

Rhode Island Continuum of Care (RI-500)

NOTIFICATION OF INTERNAL COMPETITION FOR HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE FUNDS

JULY 26, 2017

Rhode Island Housing, acting as the Collaborative Applicant for the Rhode Island Continuum of Care announces the start of the local competition for HUD Continuum of Care Funding.

This competition is to award funding made available through the HUD Continuum of Care Notification of Funding Availability (NOFA) issued on July 14, 2017. HUD has made available extensive resources to support applicants. These can be found here:

- [Complete information on the HUD NOFA can be found at this location](#)
- Potential applicants for funding are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the extensive resources for the application process found on this HUD website. [Instructions and resources for the application process are found here.](#)
- [Information specific to submitting a renewal or new project application in HUD's ESNAPS system is found here.](#)

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

All organizations interested in obtaining funding through the HUD NOFA – **including both new and renewal project applicants** – must submit their application in the ESNAPS grant management system no later than **August 23, 2017 at 5 pm Eastern Daylight Time.**

*****Grantees that applied in prior years as subrecipients of Rhode Island Housing but who are now direct recipients of HUD must submit renewal applications in ESNAPS as the applicant, instead of under Rhode Island Housing's applicant account.***

Renewal applications not submitted by the specified deadline will receive a reduction in their project score – which will likely impact the final ranking of the grant. Renewal project applications not received within 3 days following the posted application deadline will not be included in the Collaborative Application submitted to HUD. **New project applications must be submitted by the deadline to be considered.**

Simplified Process for Renewal Applications: HUD has simplified the process for renewal applications for which there are no changes from the application submitted in 2016. Applicants can “Submit Without Changes” by importing their data from the 2016 application. This does not apply to first time renewals or to projects that have been amended or consolidated since the 2016 application was submitted to HUD. RICOC encourages recipients and subrecipients to carefully review their submitted 2016 application before deciding to use this submit without changes feature.

ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS:

Renewal Applications

- Only existing HUD CoC grants are eligible for renewal. The only eligible renewal grants are those with an expiration date within Calendar Year 2018 (January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018).
- Newly awarded grants in 2016 with a contract executed in 2017 must renew in this competition.¹ Some of these grants may not have started program operations but must renew in this competition to continue providing services.
- Renewal projects cannot be changed through the application process. Grants should be changed through the contract amendment process with the HUD Field Office. The following are the only grant changes that may be made in the competition:
 - If the CoC has reduced the grant size through reallocation, the budget for the renewal application must be changed to reflect the reduced funding allocation.
 - Renewing Rapid Rehousing (RRH) grants that were exclusively serving families or individuals in the 2016 application may as part of this application expand their participant pool to include families or individuals. The total budget amount cannot be changed unless it was revised downward through reallocation.
 - Permanent supportive housing (PSH) grants that were 100% dedicated to chronic homeless – even those awarded through Bonus or Samaritan Initiative – may in this competition change the designated population to DedicatedPLUS (see description below)
- The renewal amount must be consistent with the Final Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) for the CoC. The renewal amount may not be exceeded and the budget lines must conform to those indicated on the GIW.

New Project Applications

New project applications are requested from qualified nonprofit and local government organizations for the 2017 Continuum of Care Program Competition. Applications are sought for 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.

The opportunity to submit a Letter of Intent for a new project has concluded. However, HUD provided for new opportunities in the NOFA including the opportunity to ‘expand’ renewal grants and the opportunity to classify PSH projects, including formerly dedicated chronically homeless beds, as DedicatedPLUS projects. Organizations that submitted a Letter of Intent and are interested in these opportunities do not need to submit a revised Letter of Intent, but should plan to make clear in their new project applications if they intend to take advantage of any of these new opportunities.

¹ Some 2016 contracts might not be executed prior to the HUD NOFA deadline. These must be submitted for renewal. Should HUD fail to execute the contracts in 2017, HUD will automatically remove the projects from the competition.

Expansion Projects

New in the 2017 competition, HUD is allowing renewal projects to apply for a new project that will EXPAND an existing renewal project. To apply for an EXPANSION project, a grantee must have an eligible renewal project. Expansion projects must be the same component (PSH can only expand to increase the size of the PSH project, RRH can only increase the size of the RRH project). To apply for an expansion project, an existing renewal grantee must:

- Provide the eligible renewal grant number;
- Indicate how the new project application will expand units, beds, services, or persons served.

THREE ALLOWABLE TYPES OF PROJECTS:

1. **Permanent supportive housing** for homeless individuals and families in which the head or co-head of household is disabled. Permanent supportive housing must either be 100% dedicated to serving chronically homeless individuals and families or what HUD now calls “DedicatedPLUS” PSH projects. While DedicatedPLUS projects may serve the chronically homeless they may also serve a broader range of homeless people in need of PSH. Please refer to the HUD NOFA resources for detailed information on DedicatedPLUS PSH projects. Admissions must come from the CoC’s coordinated entry process (MVRT).
 - PSH may provide housing assistance through tenant, sponsor or project based rental assistance, through leasing, or by providing operating support to a PSH facility. Because coordinated entry emphasizes participant choice in housing, tenant based rental assistance is the preferred housing type.
2. **Rapid rehousing for individuals and families** targeting households that are living in the following settings:
 - Residing in a place not meant for human habitation
 - Residing in emergency shelter
 - Meet DV criteria in homeless definition (category 4)
 - Residing in a Transitional Housing (TH) project eliminated in the 2017 competition
 - Residing in TH funded as part of a joint TH PH-RRH project
 - Receiving assistance from a VA homeless program and met one of the above criteria on intake into the VA program

RRH includes housing assistance through tenant based rental assistance (providing only on a short term or medium term – NTE 24 months) and supportive services to assist participants secure housing, maintain housing and increase income and employment.

3. **Joint TH-PH/RRH Projects** are a new HUD initiative intended to serve homeless families and individuals who need temporary, safe accommodations while they secure permanent housing, assemble needed documents to secure housing or have other barriers to immediate placement in housing. In joint TH-RRH projects, the provider must be able to offer both TH and RRH to all participants but all participants are not required to participate in both components. Participants should remain in the TH component for as short a period of time as possible; there should be no program requirements to complete, and the need for continuing stay in TH should be determined on a case-by-case basis.

For the TH component, housing assistance may be provided through operating support for existing facilities, leasing assistance or rental assistance. In the RRH component, housing assistance can only be provided through tenant based rental assistance. Supportive services may be provided to participants in both components. As in all RRH, rental assistance is limited to short term or medium term (NTE 24 months).

All of the above project types qualify for funding through reallocation or through the permanent housing bonus.

Eligible persons to be served in Joint TH-RRH projects include:

- Residing in a place not meant for human habitation
- Residing in emergency shelter
- Meet DV criteria in homeless definition (category 4)

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Housing First Requirement

In order to be considered for funding, 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. Participants cannot be required to participate in services as a condition of entry and failure to participate in services cannot be used as grounds for termination from the program. [Please refer to the RICOC Policy and Principles of Housing First for additional information.](#)
- All applicants must be accepted from the Coordinated Entry System.
- All participants must be provided with a standard annual residential lease that does not include clauses that are not standard for residential leases in the community. Individuals and families can only be terminated from the program in conformance with the lease agreement.

Application submission through ESNAPS

Applications must be submitted via the ESNAPS grants management system by the specified deadline. Applications not developed or submitted through ESNAPS will not be reviewed and will not be funded.

Grantees that applied in prior years as subrecipients to Rhode Island Housing but whose contract has been amended to make them the recipient must submit renewal applications in ESNAPS as applicant, instead of under Rhode Island Housing's applicant account. Because these grants have been amended in 2016 to change recipient, the grant cannot be submitted without changes and the prior year's grant information may not pre-populate in ESNAPS. Please allow for extra time to input these project applications into ESNAPS. The grant renewal process is NOT the time to make changes to the grant. The renewal grants submitted by the new recipients must be the same as the 2016 renewal except for any changes approved by HUD through the grant amendment process.

For any grantee not familiar with ESNAPS or who need refresher information, [HUD has a very informative set of resources for project applicants found here](#). Please check these resources first.

New and Renewal projects **may only request ONE YEAR of funding**. Any requests for multi-year funding will be reduced to a single year.

Renewal projects will be ranked according to [Rhode Island Continuum of Care Renewal Standards](#). These standards are posted on the [RICOC webpage located on the Rhode Island Housing website](#).

Required for Applicants for Federal Assistance

As required in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) at 2 CFR 25.200 and 24 CFR Part 5 Subpart K, all applicants for financial assistance must have an active unique entity identifier (currently a DUNS number, <https://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>) and have an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) (www.sam.gov) before submitting an application.

DedicatedPLUS PSH Projects HUD Definition:

A permanent supportive housing project where 100 percent of the beds are dedicated to serve individuals with disabilities and families in which one adult or child has a disability - including unaccompanied homeless youth - that at intake are:

- (1) experiencing chronic homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 578.3;
- (2) residing in a transitional housing project that will be eliminated and meets the definition of chronically homeless in effect at the time in which the individual or family entered the transitional housing project;
- (3) residing in a place not meant for human habitation, emergency shelter, or safe haven; but the individuals or families experiencing chronic homelessness as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 had been admitted and enrolled in a permanent housing project within the last year and were unable to maintain a housing placement;
- (4) residing in transitional housing funded by a Joint TH and PH-RRH component project and who were experiencing chronic homelessness as defined at 24 CFR 578.3 prior to entering the project;
- (5) residing and has resided in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or emergency shelter for at least 12 months in the last three years, but has not done so on four separate occasions; or
- (6) receiving assistance through a Department of Veterans Affairs(VA)-funded homeless assistance program and met one of the above criteria at initial intake to the VA's homeless assistance system.

Renewal projects that are 100% Dedicated to chronically homeless can renew as 100% dedicated or may change from CH Dedicated to DedicatedPLUS in this competition.

Email Inquiries:

Applicants should review the information available in this Internal Competition Notification and from HUD at the websites posted on the first page of this announcement. Please review those materials prior to starting the application or submitting an inquiry to the Rhode Island Continuum of Care. Email inquiries are to be submitted to the CoC Planner, Elizabeth Bioteau at ebioteau@rihousing.com.