



Welcome!

Please introduce yourself, your agency, and what you're hoping to get from this session in the chat!

Please Chat to Chris Murray for any technical assistance during the presentation.

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COC NOFA NEW  
APPLICANT  
INFORMATION  
SESSION

PART II

# CoC Program Eligibility and Requirements for Funding

# CoC Definition of Homelessness

Category 1	Literal Homelessness	Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
Category 4	Fleeing or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence	Any individual or family who is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;



## Continuum of Care Applicant Minimum Threshold Criteria

Eligible Entities: Nonprofit organizations, states, local governments, and instrumentalities of state or local governments, such as Public Housing Authorities, or Local Mental or Behavioral Health Authorities are eligible to apply for CoC grants.

Private nonprofits must have:

- a voluntary board including an individuals with lived experience of homelessness operating under established bylaws including tracking and publication of meeting agendas and minutes
- must practice nondiscrimination in the provision of assistance
- Must have a functioning account system that is operated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, or has designated a fiscal agent that will maintain the functioning accounting system for the organization.

# Continuum of Care Applicant Minimum Threshold Criteria

- Entities are also required to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number, have an Employer ID Number (EIN), and register with the System for Award Management (SAM).
  - ECHO can provide Technical Assistance with submitting for these registrations and send guides
- Obtaining a DUNS Number usually takes between 1-2 days, while SAM can take anywhere from 2-5 weeks.



# Grant Administration Prep maintaining funds and compliance

Financial Process managed by Accounting Staff

Timesheets

(eLOCCS)

System

IRS 501(c)(3) Tax Exemption Status

Agency Policies Managed by Service Delivery Leadership

Conflict of interest policies/code of conduct

Procurement Policies

Employee Handbook

Project Policies and Procedures

ECHO can provide TA to review and support documents

Subrecipient vs. contractor

## Additional Requirements

All entities applying for CoC funds must agree to adhere to:

- The CoC Program Interim Rule providing the requirements for implementation and administration of the program
- The Austin / Travis County Continuum of Care(CoC) Policies and Written Standards for Project Design
- Participate in the local Coordinated Entry System and can only accept referrals from the Coordinated Entry system
- All entities must agree to participating in the Austin / Travis County CoC HMIS system
- Victims Service Providers are prohibited from participating in HMIS, and must demonstrate that they have a database comparable to HMIS

## Continuum of Care Components

CoC Component	Typical Population Acuity
PH – PSH: Permanent Housing Permanent Supportive Housing	High Acuity Population; participants usually experience long histories of homelessness; Disability a requirement for eligibility; intensive services offered to assist in attaining and maintain housing independence
PH – RRH: Permanent Housing Rapid Re-Housing	Moderate Acuity Population; participants usually experience recent or frequent short-term homelessness; short-to-medium term services offered to assist households in gradually assuming full housing responsibilities
Joint TH-RRH: Joint Transitional Housing – Rapid Re-Housing	Same as RRH; promising performance data from households who choose this component type, especially fleeing domestic violence; youth households; and persons benefiting from a harm-reduction approach to transitioning into independent housing stability.
SSO-CE: Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry	The general population project aimed at outreaching, assessing, referring, and connecting participants to crisis resources and permanent housing projects

# Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

A project that offers permanent housing and supportive services to assist persons with a disability (individuals with disabilities or families in which one adult or child has a disability) and long histories of housing instability and homelessness to live independently. Robust service packages are tailored to the unique needs of each household, though service participation is not required.

- Housing First
- Households pay no more than 30% of income towards rent
- Project assist households with housing costs through:
  - Rental Assistance (TBRA);
  - Leasing; or
  - Operating
- Recommended Case Manager to Participant ratio of 1:13 for scattered site; 1:15 for single site

# Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

The purpose of Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) projects are to move and stabilize homeless individuals and families from sheltered or unsheltered homelessness to permanent housing as quickly as possible.

A permanent housing project that provides housing relocation and stabilization services and short- and/or medium-term rental assistance as necessary to help a homeless individual or family move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.

- Client choice; income not required for enrollment
- Households may receive up to 24 months of rental assistance
- Projects should be familiar with and utilize a Progressive Engagement model of service delivery
- Recommended case management ratio: 1:20 – 25; housing navigation ratio: 1:10 - 15

## Joint Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH – RRH)

A project type which allows participants access to both transitional housing and rapid rehousing activities and resources. Recipients maintain Transitional Housing spaces where participants pay 30% of income towards occupancy costs and receive occupancy rights. Recipients assertively assist households with exiting TH portion to permanent housing through Rapid Rehousing assistance.

- Project should include funding for double RRH units for every identified TH unit.
- Participants can only participate in the project for 24 months

# Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry

A project which assists household with accessing the local Coordinated Entry System and Coordination Entry facilitation.

- Nondiscrimination in access to CE system
- Expand access to the CE system
- To complete the community's coordinate assessment tool following the Coordinated Entry Written Standards
- Decrease Referrals to Enrollment timeline
- Assisting in the collection and verification of eligibility documentation

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## Administrative, Indirect, and HMIS funding

- All project are able to apply to receive HMIS funding and Administrative funding as part of project applications.
- Administrative funding can be utilized for costs not associated with supportive service delivery. Administrative funds cannot exceed 10% of total funding request.
- Indirect costs may be allocated to each eligible activity of a project, so long as the allocation is consistent with the determined indirect cost rate
- Not including HMIS or Administrative funding in an application does not exempt possible recipients from data collection or HMIS requirements.



# Project Policies

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## EXISTING COC POLICIES

- Educational Services
- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Policies
- PSH Transfer Policy
- CoC Interim Rule – 24 CFR 578
- Fair housing, Nondiscrimination, and Equal Access
- Termination Policy and Due Process
- Written Standards for Program Design
- Coordinated Entry Written Standards

## NECESSARY PROJECT POLICIES

- Project Specific Policies and Procedures
- Lead Based Paint
- Housing Inspection
- Rental Subsidy Determination
- Client Grievance Policies and Practices and Due Process
- Intake and Eligibility Determination Policy and Procedure
- Know geographic area
- Homelessness Management Information (HMIS) usage and input

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## Tips, Tricks, and Insights

- Apply to operate a stand-alone project, not to expand an existing project
  - Ex. Other funders definitions of RRH isn't always the same as HUD's definition of RRH
  - The NOFA happened annually and is a large administrative lift. Consider if your agency should apply this year or plan to apply next
  - Old Competition Material can be found online or by asking us
- ECHO can assist with submitting a DUNS and SAMs as well as being a subrecipient of larger agencies, but only if we start working on it EARLY
- Don't wait until the NOFA to build your plan and budget!
- Schedule a TA session to review your Project Plan, we can't after the NOFA

# Match Requirement

CoC Program project recipients or sub-recipients must match all grant funds, except for leasing funds, with no less than 25% of funds or in-kind contributions from other sources. For cash sources of match, recipients or sub-recipients can use funds from any source, including federal sources, as well as state, local, and private sources.

Letters of Commitment for in-kind match contributions are required at project application submission.

ECHO is available to discuss Match limitations and problem – solving. Any eligible cost can be used to address Match concerns.

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## Useful Links

- **Coc Policies:** <https://www.austinecho.org/leading-system-change/coalition-leadership/#section-local-policies-procedures>
- **Written Standards:** <https://www.austinecho.org/leading-system-change/coalition-leadership/#section-written-standards>
- **CoC/NOFA Intro Recordings:** <https://www.austinecho.org/leading-system-change/continuum-of-care/#funding-intro>