



Rhode Island Continuum of Care (RICOc) FY2024 Project Competition Ranking and Re-Allocation Policies

Performance Scoring Policy

Applications for New and Renewal Projects will undergo a threshold review to ensure compliance with CoC regulations at 24 CFR 578, the CoC Program NOFO, and RICOc Policies and Procedures. Any new or renewal project not meeting the threshold requirement will not be further reviewed and will not be considered for inclusion in the Collaborative Application to HUD. Renewal projects have previously passed HUD threshold review and only in very exceptional cases of changes to HUD policies or program models, will renewal projects be at risk of not passing the threshold review.

Scoring of renewal projects is largely based on data obtained from the most recent, completed Annual Performance Report (APR) and HMIS data, and aligns with the HUD approved System Performance Measures and local priorities.

The Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee (RAEC), a standing committee of the RICOc, will review, rate, and rank applications and make recommendation(s) to inform the RICOc Board of Directors vote. No person who has an interest in an application may participate in this process. Having an interest means being employed by or otherwise receiving financial benefits to themselves or immediate family members as a result of an application being funded. Renewal projects will be reviewed based on the renewal evaluation standards and scoring criteria. New Projects will be reviewed based on the new project scoring criteria. The committee has the discretion to select one or more applications for the amount available for new projects. The committee also may give staff direction to negotiate with conditionally selected applicants.

The 2024 NOFO competition will include opportunities for bonus project(s) exclusively serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence or stalking¹. HUD has allowed three types of projects under the DV bonus – rapid rehousing, joint TH-rapid rehousing and supportive services only for coordinated entry focused on the needs of people surviving DV. Nonprofit organizations with the skills and capacity to serve DV survivors are strongly encouraged to apply. HUD requires all DV bonus projects to follow Housing First, and practice trauma-informed and person-centered care. DV bonus projects will be scored according to the new project scoring criteria.

The RICOc will rank applications after scoring all New and Renewal Projects within the CoC based on the Renewal Evaluation standards and scoring criteria and the New Project Scoring Criteria.

Ranking Policy

HUD requires that CoCs rank projects in two Tiers. Tier 1 projects – provided that HUD has sufficient funding – are essentially assured of renewal funding. Tier 2 projects will be funded competitively on a national basis. Factors for awarding the Tier 2 projects have historically included: the score that HUD gives to the overall Continuum of Care Application, whether the project follows Housing First, and a HUD determined ranking score based on the funds requested for a project and where on the project priority list the project is ranked.

Each CoC-funded project that is not a first-time renewal will be scored and ranked according to the Renewal Evaluation standards and scoring criteria. Renewal projects will be ranked solely on their scores, ahead of new project applications. First-time renewal projects will be ranked after the renewal projects scored using the Renewal Evaluation Standards and Scoring Criteria, and ahead of the new project applications. New projects will be scored based on the New Project Scoring Criteria, may be adjusted in ranking based on local considerations, and will be ranked after renewal projects.

Projects that are deemed essential to the CoC, but which would be at risk of losing funding if placed in Tier 2, will be ranked at the bottom of Tier 1. These projects are not comparable to other new and renewal projects, can only be submitted by the entity designated by the CoC, and therefore cannot be competitively evaluated. This includes HMIS and Coordinated Entry projects.

Tier 2: Project components will be ranked to best maximize the Tier 2 project scores.

Projects will be ranked in Tier 2 as follows:

- Renewal project applications ranked according to renewal score
- First-time renewal projects
- Reallocation and Bonus project applications ranked according to new project scores and with consideration of local priorities for funding

Planning Project: Not ranked in accordance with the NOFO policy.

Re-Allocation Policy

Any funds reallocated as part of recapturing unspent funds, will be made available for reallocation to create new projects during the local solicitation process.

Unspent Funds

Projects that are not underspending their grant awards are subject to the reallocation process. Projects that have underspent more than 10% of their award may be reduced and those funds would go to reallocation for New Project(s). A one-year grace period may be extended to providers who appeal proposed reallocation with a plan that demonstrates that the grant's expenditure will be improved in the current program year.

Voluntary Re-Allocation

As part of the local solicitation for inclusion in the HUD CoC collaborative application, providers are asked whether they wish to voluntarily re-allocate some or all of their funding. Such re-allocated funds are pooled for re-allocation to New Projects.

Involuntary Re-Allocation (Unconditional v Conditional Renewal)

To be included in the Collaborative Application, renewal applications must either meet the threshold renewal score or submit a Performance Improvement Plan. To meet the renewal threshold, renewal projects must score at least 65% of the score of the highest scoring renewal project. For example, if the top score is 90, the minimum threshold will be set at 58.50.

Projects scoring below the threshold may be asked to develop a plan to address performance issues. Performance plans will be due to be submitted within 30 days of the request and will be reviewed at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Recipient Approval and Evaluation Committee (RAEC). The Plan must be accepted by the RAEC. If the RAEC does not approve the Plan, the funds may be subject to future reallocation. If a plan is not submitted the project may be subject to future reallocation. Any recommendations by the RAEC that are formalized through a RICOC Board of Director's vote are subject to appeal through the CoC Grievance process and, if unresolved, to HUD.

ⁱ Change to paragraph 4 of the HUD Homeless Definition, as part of VAWA 2022 - Those who may be served by DV bonus projects include: Any individual or family who:

(i) is experiencing trauma or lack of safety related to, or fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized;

(ii) Has no other safe residence; and

(iii) Lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing