

Before Starting the Special CoC Application

You must submit both of the following parts in order for us to consider your Special NOFO Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application, and
2. the CoC Priority Listing.

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The Special NOFO Continuum of Care (CoC) Application Detailed Instructions for Collaborative Applicants which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachment are provided.

CoC Approval is Required before You Submit Your CoC's Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on behalf of your CoC.
- 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit the Consolidated Application into e-snaps.

Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You must upload the [Specific Attachment Name] attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

- Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.
- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1A-1. CoC Name and Number: TX-503 - Austin/Travis County CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc.

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: Ending Community Homelessness Coalition, Inc.

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| 1A-5. | New Projects | |
| | Complete the chart below by indicating which funding opportunity(ies) your CoC applying for projects under. A CoC may apply for funding under both set asides; however, projects funded through the rural set aside may only be used in rural areas, as defined in the Special NOFO. | |
| 1. | Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside | Yes |
| 2. | Rural Homelessness Set Aside | No |

1B. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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|--------------|---|------------|
| 1B-1. | Web Posting of Your CoC Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b. | |
| | You must upload the Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen. | |
| | Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for project application submission for your CoC's local competition. | 08/17/2022 |

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| 1B-2. | Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.a. | |
| | You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen. | |
| | Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected new project applications during your CoC's local competition: | |
| | 1. Established total points available for each project application type. | Yes |
| | 2. At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH). | Yes |
| | 3. At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness). | Yes |

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| 1B-3. | Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b. | |
| | You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen. | |
| | 1. Did your CoC reject or reduce any project application(s)? | Yes |
| | 2. Did your CoC inform the applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced? | Yes |
| | 3. If you selected yes, for element 1 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22. | 10/03/2022 |

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| 1B-3a. | Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b. | |
| | You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen. | |
| | Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22. | 10/05/2022 |
| 1B-4. | Web Posting of the CoC-Approved Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b. | |
| | You must upload the Web Posting–Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen. | |
| | Enter the date your CoC posted its Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or affiliate’s website–which included: 1. the CoC Application, and 2. Priority Listings. | 10/17/2022 |

2A. System Performance

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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| 2A-1. | Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors. | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.b. | |
| | Describe in the field below: | |
| | 1. how your CoC determined which risk factors your CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time; | |
| | 2. how your CoC addresses individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and | |
| | 3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time or to end homelessness for individuals and families. | |

(limit 2,500 characters)

Our CoC determines risk factors of first time homelessness by engaging a 12 member collaborative of service providers that support individuals and families at risk of homelessness with time limited financial assistance and support services. This collaborative meets quarterly to evaluate trends in program enrollment, track program spending patterns, and ensure adherence to service delivery best practices. ECHO staff collaborates with funding entities (City of Austin Homeless Strategy Division and Travis County Housing and Community Affairs) to ensure that financial resources (direct financial assistance and staffing) are available to community based service providers to prevent or divert individuals and families from entering literal homelessness. These risk factors are determined by a collaborative of services providers that support individuals and families at risk of homelessness with time limited financial assistance and support services.

Our CoC utilizes a Homelessness Prevention Screening Tool to identify individuals and families who will become homeless for the first time. Risk factors include; 1) age (younger than 28 or older than 60), 2) history of family violence, 3) household includes minor children, 4) education (high school diploma or GED only), 5) history of housing instability (moved due to economic factors, lived in a hotel/motel paid for by a charitable organization, and or living in a doubled up or couch surfing situation), 6) recently exited from an institution without a housing plan, 7) adult history of homelessness, 8) recent shelter stay, 9) income (below the federal poverty level, eligible for subsidized housing, rent burdened (more than 45% of household income goes towards housing cost), sudden loss of household income, and or rental areas), 10) substandard housing conditions (pest infestation and/or code violations), 11) disabling condition, 12) currently pregnant, 13) household member without legal immigration status.

Homelessness prevention service providers have the capacity to screen individuals and families at risk of homelessness over the phone or in person. If eligible, service providers move forward to enroll participants in homelessness prevention programming which includes up to 12 months of financial assistance and supportive services.

Our CoC's strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time is overseen by ECHO's Homelessness Response System (HRS) Strategy Director.

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| 2A-2. | Length of Time Homeless–Strategy to Reduce. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.c. | |
| | Describe in the field below: | |
| | 1. your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless; | |
| | 2. how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and | |
| | 3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless. | |

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC has the following strategies to reduce the Length of Time people remain homeless (LOTH): a) Using dynamic prioritization in the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to connect all persons to the most readily available resource most able to meet their permanent housing needs, b) using a fully mobile CES system and affirmative street outreach and drop-in center access network so that people experiencing homelessness (PEH) can connect with resources as quickly as possible, c) robustly integrating diversion and rapid resolution resources into all phases of the crisis response and rehousing processes, d) supporting shelter transformation to become housing-focused, e) monitoring project performance through permanent housing outcomes and LOTH to those outcomes, f) working with local funders to create new permanent housing opportunities targeted towards individuals with the highest needs (including those associated with highest LOTH).
2. The CoC identifies and houses persons with the longest LOT homeless using CES, prioritizing housing for persons with the greatest need. CoC data has shown that length of time homeless is the data point that most correlates with many aspects of vulnerability, and it is heavily weighted directly and indirectly in the CES prioritization criteria. The CES engages with persons experiencing homelessness, including long-term homelessness, by having multiple access points including through drop-in centers, shelters, street outreach programs, medical clinics, jails, and call-in phone options. The CoC actively cultivates in-reach relationships to our correctional and healthcare facilities to provide access to the CES for those institutions. The CoC also leads landlord recruitment and property management partnership efforts to ensure that local landlords are willing and able to rent to households with housing barriers associated with the longest periods of homelessness. Our CoC is managing public/private partnerships with landlords in our community effectively leading to rapid housing placement despite a City wide vacancy rate of 2%.
3. ECHO, the agency that manages the CoC's Coordinated Entry system, oversees this strategy.

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| 2A-3. | Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.d. | |
| | Describe in the field below how your CoC will increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in: | |
| | 1. emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and | |
| | 2. permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations. | |

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has the following strategies to increase the rate of persons in ES, SH, TH, and RRH exiting to PH destinations: a) Using dynamic prioritization in the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to connect all persons in these interventions to the most readily available resource most able to meet their permanent housing needs, b) supporting shelter transformation to become housing-focused, c) monitoring project performance through permanent housing outcomes, d) improving understanding and performance of system flow by publishing a public dashboard of project and intervention success rates, e) robustly integrating diversion and rapid resolution resources into all phases of the crisis response and rehousing processes, f) working with local funders to create non-congregate emergency shelter housing options so that congregate traumas are avoided.

Our CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families retain housing and/or exit to permanent housing destinations is evaluating program data monthly, posting that data to the community Data Dashboard (on the ECHO website), and providing CoC funded projects with monthly technical assistance and program support. We have learned that it is more effective to develop provider collaboration to improve performance metrics if the data is publicly reported by project and widely accessible by community stakeholders.

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| 2A-4. | Returns to Homelessness–CoC's Strategy to Reduce Rate. (All Applicants) Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.e. | |
| Describe in the field below: | | |
| 1. | how your CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness; | |
| 2. | your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness; and | |
| 3. | provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness. | |

(limit 2,500 characters)

Our CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness through HMIS data pulled quarterly, by project. ECHO’s Research and Evaluation Team runs the Quarterly Performance Scorecards identified by HMIS numbers by the head of household. The Research and Evaluation Manager then sends the report to program staff, including the ECHO’s Program Performance Manager. ECHO’s Program Performance Manager meets with program staff monthly to provide technical assistance and program support.

Our CoC’s strategy to identify individuals and families who will return to homelessness is evaluating program data monthly, posting that data to the community Data Dashboard (on the ECHO website), and providing CoC funded projects with monthly technical assistance and program support. We have learned that it is more effective to develop provider collaboration to improve performance metrics if the data is publicly reported by project and widely accessible by community stakeholders. ECHO’s Program Performance Manager also meets with program staff monthly to provide technical assistance and program support, including strategic planning to reduce the rates of individuals and families that return to homelessness within 24 months. ECHO staff, through a cross department partnership of Research and Evaluation and CoC Planning and Strategy oversee the CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate individuals and families return to homelessness. The Research and Evaluation Manager is responsible for running the Quarterly Performance Scorecards and the Program Performance Manager is responsible for ensuring program staff receive technical assistance and program support to improve the rate of positive program exits.

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| 2A-5. | Increasing Employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants) Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f. | |
| Describe in the field below: | | |
| 1. | the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase employment cash sources; | |
| 2. | how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their cash income; and | |
| 3. | provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to increase income from employment. | |

(limit 2,500 characters)

Our CoC utilizes several strategies to increase access to employment and other cash sources. CoC projects are required (through the Quarterly Performance Scorecard) to report on the amount of households that increase income. ECHO staff also provides monthly technical assistance and program support to ensure that project staff are aware of community based employment programming to support program participants in meeting this metric.

Our CoC and housing service providers have partnerships with community based employment assistance programs (WorkForce Solutions, Austin Area Urban League, Texas Veterans Commission, and Goodwill Industries) to meet the various employment needs of people experiencing homelessness in our community. Employment services available in our community for people experiencing homelessness include; targeted job fairs, job readiness programs, financial assistance for employment equipment/ clothes, and transportation assistance. Three of our CoC's grantees (Lifeworks, Caritas of Austin and Integral Care) have also launched supportive employment programs to provide ongoing, intensive employment support for their program participants. Our CoC also collaborates with community based service providers (The Other Ones Foundation and Goodwill Industries) to provide low barrier, short term/temporary employment opportunities.

Our CoC's Strategy to increase income from employment is led by ECHO's Associate Director of Housing and Systems Advancement. This position requires strategic planning and cross system collaboration.

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| 2A-5a. | Increasing Non-employment Cash Income—Strategy. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f. | |
| | Describe in the field below: | |
| 1. | the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase non-employment cash income; | |
| 2. | your CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources; and | |
| 3. | provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income. | |

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC monitors increased participants' non-employment cash income as a part of CoC funded project's performance assessments, when compared against community average increases in non-employment cash income of similar components. Our CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income is by creating avenues to social security benefits in our community with a heavy focus on the following systems: legal, medical, & education. ECHO staff serve as the SOAR local lead for the Austin/Travis County community. ECHO staff provides one-on-one training for all SOAR specialists in the community, monthly technical assistance, SOAR monitoring and compliance, and facilitates virtual training with subject matter experts from SAMHSA and SSA. ECHO staff has created a standardized SOAR workflow and is working with the CoC System Improvement governance committee to develop, adopt, and implement SOAR Written Standards. Additionally, ECHO staff facilitates bi-annual (Fall/Spring) Understanding SOAR 101 to promote SOAR certification for new and community based service providers. The CoC is working to provide non-employment income at or shortly after inmates are released from jail, patients discharged from hospitals, and schools for children experiencing homelessness. The Collaborative Applicant's Housing for Health Department's SSI/SSDI Outreach Access & Recovery (SOAR) System Manager is the SOAR Local Lead for Austin/Travis County and is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategies to increase non-employment cash income in collaboration with CoC Governance Committees and Workgroups.

2B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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| 2B-1. | Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Sections VII.B.3.a.(1) | |
| | In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022: | |
| | 1. select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted—including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC’s coordinated entry system; or | |
| | 2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC’s geographic area: | |

| | Organization/Person | Participated in CoC Meetings | Voted, Including Electing of CoC Board Members | Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System |
|-----|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. | Affordable Housing Developer(s) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 2. | Agencies serving survivors of human trafficking | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 3. | CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 4. | CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers | Yes | Yes | No |
| 5. | CoC-Funded Youth Homeless Organizations | Yes | Yes | No |
| 6. | Disability Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 7. | Disability Service Organizations | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 8. | Domestic Violence Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 9. | EMS/Crisis Response Team(s) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 10. | Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 11. | Hospital(s) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 12. | Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations) | Nonexistent | No | No |
| 13. | Law Enforcement | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 14. | Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 15. | LGBTQ+ Service Organizations | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 16. | Local Government Staff/Officials | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 17. | Local Jail(s) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 18. | Mental Health Service Organizations | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 19. | Mental Illness Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |

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| 20. | Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 21. | Non-CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 22. | Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 23. | Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 24. | Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 25. | Other homeless subpopulation advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 26. | Public Housing Authorities | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 27. | School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 28. | Street Outreach Team(s) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 29. | Substance Abuse Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 30. | Substance Abuse Service Organizations | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 31. | Youth Advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 32. | Youth Service Providers | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | Other:(limit 50 characters) | | | |
| 33. | | | | |
| 34. | | | | |

By selecting "other" you must identify what "other" is.

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| 2B-2. | Open Invitation for New Members. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(2), V.B.3.g. | |

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| | Describe in the field below how your CoC: |
| 1. | communicated the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join the CoC; |
| 2. | ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; |
| 3. | conducted outreach to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join your CoC; and |
| 4. | invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, persons with disabilities). |

(limit 2,500 characters)

Our CoC communicated the invitation for the 2022 CoC Program Special NOFO in the following ways; 1) ECHO website, 2) ECHO social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn) 3) Publicly announced at Leadership Council Meeting, and 4) ECHO staff facilitated a Bidders' Conference . ECHO staff facilitates 2 Community Stakeholder Meetings (Fall/ Spring) that solicit new members to join the CoC. The Community Stakeholder Meetings have been virtual since the Spring of 2020 due to Covid-19 and have increased engagement of people with lived experience of homelessness, equity advocates, community members and elected officials.

Our CoC contracts with a transcription company to provide human-transcribed captions for community training videos uploaded to ECHO's YouTube channel and practices appropriate use of alternative text in new social media and website uploads. ECHO staff is also redesigning our website to be more user-friendly with a systematic approach to ensuring compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 and subsequent revisions, including ensuring alt text for all visual content, eliminating low-contrast text, and clearly defining link properties. The website redesign will be completed by October 2022.

Our CoC has facilitated outreach projects to ensure that persons with lived experience of homelessness join our CoC. First, our CoC restructured the CoC Board in May 2021 to ensure equitable representation of Black community members and people with lived experience in this decision making space. In October 2021 our CoC Board (Leadership Council) approved the Austin/Travis County HRS Compensation Policy. This policy ensures equitable compensation for people with lived experience of homelessness and equity advocates working within our CoC's governance structure (committees and workgroups). ECHO staff then launched a 45 day campaign to engage people with lived experience to join the CoC through social media, shelter and service provider outreach, and flyering and tabling events at libraries, community kitchens and navigation centers.

ECHO staff has prioritized engaging Black community leaders, through the Black Leaders Collective for thought partnership, capacity building efforts and strategic planning to prevent and end homelessness. Finally, ECHO staff hosted several Listening Sessions with the City of Austin, to engage Black led services providers serving people experiencing homelessness regarding capacity building and funding needs.

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| 2B-3. | CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(3) | |

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| Describe in the field below how your CoC: | |
| 1. | solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness; |
| 2. | communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information; and |
| 3. | took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

Our CoC schedules two bi-annual Community Stakeholder Meetings (Fall/Spring) which are widely publicized on the ECHO website, social media and CoC governance meetings. Our CoC also has monthly virtual meetings that are open to the public (and posted on the website). Each monthly meeting has a 15 minute period for open public comment, allowing for any community stakeholders to provide feedback or ask questions about preventing and ending homelessness. Our CoC has also restructured the governance structure to monthly virtually committees and work groups with compensation for people with lived experience and equity advocates, to ensure these voices are part of the decision making of the CoC.

Our CoC Board, Leadership Council's monthly virtual meeting are widely attended by community stakeholders, scheduling and registration is available on ECHO's website and 15 minutes of each meeting is dedicated to public comment. ECHO staff support the Leadership Council to ensure that Meeting Agendas and Meeting Minutes are posted to the ECHO website.

With restructuring of the CoC governance, equitably compensating people with lived experience of homelessness and equity advocates in all committees and workgroups, we have seen an increase in innovative feedback to the CoC and collaborative thought partnership for preventing and ending homelessness.

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| 2B-4. | Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(4) | |

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| Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public: | |
| 1. | that your CoC's local competition was open and accepting project applications; |
| 2. | that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding; |
| 3. | about how project applicants must submit their project applications; |
| 4. | about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and |
| 5. | how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

ECHO staff notified the community that the local competition for the 2022 CoC Program Special NOFO was open and accepting project applications utilizing the following strategies; 1) open (virtual) Community Meeting, 2) posted to the ECHO website and ECHO social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn), 3) Strategic Matchmaking Sessions, 4) Informational sessions with people with lived experience. Our CoC notified the public in the following ways to ensure that project applications not previously funded through CoC would be considered: ECHO website, public LC meetings, social media, and a community listserv. ECHO staff also collaborate with the Black Leaders Collective Homelessness Services Consortium to provide additional information regarding the CoC Program funding opportunities. ECHO staff also facilitated a publicly posted CoC Program Bidders Conference which was also attended by non-CoC funded organizations.

ECHO staff hosted the 2022 CoC Special NOFO Bidders Conference outlining how project applications must be submitted. A recording of that Conference was posted on the ECHO website along with the 2022 Funding Priorities, and Rank and Review Policy. ECHO Staff also offered “office hours” to solicit questions from organizations that are interested in applying for the 2022 CoC Special NOFO.

ECHO staff publicly post the 2022 CoC Program Special NOFO Community Funding Priorities and Rank and Review Policies to the ECHO website before the opening of the local competition. The Rank and Review policies outline how Leadership Council determined the project applications submitted to HUD for funding through the Priority Listings. ECHO staff publicly posted to the website projects submitted to HUD through this funding opportunity and via email to community stakeholders. Our CoC contracts with a transcription company to provide human-transcribed captions for community training videos uploaded to ECHO’s YouTube channel and practices appropriate use of alt text in new social media and website uploads. ECHO staff is also redesigning our website to be more user-friendly with a systematic approach to ensuring compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 and subsequent revisions, including ensuring alt text for all visual content, eliminating low-contrast text, and clearly defining link properties. The website redesign will be completed by October 2022.

2C. Coordination / Engagement—with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 2C-1. | Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b. | |
| | In the chart below: | |
| | 1. select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC’s coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or | |
| | 2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC’s geographic area. | |

| | Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects | Coordinates with Planning or Operations of Projects |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | Funding Collaboratives | Yes |
| 2. | Head Start Program | No |
| 3. | Housing and services programs funded through Local Government | Yes |
| 4. | Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC) | Yes |
| 5. | Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations | Yes |
| 6. | Housing and services programs funded through State Government | Yes |
| 7. | Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) | Yes |
| 8. | Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) | Yes |
| 9. | Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) | Yes |
| 10. | Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations) | Nonexistent |
| 11. | Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color | Yes |
| 12. | Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons | Yes |
| 13. | Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities | Yes |
| 14. | Private Foundations | Yes |
| 15. | Public Housing Authorities | Yes |
| 16. | Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) | Yes |
| 17. | Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | No |
| | Other:(limit 50 characters) | |
| 18. | | |

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 2C-2. | CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b. | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Describe in the field below how your CoC: | |
| 1. | consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG funds; |
| 2. | participated in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients; |
| 3. | provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area; and |
| 4. | provided information to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions to address homelessness within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in Consolidated Plan update. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

Our CoC is not a direct ESG Program recipient however Austin/Travis County receives ESG funding through the City of Austin, Austin Public Health (APH) and Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA). ECHO staff collaborates with both ESG recipients in planning efforts and hopes to collaborate on allocation consideration in the next funding cycle. Our CoC evaluates and reports performance data of all the ESG program recipients and subrecipients on the Community Performance Dashboard. Our CoC continues to partner with community stakeholders, ESG recipients, people with lived experience of homelessness, and service providers, through the Homelessness Response System Performance Monitoring Committee, to develop a Standard Performance Scorecard to quarterly evaluate all permanent housing projects, regardless of funding sources. The City and the County are also both appointed seats on our CoC board and therefore are part of the policy decisions for PIT and are directly informed of HIC, PIT, and other HUD required reporting. We also share HUD reports and data directly to City and County staff and collaborate closely with those agencies on the needed response from our community based on that information. The CoC collaborates closely with the City of Austin to draft homelessness information for the Consolidated Plan, including narrative descriptions of the homelessness system and data analysis regarding the needs and gaps. The CoC partnered with CoA to host several presentations at CoC committees and workgroups during the comment period and emphasized ways to collect feedback from people with lived experience advisory groups. The CoC also collaborates with Travis County to provide data and information for their Consolidated Plan, participates in planning focus groups, and disseminates opportunities for the CoC stakeholders to provide feedback.

| | | |
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| 2C-3. | Discharge Planning Coordination. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.c. | |

| | | |
|---|-------------|-----|
| Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the systems of care listed to ensure persons who have resided in them longer than 90 days are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs. | | |
| 1. | Foster Care | Yes |
| 2. | Health Care | No |

| | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----|
| 3. | Mental Health Care | No |
| 4. | Correctional Facilities | Yes |

| | |
|-------|--|
| 2C-4. | CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts. (All Applicants) |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d. |

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:

| | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Youth Education Provider | Yes |
| 2. | State Education Agency (SEA) | No |
| 3. | Local Education Agency (LEA) | No |
| 4. | School Districts | Yes |

| | |
|--------|--|
| 2C-4a. | CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts–Formal Partnerships. (All Applicants) |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d. |

Describe in the field below:

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | how your CoC collaborates with the entities checked in Question 2C-4; and |
| 2. | the formal partnerships your CoC has with the entities checked in Question 2C-4. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

Our Governance Charter outlines a CoC Board seat for an Education or Workforce Development. While our CoC does not currently have a formal partnership with the Austin Independent School District (AISD), we collaborate on the following projects; 1) Cross System Staff Training, 2) Access to community based, Coordinated Entry Assessors, 3) Access to SOAR Resources. Covid-19 structural changes and staff turnover within both systems have contributed to the slow process of formalizing the partnership between the CoC and the AISD. Staff from AISD’s Project HELP meet quarterly with ECHO staff to share resources, discuss population trends, and strategically plan to improve the educational success of students experiencing homelessness in the community. Our CoC plans to finalize this partnership with AISD by October 2022. Our CoC also has a formal partnership with Lifeworks, which has various youth education programs.

| | |
|--------|---|
| 2C-4b. | CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services. (All Applicants) |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d. |

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for educational services

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Austin/Travis County Homelessness Response System (HRS) Education Services Policy is publicly posted to ECHO’s website. The HRS Education Services Policy was approved by the CoC’s Board in September 2019 and outlines the 1) educational responsibility homeless service providers have to serve families with children and young adults, 2) agency/program processes for informing families with children and young adults of their Education Service Rights, 3) collaboration with McKinney-Vento Local Education Liaisons, 4) requirement for students experiencing homelessness to be enrolled promptly and properly in a learning environment, 5) Homeless Student School Determination, 6) the dispute resolution process, and 6) Ongoing System Improvement strategies. ECHO staff reviews this policy annually with project staff to ensure policy compliance. The HRS Systems Improvement Committee plans to review and revise this policy later this year.

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 2C-5. | Mainstream Resources—CoC Training of Project Staff. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e. | |

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains project staff annually on the following mainstream resources available for program participants within your CoC’s geographic area:

| | Mainstream Resource | CoC Provides Annual Training? |
|----|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Food Stamps | No |
| 2. | SSI—Supplemental Security Income | Yes |
| 3. | TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families | No |
| 4. | Substance Abuse Programs | Yes |
| 5. | Employment Assistance Programs | No |
| 6. | Other | |

You must select a response for elements 1 through 6 in question 2C-5.

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 2C-5a. | Mainstream Resources—CoC Collaboration with Project Staff Regarding Healthcare Organizations. (All Applicants) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e. | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Describe in the field below how your CoC: | |
| 1. | systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC’s geographic area; |
| 2. | works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance; |
| 3. | provides assistance to project staff with the effective use of Medicaid and other benefits; and |
| 4. | works with projects to promote SOAR certification of program staff. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

ECHO staff provide up-to-date information on mainstream benefits (SNAP, TANF, SSI, substance use treatment, food pantries, etc) on the ECHO website under the Get Help Other Resources tab. ECHO staff also advertises community resources on social media and during the CoC governance committees and work groups.

ECHO staff work with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations utilizing two strategies. ECHO staff engage project staff in monthly technical assistance and program support, ECHO staff is able to facilitate “warm hand off” for cross system collaboration and resource sharing. Secondly, through the Community Training Program, ECHO staff facilitate virtual learning opportunities for direct service providers within our system to learn about community based healthcare resources and programming and develop relationships with subject matter experts and direct service providers in the healthcare system. Our CoC also facilitates an Affinity Group through CoC governance to develop and implement practices and workflows at the intersection of homeless response and the healthcare systems.

ECHO staff serve as the SOAR local lead for the Austin/ Travis County community. ECHO staff provides one-on-one training for all SOAR specialists in the community, monthly technical assistance, SOAR monitoring and compliance, and facilitates virtual training with subject matter experts from SAMHSA and SSA. ECHO staff has created a standardized SOAR workflow and is working with the CoC System Improvement governance committee to develop, adopt, and implement SOAR Written Standards. Additionally, ECHO staff facilitates bi-annual (Fall/Spring) Understanding SOAR 101 to promote SOAR certification for new and community based service providers.

3A. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

| | | |
|---|--|----|
| 3A-1. | Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects. (Rural Set Aside Only). Special NOFO Section VII.A. | |
| If the answer to the question below is yes, you must upload the CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen. | | |
| Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project(s) under the Rural Set Aside for housing rehabilitation or new construction costs? | | No |

3B. Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 3B-1. | Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.C. | |

| | |
|--|----|
| Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes? | No |
|--|----|

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 3B-2. | Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only) | |
| | Special NOFO Section VII.C. | |
| | You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen. | |
| | If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below: | |
| | 1. how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and | |
| | 2. how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act. | |

(limit 2,500 characters)

Not Applicable

4A. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

Please read the following guidance to help you successfully upload attachments and get maximum points:

- | | | |
|--|----|---|
| | 1. | You must include a Document Description for each attachment you upload; if you do not, the Submission Summary screen will display a red X indicating the submission is incomplete. |
| | 2. | You must upload an attachment for each document listed where 'Required?' is 'Yes' |
| | 3. | We prefer that you use PDF files, though other file types are supported—please only use zip files if necessary. Converting electronic files to PDF, rather than printing documents and scanning them, often produces higher quality images and reduces file size. Many systems allow you to create PDF files as a Print Option. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you should consult your IT Support or search for information on Google or YouTube. |
| | 4. | Attachments must match the questions they are associated with. |
| | 5. | Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. |
| | 6. | If you cannot read the attachment, it is likely we cannot read it either. - We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time). - We must be able to read everything you want us to consider in any attachment. |
| | 7. | Open attachments once uploaded to ensure they are the correct attachment for the required Document Type. |

| Document Type | Required? | Document Description | Date Attached |
|---|-----------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1B-1. Local Competition Announcement | Yes | Local Competition... | 10/17/2022 |
| 1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool | Yes | Local Competition... | 10/07/2022 |
| 1B-3. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced | Yes | Notification of P... | 10/07/2022 |
| 1B-3a. Notification of Projects Accepted | Yes | Notification of P... | 10/07/2022 |
| 1B-4. Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application | Yes | Special NOFO CoC ... | 10/17/2022 |
| 3A-1. CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs | No | | |
| 3B-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes | No | | |
| P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment | No | Leveraging Housin... | 10/12/2022 |
| P-1a. PHA Commitment | No | PHA Commitment | 10/07/2022 |
| P-3. Healthcare Leveraging Commitment | No | Healthcare Levera... | 10/12/2022 |
| P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter | No | Lived Experience ... | 10/17/2022 |
| Plan. CoC Plan | Yes | CoC Plan | 10/14/2022 |

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Announcement

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Scoring Tool

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Projects Rejected -Reduced

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Project Accepted

Attachment Details

Document Description: Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description: Leveraging Housing Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: PHA Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: Healthcare Leverage Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: Lived Experience Support Letter

Attachment Details

Document Description: CoC Plan

Submission Summary

Ensure that the Special NOFO Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

| Page | Last Updated |
|--|-------------------|
| 1A. CoC Identification | 10/11/2022 |
| 1B. Project Review, Ranking and Selection | 10/17/2022 |
| 2A. System Performance | 10/11/2022 |
| 2B. Coordination and Engagement | 10/17/2022 |
| 2C. Coordination and Engagement–Con't. | 10/14/2022 |
| 3A. New Projects With Rehab/New Construction | No Input Required |
| 3B. Homelessness by Other Federal Statutes | 10/13/2022 |
| 4A. Attachments Screen | 10/17/2022 |
| Submission Summary | No Input Required |

Local Competition Deadline

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

Chrome File Edit View History Bookmarks Profiles Tab Window Help

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJnyLUm6V15j0btaKJ7Q4wN2PTH7znm1_837nqQC8TJw/viewform

FY22 TX-503 Austin/Travis County CoC Special NOFO Project Application

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: Friday, September 16th, 2022 at 11:59pm

The Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care (CoC) is seeking project applications for inclusion in our Collaborative Application for the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Continuum of Care Special Notice of Funding Opportunities to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness, also known as the Special NOFO.


All projects applying for funding through the Special NOFO Competition must complete this application. The Austin/Travis County CoC encourages applications for projects that have never previously received CoC funds as well as from applicants that are currently receiving or have in the past received CoC funds. It is recommended that applicants review the accompanying Scoring Guide as a reference of how answers will be reviewed and scored by the Special NOFO Independent Review Team (IRT).

As indicated by the Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy, 100% of the scoring for all applications will be based upon the applicant's answers to the Local Competition Application and the e-snaps project application. New Projects will be scored based on alignment of local funding priorities, efforts to address racial disparities, utilization of best practices for the intervention type, and comparable cost per client by interventions of the type applied.

Please note that this application is based on the best information that is currently available, and ECHO staff may need to revise requirements described herein and/or request additional information based on additional guidance received from HUD and/or policy decisions made by Leadership Council. ECHO staff will disseminate all information about this funding opportunity as it becomes available.

To view the New Project Application Scoring Guide as well as all required attachments for this application, please visit <https://www.austinecho.org/leading-system-change/continuum-of-care/> and navigate to the 2022 Special NOFO section. For any questions about accessing this application or any application documents, please contact NOFO@austinecho.org.

rachel@thelohm.org Switch account



Local Competition Scoring Tool

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

TX-503 Austin/Travis County CoC

Project Application FY22 Special NOFO Competition

The application materials are worth 100% of the overall score of 50 points. If applicable, community ranking priorities and cost effectiveness will be considered in the final ranking in addition to the scoring.

| New Project Application: Total Score Summary | |
|--|--------------------|
| Local Application | MAXIMUM POINTS: 40 |
| <i>e-snaps</i> Application | MAXIMUM POINTS: 10 |
| MAXIMUM TOTAL: 50 points | |

Local Application

| MAXIMUM POINTS | SCORING SECTION |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>e-snaps</i> Application | |
| P/F | 1.1 <i>e-snaps</i> application attached |
| P/F | 1.2 <i>e-snaps</i> application completed |
| 2. CoC Policies & Standards | |
| P/F | 2.1 CoC Program Expectations |
| 5 | 2.2 Housing First |
| 5 | 2.3 Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities |
| 3. Proposed Project | |
| 5 | 3.1 Project Description |
| 5 | 3.2 Performance Evaluation |
| 5 | 3.3 Mainstream Benefits |
| 10 | 3.4 Meeting Needs of Unsheltered Clients |
| 5 | 3.5 Project Staffing Plan |
| 40 | TOTAL SCORE |

e-snaps Application

| MAXIMUM POINTS | SCORING SECTION |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 2B. Experience of Applicant | |
| 5 | 2B.2 Applicant Experience with Leverage |
| 4B. Housing Type and Location | |
| 5 | Number of Units Proposed |
| 6F. Supportive Services Budget | |
| P/F | Supportive Services Budget Aligned with Staffing Plan |
| 6J. Summary Budget | |
| P/F | Secured Match |
| 10 | TOTAL SCORE |

Local Application Questions and Scoring Criteria

| 1. <i>e-snaps</i> Application | |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">1.1 <i>e-snaps</i> Application Attached</p> <p><i>Copy of e-snaps application for the proposed project is attached in Google Forms or submitted via email.</i></p> <p>Required Attachment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>e-snaps</i> application | <p>PASS – Copy of <i>e-snaps</i> application for the proposed project in attached in Google Forms or sent via email.</p> <p>FAIL – No attachment is included in Google Forms or via email by application deadline.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1.2 e-snaps Application Complete</p> <p><i>e-snaps application is complete with all required items.</i></p> | <p>PASS – <i>e-snaps</i> application is complete.</p> <p>PASS W/ FINDINGS – Provides description of cause and or there is some concern that the project application is not complete and needs revisions before submitting.</p> <p>FAIL – Information provided confirms that project is <u>not</u> eligible and/or will <u>not</u> be accepted by HUD due to missing or inaccurate information in <i>e-snaps</i> application.</p> |
|---|---|

2. CoC Policies & Standards

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>2.1 CoC Program Expectations</p> <p><i>Please review and complete the CoC Program Expectations Form. Is the acknowledgement form attached?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Yes, completed form is attached</i> ● <i>Other</i> <p><i>Attach a signed copy that acknowledges the program will have sufficient internal controls to meet the expectations the grant start date.</i></p> | <p>PASS – Copy of CoC Program Expectations is attached in Google Forms or sent via email.</p> <p>FAIL – No attachment is included in Google Forms or via email by application deadline.</p> |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>2.2 Housing First</p> <p><i>Please describe plans or strategies in place for implementing Housing First at your agency, and how you will demonstrate performance in providing low-barrier and culturally responsive services to individuals and families who have experienced unsheltered homelessness. (300-word limit).</i></p> <p>Scoring Criteria: See the TX-503 Austin/Travis County Written Standards for Program Delivery for a detailed description of how Housing First practice can be applied to each step of service delivery.</p> <p>The Austin/Travis County CoC has adopted the Housing First approach throughout our system. Services are targeted and prioritized for the most vulnerable people in our community and are</p> | <p>5 points – Agency implements all elements of Housing First as described in the TX-503 Austin/Travis County Written Standards for Program Delivery, including centering participant choice and providing culturally responsive, low-barrier services.</p> <p>4 points – Agency</p> |
|--|--|

offered without conditions. Within the Housing First model, barriers to accessing and maintaining housing and services are reduced or eliminated to ensure those who need the resources most have access to them. Housing First is a homeless services approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness, and serving as a platform from which they can pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life. This approach aims to eliminate the system barriers that prevent people from accessing their right to housing. Housing First can be contrasted with older models, like Housing Ready, that focus on addressing other issues (e.g., substance abuse, increasing income) prior to placing a person in housing. Additionally, Housing First is based on the idea that participant choice is valuable in housing selection and supportive service participation, and that exercising the right to choose will likely make a client more successful in remaining housed and improving their quality of life. Services should be culturally appropriate. Personal barriers, such as non-adherence to a medication regimen or substance abuse, are addressed using collaborative approaches, like motivational interviewing.

implements some elements of Housing First as described in the TX-503 Austin/Travis County Written Standards for Program Delivery, including culturally responsive *and* low-barrier services.

3 points – Agency implements some elements of Housing First as described in the TX-503 Austin/Travis County Written Standards for Program Delivery, including low-barrier services.

2 points – Agency implements some elements of Housing First as described in the TX-503 Austin/Travis County Written Standards for Program Delivery, *and* services have some barriers for eligibility (e.g., sobriety, income requirements).

1 point – Agency does not implement Housing First *and* has a clear plan to implement Housing First.

0 points – Agency does not implement Housing First and does not provide a clear plan to implement Housing First.

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">2.3 Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities</p> <p><i>Describe how your agency demonstrates efforts to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities within your agency.</i></p> <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear and effective planning process, including goals, key people, collaborators, and their roles • Evaluation process in place to determine effectiveness of strategies at addressing racial and ethnic disparities • Timeline is mentioned as a planning/implementation tool | <p>5 points – Agency clearly demonstrates significant efforts to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among clients served, agency practices, hiring and retention, and program outcomes; <i>and</i> description includes timeline <i>and</i> evaluation strategies.</p> <p>4 points - Agency clearly demonstrates significant efforts to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among their clients; agency practices, hiring and retention, and program outcomes; <i>and</i> description includes timeline <i>or</i> evaluation strategies.</p> <p>3 points – Agency demonstrates some efforts to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among their clients; agency practices, hiring and retention, and program outcomes; <i>and</i> description does not include timeline <i>and</i> does not include evaluation strategies.</p> <p>2 points – Agency demonstrates minimal efforts to identify and</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>reduce racial and ethnic disparities among their clients, agency practices, hiring and retention, and/or program outcomes; <i>and</i> has a plan to increase efforts.</p> <p>1 point - Agency demonstrates minimal efforts to identify and reduce racial and ethnic disparities among their clients, agency practices, hiring and retention, and/or program outcomes.</p> <p>0 points – Agency demonstrates no efforts.</p> |
|--|--|

3. Proposed Project

| | |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">3.1 CoC Project Description</p> <p><i>Please provide a description of the proposed project. (500-word limit). The description must be consistent with other parts of this application and identify:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The target population including the total number of clients (single adults and/or families with children) to be served when the project is at full capacity.</i> • <i>Number and type of units (e.g., scattered site or single site)</i> • <i>The specific services that will be provided</i> • <i>Expected outcomes</i> • <i>Coordination with partners – please describe any partnerships or leverage used to expand service packages including capital funding, healthcare, housing vouchers, and/or housing subsidies</i> • <i>Project timeline – when units are expected to be online and leased-up</i> • <i>Cost per client for full-service package (including all services and rental assistance)</i> | <p>5 points – All sections of the question have been fully answered <i>and</i> proposed project description and expected outcomes clearly align with Community Funding Priorities <i>and</i> competitive cost is demonstrated per client for full service package.</p> <p>4 points – All sections of the question have been fully answered <i>and</i> the proposed project description and expected outcomes clearly align with Community Funding Priorities.</p> |
|--|---|

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>3 points – All sections of the question have been fully answered <i>and</i> the proposed project description and expected outcomes <i>somewhat</i> align with Community Funding Priorities.</p> <p>2 points – All sections of the question have been fully answered <i>and</i> the proposed project description does not align with Community Funding Priorities.</p> <p>1 point – Most of the sections of the question have been fully answered <i>and</i> the proposed project description does not align with Community Funding Priorities.</p> <p>0 points – Incomplete answer.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">3.2 Performance Evaluation</p> <p><i>Please describe any plans or policies for collecting and applying data on program performance to improve services. The description must include how client feedback will be used to inform improvements to service delivery and program operations, and how you will conduct ongoing evaluation of improvement efforts. (500-word limit).</i></p> <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different types of data collection are described (e.g., project performance, client feedback, employee evaluations, third-party evaluations, continuous quality improvement (CQI), etc.) • Clear description of data-informed performance evaluation | <p>5 points – All criteria clearly described with examples.</p> <p>4 points – Applicant utilizes or plans to utilize multiple types of data <i>including</i> client feedback to inform performance evaluation and to track spending; <i>and</i> client feedback is not specifically mentioned as a mechanism for decision-making.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>including outcome metrics for proposed projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Client feedback is specifically mentioned as a mechanism for performance evaluation and decision-making• Data will be used to ensure cost-effectiveness of program spending | <p>3 points – Applicant utilizes or plans to utilize multiple types of data to inform performance evaluation, make decisions, and track spending <i>and</i> does <u>not</u> mention client feedback as part of data collection.</p> <p>2 points – Applicant utilizes or plans to utilize one additional type of data aside from Quarterly Performance Scorecards to inform performance evaluation, make decisions, and track spending <i>and</i> does <u>not</u> mention client feedback as part of data collection.</p> <p>1 point – Applicant utilizes or plans to utilize Quarterly Performance Scorecards to inform performance evaluation, make decisions, and track spending <i>and</i> does <u>not</u> mention client feedback as part of data collection.</p> <p>0 points – Applicant does <u>not</u> currently collect data to inform performance evaluation, make decisions, and track spending; <i>and</i> applicant does <u>not</u></p> |
|---|--|

| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>have a clear plan for collecting and utilizing data.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">3.3 Mainstream Benefits</p> <p><i>Please describe your specific plan for ensuring program participants will be individually assisted to obtain the benefits of mainstream health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible to apply, and which meet their needs. (300-word limit).</i></p> <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated staff working on connecting clients to mainstream benefits that clients are eligible to apply for and which meet their needs • Mainstream benefits named include: SNAPs, TANF, MAP, SSI/SSDI, childcare, workforce, government identification documents, substance use recovery programs, transportation • Regular training opportunities provided on any changes to application processes or eligibility criteria for mainstream benefits programs • Agency promotes SOAR certification among program staff, including dedicated SOAR-certified staff member(s) | <p>5 points – All criteria met.</p> <p>4 points – Majority of criteria met, including SOAR-certified staff member dedicated to connecting clients to mainstream benefits; <i>and</i> applicant names SNAPs and MAP.</p> <p>3 points – Majority of criteria met, including SOAR-certified staff member dedicated to connecting clients to mainstream benefits.</p> <p>2 points – Less than 50% of criteria met, <i>and</i> agency has a SOAR-certified staff member.</p> <p>1 point – Less than 50% of criteria met, <i>and</i> agency does not have a SOAR-certified staff member.</p> <p>0 points – No criteria are met</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">3.4 Meeting Needs of Unsheltered Clients</p> <p><i>How will your organization support the unique needs of formerly unsheltered individuals who experienced chronic homelessness including those who have not traditionally engaged with supportive services, in transitioning into and sustaining permanent housing? Please describe any policies, programs, strategies, and/or methods of service delivery. (500-word limit).</i></p> <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear plans laid out that include strategies and methods of service delivery specifically designed to meet the unique needs of formerly unsheltered individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness and have not traditionally engaged with supportive services. • Policies in place to create individualized service plans that center client choice and utilize best practice, such as motivational interviewing and trauma-informed practice. • Staff is trained and provided with resources to support policy and program implementation to support the unique needs of formerly unsheltered individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness and have not traditionally engaged with supportive services. • Plans include peer support staff and hiring of additional direct-service and management-level staff with lived experience of homelessness. | <p>10 points – All criteria met.</p> <p>8 points – Clear plans laid out which include policies and training for staff, hiring peer support <i>and</i> other staff with lived experience, <i>and</i> there is mention of best practices.</p> <p>6 points – Plans laid out which include mention of best practices and training for staff.</p> <p>4 points – Some plan is in place which includes some mention of best practices and training.</p> <p>2 points – Best practices and staff training is mentioned, but no plan is laid out and no policies have been put in place.</p> <p>0 points – Question is not fully answered, <i>or</i> organization does not have a plan for specifically supporting the unique needs of formerly unsheltered individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness and have not traditionally engaged with supportive services.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">3.5 Project Staffing Plan</p> <p><i>Provide an overview of the staffing plan using the attached Project Staffing Plan. This information should match project details provided throughout the application, including information listed in e-snaps.</i></p> <p>Scoring Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and relevant experience of working team members are clearly outlined. | <p>5 points – Meets all criteria.</p> <p>4 points – Meets $\frac{3}{4}$ of criteria, <i>including</i> peer support roles.</p> <p>3 points – Meets $\frac{2}{4}$ of</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing plan includes peer support specialists or other dedicated staff to provide peer mentorship/coaching/support. • Proposed project team is diverse and includes a variety of relevant expertise that will benefit the proposed project. • Proposed team indicates a sufficient quantity of staff and diversity of staff specializations to operate a component efficiently. | <p>criteria, <i>not</i> including peer support roles.</p> <p>2 points – Meets 50% of criteria, <i>or</i> partially meets all criteria.</p> <p>1 point – Roles and relevant experience of working team members are clearly outlined; no other criteria met.</p> <p>0 points – Does not meet criteria.</p> |
|---|---|

e-snaps Application Questions and Scoring Criteria

| 2B. Experience of the Applicant | |
|---|---|
| <p><i>2B. 2 Describe your organization’s (and subrecipient(s) if applicable) experience in leveraging Federal, State, local and private sector funds.</i></p> | <p>5 points – Organization clearly demonstrates prior experience in leveraging <i>at least</i> two different types of funding sources (Federal, State, Local/city, and/or private sector funds); and answer includes clear example of what the leverage was and how it was used.</p> <p>3 points – Organization demonstrates prior experience in leveraging <i>at least one</i> type of funding sources but does not include any clear examples of what the leverage was and how it was used.</p> <p>0 points – Organization does not have any prior experience in leveraging any type of funds.</p> |

4B. Housing Type and Location

How many units will the proposed project provide?

Instructions:

In Section 4B. of *e-snaps* Application, look at number provided for total units.

5 points – Proposed project will provide 100 or more units.

3 points – Proposed project will provide between 50-99 units.

0 points – Proposed project will provide 49 or fewer units

6F. Supportive Services Budget

Does the Supportive Services Budget match the Project Staffing Plan submitted as an attachment to the Local Application?

PASS – Supportive Services Budget matches Project Staffing Plan.

FAIL – Supportive Services Budget does not match Project Staffing Plan.

6J. Summary Budget

Does the Total Match meet the minimum requirement of 25% of the total award amount requested?

Instructions:

In Section 6J. of *e-snaps* Application, divide line 12 (Total Match) by line 9 (Total Assistance Plus Admin Requested).

PASS – Total Match is 25% or more of the total amount requested.

FAIL – Total Match is less than 25% of the total amount requested.

Notification of Projects Reduced- Rejected

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

From: [NOFO](#)
To: [Darcy Rendon](#); [Miranda Spiro](#)
Cc: [Maya Beit-Arie](#); [Kate Moore](#); [Quiana Fisher](#); [Matthew Mollica](#)
Subject: FY22 CoC Special NOFO Project Application
Date: Monday, October 3, 2022 2:45:10 PM
Attachments: [Special NOFO Priority Listing LC Approved.xlsx](#)

Good afternoon Lifeworks team,

I am writing to inform you that the draft Priority Listing for the FY2022 CoC Special NOFO (attached) has been approved by the Leadership Council. Lifeworks' project application has been rejected and will not be ranked due to misalignment with the [Community Funding Priorities](#) and insufficient Housing and Healthcare Leverage.

[The Austin/Travis County Special NOFO Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy and Procedure](#) outlines the process for filing appeals. If you wish to appeal your ranking, you can find the procedure for filing an appeal on pg. 4-5.

Any appeals must be submitted to nofo@austinecho.org by no later than Thursday, October 6th, at 5:00pm.

Thank you,

Maya Beit-Arie, MSW

Associate Director of Strategy & Community Planning

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Cell: (617) 794-4178

mayabeit-arie@austinecho.org

www.austinecho.org

Notification of Projects Accepted

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

From: [NOFO](#)
To: [NOFO](#); jallman.dev@endeavors.org; grants@endeavors.org; [Gerina Sampson](#)
Cc: [Kate Moore](#); [Quiana Fisher](#); [Matthew Mollica](#)
Subject: RE: FY22 CoC Special NOFO Project Application
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 3:00:05 PM
Attachments: [Special NOFO Priority Listing 10.5.22 amendment.xlsx](#)

Good afternoon,

This email serves as notification that Leadership Council has approved an amended draft Priority Listing for the FY2022 CoC Special NOFO (attached). Family Endeavors' project application has been accepted and ranked at \$4,117,485 (as opposed to what was originally slated at \$4,443,498) for the grant term.

Thank you,

Maya Beit-Arie, MSW
Associate Director of Strategy & Community Planning
Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
Cell: (617) 794-4178
mayabeit-arie@austinecho.org
www.austinecho.org

From: NOFO
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 2:41 PM
To: jallman.dev@endeavors.org; grants@endeavors.org; [Gerina Sampson](#) <gsampson@endeavors.org>
Cc: [Maya Beit-Arie](mailto:mayabeit-arie@austinecho.org) <mayabeit-arie@austinecho.org>; [Kate Moore](mailto:katemoore@austinecho.org) <katemoore@austinecho.org>; [Quiana Fisher](mailto:quianafisher@austinecho.org) <quianafisher@austinecho.org>; [Matthew Mollica](mailto:matthewmollica@austinecho.org) <matthewmollica@austinecho.org>
Subject: FY22 CoC Special NOFO Project Application

Good afternoon Endeavors team,

I am writing to inform you that the draft Priority Listing for the FY2022 CoC Special NOFO (attached) has been approved by the Leadership Council. Family Endeavors' project application has been accepted and ranked at \$4,443,498 for the grant term, to be included as part of the Austin/Travis County Collaborative Application to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ECHO Staff and Leadership Councilmembers will be in contact with you to support amending the budget and project scope to match the funding allocated to Family Endeavors' project application through the Priority Listing.

[The Austin/Travis County Special NOFO Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy and Procedure](#) outlines the process for filing appeals. If you wish to appeal your ranking, you can find the procedure for filing

an appeal on pg. 4-5.

Any appeals must be submitted to nofo@austinecho.org by no later than Thursday, October 6th, at 5:00pm.

Thank you,

Maya Beit-Arie, MSW

Associate Director of Strategy & Community Planning

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Cell: (617) 794-4178

mayabeit-arie@austinecho.org

www.austinecho.org

From: [NOFO](#)
To: [NOFO](#); dlowery@familyeldercare.org; sgauthier@familyeldercare.org
Cc: [Kate Moore](#); [Quiana Fisher](#); [Matthew Mollica](#)
Subject: RE: FY22 CoC Special NOFO Project Application
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 2:58:42 PM
Attachments: [Special NOFO Priority Listing 10.5.22 amendment.xlsx](#)

Good afternoon,

This email serves as notification that Leadership Council has approved an amended draft Priority Listing for the FY2022 CoC Special NOFO (attached). Family Eldercare's project application has been accepted and ranked at \$3,586,140 (as opposed to what was originally slated at \$3,260,127) for the grant term.

Thank you,

Maya Beit-Arie, MSW
Associate Director of Strategy & Community Planning

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Cell: (617) 794-4178

mayabeit-arie@austinecho.org

www.austinecho.org

From: NOFO
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 2:44 PM
To: dlowery@familyeldercare.org; sgauthier@familyeldercare.org
Cc: Maya Beit-Arie <mayabeit-arie@austinecho.org>; Kate Moore <katemoore@austinecho.org>; Quiana Fisher <quianafisher@austinecho.org>; Matthew Mollica <matthewmollica@austinecho.org>
Subject: FY22 CoC Special NOFO Project Application

Good afternoon Dylan,

I am writing to inform you that the draft Priority Listing for the FY2022 CoC Special NOFO (attached) has been approved by the Leadership Council. Family Eldercare's project application has been accepted and ranked at \$3,260,127 for the grant term, to be included as part of the Austin/Travis County Collaborative Application to be submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ECHO Staff and Leadership Councilmembers will be in contact with you to support amending the budget and project scope to match the funding allocated to Family Eldercare's project application through the Priority Listing.

[The Austin/Travis County Special NOFO Review, Scoring, and Ranking Policy and Procedure](#) outlines the process for filing appeals. If you wish to appeal your ranking, you can find the procedure for filing an appeal on pg. 4-5.

Any appeals must be submitted to nofo@austinecho.org by no later than Thursday, October 6th, at 5:00pm.

Thank you,

Maya Beit-Arie, MSW

Associate Director of Strategy & Community Planning

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Cell: (617) 794-4178

mayabeit-arie@austinecho.org

www.austinecho.org

Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

2022 SPECIAL NOFO COMPETITION

Special NOFO 2022 Final Priority Listing (PDF) [Click here](#)

Special NOFO 2022 CoC Program Collaborative Application (PDF) [Click here](#)

Special NOFO Timeline (PDF)
Updated 8/16/2022 [Click here](#)

About the Special NOFO 

Special NOFO Application Materials 

Special NOFO Policies 

Recording: Special NOFO Community Meeting | July 22, 2022 [Click here](#)

File Message Help Acrobat

Ignore Delete Archive Reply Reply All Forward Meeting IM More

Junk Move Rules Send to OneNote Actions

Mark Unread Categorize Follow Up

Find Related Select

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Delete Respond Move Tags Editing Immersive Language Zoom

FY2022 Austin/Travis County Special NOFO Collaborative Application Now Available

Reply Reply All Forward



NOFO

To: ECHOStaff; queertopians@gmail.com; Coleman, Kellee; amanda.jasso@austintexas.gov; Paola Silvestre Porras; Julie Oliver; Cacki.Young@Foundcom.org; Erin Goodison; Melinda Cantu; Mercer, Timothy I; Ben King; Erin Whelan; Yaira Robinson; CreativeAustinYankee@yahoo.com; Awais Azhar; Dalrymple, Ruth; jcshalom247@gmail.com; LaToya L. Kindred-Ray; Barrera, Patricia; Virginia Brown; +333 others

Cc: Maya Beit-Arie; Quiana Fisher; Kate Moore; Matthew Mollica

Mon 10/17/2022 9:52 AM

Collaborative Application 10.17.22.pdf .pdf File

Priority Listing 10.17.22.pdf .pdf File

Good morning community members,

The FY2022 Austin/Travis County Special NOFO Collaborative Application and Priority Listing are now available for public viewing on the [ECHO website](#), under the 2022 Special NOFO. These are also attached here for your review. All application materials and Special NOFO policies can also be found at the above link.

Please contact the NOFO team at ECHO at nofo@austinecho.org with any questions or comments.

Thank you,

Maya Beit-Arie, MSW
Associate Director of Strategy & Community Planning
 Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)
 Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
 Cell: (617) 794-4178
mayabeit-arie@austinecho.org
www.austinecho.org

Leveraging Housing Commitment

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)



Austin Affordable Housing Corporation

A Subsidiary of the Housing Authority of the City of Austin

October 10, 2022

Mr. Matthew Mollica, Executive Director, Austin ECHO
HUD Special NOFO Staff

RE: HUD Special NOFO – Family Endeavors Project Application for PSH Services provided to Cady Lofts residents, a 100 unit PSH development in Austin, TX

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter of recommendation for the Family Endeavors Project application for services to be provided to Cady Lofts residents. Cady Lofts is committed to dedicating 100% of its units (100 units total) to this Project. Cady Lofts is a Permanent Supportive Housing development that received a 2022 9% LIHTC award to construct 100 studio units for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In addition to the LIHTC tax credit award, Cady Lofts has received 50 Project Based Vouchers (PBV's), a soft-pay/cash flow mortgage loan from the City of Austin(CoA), Rental Housing Development Assistance (RHDA) Program so that the development will have no hard pay mortgage debt, a grant from Texas State Affordable Housing Corp ("TSAHC"), and the funding gap will be provided through the deferral of fees from the developer. None of these sources are Continuum of Care or Emergency Solutions Grant sources. A summary of the expected funding sources follows (LIHTC credit pricing is currently being negotiated):

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Total Project Cost: | | <u>21,000,000</u> |
| LIHTC Equity | 15,500,000 | |
| CoA RHDA Loan | 5,000,000 | |
| Grant-TSAHC | 300,000 | |
| Deferred Dev Fee | <u>300,000</u> | <u>21,100,000</u> |

In addition, the development has:

Project Based Vouchers:

| | |
|--|----|
| HACA | 25 |
| City of Austin | 25 |
| <small>(on City of Austin Consent Agenda for approval Nov3,2022)</small> | |

Cady Lofts is expected to complete construction and be open for resident occupancy in October/November of 2024.

On behalf of Cady Lofts, LLC, and the Austin Affordable Housing Corporation, the nonprofit affiliate of the Housing Authority of the City of Austin, we appreciate your consideration of the Family Endeavors Project application that will serve the residents of Cady Lofts with the supportive services that are so vital to the successful transition of residents from homelessness to stability. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Ron Kowal

Vice President of Sole Member of AAHC Cady Lofts MM, LLC, Non-profit General Partner of Cady Lofts, LLC



Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Serving Goodness.

We empower communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless.

October 10, 2022

The Governing Board of TX-503
Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care

The purpose of this letter is to co-sign the application submitted by Family Eldercare in response to the 2022 Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes will reserve 50 microhomes located at Community First! Village for the permanent supportive housing project and fully participate in the Coordinated Entry system for those reserved units. This commitment represents 100% of the units included in the project. As the microhomes are existing units, Mobile Loaves & Fishes estimates availability for program participants to begin on or near the start date of the project – estimated between May 2023 and September 2023 as outlined in the NOFO. Mobile Loaves & Fishes projects to have the capacity to move in up to five program participants per month, and anticipates the project fully leased 10 months from project start date. The microhomes cost \$20,000 per unit for a total housing leverage of \$1,000,000. The funding for the development of the microhomes was entirely private philanthropy fundraised by Mobile Loaves & Fishes.

Mobile Loaves & Fishes is a nonprofit organization that empowers communities into a lifestyle of service with people experiencing homelessness. Community First! Village is a 51-acre master planned community that provides affordable, permanent housing and a supportive community for the chronically homeless in Central Texas. Since 2005, this transformational community has been a staple of Mobile Loaves & Fishes and has become a national model. We are enthusiastic about this new partnership with Family Eldercare and the Homeless Response System.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Graham', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alan Graham, Founder and CEO

"The Lord God took the man and settled him in the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and take care of it." – Genesis 2:15

PHA Commitment

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)



Housing Authority of the City of Austin

Established in 1937

September 23, 2022

Board of Commissioners
Carl S. Richie Jr., Chairman
Charles Bailey
Tyra Duncan-Hall
Edwina Carrington
Mary Apostolou

President & CEO
Michael Gerber

Attention: David Pohler
Office of Public Housing
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
San Antonio Field Office, Region VI
615 East Houston Street, Suite 347
San Antonio, TX 78205

Re: Stability Voucher Support Letter

Dear David,

The Housing Authority of the City of Austin (HACA) is committed to enhance partnerships with agencies in the Homelessness Response System to create effective and impactful partnerships to provide needed affordable housing and support services for people experiencing homelessness in Austin/Travis County.

This letter demonstrates our written commitment to the following:

- 1) Pair vouchers with CoC-funded supportive services;

In addition to pairing vouchers with CoC Special NOFO Project Applications, HACA has a history of pairing our vouchers with homeless service providers as outlined below.

- Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) - HACA received 242 EHV's. Through partnerships with service agencies and the Coordinated Entry System, our community exceeded its goal of creating at least 121 new units of Permanent Supportive Housing.
- Mainstream Vouchers - HACA's Mainstream Voucher Program specifically targets people experiencing homelessness. HACA dedicated its allocation of 100 new Mainstream vouchers through the CARES Act to transition the clients most vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19 from non-congregate emergency shelter to permanent housing.
- PSH Project Based Vouchers - HACA has committed 391 project-based vouchers to PSH in the City of Austin, 141 of which are VASH vouchers.

- 2) HACA is committed to work with ECHO (the local CoC) and other stakeholders to develop a prioritization plan for a potential allocation of Stability Vouchers.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Michael Gerber
President & CEO

Bringing Opportunity Home

9/26/2022

Attention: David Pohler
Office of Public Housing
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
San Antonio Field Office, Region VI
615 East Houston Street, Suite 347
San Antonio, TX 78205

Re: Stability Voucher Support Letter

The Housing Authority of Travis County (HATC) is committed to enhance partnerships with agencies in the Homelessness Response System to create effective and impactful partnerships to provide needed affordable housing and support services for people experiencing homelessness in Austin/Travis County.

If awarded stability vouchers, this letter demonstrates our written commitment to the following:

- 1) Pair vouchers with CoC-funded supportive services;

HATC has a history of pairing vouchers with homeless service providers as outlined:

- Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)- HATC received 34 EHV's which are paired with support services from Travis County Mental Health Public Defender (MHPD) and Integral Care of Austin.
 - Mainstream Vouchers – HATC's Mainstream Vouchers specifically target people experiencing homelessness. Support services are through Integral Care of Austin.
- 2) Work with ECHO (the local CoC) and other stakeholders to develop a prioritization plan for a potential allocation of Stability Vouchers.

We hope you provide careful consideration for this dedicated partnership.

Sincerely,



Patrick B. Howard
CEO/ Executive Director
PatrickB.howard@traviscountytexas.gov

Healthcare Leveraging Commitment

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)



1303 San Antonio Street, Suite 600, Austin, TX 78701

Phone: 512 879 6600

www.stdavidsfoundation.org

October 7, 2022

Matt Mollica
Executive Director
ECHO
PO Box 150249
Austin, Texas 78715

Re: HUD Special NOFO Healthcare Leverage

Dear Mr. Mollica:

This letter serves to express The Foundation's support for The Austin/Travis County Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Healthcare Collaborative as part of a community plan to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. We believe the PSH Collaborative has the potential to create a more efficient infrastructure to provide the services component of supported housing, and as a result, offers an important tool to increase the supply of permanent supported housing to serve our neighbors who have experienced chronic homelessness.

The Foundation is a joint partner of St. David's Healthcare and serves as the philanthropic arm investing the proceeds created by the partnership into our Central Texas community. The Foundation has prioritized improving our community's homelessness response system. Within the past year, St. David's Foundation has invested over \$12 million in the local affordable housing continuum and related system infrastructure in response to the housing affordability crisis and resulting issues of homelessness. The Foundation expects to make an additional series of investments in the next year aligned with the community's plan to end homelessness and strengthen the affordable housing continuum.

With respect to HUD's goal to leverage healthcare funding, the Foundation made an \$800,000 commitment to develop cross-sector solutions for unsheltered populations through the At Home Initiative. This funding commitment can support the PSH Healthcare Collaborative and its role in serving clients of Family Eldercare and Family Endeavors. We expect to continue funding the At Home project at the same annual amount for up to five years, potentially yielding a \$4 million investment that is intentionally designed as flexible funding to help scale PSH units. We expect that this flexibility will allow our community to test creative solutions that increase the supply of PSH and leverage other public and private funding including this HUD Special NOFO.

We are heartened by HUD's recent announcement of funding to address unsheltered homelessness in communities across the country. We believe the strong local efforts to develop cross-sector, systems-level solutions put our community in the position to effectively use these federal funds. We will work together with ECHO and other partner organizations to encourage our philanthropic community to join us in this cause so that every Central Texan has a place to call home.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Regan Gruber Moffitt".

Regan Gruber Moffitt, J.D.

Vice President of Community Investments



Ascension Seton

October 12, 2022

Matt Mollica
Executive Director, ECHO
210 Barton Springs Rd, Suite 400
Austin, TX 78704

Re: HUD Special Notice of Funding Opportunities Healthcare Leverage

Dear Mr. Mollica:

On behalf of Ascension Seton, I am writing to support the City of Austin's application to the "Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness". We are heartened by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) recent announcement of funding to address unsheltered homelessness in communities across the country. We believe the strong local efforts to develop cross sector, systems level solutions put our community in the position to effectively use these federal funds.

In accordance with our mission and values, Ascension Seton is committed to caring for all people regardless of their ability to pay, with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Ascension Seton offers financial counseling and assistance to help address any financial concerns patients or families may have regarding their care. We provide over \$569 million in charity and community benefit a year as reported to the state of Texas.

The Austin/Travis County Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Healthcare Collaborative supports the goals of developing effective solutions that leverage and share resources across the healthcare system and we believe it has the potential to positively impact the health and wellbeing of Central Texas' most vulnerable population, those living unsheltered in our community. Ascension Seton has committed \$3 million to the PSH Healthcare Collaborative. This financial commitment will provide healthcare services to all the PSH residents in the Family Eldercare and Family Endeavors projects submitted in City of Austin's application to the "Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness". The healthcare resources will be available when the projects start and are anticipated to be available through the life of the project. The healthcare services include access to mental health and substance treatment services as well as psychiatric and primary care that will be tailored to the PSH clients' needs for both programs.

Our mission calls us to advocate for a compassionate and just society with our words and our actions. Ascension Seton will work together with ECHO and other partner organizations to encourage our healthcare community to join us in this cause so every Central Texan has a place to call home.

Sincerely,

Andy Davis
President & CEO
Ascension Texas

Lived Experience Support Letter from AHAC

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

The Austin Homelessness Advisory Council (AHAC), previously named the Austin Homelessness Advisory Committee, is a group of individuals with previous and/or current lived experience of homelessness in Austin. AHAC is facilitated and administratively supported by the Downtown Austin Community Court (DACC) and meets on a biweekly basis to provide input on processes, programs, and practices impacting and serving individuals experiencing homelessness.

Letter of Support and Commitment

FY22 Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness

October 10th, 2022

To whom it may concern,

We, the Austin Homelessness Advisory Council (AHAC), are pleased to write this letter of support on behalf of the TX-503 Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care's Collaborative Application for this year's Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness. The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) has met with us continuously through the drafting process of our CoC's Community Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.

ECHO staff held an initial discussion with us on Monday, July 18th to introduce us to the Special NOFO and provide an opportunity to ask questions. We were also invited to participate in a community feedback session on Friday, July 22nd to shape our community's priorities for the Plan and Special NOFO projects. On Friday, August 5th, ECHO staff presented the feedback shared in that community meeting with us and held another discussion on priorities and feedback to incorporate in the Plan.

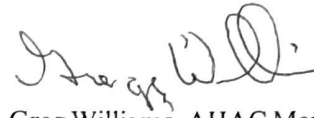
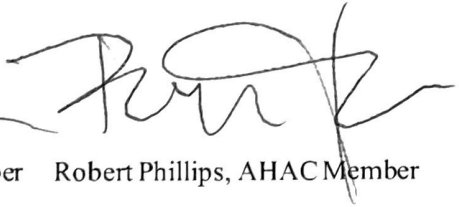
Our CoC's Collaborative Application and Plan to Address Unsheltered Homelessness followed the funding priorities passed by the CoC Board, which include expanding the number of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units that do not target subpopulations. This is of particular importance to our community because it will allow the Homelessness Response System (HRS) to prioritize our community members who are most vulnerable and have the highest service needs.

Additionally, our CoC has prioritized projects that have committed to authentic engagement of people with lived experience and retention of a competitive workforce. From going through the HRS ourselves, we know firsthand the importance of having more case managers who stick around long-term. This is especially critical for individuals who move into housing after spending extended periods of time experiencing the traumas of unsheltered homelessness, because we know that consistency and rapport are essential components of trauma-informed care. Authentic engagement of people with lived experience is similarly essential to increasing the success of services and the trust between clients and service providers. Working with a case manager who knows where you've been and understands what you're going through would be an incredibly meaningful experience for individuals moving from unsheltered homelessness to PSH.


The last few years have seen unprecedented increases in the cost of renting and living in Austin, which has thus exacerbated the difficulty of finding housing in the private market. This opportunity would allow our community to expand our housing portfolio with site-based PSH units that will be lower barrier for individuals with the highest severe service needs and most obstacles faced in attaining housing independently of the HRS. Furthermore, rates of unsheltered homelessness have risen in Austin over the last few years, from 2,238 individuals in 2021, to over 3,000 individuals in 2022. Our role at AHAC is to advocate on behalf of all our unhoused neighbors in our community. The needs of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Austin are therefore of particular concern to us. We are extremely hopeful at the impact this additional funding will have on our CoC's capacity to best serve those experiencing unsheltered homelessness with high service needs.

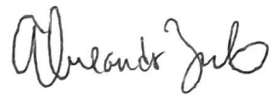
Respectfully,



Donna Ware, AHAC Member

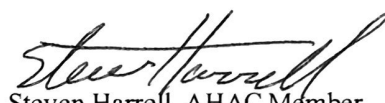
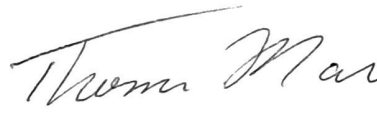
 
Greg Williams, AHAC Member Robert Phillips, AHAC Member


Mike Davis, AHAC Member

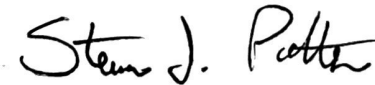

Chris Carr, AHAC Member


Alexander Zapata, AHAC Member


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Amy Peck, AHAC Member


Steven Potter, AHAC Member

Special NOFO CoC Plan

Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO)

Austin/Travis County Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

Introduction - Community Process

ECHO facilitated a robust community process to create the priorities for our Plan on Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness that integrated input from people with lived expertise, community stakeholders, providers, and funders. On July 22, ECHO hosted a virtual meeting to present the Special NOFO options, provide specifics about how different housing projects can best serve people who are unsheltered, and get feedback from our community on the priorities of our CoC's Plan. Our Research & Evaluation team also presented data to include how the unsheltered community has grown in our community, as well as the differences between the needs and demographics of the sheltered and unsheltered communities in Austin/Travis County. Eighty-three people registered to attend that meeting, including people with lived expertise of homelessness, people currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and equity advocates representing marginalized communities. After a presentation of the HUD NOFO goals and data to illustrate our local needs, we facilitated a community conversation using a virtual whiteboard to get feedback on how our local CoC Board should prioritize funding for this NOFO.

We also held two additional meetings with people with lived expertise who provided more specific guidance on the priorities for the Special NOFO and the Plan. This included members of our local Austin Youth Collective and Austin Homelessness Advisory Council. In addition, ECHO and our local CoC Board, Leadership Council, have prioritized authentic elevation of input from people with lived expertise in our governing work. We integrate and pay people with lived expertise for their service on our CoC Board and related workgroups and committees. Their invaluable expertise helps shape our entire homelessness response system design through this work.

Feedback from Public Process

What should be the Priorities for reducing unsheltered homelessness in Austin

- Creating access to permanent housing - through PSH; centralized landlord recruitment, affordable housing; housing with robust wraparound services; and restorative justice and other training for service providers
- Services - medical care, food stamps, mental health outreach
- Community expectations for street outreach
- Affordable housing for people on SSI

Who should be prioritized for services and/or housing

- Most chronic
- People with health issues/disabled
- Persons born in Austin and Texas

- Proportionally allocate resources to the unsheltered based on unsheltered/sheltered population
- Domestic Violence Survivors

How should healthcare be effectively integrated into housing programs?

- Healthcare can be a match for support services
- Transportation to healthcare appointments
- Mobile mental health and substance abuse services
- Include mental health and nutrition
- Integrate Coordinated Assessments in hospitals
- Offering/requiring healthcare resources prior to housing

What else can our community do to ensure that people who are unsheltered can be supported?

- Better coordinated street outreach
- End encampment sweeps
- Provide rent-to-own units
- Expand housing portfolio
- Provide more services - including access to food and ID assistance
- Provide shelter for extreme heat

For providers who are interested in creating permanent housing programs, what should they consider?

- People need healthcare and case management assistance in housing
- Approve rents that exceed Fair Market Rent
- Progressive engagement and Move On policies from program initiation
- Assistance to clients while they are waiting for housing - which is too long of a wait

ECHO also hosted specific meetings targeted towards housing providers and healthcare providers to educate them about the Special NOFO and the Plan priorities. This process enabled ECHO to work with these providers to identify both housing and healthcare resources to leverage for this Plan and associated projects. ECHO staff was able to play matchmaker by ensuring that housing providers, interested service providers, and healthcare resources could be effectively combined for the strongest programs that meet the community priorities and needs.

P-1. Leveraging Housing Resources

Prior to the release of the Special NOFO the Austin/Travis County community was beginning to execute a community-wide plan to address unsheltered homelessness called Finding Home ATX. In early 2020, Finding Home ATX was born with the convening of a Summit involving the City of Austin, Travis County, The Austin Chamber of Commerce, ECHO, the Austin Justice Coalition, and dozens of service providers. The Summit resulted in a determination that an investment of \$515 million over the next three years was needed to scale our Homelessness Response System. Austin has a track record of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring when funding is scaled to match the need, as was the case through successful veteran and youth initiatives. The prior successes and Finding Home ATX’s proactive, systemic model are two of the reasons the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development named Austin as

one of its ambitious Housing America partners to address the crisis of homelessness through a Housing First approach. Finding Home ATX's goal of housing an additional 3,000 people over the next three years will not only bring much-needed assistance to those in need, but it will also establish a never-before-achieved collaboration between businesses, foundations, systems, local governments, and donors that sustainably addresses unsheltered homelessness in our community for generations.

P-1a. Development of New Units and Creation of Housing Opportunities–Leveraging Housing.

Both projects included in the Austin/Travis County application are leveraging housing units for 100% of the units in the project. Family Endeavors is leveraging 100 units at Cady Lofts, which is financed by Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, the Austin Housing Finance Corporation General Obligation Bonds, Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation Financing, and Project Based Housing Choice Vouchers from the Housing Authority of the City of Austin and the City of Austin.

Family Eldercare is leveraging 50 units at Community First! Village, whose units are financed through philanthropic efforts of Mobile Loaves and Fishes.

Total PSH project units leveraged = 150
Sum of the total PSH units included in Special NOFO = 150
= 100% Leverage

We have also received a commitment from both of our local Public Housing Authorities, the Housing Authority of the City of Austin and the Housing Authority of Travis County, to apply for stability vouchers and work with the CoC to pair vouchers with CoC-funded services and create a prioritization plan.

P-1b. Development of New Units and Creation of Housing Opportunities–PHA Commitment.

Both Public Housing Authorities, the Housing Authority of the City of Austin and Housing Authority of Travis County, have submitted written commitments to work with our CoC to pair vouchers with CoC-funded supportive services and to work with our CoC and other stakeholders to develop a prioritization plan for potential allocation of Stability Vouchers. Both PHAs already have preferences for general admission to their Housing Choice Vouchers programs through the coordinated entry process for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, at risk of homelessness, or fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

P-1c. Landlord Recruitment

ECHO has provided centralized landlord recruitment services for over six years for providers of tenant-based RRH and PSH programming who participate in our Coordinated Entry system;

providers have used these vacancies to facilitate housing placements for hundreds of people experiencing homelessness. Currently, we create access to units through incentives through the City of Austin's Housing and Planning Department's capital development affordable housing programs, as well as through creating relationships with local private market landlords.

In the past three years, ECHO advocated with the City of Austin's rental housing development program staff to create incentives for properties receiving capital financing to develop affordable housing to set aside units for the CoC in their properties. This initiative has created 126 units dedicated to tenant-based PSH and RRH programming through incentives to affordable housing developers. Those units in this portfolio continue to grow as additional projects are awarded funding. This initiative has allowed us to create access to units in high-opportunity areas, because those locations are prioritized by our City's housing department financing program. Those units, however, take years to come online due to the construction schedule and can only be part of our community's efforts.

Landlord engagement staff also continue to recruit and retain landlords by negotiating terms to reduce barriers to housing, utilizing the Alternative Screening Criteria based on the Austin Reentry Roundtable data and recommendations. We currently have MOUs with 19 properties to offer low-barrier vacancies to our tenant-based RRH and PSH. Current and past agreements with landlords include the risk mitigation incentives, which are used to support areas of risk that a property manager may assume during the lease term. Historically, ECHO's relationships with these properties provided a considerable number of vacancies for the community, and with the promise of risk mitigation, we were able to bring on additional partnerships. However, with the current rental market we have seen these offered vacancies dramatically reduced and the ability to bring on new partnerships with our historic offerings harder than ever.

In the last three years, ECHO has also hired staff with real estate licenses who can access the local Multiple Listing Service. They have successfully accessed units listed on this service for the Continuum of Care and regularly track that information for our community. These units tend to be higher-barrier, with criminal screening requirements, and can only provide a limited number of opportunities. However, these units are often in higher-opportunity areas and can work for some clients, providing a valuable option.

With the significant increase in rents and small number of vacancies in Austin/Travis County, we can no longer rely on existing relationships or strategies. ECHO is focused on providing new strategies that prioritize equitable access to housing units for those experiencing homelessness. In mid-2022, ECHO was awarded a Landlord Engagement contract by the City of Austin to create and utilize innovative incentives to engage landlords. ECHO has designed a suite of incentives that include utility credits to the tenant's ledgers, vacancy and holding signing bonuses, as well as offering double deposits to non-robustly funded agencies and programs. Unlike risk mitigations, these incentives are front-end incentives. ECHO staff is currently reaching out to properties to engage in partnerships and are hopeful these new incentives will provide additional access to units.

While progress has been made, the need for vacancies far outweighs the availability. ECHO is also currently working to engage a larger group of stakeholders to create additional urgency and cultivate innovative ideas for the unique issue of a large surge of funding for tenant-based

programming with unprecedented rent increases in our market. This will include working with Austin's Apartment Association, local politicians, government officials, social justice organizations, people with lived experience, and the business community.

We are currently working to integrate the tracking of our Continuum of Care units into HMIS to better allow our CoC to analyze our strategies. We plan to track the location, provider agency(s), intervention type (PSH and RRH), length of residency of tenants, and demographics of residents. These data points will help us to understand which property partnerships are successful and which are not, and to analyze this by intervention type, provider, location, and through a racial equity lens.

P-2. Leveraging Healthcare Resources–New PSH/RRH Project.

Our Continuum of Care prioritizes the need for integrated healthcare and housing supports for our unhoused community and have come together to take part in the development of a Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Healthcare Collaborative. Five leading Austin nonprofits – The Black Men's Health Clinic, CommUnity Care (FQHC), Central Health, Integral Care (LMHA), and the Texas Harm Reduction Alliance – will partner with our site-based supportive housing projects to provide high quality, evidence-based healthcare services with core pillars in harm reduction, cultural competency, and housing first principles. Historically, Austin/Travis County has had almost no site-based PSH (approximately 50 beds); but because of increased advocacy by nonprofits and civic leaders across the community and a historic commitment of pandemic-related relief funds, Austin/Travis County is poised to add more than 1,000 site-based permanent housing units in the next five years, making the launch of the Healthcare Collaborative in early 2023 of crucial importance.

The Healthcare Collaborative will be primarily funded by the two largest hospital systems in Central Texas: St David's Healthcare and Seton Ascension. Philanthropic funding has also been secured from Indeed, and we are working closely with Central Health, the local public entity responsible for providing healthcare services to Travis County, on a long-term sustainable plan. Currently there has been \$10 million raised for deployment over the next five years, to be awarded beginning January 1, 2023. Along with Central Health, we will be working with Travis County HHS and the City of Austin Public Health Department on sustainable funding sources.

The reasons for this Collaboration are multifaceted. While PSH is a successful housing intervention for our unhoused neighbors in need of continual support to maintain housing, at present the data do not indicate that this support is translating to improved medical outcomes. Though PSH is reserved for those who have a disability and are chronically homeless, the majority of PSH in the Austin area connects residents to existing healthcare sites in the community. This introduces a number of barriers to care: transportation and scheduling problems, healthcare options that are not co-located or integrated into a singular plan, the absence of a healthcare advocate, no warm handoff with healthcare providers, and historical trauma of medical encounters. Consequently, there is a low utilization of healthcare systems by present or formerly homeless individuals unless in crisis. This lack of coordination between healthcare and housing systems results in more costly and inefficient healthcare utilization (ER, EMS, etc.) and in some cases can even result in re-entry into homelessness.

With this Collaborative, our CoC aims to provide integrated, inclusive, and trauma-informed care for those living in PSH. We have three primary goals:

- (1) provide PSH residents with a single, coordinated plan of care to make significant and meaningful increases in health-related quality of life metrics;
- (2): model holistic, whole-person care through a firm foundation in cultural competency and harm reduction; and
- (3): improve housing-related outcomes in our site-based permanent housing projects, including access to benefits and increased housing retention.

Ease of access to collaborative, whole-person care is a crucial component to helping a formerly homeless person regain stability and prevent future crises. Following a successful PSH move-in, the Collaborative will provide wraparound community support to ensure continual housing stability and promote a high quality of life while halting the cycle of expensive and inefficient emergency healthcare interventions. Our Healthcare Collaborative will serve all PSH residents in need of healthcare who would like to participate, and residents will have access to various healthcare professionals: community health workers, mental health and substance treatment specialists, nurses, psychiatrists, primary care physicians, and peer support, to name a few.

Though our residents have varied health needs, such as HIV/AIDS, severe mental illness, substance use disorders, and/or chronic physical conditions, our integrated Collaborative will work with all residents to meet these diverse needs where they are at. The Collaborative will offer primary care, mental health care, substance use treatment, peer support, and connections to other partners in the community. The start of this PSH Collaborative will commence with the special NOFO start date; meanwhile, our CoC will continue to foster new and strengthen existing partnerships across housing and healthcare systems to match the high need of this vulnerable population. By streamlining healthcare efforts for some of our city's most vulnerable, we can provide patients with effective wraparound healthcare services that increase stability, decrease mortality, and more efficiently provide much needed care while avoiding overutilization of emergency services.

The creation of the Healthcare Collaborative was instigated by the community conversations started through the release of this Supplemental NOFO. Once interested healthcare providers were gathered who wanted to provide healthcare services to the projects included in this application, the community used this funding opportunity to design the elements of the Collaborative to meet the needs of PSH clients. ECHO was able to identify funding for the Collaborative to ensure implementation. This Healthcare Collaborative will use the projects funded by this NOFO as a platform to grow to serve additional PSH projects as they come online. The funding commitments provided for the Healthcare Collaborative are over 50% of the funding being requested by the projects.

P-3. Current Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness.

P-3.a Current Street Outreach Strategy.

Outreach teams actively coordinate schedules and services through the Austin/Travis County CoC governance structure through three primary methods: shared communication and scheduling, common written standards, and a shared Coordinated Entry System.

The Encampment and Outreach Work Group meets twice monthly as a sub-committee of the Crisis Response Committee. Part of those meetings is the development and maintenance of a shared outreach schedule that lets different outreach teams identify areas of intended service coverage (dates, times, and locations), so that the group as a whole can identify areas of potential coverage gap (either in time or location) as well as ensure there are no unintended redundancies.

Outreach teams are expected to record their contacts (dates and locations) into the HMIS system, and then the CoC lead agency can pull and analyze those recorded contacts to ensure that documented dates, times, and locations match up with the advertised efforts by individual programs in that work (to ensure accountability). Austin also uses an open HMIS system so that different teams that may be engaging the same client at different times or locations can communicate directly and confidentially on case progress and potential needs.

An additional area of Governance responsibility is the overlap in written standards between street outreach teams and the Equity Committee. The Equity Committee has work groups dedicated specifically to common written standards that are designed to ensure culturally appropriate engagement and communication strategies across all intervention types, as well as a work group that actively presses for the hiring of staff with lived experience of unsheltered homelessness.

Finally, Austin has also integrated a completely mobile CE system in which street outreach teams can take the assessment directly into the field where people are currently experiencing homelessness and/or accessing other services already. The CoC employs staff fluent in Spanish & provides trained community assessors access to a language line. There are currently 24 Street Outreach assessors across 10 programs trained to administer the assessment.

Part of this CE system is the creation of a common By Name List so that resources can be assigned regardless of barriers from physical location. Resources are prioritized through a Housing First philosophy towards the highest needs, in such a way that people hardest to engage and serve are prioritized for resources. Specific aspects of this system include:

- A prioritization system and tool locally developed and tested to capture diverse local vulnerabilities, not national one-size-fits-all
- A comprehensive resource system that includes options for low-barrier shelter, temporary housing, and permanent housing options; immediate assignment as available (or as becomes available)
- An affirmative access outreach system in which street outreach teams proactively document eligibility and keep assessed households engaged while accessing services. This cycle between assessment and ongoing engagement ensures that households can be

immediately enrolled in the system, then supported continuously as they access housing services.

P-3.b. Current Strategy to Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Shelter and Temporary Housing for Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

The CoC provides access to low-barrier shelter through a comprehensive street outreach approach that integrates temporary and emergency shelter options into a common Coordinated Entry pathway that shares processes and workflow towards all permanent housing pathways as well.

Austin has integrated a completely mobile CE system in which street outreach teams can take the assessment directly into the field where people are currently experiencing homelessness and/or accessing other services already. Shelter options are integrated into this system and offered complementary to permanent housing options so that clients may self-direct across multiple potential resource pathways towards their final permanent housing preference.

Part of this CE system is the creation of a common By Name List so that resources (including emergency shelter resources) can be assigned regardless of barriers from physical location. Resources are prioritized through a Housing First philosophy towards the highest needs, in such a way that people hardest to engage and serve are prioritized for resources.

The temporary and emergency shelter aspect of the system has a heavy focus on providing a wide variety of shelter options, always as a fully voluntary and optional step that does not restrict permanent housing options. These shelter options can include traditional congregate, non-congregate hotel space, non-congregate tiny home space, scattered-site hotel space, single-home site and shared-home sites, and population-specific options (families with minor children, women only, Veterans, people living with HIV/AIDS, DV).

In terms of recent new strategies and lessons, Austin has explored two new street outreach and shelter strategy connections in the past three years – the HEAL initiative and the ProLodges initiative.

The HEAL initiative is a City-led collaborative approach between street outreach, non-congregate shelter, and permanent housing interventions. All residents of a campsite are offered the same resources and opportunities at the same time so that decisions can be made collectively/collaboratively, and information can be disseminated simultaneously. This approach has shown a benefit of creating “collective momentum” among households that are familiar with one another but not interested in being housed as a single entity, as friends and acquaintances can still share plans and information collectively and in real-time, rather than piecemeal and isolated.

The ProLodges initiative was a non-congregate shelter pilot created during the pandemic response. Partnerships were created in which medical providers actively connect medically fragile patients towards service engagement and emergency shelter as part of their medical treatment plan, with the opportunity that supportive medical services could then follow the patient to non-congregate shelter (and further on to permanent housing). This strategy demonstrated the value of melding site-based intensive medical supports up front with patient-specific follow up services as groups leave shelter sites into scattered-site permanent housing.

P-3.c Current Strategy to Provide Immediate Access to Low Barrier Permanent Housing for Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness.

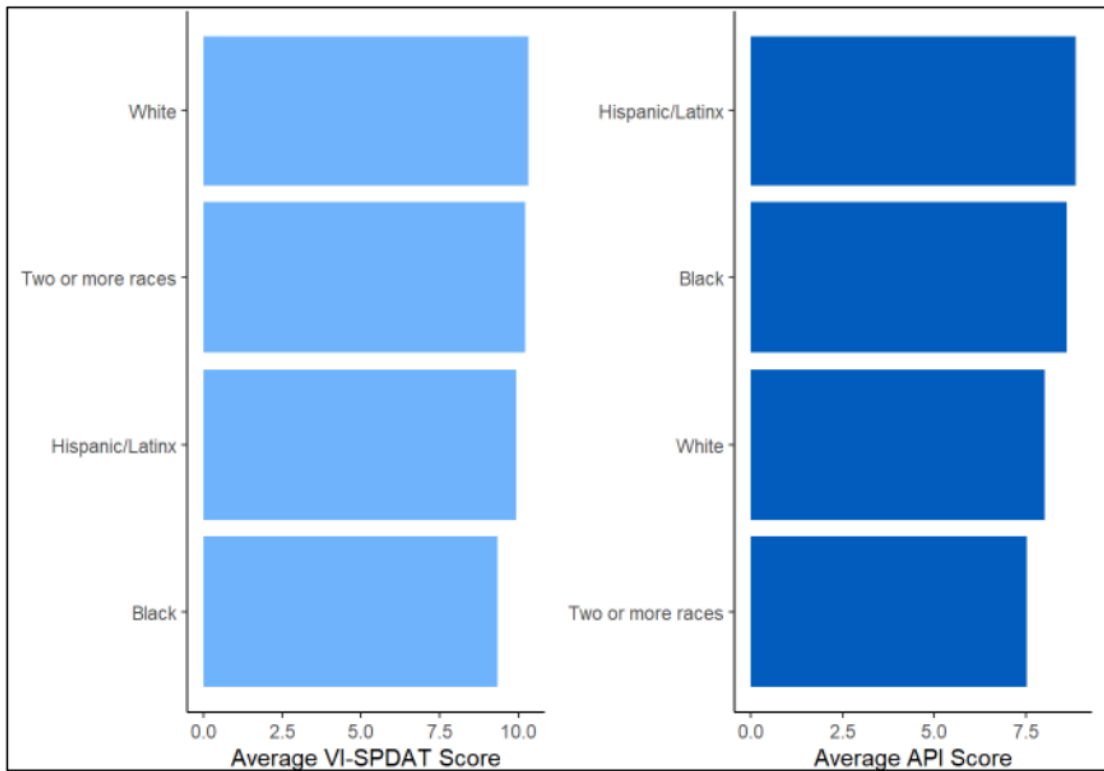
As mentioned above, Austin has integrated a completely mobile Coordinated Entry System in which street outreach teams can complete coordinated assessments directly in the field where people are currently experiencing homelessness and/or accessing other services already. The coordinated assessment determines prioritization and eligibility for permanent housing programs with a system that is rooted in Housing First and Racial Equity. In 2021, our community developed a local prioritization tool, called the Austin Prioritization Assessment Tool (APAT), formerly called the Austin Prioritization Index (API), and moved away from the VI-SPDAT. This tool was developed by a coalition of local stakeholders, including equity advocates and people with lived expertise, to capture vulnerabilities associated with risk of continued homelessness, including those vulnerabilities most often seen amongst transgender individuals and people of color.

The CoC has an assessor training certification process that requires a demonstrated progression of skills to ensure consistency and accuracy across different assessors and assessment agencies. Actual resources are assigned based on a client-centered, dynamic prioritization process by which clients can identify a series of potential housing needs that can then be matched to a variety of different housing interventions which can meet those needs. The APAT score is then used as the prioritization factor and used to create the By Name List so that permanent housing resources can be assigned regardless of barriers from physical location. Resources are prioritized through a Housing First philosophy towards the highest needs, in such a way that people hardest to engage and serve are prioritized for resources. That By Name List, like all PSH participating in coordinated entry, will be used to provide referrals for the housing leveraged by both projects included in this NOFO, through Family Endeavors and Family Eldercare. The projects together will provide opportunities for 150 highly vulnerable households on our community's By-Name List to be housed.

ECHO regularly assesses the success of this tool. In our 2022 Racial Disparities Report, we reported the current impacts of implementation of APAT, formally called API:

“White clients scored approximately 1 point higher than Black clients on the VISPDAT, on average. On the API, White clients are scoring approximately 0.6 points lower than Black clients. Hispanic/Latinx clients still score higher than Black clients on the API, but Hispanic/Latinx clients now score higher than White clients. Additionally, White clients still score slightly higher than clients of two or more races. The change in the racial and ethnic distribution of CA scores following the implementation of the API will likely have implications on the racial and ethnic distribution of program referrals and entries, with a higher proportion of Black and Hispanic/Latinx clients prioritized for housing placements relative to White clients.”

Comparison of VI-SPDAT and API (former name of APAT) Score Distribution by Race/Ethnicity:



In addition, our community has prioritized funding for outreach providers who have not historically received funding. ECHO launched the Austin Street Outreach Collaborative (ASOC) in 2022, funding three organizations through ECHO’s philanthropic fundraising to formalize staff capacity for street outreach services to include coordinated entry assessors, diversion services and access to SOAR. The street outreach teams ensure unsheltered individuals are connected to community-based resources, have access to mobile medical services, and are partnered with direct service providers to begin the housing navigation process. The three providers were selected by our CoC Board, who funded two Black-led organizations and a day center. The launch of ASOC has created opportunities for improving CoC practices and procedures. We have learned that it is essential to have a collaborative approach with tight data entry requirements to avoid duplication of services, especially as camping is criminalized and unsheltered people are displaced regularly. We have also learned that street outreach staff should be trained in crisis management and housing-focused diversion techniques. Street Outreach staff should also have access to financial assistance to support self-resolutions or diversion from homelessness.

P-4. Updating the CoC’s Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness with Data and Performance.

Our CoC utilizes the “Plan, Do, Check, Act” continuous improvement cycle. The majority of the total population experiencing homelessness in Austin/Travis County is unsheltered, and the

unsheltered population experiencing homelessness has different characteristics and needs than the sheltered population experiencing homelessness in our CoC. Our data indicates that unsheltered clients, relative to sheltered clients, are disproportionately: single adult households, experiencing chronic homelessness, living with a disability, survivors of domestic violence, and/or victims of a recent violent attack.

To better identify and serve individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the community, our CoC launched the Austin Street Outreach Collaborative (ASOC) in 2022. Three service providers received funding to provide street outreach services through this project, including expanding access to Coordinated Entry assessments and SOAR. ECHO is also currently conducting a qualitative research study entitled “Data for Equity: Toward Racial Equity in Street Outreach for People Experiencing Homelessness in Austin,” which is designed to identify gaps in the reach of the CoC’s street outreach and Coordinated Entry systems within the Black unsheltered community. This study, alongside performance and demographic data collected from the ASOC programs, will inform future planning, strategies, and operation of street outreach and Coordinated Entry in the CoC.

In Austin/Travis County, Black people are six times more likely to experience homelessness than white people. The street outreach and Coordinated Entry systems will use the “Data for Equity” project results to center racial equity in their approach, allowing the systems to concretely identify what racial gaps in first-touch service delivery for unsheltered folks exist and develop data-driven strategies to fill those gaps. The goal is to prevent any additional backlog of Black clients experiencing prolonged homelessness due to lack of access to the Homelessness Response System from accumulating.

The Equity Committee, which reports to the CoC Board (“Leadership Council”), has set the following as one of its main priorities: “[to] identify gaps in geographical distribution of crisis response services.” This effort will support the work of the “Data for Equity” research project by keeping the community collectively focused on closing gaps in street outreach and other crisis response service provision in the community for the unsheltered population.

As additional people experiencing unsheltered homelessness that may not have been previously engaged with Homelessness Response System (HRS) services become connected through recent street outreach expansion efforts and data collection, they will be connected to the Coordinated Entry System, opportunities for Diversion and Rapid Exit assistance, and permanent housing program openings, as available and appropriate on a client-to-client basis. Part of this approach will be the deliberate recruitment of new agency partners (such as representatives from law enforcement, healthcare providers, and business owners who regularly interact with people experiencing homelessness) into the existing street outreach network of communications and training, so that these points of contact with systems and business can be used to spread awareness of the HRS and even pass messages about new resource opportunities to specific individuals experiencing homelessness. These systems are deliberately set up in a tiered approach so that agencies with only light or incidental overlap with the HRS can receive basic training about how the HRS works and how to help people engage with it, while agencies with deeper clinical involvement can be identified for deeper training and coordination (including becoming trained assessment access points within the Coordinated Entry System).

Street outreach services include street-based Coordinated Assessments in HMIS, diversion assessments, and screening for the individualized needs of each person and household. For some

clients, needs may be identified for emergency shelter and/or transitional housing. Expanded and improved street outreach offers an opportunity for such clients to be more informed and more easily connected to such low-barrier shelter and temporary accommodations. Through these expanded means of data collection, we will also be able to see a clearer and more complete picture of unsheltered homelessness as it contrasts with sheltered homelessness, as well as a more comprehensive view of the need for expanded, improved, and more equitably accessible emergency shelter, transitional housing, and other temporary accommodations.

The CoC uses the standard System Performance Measures with an Equity lens to identify potential areas of inequity across different steps of service access within the system so that these points of potential inequity can be targeted for specific improvement. The CoC monitors both the rate at which different demographic groups access service options such as low-barrier shelter and temporary accommodations, the time it takes various groups to access these resources, as well as what the overall and relative success rates are within these interventions as a whole and within specific programs or agencies within this system. All services are driven by a Housing First and Client-Centered best practices approach in which lack of success within an intervention (or lack of successful up-front access to that intervention) is considered a systems failure in need of systemic improvement, not an individual failure to thrive within the intervention.

P-5. Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness.

Our CoC's strategy for ensuring that resources provided under this NOFO will reduce unsheltered homelessness is to ensure that funded projects are committed to Housing First and receiving referrals exclusively through our Coordinated Entry System. The Funding Priorities for this funding opportunity prioritize projects that are not subpopulation-specific and have the capacity to serve and house any individuals eligible for PSH services. Based on those funding priorities and the rank and review policy, our CoC Board chose to rank two projects that are not subpopulation-specific, which will meet a large need in our system and therefore providing additional resources to reduce unsheltered homelessness.

Along with the CoC Coordinated Entry Written Standards, our CoC plans to adopt coordinated entry workflows that prioritize unsheltered participants by ensuring program coordination with street outreach and encampment teams through collaborative By Name Staffing. Our CoC is also committed to ensuring that program eligibility prioritizes unsheltered households to reflect the Funding Priorities approved by the Homelessness Response System Leadership Council (our CoC Board).

In 2021 ECHO received private funding to develop the Austin Street Outreach Collaborative (ASOC). This collaboration allowed our CoC to formalize partnerships with community-based Street Outreach Teams to better engage people experiencing homelessness throughout our geographic area, create a coordinated approach to street outreach services within our community, and more effectively provide information and services to unsheltered people in our community. In early 2022 ECHO awarded funding to three service providers in our community for 12 staff positions to provide Street Outreach, Coordinated Entry, and SOAR capacity. Our CoC will continue to use these strategies of collaborative street outreach and integrated By Name Staffing to connect unsheltered people with housing resources.

This year our CoC has launched a Community Training Program to ensure that direct service providers throughout the system are trained in best practices related to trauma-informed care, Motivational Interviewing, safety planning, identification support, and housing navigation. Additionally, building on the lessons learned and community buy-in from ASOC, our CoC plans to launch a Healthcare Collaborative in 2023 that will support all site-based PSH projects.

P-6. Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Decision Making– Meaningful Outreach.

The CoC meaningfully and intentionally integrates individuals and families experiencing homelessness, particularly unsheltered homelessness, into every aspect of the CoC decision-making structure. Our CoC Board includes two seats designated to people who have experienced homelessness, and one seat to an individual who has experienced youth homelessness. We also have at least three individuals with lived experience on every committee and workgroup in our CoC governance structure; these members have full voting seats on the various governance groups and have direct influence on local policy and priorities. Through a Compensation Policy passed by the CoC Board, the CoC ensures that every PLE working in governance is paid an equitable and competitive wage for their work. Additionally, the Austin Youth Collective (AYC) and Austin Homelessness Advisory Council (AHAC) are advisory groups that provide feedback and decision-making on important issues pertaining to CoC policies and priorities, including new funding entering our Homelessness Response System. These groups are also integrated into our CoC governance structure working groups and are compensated for their work as well. Members of AHAC and AYC also served on the Independent Review Team (IRT) for the Local Competition.

AHAC and AYC were both engaged throughout the Special NOFO planning process to collaborate on priorities and strategies for our CoC's Plan to Address Unsheltered Homelessness. Members of both groups are recruited through outreach in partnership with service providers, as well as through social media announcements. A flyer was distributed through service providers to announce the opportunity to engage in the Special NOFO working group. The working group developed to advise on the Special NOFO included members of both groups in order to represent the perspectives of youth, adults, and families who experience unsheltered homelessness. The working group met three separate times (on July 18th, July 22nd, and August 5th) to shape the CoC's priorities for the Special NOFO, including the funding focus on PSH, and the specific components of healthcare and supportive services needed to meet the needs of unsheltered individuals and families moving into PSH. The decisions made by this working group shaped our community funding priorities, the Plan to Address Unsheltered Homelessness, and the scored questions included on the Local Application.

Our CoC encourages projects to involve individuals and families with lived experience of unsheltered homelessness in the delivery of services through a number of efforts: (1) we included a scored question on the local application asking how client feedback is used to inform improvements in service delivery and program operations and how ongoing evaluation will be conducted to ensure improvement efforts are successful; (2) the Collaborative Applicant (ECHO) has multiple PLE on staff in full-time salaried positions throughout the agency; (3) ECHO has launched a Community Training Program that includes free trainings for professional development and skills building that PLE are specifically invited to and have consistently

attended in high numbers; (4) our monthly TA includes reviews of program policies and procedures, including hiring practices, to encourage projects to decrease and remove barriers to employment for PLE applying to open positions.

P-7. Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Community Development

The CoC uses several strategies to ensure that underserved populations experiencing homelessness can be identified, engaged, and successfully served. The primary approaches are: data analysis for all clients who have been identified, affirmative outreach services to close identification gaps where they might exist, targeted investment into community-based and non-traditional service providers and programs, and a locally-developed resource prioritization system that centers racial equity in analysis and design.

The CoC uses the annual Needs and Gaps Analysis and our ongoing system performance measure equity analyses to identify underserved populations. Local evidence indicates that there are significant potential disparities in the experience of homelessness for multiple communities, including people who are Black, Latino, Indigenous and Native American; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+); persons with disabilities; and persons who live in rural or semi-rural areas. In particular, Austinites who are Black or African American are six times more likely to experience homelessness than Austinites who are white.

These data analyses go one step further in documenting not just overall disparities in the experience of homelessness, but also testing for equity in all of the measurable system performance steps, such as being assigned to a housing program, moving into a permanent housing unit, and the possibility of returning to homelessness. Both the overall system and individual programs are checked for potential disparities across populations as clients move through the system, and the Equity Committee ensures success is maximized through proposing policies and practices that are culturally responsive, as well as policies that ensure staff hiring is intentional in lifting up candidates of diverse backgrounds, including the heavy prioritization of Lived Expertise of Homelessness.

In terms of ensuring full coverage, the community maintains a shared outreach schedule that lets different outreach teams identify areas of intended service coverage (dates, times, and locations) so that the group as a whole can identify areas of potential coverage gap (either in time or location). The use of an open database means that once someone is engaged with any program, they are now known to the full system, so individuals with periodic or rare engagement with specific parts of the system can still be identified and their unmet needs can be documented for follow-up.

Austin has also put specific intent and effort into recruiting and formally funding service providers who have traditionally not been considered formal partners within the Homelessness Response System, but who have been providing services of some stripe to community members through other umbrellas, such as humanitarian aid or religious support. The Austin Street Outreach Collaborative was a new outreach grant opportunity created by the lead agency of the CoC with the express purpose of lifting up new providers into these roles, and this funding

opportunity created 12 new Full Time Equivalent positions across three new Street Outreach providers, none of whom had been publicly funded in Austin before.

And finally, to affirmatively further equity, the CoC has also locally developed and adopted a Coordinated Entry resource prioritization tool called the Austin Prioritization Assessment Tool, intentionally created to capture areas of vulnerability that are more common in the most underserved populations within our community. Tentative results show that this tool captures relative vulnerabilities more equitably than the formerly-used VI-SPDAT while also better reflecting the types of vulnerabilities that prevent these populations from being able to equitably access services with success. This tool will continue to undergo analysis and development to remain responsive to potential changes in needs and circumstances.