**ST. LOUIS COUNTY MINNESOTA (MN-509) CONTINUUM OF CARE FY2023 LOCAL COC PROGRAM COMPETITION CALL FOR NEW PROJECTS RELEASED: July 11th, 2023**

 BACKGROUND

The St. Louis County Minnesota Continuum of Care is seeking project applicants for FY 2023 funding via the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Program competition. HUD released its Notice of Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program (YHDP) Renewal and Replacement Grants (FR-6600-N-25) on July 5th, 2023. HUD has yet to open e-Snaps for applications.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and youth, while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness. The CoC Program is authorized by subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, (42 U.S.C. 11381–11389) (the Act), and the CoC Program rule found in 24 CFR part 578 (the Rule). The FY 2023 funds were authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328, approved December 29, 2022).

Nationwide, approximately $3,134,000,000 is available in this FY 2023 CoC Program NOFO, including approximately $80,000,000, available for non-competitive YHDP renewal and replacement expiring grants, and at least $52,000,000 available for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Bonus (DV Bonus) projects, described in Section II.B.5 of this NOFO. The DV Bonus funds include the new projects that are part of an expansion application. Per HUD guidelines, the St. Louis County CoC is eligible to apply for $3,514,879for existing renewal projects and new projects created through reallocation. This amount is called the CoC’s Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). The CoC is also eligible to apply for CoC Planning, HMIS, and bonus funding specifically to serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless under 24 CFR578.3.

This Call for Projects advises all potential applicants of the general requirements that must be met in any project application for consideration of submission to HUD through the St. Louis County Minnesota Continuum of Care (SLC CoC) Local Competition. Project applicants may receive funds to support Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, Joint Transitional/Rapid Re-housing, HMIS, or Coordinated Entry in the SLC CoC. For more details, please review the HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY2023 Continuum of Care Program Competition (FR-6700-N-25), and the CoC Program Rule found in 24 CFR 578. All information for the SLC CoC Local Competition is posted on the CoC NOFO webpage at <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/public-health-human-services/housing-and-homelessness-programs/continuum-of-care-coc>.

Eligible project applicants for the CoC Program Competition are found within the text of24CFR 578.15 and include nonprofit organizations; state governments; local governments; instrumentalities of state and local governments; Indian Tribes and tribally designated housing entities, as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103); and public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100, are eligible without limitation or exclusion. Individuals, foreign entities, and sole proprietorship organizations are not eligible to compete for, or receive, awards made under this announcement.

FUNDING AVAILABLE ANNUAL RENEWAL DEMAND FUNDING: FY2023 Annual Renewal Demand: $3,514,879. These funds are limited to the projects listed on the SLC CoC’s Grant Inventory Worksheet. Eligible project component types are those defined for each renewal project through the Grant Inventory Worksheet process. Projects seeking renewal funding may not change project component type or exceed the allowed funding levels by line item or in total, as shown on the Grant Inventory Worksheet. Projects may reduce budget line items, which would be considered voluntary reallocation. Projects may also shift budget line items to create a VAWA or Rural Costs Budget Line Item based on the guidance of the FY2023 NOFO published by HUD. The CoC can also eliminate or reduce funding for these projects (involuntary reallocation) in accordance with the CoC’s Ranking & Review Policy. Such changes create a reallocation fund which can be used to fund certain types of new projects described below.

NEW PROJECTS CREATED FROM DV BONUS FUNDS DV Bonus Funding: New projects in this category may be proposed as standalone projects or as expansions of existing CoC-funded projects. DV Bonus funding may be used to expand an existing renewal project that is not dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking so long as the DV Bonus funds for expansion are solely for additional units, beds, services dedicated to persons eligible to be served with DV Bonus funding. DV bonus is being scored and considered separately from Tier 1/Tier II Ranking. Eligible project component types for projects created with DV Bonus funds:

• Permanent Housing-Rapid re-housing projects dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3);

• Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects defined in Section III.B.2.q of this NOFO dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who are defined as homeless (24 CFR 578.3); or

 • Supportive services only (SSO)-coordinated entry project to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC’s coordinated entry to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking

 • Per HUD guidelines for the DV Bonus funds, new DV Bonus project applications may not request less than $50,000.

In addition, victim service providers are required to use or create an Alternate Database comparable to HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) to produce reports for HUD and aggregate unduplicated count data for CoC planning.

COC PLANNING FUNDS: CoC Planning Funding: This funding supports CoC planning activities, and only the collaborative applicant – St. Louis County Public Health & Human Services – may apply for it. The planning grant will not be ranked in this year’s competition and is not competitive with housing or service projects. Given the guidance of the FY2023 NOFO, the CoC Planning funds, maybe increased from 3 percent of ARD to 5 percent of ARD in this year’s NOFO process.

PROJECT APPLICATIONS: By August 8th, 2023, all project applicants must submit a complete and correct Project Application in e-Snaps AND submit documentation required for the CoC Local Competition or for use in the regional CoC-wide application (which includes all project applications). e-Snaps is available at https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf. See the resources section for further guidance. Project applications with all attachments must be submitted electronically in e-Snaps for consideration for the FY2023 CoC Program national competition. Applicants must save a copy of the Submission Summary form from the CoC Project Application after the CoC Project Application has been submitted in e-Snaps.

This is the Applicant’s receipt of submission and proof of compliance with the application deadline. The CoC will not give funding consideration to any applicant whose application is determined to be late and that is unable to provide the CoC with a record of submission that verifies the Project Application was submitted prior to the application deadline date and time.

 Required HUD national competition application (e-Snaps) requirements for all projects:

• Complete, correct, and consistent Project Application, with complete and current Applicant Profile

 • HUD required forms and attachments (in e-Snaps applicant profile and application)

• Match Letters dated between dates specified in FY2023 NOFO

 • New & Renewal Project Application Elements for CoC Local Competition:

* Submit the SLC CoC Local Project Applications, a copy of your HUD e-Snaps application, and all relevant attachments to the CoC via email to CoCHomelessPrograms@StLouisCountyMN.gov by August 8th.
* Please note, it is recommended that you wait to actually hit submit in e-Snaps until after the CoC Ranking & Review process in case changes are recommended to your application.

All materials, including the Supplemental Application, for the Duluth/St. Louis County (MN-509) Local CoC Competition process can be found here: <https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/public-health-human-services/housing-and-homelessness-programs/continuum-of-care-coc>

SELECTIONS AND AWARD NOTICES COC LOCAL COMPETITION

All Application materials listed above are due to Duluth/St. Louis County CoC by August 8th by the end of the business day. The SLC CoC Ranking and Review Committee will review project applications ton August 16th, 2023, using the CoC Project Scoring & Ranking Criteria was approved by Heading Home Advisory Committee, the CoC Governing Board on August 19th, 2021, and updated in May 2023. The CoC Project Scoring & Ranking Criteria is available on the SLC CoC Webpage to allow applicants to view and ask questions about the ranking criteria prior to the scoring and ranking process. By August 21st, 2023, the Ranking and Review Committee via SLC CoC Coordinator will provide all project applicants final notice of project acceptance/rejection, any funding changes, score, rank, Tier 1/Tier 2 status, and source of funds expected for the project (i.e. reallocated funds, CoC Bonus, or DV Bonus). The notification will also include any required changes applicants must make in e-Snaps to meet project quality thresholds. All corrections in e-Snaps must be made and the e-Snaps project application resubmitted by August 30th, 2023, to be ranked and included in the project list submitted for review in the national CoC Program Competition. All applicants are granted an appeals window based on the criteria outlined in the SLC CoC Ranking & Review Policy. All appeals requests must be submitted to the CoC by August 24th, 2023. The deadline for the CoC to submit applications to HUD for the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition is 8:00 PM EST on September 28, 2023.

HUD COC PROGRAM COMPETITION: HUD will conduct a threshold review of ranked projects for all CoCs that submit the CoC Consolidated Application by the application deadline. Projects and applicants that do not meet threshold eligibility and capacity requirements set forth in the FY2023 NOFO will be rejected. HUD may also place conditions on a grant award that must be satisfied before HUD will execute a grant agreement with the applicant for the project. HUD may issue up to two conditional funding announcements, which have generally occurred between January and March following the CoC Collaborative Application deadline.

HUD requires Collaborative Applicants to rank all new reallocation, CoC Bonus, DV Bonus, CoC renewal, Round 1 YHDP Renewal and Round 1 YHDP replacement projects in two tiers. YHDP Replacement, CoC Planning projects must not be ranked. Tier 1 is equal to 93 percent of the combined ARD amount.Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of CoC renewal. CoC Planning, HMIS, and Coordinated Entry grants will be reviewed separately from these tiers. DV Bonus projects will not be factored into Tier 1 & Tier II ranking this year and will be scored separately by HUD. Project applications in Tier 1 will be conditionally selected from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC, provided the project applications pass both project eligibility and project quality threshold review, and if applicable, project renewal threshold. In the event insufficient funding is available to award all Tier 1 projects, Tier 1 will be reduced proportionately, which could result in some Tier 1 projects falling into Tier 2. HUD will select new and renewal project applications in Tier 1 in accordance with the criteria set forth in the FY2023 NOFO.

If a project application straddles the Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding line, HUD will conditionally select the project up to the amount of funding that falls within Tier 1. Using the CoC score, and other factors described in the FY2023 NOFO, HUD may fund the Tier 2 portion of the project. If HUD does not fund the Tier 2 portion of the project, HUD may award the project at the reduced amount, provided the project is still feasible with the reduced funding (e.g., is able to continue serving homeless program participants effectively).

 Following CoC & HUD review, HUD will notify successful applicants of their selection for funding. HUD will also notify all other applicants, whose applications were received by the deadline, but have not been chosen for award. Notifications will be sent by email to the person listed as authorized representative in item 21 of the SF-424. 24 CFR 578.35 provides the appeal process options. Sections 578.35(b)(3), (b)(4), (c)(1), and (d)(2) authorize HUD to establish requirements for the form and manner of submissions for appeals by Solo Applicants, applicants with denied or decreased funding, and from competing CoCs. For HUD to consider an appeal under 24 CFR 578.35(b) or (c), the solo project applicant must follow the applicable application process set forth in this NOFO. This NOFO also provides guidance to CoCs and applicants regarding appeals of a jurisdiction’s refusal to sign the Consolidated Plan certification for a project under 24 CFR 578.35(c).

COC NOFO APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

• CoC Office hours, Weekly office hours throughout federal grant season to discuss projects, receive TA support and meet as needed with the CoC Coordinator. These are open, drop-in office hours 2-3pm, Wednesdays, July 19th, 2023-August 30th, 2023 via Microsoft Teams. Email Cochranc@stlouiscountymn.gov to receive the link for these sessions.

* CoC Coordinator Assistance: Courtney Cochran, SLC CoC Co-Coordinator is available to provide technical assistance to Project Applicants in completing their E-snaps applications and supplemental documents. Courtney Cochran: Cochranc@stlouiscountymn.gov or (218) 725-5158
* HUD NOFO specific questions can be sent to: CoCNOFO@hud.gov
* E-Snaps questions including password resets can be sent to: *e-snaps*@hud.gov

HUD RESOURCES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

• Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY2022 HUD CoC Program Competition[: FY 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants](https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/FY-2023-CoC-NOFO-Publication.pdf)

• HUD CoC Program Rule (24 CFR 578) [https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule\_Formatte dVersion.pdf](https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule_Formatte%20dVersion.pdf)

• e-Snaps guides: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>

• Other Training and Resources: Project applicants that need assistance competing the applications in e-Snaps or understanding the program requirements under the CoC Program may access the Rule, training materials, and program resources via the HUD Exchange at <http://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance>.

 • HUD Exchange Ask A Question (AAQ): Project applicants that require information and technical support concerning this NOFO) and the applications in e-Snaps may submit an electronic inquiry via the HUD Exchange e-Snaps AAQ at [www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/](http://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/) The AAQ is accessible 24 hours each day. Starting 2 days prior to the application deadline for FY 2023 funds, the AAQ will respond only to emergency technical support questions up to the deadline of 8:00 PM Eastern time. Applicants experiencing technical difficulty should contact the e-Snaps AAQ immediately for assistance and document their attempts to obtain assistance.

• HUD Homeless Assistance Listserv: HUD may provide Collaborative Applicants and Project Applicants with additional information through HUD websites located at www.hud.gov and www.hudexchange.info and via the CoC Program email-based listserv. To join the listserv, visit www.hudexchange.info/mailinglist. This additional information will not change the selection criteria or selection process in this NOFA but may include items such as updates on the status of e-Snaps and reminders of impending deadlines. This listserv will also include information only applicable to Collaborative Applicants (not project applicants), and project applicants are encouraged to contact your CoC Coordinator if questions arise from list serv posts.