce disparities in their homeless system. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 4. The CoC has implemented strategies to reduce disparities in their homeless system. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. The CoC has identified resources available to reduce disparities in their homeless system. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6: The CoC did not conduct a racial disparity assessment. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Accessing Mainstream Benefits and Additional Policies

Instructions:

Guidance for completing the application can be found in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability and in the FY 2019 CoC Application Detailed Instructions.

Please submit technical questions to the HUD Exchange Ask-A-Question at <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

Resources:

The FY 2019 CoC Application Detailed Instruction can be found at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/guides/coc-program-competition-resources>

The FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2019-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/#nofa-and-notices>

Warning! The CoC Application score could be affected if information is incomplete on this formlet.

4A-1. Healthcare—Enrollment/Effective Utilization

Applicants must indicate, for each type of healthcare listed below, whether the CoC assists persons experiencing homelessness with enrolling in health insurance and effectively utilizing Medicaid and other benefits.

| Type of Health Care | Assist with Enrollment | Assist with Utilization of Benefits? |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Public Health Care Benefits (State or Federal benefits, Medicaid, Indian Health Services) | Yes | Yes |
| Private Insurers: | Yes | Yes |
| Non-Profit, Philanthropic: | Yes | Yes |
| Other: (limit 50 characters) | | |
| | | |

4A-1a. Mainstream Benefits.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe how the CoC systematically keeps program staff up to date regarding mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within the geographic area;**
- 2. describe how the CoC disseminates the availability of mainstream resources and other assistance information to projects and how often;**
- 3. describe how the CoC works with projects to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in**

health insurance;

4. describe how the CoC provides assistance with the effective utilization of Medicaid and other benefits; and

5. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC’s strategy for mainstream benefits. (limit 2,000 characters)

1. The CoC collaborates closely with counties, the VA, and treatment and mental health agencies to facilitate enrollment and improve engagement of program participants. A standardized process at Access & Assessment refers households to mainstream benefit programs they may be eligible for (SNAP, MA, GA, SOAR etc.). The CoC created brochures for consumers and providers on employment and income resources. The CoC promotes online and live SOAR trainings.

2. The CoC shares updates on mainstream benefits programs through emails, offers an online training for CoC and CARES agencies, provides the Income & Employment brochure on our CoC website, and updates the coordinated entry forms used for referrals at least annually. Many mainstream providers are also members of the CoC and provide updates at CoC Task Force and local Homeless Committee meetings.

3. Program staff assist with health insurance enrollment as part of case management, including linking to local MNsure (health insurance exchange) navigators. Moorhead providers refer to the local homeless clinic or shelter nurses which also assists with enrollment, health services and advocacy. Numerous program staff are trained on SOAR advocacy, in addition to two dedicated advocates in the region.

4. In addition to that listed above, program case managers assist with traditional linkage to Medicaid. Our region also operates Housing Supports (HS), an expansion of state operated Medicaid, in 7 of our 10 counties, accessed through Coordinated Entry. HS targets Medicaid eligible households with long lengths of homelessness providing transitional housing, permanent housing and support services. The CoC shares updates on mainstream benefits programs through member email list and offers at least 1 training per year for program staff and an online training for all Coordinated Entry staff. The CoC has SOAR advocates to increase access to SSI/SSDI.

5. The CoC Board is responsible for monitoring strategies & outcomes.

4A-2. Lowering Barriers to Entry Data:

Applicants must report:

| | |
|--|------|
| 1. Total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe-Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in FY 2019 CoC Program Competition. | 4 |
| 2. Total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe-Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in FY 2019 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing. | 4 |
| Percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, Safe-Haven, SSO non-Coordinated Entry projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing. | 100% |

4A-3. Street Outreach.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe the CoC’s street outreach efforts, including the methods it uses to ensure all persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness are identified and engaged;**
 - 2. state whether the CoC’s Street Outreach covers 100 percent of the CoC’s geographic area;**
 - 3. describe how often the CoC conducts street outreach; and**
 - 4. describe how the CoC tailored its street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

1. Currently our region has youth outreach (YO), veteran’s outreach (VO), and disability outreach (DO). When YO, VO or DO staff find persons that do not fit their target population, they will still triage the household at staffing and coordinated entry meetings for follow-up. Providers have planned outreach to known locations (identified by persons with lived experience, exploration, and community input), conduct sweeps, offer phone access, and respond to notifications from others (businesses, faith community, currently/formerly homeless, law enforcement, service providers, etc.). Outreach staff participate in local homeless committees, attend coordinated entry meetings including case consults, and conducts in-reach to shelters, jails, libraries, detox, homeless health, and on-site meal programs to both identify and follow-up with households. Most outreach staff provide supplies, basic needs items and all refer to homeless, community and mainstream programs. Outreach staff are trained assessors and enter data into HMIS. If safety is a concern staff connect with mobile mental health, detox, domestic violence, safe harbor or law enforcement.

2. Collective coverage is 100% of the CoCs geography including urban and rural areas.

3. In metro areas, outreach is provided 2-3 times weekly, with in-reach and follow-up on alternating days. In rural areas outreach is provided in response to notifications/requests and at targeted times, with frequency dependent on program location.

4. Staff are trained on creative engagement, harm reduction, safety, client centered care, trauma informed care, and housing first to assure more positive outcomes when engaging a population who can be apprehensive. When not physically going to key locations to find households, staff communicate with other community partners and persons with lived experience to assure they are proactively identifying and following up with persons who are homeless.

4A-4. RRH Beds as Reported in HIC.

Applicants must report the total number of rapid rehousing beds available to serve all household types as reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) for 2018 and 2019.

| | 2018 | 2019 | Difference |
|--|------|------|------------|
| RRH beds available to serve all populations in the HIC | 35 | 109 | 74 |

4A-5. Rehabilitation/Construction Costs–New No Projects.

Applicants must indicate whether any new project application the CoC ranked and submitted in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition is requesting \$200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction.

4A-6. Projects Serving Homeless under Other Federal Statutes. No

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC is requesting to designate one or more of its SSO or TH projects to serve families with children or youth defined as homeless under other federal statutes.

Submission Summary

Ensure that the Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

| Page | Last Updated |
|--|-------------------|
| 1A. Identification | 09/19/2019 |
| 1B. Engagement | 09/26/2019 |
| 1C. Coordination | 09/27/2019 |
| 1D. Discharge Planning | No Input Required |
| 1E. Local CoC Competition | 09/27/2019 |
| 1F. DV Bonus | 09/26/2019 |
| 2A. HMIS Implementation | 09/24/2019 |
| 2B. PIT Count | 09/22/2019 |
| 3A. System Performance | 09/26/2019 |
| 3B. Performance and Strategic Planning | 09/22/2019 |
| 4A. Mainstream Benefits and Additional Policies | 09/26/2019 |
| Submission Summary | No Input Required |