

Summary of the 2011 HUD Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program NOFA Process to Date

June 30, 2011 — *Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness and its Committees*



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FY2011 CoC Registration Notice Released:

- On June 24, 2011, HUD published the FY2011 CoC Registration Notice titled [“Notice of Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2011 Opportunity to Register and Other Important Information for Electronic Application Submission for Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Homeless Assistance Competition”](#) and opened the 2011 CoC Registration in *e-snaps* so that CoC’s can register. **The CoC registration process will close on July 25, 2011 at 8pm EST.**
- As in previous years, eligible SHP and S+C *renewal projects* will be awarded as quickly as possible while *new projects* will be awarded separately, after the project threshold review of the new project submissions and the scoring of the CoC applications have been completed. CoC will not have to rank *renewal projects* in *e-snaps* in 2011.

Notes about HEARTH Act Implementation:

- The HEARTH Act regulations are being issued and implemented in several phases; HUD anticipates issuing the remaining regulations for public comment in calendar year 2011.
 - HUD is in the process of issuing regulations and developing requirements and parameters for the CoC program's implementation and administration.
 - Until the final regulation for effect is published, the CoC program, created by the HEARTH Act, will not be implemented.
- HUD encourages CoCs to review the HEARTH Act performance measures and begin to strategize about how the outcomes will be collected at the local level. HUD strongly encourages communities to consider HMIS capacity in collecting the information necessary to report on the defined selection criteria that will be applied in future competitions.

CoC Planning Process:

- HUD encourages CoCs to integrate and align their strategic plans across state and local jurisdictions with the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.
- CoC applications will be evaluated based on the following five (5) categories (which have not changed from 2010): 1) CoC Housing, Services, and Structure; 2) Homeless Needs and Data Collection; 3) CoC Strategic Planning; 4) CoC Performance; and 5) Housing Emphasis.
 - Housing emphasis (housing to services ratio) and leveraging will be calculated on eligible new projects only.
 - CoCs that demonstrate coordination with NSP and any HUD-managed AARA programs may receive extra points during the CoC application process.
- In FY2011, a greater effort will be made to target CoCs serving extremely high need communities, as defined in the NOFA, in order to meet the national strategic goals on ending homelessness.

Highlights for the 2011 CoC NOFA:

- *Permanent Housing Bonus* – The PH Bonus will be available this year and multiple projects may be funded that serve homeless and disabled individuals and/or families, and/or chronically homeless individuals and families; Chicago is eligible for \$4.4 million in bonus funds.
 - CoCs are encouraged to use bonus funds to create new beds for the chronically homeless, as it remains a HUD priority to reduce the chronic homeless population; this will continue to be a scored item in the CoC application.

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- *HHN Reallocation* – CoCs in Hold Harmless Need (HHN) status may reallocate funds in whole or part from existing SHP renewal projects to create one or more new permanent housing projects. CoCs may also create new HMIS projects using the HHN Reallocation process.
 - New SHP permanent housing projects will be allowed to request 1 year of funding to: reduce gaps in PH availability, add to the total number of available PH beds, and help increase the number of persons moving into PH.
- *HMIS* – Acknowledging increased use of HMIS as a result of several initiatives (such as HEARTH performance requirements and HHS and VA usage of HMIS), HUD may include HMIS funding incentives in the FY2011 CoC Homeless Assistance Competition.
 - HUD encourages each CoC, in collaboration with the HMIS Lead, to assess the adequacy of current funding and staffing for HMIS. This strategic review should include a process for estimating costs associated with such items as: 1) Increased participation of service providers in HMIS; 2) Enhancements to current HMIS software; 3) Compliance with HMIS Data Standards; and 4) Assessing HMIS software functionality for capacity to generate data for HUD reporting (APR, AHAR, Pulse, HPRP, etc.)
 - The HEARTH Act requires all communities have an HMIS that has the capacity to collect unduplicated counts of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and provide information to project sponsors and applicants for needs analyses and funding priorities. Additionally, all Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) recipients must participate in the local HMIS. The HMIS lead should begin to consider any unique needs that the HMIS may be required to develop to accommodate these emergency shelter, street outreach, and homeless prevention programs.
- *Coordination with Consolidated Plan* – CoCs will be required to address how they are coordinating with the HPRP recipients' substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan 2008 Action Plan.
- *Educational Assurances* – As in 2010, HUD will require education assurances as part of the FY2011 CoC NOFA:
 - CoC will be required to demonstrate that it is collaborating with local education agencies.
 - CoC will be required to demonstrate that it is considering the educational needs of children when families are placed in emergency or transitional shelter.
 - Project applicants must demonstrate that their programs are establishing policies and practices that are consistent with, and do not restrict the exercise of rights provided by the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act, and other laws relating to the provision of education and related services to individuals and families.
 - Project applicants must demonstrate that programs that provide housing or services to families are designating a staff person to ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to appropriate services in the community.
- *Exhibit 1 Data* – By May 31, 2011, CoCs were required to submit their 2011 Housing Inventory Data and Point-in-Time Data directly into the HUD Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) website.
- *FFATA Reporting Requirements* – Project applicants selected for FY2011 NOFA funding will be subject to reporting requirements of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (FFATA). The FY2011 CoC NOFA will include the specific reporting requirements related to FFATA. See <https://www.fsrs.gov> for more information.
- *Program Outcome Logic Model* – project applicants will not be required to submit the HUD form-96010 as part of the Exhibit 2 process in e-snaps.

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