



TX-503 Austin/Travis County CoC

HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Grants

FY 19 CoC NOFA Competition

Overview of Local Competition for Agencies Applying
for New Project Funding

July 2019

Competition Overview

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 re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth, while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by persons experiencing homelessness; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

Each year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) releases a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), signifying the beginning of a funding competition among all Continuums of Care (CoCs). For the competition, ECHO must submit a **Consolidated Application** consisting of three parts to HUD by the designated deadline. These include:

1. A **CoC Application**, which describes the CoC's governance structure, overall performance, and the strategic planning process;
2. **Project Applications** from agencies seeking funding for new or renewal projects; and
3. The **CoC Priority Listing**, which ranks the project applications and identifies any rejected applications, showing the CoC's priorities for funding.

To submit the CoC Priority Listing, HUD requires ECHO to hold a local competition to determine which project applications will be included in the consolidated application, including an extensive review and ranking of all renewal projects and projects applying for new funding.

This document outlines important details about the local competition and application process for New Bonus or New Domestic Violence funds (not for renewal project applications).

Key steps to keep in mind when preparing your application:

1. **Eligibility:** Please review and ensure that your agency and project meet HUD CoC Program eligibility requirements. HUD provides guidance on eligible and ineligible applicants and program activities that are specific to CoC-funding. Ineligible applicants and/or projects will not be considered for funding.
2. **E-snaps Application:** HUD requires the use of a web-based application and grants management system called e-snaps. Applicants must complete the online application in e-snaps as a part of the local application process. Once the application is completed and submitted in e-snaps, the applicant must continue the local ECHO application process by attaching a copy of the e-snaps application in Community Force.
3. **Community Force Application:** The Community Force system allows reviewers to access the application materials entered in e-snaps and additional local priority questions that are not included in the HUD e-snaps application. **Applications are due on Tuesday, Aug. 6th.** Applicants must successfully complete the application materials in Community Force in order to be considered for new funding.
4. **IRT Review:** The CoC NOFA Independent Review Team (IRT) members will review and rank each project application. New applications for CoC funding can be submitted through the following categories: CoC Bonus, DV Bonus, Expansion Bonus, and/or Transition Bonus. Projects should thoroughly review all application materials prior to submission for IRT review to assure they are reviewed accurately and completely. If incomplete or inaccurate information may negatively affect the project score.
 - **Applicants are encouraged to review the New Application Score Guide (link is located on the ECHO website) which outlines how points are awarded based on responses in e-snaps and in Community Force.**

5. **Deadlines:** CoC competition deadlines are posted on the ECHO website. Please thoroughly review the deadlines to assure your project is submitted in a timely manner. Applicants may be requested to update information in e-snaps after the rank and review process has been completed.

6. **Appeals:**

- Projects who have been rejected should review the local appeal policy, posted on the ECHO website. Project applicants can also appeal directly to HUD, as outlined in the NOFA.

Membership Council is anticipated to adopt the CoC Priority Listing on September 9, 2019 and applicants wishing to appeal through the local process must do so within three business days of that adoption and being notified of their ranking decision.

IMPORTANT LOCAL COMPETITION LINKS:

- Competition materials are posted on ECHO's website at www.austinecho.org and can be found under the *Continuum of Care* section under the *Leading System Change* page.

The ECHO website hosts all local policy and procedures associated with running the CoC NOFA Competition and are updated and approved by Membership Council annually. Please review these documents as they contain important information to help agencies navigate the funding process.

- Rank and Review Policy & IRT Description
- Community Funding Priorities
- Rank and Review Appeal Policy
- Reallocation and Deobligation Policy
- Performance Improvement Plan Policy

IMPORTANT HUD LINKS:

- HUD Exchange Competition page: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2019-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/#nofa-and-notices>
- HUD Ask A Questions (AAQ): <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>
- E-snaps FAQs can be found at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/faqs/>

ELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICANTS:

Eligible project applicants are nonprofit organizations, States, local governments, and instrumentalities of State and local governments, and public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants or to be sub-recipients of CoC grant funds. **To be eligible for funding applicants must meet all HUD statutory, regulatory and requirements outlined in the [FY19 CoC Program Competition NOFA](#).**

IMPORTANT PROJECT APPLICATION DATES & DEADLINES:

Each year, the CoC will publish annual HUD CoC Competition deadlines that include both local and HUD deadlines. Any agency applying for the CoC Competition must comply with the published deadlines or risk not being eligible for the funding competition. The published dates and deadlines will be posted on the ECHO website and sent out via email through the ECHO CoC email list.

**FY 2019 CoC NOFA
New Applicant Resource Guide – Important Links**



HUD Exchange: NOFA General Competition

2019 Continuum of Care NOFA:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2019-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/#nofa-and-notices>

- **PDF:** <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2019-CoC-Program-Competition-NOFA.pdf>



HUD Exchange: HUD Continuum of Care – Rules, Regulations, and Resources

HUD Continuum of Care Program

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>

HUD Continuum of Care Interim Rule

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2017-title24-vol3/xml/CFR-2017-title24-vol3-part578.xml#seqnum578.99>

HUD Continuum of Care Regulations

<https://www.hudexchange.info/coc/coc-program-law-regulations-and-notices/#regulations>

McKinney-Vento HEARTH Act

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1715/mckinney-vento-homeless-assistance-act-amended-by-hearth-act-of-2009/>



HUD Exchange: Application Process

E-SNAPS: NEW Projects

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2909/coc-project-application-instructions-for-new-projects/>

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- **NEW Project Application Navigational Guide PDF:**
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2019-New-Project-Application-Navigational-Guide.pdf>
- **NEW Project Application Detailed Instructions PDF:**
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2019-New-Project-Application-Detailed-Instructions-Version-2.pdf>
- **Resources to assist with using the e-snaps system:**
 - e-snaps: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>
 - e-snaps Features & Functions:
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2915/esnaps-features-and-functions/>
 - Access Project Application:
<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/how-to-access-the-project-application.pdf>
 - E-snaps FAQs: <https://www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/faqs/>
- **DUNS Number and SAM Resource:**
<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1245/dun-and-bradstreet-duns-number-guide/>



HUD Exchange: Helpful Competition Guidance

Applying for DV Bonus Projects:

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5851/applying-for-dv-bonus-projects-during-the-coc-program-competition/>

Applying for Expansion Projects:

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5853/applying-for-expansion-projects-during-the-coc-program-competition/>

Transition Project Requirements:

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5850/transition-project-requirements-for-the-coc-program-competition/>

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Dedicated CH vs DedicatedPLUS:

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3247/can-you-explain-the-difference-between-beds-dedicated-to-chronically/>

Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Project:

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/faqs/3250/what-is-a-joint-th-and-ph-rrh-component-project/>

HUD Ask A Question (AAQ):

- <https://www.hudexchange.info/program-support/my-question/>

Fiscal Year 2019 ECHO Continuum of Care NOFA Timeline

May 6	Membership Council approves members of the Independent Review Team
May 28	Local Renewal Project applications due in Community Force
July 3	FY 19 CoC NOFA released by HUD
July 16	Bidder's Conference for New Projects
August 6	Local Deadline: New/Bonus Applications due in Community Force
August 23	Local Deadline: Renewal Projects applications submitted in esnaps
August 30	HUD Deadline: All Projects must be submitted in e-snaps
September 9	Membership Council Meeting: Adopts Final Ranking for Priority Listing
September 9	ECHO notifies all applicants in writing of acceptance/denial and ranking
	Appeal Policy Requirement - applicants have 3 business days to appeal
September 12	Ranking/Funding Decision of Membership Council
September 15	HUD Deadline: ECHO to Reject or reduce Project Applications
	HUD Deadline: Post CoC Application and Priority Listing on website for public review
September 27	
September 30	HUD deadline for NOFA submission