




# CoC Application Interested Parties Information Session

May 30, 2023

June 5, 2023

# NOFO 2023: Preparation



HUD Policy Priorities
Legislative/Regulatory Background
Homeless Definitions & Key Terms
Eligible and Not-Eligible Applications
Threshold Criteria
Other Items Likely to be Scored

# Looking Back.....

## What's Important in the 2022 NOFO

**HUD  
POLICY  
PRIORITIES**

**IN THE**

**FY22  
NOFO**

 National Alliance to  
END HOMELESSNESS

Priority #1: *End homelessness for all persons experiencing homelessness.*

Priority #2: *Use a Housing First approach.*

Priority #3: *Reduce unsheltered homelessness*

Priority #4: *Improve system performance.*

Priority #5: *Partner with housing, health, and service agencies*

Priority #6: *Advance racial equity and address racial disparities.*

Priority #7: *Improving assistance to LGBTQ+ individuals*

Priority #8: *Engage persons with lived experience of homelessness*

Priority #9: *Support local engagement to increase supply of affordable housing.*

# Bookmark on Your Browser!

<https://hsncfl.org/funding>

# Legislation/Regulatory Background

- ▶ 1987 - McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act
- ▶ Early/mid 1990's - HUD creates CoC and Lead Agency in regulation
- ▶ 2009 - McKinney-Vento is reauthorized/amended as the HEARTH Act
  - Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing

## HUD CoC Interim Rules

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2033/hearth-coc-program-interim-rule/>

# Lead Agency

- ▶ Liaison between the community and HUD
- ▶ Responsible for year-round planning and coordination
- ▶ Responsible for submitting a “Collaborative Application” to HUD
- ▶ Responsible for facilitating a local application process to determine what projects will be included in the submission to HUD
  - ▶ Being selected to be included in the submission does not guarantee that the project will be funded. The regional Collaborative Application must still compete against all of the other CoC submissions across the country
- ▶ HSN is this region’s Lead Agency

# Homeless Definitions & Key Terms

# Housing First: Definition

- Housing First is an approach to **quickly and successfully connect** individuals and families experiencing homelessness **to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry**, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements.
- Supportive services are **offered** to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.





# Housing First: Definition

- Housing First is an approach to **quickly and successfully connect** individuals and families experiencing homelessness **to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry**, such as sobriety, treatment or service participation requirements.



- Supportive services are **offered** to maximize housing stability and prevent returns to homelessness as opposed to addressing predetermined treatment goals prior to permanent housing entry.

# Housing First: Background

## THE PAST

- Began as reaction against view that people experiencing homelessness must “earn” their way to permanent affordable and supportive housing:
  - Provide people experiencing homelessness with housing without treatment pre-requisite
  - Focus on reducing barriers to entry

## THE PRESENT

- Evolved into a distinct approach for delivering permanent supportive housing
  - Services informed by harm reduction and motivational interviewing
  - Project-level policies and procedures that prevent lease violations and evictions




# Housing First: Key Principles

- Safe and affordable housing
- All people can achieve housing stability in permanent housing; supports may look different
- Everyone is “housing ready”
- Improved quality of life, health, mental health, and employment can be achieved through housing
- Right to determination, dignity and respect
- Configuration of housing and services based on participants needs and preferences

# Housing First: Core Components

- Few to no programmatic prerequisites to permanent housing entry
- Low barrier admission policies
- Rapid and streamlined entry into housing
- Supportive services are voluntary
- Tenants have full rights, responsibilities, and legal protections
- Practices and policies to prevent lease violations and evictions
- Applicable in a variety of housing models

# Housing First Checklist



**United States  
Interagency Council on  
Homelessness**  
*Preventing and Ending Homelessness in the United States*

The Housing First Checklist:  
A Practical Tool for Assessing Housing First in Practice

**Introduction**

Housing First is a proven method of ending all types of homelessness and is the most effective approach to ending chronic homelessness. Housing First offers individuals and families experiencing homelessness immediate access to permanent affordable or supportive housing. Without clinical prerequisites like completion of a course of treatment or evidence of sobriety and with a low-threshold for entry, Housing First yields higher housing retention rates, lower returns to homelessness, and significant reductions in the use of crisis service and institutions.<sup>1</sup> Due to its high degree of success, Housing First is identified as a core strategy for ending homelessness in *Opening Doors: the Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness* and has become widely adopted by national and community-based organizations as a best practice for solving homelessness.

Housing First permanent supportive housing models are typically designed for individuals or families who have complex service needs, who are often turned away from other affordable housing settings, and/or who are least likely to be able to proactively seek and obtain housing on their own. Housing First approaches also include rapid re-housing which provides quick access to permanent housing through interim rental assistance and supportive services on a time-limited basis. The approach has also evolved to encompass a community-level orientation to ending homelessness in which barriers to housing entry are removed and efforts are in place to prioritize the most vulnerable and high-need people for housing assistance.

As Housing First approaches become adopted more widely, the need for clarity increases around what the Housing First approach entails and how to know whether a particular housing program or community approach is truly using a Housing First approach. Robust tools and instruments are available which can quantitatively assess and measure a housing program's fidelity to Housing First, and recent research has attempted to rigorously evaluate Housing First implementation.<sup>2</sup> For quick screening, policymakers and practitioners will benefit from this practical, easy to use guide to identify and assess the implementation of the core components of the Housing First approach.

<sup>1</sup> Lipton, F.R. et al. (2000). "Tenure in supportive housing for homeless persons with severe mental illness." *Psychiatric Services* 51(4): 479-486. M. Larimer, D. Malone, M. Garner, et al. "Health Care and Public Service Use and Costs Before and After Provision of Housing for Chronically Homeless Persons with Severe Alcohol Problems." *Journal of the American Medical Association*, April 1, 2009, pp. 2349-2357. Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance. (2007). "Home and Healthy for Good: A Statewide Pilot Housing First Program." Boston.  
<sup>2</sup> Tsemberis, S. (2010). *Housing First: The Pathways model to end homelessness for people with mental illness and addiction*. Center City, MN: Hazelden. The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University. (2012). *Unlocking the door: An implementation evaluation of supportive housing for active users in New York City*. New York. <http://www.casacolumbia.org/upload/2012/01/21307casahope21full.pdf>

- ❑ USICH developed a tool to help policymakers, administrators, and communities assess if a permanent housing program is using Housing First
- ❑ Includes both “core” and “additional advanced” elements
- ❑ Examines Housing First at community-level as well

# Categories of Homelessness

- ▶ There are **four main categories of homelessness (in addition to chronic homelessness)** under which a person may be considered eligible for CoC-funded projects
- ▶ 1) Literally Homeless
- ▶ 2) Imminent Risk of Homelessness
- ▶ 3) Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes
- ▶ 4) Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence (Includes Human Trafficking)
- ▶ Other: Chronic Homelessness

# 1: Literal Homelessness

An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- ▶ **Place Not Meant for Human Habitation:** An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground; or,
- ▶ **Temporary Shelter:** An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or,
- ▶ **Institutions:** An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering the institution

# Chronic Homelessness

A homeless individual:

- ▶ **Current Living Situation:** Currently living in a place not meant for human habitation, safe haven, or emergency shelter;
- ▶ **Disability Status:** With a disability; and,
- ▶ **Duration of Homelessness:** Has been homeless on the streets or in shelter either:
  - Continuously for at least 12 months; or,
  - On at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, so long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months

“Chronically homeless” also includes:

- ▶ **Institutional Care:** Persons who have been residing in an institutional care facility (e.g., jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility) for fewer than 90 days who met all the necessary criteria above prior to entering that facility; or,
- ▶ **Families:** Families with an adult head household or, if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household who meets all the necessary criteria above



# Chronic Homelessness, con't

The individual or head of household:

- ▶ With a disability that:
  - ▶ Is expected to be of long-continuing or indefinite duration;
  - ▶ Substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently;
  - ▶ Could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions; and,
  - ▶ Is a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury;
- ▶ With a developmental disability; or,
- ▶ With HIV/AIDS

To be considered chronically homeless, an individual or head of household must experience either:

- ▶ One continuous year of homelessness; or,
- ▶ 4 or more occasions of homelessness over a period of 3 years, the cumulative total of which must equal at least 12 months

## 2: Imminent Risk of Homelessness

Not an eligible category for this year's applications (would lose federal points)

An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

- ▶ **Residence Lost Within 14 Days:** The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
- ▶ **No Subsequent Residence:** No subsequent residence has been identified; and,
- ▶ **Lack of Resources or Support Networks:** The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks (e.g., family, friends, faith-based, or other social networks) needed to obtain other permanent housing

# 3: Eligible under other federal statutes

*Requires federal approval to use CoC funds, and we do not have that approval*

An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

- ▶ **Residence Lost Within 14 Days:** The primary nighttime residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
- ▶ **No Subsequent Residence:** No subsequent residence has been identified; and,
- ▶ **Lack of Resources or Support Networks:** The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks (e.g., family, friends, faith-based, or other social networks) needed to obtain other permanent housing

# 4. Fleeing Domestic Violence/Human Trafficking

An individual or family who:

- ▶ Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
- ▶ Has no other residence; and,
- ▶ Lacks the resources or support networks (e.g., family, friends, and faith-based or other social networks) to obtain other permanent housing

# Which Definitions can HUD CoC Projects Serve?

## ▶ Category One

- ▶ Literally Homeless
  - ▶ Including Persons experiencing Chronic Homelessness

## ▶ Category Four

- ▶ Persons/Families fleeing Domestic Violence or Human Trafficking

# Tenant Based vs. Site Based Rent Assistance

- ▶ Tenant Based: Voucher is linked to the program participant, not the unit. Tenant can choose from eligible units for which a landlord is willing to accept the voucher. Often called Scattered Site housing.
- ▶ Site/Sponsor Based: The subsidy is only available to units at a certain location(s) controlled by the applicant (usually owned by). To participate in the project the tenant must agree to live at that location. Often called Project Based.

# Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

- ▶ Permanent voucher and permanent, client centered services
- ▶ For Chronically homeless households only (and DedicatedPLUS)
- ▶ Cannot be used for households not experiencing chronic homelessness

# Rapid ReHousing (RRH)

- ▶ Rapid ReHousing
- ▶ Time limited housing assistance (tenant based) and time limited services (max 24 months for youth, usually maxed at 1 year for families)
- ▶ Families with children, Unaccompanied youth (18 - 24), Victims of crime. No disability requirement



# Transitional Housing (TH)

- ▶ Transitional Housing
- ▶ Housing with supportive services to facilitate the participants successful move to permanent housing within 24 months
- ▶ Participants must sign a lease, sub lease or occupancy agreement for a period of at least one month, must be automatically renewable, with a maximum term of 24 months
- ▶ Project must provide access to supportive services for the entire time participants remain
- ▶ HUD is not accepting new TH applications at this time, but.....

# Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing

Combines two component types into one project

Provide crisis housing with financial assistance & wrap around services to help move in to Permanent Housing as quickly as possible

Crisis housing is brief and without pre-conditions

Participants have to ability to choose to participate in one, the other, or both components over the course of up to 24 months

# HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)

- ▶ Homeless Management Data Base
  - ▶ Our community uses ClientTrack
- ▶ A data base that complies with a set of standards developed by HUD
- ▶ Client level data
- ▶ Ability to track project outcomes AND system outcomes
- ▶ Used as part of the Coordinated Entry Process
- ▶ DV/HT must use a different, but comparable data system (must comply with the same requirements)

# Coordinated Entry System

A community-wide process that streamlines access to housing using data-driven methods in order to serve people with the most appropriate intervention in the right order.

# Prioritization Factors

## Most critical Service Needs

High use of crisis services (jail, ER, psychiatric facilities)

Severe health or behavioral health challenges, substance use disorders, functional impairments

Vulnerability to illness or death

Vulnerability to victimization

## Longest length of homelessness

Time on streets

Time in Emergency Shelters

Time in hospitals/jails/MH facilities less than 90 days and entering from streets/ES

★ Recently added: COVID Risk Factors

# Two things not eligible in the HUD CoC competition

- ▶ Shelter
- ▶ Food Sharing programs
- ▶ These projects are eligible for Emergency Solutions Grants, but not for CoC funding

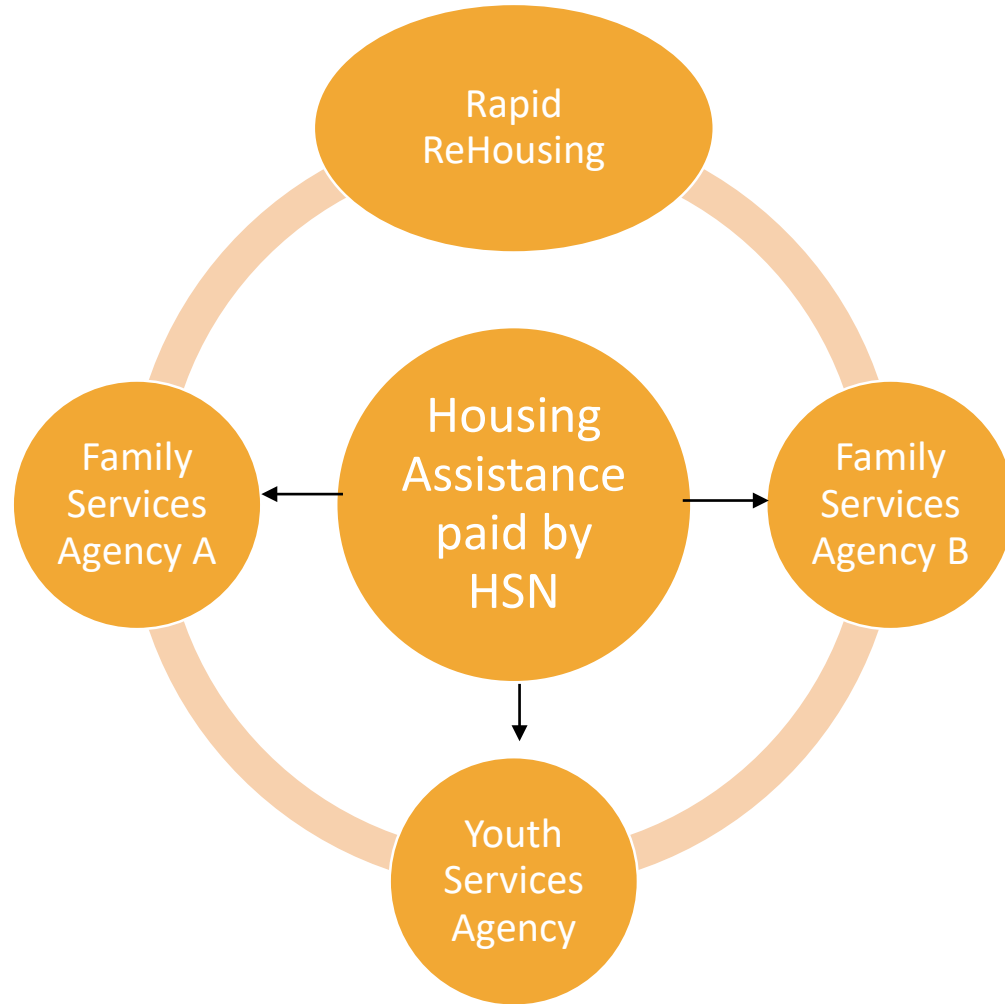
# What Kind of Applications Are Eligible in this CoC

- ▶ **Permanent Supportive Housing** (persons experiencing chronic homelessness)
  - ▶ **Site Based**
    - ▶ Housing Units, combined with
    - ▶ On-Site Services
  - ▶ **Site Based**
    - ▶ Housing Units only
  - ▶ **Scattered Site Services**
    - ▶ Will be bundled with scattered site tenant assistance OR with a site based housing units only application
- ▶ **Rapid Rehousing**
  - ▶ Scattered Site Services
- ▶ **Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing**

Primary Service Need:  
Housing Stability Case Management, including Housing Navigation

# What is a Bundle?

Example





# Housing & Health Care Leverage

Use housing assistance not funded by the CoC or ESG

Leverage health care services for the project participants

- Can include MH services

Will have to have signed MOUs, PHA plans, etc.

Can do Housing Leverage or Health Care Leverage or both in one project

# Local Application Minimal Threshold Factors

- ▶ Must be a nonprofit or a unit of local government
  - ▶ For profit organization are not eligible to apply
- ▶ Projects have to be eligible per HUD
- ▶ Active Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) registration
- ▶ No outstanding delinquent federal debts
- ▶ No debarments and/or suspensions
- ▶ Disclosed any violations of federal law
- ▶ Demonstrated the population to be served meets program eligibility requirements

# Threshold Factors, cont.

- ▶ Participate in HMIS (Comparable system for certified DV agencies)
- ▶ Participate and accept referrals exclusively through Coordinated Entry System
- ▶ Complies with Housing First Principles
- ▶ Complies with headquarter and field office directives
- ▶ Active in the CoC
- ▶ Demonstrates fiscal and administrative capacity
- ▶ Documented required matching funds (25%)
- ▶ Documented organizational financial stability, audit shows no major findings
- ▶ Code of Conduct complied with 2 CFR part 200
- ▶ New applicant has to attend one of the two RFP workshop

# Scoring

**Not all scoring comes from the answers to the questions in the application**

**Additional scores will come from administrative and HMIS data**

# More Items Likely to be Scored

Has your agency completed a Housing First Assessment



Has your agency conducted a Race Equity assessment and identified any strategies to address



Does your agency solicit feedback from program participants



Does your agency have an advisory board of persons with lived experience



Has your agency been attending CoC membership meetings? Committee meetings? Participated in 2023 Point in Time Count? Have staff attended CoC sponsored trainings on best practices

