

Before Starting the CoC Application

You must submit all three of the following parts in order for us to consider your Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application,
2. the CoC Priority Listing, and
3. all the CoC's project applications that were either approved and ranked, or rejected.

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

1. The FY 2023 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2023 CoC Application Detailed Instructions 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.

Your CoC Must Approve the Consolidated Application before You Submit It
- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the CoC Consolidated Application for the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition 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 an Attachment to the 4B. 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

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1A-1. CoC Name and Number: VA-513 - Harrisonburg, Winchester/Western Virginia CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority

1B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

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1B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.1.a.(1), V.B.1.e., V.B.1f., and V.B.1.p.	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023:	
	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 CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	No	No	No
6.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Hospital(s)	Yes	No	No
8.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
9.	Law Enforcement	No	No	No
10.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Local Jail(s)	No	No	No
14.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

16.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	No	No
22.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Other Victim Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	No	No	No
30.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	No	No	No
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other: (limit 50 characters)			
34.				
35.				

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

1B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(2)	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	communicated a transparent invitation process annually (e.g., communicated to the public on the CoC's website) to solicit new members to join the CoC;	
2.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and	
3.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Inclusiveness and transparency are central to VA-513’s outreach and engagement strategy. After the annual events calendar is published on the CoC’s website, subsequent bi-monthly general meeting communications include an open invitation to community representatives to participate in the CoC (as outlined in 24 CFR § 578.3). The CoC general meetings also review how to join and participate in the CoC and announce open positions on CoC committees. Interested individuals and entities can submit their membership requests via the CoC’s website, and CoC staff engage in active outreach at community events throughout the year to increase CoC visibility and promote an open and inclusive membership.

2. VA-513 recognizes and appreciates the diversity of its members and the community at large, and thus invests the necessary means to ensure effective communication with all its stakeholders. The CoC publishes an annual events calendar at the beginning of every fiscal year, which is published on the CoC’s website along with general meeting information. The CoC’s website incorporates the latest ADA-compliant web design and development, a variety of accessible formats, and links to online ADA-compliant forms. All these added features help ensure a cohesive online experience, crucial to ensuring effective and efficient communication with individuals with disabilities. The CoC also uses automated caption features available on meeting platforms such as Zoom, and the CoC posts both a recording and the minutes on the CoC website following general meetings.

3. Advancing the most effective solutions to homelessness calls for an integrated and holistic approach that involves all voices. To this end, VA-513 maintains low barriers to access and participation, and conducts a general outreach to any organization or individual in the CoC’s region that is interested in ending homelessness. Active CoC member organizations already include organizations serving people who identify as LGBTQ+, Black, Latin(o/a/e), PWLE of homelessness, and those living with HIV/AIDS. Due to the rural area and predominantly white population of the CoC’s region, there are few agencies that solely serve “culturally specific communities.” Regardless, outreach to culturally specific communities and the agencies that serve them remains a priority for the CoC’s strategy to equitably end homelessness.

1B-3.	CoC’s Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(3)	

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;
3.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
4.	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)

1. CoC staff and members conduct ongoing outreach to agencies, individuals, and other stakeholders, which resulted in greater membership diversity and an 11% increase in participation this year. The CoC also strengthened connections with local consortiums and plans to create regional core teams to support the advancement of its mission. CoC general meetings were restructured as a collaborative knowledge-sharing platform for best practices and coordination. CoC committee agendas and actions are member-driven, with input from front-line staff informing policy priorities and implementation. CoC leadership advocates for regional efforts that address systemic issues around homelessness.

2. The CoC holds general meetings every other month, and its five committees and by-name case conferencing meetings meet monthly. At these meetings, members and the public share information and provide input to the CoC's actions. The Media & Advocacy Committee develops messages, press releases, and materials that are distributed via social media and in the community. CoC members regularly engage community members and gather information at local planning meetings. For example, within Harrisonburg, the CoC and its local providers meet monthly with city officials and area stakeholders to improve the city's response to homelessness.

3. The CoC ensures equitable access to all meetings, events, and communications. Some examples include; incorporating the latest ADA-compliant web design and providing a variety of accessible formats. Other steps include providing written and visual aids during meetings to support understanding of verbal information, sharing these materials with participants, and posting them on the CoC website. Automated captioning is available during virtual or hybrid meetings, and the CoC's charter includes a clause for member agencies to provide assistance with reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities.

4. The Executive Committee analyzes and incorporates input from clients, member agencies, and other entities to create the annual strategic plan, which includes measurable goals and action steps. This year, action steps based on feedback from partnering agencies to increase HMIS participation resulted in a 14% increase in HMIS user licenses and the provision of data literacy and reporting training for member staff. Similarly, the CoC offered an open training on trauma-informed care based on results from a CoC-wide needs assessment survey.

1B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Awarded CoC Program Funding.	
NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(4)		
Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:		
1.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;	
2.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications—the process;	
3.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and	

4.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats.
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(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA-513 CoC regularly solicits feedback from its members for new projects to address unmet community needs within the CoC’s geographic area. A solicitation for new and renewal project application was emailed to all affiliated organizations and was posted on the CoC website upon release of the NOFO. The solicitation email and web posting all specified, "New applicants are welcome to apply." The collaborative applicant also hosted an informational NOFO session for interested parties early in the RFA process, of which the recording was also made available on the CoC’s website. Application preparation steps geared toward new applicants were also published on the website to support new applicants.

2. The CoC held an information session in the early stages of the RFA to communicate the application process and how to get support throughout the process. The informational session was held during a general meeting open to any organizations in the CoC’s region that has interest in ending homelessness. A grant timeline outlining preparation steps, links to useful resources, key dates and deadlines, etc. was also presented and published on the CoC’s website.

3. The CoC's ad hoc committee of non-funded community representatives from the local government, school system, non-profit organizations, and health systems reviews and scores all applications based on criteria described in the CoC NOFO, as well as its alignment with strategic initiatives and CoC and HUD priorities. This recommendation is then presented to the CoC’s executive committee for discussion, modification, and approval.

4. All information on the CoC website is in text form and any document attachments are available as PDFs to ensure effective communication. The CoC also provides information on its website, at the bottom of the Home page, to address any additional communication needs upon request.

1C. Coordination and Engagement

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1C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.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 the 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)	Yes
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)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	

18.		
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1C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG Program 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 the Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA-513 CoC has maintained close collaboration with its ESG recipients, particularly in areas of planning and system coordination, which has resulted in the development of a 10 year-plan to end homelessness. This FY, the Winchester City Office of Community Development reached out for consultation on allocation of ESG funds. Additionally, the CoC evaluates all ESG sub recipient's ability to administer ESG & ongoing performance throughout the year.

2. The CoC's Compliance & Evaluation Committee bears the responsibility of evaluating and assessing programmatic compliance of VHSP (state fund) grantees, some of which are ESG recipients. Regular site visits are conducted by the committee to review financial and programmatic performance using scorecards and other performance metrics to evaluate performance. Non VHSP grantees, including those submitting new project applications are evaluated as part of the ranking and selection activities included in the CoC funding process.

3. The CoC participates in the Winchester and Harrisonburg Consolidated Planning jurisdictions and works with both by providing PIT and HIC data to help support each locality's goal of ending homelessness. These data sources are provided through the CoC HMIS system and submitted by the HMIS Administrator. CoC Executive Committee members and other members of the Continuum stay in regular contact with the localities leadership to analyze data and make informed decisions. Collaboration with ESG on CoC data related activities was strengthened this year by a representative of one of the largest ESG recipients within the CoC's geographic area joining the CoC's Data and Performance Committee.

4. The CoC regularly meets with CoC committees that represent Plan Jurisdictions within its geographic area. In the City of Harrisonburg, the CoC and its regional service providers are meeting monthly with city officials and area stakeholders to look at the community's response to homelessness and assess needs and existing resources. This effort has led to expansion of low barrier shelters in the city, and the prioritization of municipal funding for homeless services. The Harrisonburg City broke ground on a 147 low barrier multi-service homeless shelter projected to be fully operational by October 2024.

1C-3.	Ensuring Families are not Separated.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.c.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ensures emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH) do not deny admission or separate family members regardless of each family member's self-reported sexual orientation and gender identity:

1.	Conducted mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated.	Yes
2.	Conducted optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated.	Yes
3.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients.	Yes
4.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within your CoC's geographic area that might be out of compliance and took steps to work directly with those facilities to bring them into compliance.	Yes
5.	Sought assistance from HUD by submitting questions or requesting technical assistance to resolve noncompliance by service providers.	Yes

1C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.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)	Yes
4.	School Districts	Yes

1C-4a.	Formal Partnerships with Youth Education Providers, SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Describe in the field below the formal partnerships your CoC has with at least one of the entities where you responded yes in question 1C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

In FY 2021, the CoC hosted an informational in-service in relation to youth homelessness provided by Dr. Alex Wagaman from Virginia Commonwealth University. This in-service provided the CoC and its member agencies with strategies on how to tackle youth homelessness, such as reexamining locations visited by our Street Outreach team, connecting with communities that are similar to us, and recognizing gaps for youth services in their region. Agencies throughout the CoC work in conjunction with local public school homeless liaisons and youth shelters to be able to find placement for any unaccompanied youth. Winchester and Frederick County Public Schools have been involved in the CoC meetings and have also participated in NOFO ranking and review activities. This FY, Homeless Liaisons of Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County Public Schools agreed to participate in the CoC by providing data on youth homelessness in an effort to account for hidden homelessness within the CoC's service region. The CoC has also collaborated with James Madison university and Shenandoah University to host a housing summit, safe zone training to CoC partners.

1C-4b.	Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

Agencies throughout the CoC work in conjunction with local public schools' homeless liaisons and youth shelters to be able to find placement for any unaccompanied youth. Winchester and Frederick County Public Schools have been heavily involved in the CoC meetings as well as committees that help improve homeless services within our region. Earlier this year, partnership with YEP and LEA was expanded to include Harrisonburg City and Rockingham Public Schools, particularly in areas of youth homelessness data sharing. Collaboration with the City of Harrisonburg's McKinney Vento Liaison was broadened, to include general support for youth homelessness and participation in CoC meetings. The CoC has also collaborated with James Madison University in hosting housing summits, and with Shenandoah University in providing safe zone training to CoC partners.

1C-4c.	Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC has written formal agreements or partnerships with the listed providers of early childhood services:

		MOU/MOA	Other Formal Agreement
1.	Birth to 3 years	No	No
2.	Child Care and Development Fund	No	No
3.	Early Childhood Providers	No	No
4.	Early Head Start	No	No
5.	Federal Home Visiting Program–(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV)	No	No
6.	Head Start	No	No
7.	Healthy Start	No	No
8.	Public Pre-K	Yes	Yes
9.	Tribal Home Visiting Program	No	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)		
10.	The CoC does not have written agreement with most of the listed agencies, however, several of its member agencies have active agreements with several of these entities.	Yes	Yes

1C-5.	Addressing Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors–Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

In the chart below select yes or no for the organizations your CoC collaborates with:

	Organizations	
1.	state domestic violence coalitions	No
2.	state sexual assault coalitions	No
3.	other organizations that help this population	No

1C-5a.	Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers to Address Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations indicated in Question 1C-5 to:

1.	update CoC-wide policies; and
2.	ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC’s geographic area are trauma-informed and can meet the needs of survivors.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA-513 CoC remains committed to a continuous improvement process through the adoption of best practices and policies leading to better outcomes. Guided by its Best Practices Committee, which is tasked with researching and implementing best practices, the VA-513 CoC continuously seeks to explore highest standards and update its policies and procedures accordingly. CoC wide training and targeted technical assistance and training are also provided to member agencies as needed. Domestic violence provider agencies and agencies serving people with HIV/AIDS have representative staff serving on all five of the CoC's standing committees.

2. The CoC currently has 3 Domestic Violence and 2 Sexual Violence partners. These partners provide trauma-informed, victim centered services utilizing best practices and follow VAWA confidentiality guidelines. They also operate 24-hour hotlines service to address the needs of survivors. All DV and SV facilities are required to provide security at each location. Accreditation standards sponsored by the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) require a minimum of 20 hours of training per year, of which 10 hours must be in person. Some of the training topics include crisis intervention and advocacy (trauma-informed based on SAMSHA model), safety planning, diversity issues and multicultural humility when working with people who have experienced sexual and other domestic violence, etc. In addition to training provided at individual agency level, supplemental training coordinated by the CoC are also provided on a need basis. This fiscal year, an invitation was sent to all CoC members, including DV providers to join a trauma informed care training hosted on August 10. Links to webinars and other useful resources are also disseminated as available.

1C-5b.	Coordinated Annual Training on Best Practices to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC coordinates to provide training for:	
1.	project staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma-informed, victim-centered) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually); and	
2.	Coordinated Entry staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma informed care) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually).	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. In addition to leading the CoC’s efforts to search and implement best practices, the Western Virginia CoC’s Best Practices Committee is also charged with promoting knowledge sharing, assessing training needs and facilitating training opportunities for CoC members. At the start of every fiscal year, training needs assessment surveys are administered by the Best Practices committee, and results are prioritized and shared with the CoC’s Executive Committee for inclusion in its annual strategic plan. Throughout the year, the CoC Coordinator and the Best Practices Committee will coordinate to plan and deliver identified training, mostly during general meetings to ensure highest attendance. Training coordinated through the CoC are provided by subject-matter experts from partnering agencies and/or from other local, state, and national agencies organizations.

The CoC currently has 3 Domestic Violence and 2 Sexual Violence partners who actively participate on CoC committees, trainings, and other activities.

2. Ensuring safety and reducing risk for victims of spousal and domestic violence is paramount to the CoC and its staff. If a household is determined to be at risk of harm when an assessment is being conducted, the coordinated entry staff within our region are committed first and foremost to ensuring the safety of all individuals and families seeking assistance. The second consideration is to make every effort possible to prevent further trauma to the client and to provide households with choice, as well as the opportunity to exercise personal agency in the referral process. There is an institutional sensitivity within our system that recognizes the lived experience of all people presenting for services and a commitment to incorporating trauma-informed practices into every aspect of the coordinated entry process.

Furthermore, the three agencies that are operating the CoC’s Centralized Housing Intake (CHI) meet on a bi-monthly basis to assess efficiency of the Coordinated Entry (CE) system, assess staff needs, and identify areas of improvement. CHI training include, but are not limited to training on CE policies and procedures, assessor training to ensure that CE staff are trained on how to conduct a trauma-informed care assessment and give special consideration to victims of domestic violence or sexual assaults. The CoC also uses HUD’s CE Self-Assessment tool and follows its recommendations for annual training and best practices.

1C-5c.	Implemented Safety Planning, Confidentiality Protocols in Your CoC’s Coordinated Entry to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC’s coordinated entry includes:	
1.	safety planning protocols; and	
2.	confidentiality protocols.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC's CHI refers callers who are fleeing domestic violence directly to the appropriate DV provider. This policy prioritizes the immediate need for safety before addressing a need for housing. Agencies that are trained to serve those clients can promptly take action to ensure their safety and security while tailoring their services to address each case's unique circumstances. CHI staff are trained specifically to promptly and safely refer the household to the identified DV provider with a "warm hand-off" including a phone call, potentially offering transportation, and making every effort to complete a trauma-informed transition for the client to the DV service provider. 75% of the CoC's DV providers currently receive rapid rehousing funds to rehouse clients in a safe location of their choice.

2. DV service providers do not provide any client identifying information to other agencies, and all of their performance data are de-identified and aggregated. DV providers submit client information into VAdata, a secure HMIS-equivalent database for DV providers that is operated by the Virginia Sexual Violence and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. Our continuum's HMIS Administrator works with DV providers to collect performance and outcome data using a standard APR export, which ensures the confidentiality and safety of our clients. Finally, all households, regardless of their DV status, have the right to not grant a release of information to share their data among providers within the CoC.

1C-5d.	Used De-identified Aggregate Data to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	the de-identified aggregate data source(s) your CoC used for data on survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and
2.	how your CoC uses the de-identified aggregate data described in element 1 of this question to evaluate how to best meet the specialized needs related to domestic violence and homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC utilizes de-identified aggregate data from a comparable HMIS database for the HUD APR and HIC, as well as the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development grant reports. The database that the CoC DV shelters use is operated through the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, with an HMIS comparable component added to their existing VAdata database.

2. The CoC uses de-identified data to advocate for greater awareness of the incidence of domestic violence in our local communities, to allocate resources, and to understand capacity limitations and utilization trends. 39% of people counted as unsheltered in the 2023 PIT count identified themselves as survivors of domestic violence, compared to 14% of the overall homeless population. This highlights the importance of rapid re-housing programming specifically for DV survivors, as well as the necessity of warm handoffs from Centralized Housing Intake and other referral points to DV providers.

1C-5e.	Implemented Emergency Transfer Plan Policies and Procedures for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC communicates to all individuals and families seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance:	
	1. whether your CoC has policies and procedures that include an emergency transfer plan;	
	2. the process for individuals and families to request an emergency transfer; and	
	3. the process your CoC uses to respond to individuals' and families' emergency transfer requests.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC's CHI staff are trained specifically to safely refer individuals and/or households to the identified DV provider with a "warm hand-off" including a phone call, potentially offering transportation, and making every effort to complete a trauma-informed transition for the client to the domestic violence service provider. Most of the CoC's DV providers currently receive rapid rehousing funds to rehouse clients in a safe location of their choice.

2. The centralized intake process does not restrict access for survivors of domestic violence to any of the services available within the CoC, including but not limited to: permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, and prevention. The overarching goal is for individuals and families whether they are presenting to the CHI, or directly to the region's victim services system to have full and complete access to the available housing service resources regardless of point of entry. The Western Virginia CoC strives to ensure that its CE process allows emergency services to operate with as few barriers to entry, transfer, and exit.

3. The CoC encourages its DV providers to maintain updated emergency planning and transfer policies or protocols, allowing them to promptly respond to individuals' and families emergency transfer requests, as long as the accommodation of such requests does not impose a substantial burden on the agency. All DV providers participating in the CoC receive Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) funds allowing them to rehouse clients and a safe location of their choice. These funds also cover emergency transfer costs wherever possible, including assistance with moving costs, travel costs, security deposit, etc. Emergency transfer requests are subject to funding availability.

1C-5f.	Access to Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
	1. ensures that survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have safe access to all of the housing and services available within the CoC's geographic area; and	
	2. proactively identifies systemic barriers within your homeless response system that create barriers to safely house and provide services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC’s CHI process does not restrict access for survivors of domestic violence to any of the services available within the CoC, including but not limited to: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), RRH, and prevention. The ultimate goal is for individuals and families, whether they are presenting to the CHI, or directly to the region’s victim services system to have their needs fully assessed and be matched to the most suitable and appropriate housing option to meet their needs. As noted earlier, all DV providers participating in the CoC are recipients of RRH, Emergency Shelter (ES) and prevention funds allowing them to meet housing needs of their clients. We plan to use new VAWA resources to develop additional emergency transfer services and support for survivors, especially those in rural areas.

2. The VA-513 continuously strives to invest the necessary efforts to ensure effective operation of its CE system for both, participating agencies and households. As noted earlier, staff from the three agencies operating the CoC’s CHI meet on a bi-monthly basis to discuss the system operation and identify areas of improvement. To ensure easy and quick access to housing for survivors of DV and other CoC’s customers, several partnering agencies have designated staff, often called Counselors or Housing Navigators who work with households to overcome barriers to housing. They also work with landlords to address any systemic violation of the Fair Housing Act and other challenges. Furthermore, the CoC also maintains an anti-discrimination policy in its governance charter, to which all its partnering agencies must agree when joining the CoC.

1C-5g.	Ensuring Survivors With a Range of Lived Expertise Participate in Developing CoC-Wide Policy and Programs.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1.	ensured survivors with a range of lived expertise are involved in the development of your CoC-wide policy and programs; and
2.	accounted for the unique and complex needs of survivors.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA-513 CoC operates under the belief that homelessness can be effectively solved only through a collaborative approach involving representation of all voices, thus ensuring inclusion of a broad range of perspectives in program design and services delivery. Since January 2022, Individuals with Lived Experience (IWLE) have served on the CoC’s Executive Committee, and participated in its management by voting on CoC-wide policies, funding priorities, and by participating in strategic planning and annual goal setting. A Lived Experience Advisory Committee was established by the CoC’s Executive Committee earlier this year. This committee is composed and chaired by IWLEs and will inform the CoC on policy revision, program design, service delivery, and will also participate in funding opportunity processes. The CoC believes that this initiative will result in increased participation of IWLE. Members of this committee will also be compensated for their participation and contribution.

2. Ensuring safety and reducing risk for victims of intimate partner violence is paramount for the CoC and its staff. If a household is determined to be at risk of harm when an assessment is being conducted, the coordinated entry staff within our region are committed first and foremost to ensuring the safety of all individuals and families seeking assistance. The second consideration is to make every effort possible to prevent further trauma to the client and to provide households with choice, as well as the opportunity to exercise self agency in the referral process. There is an institutional sensitivity within our system that recognizes the lived experience of all people presenting for services and a commitment to incorporating trauma-informed practices into every aspect of the coordinated entry process.

1C-6.	Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+–Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

	1. Did your CoC implement a written CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination?	Yes
	2. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access Final Rule)?	Yes
	3. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs (Gender Identity Final Rule)?	Yes

1C-6a.	Anti-Discrimination Policy–Updating Policies–Assisting Providers–Evaluating Compliance–Addressing Noncompliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC regularly collaborates with LGBTQ+ and other organizations to update its CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy, as necessary to ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed and able to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and families;
2.	how your CoC assisted housing and services providers in developing project-level anti-discrimination policies that are consistent with the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy;
3.	your CoC’s process for evaluating compliance with your CoC’s anti-discrimination policies; and
4.	your CoC’s process for addressing noncompliance with your CoC’s anti-discrimination policies.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The Best Practices Committee – which includes representatives from DV providers, accessibility advocates, youth outreach programs, and HIV/AIDS providers – reviews CoC policies and identifies areas for improvement. The CoC’s anti-discrimination policy ensures that all services provided through the CoC are trauma-informed and tailored to the needs of its clients. This year VA-513 connected with a new LGBTQ+ serving program, the Friendly City Safe Space, in addition to its existing LGBTQ+ member agencies. The CoC provided trauma-informed care training via CSH, a national leader in supportive housing. CoC programs also implemented Safe Zone Project training to increase awareness about LGBTQ+ identities, gender, and sexuality, and to examine prejudice, assumptions, and issues of privilege.

2. VA-513 regularly assesses processes and provides targeted technical assistance and training to its member organizations. A CoC diversity training included a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) workshop provided by the Center for Disease Control. Through the SOGI workshop, member agencies were able to develop LGBTQ+ inclusive language in policies and signage within their offices. In CoC committee and case conferencing meetings, agency staff model the use of individuals’ preferred names and pronouns, and emergency shelters have increased flexibility in their gender-based bed quotas to accommodate nonbinary and transgender individuals.

3. The Compliance & Evaluation Committee is responsible for ensuring projects comply with the CoC’s anti-discrimination policies and other guidelines. The committee conducts regular site visits to its Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) grantees to ensure compliance with DHCD program guidelines and also takes due diligence, as an advisory steering committee for the CoC ad hoc committee, to ensure that all new and renewal project applications comply with the CoC’s policies and procedures. Agency policies, procedures, and other documents are reviewed as part of this monitoring.

4. After each site visit, the Compliance & Evaluation Committee shares results via a written report outlining all concerns and findings. The monitoring report also provides recommendations to address findings. Ten (10) business days are given to the organization to respond to the Committee’s concerns in writing. Post-monitoring follow-up is also made to ensure that all findings have been addressed.

1C-7.	Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC’s Geographic Area–New Admissions–General/Limited Preference–Moving On Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	
	You must upload the PHA Homeless Preference\PHA Moving On Preference attachment(s) to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter information in the chart below for the two largest PHAs highlighted in gray on the current CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report or the two PHAs your CoC has a working relationship with—if there is only one PHA in your CoC’s geographic area, provide information on the one:	

Public Housing Agency Name	Enter the Percent of New Admissions into Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2022 who were experiencing homelessness at entry	Does the PHA have a General or Limited Homeless Preference?	Does the PHA have a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On?
Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority	33%	Yes-Both	Yes

1C-7a.	Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences with PHAs.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. steps your CoC has taken, with the two largest PHAs within your CoC's geographic area or the two PHAs your CoC has working relationships with, to adopt a homeless admission preference—if your CoC only has one PHA within its geographic area, you may respond for the one; or	
	2. state that your CoC has not worked with the PHAs in its geographic area to adopt a homeless admission preference.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA), the sole PHA within the VA-513 CoC's geographic area, already has an established policy for homeless admission preference, as well as a preference for individuals and families referred through CHI. The VA-513 CoC works in strong collaboration with HRHA, which currently functions as the CoC's Lead Agency and Unified Funding Agency for the VA-513 CoC.

2. N/A

1C-7b.	Moving On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate affordable housing providers in your CoC's jurisdiction that your recipients use to move program participants to other subsidized housing:

1.	Multifamily assisted housing owners	Yes
2.	PHA	Yes
3.	Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments	Yes
4.	Local low-income housing programs	Yes
	Other (limit 150 characters)	
5.		

1C-7c.	Include Units from PHA Administered Programs in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

In the chart below, indicate if your CoC includes units from the following PHA programs in your CoC's coordinated entry process:

1.	Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)	Yes
2.	Family Unification Program (FUP)	Yes
3.	Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)	Yes
4.	HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	Yes
5.	Mainstream Vouchers	Yes
6.	Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers	Yes
7.	Public Housing	Yes
8.	Other Units from PHAs:	

1C-7d.	Submitting CoC and PHA Joint Applications for Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

1.	Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a competitive joint application(s) for funding or jointly implement a competitive project serving individuals or families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other programs)?	Yes
		Program Funding Source
2.	Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement.	Virginia Homeless Solutions Program funding

1C-7e.	Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV).	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

	Did your CoC coordinate with any PHA to apply for or implement funding provided for Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to homelessness, including vouchers provided through the American Rescue Plan?	Yes
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1C-7e.1.	List of PHAs with Active MOUs to Administer the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Does your CoC have an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any PHA to administer the EHV Program?	Yes
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	If you select yes to question 1C-7e.1., you must use the list feature below to enter the name of every PHA your CoC has an active MOU with to administer the Emergency Housing Voucher Program.	
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PHA
This list contains no items

1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1D-1.	Discharge Planning Coordination.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.h.	

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	Yes
3. Mental Health Care	Yes
4. Correctional Facilities	Yes

1D-2.	Housing First—Lowering Barriers to Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

1.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2023 CoC Program Competition.	1
2.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2023 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.	1
3.	This number is a calculation of the percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, SSO non-Coordinated Entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	100%

1D-2a.	Project Evaluation for Housing First Compliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

You must upload the Housing First Evaluation attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC evaluates every project—where the applicant checks Housing First on their project application—to determine if they are using a Housing First approach;
2.	the list of factors and performance indicators your CoC uses during its evaluation; and
3.	how your CoC regularly evaluates projects outside of your local CoC competition to ensure the projects are using a Housing First approach.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC’s Compliance & Evaluation Committee bears the responsibility of evaluating and ensuring that every project complies with the Housing First approach. As it relates specifically to the NOFO competition, the VA-513 and ad hoc committee, comprised of non-funded community representatives and steered but the Compliance and Evaluation Committee, ensures all new and renewal project applications comply Housing First principles. Projects have no preconditions or no barriers to entry, except as required by funding sources, and projects provide necessary support to allow individuals and families to maintain housing and prevent return to homelessness.

2. The committee monitors to ensures programs are designed and implemented using Housing First principles including no preconditions or barriers to entry criteria such as sobriety or income requirements, and evidence that there is a focus on permanent housing and clients are not required to complete classes or jump through extra hoops before they are re-housed.

3. Outside of the CoC’s funding competition process, the Compliance & Evaluation Committee has the responsibility of conducting periodic monitoring visits to CoC’s grantees’ sites to ensure that their services, policies and procedures are in line with funding regulations. At the conclusion of each site visit, the committee will share monitoring results via a written report outlining all concerns and findings. The report also provides recommendations to address findings. Monitored organizations are provided with the opportunity to respond to the committee’s concerns, and a post-monitoring follow-up is also made to ensure that corrective measures were implemented to satisfy funding or policy requirements.

1D-3.	Street Outreach—Scope.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.j.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	your CoC’s street outreach efforts, including the methods it uses to ensure all persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness are identified and engaged;
2.	whether your CoC’s Street Outreach covers 100 percent of the CoC’s geographic area;
3.	how often your CoC conducts street outreach; and
4.	how your CoC tailored its street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. VA-513 leverages the benefits of multi-agency collaboration to ensure effective outreach across the CoC’s geographic area. Street Outreach (SO) agencies coordinate with relevant systems (law enforcement, hospitals, libraries, and others) to proactively identify unsheltered people, including those living in encampments, tent cities, vehicles, and other locations not meant for human habitation, and connect them to Centralized Housing Intake (CHI). Housing first and housing stability are core principles for outreach activities. The SO process follows a five steps approach: observation, engagement, assessment, assistance, and follow-up. In addition to visiting known encampments and popular locations on an ad-hoc basis, SO staff also have established, approachable working bases out in the community where they can be reliably reached without barriers to access. Clients identified as veterans or chronically homeless are placed on the by-name list and are prioritized for available services. SO works in close connection with CHI, ensuring that individuals identified by SO workers are offered the same standardized process as those who access CHI through site-based and other access points.

2. Two CoC’s member agencies; AIDS Response Effort (ARE) and Strength in Peers coordinate SO activities for the CoC. ARE covers the northern jurisdictions (Winchester, Frederick, Clarke, and Warren), while Strength in Peers covers the four southern jurisdictions (Harrisonburg, Rockingham, Page, and Shenandoah), thus providing full coverage of the entire Western VA CoC geographic area.

3. The street outreach teams send out staff on a weekly basis to identify locations where persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness are staying or meeting. At these locations, staff connect with these individuals and develop relationships to best serve them and their needs.

4. Along with staff outreach to unsheltered locations, SO staff also work closely with area organizations to further identify individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Through these partnerships, they can better identify individuals least likely to request assistance and develop an individualized approach to connection. This coordination takes place bilaterally as needed, as well as during the monthly case-conferencing meetings.

1D-4.	Strategies to Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.k.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate strategies your CoC implemented to ensure homelessness is not criminalized and to reverse existing criminalization policies in your CoC’s geographic area:

	Your CoC’s Strategies	Ensure Homelessness is not Criminalized	Reverse Existing Criminalization Policies
1.	Engaged/educated local policymakers	Yes	Yes
2.	Engaged/educated law enforcement	Yes	Yes
3.	Engaged/educated local business leaders	Yes	Yes
4.	Implemented community wide plans	Yes	Yes
5.	Other:(limit 500 characters)		

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1D-5.	Rapid Rehousing–RRH Beds as Reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) or Longitudinal Data from HMIS.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.I.	

	HIC Longitudinal HMIS Data	2022	2023
Enter the total number of RRH beds available to serve all populations as reported in the HIC or the number of households served per longitudinal HMIS data, e.g., APR.	HIC	123	42

1D-6.	Mainstream Benefits–CoC Annual Training of Project Staff.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m.	

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

	Mainstream Benefits	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI–Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	SSDI–Social Security Disability Insurance	Yes
4.	TANF–Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
5.	Substance Use Disorder Programs	Yes
6.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
7.	Other (limit 150 characters)	

1D-6a.	Information and Training on Mainstream Benefits and Other Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m	

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, SSDI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services; and
3.	works with projects to promote SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Hybrid general meetings provide a higher level of engagement and improve networking opportunities while allowing those that are unable to travel to join and participate, thereby reaching a broader audience. This format promotes knowledge-sharing, and agencies regularly provide updates about changes to benefits and systems that impact program participants. The CoC also uses its email list to provide information about available resources, and the by-name case conferencing meetings regularly check whether agencies are assisting participants to access mainstream benefits, as well as referring clients to local resources for substance abuse and mental health support. Beyond CoC updates, agencies also work directly with mainstream resource organizations to stay up to date on new information.

2. The CoC collaborates with both major healthcare providers in its service area: Valley Health in the north, and Sentara in the south. The CoC’s upstream intervention strategy aims to divert individuals from entering homelessness. CoC member agencies also work closely with these healthcare providers to coordinate services for clients experiencing homelessness. Representatives from both Valley Health and Sentara are regular participants in CoC general meetings and the monthly by-name case conferencing meetings. Two local community service boards (Northwestern CSB and Harrisonburg/Rockingham CSB) are active CoC members and provide mental health and substance abuse support across all eight jurisdictions. This fiscal year, the CoC also extended its partnership with Volunteer of America (VOA) and their Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox (SSG Fox) Suicide Prevention Program, which is designed to reduce suicide risk and improve mental health and wellbeing for veterans and their families in need.

3. During the CoC general meetings, the agenda includes open space for announcements, including updates on mainstream resources and other assistance information. The recent change to the meeting structure has allowed for more time for knowledge sharing, resource training, and collaboration on resources such as SOAR certification. Attendees have the opportunity to explain their services and share relevant updates with the CoC. Information on general training, conferences, workshops and other open events hosted by these agencies are also relayed by the CoC Coordinator via group emails and social media posts.

1D-7.	Increasing Capacity for Non-Congregate Sheltering.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC is increasing its capacity to provide non-congregate sheltering.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Western Virginia CoC recognizes that non-congregate sheltering provides a safer environment than settings in congregate shelters and encampments, where crowding and proximity to others can be catalysts for the spread of infectious diseases. . The CoC’s geographic area currently has 10 (ten) congregate shelters and 2 (two) non-congregate that are participating in HMIS, as well as several other non-participating shelters that offer family rooms with private bathroom facilities in Rockingham, Page, and other counties. Recommendations and suggestions made by the CoC and some of its partnering agencies participating in bi-monthly Homeless Services Planning Groups with the City of Harrisonburg, have led to a planned increase in the number of non-congregate shelter beds. The soon to be completed City of Harrisonburg Homeless Services Center will include nine (9) single-occupancy sleeping rooms out of total occupancy capacity of 147. The City Homeless Service Shelter is expected to be fully operational in October 2024. It is also worth noting that on a need basis, hotel vouchers have also been used by at least three ES providers, which also helps provide adequate protection against the spread of diseases for individuals and families.

ID-8.	Partnerships with Public Health Agencies–Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent Spread of Infectious Diseases.	
NOFO Section V.B.1.o.		
Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to:		
1.	develop CoC-wide policies and procedures to respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and	
2.	prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The VA-513 CoC has capitalized on the unprecedented levels of political will, cross-agencies collaboration and influx of resources created by the COVID-19 pandemic to develop and sustain close relationships with hospitals, Health Departments and districts. The collaborations have resulted in development of an improved CoC response system.

2.The western Virginia CoC collaborates with local public Health Departments, Healthcare for the Homeless agencies, and other local health and wellness partners to prevent outbreak in the homeless shelters. During the worst of COVID 19, the CoC forged unique partnerships to reduce overcrowding and sheltering individuals. James Madison University, for example, hosted an emergency shelter on its campus for more than two months. After school opening, the city of Harrisonburg through CARES Act funding rented and converted a camp and retreat center into an emergency shelter. These community solutions have protected and continue to prevent outbreaks. Throughout this year, the CoC has continued to share targeted videos, presentations, webinars, etc. to outreach providers and shelters for education purposes and future preparedness. The CoC and its partnering agencies also maintain close cooperation with local public health agencies, which facilitates information sharing and coordination to combat the spread of infectious diseases.

ID-8a.	Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	shared information related to public health measures and homelessness, and	
2.	facilitated communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers to ensure street outreach providers and shelter and housing providers are equipped to prevent or limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA The VA-513 CoC uses various communication platforms and printed materials to disseminate information among its members and clients. Newsletters and group emails are mostly used internally for communication with CoC member organizations, while social media platforms such as FaceBook and the CoC website are used to reach clients and the general population. As of this year, the CoC’s Media and Advocacy committee has started printing brochures and other marketing materials to increase the CoC’s visibility and advertise its services to community members experiencing a housing crisis. These printed materials can easily be customized as needed to disseminate public health measures, and raise awareness on guidelines designed to increase personal safety during a public health crisis or other emergency situations. Brochures and other printed materials are distributed among partnering agencies for display/distribution at their individual sites, and also shared with other strategic locations such as food banks, libraries, free clinics, etc. Furthermore, CoC meetings also serve as a platform for information sharing with all members.

2. During the COVID-19 health crisis, the VA-513 CoC hosted a series of open virtual meetings where COVID-19 safety guidelines, vaccine information, and other preventive measures, including those pertaining to homeless shelters were shared. Pertinent communications from public health agencies affecting the CoC and its member agencies have also been systematically shared via the CoC’s newsletter, email groups, and other social media platforms. Throughout this year, the CoC coordinator has also continued to share targeted videos, presentations, webinars, etc. to outreach providers and shelters for education purposes and future preparedness. Information and materials shared included; Infectious Disease Winter Planning and Preparedness for Congregate Facilities (HUD), Disaster Preparedness and Recovery for Agency Webinar (November 15th), Monkeypox preparedness, as well as information from the Infectious Disease Prevention and Response page on HUD Exchange and other related toolkit developed by the Department of Health, CDC and other entities. The CoC and its partnering agencies also maintain close cooperation with local public health agencies, which facilitates information sharing and coordination to combat the spread of infectious diseases.

1D-9.	Centralized or Coordinated Entry System–Assessment Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC’s coordinated entry system:	
1.	covers 100 percent of your CoC’s geographic area;	

2.	uses a standardized assessment process; and
3.	is updated regularly using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA-513's Centralized Housing Intake (CHI) program has been in place since 2014 and has evolved into an integrated single entry point phone-based system combining initial engagement, assessment, and referral. For the past two years, CHI staff have handled an average of 10,800 inquiries or requests, which is a 28.28 % increase from FY 2021 (from 8,399 to 10,775 in FY 22). Inquiries and referrals are received from the 6 counties across the CoC's 2,400 square mile geographic area. Walk-ins are also processed by CHI staff stationed in Harrisonburg and Woodstock. Furthermore, as indicated above, the street outreach team also sends out staff on a weekly basis to different locations across the CoC to identify unsheltered homeless persons and connect them to CHI.

2. The VA-513 CoC maintains a clients prioritization policy, and has developed a standardized scoring tool for its HUD and Virginia Housing Solutions Program (VHSP) grantees to use. The scoring tool is based on 11 criteria of prioritization which are assigned points, for an accumulated total of 14 points. Flexibility is also allowed to grantees to adapt the tool to their program needs. The scoring tool accounts for population-specific considerations and reflects the priorities of the CoC and its commitment to serve the most vulnerable. The purpose of the CoC's clients prioritization policy is to ensure that individuals and families with the most severe housing needs are prioritized for services. The Vulnerability Index Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) has also been used by the CoC's Street Outreach (SO) teams, as it allows not only the assessment of housing needs, but also allow a preliminary evaluation of various disabling factors causing and perpetuating housing instability to facilitate referral to relevant support services.

3. One of the standing work-groups is the Centralized Intake Work-group, is tasked with conducting regular assessment of the CoC's CE system and making necessary updates to ensure its effectiveness. The work-group works in partnership with the Best Practices Committee and meets on a bi-monthly basis to discuss areas of improvement in the CE system to ensure its continued effectiveness. Additional recommendations for improvement are also made at a higher level as part of the CoC's annual strategic plan, which often incorporates input received from clients, member organizations, PWLE, and services recipients.

1D-9a.	Program Participant-Centered Approach to Centralized or Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:
1.	reaches people who are least likely to apply for homeless assistance in the absence of special outreach;
2.	prioritizes people most in need of assistance;

	3. ensures people most in need of assistance receive permanent housing in a timely manner, consistent with their preferences; and
	4. takes steps to reduce burdens on people using coordinated entry.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA-513 Coordinated Entry system, called Centralized Housing Intake (CHI), operates as an integrated single entry phone-based system that combines initial engagement, assessment, and referral. Auxiliary aids are available for individuals with disabilities on an as-needed basis, and the CHI program has a Language Access Plan for persons with Limited English Proficiency that complies with Federal Title VI requirements. CHI staff are bilingual in Spanish, CHI calling cards in English and Spanish are shared with member agencies and local city officials to distribute, and bilingual flyers are also posted in strategic locations like libraries, food banks, and hospitals.

2. VA-513’s prioritization scoring tool uses criteria including a history of homelessness, veteran status, and risk factors including chronic health conditions, substance abuse, mental illness, trauma, age, and family composition. CHI staff are trained in trauma-informed care to ensure that the screening process minimizes retraumatization. Information gathered in the survey helps prioritize individuals and families most in need of housing assistance, and matches clients with appropriate housing and supportive services. Unsheltered clients who are verified as literally homeless are immediately referred for emergency shelter placement based on their geographic location and the availability of shelter beds.

3. The CE system is designed to help individuals and families quickly exit or avoid homelessness and return to stable, permanent housing using diversion, targeted prevention, and rapid-rehousing interventions. This housing first model also helps ensure that people who are most in need receive housing services without preconditions. Furthermore, CoC policies recommend a strength-based and person-centered needs assessment to ensure that individuals and families are empowered to make choices in line with their personal needs and available resources.

4. CHI staff receive trauma-informed care and motivational interviewing training, and CHI procedures also include sample questions and guidance on how to engage clients in ways that minimize retraumatization. The CoC’s prioritization tool is relatively brief, and staff administering the assessment are encouraged to adjust questions according to specific subpopulations. The initial assessment is not intended to be a one-time event to gather as much information as possible, but can be completed over multiple encounters.

1D-9b.	Informing Program Participant about Rights and Remedies through Centralized or Coordinated Entry—Reporting Violations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC through its centralized or coordinated entry:

1.	affirmatively markets housing and services provided within the CoC’s geographic area and ensures it reaches all persons experiencing homelessness;
2.	informs program participants of their rights and remedies available under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws; and

3.	reports any conditions or actions that impede fair housing choice for current or prospective program participants to the jurisdiction(s) responsible for certifying consistency with the Consolidated Plan.
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(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA-513 CoC’s SO program works concurrently with its CHI system to reach out to unsheltered individuals and families and connect them with services necessary to secure permanent housing. As noted earlier, the CoC’s SO team engages with all relevant systems to coordinate efforts to identify unsheltered peoples, including those living in encampments and other locations not intended for human habitation, hence ensuring that outreach activities are not limited only to those seeking services. Housing services accessible through the CoC and its partnering agencies are also advertised on the CoC’s website, which meets all ADA compliance standards to ensure accessibility for individuals with disabilities. This fiscal year, the CoC’s Media and Advocacy Committee has also initiated a series of actions to affirmatively advertise CoC’s services within the CoC’s geographic area. Some of the actions include the printing and dissemination of bilingual (in English and Spanish) flyers and CHI calling cards. The CoC also leverages social media platforms such as Facebook, and participates in resource fairs within its region.

2. The CoC maintains housing policies and procedures, including for its HUD and VHSP grantees, requiring individual agencies to provide information to consumers of their services regarding their rights, responsibilities, and ways to voice their concerns. Clients’ concerns and grievances are addressed at individual agency levels in accordance with their policies and procedures, but opportunity for appeal at the CoC’s executive level is also provided in the event that the client’s grievance cannot be resolved at the service provider level. Nondiscrimination and other policies consistent with federal and state law designed to foster and promote equal housing access are also observed by the CoC and its partners.

3. The CoC’s Coordinated Entry system complies with non-discrimination requirements of the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in housing services on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability status and sexual orientation.

1D-10.	Advancing Racial Equity in Homelessness—Conducting Assessment.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

1.	Has your CoC conducted a racial disparities assessment in the last 3 years?	Yes
2.	Enter the date your CoC conducted its latest assessment for racial disparities.	03/09/2023

1D-10a.	Process for Analyzing Racial Disparities—Identified Racial Disparities in Provision or Outcomes of Homeless Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	your CoC's process for analyzing whether any racial disparities are present in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and
2.	what racial disparities your CoC identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Each year the HMIS administrator uses HMIS and PIT count data to analyze proportional demographic rates of program-enrolled participants (i.e. PSH, RRH) and geographic go within the CoC (i.e. urban and rural). These rates are compared to broader demographic rates, both in the general population (to identify disparate trends) and in the CoC's total homeless population (to identify disparate access to homeless services). Results and recommendations from these findings are shared in CoC meetings, on the CoC website, with the general public at educational events, and upon request. Additionally, the CoC's standing committees review internal policies and procedures to identify potential hurdles or racial disparities and implement appropriate remedial actions. Baseline data, including number of people experiencing homelessness by race, placement retention, length of time homeless, etc. are systematically collected and analyzed and used in program design and implementation to address any disparities.

2. In examining demographic data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) 2021 5-year estimates, the VA-513 CoC's population is primarily white, accounting for 85% of the general population. In comparison, only 69% of the homeless population identified as white. In contrast, people identifying as Black comprise 5% of the CoC's general population, but 20% of the area's people experiencing homelessness. In the 2023 PIT count, people identifying as Hispanic/Latin(o/a/e) experienced geographic differences within the CoC, with an under-representation in the northern area surrounding Winchester (3% homeless despite 10% of the general population) and over-representation in the more rural central area (13% of homeless vs 6% of the general population). Most CoC program types had enrollment proportional to the general homeless population, confirming that these programs are operating without implicit bias or systemic barriers to access. However, the CoC's Street Outreach program did have some discrepancies in terms of race and ethnicity, with white people slightly more likely to receive street outreach services (76% of street outreach enrollments compared to 70% of the homeless population), and Black people slightly less likely (15% of enrollments compared to 20% of the homeless population). See 1D-10c below for information about how the CoC addressed these findings.

1D-10b.	Implemented Strategies that Address Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the strategies your CoC is using to address any racial disparities.

1.	The CoC's board and decisionmaking bodies are representative of the population served in the CoC.	Yes
2.	The CoC has identified steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC.	Yes
3.	The CoC is expanding outreach in geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups.	Yes
4.	The CoC has communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups.	Yes
5.	The CoC is training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness.	Yes
6.	The CoC is establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector.	Yes
7.	The CoC has staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness.	Yes
8.	The CoC is educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national nonprofit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity.	Yes
9.	The CoC reviewed coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes
10.	The CoC is collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system.	Yes
11.	The CoC is conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes
	Other:(limit 500 characters)	
12.		

1D-10c.	Implemented Strategies that Address Known Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below the steps your CoC is taking to address the disparities identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The disproportionate experience of homelessness for people who identify as Black is a nationwide issue that extends far beyond the VA-513 CoC, with roots in systemic racism that devalue property, discourage homeownership for Black people, and much more. Our region believes that working to address racism is ever-present and that the data that we can access is a powerful tool to illuminate disparities and lead to changes in policy and practice within our crisis response system. The VA-513 has also revisited its anti-discrimination policy to ensure no one seeking services from the CoC is discriminated against. These policies and procedures provide guidance to staff and volunteers of all CoC agencies to prevent discrimination in agency policies and during interactions with clients. The CoC also invited Jillian Fox, Director of the Mid-Atlantic Region of the Corporation for Supportive Housing, to discuss the strategies that communities are pursuing to engage with their clients on these issues, as well as how to partner with culturally specific organizations with connections to communities of color.

The geographic differences in homelessness for people identifying as Hispanic/Latin(o/a/e) highlights the need for bilingual staff and accessible information in all sub-regions of the CoC. The CHI line offers Spanish-language intake assessments for the whole region, and the CoC is encouraging its partners to hire multilingual staff. Additionally, the CoC's Media and Advocacy Committee translated flyers and calling cards in Spanish in response to these findings. In the coming year, the committee plans to use translation assistance information from the FY 2024 HMIS data standards to identify additional languages to target for translation.

After the findings of racial disparities in street outreach enrollment were shared with the CoC at the general meeting in April 2023, the Street Outreach team worked together to identify possible explanations for this discrepancy and develop practical strategies to make street outreach safe, accessible, and non-threatening for all people experiencing homelessness regardless of their race. Street Outreach staff already includes people with lived experience of homelessness, and a further goal is expanding the racial and ethnic diversity of the street outreach team to minimize barriers of otherness when approaching and establishing relationships with people who are experiencing homelessness.

1D-10d.	Tracked Progress on Preventing or Eliminating Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	the measures your CoC has in place to track progress on preventing or eliminating disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and	
2.	the tools your CoC uses.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Each year the HMIS administrator uses HMIS and PIT count data to analyze proportional demographic rates of program-enrolled participants (i.e. PSH, RRH) and geographic subregions within the CoC (i.e. urban and rural). These rates are compared to broader demographic rates, both in the general population (to identify disparate trends) and in the CoC’s total homeless population (to identify disparate access to homeless services). Results and recommendations from these findings are shared in CoC meetings, on the CoC website, with the general public at educational events, and are incorporated in program design and strategic plan. Furthermore, each agency receiving CoC federal and/or state funding is required to comply with fair housing regulations.

2. The CoC relies on its HMIS system to record and track progress on key performance outcomes, which are reviewed, analyzed, and compared across populations. Technical assistance and training are also used as tools to equip CoC staff and member organizations with the necessary knowledge capabilities to identify and address disparities. This fiscal year, CoC staff participated in community workshops facilitated by Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC), to learn more about ways to build community power to end homelessness. The workshops also focused on racial and social equity, and ways to identify and dismantle the persistent inequality in homelessness and housing services.

1D-11.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking—CoC’s Outreach Efforts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Describe in the field below your CoC’s outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decision making processes.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The VA-513 CoC understands that it takes a collective approach to effectively resolve homelessness. Persistent efforts are made to ensure that there is low barrier to entry and accessible information and resources for community members with lived experience to get involved in the CoC. Lowering barriers to entry and sustained ongoing outreach efforts have increased participation on CoC committees by IWLE. IWLE are encouraged to participate at all levels, including at the executive leadership level, representing their perspective on a broad range of issues.

These efforts have led to the establishment, earlier this year, of an advisory committee composed of IWLE. In addition to participating in CoC's planning activities and competition process, the Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC) will also be consulted on policy revision, updates to CE system and assessment process. The LEAC is chaired by an IWLE, who is currently employed as program coordinator at one of our CoC's member agencies, and has also been a member of the CoC's Executive committee for the past two years. This committee will provide long-term support to the CoC, and its members will be compensated for their participation.

Social media, mainly Facebook and the CoC's website newsletter are also routinely used by the CoC Coordinator and the Media & Advocacy Committee to increase the visibility of the CoC and outreach to new members. Bi-monthly CoC general meeting emails always include an open call to community members to participation. Open leadership positions on the CoC committees are also advertised via the same channels and during by-monthly meetings.

Our outreach and engagement programs will always remain an essential component of the CoC's activities. Homelessness touches all areas of a person's life, and multiple supportive services are required to ensure a successful housing plan. With the case conferencing initiative, non-CoC member service organizations have begun attending meetings and working in tandem with CoC member agencies to address homelessness. All these efforts have resulted in the CoC increasing the number of HMIS licenses in our community by 28%. Between the CoC lead agency, CoC Coordinator, and CoC members, more and more organizations and local governments in the VA-513 region are becoming informed and connected with the CoC and its fight to make homelessness rare, brief, and one-time.

1D-11a.	Active CoC Participation of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

You must upload the Letter Signed by Working Group attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter in the chart below the number of people with lived experience who currently participate in your CoC under the four categories listed:

	Level of Active Participation	Number of People with Lived Experience Within the Last 7 Years or Current Program Participant	Number of People with Lived Experience Coming from Unsheltered Situations
1.	Included in the decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	3	1

2.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	2	1
3.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's local competition rating factors.	2	1
4.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's coordinated entry process.	1	0

1D-11b.	Professional Development and Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC or CoC membership organizations provide professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Involvement of individuals with lived experience (IWLE) in the CoC and its member organization has not been limited to participation in planning activities or consultation on policies and procedures. Several CoC member organizations currently employ or have employed IWLE. The Laurel Center has been employing a former shelter resident for 36 years now, who has recently been accepted into the police academy as a reservist with full powers of a sworn deputy. Valley Open Doors has also employed 2 IWLE during the last thermal season from November 2022 to April 2023, and has also an IWLE on their board, and currently looks for an IWLE to serve as advisor to the board. Shenandoah Alliance for Shelters (SAS) also has a PWLE on its board of directors, and their recruitment policy includes a clause allowing the hiring of PWLE as long as they are 6 months to a year from receiving assistance. At the CoC level, the Executive Committee recently established an advisory committee composed of PWLE, who are compensated for their contribution to the CoC's mission.

The CoC Lead Agency, HRHA and several of its member agencies also participates in the Workforce Development Board meetings and other related services to refer clients to appropriate employment opportunities, attend job fairs, and also provide necessary assistance for clients to meet their employment goals.

1D-11c.	Routinely Gathering Feedback and Addressing Challenges of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC routinely gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;
2.	how your CoC routinely gathers feedback from people who have received assistance through the CoC or ESG Programs; and
3.	the steps your CoC has taken to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The Western Virginia CoC recognizes and values the benefits of integrating lived expertise in program design and service delivery, and has remained committed to diversifying its partnerships to ensure representation of all the voices. Input and feedback are regularly sought from PWLE who currently participate on CoC’s standing committees and advisory committees..

2. The VA-513 CoC is strongly committed to ensuring the voices and input of PWLE are included in system-level and programmatic decision-making. The CoC strongly encourages its partnering agencies to include, whenever possible, the voice of those who have recently experienced homelessness in meetings, policies review and program design. These efforts are starting to materialize, with the election or nomination of PWLE on the board of directors of several partnering organizations. The CoC’s street outreach team also routinely gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness.

3. The western Virginia CoC has taken steps to address challenges raised by PWLE of homelessness by Including representatives in reviewing and recommending revisions to local policies, coordinated entry system, assessment process, and other aspects of service delivery.

1D-12.	Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.t.	
	Describe in the field below at least 2 steps your CoC has taken in the past 12 months to engage city, county, or state governments that represent your CoC’s geographic area regarding the following:	
1.	reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; and	
2.	reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The long-term strategy of the CoC is to empower its staff, agencies, committees, and individual members to serve as ambassadors of the CoC in the community, thus building power to end homelessness. The most significant barrier to accessing permanent housing within the CoC’s service area remains a lack of affordable housing. To address this barrier, VA-513 has built and strengthened partnerships with local governments in both Harrisonburg and Winchester. Following comprehensive housing studies, both cities are drafting comprehensive zoning ordinance revisions. In addition to sharing information about these processes and educating members about the impact of zoning policies, the CoC shares opportunities for feedback, such as the city of Winchester’s Community Development plan and the Northern Shenandoah Valley Planning Commission’s housing priority plan. CoC staff also works with local municipal governments to share the results of PIT survey and other data to communicate the endemic nature of homelessness and the need for comprehensive zoning reform that increases housing supply.

2. CoC member agencies and the general population raise awareness about homelessness and advocate for inclusive development. Through the Executive and Media & Advocacy Committees, the CoC educates policy makers and the general community about the lead causes of homelessness and the harmful consequences of the lack of affordable housing. In the past 12 months, the city of Harrisonburg approved a rezoning request from the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (the CoC’s lead agency) to develop approximately 900 units of mixed-income housing within the next two years. Additionally, a rezoning request by HRHA to build 16 additional permanent supportive housing units beside one of its pre-existing apartment complexes in Harrisonburg was also approved. Other CoC agencies have also received rezoning approvals for affordable housing development, including People Inc in Warren County, Faithworks in Winchester, and Our Community Place in Harrisonburg. Collaboration with Harrisonburg city officials and several CoC member agencies led to breaking ground on a low barrier permanent homeless services shelter funded by the City of Harrisonburg, which is projected to be completed by October 2024 with a capacity of over 100 beds.

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

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1E-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC’s Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. NOFO Section V.B.2.a. and 2.g. You must upload the Web Posting of Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	
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1.	Enter your CoC’s local competition submission deadline date for New Project applicants to submit their project applications to your CoC—meaning the date your CoC published the deadline.	08/28/2023
2.	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for Renewal Project applicants to submit their project applications to your CoC’s local competition—meaning the date your CoC published the deadline.	07/27/2023

1E-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. We use the response to this question and the response in Question 1E-2a along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC’s eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below. NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., 2.d., and 2.e. You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen. Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected project applications during your local competition:	
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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
4.	Provided points for projects that addressed specific severe barriers to housing and services.	Yes

5.	Used data from comparable databases to score projects submitted by victim service providers.	No
6.	Provided points for projects based on the degree the projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.	Yes

1E-2a.	Scored Project Forms for One Project from Your CoC's Local Competition. We use the response to this question and Question 1E-2. along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC's eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.	

You must upload the Scored Forms for One Project attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
 Complete the chart below to provide details of your CoC's local competition:

1.	What were the maximum number of points available for the renewal project form(s)?	372
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	2
3.	What renewal project type did most applicants use?	PH-PSH

1E-2b.	Addressing Severe Barriers in the Local Project Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.d.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding each project that has successfully housed program participants in permanent housing;
2.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding how long it takes to house people in permanent housing;
3.	how your CoC considered the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities experienced by program participants preventing rapid placement in permanent housing or the ability to maintain permanent housing when your CoC ranked and selected projects; and
4.	considerations your CoC gave to projects that provide housing and services to the hardest to serve populations that could result in lower performance levels but are projects your CoC needs in its geographic area.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Each renewal project is evaluated using the CoC’s Scoring Tool, which was developed based on HUD’s CoC’s system performance measurements as provided by HMIS data. Individual project applications are evaluated and ranked based on the degree to which they meet quality threshold requirements, and how they perform against key performance metrics related to self-sufficiency, rate of return to homelessness, housing retention rate, participation in CE, accessibility of services, etc.2. The VA-513 has established performance standards that are reviewed by the Compliance and Evaluation Committee, who monitors and evaluates outcomes from HMIS data.

2. The VA-513 has established performance standards that are tracked and reported by the CoC’s HMIS Administrator to the Compliance and Evaluation Committee, which is tasked with coordinating the evaluation and ranking of project applications. The CoC’s target for placing individuals into housing is 14 days (from project entry to housing move-in) for RRH-TH projects. 20 Points are allocated to projects that are meeting this target by 100% and 15 points for 90 to 80 %. Exit rate to permanent housing is also evaluated for PSH and RRH projects, with 25 points assigned to projects where 100%-90% of leavers move to permanent housing.

3. In reviewing projects, those projects that addressed chronic homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse were taken into account by looking at their program outcomes to ensure that they are financially healthy, in compliance with HUD regulations, and helping those critically in need. By using a CoC constructed ranking and review tool, points are assigned to certain criteria based on the severity of needs

4. Our CoC prioritizes chronic homelessness, mental health, and substance abuse when ranking projects, as well as adherence to the Housing First Model. Those projects that address a combination of the most vulnerable clients who suffer from the above issues AND have low barriers to housing are prioritized.

1E-3.	Advancing Racial Equity through Participation of Over-Represented Populations in the Local Competition Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.e.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC used the input from persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, to determine the rating factors used to review project applications;
2.	how your CoC included persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population in the review, selection, and ranking process; and
3.	how your CoC rated and ranked projects based on the degree to which their project has identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. To provide all individuals and families equal access to necessary housing and services, the Western Virginia CoC has adopted policies and procedures to ensure no one seeking services from the CoC is discriminated against. The CoC’s applications included questions asking how applicants are evaluating and addressing racial inequities in program outcomes.

2. The VA-513 CoC has demonstrated commitment to improving racial equity in its policies and programs, via strategic planning, community engagement, and resources. The CoC scoring tools ensure the applicants data is consistent and representative of the homeless population in our area.

3. During the ranking process, the Ad Hoc Committee, which is of representatives from different sectors, rated projects based on the degree to which applicants addressed the local homelessness population equitably. To provide all individuals and families equal access to necessary housing and services, the Western Virginia CoC has adopted policies and procedures to ensure no one seeking services from the CoC is discriminated against. The CoC’s applications included questions asking how applicants are evaluating and addressing racial inequities in program outcomes. This information was incorporated in the Ranking committee’s consideration for project ranking.

1E-4.	Reallocation—Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	your CoC’s reallocation process, including how your CoC determined which projects are candidates for reallocation because they are low performing or less needed;
2.	whether your CoC identified any low performing or less needed projects through the process described in element 1 of this question during your CoC’s local competition this year;
3.	whether your CoC reallocated any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year; and
4.	why your CoC did not reallocate low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year, if applicable.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA-513 CoC’s reallocation policy provides for the reallocation of renewal CoC project funds to new or expansion CoC projects based on whether the renewal project is meeting the CoC’s performance-based criteria and local needs, as identified through the data. The policy also allows for reallocation in the event that a renewal project sub-recipient no longer plans to continue the project or no longer needs the funds to operate the project. The Ranking and Prioritization Committee will review renewal projects, based on the outlined criteria, and determine if any projects are low performing and warrant partial or full reallocation of funds for a new project. The Executive Committee will then review the decision and determine whether or not funds should be released through the competitive reallocation process, with all deliberations and final decision documented in the meeting minutes

2. No relocation project was approved this year

3. No relocation project was approved this year

4. Each renewal project was evaluated using the CoC Scoring Tool on the project application submitted, the APR outcomes, data entered into HMIS and its data quality, expenditure of CoC grant funds, and other HUD-recommended data tools. Due to a large portion of renewal funding generated from the main permanent supportive housing operation in the CoC region, and good outcomes, no renewal funds were reallocated.

1E-4a.	Reallocation Between FY 2018 and FY 2023.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

	Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2018 and FY 2023?	Yes
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1E-5.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

1.	Did your CoC reject any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
2.	Did your CoC reduce funding for any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
3.	Did your CoC inform applicants why your CoC rejected or reduced their project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
4.	If you selected Yes for element 1 or element 2 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, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2023, 06/27/2023, and 06/28/2023, then you must enter 06/28/2023.	

1E-5a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New and Renewal Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2023, 06/27/2023, and 06/28/2023, then you must enter 06/28/2023.	09/11/2023
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1E-5b.	Local Competition Selection Results for All Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Selection Results attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Does your attachment include: 1. Project Names; 2. Project Scores; 3. Project accepted or rejected status; 4. Project Rank–if accepted; 5. Requested Funding Amounts; and 6. Reallocated funds.	Yes
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1E-5c.	Web Posting of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application 2 Days Before CoC Program Competition Application Submission Deadline.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g. and 24 CFR 578.95.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC posted the CoC-approved Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or partner’s website–which included: 1. the CoC Application; and 2. Priority Listings for Reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.	09/12/2023
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1E-5d.	Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders that the CoC-Approved Consolidated Application is Posted on Website.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified community members and key stakeholders that the CoC-approved Consolidated Application was posted on your CoC’s website or partner’s website.	09/26/2023
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2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2A-1.	HMIS Vendor.	
	Not Scored–For Information Only	

	Enter the name of the HMIS Vendor your CoC is currently using.	Wellsky Community Services
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2A-2.	HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.	
	Not Scored–For Information Only	

	Select from dropdown menu your CoC's HMIS coverage area.	Single CoC
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2A-3.	HIC Data Submission in HDX.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.a.	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2023 HIC data into HDX.	04/28/2023
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2A-4.	Comparable Database for DV Providers–CoC and HMIS Lead Supporting Data Collection and Data Submission by Victim Service Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.b.	

	In the field below:	
	1. describe actions your CoC and HMIS Lead have taken to ensure DV housing and service providers in your CoC collect data in HMIS comparable databases;	
	2. state whether DV housing and service providers in your CoC are using a HUD-compliant comparable database–compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards; and	

3. state whether your CoC's HMIS is compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC utilizes de-identified aggregate data from a comparable database for the HUD APR and HIC, as well as the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development grant reports. Internally, the CoC uses the data for analyzing trends and issues, increasing understanding of utilization and capacity issues, and determining the allocation of resources. The CoC HMIS administrator collaborates with DV provider staff to emphasize the importance of timely and accurate participation in an HMIS database, and DV providers are able to receive additional training and support for their HMIS-equivalent database from Action Alliance (see #2).

2. The database that the CoC's DV shelters use is operated through the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance, which includes an HMIS-comparable component as part of their existing "VAdata" database. The CoC collaborates with Action Alliance to ensure that all FY 2022 HMIS data standards are met.

3. Yes. The VA -513 CoC is compliant with the 2022 HMIS Data Standards through its use of WellSky's HMIS implementation and the VAdata HMIS-comparable implementation, and all agencies receive training that complies with FY 2022 data standards.

2A-5. Bed Coverage Rate—Using HIC, HMIS Data—CoC Merger Bonus Points.
NOFO Section V.B.3.c. and V.B.7.

Enter 2023 HIC and HMIS data in the chart below by project type:

Project Type	Total Year-Round Beds in 2023 HIC	Total Year-Round Beds in HIC Operated by Victim Service Providers	Total Year-Round Beds in HMIS	HMIS Year-Round Bed Coverage Rate
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	282	74	69	33.17%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	0	0	0	
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	0	0	0	
4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	42	16	26	100.00%
5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	119	0	119	100.00%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	0	0	0	

2A-5a. Partial Credit for Bed Coverage Rates at or Below 84.99 for Any Project Type in Question 2A-5.
NOFO Section V.B.3.c.

For each project type with a bed coverage rate that is at or below 84.99 percent in question 2A-5, describe:

1. steps your CoC will take over the next 12 months to increase the bed coverage rate to at least 85 percent for that project type; and
2. how your CoC will implement the steps described to increase bed coverage to at least 85 percent.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. HMIS participation has suffered in the past two years due to limited agency capacity and rapid staff turnover. While the Western Virginia CoC has been able to retain high HMIS participation among agencies that received HUD funding to support that task for RRH and PSH programs, ES programs without state and federal support have little incentive or capacity to participate in HMIS, resulting in a very low HMIS participation rate for non-DV emergency shelter programs. This problem is concentrated in three of our largest shelters, which have inventory between 40-48 beds each and limited staff capacity to enter data in HMIS. Since submitting the HIC in April 2023, the HMIS administrator has already provided additional targeted support and staff training in HMIS and regularly communicates the importance of HMIS participation. As a result, two of these three shelters have resumed participation following the 2023 HIC submission.

2. With the re-commitment of these two providers, current HMIS participation rate for year-round emergency shelter beds is now approximately 75%. If successful, re-commitment of the third shelter will result in 98% participation by 2024. To encourage re-commitment beyond staff training and outreach by the HMIS administrator, the CoC's Data and Performance Committee is also targeting the distribution of technology and equipment resources toward these agencies to promote HMIS participation by providing tablets and wifi hotspots that enable direct entry into HMIS upon intake. This reduces the staff time required from shelters to first complete a paper assessment that is then entered into the HMIS database.

2A-6.	Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX 2.0.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.d.	
	You must upload your CoC's FY 2023 HDX Competition Report to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	
	Did your CoC submit at least two usable LSA data files to HUD in HDX 2.0 by February 28, 2023, 8 p.m. EST?	Yes

2B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2B-1.	PIT Count Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2023 PIT count.	01/25/2023
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2B-2.	PIT Count Data–HDX Submission Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2023 PIT count data in HDX.	04/28/2023
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2B-3.	PIT Count–Effectively Counting Youth in Your CoC’s Most Recent Unsheltered PIT Count.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.b.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
	1. engaged unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations in your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process;	
	2. worked with unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations to select locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified during your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process; and	
	3. included youth experiencing homelessness as counters during your CoC’s most recent unsheltered PIT count.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. For the past two years, the CoC’s PIT count has encountered a low percentage of youths (approximately 3.5% of the total in both 2023 and 2022). This is below the youth share of the overall homeless population in our CoC, which Stella P reports as 9% in the 2022 LSA submission. To correct for this dip in representation, the CoC’s Data and Performance Committee is inviting staff at emergency shelters that serve youth populations to revise and approve the PIT count survey tool prior to the 2024 count. This has already resulted in improvements like simplifying wording and providing guidance language that makes the interview more personable and informal. The CoC will also increase the value of the thank-you gift to compensate people experiencing homelessness for the time that it takes to complete the survey as an incentive to participate.

2. Beyond a general call for volunteers from the community, the HMIS administrator in charge of the PIT count specifically reached out to street outreach agencies, addiction recovery agencies, day shelters, emergency shelters, and other local agencies engaged in serving the local population experiencing homelessness, especially youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness. In addition to conducting the PIT count survey, individuals from these agencies have ongoing knowledge of unsheltered locations where youth are likely to congregate, as well as lived experience regarding strategies to approach youth in a respectful and non-threatening way. These experts serve as team leads for the PIT count volunteers, promoting better engagement throughout the day of the PIT count and increasing the geographic scope of our survey into unsheltered locations. Unfortunately, due to bad weather on the day of January 25, 2023, many of these teams were unable to canvas in these informal locations despite plans to do so.

3. Although the volunteer pool included staff from organizations serving youth populations experiencing homelessness and youth from the local community, it did not include youth experiencing homelessness as counters themselves. This will be an action to adopt and improve upon in the 2024 count and beyond.

2B-4.	PIT Count–Methodology Change–CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.a and V.B.7.c.	

	In the field below:	
	1. describe any changes your CoC made to your sheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2022 and 2023, if applicable;	
	2. describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2022 and 2023, if applicable; and	
	3. describe how the changes affected your CoC’s PIT count results; or	
	4. state “Not Applicable” if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2023.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The sheltered PIT count is compiled through a combination of HMIS reports and a manually-aggregated report for emergency shelter agencies not participating in HMIS. This portion of the survey remained largely the same from 2022 to 2023, although regional breakdowns within the CoC were also compiled from HMIS data for better internal comparison of PIT count trends within the rural and urban areas of the CoC. Despite a similar methodology, the total sheltered count decreased dramatically due to the end of funding support for hotel voucher programs that had resulted in a higher count in 2022.

2. For the unsheltered portion of the PIT count, VA-513 CoC expanded the volunteer pool that was identified, trained volunteers through a series of group meetings, and planned the logistics of the count locations and times in collaboration with local partner agencies that have ongoing knowledge of the population experiencing homelessness. Although the CoC had planned to expand the number of unsheltered locations to be targeted for canvassing, severe winter weather limited the implementation of this plan on January 25, 2023.

3. As a result of these two factors – decreased funding for sheltered homelessness and bad weather limiting implementation of the unsheltered survey – the Western Virginia (VA-513) CoC reported nearly a 25% decline in the 2023 PIT count (n=320) compared to 2022 (n=426). However, the 2023 count is above both the median (289) and average (300) of the past 10 years. The 2022 PIT count is an outlier that indicates the degree of “hidden homelessness” that is present in the community but usually uncounted due to limited service capacity. Despite these limitations, the unsheltered portion of the PIT count in 2023 (7%) was similar to that of 2022 (6%). Better outreach to unsheltered youth in 2024 may actually increase this share in 2024 as our CoC expands its outreach and services to connect unsheltered individuals.

2C. System Performance

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless–Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b.	

In the field below:

1.	describe how your CoC determined the risk factors to identify persons experiencing homelessness for the first time;
2.	describe your CoC’s strategies to address 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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA-513 Centralized Housing Intake (CHI) conducts an assessment with individuals over the phone to determine the individual's risk of becoming homeless for the first time. Factors for first-time homelessness include an eminent threat of homelessness (such as an eviction notice, 5-day pay-or-quit notice, or order of possession), a lack of social and economic resources and safety nets, and no history of homelessness in the past three years. These factors were determined in a collaborative process through the CoC's Best Practices committee in conjunction with the agencies operating the Centralized Housing Intake system.

2. If an individual has 14 days until their eviction, agencies can utilize prevention services and funds from the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program to help keep the individual from becoming homeless. CHI and CoC agencies also connect individuals with resource organizations, such as the Valley Assistance Network and the Harrisonburg Community Resource Center, to aid them in accessing additional preventative resources including but not limited to material resources, rental payment and utilities assistance, food items, mainstream benefit application assistance, and other services. The CoC is also exploring additional ways to assess the number of doubled-up households and other populations that are not yet homeless but may be at increased risk of becoming so. Finally, The CoC is developing new resource materials to distribute at food pantries, thrift stores, and other locations where households that are not yet homeless can contact the CHI and engage in preventive services before becoming homeless.

3. The VA-513 CoC Executive Committee oversees the strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time, which combines actions and support from the CoC coordinator, the centralized housing intake (CHI) system, and the CoC's Best Practices Committee, and the Lead Agency, which together oversee this strategy and examine ways to improve.

2C-1a.	Impact of Displaced Persons on Number of First Time Homeless.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b	

Was your CoC's Number of First Time Homeless [metric 5.2] affected by the number of persons seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance displaced due to:
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1.	natural disasters?	No
2.	having recently arrived in your CoCs' geographic area?	No

2C-2.	Length of Time Homeless—CoC's Strategy to Reduce.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.c.	

In the field below:
1. describe your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;
2. describe 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.
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(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA-513 has established performance standards that are reviewed by the Compliance and Evaluation Committee, which monitors and evaluates outcomes. The Best Practices Committee also reviews the performance standards to ensure they comply with grant regulations and best practices for determining outcomes. This year, the VA-513 CoC has implemented a by-name list and case conferencing process to clearly identify individuals experiencing homelessness, connect with them to better understand their unique challenges, and bring agencies together to work collaboratively in addressing these issues and helping them get housed as quickly as possible.

2. The by-name list enables the VA-513 CoC to identify those individuals with the longest length of homelessness and works to address their unique needs. This list is derived primarily from HMIS, with manual additions allowed to incorporate information about first-time and long-term homeless from agencies not participating in HMIS.

3. Currently, the VA-513 Executive Committee, with support from the CoC coordinator and Lead Agency oversees this strategy and develops ways to improve programming, with support from the Data and Performance Committee.

2C-3.	Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations/Retention of Permanent Housing—CoC's Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.d.	

In the field below:

1.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
2.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The VA-513 is a diverse continuum with resources available in different locations with unique issues and barriers. This restricts the CoC from creating a uniform policy to address the needs of the homeless population across the region. However, to best address the needs of those experiencing homelessness, agencies conduct assessments and identify individual housing needs to determine the best resources for a positive outcome. The Compliance and Evaluation Committee, along with the Executive Committee, continues to examine data with the support of the HMIS Administrator to identify improvement areas and provide individual agencies as needed.

2. CoC agencies work to ensure the appropriate level of supportive services is available to help attain housing stability. The CoC partnerships with North Western CSB and Harrisonburg CSB for example have resulted in a demonstrated increased housing stability, improved health, and cost effectiveness by lowering public costs associated with the use of crisis services. Furthermore, key housing stability outcomes such as exit rate to permanent housing, permanent housing retention rate, return to homelessness rate, etc. are tracked by the CoC's HMIS Administrator and reported annually to the CoC leadership for inclusion in the CoC's annual strategic plan. Improvement plan and action steps are assigned to all 5 standing committees based on goals identified in the strategic plan, and assessment methods are identified to support attainment of the desired outcome.

3. Currently, the VA-513 CoC Executive Committee leads the CoC's strategy plan and annual goals, with support from the CoC staff, namely, the CoC Coordinator and HMIS Administrator and standing committees.

2C-4.	Returns to Homelessness—CoC's Strategy to Reduce Rate.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.e.	

In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2.	describe 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)

1. Currently, the VA-513 CoC is working on a policy to identify and address recidivism. Along with this policy, multiple providers within the CoC administer state Rapid Re-housing funds to help families on the verge of returning to homelessness maintain their housing. Additionally, the HMIS Administrator and CoC committees review data to determine trends and issues around recidivism and ways to address those findings as a CoC. The by-name case conferencing list is a primary way to identify and coordinate resources around individuals and families who return to homelessness, as well as the centralized housing intake (CHI) coordinated entry system.

2. The VA-513 CoC utilizes various tools to reduce the rate of recidivism. With funding for PSH, RRH, TBRA, and HCV within the CoC and administered by participating agencies, there are multiple funding assistance options for individuals struggling to maintain and/or keep housing. Agencies look at each client's individual needs to determine the best housing plan that will keep them permanently housed. To help individuals to stay permanently housed, agencies have increased partnership with supportive services to provide the necessary wrap-around services, again based on the client's individual needs. This year, the VA-513 CoC also trained agency staff and implemented the VI-SPDAT tool to ensure client's referrals for housing support are effective. Some providers have also adopted peer support networks for individuals who moved out of homelessness into housing, which fosters a positive social network that promotes socio-emotional health.

3. Currently, the VA-513 CoC Executive Committee leads the CoC's strategy plan and annual goals, with support from the CoC staff, namely, the CoC Coordinator and HMIS Administrator and standing committees.

2C-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income—CoC's Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to access employment cash sources;	
2.	describe how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their employment 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)

1. This is a new area of data the VA-513 CoC is looking at to see how we can best gather, review, and develop strategies for helping individuals utilizing CoC-funded programs increase their income. Currently, this is addressed on a one-on-one basis at individual agencies.

2. The CoC Lead Agency participates in the Workforce Development Board meetings and shares information at CoC meetings that are relevant to agencies. Additionally, individual agencies and their staff connect with the Workforce Development Board and other services to refer clients to appropriate employment opportunities, attend job fairs, and also provide necessary assistance for clients to meet their employment goals. This FY, the CoC initiated a partnership with Network2Work, a job network that connects job seekers to skills and resources they need, and connects them to quality jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. The network partners with resource providers, such as childcare, transportation, housing, core skills education, mental health, food security, etc. to address common barriers which often prevent low and no-wage individuals from securing employment and leverage relationships with regional employers to facilitate placement. Participating agency staff can also join the network to act as “Connectors” on the platform. Additional information-sharing about job opportunities occurs informally during CoC committee meetings and particularly during the monthly by-name case conferencing calls.

3. The VA-513 CoC Executive Committee leads the CoC’s strategy plan and annual goals, with support from the CoC staff, namely, the CoC Coordinator and HMIS Administrator and appropriate committees.

2C-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income—CoC’s Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe your CoC’s strategy to access non-employment cash income; and	
	2. 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)

1. Led by the Northwestern Community Service Board, agencies in the CoC have been provided the opportunity to attend training and become SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) certified. With this certification, agencies can best address the needs of clients who are unable to work full-time and assist them with obtaining non-employment cash income. Assistance for clients is facilitated at an agency level. Through SOAR-certified agency staff and partnerships with the local Department of Social Services agencies, CoC participating agencies work within their community to identify and promote the services that will increase access to non-employment cash sources for clients.

2. The VA-513 CoC Executive Committee leads the CoC’s strategy plan and annual goals, with support from the CoC staff, namely, the CoC Coordinator and HMIS Administrator and appropriate committees.

3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Housing Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.a.	
	You must upload the Housing Leveraging Commitment attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses housing subsidies or subsidized housing units which are not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	No
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3A-2.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Healthcare Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.b.	
	You must upload the Healthcare Formal Agreements attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	No
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3A-3.	Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.6.a. and V.B.6.b.	
	If you selected yes to questions 3A-1. or 3A-2., use the list feature icon to enter information about each project application you intend for HUD to evaluate to determine if they meet the criteria.	

Project Name	Project Type	Rank Number	Leverage Type
This list contains no items			

3B. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	

Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project application requesting \$200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction?	No
--	----

3B-2.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	

If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below actions CoC Program-funded project applicants will take to comply with:

1.	Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u); and
2.	HUD’s implementing rules at 24 CFR part 75 to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very-low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very-low-income persons.

(limit 2,500 characters)

N/A

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

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3C-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

	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
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3C-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

If you answered yes to question 3C-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)

N/A

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants for New DV Bonus Funding

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

4A-1.	New DV Bonus Project Applications.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.	

	Did your CoC submit one or more new project applications for DV Bonus Funding?	No
Applicant Name		
This list contains no items		

4B. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

We have provided 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. 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. After you upload each attachment, use the Download feature to access and check the attachment to ensure it matches the required Document Type and to ensure it contains all pages you intend to include.
8. Only use the "Other" attachment option to meet an attachment requirement that is not otherwise listed in these detailed instructions.

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1C-7. PHA Homeless Preference	No		
1C-7. PHA Moving On Preference	No		
1D-11a. Letter Signed by Working Group	Yes	Lived Experience ...	09/26/2023
1D-2a. Housing First Evaluation	Yes	VA-513 Grantee Th...	09/26/2023
1E-1. Web Posting of Local Competition Deadline	Yes	VA-513 NOFO Compe...	09/26/2023
1E-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes	VA-513 NOFO Score...	09/26/2023
1E-2a. Scored Forms for One Project	Yes	VA-513 Consolidat...	09/26/2023
1E-5. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes	VA-513-Notificati...	09/26/2023
1E-5a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes	VA-513-Notificati...	09/26/2023
1E-5b. Local Competition Selection Results	Yes	VA-513-Priority L...	09/26/2023
1E-5c. Web Posting—CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes		

1E-5d. Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes	VA-513-Notificati...	09/26/2023
2A-6. HUD's Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) Competition Report	Yes		
3A-1a. Housing Leveraging Commitments	No		
3A-2a. Healthcare Formal Agreements	No		
3C-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
Other	No		

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description: Lived Experience Advisory Committee-Letter of Support

Attachment Details

Document Description: VA-513 Grantee Threshold Requirements

Attachment Details

Document Description: VA-513 NOFO Competition Deadline Announcement

Attachment Details

Document Description: VA-513 NOFO Scorecard

Attachment Details

Document Description: VA-513 Consolidated Scorecard-PSH

Attachment Details

Document Description: VA-513-Notification of Project Acceptance-PSH

Attachment Details

Document Description: VA-513-Notification of Project Acceptance-
Amended

Attachment Details

Document Description: VA-513-Priority Listing-Amended

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description: VA-513-Notification of Approved Consolidated Application

Attachment Details

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Submission Summary

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

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	07/31/2023
1B. Inclusive Structure	09/26/2023
1C. Coordination and Engagement	09/26/2023
1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd	09/26/2023
1E. Project Review/Ranking	09/26/2023
2A. HMIS Implementation	09/26/2023
2B. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count	09/26/2023
2C. System Performance	09/26/2023
3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare	09/26/2023
3B. Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs	09/26/2023
3C. Serving Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes	09/26/2023

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants	09/26/2023
4B. Attachments Screen	Please Complete
Submission Summary	No Input Required



P.O Box 1071 Harrisonburg, VA 22802
☎: (540) 434-7386 ext. 1106
📠: (540) 432-1113

September 19, 2023

Michael G. Wong
Chair, Executive Committee
Western Virginia Continuum of Care
143 Reservoir St.
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

RE: Support to Western Continuum of Care

Dear Mr. Wong:

As representative of the Lived Experience Advisory Committee of the Western Virginia Continuum of Care (CoC), I am writing in support of the CoC's application for the FY 2023 HUD CoC NOFO funding Competition.

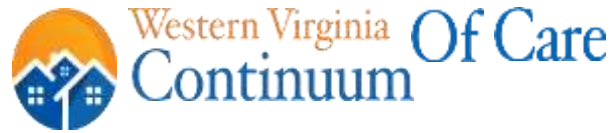
The fact of having been associated to the management of the CoC as member of its Executive Committee since January 2022, attests to the Western Virginia CoC's commitment to promote inclusive-decision making and incorporate lived expertise in program design and services.

Together as members of the Lived Experience Advisory Committee, we are in full support of the Western Virginia CoC's application, and believe that the CoC's funding priorities and goals are consistent with HUD's priorities and the broader Federal Strategic Plan to prevent and end homelessness.

Sincerely,

Mandie Bishop

Mandie Bishop
Chair
Lived Experience Advisory Committee
Western Virginia Continuum of Care

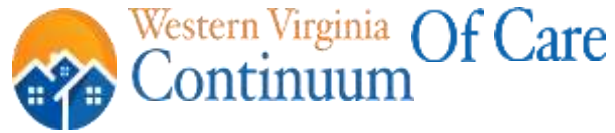


New Grantee Threshold Requirements

It is a HUD's requirement for all new projects to meet the following requirements in order to receive funding through the Continuum of Care collaborative application process for the Federal NOFA/NOFO grant to meet the following threshold requirements:

For more information on eligibility threshold, please read the [full FY 2023 NOFO](#).

1. **Maintain Necessary Funding Registration Numbers:** The organization has the required DUNS and SAM numbers necessary for receiving state and federal funding.
2. **Acceptable organizational audit/financial review:** Organization's HUD audit or financial review does not contain findings or other indications of financial or accounting problems. A copy of the most recent financial audit/review must be submitted to the Chair of the Compliance and Evaluation Committee. Geographic Coverage: The organization operates in the CoC's covered geography. This includes: Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties, as well as the cities of Harrisonburg and Winchester.
3. **Eligible Program Types:** The organization request must qualify as an eligible program(s) and adhere to the program guidelines, as described in the DHCD HSNH Guidelines. Eligible program types include: Street Outreach, Centralized or Coordinated Assessment/Entry, Prevention, Emergency Shelter Operations, and/or Rapid Re-housing.
4. **Housing First and/or Low Barrier:** The program is designed and implemented using Housing First principles including: no preconditions or barriers to entry except as required by funding sources, and provision of necessary supports to maintain housing and prevent a return to homelessness.
5. **Serve vulnerable populations and fills housing need:** The organization serves the CoC's vulnerable subpopulations, as determined by the Western Virginia CoC's prioritization policy, which have been identified as chronic, veteran, DV victims, HIV/AIDS homeless, and families with children. Additionally, the organization fills a housing need gap within the CoC's covered geography.
6. **Active CoC participant and in conformance with CoC standards:** The organization meets CoC engagement requirements for at least one year prior to the effective date of this document, by:
 - i. participating in general CoC meetings (75% attendance) and voting on CoC matters;
 - ii. active membership, by organization staff, on a least two committees (75% attendance);
 - iii. participate in coordinated entry and HMIS, and;
 - iv. adapt best practices, as well as conform to CoC standards for performance.



7. **Active HMIS database participant:** Participate in HMIS and adhere to HMIS guidelines (For DV organizations ONLY: utilizing HMIS compatible database, ie. VADData) for at least 6 months prior to funding request application.
8. **Submit all required certifications as specified in the NOFO.**
9. **Coordinated Entry Participation:** The organization participates in coordinated entry in compliance with HUD's and the CoC's Coordinated Entry Policies and has participated for at least six months, prior to funding request.
10. **Funding is appropriate:** Organization is requesting appropriate funds per program(s) and the request are in line with CoC Funding Priorities.
11. **Program is financially feasible:** Program has funding commitments equal to or exceeding program budget. VHSP grant funding cannot fund 100% of program costs.
12. **Documented, secured minimum match:** Organization has 25% match commitments that satisfy HUD's Program Rule requirements for source and amount.

If you are experiencing homelessness or will lose housing in the next 10-14 days, call our centralized housing intake at: [\(540\) 271-1701](tel:5402711701)



[GET STARTED](#)

NOFO. Applicants should also check this website often as the grant information is updated on a regular basis.

FY2023 HUD CoC NOFO

The Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) is the Lead Agency for the Western Virginia Continuum of Care (CoC), and is responsible in this capacity for coordinating, preparing, and submitting the annual CoC Collaborative Application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Annual Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was released by HUD on Wednesday, July 5, making \$3,134,000,000 in FY 2023 CoC competitive funding available to homeless services organizations across the country.

This year's application is due to HUD by no later than 8:00 p.m., ET on September 28, 2023. It is a HUD requirement for all project applications to be submitted to the CoC no later than 30 days before HUD's CoC Program application submission deadline of September 28. Therefore, all project applications will be due to the CoC via e-snaps no later than August 28, 2023.

We encourage organizations to review the NOFO for a list of eligible expansion and new projects they would like to apply for and refer to the competition timeline accessible under the NOFO Funding Resources for detail on the competitive application process and application preparation guidelines.

An informational meeting for new and renewal applicants will be held at the August 10th General Meeting, a virtual connection via Zoom will also be made available for those unable to join in-person.





FY2023 NOFO Score Card

This project scorecard will be completed for each project applying for funding through HUD's CoC Program Competition. The scoring criteria are directly related to HUD's CoC System Performance Measurements (which are based on data entered into the CoC's HMIS) and the CoC's specific needs and vulnerabilities. The overall score of the CoC Applicant directly relates to how much funding HUD awards to a CoC, including funding for Tier 2 and new projects.

Project Name:

Organization Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Program Type:

- Rapid Re-Housing Supportive Services Only Permanent Supportive Housing
- HMIS DV: Supportive Services Only DV: Rapid Re-Housing
- Joint Transitional Housing (TH) and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
- TH: Transitional Housing

Project Type:

- New Renewal Expansion

CoC Threshold Requirements

Please check "Yes," "No," or "N/A" for each question to determine if the project application meets the threshold requirements. All threshold requirements must be answered in order to move forward through the competition. Yes = 15 pts.; No = 0 pts.; N/A = no points available.

Threshold Requirements	Yes	No	N/A
Eligible Project Type: The applicant must qualify as an eligible project. Eligible project types include: PSH, RRH, DV-RRH, TH, Joint TH-RRH, HMIS (for HMIS Lead only).			
Coordinated Entry Participation: The project participates, or intends to, in the coordinated entry in compliance with HUD's and the CoC's Coordinated Entry Policies (excludes HMIS).			
Geographic Coverage: The applicant operates in the CoC's covered geography. This includes: Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren counties, as well as the cities of Harrisonburg and Winchester.			
Threshold Requirements (cont'd)	Yes	No	N/A



Low Barrier: The project is designed and implemented using Low Barrier principles, including no preconditions to entry except as required by funding sources and provision of necessary supports to maintain housing and prevent a return to homelessness (excludes HMIS).			
Housing First: The project is designed and implemented to prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and ensures program participants experience low barriers to entry without preconditions and regardless of: (a) little or too little income; (b) active or history of substance abuse; (c) having a criminal record with exceptions for restrictions imposed by federal, state, or local law or ordinance (e.g., restrictions on serving people who are listed on sex offender registries); or (d) history of victimization (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse).			
Healthcare Enrollment Effective Utilization: The project assists persons experiencing homelessness with enrolling in public health care benefits (State or Federal benefits, Medicaid, Indian Health Services), Private Insurers, Nonprofit, Philanthropic, and others. If yes, please indicate which services apply.			
Documented, secured minimum match: Applicant has 25% match commitments that satisfy CoC Program Rule requirements for source and amount.			
Project is financially feasible: Project has funding commitments equal to or exceeding the project budget.			
Active CoC participant and in conformance with CoC standards: Applicant meets CoC engagement requirements by participating in meetings, on committees, in coordinated entry and HMIS, voting, and adopting best practices, as well as conforming to CoC standards for performance.			
Application is complete, and data are consistent: All required information is completed, and all required attachments are provided. Data provided in response to different questions match.			
Threshold Requirements (cont'd)	Yes	No	N/A
Meet reporting deadlines: Applicant meets deadlines for submitting HUD- and CoC-required reports such as the Annual Performance Report (APR) and Annual Review (PSH only).			
Data quality at or above 90%: Data elements required by HUD and the CoC have a 90% or higher completion rate.			N/A



<p>Bed/unit utilization rate at or above 90%: Beds or units in the project are occupied 90% or more of the operating year. For family shelters, this will be by unit (excludes HMIS).</p>			N/A
<p>Acceptable organizational audit/financial review: Applicant's HUD audit or financial review does not contain findings or other indications of financial or accounting problems.</p>			
<p>Documented organizational financial stability: Applicant's financial statements for the previous fiscal year demonstrates financial stability to support the operation of the project during the next operating year.</p>			
<p>Safety measures implemented (DV only): Applicant ensures clients' safety (e.g., alarm system, security cameras, protecting client data in a comparable database, transfer plan).</p>			
<p>Serve vulnerable populations and fills housing needs: Applicant serves the CoC's vulnerable subpopulations, which have been identified as chronic, veteran, DV victims, HIV/AIDS homeless, and families with children. Additionally, the applicant fills a housing need gap within the CoC's covered geography.</p>			

Subtotal: _____ out of 255 pts

Additional comments:



FY 2023 NOFO Score Card

Project Effectiveness

Project Type	Rating Factor	Data Source	Performance Point Scale	Score
RRH, PSH, TH	The project has reasonable costs per permanent housing exit (if renewal project, assess current spend-down rate).	Divide total project costs (collected from each project using a standardized tool that accounts for housing, services, and administrative costs) by the number of permanent housing exits (APR Q 23c)	Fully met = 10 Partially met = 5 Not met = 0	
RRH, PSH, TH,	Coordinated Entry Participation – 95% of entries to project from CE referral (or an alternative system for DV projects)	Local data if available (Note: this measure will be fully implemented in FY 2021).	≥ 95% = 10 pts 90% - 94% = 8 pts 80% - 89% = 6 pts 70% - 79% = 4 pts 60% - 69% = 2 pts 50% - 59% = 1 pt < 50% = 0 pts	
RRH, PSH, TH	Housing First and/or Low Barrier	CoC assessment of fidelity to Housing First from CoC monitoring or review of project policies and procedures	Yes = 10 pts No = 0 pts N/A = no points available	

Subtotal: _____ out of 30 pts

Additional comments:



FY 2023 NOFO Score Card

Project Performance

The HMIS Lead Agency will provide data based on APR provided by the agency. DVs will provide alternative system-created reports.

Project Type	Rating Factor	Data Source	Performance Point Scale	Score
<i>Length of Stay</i>				
RRH, TH	On average, participants spend 14 days or less from project entry to housing move-in	APR Q22c	100% = 20 pts 99% - 80% = 15 pts ≤ 79 % = 0 pts N/A = no points available.	
<i>Exit to Permanent Housing</i>				
RRH, TH	90% of leavers move to permanent housing	APR Q23c	100% - 90% = 25 pts 89% - 80% = 15 pts ≤ 79% = 0 pts N/A = no points available.	
PSH, TH	90% of leavers remain in or move to permanent housing	Calculation: 1) Subtract leavers to all destinations (APR Q23c) from the number of participants (APR Q7a) to determine the number of stayers; 2) Add leavers to permanent housing destinations (APR Q23c); 3) Add stayers (Step 1) and leavers to permanent housing destinations (Step 2) and divide by the number of participants (APR Q7a)	100% - 90% = 25 pts 89% - 80% = 15 pts ≤ 79% = 0 pts N/A = no points available.	
<i>Returns to Homelessness</i>				
RRH, PSH, TH	8% or less of participants return to homelessness within 12 months of exit to permanent housing	CoC System Performance Measure Report for last year, returns this year	≤ 8% = 5 pts 9% - 12% = 3 pts 13% - 24% = 2 pts > 25% = 0 pts	
<i>New or Increased Income or Earned Income</i>				



PSH, TH	Percent of participants with increased total income for project stayers	APR Q19a1 (This question only collects information for participants who have been in the project for 365+ days. A local report with more complete data can be substituted.)	$\geq 70\% = 7$ pts $60\% - 69\% = 6$ pts $50\% - 59\% = 5$ pts $40\% - 49\% = 4$ pts $30\% - 39\% = 3$ pts $20\% - 29\% = 2$ pts $10\% - 19\% = 1$ pt $< 9\% = 0$ pts	
PSH, TH	Percent of participants with increased earned income for project stayers	APR Q19a1 (This question only collects information for participants who have been in the project for 365+ days. A local report with more complete data can be substituted.)	$\geq 50\% = 5$ pts $36\% - 49\% = 4$ pts $24\% - 35\% = 3$ pts $16\% - 23\% = 2$ pts $8\% - 15\% = 1$ pt $< 7\% = 0$ points	

Subtotal: _____ out of 87 pts

Additional comments:

Total score out of 372 pts

Name of Reviewer: _____

Title, Organization: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



FY2023 NOFO Score Card

This project scorecard will be completed for each project applying for funding through HUD's CoC Program Competition. The scoring criteria are directly related to HUD's CoC System Performance Measurements (which are based on data entered into the CoC's HMIS) and the CoC's specific needs and vulnerabilities. The overall score of the CoC Applicant directly relates to how much funding HUD awards to a CoC, including funding for Tier 2 and new projects.

Project Name: NWCSB PSH Program for Chronically Homeless

Organization Name: Northwestern Community Service Board

Program Type:

- Program type options: Rapid Re-Housing, Supportive Services Only, Permanent Supportive Housing, HMIS, DV: Supportive Services Only, DV: Rapid Re-Housing, Joint Transitional Housing (TH) and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), TH: Transitional Housing.

Project Type:

- Project type options: New, Renewal, Expansion.

CoC Threshold Requirements

Please check "Yes," "No," or "N/A" for each question to determine if the project application meets the threshold requirements. All threshold requirements must be answered in order to move forward through the competition. Yes = 15 pts.; No = 0 pts.; N/A = no points available.

Table with 4 columns: Threshold Requirements, Yes, No, N/A. Rows include Eligible Project Type, Coordinated Entry Participation, and Geographic Coverage.



Threshold Requirements (cont'd)	Yes	No	N/A
<p>Low Barrier: The project is designed and implemented using Low Barrier principles, including no preconditions to entry except as required by funding sources and provision of necessary supports to maintain housing and prevent a return to homelessness (excludes HMIS).</p>	Yes (15)		
<p>Housing First: The project is designed and implemented to prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and ensures program participants experience low barriers to entry without preconditions and regardless of: (a) little or too little income; (b) active or history of substance abuse; (c) having a criminal record with exceptions for restrictions imposed by federal, state, or local law or ordinance (e.g., restrictions on serving people who are listed on sex offender registries); or (d) history of victimization (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse).</p>	Yes (15)		
<p>Healthcare Enrollment Effective Utilization: The project assists persons experiencing homelessness with enrolling in public health care benefits (State or Federal benefits, Medicaid, Indian Health Services), Private Insurers, Nonprofit, Philanthropic, and others. If yes, please indicate which services apply.</p>	Yes (15)		
<p>Documented, secured minimum match: Applicant has 25% match commitments that satisfy CoC Program Rule requirements for source and amount.</p>	Yes (15)		
<p>Project is financially feasible: Project has funding commitments equal to or exceeding the project budget.</p>	Yes (15)		
<p>Active CoC participant and in conformance with CoC standards: Applicant meets CoC engagement requirements by participating in meetings, on committees, in coordinated entry and HMIS, voting, and adopting best practices, as well as conforming to CoC standards for performance.</p>	Yes (15)		
<p>Application is complete, and data are consistent: All required information is completed, and all required attachments are provided. Data provided in response to different questions match.</p>	Yes (15)		



Threshold Requirements (cont'd)	Yes	No	N/A
Meet reporting deadlines: Applicant meets deadlines for submitting HUD- and CoC-required reports such as the Annual Performance Report (APR) and Annual Review (PSH only).		No (0)	
Data quality at or above 90%: Data elements required by HUD and the CoC have a 90% or higher completion rate.	Yes (99.8%) (15)		
Bed/unit utilization rate at or above 90%: Beds or units in the project are occupied 90% or more of the operating year. For family shelters, this will be by unit (excludes HMIS).	Yes (95%) (15)		
Acceptable organizational audit/financial review: Applicant's HUD audit or financial review does not contain findings or other indications of financial or accounting problems.	Yes (15)		
Documented organizational financial stability: Applicant's financial statements for the previous fiscal year demonstrates financial stability to support the operation of the project during the next operating year.	Yes (15)		
Safety measures implemented (DV only): Applicant ensures clients' safety (e.g., alarm system, security cameras, protecting client data in a comparable database, transfer plan).			N/A
Serve vulnerable populations and fills housing needs: Applicant serves the CoC's vulnerable subpopulations, which have been identified as chronic, veteran, DV victims, HIV/AIDS homeless, and families with children. Additionally, the applicant fills a housing need gap within the CoC's covered geography.	Yes (15)		

Subtotal: 225 out of 255 240 pts

Additional comments:



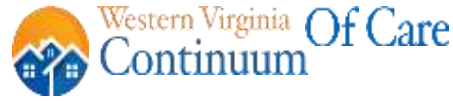
FY 2023 NOFO Score Card

Project Effectiveness

Project Type	Rating Factor	Data Source	Performance Point Scale	Score
RRH, PSH, TH	The project has reasonable costs per permanent housing exit (if renewal project, assess current spend-down rate).	Divide total project costs (collected from each project using a standardized tool that accounts for housing, services, and administrative costs) by the number of permanent housing exits (APR Q 23c)	Fully met = 10 Partially met = 5 Not met = 0 Total cost: \$292,834 Positive outcomes = 39 (36 stayers + 3 positive exits) Cost per person per year = \$7508.56	10
RRH, PSH, TH,	Coordinated Entry Participation – 95% of entries to project from CE referral (or an alternative system for DV projects)	Local data if available (Note: this measure will be fully implemented in FY 2021).	≥ 95% = 10 pts 90% - 94% = 8 pts 80% - 89% = 6 pts 70% - 79% = 4 pts 60% - 69% = 2 pts 50% - 59% = 1 pt < 50% = 0 pts	0 (25%)
RRH, PSH, TH	Housing First and/or Low Barrier	CoC assessment of fidelity to Housing First from CoC monitoring or review of project policies and procedures	Yes = 10 pts No = 0 pts N/A = no points available	10

Subtotal: 20 out of 30 pts

Additional comments:



FY 2023 NOFO Score Card

Project Performance

The HMIS Lead Agency will provide data based on APR provided by the agency. DVs will provide alternative system-created reports.

Project Type	Rating Factor	Data Source	Performance Point Scale	Score
<i>Length of Stay</i>				
RRH, TH	On average, participants spend 14 days or less from project entry to housing move-in	APR Q22c	100% = 20 pts 99% - 80% = 15 pts ≤ 79% = 0 pts N/A = no points available.	N/A
<i>Exit to Permanent Housing</i>				
RRH, TH	90% of leavers move to permanent housing	APR Q23c	100% - 90% = 25 pts 89% - 80% = 15 pts ≤ 79% = 0 pts N/A = no points available.	N/A
PSH, TH	90% of leavers remain in or move to permanent housing	Calculation: 1) Subtract leavers to all destinations (APR Q23c) from the number of participants (APR Q7a) to determine the number of stayers; 2) Add leavers to permanent housing destinations (APR Q23c); 3) Add stayers (Step 1) and leavers to permanent housing destinations (Step 2) and divide by the number of participants (APR Q7a)	100% - 90% = 25 pts 89% - 80% = 15 pts ≤ 79% = 0 pts N/A = no points available.	15* (87%)
<i>Returns to Homelessness</i>				
RRH, PSH, TH	8% or less of participants return to homelessness within 12 months of exit to permanent housing	CoC System Performance Measure Report for last year, returns this year	≤ 8% = 5 pts 9% - 12% = 3 pts 13% - 24% = 2 pts > 25% = 0 pts	0* (33%)



<i>New or Increased Income or Earned Income</i>				
PSH, TH	Percent of participants with increased total income for project stayers	APR Q19a1 (This question only collects information for participants who have been in the project for 365+ days. A local report with more complete data can be substituted.)	$\geq 70\% = 7$ pts $60\% - 69\% = 6$ pts 50% - 59% = 5 pts 40% - 49% = 4 pts 30% - 39% = 3 pts 20% - 29% = 2 pts 10% - 19% = 1 pt $< 9\% = 0$ pts	6 (66%)
PSH, TH	Percent of participants with increased earned income for project stayers	APR Q19a1 (This question only collects information for participants who have been in the project for 365+ days. A local report with more complete data can be substituted.)	$\geq 50\% = 5$ pts 36% - 49% = 4 pts 24% - 35% = 3 pts 16% - 23% = 2 pts $8\% - 15\% = 1$ pt $< 7\% = 0$ points	1 (10%)

Subtotal: 22 out of ~~87~~ 41 pts

Additional comments:

* if scored separately from the Chronic Homelessness PSH, the Community PSH program would have received 25 points for exits to permanent housing and 5 points for returns to homelessness instead of 15 and 0, respectively. This is due primarily to the small numbers of the chronic homeless program (n=5), where having only 2 non-permanent exits and 1 return to homeless account for the apparently high percentages of recidivism. Please consider this and the added challenges in retention and recidivism inherent to a program targeting chronically homeless individuals when considering these performance scores. (note by Kaitlin Heatwole, HMIS administrator).

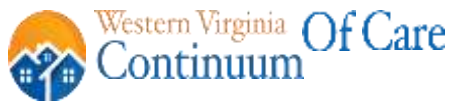
Total score out of ~~372~~ 311 pts: 267

Name of Reviewer: Click or tap here to enter text.

Title, Organization: Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature: _____

Date: Click or tap to enter a date.



P.O Box 1071 Harrisonburg, VA 22802

☎: (540) 434-7386 ext. 1106

📠: (540) 432-1113

September 11, 2023

Amanda Chapman
Housing Supervisor
Northwestern Community Services Board
170 Prosperity Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

Re: FY 2023 HUD CoC NOFO Competition
NWCSB Permanent Supportive Housing Project

Dear Ms. Chapman:

Thank you for participating in the FY 2023 Department of Housing and Urban Development CoC NOFO Competition, and submitting a renewal project application for your Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program through the Western Virginia Continuum of Care.

We are pleased to inform you that after review and ranking of project applications by an ad hoc committee of non-funded community members, your renewal PSH project application was approved for inclusion in the FY 23 CoC Consolidated Application, with a recommended funding amount of **\$228,091**, based on the following breakdown or ranking:

- **Tier 1:** \$202,804
- **Tier 2:** \$ 25,287

Adjustments were made to your funding request because the requested amount of \$330,884 is over **91%** of the CoC's [Estimated Annual Renewal Demand \(ARD\)](#), which currently stands at \$361,236, and almost equal to the Tier 1 renewal cap of \$335,949.

Please also note that your project *approval is conditional*, subject to justification of the funding source for the \$82,721 in-kind match reported in your application. This amendment needs to be made in *e-snaps* by no later than **9/13/2023**, to ensure that your application complies with CoC program interim rule and HUD regulations governing match.

The CoC's FY 2023 NOFO Funding Priority List, which includes the list of projects included in this year's Consolidate Application will be posted on the CoC website no later than 9/12/2023. Please contact us with any comment or questions.

Thank you again for submitting you project and satisfying all abiding requirements.

Sincerely,

David S Mutombo

David Mutombo
Continuum of Care Coordinator



P.O Box 1071 Harrisonburg, VA 22802
☎: (540) 434-7386 ext. 1106
📠: (540) 432-1113

September 18, 2023

Amanda Chapman
Housing Supervisor
Northwestern Community Services Board
170 Prosperity Drive
Winchester, VA 22602

Re: FY 2023 HUD CoC NOFO Competition
NWCSB Permanent Supportive Housing Project

Dear Ms. Chapman:

Thank you for participating in the FY 2023 CoC NOFO Competition. The CoC's Executive Committee met this Monday, September 18, 2023 following a comment received from the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority (HRHA) as part of the public funding priority listing public comment period provided in the CoC's NOFO process.

After committee deliberation, unanimous motion was passed by the committee to amend the funding priority list by decreasing HMIS recommended funding amount by \$40,000 and reallocating these funds to NWCSB's PSH project. The committee believes that this decision is consistent with HUD's top three priorities of ending homelessness for all persons, using housing first approach, and reducing unsheltered homelessness.

We are pleased to inform you that NWCSB's recommended funding amount was updated to **\$268,091**, based on the following breakdown or ranking:

- **Tier 1:** \$242,804
- **Tier 2:** \$ 25,287

This letter also acknowledges receipt of the amendments made to your project application in *e-snaps*, as requested in the notice of conditional approval sent on 9/11/2023, and no further action is required from you.

The updated Funding Priority List will be posted on the CoC website by 9/18/2023. Please contact us with any comment or questions.

Thank you again for submitting you project and satisfying all abiding requirements.

Sincerely,

David S Mutombo

David Mutombo
Continuum of Care Coordinator

If you are experiencing homelessness or will lose housing in the next 10-14 days, call our centralized housing intake at: [\(540\) 271-1701](tel:5402711701)



GET STARTED

FY 2023 HUD CoC NOFO Funding Priority List

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Project Applicant</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Requested Funds</u>	<u>Funds Available for Project</u>	<u>Recommended funding Amount</u>
Tier 1						
1	Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority	HMIS Renewal	Renewal	\$93,145	\$93,145	\$93,145
2	Northwestern Community Services	Permanent Supportive Housing	Renewal	\$330,884	\$242,804	\$242,804
TOTAL						\$335,949
Tier 2						
2	Northwestern Community Services	Permanent Supportive Housing	Renewal	\$330,884	\$25,287	\$25,287
TOTAL						\$25,287

<u>Not Ranked</u>	<u>Project Applicant</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Project Type</u>	<u>Requested Funds</u>	<u>Funds Available for Renewal Project</u>	<u>Recommended Funding Amount</u>
2	Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority	CoC Planning Project	Renewal – Planning funds	\$61,000	\$50,019	\$50,019

Tier 1 Amount: \$335,949

Tier 2 Amount: \$25,287

Total: \$361,236

