

Southern New Jersey CoC

Executive Board



August 22, 2022

2022 SNJCoC UNSHELTERED NOTICE of FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) for NEW PROJECTS

The Southern New Jersey Continuum of Care (SNJCoC) is an association of county-wide homelessness Continuums of Care that provides information, services, and advocacy for and on behalf of the homeless population in the area of service within the participating Southern NJ Counties (Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, and Gloucester). The mission of the Southern New Jersey Continuum of Care is to work to prevent and end homelessness through a public and private collaboration that maximizes efforts and leverages resources.

New this year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has made funding available for communities to specifically reduce unsheltered homelessness within their geographic region. Communities with a comprehensive plan to identify, engage and support persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness in connecting to housing and services will have an opportunity to apply for this competitive opportunity.

Similar to national trends, the SNJCoC has experienced an increase in unsheltered homelessness between 2017 and 2020. In order to address this growing issue, the SNJCoC invites community-based organizations to submit applications for **NEW PROJECTS** as part of the FY2022 Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Unsheltered NOFO) competitive grant process. New project applications may be submitted for permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, services only and HMIS projects.

An estimated **\$6,435,204** will be available for selected projects over a 3-year period. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, units of state or local government and public housing agencies. Applicants interested in securing funding for programs that will support households experiencing homelessness in regaining stability are encouraged to apply. This includes first time applicants, agencies who have not previously received CoC funding, and faith-based agencies. Agencies may submit applications for more than one program and must submit separate applications for each.

New Project proposals may request funding for the following types of activities:

- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing
- Coordinated Entry (CE)

- Supportive Services Only (Non-CE)
- Dedicated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

In preparation for this funding opportunity, the SNJCoC has consulted persons who have experienced unsheltered homelessness as well as community stakeholders close to the issue of unsheltered homelessness to identify system gaps and primary needs to help the community reduce unsheltered homelessness. The following funding priorities have been developed as an outgrowth of the community conversations on the need. All projects will be evaluated based on how well they fit in with the funding priorities identified below:

1. Person Centered Services – All projects selected for funding are expected to provide trauma informed, person centered services that address the unique need of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Program staff should be equipped to treat all participants with respect, support individual choice, assist participants in recognizing their strengths and promote an environment of growth and hope.
2. Co-create programs with impacted communities – Projects selected for funding should strive to work with persons who have been directly impacted by homelessness in building program design, policies and implementation. Programs should have a strategy for participant engagement in planning that impacts core parts of program implementation
3. Flexible and Accessible Supports – Projects selected for funding must demonstrate accessible services that meet the needs of individuals experiencing unsheltered services. Flexible and accessible supports should be designed to eliminate or minimize barriers to program entry.
4. Coordination and Partnership – Selected projects are expected to work in close collaboration with other homeless service providers and key community stakeholders to enhance the supports available to individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

In addition to the program qualities identified above, community stakeholders have also identified key service gaps impacting the CoC's ability to reduce unsheltered homelessness. Based on community feedback, the following services have been identified as priorities. Please note that agencies are not required to include these services within their project applications, but those projects that incorporate these needs within a well-structured program may be given priority consideration.

1. Outreach Services (expanded supports and flexible hours)
2. System Navigation
3. Permanent Housing
4. Support with Document gathering
5. Counseling and mental health supports (especially those assisting participants in dealing with grief and trauma)
6. Landlord engagement and mediation supports
7. Stabilization case management

All project applications will be evaluated and scored by the SNJCoC Review Committee. The Review Committee will score new proposals using objective criteria and evaluate proposals based on local needs, and priorities. The Review Committee reserves the right to request additional information and may recommend adjustments to submitted proposals as appropriate. Funding level recommendations made by the review committee may include budget adjustments to comply with program requirements and/or to fit within the

limit of funds available. All funding recommendations will be submitted to the SNJCoC for final approval before applicants are invited to complete the HUD Unsheltered NOFO e-snaps application.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the HUD Unsheltered NOFO for background information on the process, sample HUD priorities and eligible project activities. <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/coc-supplemental-nofo-to-address-unsheltered-rural-homelessness/>

Please click here to access the SNJCoC Unsheltered NOFO application materials. <https://cpachvi.org/blog/>
Proposals are due no later than 3:30pm on **September 16, 2022**. Proposals must be submitted electronically and in hard copy.

Submit electronically:

Attn: Taiisa Kelly
Email: tkelly@monarchhousing.org
Fax: 908-628-1055

Submit **8** hard copies:

Attn: Angela Randall
Director of Homeless Services
Community Planning and Advocacy Council
2500 McClellan Ave, Suite 110
Pennsauken, NJ 08109

II. HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities

1. *Unsheltered Homelessness.* Unsheltered homelessness is continuing to rise in many areas of the country and recent analysis of homelessness data shows that people experiencing unsheltered homelessness report significantly greater health challenges and experiences of trauma and violence than their sheltered peers. These challenges often begin before they lose their housing. This NOFO supports this highly vulnerable population by supporting CoCs in their efforts to identify people living in unsheltered situations, including encampments, and connects them with health and housing resources. It also supports CoCs in their efforts to enhance their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect more comprehensive data on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their geographic area.
2. *Unsheltered Homelessness and Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs in Rural Areas.* Rural areas often lack the resources and infrastructure for providing homeless services and permanent housing. Additionally, rural areas often require unique strategies to solve challenges specific to their geography. To support CoCs in their efforts to end unsheltered homelessness in their rural areas, this NOFO targets resources to rural areas and provides additional eligible activities to address some of the unique needs of rural areas.
3. *Providing Assistance on Tribal Lands.* Indian Reservations and Trust Lands may be all or part of a CoCs' geographic areas, and Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities are eligible recipients of CoC Program funds. This NOFO provides additional incentives for creating projects that serve individuals and families in geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty, and are located where CoC services have until now been entirely unavailable, such as, for example, Trust Lands and Reservations.
4. *Involving a Broad Array of Stakeholders in the CoC's Efforts to Reduce Homelessness.* Ending homelessness cannot be achieved by homeless service organizations alone. It requires coordination with a variety of other stakeholders, including affordable housing developers, mainstream service providers, the business community, victim service providers, political leaders, and healthcare providers. This NOFO supports and encourages CoCs to invite a variety of stakeholders to develop and implement a CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.
5. *Advancing Equity.* In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color as well as individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address equity within CoCs through identifying and addressing the needs of subpopulations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness, such as the populations identified above, and other populations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness. CoCs should be reviewing their strategies to support and serve underserved communities in their geographic area, identify barriers that led to any disparities in communities being served, and take steps to eliminate these barriers. This includes, in conjunction with people experiencing homelessness, reviewing local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address disparities affecting underserved communities experiencing homelessness.

6. *Use a Housing First approach.* Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. Projects funded under this NOFO should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and the CoC should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness as well as ensure projects are correctly implementing a Housing First approach. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt service delivery methods that respond to the preferences and needs of the individual or family presenting for assistance.

Definitions:

HOMELESS STATUS

The homeless definition for CoC Program-funded grants has four categories of homelessness. The eligible homeless category(ies) for the Unsheltered NOFO are restricted in the following way:

CATEGORY 1 – LITERALLY HOMELESS

Individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation (such as a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground); OR
- Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing – if entered from unsheltered or emergency shelter location, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, and local government programs); OR
- Is exiting an institution where he or she has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

CATEGORY 4 – FLEEING/ATTEMPTING TO FLEE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Individual or family who:

- Is fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against them in their primary nighttime residence or has made them afraid to return to their primary
- nighttime residence; AND
- Has no other residence; AND
- Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

Dedicated beds or services. A program that is dedicated specifically for use by a target population within a CoC's geographic area. When a program participant exits the project, the slot must be filled by another participant from the target population unless there are no persons within the target population located within the CoC's geographic area. This concept only applies to permanent supportive housing projects.

Housing First. A model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). Transitional housing and supportive service only projects are considered using a Housing First model for the purposes of this NOFO if they operate with low barriers, work to quickly move

people into permanent housing, do not require participation in supportive services, and, for transitional housing projects, do not require preconditions for moving into the transitional housing (e.g., sobriety or minimum income threshold) but do provide or assist with access to such supportive services if needed and requested by program participants.

Joint TH/PH-RRH Component Project. The Joint TH/PH-RRH component project combines two existing program components—transitional housing and permanent housing-rapid rehousing—in a single project to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness. HUD will require the recipient to adopt a Housing First approach (see Sections II.A.2 and III.B.2.o of this NOFO) across the entire project and program participants may only receive up to 24-months of total assistance. For more information about Joint TH/PH-RRH component projects, see Section V.C.4.c of this NOFO.

If funded, HUD will limit eligible costs as follows, in addition to other limitations found in the Rule:

1. leasing of a structure or units, and operating costs to provide transitional housing;
2. short- or medium-term tenant-based rental assistance on behalf of program participants to pay for the rapid rehousing portion of the project;
3. supportive services;
4. HMIS; and
5. project administrative costs.

When a program participant is enrolled in a Joint TH/PH-RRH component project, the recipient or subrecipient must be able to provide both components, including the units supported by the transitional housing component and the tenant-based rental assistance and services provided through the PH-RRH component, to all participants. A program participant may choose to receive only the TH unit or the assistance provided through the PH-RRH component, but the recipient or subrecipient must make both types of assistance available. Additionally, if CoC Program funds are not being requested for both TH and PH-RRH units, the project application must describe and include the number of TH and PH-RRH units that will be utilized by the project from another funding source, if selected for conditional award, and provide details in the project description of how TH and PH-RRH assistance will be provided.

Persons with Lived Experience. Persons with first-hand knowledge of homelessness who can share their perspective on how social, economic, and political situations affect homelessness. Provides insight, training, and voice from persons who have or are experiencing homelessness regarding the current homeless system through discussion, recommendation, and participation. CoCs must meaningfully engage persons with lived experience in the planning and application process.