

# Rhode Island Continuum of Care RI-500

June 2017

## Request for Letters of Interest to Apply for New Permanent Housing (Permanent Supportive Housing/Rapid Re-Housing) Funds During the 2017 Continuum of Care Program Competition

The Rhode Island Continuum of Care is requesting Letters of Interest from qualified nonprofit organizations and/or local government agencies for new project applications for the 2017 Continuum of Care Program Competition. The CoC seeks projects that can make maximum efficient, economical, and effective use of the prospective allocation of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) funds.

A total of approximately \$450,000 in reallocated funding for new projects and a not-yet-known amount of bonus funding may be available to apply for in the competition. The CoC intends to allocate this funding to multiple projects. HUD will ultimately select the projects that are to be funded and selection by the CoC does not assure that the application will be funded by HUD.

There are three allowable types of projects:

- **Permanent supportive housing** for homeless individuals and families in which the head or co-head of household is disabled. This housing must primarily serve individuals and families that meet the HUD definition of chronically homeless. All PSH projects will be expected to follow HUD Notice 16-11, "Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness ..." Assisted households may be served with rental assistance or leasing funds.
- **Rapid rehousing for individuals and families** currently residing in shelter, unsheltered in streets/public places, or those fleeing domestic violence. Only individuals and families coming from those locations are eligible to be served. Households may ONLY be assisted with tenant based rental assistance.
- **TH- RRH PH projects.** This is a new project type for the 2017 competition and more information will be forthcoming. These projects must:
  - Provide rapid access to safe and secure transitional housing.
  - Use that housing as 'bridge' housing - a temporary residence to provide a stable living situation while the household arranges permanent housing. During the stay, the household will be assisted in obtaining all documentation needed for permanent housing and in locating an appropriate permanent housing unit.
  - Provide short/medium term rental assistance to participants during their RRH program phase.

All projects must follow **Housing First** principles. These include:

- Minimal barriers to program entry. There cannot be a requirement for sobriety prior to being housed and prior background (criminal history, lack of credit, or eviction history) cannot be used on a blanket basis to exclude potential participants.
- To the maximum extent possible, program participants should be given the opportunity to exercise choice in their living unit.
- All applicants must be accepted from the Coordinated Entry System for permanent supportive housing. Providers of rapid rehousing must accept referrals from Coordinated Entry and exclusively accept referrals from Coordinated Entry when it is fully operation for families and rapid rehousing.
- All participants must be provided with a standard annual residential lease that does not include clauses that are not standard for leases in the community. Individuals and families can only be terminated from the program in accordance with due process rights of tenants under a lease. The RICOC's adopted Housing First Policy and Principles provide additional information.

Sources of funds for these new projects may include bonus funding and funds that may be reallocated from current grantees. All projects will have a grant term of one year.

The CoC is issuing this LOI at this time to ensure that is positioned to respond to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), The CoC is requesting nonprofit and local government organizations wanting to apply for new project funding during the 2017 competition to complete and submit a letter of interest at this time.

## The letter of interest must provide the following information:

**Name of Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization type:** \_\_\_\_\_ Non-profit; \_\_\_\_\_ PHA or local government agency

**Contact information for the Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal Type:** \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Supportive Housing \_\_\_\_\_ Rapid Re-Housing \_\_\_\_\_ Transitional Housing to Permanent Housing/Rapid Rehousing

**Is this a current grant seeking to reallocate existing funding?** \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes:

- Grant number for current project: \_\_\_\_\_
- Total HUD CoC funding for project: \_\_\_\_\_

**All applicants must provide the following information (not to exceed five narrative pages):**

1. Target population for project and experience in serving population and providing similar services.

- a. Include a projection of the number of persons/households to be served (point in time at full capacity and number expected to be served during a one-year period)
2. If applying for the TH-PH/RRH option, provide information on: expected length of stay in transitional housing, how the TH component will be used, and how will the project quickly move participants into permanent housing.
3. Applicants must address the scoring factors on the attached form. Provide sufficient detail on each scoring factor to permit evaluation of the project.
4. Project Budget
  - a. Rapid rehousing projects may apply for funding only for:
    - i. Supportive Services
    - ii. Tenant Based Rental Assistance
    - iii. HMIS
    - iv. Administration
  - b. Permanent supportive housing projects may apply for:
    - i. Leasing or rental assistance
    - ii. Supportive services
    - iii. HMIS
    - iv. Administration
  - c. TH-RRH projects:
    - i. Must be existing TH project that is converting
    - ii. TH component may use leasing or operating costs plus supportive services; RRH component tenant based rental assistance and supportive services
    - iii. Admin is allowable for both the TH and RRH components.

**Letters of Intent will be evaluated based on the factors identified on the attached New Project Scoring Sheet.**

**Other: Applicants seeking new funding under the 2017 competition will be required to contract directly with HUD. Rhode Island Housing will not serve as the grantee for any new subrecipient awards.**

Letters of Intent accepted by the CoC will be required to complete full applications in HUD's E-SNAPS grant management system when HUD opens the system up for the 2017 NOFA. Applicants are solely responsible for ensuring their applications are submitted in esnaps.

Based on responses, the CoC may request applicants to modify budget targets to ensure equitable and competitive distribution of funding.

Letters of interest must be submitted electronically to the CoC Planner, Elizabeth Bioteau (Elizabeth Bioteau [ebioteau@rihousing.com](mailto:ebioteau@rihousing.com))

PDF document format is preferred.

**All letters of interest are due on July 14, 2017 by 5 pm EDT.** Please note that, although it does not intend to change the deadline, the RICOC Board may adjust this deadline in response to HUD issuing the FY2017 Notice of Funding Available for the Continuum of Care Program.