

2015 CoC New Bonus Project – 10/7/15 Information Meeting

Q & A

- Q1. What are the definitions of short-term versus medium-term rent assistance?
A1. Short-term is up to three months; medium-term is from 3 to 24 months
- Q2. Of the 24% of homeless African Americans (per the 2015 Point in Time Count), what is the proportionate breakout of what % will be best served by what intervention (PSH or RRH)?
A2. Reference the pie chart in the solicitation, p 4. These point-in-time count data show that of total African Americans counted, approximately 29% meet HUD's definition of being chronically homeless, for whom PSH is identified as a national recognized effective housing intervention. The remaining portion are not considered chronically homeless and would be good candidates for RRH type support. However, the solicitation leaves it very open for applicants to propose the type of housing approach and for whom, based on the need.
- Q3. Will projects who indicate a willingness to participate in coordinated access, whether they be PSH or RRH, be preferred in the ranking process.
A3. Yes (see relevant scoring criteria at Section IV.A (p. 8)).
- Q4. On p.2 of the solicitation, A Home for Everyone discussed prioritization of people with higher vulnerability and lists several priority populations. Are these populations listed in any priority order, or are all the groups listed priority?
A4. All of the listed populations are considered priority populations. This ties into the question about projects' current or future participation in a coordinated access process, which is a process that often includes criteria that screens and assesses for vulnerability factors.
- Q5. On p.13 of the solicitation, it mentions the option of seeking long-term rent assistance and a project-based option. Can you describe more?
A5. Appendix C briefly describes options for use of rental assistance, including tenant-based, sponsor-based, or project-based. HUD's regulations address project-based rent assistance requirements under the CoC program in the [CoC Interim Rule](#), particularly section 578.51(e). There are multiple ways to connect CoC funding to specific units, including project-basing rental assistance, master leasing, or providing operating funding for existing units.
- Q6. Regarding a project's commitment to coordinated access with a rapid rehousing (RRH) project: While the youth, family, and domestic violence systems have coordinated entry processes that include RRH, the adult system's coordinated entry pilot does not include RRH. If a proposer is looking to provide RRH for adults, should the proposer just indicate a willingness to participate in coordinated entry, recognizing that there is significant work to be done to integrate that into the adult coordinated entry pilot?
A6. Yes.
- Q7. Can dental services be considered as match?
A7. In order to be eligible as match, services must be allowable activities under the [CoC Interim Rule](#). Section 578.53 of that rule defines eligible supportive services, which include outpatient health services, including "preventive and noncosmetic dental care" (578.53(12)(vii)). As such, the value of most dental services provided directly to program participants should be eligible as match. Dental services can also be eligible as leverage.

- Q8. Is the HFE Resource Advisory Committee hoping to receive just one single application through this, or several?
A8. There is no expectation nor preference either way. The RAC will select from the most competitive applications of those received.
- Q9. Can you apply for both PSH and RRH activities?
A9. Yes, however, you cannot apply to do both in a single application. You will need to submit two separate applications.
- Q10. Are you eligible to apply if you only provide support services (and not housing?)
A10. Applications for supportive-service-only projects are not allowed by HUD under this year's NOFA. However, supportive service providers may be able to apply as part of a partnership with one or more agencies who will be responsible for providing the housing services along with the proposed supportive services.
- Q11. Can we blend other funding sources to pay for support services (e.g. Medicaid)?
A11. Yes. In fact, this is generally favored in the scoring process, as it demonstrates match, leverage, and systems alignment.
- Q12. Can a culturally specific agency partner with another non-culturally specific agency and split the responsibilities (e.g. service provision, reporting, fiscal monitoring, etc.)
A12. Yes. A culturally-specific agency may partner with mainstream providers as a subrecipient or as a contracted service provider.
- Q13. The solicitation uses the term both African American and Black. Can you clarify whether the focus is in serving people who are specifically African American at the exclusion of African immigrant and other populations? Or, is it a broader definition?
A13. The solicitation draws from the Point in Time Count, in which participants who were counted were allowed to select as many racial/ethnic identities as desired. Of the total amount of people who selected African American/Black, very few (6 on the streets or in emergency shelter) indicated African immigrant or refugees as their racial identity. The solicitation uses the category of African American/Black category more broadly. Applicants may propose projects that serve populations and/or smaller sub-sets of the population within that category and provide justification for why their project proposed to serve those population(s), but applicants should also demonstrate how their projects are specifically reducing the disparity identified within the solicitation.
- Q14. Is HUD's definition of disability new?
A14. No, HUD has used this definition for several years. HUD's definition of disability is more broadly defined, in comparison to how it is defined for purposes of securing disability benefits.
- Q15. Is there a preference for new, versus expanded, projects in this solicitation?
A15. No, there is no preference. Both are allowed.
- Q16. Is it possible that the RAC members, after selecting the top applications, may go back to the applicants with proposed revisions to the project outcomes, budget and/or partnerships?

- A16. Yes. RAC members may elect to reach out to selected applicants to propose changes to the project to improve alignment with HUD and local priorities.
- Q17. Is there any geographic preference for projects and/or proposed populations to be served?
- A17. No, there is no stated geographic preference. Applicants can make the case for the geographic area(s) the project will serve and why, but HUD requires that people served through CoC grants under this solicitation must reside in Multnomah County.
- Q18. The solicitation creates priority for projects that use a Housing First approach, which requires that providers cannot precondition access to housing based on an assisted household's engagement in services. Our program is interested in using the funding to provide housing assistance to people who are engaged in our services. Is that consistent with a Housing First approach?
- A18. Your project can still use a Housing First approach, even if it's primarily targeted to people who receive other supportive services through your existing programming, as long as you do not predicate assisted household's eligibility to continue receiving CoC-funded housing assistance on the household's ongoing willingness to engage in your program services. Similarly, it's important to demonstrate that your existing programming does not create barriers to entry into services (like required sobriety).
- Q19. Question 4A. on page 15 of the solicitation asks proposers to describe the type of permanent housing in which assisted households will reside. How does that work relative to short- and medium-term rental assistance for rapid rehousing (RRH)?
- A19. While RRH assistance is time-limited (less than 24-months total) it does require that assisted households hold an initial lease of a minimum of 12-months. As such, even if the assistance is limited, the housing is permanent. All projects should provide detail about how they will identify permanent housing units in which assisted households can reside.
- Q20. The solicitation identifies a priority for projects led by culturally-specific organizations. In order for the project to be led by a culturally-specific organization, must the culturally-specific organization be the direct grantee, or can a non-culturally-specific organization be the grantee on behalf of and at the request of a culturally-specific agency that leads the service delivery under the grant?
- A20. The solicitation doesn't offer this level of detail, nor has the Resource Advisory Committee specifically considered this question. If a non-culturally-specific agency is proposing to act as grantee on behalf of and at the request of a culturally-specific agency that proposes to lead the service delivery under the grant, the pre-application should clearly identify these roles and should indicate how the culturally-specific agency is leading the project without acting as the direct grantee. It is unclear whether such projects would receive priority under the solicitation.