



Request for Proposals – HUD FY23 CoC Competition

Date: 07/06/2023

The **Arkansas Balance of State Continuum of Care** announces the availability of grants to prevent and end homelessness through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development’s “Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Fiscal Year 2023 Continuum of Care Competition.” The CoC is open to and will accept and consider proposals from organizations that have not previously received CoC Funding. The deadline for the CoC to submit applications to HUD for the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition is September 28, 2023 by 7:00 PM CST/8:00 PM EST. Please read the NOFO thoroughly to review changes from the FY 2022 NOFO.

NEW PROJECTS

- Eligible New Project Program Components: Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless individuals and/or families, Rapid Rehousing, and Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing. The NOFO provides details on each of these.
 - ***The Arkansas Balance of State Board has voted to specifically request PSH projects, so new PSH projects will receive priority over other new project applications.***
- Applications that serve victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and/or human trafficking will also be considered. These projects must be Permanent Supportive Housing (if they will serve DV victims that are chronically homeless), Rapid Rehousing, or Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing.

Applicants for all projects must submit a letter of intent including the project type and estimated amount (budget) of request to the **Arkansas Balance of State CoC** at ckidd@occnet.org. All interested organizations are urged to contact the CoC and read the NOFO in its entirety before submitting a letter of intent **by 07/28/23**. Select [this link](#) to download the FY 2023 NOFO. Select [this link](#) to access critical instructions and guidance from the HUD website. Project applications and application instruction materials will be posted to that link by HUD. Select [this link](#) to stay up to date on information released by our CoC concerning the funding.

New projects ***must*** create a Supplemental Application in accordance with the attached instructions ***and*** complete an application in HUD’s e-snaps electronic grants systems **by 08/29/23**.

RENEWAL PROJECTS

Applicants for renewal project must send a letter of intent to apply for or notify the CoC of their plans for voluntary reallocation **by 07/28/23**. Letters should specify the project name, project type, and funding amount. Email notification should be sent to ckidd@occnet.org.

Renewal projects ***must*** complete a Supplemental Application in accordance with the attached instructions ***and*** complete their e-snaps renewal application **by 08/29/23**.

An application question and answer session will occur on **07/26/2023 at 2:00 pm** at [this link](#). It is not required, but potential applicants are strongly encouraged to attend. It will also be recorded. All Project applications are **due 08/29/23**. The Rank & Review Committee will notify all applicants of acceptance, rejection, or modification of their projects **by 09/13/23**.

Please understand that HUD has specific requirements for applicants, including:

- The Rank & Review Committee **must** carefully review the qualifications of the applicant and the proposed project to assure that they meet HUD's threshold requirements.
- Projects **must** pass the initial threshold questions to be reviewed for scoring and ranking. *The CoC evaluation metrics for new and renewal projects are explained starting on page 3.*
- Individuals, for-profit organizations, and unincorporated entities are **not** eligible to apply.
- Questions regarding the application process can be sent to ckidd@ocnet.org until **08/28/2023**.

Project Ranking Criteria

The Arkansas Balance of State CoC (AR-503) FY 2023 Ranking Tools are recommended by the CoC Rank and Review Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. The tools consider information from the HUD e-snaps application, Applicant's supplemental application, and performance data to determine the extent to which project outcomes address federal and local policy priorities.

HUD has nine National Priorities:

- Ending homelessness for all persons
- Using a Housing First Approach
- Reducing unsheltered homelessness
- Improving system performance
- Partnering with housing, health and service agencies
- Racial Equity
- Increasing Affordable Housing Supply
- Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+
- Persons with Lived Experience

The Arkansas Balance of State CoC has prioritized permanent housing projects with specific priority given to new permanent supportive housing projects to serve individuals that are chronically homeless.

The CoC set its priority based on 2023 PIT Count data as well as conversations that have taken place with community partners and CoC stakeholders over the past year indicating the growing need for housing for individuals that are chronically homeless specifically those facing serious mental health disability and/or substance use disorder. Out of the 871 individuals recognized as homeless, 121 were identified as chronically homeless. At this time, AR-503 does not have any continuum of care funded Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects but recognizes the need of availability of services for chronically homeless individuals and families.

Threshold Criteria:

The CoC requires all applicants to meet the following criteria in order for their projects to be selected and ranked:

- The project complies with eligibility requirements of the CoC Interim Rule and Subsequent Notices while meeting threshold requirements outlined in the HUD 2023 NOFO.
- The project does utilize the Housing First Model.

- The project will follow the CoC's Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures, including HUD's Equal Access Rule, when it is implemented while also participating in the development and implementation of it.
- The project does or will participate in HMIS or an equivalent database.
- The project has written documentation of match that meets HUD's standards.
- Applicant is an active CoC Participant.
- All application materials are completed and submitted by deadline.
- Applicant does not have any unresolved HUD monitoring findings.
- Current agency audit is exempt of findings.
- **If** a renewal, the project has a spending rate of at least 80% on their total grant award.
- **If** a project serves families, the project will accept all families with children 18 and under without regard to age or gender.
- **If** a project serves families, the project has a staff person responsible for ensuring that children are enrolled in school and connected to services in the community.

Renewal Project Rating Breakdown (*applicant has facilitated CoC dollars for 1 or more years, i.e. current CoC funded project awarded before FY 2022*)

- Project Services and Support (30 points, 16.6% of total score)
- Involving individuals with lived experience (6 points, 3.3% of total score)
- Participates in Continuum of Care (2 points, 1.1%)
- Demonstrated Community Need (38 points, 21% of total score)
- Increases safety for Survivors of Domestic Violence (3 points, 1.7%)
- Serves Vulnerable Populations (22 points, 12.2% of total score)
- Increases Housing Stability (10 points, 5.5% of total score)
- Increases income for adult program participants (20 points, 11.0% of total score)
- Utilizes New and Existing Resources to Improve the Homeless System (10 points, 5.5% of total score)
- Utilization of HMIS or comparable Database (15 points, 8.3% of total score)
- Past year project performance (20 points, 11.0% of total score)
- System Performance Improvement (5 points, 2.8% of total score)

Of the 181 total points, 134 points are based on objective, quantifiable data (74.0%).

1st Year Renewal Project Rating Breakdown (*applicant was awarded funding for the first time for FY 2022 funds which have not yet been received or has not yet completed one full cycle of CoC grant funding i.e. 1st year facilitating CoC funds will not end before grant is due.*)

- Project Services and Support (30 points, 16.6% of total score)
- Involving individuals with lived experience (6 points, 3.3% of total score)
- Participates in Continuum of Care (2 points, 1.1%)
- Increases safety for Survivors of Domestic Violence (3 points, 1.7%)
- Utilization of HMIS or comparable Database (5 points, 8.3% of total score)
- Project Budget Details (10 points, 11.0% of total score)
- Demonstrated Community Need (38 points, 21% of total score)
- Increases Housing Stability (10 points, 5.5% of total score)
- Increases income for program participants 18 years or older (20 points, 11.0% of total score)
- Serves Vulnerable Populations (16 points, 12.2% of total score)
- Utilizes New and Existing Resources to Improve the Homeless System (10 points, 5.5% of total score)
- System Performance Improvement (5 points, 2.8% of total score)

Of the 155 total points, 108 points are based on objective, quantifiable data (69.7%).

New Project Rating Breakdown (*applicant's project is not currently CoC funded*).

- Project Readiness and Management (20 points, 9.8% of total score)
- Project Services and Support (40 points, 19.5% of total score)
- Utilization of HMIS or comparable Database (5 points, 2.4% of total score)
- Involving individuals with lived experience (6 points, 2.9% of total score)
- Participates in Continuum of Care (2 points, 1.0% of total score)
- Demonstrated Community Need (38 points, 18.5% of total score)
- Increasing safety for survivors of Domestic Violence (3 points, 1.5% of total score)
- Project Budget Details (15 points, 7.3% of total score)
- Successful program exits (10 points, 4.9% of total score)
- Increases income for program participants 18 years or older (20 points, 9.8% of total score)
- Serves vulnerable populations (16 points, 7.8% of total score)
- Utilizes New and Existing Resources to Improve the Homeless System (10 points, 4.9% of total score)
- System Performance Improvement (5 points, 2.4% of total score)

Of the 205 total points, 113 points are based on objective, quantifiable data (55.1%).

HMIS Renewal Rating Breakdown (*applicable to our HMIS lead agency*).

- HMIS Performance (20 points, 33.3% of total score)
- Project Description (5 points, 8.3% of total score)
- HMIS Standards (25 points, 41.7% of total score)
- Project Budget (10 points, 16.7% of total score)

Supportive Services-Coordinated Entry Renewal Rating Breakdown (*applicable to our CE grant award recipient*).

- Applicant Performance (15 points, 33.3% of total score)
- Project Description (45 points, 8.3% of total score)
- Project Budget (15 points, 16.7% of total score)

Application and resource materials:

[CoC Project Application Checklist](#)

[Supplemental Application-New Projects](#) (word document included with email)

[Supplemental Application-Renewal Projects](#) (word document included with email)

[Housing First Checklist](#) and [Housing First Assessment Tool](#)

[HUD Form 2991](#)

[2023 Balance of State Point in Time Count Data](#)

[Comparable Database to HMIS](#)

[Comparable Database to HMIS-Spanish Version](#)

[E-snaps support page on HUD Exchange](#)

[Log-in to E-snaps](#)

[Online course to become SOAR certified](#)