NOFO Q&A Session

090921

Present: Courtney Cochran, Steve Nelson, Angie Neal, Rosalyn Horn, Lexy Redenbaugh, Kassie Helgerson, Brad Gustason, Jennifer Krenz, Cara Lundquist, Kathie, Kira, Theresa Drift, Laura Birnbaum, Pam Hughes, John Cole, Katy O’Sullivan, other guests (name did not display)

Courtney provided overview: FY2021 CoC NOFO competition information (see power point posted on website below) followed by Q&A session.

* View CoC website: <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/public-health-human-services/housing-and-homeless-programs/continuum-of-care-coc>
  + Up to date NOFO materials and information can be found here.
* Showed where to find score tools including bonus score tool (e.g. for DV funds) – please familiarize yourself as appropriate (depending on project type) and reach out if you have any questions.
* Each provider must complete application in e-Snaps (online) ***and*** the Supplemental application (new this year – in the past was several different sets of additional questions – e.g. financial, housing first, etc.). Every applicant will need to complete this piece – one for all projects (if multiple projects – e.g. if you have four projects, you’ll fill out once, not for all four). This is the opportunity for reviewers to get a deeper understanding of what providers are doing.
* Please also review the Ranking and Review Process. Here you will find the steps that the review team will be taking including reallocation policies informed by HUD.
  + Big thing to note in our CoC program specific to allocation is looking at unspent funds.
  + Can appeal ranking result to have it reviewed by a committee.
  + Policy is lengthy so please review on the website.
* Pat Leary providing TA sessions – can attend or email him directly for TA. Please reach out to him – especially if you are applying for the first time!
* September 27th is the deadline for both applications – supplemental and application in e-Snaps.
  + You will need to attach a screen shot of your e-Snaps application with a time stamp, and supplemental application, and your most recent APR in an email to the CoC. *(all of this information is included in the Timeline on the website noted above)*
* October 6 – Ranking and Review committee will meet
* October 21st – Heading Home Advisory Committee (HHAC) will review and vote to approve. On the 22nd you will find out where your application scored, if you application was accepted or denied. From this date you will have a week to appeal any of these pieces (e.g. where you were ranked) to the CoC. If needed from here an appeals meeting will happen, any adjustments made and then will go to St. Louis County board for approval.
* Should all be wrapped up/finalized by 11/10 then submitted to HUD as one consolidated application from the SLC CoC.
* Please review and plan to address key local scoring priorities (harm reduction, Housing First, person centered thinking and practices, racial equity, culturally responsive services, domestic violence safety policies)
* 2021 HUD priorities (some are repeats from last year) – note that impossible to consider all of these so do not panic! If there are pieces of these priorities that you know you are doing well – worth it to spend some time including this in your applications. See power point for all of the priorities, Does include:
  + DV
  + Health care collaboration – new this year and includes mental health, chemical health, physical health etc. HUD is not looking for a list of partners but more significant – e.g. MOU with housing project and health care organization – showing this could improve odds of getting points for this.
  + Collaborative work with PHAs/HRAs (e.g. if working with Duluth HRA on emergency housing vouchers EHVs) - important to highlight any collaborative work with Bois Forte HRA, Virginia HRA, Hibbing, HRA, Virginia HRA, etc.
* Tier 1 and Tier 2 guidance
  + This year HUD is allowing all projects to be included in Tier 1 which means projects that shouldn’t experience cuts. Usually safe bet however, HUD could always cut.
  + Tier 2 would be anything below renewal demand amount that HUD sets.
  + Our policy says that all renewal projects go into Tier 1 and new and bonus projects go in Tier 2 where HUD may or may not give additional funding for these projects.
  + Our estimate of HUD funds available – over $500,000 for DV bonus and just under $200,000 bonus for CoC bonus (which means any project that does not fall under domestic violence). No guarantee that we will be awarded bonus funds from HUD – we will get ranked against all CoCs in the country that are competing for these.
* Bonus Funds: $189,917 potentially available to our CoC. Could include any new project that isn’t specifically a DV program. See slide re options on how funds could be spent. Can also be used for support service only projects attached to the coordinated entry system (CES).
* Bonus DV funds – can be used as rapid rehousing, transitional or permanent supportive (or joint) housing projects. Also funding related to CES that is specific to DV survivors/victims.
  + If exploring this – the minimum you could request is $50,000
* Quick tips and resource links
  + Make sure you read through the detailed application instructions from HUD (links in power point) – this will provide you point by point guidance and how-to (navigation guides for eSnaps) – they really are helpful!
  + HUD really looks at each question separately – does not look at previous responses so repetition is good (and needed).
  + Make sure check all of your attachments (see page 27 in navigational guides) before you click submit.
  + For new projects – remember HUD requires you to have a 25% match. This means you have to have this funding through in-kind services or cash match. Documentation to submit is only if comes from a third party.
  + Use your TA resources! Pat Leary, your HUD reps and Courtney
  + See “Helpful Resources” links – likely that any answer can be found here. Emails also provided (last slide)
    - [CoCNOFO@hud.gov](mailto:CoCNOFO@hud.gov) is really helpful for technical project questions. May take a day or so for response.

Q & A:

1. What if using HYA DHS funds for 25% match what do I need to attach?
   1. Yes, attach grant contract or MOU as would likely be the easiest way to ensure this is understood; however, if billable service, do not need to attach anything.
   2. Email HUD ([CoCNOFO@hud.gov](mailto:CoCNOFO@hud.gov)) to ensure proposed documentation (e.g. match documentation) will suffice.
2. Four years ago needed to do a leverage letter? Need to do this?
   1. No, just match now. When you go to get your contract, HUD will make sure you have a letter documenting your match.
3. When get a match letter, will this suffice or do we need to submit an entire contract to show match on e-Snaps?
   1. Best to check with HUD on what they want to be sure response is accurate for your specific project.
4. How do I get my password and username for e-Snaps?
   1. Email [E-snaps@hud.gov](mailto:E-snaps@hud.gov) to reset this.
5. Three projects at HDC including new renewal – all three projects are over $200,000. Field rep stated that you have to do a new 2990 form for each project– is this accurate?
   1. $200,000 is cumulative for grants received for your organization, not each project. See <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/How-to-Complete-the-HUD-Form-2880-in-e-snaps.pdf#:~:text=HUD%20Form%202880%20%28Applicant%2FRecipient%20Disclosure%2FInitial%20Report%29%20appears%20in,UFA%20costs%29.%20This%20resource%20is%20organized%20as%20follows>
6. Specific to collaborations – can count agency collaborations more generally or those only related to the NOFO?
   1. Specific to renewals - doesn’t hurt to be clear who you are as an organization and collaborations for people served but don’t worry about showing MOUs etc – this would be more for new projects.
7. Specific to Rapid Rehousing Program – noted a lot of trouble spending down funds. Also have a lot of different HUD priorities in program so this is encouraging. Shared collaboration with DV shelters and victims/survivors. Biggest issue is finding open units. So concern is about having lost RRH Tier 2 program last year – less funds and less opportunity while knowing need and still a priority.
   1. We will not be reallocating recently transferred programs this year due to unspent funds. We had a lot this year and didn’t want to penalize organizations for unspent funds since just jumping into a new program.
   2. Also noted that even if lost a grant last year, could still apply again.
8. Courtney asked if would be helpful for CoC to host an open session for bonus funds – could answer basic questions but more about holding the space for people to share ideas, collaborate, plan together. Thoughts?
   1. Yes – stay tuned for session. Will be community planning space (not so much an info session)
   2. Again, if have any questions remaining or that come up – please reach out to Courtney, Pat and HUD reps. If Courtney doesn’t have the answer – will get you to the right person/place!