



Harford County 2016 CoC Project Evaluation

Introduction and Background

On June 28, 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the 2016 Continuum of Care Program Competition. The Harford County Continuum of Care (CoC) is eligible to apply for funding to support housing and services for homeless households. That funding breaks down as follows:

Renewal Project Funding:

This funding supports the CoC's existing housing and services. The CoC can continue to support those programs, or could chose to redirect those resources to new projects.

New Project Funding:

Through the permanent housing bonus up to 5% of the CoC's FPRN, Harford County may create the following types of new projects:

- a. new permanent supportive housing projects that will serve 100 percent chronically homeless families and individuals;
- b. new rapid re-housing projects that will serve homeless individuals and families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters, and includes persons fleeing domestic violence situations and other persons meeting the criteria of the definition of homeless.

New Project Funding Through Reallocation:

Through the reallocation process, CoC's may create the following types of new project:

- a. New permanent supportive housing projects where all beds will be dedicated for use by chronically homeless individuals and families;
- b. New rapid re-housing projects for homeless individuals and families who enter directly from the streets or emergency shelters, and includes persons fleeing domestic violence situations and other persons meeting the criteria of the definition of homeless.

- c. New Supportive Services Only (SSO) project specifically for a centralized or coordinated assessment system;
- d. New dedicated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) project that must be carried out by the HMIS lead.

HUD's Policy Priorities:

1. Create a Systemic Response to Homelessness
2. Strategically Allocate Resources
3. End Chronic Homelessness
4. End Youth Homelessness
5. End Veteran Homelessness
6. Use a Housing First Approach

Rating and Ranking Overview:

The Harford County CoC Board will review all projects applying for the competition in accordance with the following evaluation process.

Priority will be given to permanent supportive housing project applications for the chronically homeless. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a chronically homeless person as a homeless individual with a disability as defined in the act who currently lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter and has been living in one of those three locations for at least the last 12 months, or on at least four separate occasions in the last three years where the combined occasion total at least 12 months. Occasions are separated by a break of at least seven nights and stays in an institution of fewer than 90 days do not constitute as a break. In order to be considered chronically homeless, a person must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency homeless shelter. A family can also be considered chronically homeless when the adult head of household meets all of the criteria on their own.

A disabling condition is defined as:

- Diagnosable substance use disorder
- Serious mental illness,
- Developmental disability,
- Or chronic physical illness
- Or disability including the co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions.

A disabling condition limits an individual's ability to work or perform one or more activities of daily living.

Priority will be given to projects that clearly adopt the “Housing First” approach. Factors indicating a housing first model include removing barriers to entry (income, drug/alcohol abuse, criminal background etc.), requiring participation in supportive services, and removal from program for failing to make progress on a service plan.

Additional factors to be considered include the community impact of projects after reviewing the project application, HUD Annual Progress Report (APR) and other written information. Each project will be assessed for its impact on the community’s Continuum of Care in relationship to the other projects seeking HUD funding. Projects with the greatest impact on the Continuum of Care and the community include those that:

- Provide housing and services that are not available elsewhere for the population served.
- Have high rates of successful permanent housing outcomes and links to income (measured at client exit).
- Continues to address community needs.
- Bed utilization rates.
- HMIS data quality (45% of renewal project’s score will be based on HMIS data Quality and CoC participation).
- Meeting reporting requirements.
- Unspent funds.
- Audit/monitoring findings.

Other factors may be the type of project, the number of households being served and the correlation of the amount of households being served to the cost of the project. Almost all data used in project evaluation comes from projects’ most recently submitted APRs. HMIS Data Quality information will be obtained from HMIS Data Quality Reports through Bowman Systems ART Report 0260 HUD COC APR/Data Quality Completeness, 0625 HUD COC APR and unspent funds information comes from HUD’s LOCCS.

The CoC Collaborative Applicant/HMIS Lead will complete a Renewal Project Evaluation Tool for each renewing CoC Project. Failing to submit required information for a priority area will receive zero points for that priority area.

After completing all Renewal Project Evaluation Tools the Harford County CoC/HMIS Lead(s) will provide information to the Harford County CoC Board which will rank all renewal and new projects according to their evaluation score and other factors listed above with typically projects scoring highest ranked best and those scoring lowest ranked at the bottom.

Client Outcomes:

Housing Stability

- Measurement is percentage of persons who remained housed or exited to permanent housing
- Source: HMIS report (APR Q27 and Q29)
- Performance Goal: Source: HMIS report (APR Q36)
- Performance Goal: set based on meeting or exceeding project goal from most recent APR.

Income

- Maintained or increased income (all sources):
- Measurement: Percentage of participants age 18 or older who maintained or increased their income (unless \$0 at entry)
- Source: HMIS report (APR Q36)
- Performance Goal: set based on meeting or exceeding project goal from most recent APR

Maintained or increased earned income (when applicable):

- Measurement: Percentage of participants age 18 to 61 who maintained or increased their earned income (unless \$0 at entry)
- Applicability: PSH
- Source: HMIS report (APR Q36)
- Performance Goal: set based on HUD benchmark from most recent APR
- Change from prior year: separated earned income
- Increased earned income (all sources):
- Measurement: Percentage of participants age 18 to 61 who increased their earned income
- Applicability: TH, with housing goal
- Source: HMIS report (APR Q36)
- Performance Goal: set based on most recent APR
- Change from prior year.

Tier 1 and Tier 2

- The Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) for Harford County is \$903,189.
- Projects ranked in Tier 1 cannot exceed 93% of the ARD, which is \$839,966.
- Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the COC's ARD plus any amount available for the permanent housing bonus, which is \$108,382 (\$63,223 + \$45,159).