

Rhode Island Continuum of Care RI-500

June 7, 2018

Request for Letters of Interest to Apply for New Permanent Housing (Permanent Supportive Housing/Rapid Re-Housing), HMIS and CES Funds During the 2018 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 2018 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 \$166,000 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.

Requests for New and/or Expanded Permanent Housing Projects:

There are three allowable types of New and/or expanded Permanent Housing projects:

- **Permanent supportive housing** for disabled homeless individuals. This housing must primarily serve individuals 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 persons may be served with rental assistance or leasing funds. All applicants and eligible new program participants must be referred from the RICOC's Statewide Coordinated Entry System.
- **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. All applicants and eligible new program participants must be referred from the RICOC's Statewide Coordinated Entry System.
- **TH- RRH PH projects.** This was a new project type for the 2017 competition. These projects must:
 - Provide rapid access to safe and secure crisis 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.
- **The move to permanent housing in RRH should occur as soon as possible.**
- All applicants and eligible program participants must be referred from the RICOC's Statewide Coordinated Entry System.

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

- Minimal barriers to program entry. For example: 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 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.

Requests for New and/or Expanded HMIS and/or Coordinated Entry Services

The RICOC will entertain applications for new and/or expanded services provided for HMIS and/or coordinated entry. Since the Board has designated HMIS and Coordinated Entry lead agencies, those organizations are the only eligible entities to apply for this funding.

Applicants will be required to identify the new and/or additional services that will be provided and to identify how these additional services will lead to improvements in data quality (HMIS) or increased efficiency/effectiveness of the coordinated entry process.

Sources of Funds

- New projects providing housing and services will be eligible to apply for bonus and/or reallocated dollars. The board will make the determination as to whether to designate the project for bonus or reallocated funding.
- Requests to expand existing HMIS and/or coordinated entry grants can be funded out of reallocated dollars only.

PLEASE NOTE: 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 2018 competition to complete and submit a letter of interest at this time.** It is likely that this will be the only such request for letters of interest for new projects issued in the FY2018 competition.

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 _____ HMIS _____ Coordinated Entry Services

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 PH project 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 crisis-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. TH component may use leasing or operating costs plus supportive services;
 - ii. RRH component may use tenant based rental assistance and supportive services
 - iii. Admin is allowable for both the TH and RRH components.

Any HMIS and/or CES project applicants should request application criteria from the COC planner, Elizabeth Bioteau (ebioteau@rihousing.com)

Letters of Intent will be evaluated based on the factors identified on HUD's New Projects Threshold Requirements and New Projects Rating Tool (attached).

Applicants seeking new funding under the 2018 competition will be required to apply to contract directly with HUD as the COC Grant Recipient.

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 2018 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 (ebioteau@rihousing.com) Adobe PDF format is preferred.

All letters of interest are due on July 13, 2018 by 5 pm EDT.

PLEASE NOTE: Although it does not intend to change information detailed above, the RICOC Board may adjust this Request for Letters of Interest, including the deadline date listed above, in response to HUD issuing the FY2018 Notice of Funding Available for the Continuum of Care Program.