

2011 NOFA Ranking Policies

Developed by the Ranking Policies Task Group of the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness
Approved by the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness on 8/17/11

Introduction

The 2011 Ranking Policies proposal was developed by the Ranking Policies Task Group of the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness. To develop the ranking policies, the Task Group reviewed Evaluation Instrument data from previous years, Chicago's Exhibit 1 scores from previous years, and policies and notices published by HUD. Additionally, the Task Group reviewed Chicago's past ranking policies, and attempted to build upon policies approved in previous years.

As in 2010, continuums of care (CoCs) will not be required to rank *renewal* projects in *e-snaps* during the 2011 HUD CoC NOFA competition; instead, CoCs will only be required to confirm or reject each renewal project application (from the "FY 2011 CoC Registration Notice" published in the *Federal Register* on June 27, 2011). Therefore, the Ranking Policies Task Group developed policies this year will be used to determine whether to confirm or reject each renewal project. Further ranking (ordered 1, 2, 3, ... etc) of renewal projects will be for local purposes only.

The proposed 2011 NOFA Ranking Policies, below, build upon the 2010 Ranking Policies, which included the following:

- Statement that the Task Group could best identify under-performing projects by examining scores from more than one year, and
- Placed low-scoring projects on funding probation and provided them technical assistance to improve their project operations and services.

The 2011 NOFA Ranking Policies Task Group supports placing low-scoring projects on funding probation and providing them with technical assistance. The Task Group also recommends that in the future, scores should be reviewed for more than one year and consistently low-scoring projects should be defunded. The Planning Council should review this policy in 2011 during its strategic planning process.

Finally, the 2011 NOFA Ranking Policies endorse the use of *standard deviation*, which is a statistical tool that shows how much variation or "dispersion" there is from the mean (average). If a data set is plotted in the form of a bell curve, one standard deviation from the mean (average) in either direction accounts for around 68 percent of the data and two standard deviations away from the mean (average) accounts for roughly 95 percent of the data. For the 2011 NOFA Ranking Policies, 2011 Evaluation Instrument scores will be used as the data set to determine the mean (average) and the standard deviation.

The 2011 ranking policies for new and renewal projects are as follows:

To be eligible for ranking, all projects – new and renewal – must pass all facets of the application review including:

- Projects must meet all HUD eligibility criteria.
- Projects must meet the application deadlines, as set by the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness.
- Renewal projects must pass the threshold criteria outlined in the 2011 NOFA Evaluation Instrument;

Projects that do not meet all of the criteria outlined above will be defunded via reallocation in 2011.

Ranking order is as follows:

1. New Permanent Housing Bonus project(s) will be ranked in the order determined by the 2011 Bonus/ New Project Selection Panel.
2. HMIS Project - The full amount of the HMIS project will be ranked for renewal.

3. All renewal projects will be ranked, as outlined below:
 - a. Projects will be ranked in order of 2011 Evaluation Instrument score (highest to lowest). Projects with the same score will be ranked in alphabetical order.

In addition to the order described above, during the local presentation of final rankings (Public Ranking Webinar), rankings will also be shown separately for visual purposes by HUD program type (PH, SH, TH, SSO, and HMIS), in order of 2011 Evaluation Instrument score (highest to lowest). This local presentation will be used so that projects can compare their scores and ranking to projects of a similar type.

- b. Any project that scored below 50 on the 2010 Evaluation Instrument, subsequently received technical assistance in 2010-2011, and scores below 50 again in 2011 will be defunded via reallocation in 2011.
- c. Any project that scores below two standard deviations of the mean on the 2011 Evaluation Instrument will be put on funding probation and receive technical assistance in 2011 by the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness. After receiving technical assistance, the project will be required to propose and implement a plan of action for improvement.