



## FY2024 Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care Community Funding Priorities

<b>Changes from FY2023 Community Funding Priorities</b>	
Section ii	<p>The Leadership Council of the Austin/Travis CoC has approved the following resource prioritization for all new project applications to ensure that the Austin/Travis County HRS addresses the needs of those experiencing homelessness as equitably and efficiently as possible.</p> <p>Continuum of Care Component Type:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</li> </ul>

### **i. Overview**

The following document outlines the Funding Priorities for FY2024 Continuum of Care Program Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) as determined by the Homelessness Response System (HRS) Leadership Council. In addition, the Continuum of Care (CoC) will utilize all funds allocated to our community in accordance with the priorities and limitations identified in the FY2024 NOFO as well as in this document. Prioritization as it is applied in the FY2024 Austin/Travis County CoC Local Competition refers to the preferential allocation of points in the scoring process.

The Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care defined and updated the Community Funding Priorities based on data collected by HMIS-participating agencies as reported and analyzed in the following sources:

1. Annual Point in Time Count
2. Preliminary Needs and Gaps Data
3. Housing Inventory Count
4. HMIS Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Report
5. HUD Opening Doors Policies
6. HMIS System Performance Measures Report
7. Coordinated Assessment Data
8. Annual Disparities Data

### **ii. Community Funding Priorities**

Community data show that the largest need in the community is among those who are chronically homeless and those who are domestic violence survivors. The data also indicate that, because many people are chronically homeless or live with a disability, the greatest need in the community is for permanent housing solutions, especially Permanent Supportive Housing. For these reasons, and to ensure that the HRS addresses the needs of people equitably, the funding priorities of the CoC Program should be directed toward Permanent Supportive Housing programs. The Leadership Council of the Austin/Travis CoC has approved the following resource prioritization for all new project applications to ensure that the



Austin/Travis County HRS addresses the needs of those experiencing homelessness as equitably and efficiently as possible.

Continuum of Care Component Type:

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Any new project applications submitted during the FY24 CoC Program NOFO with content in conflict with the above priorities will be considered out of alignment with the Local Funding Priorities for the purpose of application scoring and ranking as adopted in the Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy and Procedure.

### **iii. Austin/Travis County Community Prioritization**

The Leadership Council, as the CoC Board of the Austin/Travis County CoC, has identified the following priorities for applications submitted for consideration during the FY24 CoC Program NOFO, in alignment with HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities and Program Highlights of the FY24 CoC Program NOFO. The Leadership Council has directed the Collaborative Applicant to review, score, and rank all applications based on these priorities (see Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy and Procedure). These priorities will be evaluated in addition to project performance metrics that contribute to the community's System Performance Measures:

#### **1. Furthering Racial Equity**

HUD charges CoCs with reviewing local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address racial disparities affecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In addition to other community activities to increase racial equity within the Austin/Travis County CoC, the Leadership Council will prioritize CoC recipients whose staff, leadership, and board are representative of the racial composition of people experiencing homelessness within the community. Priority will also be given to CoC recipients who create measurable improvements in program delivery and service provision to ensure racially equitable outcomes, and to those who conduct equity trainings for all staff including leadership and front-line staff.

#### **2. Authentic Engagement of People with Lived Experience**

HUD recognizes that programs in the HRS will be most effective when they authentically engage program participants and hire people with lived expertise into leadership positions. Therefore, in addition to other community activities to integrate lived expertise into governance activities and program delivery, the Leadership Council will prioritize CoC recipients who implement measurable programmatic changes in response to feedback solicited from people with lived experience. Priority will also be given to CoC recipients whose staff and leadership have lived expertise of homelessness.

#### **3. Using Emerging Data to Inform Program Design and Growth**

HUD supports CoCs to use outcome measures related to CoC system performance measures in



the local review, selection, and rating process. Leadership Council will prioritize CoC recipients who engage performance data, at least annually, to inform program design, staff development, and areas for service improvement through continuous quality improvement.

#### **4. Retaining a Competitive Workforce**

HUD expects CoCs to review all projects eligible for renewal in FY2024 to determine their performance in serving people experiencing homelessness. Program performance measures must incorporate an agency's retention of a competitive workforce. Leadership Council will prioritize CoC recipients who have demonstrated an ability to recruit and retain skilled and diverse candidates to improve project outcomes.

#### **5. Demonstrating Fiscal Responsibility and Grant Management**

HUD requires all CoC recipients to spend grants reasonably and judiciously on eligible costs that best support high performance in their programs. Cost effectiveness must be measured alongside project performance to ensure responsible management of HUD funds. Leadership Council will prioritize CoC recipients who have demonstrated fiscal responsibility, and an ability to spend down their grants effectively.