

TX-503 Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care Program

FY 2024 NOFO Bidders' Conference (RENEWALS)

MONDAY, AUGUST 26TH, 2024

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Today's Agenda

- HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities and Program Highlights
- Summary of Changes in FY24/FY25 NOFO vs. FY2023 NOFO
- Estimated ARD & Bonus Amounts
- Local Competition Timeline & Ranking Process
- Summary of Changes from FY23 Local NOFO Policies
- Eligible Projects and Components
- Local & HUD Appeals Policy and Processes
- Q & A Time



HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities and Program Highlights

- (1) Ending homelessness for all persons*
- (2) Use a Housing First approach*
- (3) Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness*
- (4) Improving System Performance*
- (5) Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies*
- (6) Racial Equity*
- (7) Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals*
- (8) Persons with Lived Experience/Expertise*
- (9) Building an Effective Workforce (**NEW)*
- (10) Increasing Affordable Housing Supply*

****See p. 7-10 in the NOFO for more details**

Summary of Changes from FY2023 NOFO

- **YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project) Grants:**
 - Will be *non-competitively* renewed or replaced and not ranked and not included in the Tier 1/Tier 2 process
 - Can be reallocated to create new YHDP grants. In a reallocation of YHDP, the recipient will change
- **Tier 1 is smaller – 90% of final pro rata need (93% last year); size of potential bonus is larger – 12% of final pro rata need (7% last year)**
- **Projects previously funded under YHDP and the DV Bonus must continue to serve the same target population**
- **Potential DV Bonus amount has increased from 10% of Preliminary Pro Rata Need to 15%**
- **Budget lines for HMIS and Supportive Services will automatically be increased by a cost of living adjustment**
- **This is a two-year NOFO, one year renewal grants awarded this year will automatically renew next year; grants expiring in 2026 that do not renew in this competition must submit renewal applications in 2025 – possible new bonus funding**

****See p. 4-6 in the NOFO for more details**

FY 2024 CoC NOFO

TX-503 Austin/Travis County

Estimated Annual Renewal Demand (ARD): \$11,390,709

CoC Planning Grant \$569,535

****Anticipated reallocation amount: \$503,196 (**NOTE: This amount is restricted to the transition grant request applicant pre-approved by LC.)**

➤ **CoC Bonus Amount: \$1,366,885**

➤ **DV Bonus Amount: \$1,447,887**

➤ **Tier 1: \$8,449,493**

➤ ***Tier 2: \$3,753,575**

➤ **CoC may submit applications up to the total allocated amounts funded**

***Tier 2 = (ARD-YHDP Restricted + CoC Bonus and DV Bonus) minus (Tier 1)**

TX – 503 Austin / Travis County CoC Local Competition Timeline



TX – 503 Austin / Travis County CoC Local Competition Timeline



Local Competition Ranking Process

1. All project applications submitted through [e-snaps](#) and [CoC Local Competition webpage](#) reviewed by an Independent Review Team (IRT)
2. IRT reviews all project application submissions and scores projects based on Scoring Criteria.
3. ECHO provides project priority ranking (Tier 1 and Tier 2) according to NOFO policies, including the [FY24 Review, Ranking, and Scoring Policy and Procedures](#) and FY24/FY25 NOFO requirements.
4. ECHO presents ranking recommendations to Leadership Council.
5. Leadership Council approves final ranking decision.
6. CoC Collaborative Applicant (ECHO) submits final Consolidated Application (i.e., Priority Listing, Project Applications, CoC Application) to HUD.

Summary of Changes from FY2023 Local NOFO Policies

FY24 Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy

- All applicants whose projects have identified curable deficiencies must be given **at least until the end of business the following day (vs. 5 business days)** to address and adequately resolve any deficiencies (Section iii.(c) Review-Deficiencies)
- All YHDP Projects including renewal, replacement and reallocation will be **non-competitively renewed and will NOT be ranked (vs. competitive ranking of YHDP projects)** (Section iv. Scoring)
- Renewal Applications for (PSH), (RRH), and (TH) will be scored based on their application for the Local Competition (composing 35% of the total score) and their average score from the previous **year's (i.e., FY23 Q1-Q4) four quarters (vs. previous four quarters)** of Quarterly Performance Scorecards (composing the remaining 65% of the total project score) (Section iv.(c) Scoring-Renewal Projects)
- Section v. Ranking Policy
 - 1) Non-competitively Ranked Projects
 - a) **ADDED:** First-time renewals will be non-competitively ranked above competitively ranked projects
 - 2) Renewal Projects
 - c) Renewal Projects with a **FY23 Q1 –Q4 (vs. previous four quarters)** Quarterly Performance Scorecard score averaging 65% or above will be ranked above any New Projects.

Summary of Changes from FY2023 NOFO Local Policies

FY24 Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy (cont'd)

➤ Section v. Ranking Policy (cont'd)

3) New Projects

d) New Projects will be competitively ranked against Renewal Projects with a **FY23 Q1 –Q4 (vs. previous four quarters)** Quarterly Performance Scorecard score averaging 64.9% or below.

4) **ADDED: Transition Grants**

e) **Transition Grants which have been approved by Leadership Council and which have a FY23 Q1-Q4 Quarterly Performance Scorecard score averaging 65% or above will be ranked above any New Projects.**

f) **Transition Grants which have been approved by Leadership Council and which have a FY23 Q1-Q4 Quarterly Performance Scorecard averaging 64.9% or below will be competitively ranked against all other New Projects.**

➤ Section ix.b.i. Eligible Local Appeals

REMOVED: 4. Projects that are deemed to have an incurable deficiency.

Summary of Changes from FY2023 Local NOFO Policies

FY24 Reallocation and Deobligation Policy

- **REMOVED:** Involuntary reallocation of 2% from each Renewal Project application (except HMIS and VSP projects) will be reallocated towards HMIS Expansion (Section iii. Reallocation)
- **ADDED:** Leadership Council will prioritize Transition Grants over New Project applications *if they meet the criteria outlined in the FY24 Review and Scoring Policy*. Applicants must seek Leadership Council approval before submitting a Transition Grant. The Council will evaluate these grants based on Community and HUD Funding Priorities, NOFO Guidelines, and the overall request. Recipients who wish to reallocate their renewal project funds for a Transition Grant must notify the Leadership Council and ECHO by the Grant Inventory Worksheet deadline, providing details on the reallocation and the impact on clients. (Section iv. Voluntary Reallocation)
- **ADDED:** First-time renewals may not be involuntarily reallocated.

Summary of Changes from FY2023 Local Policies

FY24 Community Funding Priorities

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) will be prioritized (**REMOVED: “site-based”**)

CoC Projects Eligible for Renewal

Applicant Name	Project Name	Project Component	Restriction (DV or YHDP)
Caritas of Austin	Renewal Project Application FY22	PH	
Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc.	HMIS Project Renewal FY2023	HMIS	
Housing Authority of the City of Austin	Onward FY 2023	PH	
The Housing Authority of Travis County	Upward	PH	
The SAFE Alliance	SAFE Supportive Housing Program	TH	
Austin-Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center DBA Integral Care	Fresh Start	PH	
The Salvation Army, A Georgia Corporation	Passages II Rapid Rehousing Collaboration	PH	
Youth and Family Alliance dba LifeWorks	Housing Options for Youth - renewal yr. 8	PH	
The SAFE Alliance	DV Rapid Rehousing Project – Combined	PH	DV
Youth and Family Alliance dba LifeWorks	Youth Rapid Re-housing Collaborative - renewal yr. 7	PH	YHDP
Youth and Family Alliance dba LifeWorks	YHDP PSH - replacement yr. 1	PH	YHDP
The SAFE Alliance	SAFE SSO-CE Project	SSO	DV
Austin-Travis County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center DBA Integral Care	Kensington PSH FY2023	PH	
Sunrise Community Church	Sunrise Citywide Coordinated Entry	SSO	

Eligible Components For Renewal Projects

Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)

➤ Renewal Projects Based on ARD:

- (a) **Permanent housing-permanent supportive housing (PH-PSH) projects**
- (b) **Permanent housing-rapid rehousing (PH-RRH) projects**
- (c) **Transitional Housing (TH) projects**
- (d) **Joint TH/PH-RRH component projects**
- (e) **Supportive services only – coordinated entry (SSO-CE) projects**
- (f) **Dedicated HMIS project** for the costs of 24 CFR 578.37(a)(4) by the HMIS Lead
- (g) **TH or Crisis Residential Transitional Housing projects****
- (h) **Supportive services only (SSO) projects****
- (i) **SSO – Host Home and Kinship Care projects****
- (j) **HMIS projects****

****Only applicable to YHDP Replacement projects**

Renewal Project Participant Eligibility

(a) PH-PSH renewal projects must serve one of the following:

(i) persons eligible to be served by DedicatedPLUS projects as described in Section I.B.2.b.(7) of this NOFO where all units funded by this project must be used to serve program participants who meet the qualifications for DedicatedPLUS; or

(ii) persons experiencing chronic homelessness at the time they initially enrolled in the project.

(b) PH-RRH, Joint TH/PH-RRH component, TH, and SSO projects may serve persons who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2) or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3 (**NOTE: Per [local CE Written Standards](#), our CoC's renewal projects are only allowed to serve (1) or (4).

(c) YHDP renewal projects must serve youth aged 24 or younger, including unaccompanied and pregnant youth or parenting youth who:

(i) qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3;

(ii) have an unsafe primary nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence

YHDP Replacement Project Participant Eligibility

YHDP Replacement projects [section III.B.4.b.(5)] must serve youth aged 24 or younger, including unaccompanied and pregnant or parenting youth who:

- (1) qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3;
- (2) have an unsafe primary nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence

Consolidation Project

Project applicants can consolidate **two but not more than ten** eligible renewal projects, including renewing YHDP projects, via the renewal project application and must ensure:

- The projects being combined during a grant consolidation will continue uninterrupted.
- The projects must have the **same recipient** (as evidenced by recipient's Unique Entity Identifier) and be for the **same component**;

Expansion Project

The process by which a Renewal Project** applicant submits a New Project application to expand its current operations (e.g., increase the number of units, persons served, or services provided to existing program participants)

- Requires the submission of two applications in *esnaps*: 1 Renewal Application and 1 New Application
- Can only apply for 1-year grant term
- Excludes funding for capital costs (e.g., new construction, rehabilitation, or acquisition)
- Expansion Application is ranked as a New Project separately from the Renewal Project application

**NOTE: YHDP Renewals *can be combined with a YHDP Reallocation project to expand – YHDP reallocation requires that funding be shifted from a current YHDP recipient to a different recipient*

Expansion Requirements

You **cannot** use the expansion process to provide existing program participants with the **same housing and services** funded through the CoC Program; therefore, an expansion project must:

- a) Serve new program participants;
- b) Provide existing program participants with an expanded level of services;
- c) Provide existing program participants with facilities that meet health and safety standards;
- d) Provide the same activities that are CoC Program-eligible but were previously paid for by a different eligible non-renewable source. Applicants are prohibited from using CoC Program funds to replace state or local funds previously used, or designated for use, to assist persons experiencing homelessness; for more information refer to 24 CFR 578.87(a);
- e) Provide expanded coordinated entry services to new and existing program participants, only eligible for SSO-CE; **or**
- f) Provide expanded HMIS activities, only eligible for HMIS Leads.

Transition Project

A 1-year grant to fund a New Project to transition an eligible renewal project** that has been eliminated through reallocation from one program component to another eligible new component.

- Must be submitted in partnership with the CoC following the full reallocation of a renewal project
- The new project application must meet project eligibility and project quality thresholds established by HUD in Sections III.C.4.a. and b. of this NOFO.
- The Transition Grant will have the same operating year as the expiring Renewal Project grant
- Can only apply for 1-year grant term
- Transition Application is ranked as a New Project
- Transition Grants are eligible for renewal in subsequent fiscal years for eligible activities of the new component

***NOTE: YHDP Renewals cannot submit for Transition but can accomplish this through YHDP Replacement process*

YHDP Replacement Project

A YHDP Renewal Project that seeks to replace component types to create a New Project.

- Only available to YHDP Renewal Projects that cannot utilize the Transition Project application process
- Replacement Applications must be submitted by the same recipient of the YHDP Renewal grant(s) being replaced
- Activities being requested, including Special YHDP Activities, are eligible and do not exceed the ARA of the renewal project being replaced.
- Capital costs *cannot* be requested.
- Can only apply for 1-year grant term
- Operating start date will be the day after the end of the previous grant term for the project being replaced.
- Replacement Grants are eligible for renewal in subsequent fiscal years for eligible activities of the new component but are restricted to serving YHDP eligible young persons.

YHDP Reallocation Project

Current YHDP Projects can be reallocated

- Reallocation involves re-assigning YHDP funds to one or more new recipients to fund new YHDP projects
- Reallocated YHDP projects must serve a YHDP eligible population
- Reallocated YHDP projects are funded non-competitively and will be included in collaborative application but NOT ranked

YHDP Consolidation and Expansion

YHDP Consolidation

- Consolidation in YHDP is accomplished through the YHDP replacement process. Up to four YHDP grants to the same recipient with the same program component can be consolidated.
- As in CoC consolidation, the grant with the earliest start date will be the 'surviving' grant

YHDP Renewal Expansion

- Submit a YHDP renewal grant and a YHDP Reallocation project application (new project)
- YHDP Renewal and YHDP Expansion must be for same project type and YHDP Reallocation must have 1-year grant term and funding request
- Must provide new housing units, additional services to participants or both
- Only YHDP Renewals and YHDP Reallocation projects can use the expansion process – YHDP replacement and non-YHDP projects cannot be expanded by YHDP Reallocation

Eligible Local Appeals

Appeals can be requested by any agency which has a project submitted for participation in the FY24 CoC Program NOFO in the Austin/Travis County CoC geographic area.

Example of eligible appeals include:

1. Projects that are not funded or receive less funding than the amount in the application.
2. Renewal projects that are ranked in Tier 2 of the CoC application (in which the applicant's funding may be at risk).
3. Projects that fall into the bottom portion of Tier 1 that equals the Tier 2 amount.

**See [Section ix. Project Ranking Appeals](#) for more details

Local Appeal Process Timeline

Draft Ranking is Posted
October 11th 2024

Applicants Notified &
Appeals Opened
October 11th, 2024

Appeals Due
October 17th, 2024
By 6:00pm

Leadership Council
Rules on Appeals
October 22nd, 2024

Local Appeal Process

- An appeal must be in the form of a letter on the applicant agency's letterhead and must clearly state the reasons for the appeal and specify all issues being contested.
- The appealing agency must specify facts and evidence sufficient for Leadership Council to determine the validity of the appeal.
- Agencies will receive, in writing, the appeal decision before the CoC Collaborative Application submission deadline. ECHO will be responsible for ensuring that projects have received proper notice of all final funding decisions.
- Applicants may ask ECHO for summary scoring information prior to the submission of the appeal letter. Individual IRT member scores will not be released to applicants.

As prescribed by HUD in the CoC NOFO, applicants may appeal the local CoC competition decision to HUD if the project applicant would like to further appeal the CoC Board's decision.

HUD Appeal Process

- Applicants may appeal directly to HUD following two different processes:
- Solo Applicants: a process for eligible applicants that attempted to participate in the Local Competition and believe they were unreasonably denied participation
 - To apply as a Solo Applicant, the project applicant must submit: a Solo Applicant Project Application in *esnaps* by the NOFO Application deadline, a Written Notice of Intent to Appeal, all relevant evidence supporting its claim (by no later than 30 days after the date that HUD announces awards)
- Denied or Decreased Funding: a process for eligible applicants that are denied funds by HUD or that requested more funds than HUD awarded
 - May appeal HUD's award within 45 days after HUD's final funding announcement
 - Eligible Appeals must have been ranked by the CoC within the CoC's maximum amount available

Applicant Appeals may delay signing grant agreements for the awarded project(s) listed in the CoC's Priority Listing as submitted to HUD

More information in Section VII. of the NOFO (pg. 120 - 126)

HUD Appeal Process

Applicants also have appeal processes available through HUD, as outlined in 24 CFR 578.35

Solo Project Application Resources for the CoC Program

Date Published: August 2021

Description

This resource is for project applicants whose project application is rejected during the local CoC competition prior to the close of the annual CoC Program Competition. A project applicant may submit a Solo Application during the CoC Program Competition when the applicant attempts to participate in the CoC's planning process and believes it was denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner.

Note: This resource is not for project applicants and CoC Collaborative Applicants who are appealing an award decision by HUD after applications have been submitted. Entities seeking an award decision appeal must follow the instructions in the NOFA for the applicable CoC Program Competition.

[View all resources related to *e-snaps* and the annual CoC Program Competition.](#)

Resource Links

- [Project Application Appeal Process Navigational Guide for Solo Projects \(PDF\)](#)

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4065/project-application-appeal-process-instructional-guide/>

HUD Exchange Resources



FY24 CoC Program Competition NOFO Notices:

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition

e-snaps Application Instructions:

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

CoC Program Laws, Regulations and Notices:

<https://ecfr.federalregister.gov/current/title-24/subtitle-B/chapter-V/subchapter-C/part-578>

CoC Program Virtual Binders

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/>

All In: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness:

https://www.usich.gov/All_In_The_Federal_Strategic_Plan_to_Prevent_and_End_Homelessness.pdf

Rapid Rehousing Information:

<https://endhomelessness.org/rapid-re-housing-works>



TX-503 Resources

Austin/Travis County CoC's NOFO Competition Information:

<https://www.austinecho.org/leading-system-change/continuum-of-care/>

TX-503 FY2024 Estimated Annual Renewal Demand Amount Report:

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC/FY-2024-CoC-Estimated-ARD-Report.pdf>

Austin / Travis County Homelessness Response System Dashboard:

<https://www.austinecho.org/dashboard/>

Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Act:

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/affht_pt.html



Questions?

CoC NOFO Office Hours:

September 5, 2024 / 9:00 – 10:00 AM

September 12, 2024 / 9:00 – 10:00 AM

Email the ECHO CoC NOFO team:

Email: nofo@austinecho.org