SLC CoC HUD FY2023 NOFO Public Information Session

July 19, 2023

1. Welcome and Introductions
   1. Present: Adam Venne (RTH), Alexandra Peterson-Hanson (RMHC), Angela Neal (AEOA), Anita Skutevik (Chum), Anthony Nordin (TSA), Beth Burt (YWCA), Catherine Sharar (CHUM), Colleen Kelly (LSS), Courtney Cochran (SLC CoC), Dana Weisman (TSA), Dawn Shykes (LSS), Elise Strader (HDC), Jamee Waters (RMHC), Jessica Trunnell (RMHC), John Cole (CHUM), Kate Bradley (CES), Kate Brune (MAC-V), Katie Schulzetenberg (RHMC), Kira Kallberg (CCHC), Lenelle (Duluth HRA), Lexy Redenbaugh (TSA), Lynn Gerlach-Collard (LSS), Nathaniel Saltz (MAC-V), Noel Koskela (RMHC), Tawney Carlson (SLC HHP), Laura Birnbaum (SLC HHP). Amber Sadowski (CHUM), Paul Pedersen (MAC-V), Daryl Olson (AICHO), Theresa Drift (Bois Forte), Kevin Beichler (MAC-V)
2. Website review (shared and walked through/how to navigate) and link – all local materials can be found here (published now)
3. Timeline/key dates (also on website):
   1. Applications due to CoC: August 8
   2. Final HUD deadline: September 28
   3. New Project LOIs: July 28
      1. No renewal LOIs required
   4. Review supplemental application: Start ASAP, due August 8
4. All applicants must complete HUD eSnaps and supplemental applications (eSnaps not live yet)
5. Reviewed local application and appeals process, policy and form (also posted on website)
   1. Question: what are some of the more standard supporting documents you expect to see with the supplemental application?
      1. Documents required are listed with check boxes at the bottom of the application as well as noted within the question to attach (e.g., what racial equity policies do you have, VAWA policies, etc.)
   2. Question: CCHC has more than one project, how many supplemental applications do we submit?
      1. One application per agency (not project)
6. Review score tools per project type (PSH & RH-TH)
   1. Key local scoring priorities:
      1. system performance measures (data driven outcomes of programs), returns to homelessness, exits to permanent housing and if income maintained or increased (come from APRs) – only scored for renewal applicants as not able to get this information for new applicants or Garfield Score since first year coming in for renewal
      2. Housing First
      3. Evidence based practice: harm reduction, trauma informed, person centered
      4. Racial equity
      5. Culturally responsive/specific services
      6. DV safety policies
      7. Consultation with people with lived experience of homelessness
   2. Note, glossary/guide with definitions of terms also provided to elaborate on these priorities – what they mean
   3. HUD priorities for FY2023:
      1. Supporting underserved communities
      2. Ensure access to and increase the production of affordable housing
      3. Promote homeownership (promote home ownership opportunities, equitable access to credit for purchase and improvements, and wealth-building in underserved communities)
      4. Advance sustainable communities – if rehabbing or doing new project – please name and include anything that is climate resilience and energy efficiency, promoting environmental justice and recognizing housing’s role as essential to health
      5. Ongoing HUD priorities:
         1. Ending homelessness for all
         2. Using a housing first approach
         3. Reducing unsheltered homelessness
         4. Improving systems performance
         5. Partnering with housing, health care and service agencies
         6. Racial equity
         7. Improving assistance to LGBTQIA2S+ people
         8. Persons with lived experience – how do you incorporate voices/feedback etc.
         9. Increasing affordable housing supply
   4. Question: Can share more re homeownership and sustainability – how much weight will this carry in the application for HUD?
      1. The weight isn’t known/how it will fit into scoring but will do as much as we can on the CoC’s end to name and include the programs/partners who work in these areas. Include these pieces in your organization description if not clearly asked/named – do not need to pivot projects but incorporate priorities that you are working on in partnership or your organization.
7. Racial Equity & Accountability Project (REAP) Leadership team scoring and feedback
   1. Occurring August 2nd
   2. All project applicants (new and renewal) are required to present on the local app questions (2 questions - #3 and #4) around racial equity & culturally responsive care and soliciting and implementing feedback from people with lived experience of homelessness
   3. Invited to attend the entire meeting to hear and learn from each other
   4. All renewal applicants have signed up for time slots
   5. If questions, email Tawney @ [CarlsonT@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:CarlsonT@stlouiscountymn.gov)
   6. REAP will award scores wroth 50% of your projects’ total scores for #3 and #4 on the local application based on this meeting
   7. Agencies can integrate feedback from this session into final applications (if you so choose) before the traditional Ranking and Review team reviews and scores
   8. Time for Q&A also built in
   9. All projects applying for FY2023 NOFO will receive detailed instruction for this presentation from Tawney as well
   10. If you have questions – please come to office hours and we can share/talk more about this
   11. YWCA (Beth Burt) shared that they will be submitting a new project application. Tawney will reach out to incorporate into this process.
8. HUD has named 3 new eligible activities
   1. CoC Planning funds increase: HUD is establishing an alternative maximum amount for CoC Planning grants under this NOFO from 3% to 5% of total grant award which could mean about a $75K increase in CoC staffing budget and potentially increase CoC staffing/capacity. Exploring a few different routes on this – but wanted to be transparent that you will see this in our budget. Also, this will not impact any projects – separate line item.
   2. VAWA Costs Budget Line Item: Page 5 of FY2023 NOFO: allowed to add “facilitating and coordinating activities to ensure compliance with the emergency transfer plan requirement and monitoring compliance with the confidentiality protections of the confidentiality requirement
      1. This isn’t an increase but an allowable transfer of existing funds – so could have staff time earmarked for any time needed for emergency planning, transfer etc.
      2. Examples shared of what this could include and how much (%) organizations can shift
      3. 5 pages of details on this in the NOFO – be sure to read carefully if you want to explore this and ask any questions you may have
      4. If new project – can include this in your budget originally, if renewal, can work with existing budget and shift up to 10% into this line item.
      5. Also, all of the funding that you shift into this 10% - you cannot shift it back if you do not work with individuals facing DV, trafficking etc. so know that you have the need
   3. Rural Cost Budget Line Item: flexible budget line item that would allow new and renewal projects to shift budgets to meet the rising costs of serving households in rural areas
      1. We are not clear if we will qualify for this yet as a CoC (rural/urban eligibility has changed over time per HUD for SLC) – could be that our entire CoC is eligible for this or partial or not at all – waiting for guidance on this to determine if we qualify
   4. HUD hasn’t published detailed guidance on some of this yet so will answer questions the best that we can but may need to wait for more information from HUD
9. Ranking and Review policy (on website)
   1. Have diverse group of people doing ranking and review from throughout SLC
   2. Tier 1 and Tier 2 guidance
      1. Tier 1 = 93% of annual renewal demand and reallocation funding (if any)
         1. $3,268,837.47
      2. SLC ARD: $3,514,879
      3. Tier 2 = 7% ARD + bonus funds and new projects
         1. Our CoC policy ranks new projects and bonus projects below renewals (unless renewal is reallocated). This is to protect the housing we have – units where people are currently living
         2. 7% = $240,041.53
      4. last year we did not see any cuts, but we could see up to 7% cuts to our renewal funds this year per HUD
      5. Reallocation funding: TBD (if any)
         1. Reallocation is where projects can voluntarily return to funds to the CoC or the CoC can access ranking and review clauses that say if project is returning funds multiple years in a row and/or having really low performance, can make a cut to that project.
         2. The reason why projects return funds voluntarily is this is where HUD expects us to get new funds for projects
         3. If you are considering reallocating funds, please let Courtney know!
      6. DV bonus funding: Top limit for CoC applications not clear yet
10. New Project guidance – please use office hours! There are many pages on each new project type and how it will be scored
    1. What is an expansion project?
       1. Linking a new project to an existing renewal project where want to expand current operations by adding units, beds, persons served, services provided to exiting program participants, or int eh case of HMIS, increase the current HMIS activities within the CoC’s geographic area
       2. DV Bonus funds can be used for an expansion project but any additional funding get would have to be specifically to serve households fleeing DV, SA or trafficking
    2. What is a consolidated project?
       1. If an agency wanted to combine 2 of renewal projects of the same component (same project type) into one project moving forward
       2. Must be all PSH, or all RRH, or all TH, etc.
       3. Would then be merged into one consolidated grant in the future
       4. Keep in mind 10% admin cap and 25% match requirements remain
    3. What is a transition grant?
       1. A grant to fund a new CoC project to transition an eligible renewal project being eliminated through reallocation from one program component to another eligible new component over a one-year period. Transition grants in this competition are eligible for renewal in subsequent fiscal years for eligible activities of the new component.
       2. Must meet the following requirements:
          1. To be eligible to receive a transition grant, current recipient must have consent of CoC and
          2. The new project app must meet project eligibility requirements.
          3. Can be voluntary/planned if wanting to pursue this
    4. Eligible new project types:
       1. PH-PSH
       2. PH-RRH
       3. Joint TH/PH-RRH
       4. Dedicated HMIs project for the costs that can only be carried out by administrator (ICA in MN)
       5. Coordinated Entry – HUD likes to see one agency hold this, centralized.
       6. DV Bonus Project
          1. PH or RRH projects dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless
          2. PH-RRH and joint TH/PH-RRH component projects dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless
          3. OR supportive services only Coordinated entry (SSO-CE) – projects to implement policies, procedures and practices to equip the CoC’s coordinated entry to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are defined as homeless (only one of these projects can be submitted)
          4. Can be an expansion project or new project
          5. No guarantee SLC CoC will be awarded bonus funds, if awarded, can be used for new projects
          6. Per HUD guidelines, minimum one can apply for is $50,000
       7. CoC Bonus project
          1. Unclear if HUD will designate CoC bonus or not – haven’t published this yet
          2. If they do, it means that there will be funding earmarked for new projects for CoCs that are not specific DV projects
       8. So if applying for new project – could be through DV project, Bonus or reallocation funds.
          1. We are currently not expecting reallocation funds this year with all of the work projects did to spend down funds and clean up data
          2. Even without reallocation, can always apply for new funds
          3. Strategically if line up with one of the bonus categories, more likely to get the funding
       9. Question: Would a new project need a separate application?
          1. No, not a separate local application. Will be asked to do a letter of intent. Be sure to include more detail about your new project in your renewal application questions/answers.
          2. Will need separate application in eSnaps
       10. Question: Will we know about bonus projects before August 8 deadline?
           1. Hope so! Not sure why we do not have more information at this point in time. If do not know within the next week, will look at what we can do with timelines (e.g. extend deadlines/timeline for new projects). Expect these pieces to be published this week – will share with everyone as soon as we know.
11. Tips for applying and helpful resources
    1. If applying for a new project – please be sure to look at housing and healthcare MOUs (up to 14 points available here!)
       1. Projects already have these types of partnerships – it is all about how follow HUD guidance to include this information (e.g. showing have mental/chemical health services for residents for building, partnerships with public health in working with families in your building, or maybe 50% are HUD funded and %50 of units are funded with vouchers)
       2. Not needed for renewal projects but important for new projects to follow because these points can boost your application and make it more competitive and our consolidated application more competitive overall
       3. HUD does have a template for MOU that can share
    2. All CoC funded projects must participate in CE and HMIS
    3. Emergency shelter is not an eligible project type for CoC funds
    4. Renewal applicants: can only apply for budget amount that is on the FY2023 grant inventory worksheet (or less)
    5. Renewal applicants: your budget line items are set in the GIW, unless you integrate the VAWA or rural BLIs
    6. Renewal applicants should be able to transfer over your past applications in eSnaps – please be sure to update and add components around priorities – will strengthen your application and overall CoC application
    7. New projects (outside of bonus funds) generally are not approved without reallocation
    8. New project terms can vary but are generally one year of funding, 12 – 18 months of operations, review NOFO guidance
    9. New projects that requests new construction, acquisition or rehabilitation costs must request at least a 3 year initial term
    10. All grants need 25% match, cannot match with CoC funds with ESG or CoC funds
    11. Only 10% of budget can be admin funds
    12. No funds are guaranteed in this process and our CoC does the best to protect our existing funds and compete for new funds, but ultimately HUD decides
    13. All projects must serve households that meet the HUD homeless definitions, prioritizing chronic homelessness
12. Resources/tips continued:
    1. Read through the HUD detailed application instructions (link in power point presentation)
    2. Use the eSnaps navigational guide (link in power point presentation)
    3. HUD scores each question separately so repletion is your friend
    4. Double check all attachments
    5. Form 2880 guidance (link in power point presentation)
    6. Remember the 25% match requirement
13. Questions?
    1. Send any questions to [cochomelessprograms@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:cochomelessprograms@stlouiscountymn.gov) (both Courtney and Tawney will check this email address)
    2. HUD NOFO specific questions: [CoCNOFO@hud.gov](mailto:CoCNOFO@hud.gov)
    3. eSnaps specific questions: [e-snaps@hud.gov](mailto:e-snaps@hud.gov)
       1. use this if get locked out, need password reset etc. – this is the IT eSnaps email- they are really responsive
    4. weekly CoC office hours: Wednesdays @ 2 – 3 p.m. via Microsoft Teams
       1. email [cochomelessprograms@stlouiscountymn.gov](mailto:cochomelessprograms@stlouiscountymn.gov) for the link
       2. great spot to bring specific project questions
    5. What grant year are we applying for?
       1. FY2023, starting date depends on your grant terms – most likely 2024 but could be Jan 2025. Whatever grant is being issued – HUD is essentially bumping it a year
    6. One more reminder – we are currently pulling APRs now (have sent out emails about this – asking renewal projects to make sure this is updated as we will be pulling and will impact renewal scores)
    7. Looking back at question re bonus funds – again, we won’t know the amounts or what it looks like until HUD publishes but do want to add that DV bonus funds are very likely so if you are applying for a new project that would be using DV bonus, please move forward on this – it is more the CoC bonus funds that we don’t know what it will look like