



## FY2019 CoC Program Application

### Project Ranking Criteria and Methodology

#### **New Project Eligibility and Threshold Requirements:**

New projects must meet minimum project eligibility, capacity, timeliness, and performance standards identified in the NOFA or they will be rejected from consideration for funding. Project applicants and subrecipients must demonstrate the financial management capacity and experience to carry out the project as detailed in the project application and the capacity to administer federal funds.

All projects must meet basic eligibility requirements as outlined in *24 CFR 578*.

All projects must also meet all eligibility and threshold requirements as outlined in the 2019 CoC Program Competition NOFA. (See **page 3, threshold requirement checklist.**)

#### **Ranking Process:**

HUD requires that CoC's rank all projects in two Tiers. Tier 1 is equal to 100% of the combined ARA for all projects eligible for renewal for the first time, plus 94% of the combined ARA for all projects eligible for renewal. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's ARD plus any amount available for bonus funds.

ARD: \$3,699,553

Tier 1: \$3,477,581

Tier 2: \$ 221,972 + Any Applicable Bonus Funds

Any COC Board Member associated with an agency that is applying for funding will not be a part of the ranking process.

The CoC's ranking process is intended to be a coordinated, inclusive, and outcome-oriented community process for the objective ranking and selection of project applications. New projects will be evaluated and ranked as follows:

- 1. New Project Applications will be scored and ranked according to the attached point system: "2019 AL-501 CoC New Project Scoring Criteria."**
  - New Projects will be evaluated based on capacity\*, need, and ability to successfully operate programs to reduce and end homelessness.
  - Points will be awarded based on the specifications outlined in the scoring criteria.

\* Any data necessary for determining capacity or performance as it relates to Victim Service Providers will be reported from an HMIS-comparable, HUD-approved database, and evaluated based on the degree they improve safety for the population they serve. Data from HMIS and/or comparable databases will exclude participant names and identifying information in order to maintain participant confidentiality.

- 2. All New and Renewal/Expansion projects that meet all threshold criteria will be ranked based on project type and population served according to the attached “2019 CoC Priorities” document.**
- 3. In the event two or more projects’ scores result in an identical rating, the tie will be broken according to any locally established priorities outlined in the “2019 CoC Priorities” document. Should the tying projects be of identical project type or if the CoC has established no local priorities, then the tie will be broken according to the requested amount of grant funding - with larger grants being rated above grants with less funding.**
- 4. CoC “infrastructure projects” - HMIS and Coordinated Entry - will automatically be ranked in Tier 1.**

### **Reallocation Process:**

Renewal projects may voluntarily reallocate a portion of their funds by reducing the amount in their renewal project application. Renewal projects may be reallocated in part or in whole during the review and ranking process because of poor performance, unused budget amounts from previous years, or need for increased funding in a higher priority project type according to the CoC’s local priorities.

The CoC reserves the right to adjust a project’s ranking and remove a project from Tier 2 – regardless of score - if the Tier 2 project fills a critical service gap and/or community need or serves any established priority populations.

The CoC reserves the right to adjust a project’s ranking and place a project into Tier 2 - regardless of score - if the Tier 1 project is deemed noncompliant with CoC Policies & Procedures, noncompliant with HUD regulations, fails to adhere to the Housing First Model of assistance, no longer fills a critical service gap or no longer serves an established priority population.

The CoC will consider the vulnerability and service needs of each project’s target population during the ranking process. This is to ensure the availability of services to high-priority populations in accordance with the CoC’s local priorities.

### **New Project Acceptance/Rejection**

New project proposals that do not meet all threshold requirements will be rejected.

New project proposals that meet all threshold requirements will be accepted and ranked but may not be funded if they rank outside of available funding amounts. Likewise, HUD may choose to fund all, some, or none of the projects ranked in Tier 2 - based on HUD’s funding availability and competitive process.



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### Project Thresholds

The CoC Board will review all projects to determine if they meet the following eligibility threshold requirements on a pass/fail standard. If the CoC Board determines that the applicable standards are not met for a project, the project will be rejected.

- Coordinated Entry Participation - Project must receive 100% of program participants through the Coordinated Entry Process or an approved alternative system for projects serving victims of domestic violence.
- Housing First Model/Low-Barrier Implementation - Project must follow the Housing First Model and certify as such in the eSnaps project application form.
- Documented, secured minimum match - All matching funds must be identified, and the commitment must be documented.
- Applicant is active CoC participant – Subrecipient agencies must be current members of the CoC General Membership.
- Application is complete and data are consistent - All sections of the project application must be complete and agree in numbers and activities in all sections.
- Data quality (for renewal projects only) must be at or above 90%.
- Acceptable organizational audit/financial review.
- Documented organizational financial stability - financial structure, policies & procedures, and general ledger must demonstrate appropriate capacity for managing federal funds.

**NEW PROJECT SCORING**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Clarifications/Breakdown</b>	<b>Max Score</b>
Q1. Describe the experience of the applicant and subrecipients (if any) in working with the proposed housing.	8 points for experience with population / subpopulation to be served; 7 points for experience working with proposed housing type.	15
Q2. Describe experience with utilizing a “housing first” approach, include (1) Eligibility criteria, (2) process for accepting new clients, and (3) process and criteria for exiting clients. - - Must demonstrate there are no preconditions to entry, allowing entry regardless of current or past substance abuse, income, criminal records (with exceptions of restrictions imposed by federal, state, or local law or ordinance), marital status, familial status, actual or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Must demonstrate the project has a process to address situations that may jeopardize housing or project assistance to ensure that project participation is terminated in only the most severe cases.	If proposed project demonstrates utilization of a housing first model in these three areas, then they will receive the maximum of 5 points. If they are deficient in any of these areas, they shall receive no points - - since they either are or are not practicing a housing first model.	5
Q3. Describe experience in effectively utilizing federal funds including HUD grants and other public funding, including satisfactory drawdowns and performance for existing grants as evidenced by timely reimbursement of subrecipients (if applicable), regular drawdowns, timely resolution of monitoring findings, and timely submission of required reporting on existing grants.	Max. points awarded if project shows satisfactory experience utilizing federal funds though any of the listed and applicable areas. No points if deemed unsatisfactory or inefficient.	5
Q4. Extent to which the applicant: (1) Demonstrates understanding of the needs of the clients to be served. (2) Demonstrates that type, scale, and location of the housing fits the needs of the clients to be served. (3) Demonstrates that type and scale of all supportive services, regardless of funding sources, meets the needs of the clients to be served. (4) Demonstrates how clients will be assisted in obtaining mainstream benefits. (5) Established performance measures for housing and income that are objective, measurable, trackable, and meet or exceed any established HUD or CoC benchmarks.	Project shall be awarded 3 points for each of these five areas which are satisfiably demonstrated.	15

<b>Question</b>	<b>Clarification/Breakdown</b>	<b>Max Score</b>
Q5. Describe the plan to assist clients to rapidly secure and maintain permanent housing that is safe, affordable, accessible, and acceptable to their needs.	Max. points awarded if such a reasonable plan exists. No points if the plan is nonexistent or unreasonable.	5
Q6. Describe how clients will be assisted to increase employment and/or income and to maximize their ability to live independently.	Max. points awarded if such a reasonable plan exists. No points if the plan is nonexistent or unreasonable.	5
Q7. Describe plan for rapid implementation of the program, documenting how the project will be ready to begin housing the first program participant. Provide a detailed schedule of proposed activities for 60 days, 120 days, and 180 days after grant award.	Max. points awarded if such a reasonable plan exists. No points if the plan is nonexistent or unreasonable.	10
Q8. Project is cost-effective when projected cost per person served is compared to CoC average within project type.	Max. points awarded if projected cost does not exceed type average. No points if cost exceeds project type average.	5
Q9. Organization's most recent audit: Found no exceptions to standard practices.	Max. points for question being satisfied. No points if unsatisfied.	2
Q10. Budgeted costs are reasonable, allocable, and allowable.	Max. points for question being satisfied. No points if budgeted costs are unreasonable, unallocable, or unallowable	20

**Total Available Points**

**87**

**Project Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **2019 CoC Priorities**

Following a review of community data and examination of the local homeless assistance system's current structure, the CoC Board of Directors for the Homeless Coalition of the Alabama Gulf Coast voted not to prioritize any project type or subpopulation over others.

Approved by CoC Board of Directors on 08/14/2019