



Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care Special NOFO Community Funding Priorities

Overview

The following document outlines the Funding Priorities for FY2022 Continuum of Care Program Special Notice of Funding Opportunities to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Special NOFO) as determined by the Homeless Response System (HRS) Leadership Council. In addition, the Continuum of Care (CoC) will utilize all funds allocated to our community in accordance with the priorities and limitations identified in the NOFO as well as in this document. Prioritization as it is applied in the FY2022 Austin/Travis County CoC Local Competition refers to the preferential allocation of points in the scoring process.

The Austin/Travis County 2022 Needs and Gaps report (see [here](#)) indicates that many people experiencing homelessness are chronically homeless or live with a disability, and that the majority of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness are single adults. Furthermore, the greatest gap in housing type needed in Austin/Travis County in 2022 is Permanent Supportive Housing. In addition, HUD has centered low-barrier permanent housing and temporary housing for individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the FY22 Special NOFO. For these reasons, and to ensure that the HRS equitably addresses the needs of people living unsheltered, funding through the Special NOFO should be directed toward:

- Permanent Supportive Housing programs that do not target a subpopulation and that do serve single adults who are literally homeless or are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence

Austin/Travis County Community Prioritization

The Leadership Council, as the CoC Board of the Austin/Travis County CoC, has identified the following priorities for applications submitted for consideration during the FY22 CoC Special NOFO, in alignment with HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities and Program Highlights of the FY22 CoC Special NOFO. The Leadership Council has directed the Collaborative Applicant to review, score, and rank all applications based on these priorities (see Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy and Procedure):

1. Furthering Racial Equity

HUD charges CoCs with reviewing local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address racial disparities affecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In addition to other community activities to increase racial equity within the Austin/Travis County CoC, the Leadership Council will prioritize CoC recipients whose staff, leadership, and board are representative of the racial composition of people experiencing homelessness within the community. Priority will also be given to CoC recipients who create measurable improvements in program delivery and service provision to ensure racially equitable outcomes, and to those who conduct equity trainings for all staff including leadership and front-line staff.

2. Authentic Engagement of People with Lived Experience

HUD recognizes that programs in the HRS will be most effective when they authentically engage program participants and hire people with lived expertise into leadership positions. Therefore, in



addition to other community activities to integrate lived expertise into governance activities and program delivery, the Leadership Council will prioritize CoC recipients who implement measurable programmatic changes in response to feedback solicited from people with lived experience. Priority will also be given to CoC recipients whose staff and leadership have lived expertise of homelessness.

3. Using Emerging Data to Inform Program Design and Growth

HUD supports CoCs to use outcome measures related to CoC system performance measures in the local review, selection, and rating process. Leadership Council will prioritize CoC recipients who engage performance data, at least annually, to inform program design, staff development, and areas for service improvement through continuous quality improvement.

4. Retaining a Competitive Workforce

HUD expects CoCs to review all projects eligible for renewal in FY2022 to determine their performance in serving people experiencing homelessness. Program performance measures must incorporate an agency's retention of a competitive workforce. Leadership Council will prioritize CoC recipients who have demonstrated an ability to recruit and retain skilled and diverse candidates to improve project outcomes.

5. Demonstrating Fiscal Responsibility and Grant Management

HUD requires all CoC recipients to spend grants reasonably and judiciously on eligible costs that best support high performance in their programs. Cost effectiveness must be measured alongside project performance to ensure responsible management of HUD funds. Leadership Council will prioritize CoC recipients who display fiscal responsibility, and an ability to spend down their grants effectively.

Any project applications submitted during the FY22 CoC Special NOFO with content in conflict with the above priorities will be considered out of alignment with the Local Funding Priorities for the purpose of application scoring as adopted in the Special NOFO Review, Scoring and Ranking Policy and Procedure.