

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: IL-516 - Decatur/Macon County CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Dove, Inc.

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: Dove, Inc.

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:

- 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

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| 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) | Yes | No | Yes |
| 6. | Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 7. | Hospital(s) | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 8. | Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations) | Nonexistent | No | No |
| 9. | Law Enforcement | Yes | No | Yes |
| 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) | Yes | No | Yes |
| 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 | No | Yes |
| 19. | Other homeless subpopulation advocates | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 20. | Public Housing Authorities | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 21. | School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 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 | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 30. | State Sexual Assault Coalition | Yes | No | Yes |
| 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. | Early Childhood Development Provider | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 35. | Higher Education and Public Library | Yes | Yes | Yes |

| | | |
|-------|----------------------------------|--|
| 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. Our CoC invitation process is open and very visible throughout the CoC's geography. We communicated our open invitation process through our YouTube channel, our website, the news media, and regular emails, and our annual CoC Community Breakfast. In the past year we have added to the CoC a minority-led service organization, the area community college, and the public health department.

2. We issue all open invitations for members in accessible electronic formats, such as in PDF documents, and on webpages that can be easily read by persons who use adaptive devices. We issue in-person invitations via email to all meetings, face-to-face and remote. We hold all CoC meetings in accessible locations and they are also available remotely from our meeting room with multidimensional cameras and microphones.

3. Organizations that represent and serve culturally specific populations are prominently represented in the CoC. Our current membership includes several culturally specific organizations including the Black Chamber of Commerce, Caring Black Men, Sista Girls and Friends (mentorship, career readiness, and training), Ink Spot (minority business incubator), Decatur PRIDE (LGBTQ+), and Set Free (trafficking).

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 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.The Macon County CoC obtains input from a diverse Governing Board consisting of persons with lived experience and the top leadership of 24 organizations in local government, housing, healthcare, education, human services, behavioral health, and emergency services. We have a grassroots-level Advisory Council that gathers input from the community-at-large and frontline workers. Throughout the year we sponsor workshops, training events, and networking opportunities to reach persons with specific expertise. New this year, we held an “after-hours” event for business leaders hosted by the Community Foundation.

2.The CoC uses a variety of public meetings and forums to communicate information to a wide range of people and groups. Our annual CoC Community Breakfast attracted over 100 community members and leaders in government, education, business, healthcare, and human services. Our Homeless Advisory Council includes advocates and front-line workers, and our Board has a speakers’ bureau to reach out to civic organizations, faith groups, service clubs, and other groups. Speakers make use of a YouTube video presentation to acquaint the public with the CoC’s success in reducing homelessness by 57% since 2014. This presentation is also posted online.

3.Persons with disabilities can easily access the CoC to provide input and give feedback about how best to serve the unhoused population. We invitations to all public meetings in accessible electronic formats, such as in PDF documents, and on webpages that can be easily read by persons who use adaptive devices. All CoC meetings are held in accessible locations and they are accessible remotely via Zoom. Further, we solicit input at other events and meetings attended by persons with disabilities, including a newly formed association of nonprofits.

4.The Governing Board of the CoC considers public input very seriously and takes action to improve our system. At the CoC Community Breakfast, businesses asked us to address homelessness in the downtown area. As a result we intensified outreach and have workers stationed in the downtown area every weekday to help unhoused persons. The Decatur Landlord Association advised that the CoC’s Coordinated Entry is not familiar to many in the community, so we placed billboards in high-traffic areas to inform people how to contact the CoC.

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 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. | |

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The CoC issued a public notification that the local competition was open and accepting applications on July 12, 2023, shortly after HUD released the FY 2023 NOFO. We distributed this notice through email and public meetings, to general circulation newspapers, radio and television outlets as well as posting it on websites and social media.

The public notification included a specific appeal to organizations that have not previously received CoC funding. It said, "The CoC is open to, and it will accept and consider proposals from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program Grants. Organizations that have not received CoC funding in the past are encouraged to apply." It included an email link where previously unfunded organizations could receive free technical assistance from our consultant on how to complete registration in e-snaps and prepare a project application.

2.The notice informed the public of the exact types of new projects permitted by HUD, the application process, how and where to submit applications, and all deadlines. The communication instructed all potential applicants in submission procedures. It encouraged interested parties to access HUD's eligibility requirements and e-snaps resources via live links.

3.The public notification stated the criteria which the Ranking Committee uses to determine whether project applications will be selected for inclusion and ranking. The criteria are that a new project must (a) be eligible under HUD's NOFO, (b) meet HUD's threshold requirements as stated in the current NOFO, (c) proposed eligible expense items; (d) demonstrate need, and (e) demonstrate organizational capacity. The notification included a link to the ranking criteria. It stated how and when the Ranking Committee would notify potential applicants if their project was accepted for ranking. It further stated when the ranking process would take place, and when the Ranking Committee would make the rankings public.

4.This notification was effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities and was in accessible electronic formats with PDF attachments to emails, and on webpages that were easily readable by person who use adaptive devices. We specifically sent the notice to disability advocates and disability organizations.

1C. Coordination and Engagement

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

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 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 | Yes |
| 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) | Nonexistent |
| 10. | Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations) | Nonexistent |
| 11. | Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color | Yes |
| 12. | Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons | Yes |
| 13. | Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities | Yes |
| 14. | Private Foundations | Yes |
| 15. | Public Housing Authorities | Yes |
| 16. | Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) | Yes |
| 17. | Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | Yes |
| | Other:(limit 50 characters) | |

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| 18. | Faith-Based Organizations | Yes |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 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. Our CoC is part of the Illinois balance-of-state; the recipient is Illinois Department Human Services (IDHS). We consult with IDHS in planning and allocating ESG funds. We determine allocations and set performance standards. Providers submit budgets for ESG allocations to our CoC Board for review. If the request aligns with our identified service needs, it is approved. If the request does not align with our current service needs, the CoC and provider negotiate the allocation request. Our CoC requires all recipients to follow performance standards prior to receiving an ESG allocation.

2. The CoC evaluates and monitors ESG subrecipient program performance. On a quarterly basis, the CoC's Ranking Committee reviews all ESG projects using objective criteria such as exits to permanent housing, length of time homeless, and data quality. The committee shares results with each project and takes corrective action when appropriate.

As an example of the CoC's cooperation with ESG subrecipients, in the past few months the CoC's outreach team has partnered with an ESG subrecipient to increase the availability of motel/hotel vouchers for emergency lodging. The CoC outreach team identifies and assesses participants, and the subrecipient places them in lodging using ESG funds. The CoC oversees the process.

3. The Point-in-Time (PIT) Coordinator provided PIT count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the City of Decatur, which is the Consolidated Plan jurisdiction within the CoC's geographic area. The City's Community Development Department uses this data in local planning work. One result is that the City recently transferred ownership of a former group home to the CoC for repurposing as permanent supportive housing.

4. The CoC ensures local homelessness information is communicated and included in the Consolidated Plan and updates. The CoC has a strong relationship with the City of Decatur Community Development Department, which prepares and submits the Consolidated Plan and annual updates. The manager of the Neighborhood Services Division is a member of the CoC Board, assuring that we communicate homeless data to the City, including a monthly report on long-term homelessness and a triennial Gaps Report.

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 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. | No |
| 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)

The IL-516 Continuum of Care has formal partnerships and written agreements in place with youth education providers, the LEA, and school districts. The CoC also has formal MOUs in place with the Regional Office of Education and the Decatur Public School District #61. These agreements cover the CoC and all of its projects that serve families and young people. They spell out in detail the duties of the CoC and the education providers/school districts, policies, procedures, and they specify the positions responsible for these duties.

In Illinois, the SEA is the Illinois State Board of Education, and it has Regional Offices of Education (ROEs) throughout the state. The ROEs and local school districts are both legally considered LEAs. Our CoC operating manual provides that an ROE representative and a representative of the largest public school district, Decatur Public School District #61, both serve on the CoC Board. In reality, the ROE and the Decatur Public Schools are each represented by their McKinney-Vento liaisons.

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 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)

The CoC’s policy and procedures require all projects to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for education services. This policy states: “Students who are homeless remain in one school if it is in their best interest; schools provide transportation; access to the full range of opportunities including extracurricular activities, pre-school and early childhood development, and special education; and school liaisons and homeless case managers jointly develop and review plans.”

We work closely with all our area school districts to inform parents and guardians of their rights and eligibility. When homeless youth are identified, school district counselors work one on one with CoC Coordinated Entry staff member to keep the length of time homeless at a minimum. When a CoC provider encounters a family with children, the provider contacts the educational liaison and the home school. This ensures that every child remains in school (preferably their home school), and that the child is provided all needed education, student support, transportation, and other services as required by law. Likewise, educational systems refer all homeless families to the Coordinated Entry (CE) center for assessment and eligibility. The Public-School Homeless Liaison and Parent Liaisons both work directly with the CoC’s CE Children’s Specialist to assure eligible families are served.

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 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 | Yes | Yes |
| 2. | Child Care and Development Fund | Yes | Yes |
| 3. | Early Childhood Providers | Yes | Yes |
| 4. | Early Head Start | Yes | Yes |
| 5. | Federal Home Visiting Program–(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV) | Yes | Yes |
| 6. | Head Start | Yes | Yes |
| 7. | Healthy Start | No | No |
| 8. | Public Pre-K | Yes | Yes |
| 9. | Tribal Home Visiting Program | No | No |
| | Other (limit 150 characters) | | |
| 10. | | | |

| | |
|-------|---|
| 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 | Yes |
| 2. | state sexual assault coalitions | Yes |
| 3. | other organizations that help this population | Yes |

| | |
|--------|---|
| 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 structure of the CoC ensures close collaboration among the CoC, state coalitions, and local DV and sexual assault victim service providers. Dove, Inc., which is the collaborative applicant, is also the designated domestic violence victim service provider violence for the CoC’s geographic area. Dove is an active member of the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The Dove Domestic Violence Program Director meets with the CEO and CoC Coordinator on a weekly basis to assure that all CoC-wide policies are client-centered, trauma-informed, and consistent with best practices.

For sexual assault policies, we collaborate with Growing Strong, the local sexual assault provider, which is a member of the statewide coalition, the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

2.Cooperation is intense at the governing and project levels. At the governing level, the CoC’s Board receives regular reports on the needs of victims and services available. At the project level, Dove administers a CoC-funded DV Bonus project that provides rapid rehousing and supportive services for survivors.

We also collaborate with the area’s sexual assault service provider, Growing Strong Sexual Assault Center. Growing Strong was started by Dove and later spun off as a separate entity. The CoC and the Dove Domestic Violence Program have MOUs with Growing Strong and regularly refer clients for counseling and assistance. Similarly, Growing Strong refers clients who are facing or experiencing homelessness to the CoC’s Coordinated Entry system. Dove and Growing Strong are active in their respective state coalitions: the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Services throughout the CoC are trauma-assumed. The CoC requires all providers to attend training in client-centered, trauma-informed care on an annual basis (see 1C-5a). In addition to these trainings, trauma-informed care for victims is integrated into all aspects of the CoC’s work. The CoC Governing Board assesses proposed policies in light of past trauma experienced by participants. For example, our Emergency Transfer policy goes beyond HUD’s model policy in recognizing that trauma from sexual assault can impact victims for extended periods of time. Therefore, we do not place a limit on the number of days after an assault when a victim can request an emergency transfer from a location where the assault occurred (the model policy has a 90-day limitation).

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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.Services throughout the CoC are trauma-assumed. The CoC requires all providers to be trained in client-centered, trauma-informed care on an annual basis. Dove’s DV Program conducts these trainings. The sessions cover best practice methods in serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The training focuses on trauma-informed care and victim-centered practices as well as other topics including dynamics of interpersonal violence, cultural appropriateness, legal considerations, ethical issues, safety planning, historical perspectives, children’s needs, special populations, services, and program policies. We most recently conducted this annual training in the fall of 2022.

2.All Coordinated Entry staff must successfully complete a 40-hour state-approved domestic violence training curriculum before engaging in any direct client contact. Completion of this training makes them eligible for Certified Domestic Violence Professional status. Dove’s DV Program conducts these trainings.

The training is an intensified version of the training mandated for all providers (see above). It has a strong focus on protocols for identifying victims and addressing their immediate safety issues. It covers trauma-informed care and victim-centered services as well as other topics including dynamics of interpersonal violence, cultural appropriateness, legal considerations, ethical issues, safety planning, historical perspectives, children’s needs, special populations, services, and program policies. The sessions cover best practice methods in serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In addition to completing the 40-hour mandated training, CE staff must complete the annual providers training, which are considered refreshers and updates.

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 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. Our Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures manual mandates a safety planning protocol. We screen for domestic violence during the first contact, when the CE workers conducts a brief assessment. CE immediately refers all persons who have possible exposure to via warm hand-off to the Dove Domestic Violence program for safety planning and other critical services.

Our CE manual reads: “The Brief Assessment tool is a simple one-page form. It is designed to identify and address immediate crises, identify and refer victims of domestic violence (including stalking, sexual assault, and trafficking), and determine if diversion is possible and appropriate. In sequence, the intake worker asks about: emergencies needing immediate attention from health providers or law enforcement; the nature of the problem (This identifies non-housing issues, such as food shortages, that can be promptly connected with community resources); possible exposure to domestic violence. These cases are immediately connected with the Dove Domestic Violence Hotline.”

2. Our Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures manual requires confidentiality, consistent with HUD’s HMIS and VAWA requirements. The manual reads “Persons needing emergency services or fleeing domestic violence are connected immediately with Dove’s Domestic Violence Program, and no demographic information is collected but a tally of service provision is kept of the action for purposes of reporting CE activities. The DV Program takes the lead on further processes including assessment, diversion, prioritization, and referral to CoC for housing support as needed. Work done by the DV Program is not documented in the HMIS system except in the aggregate to meet with legal requirements. If the client consents, Homeward Bound meets with them privately to preserve safety and confidentiality.”

| | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| 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. We use three types of data sources.

(i) The Dove DV Program is implementing the Osnum database platform. According to its creators, “Osnum is an HMIS/HUD comparable database, meaning our database is consistent with HMIS Data and Technical Standards and meets HPRP reporting requirements. The database is equipped with both the ESG Caper and APR reports exportable in CSV format for uploading to the SAGE portal.”

(ii) We also use de-identified aggregate data from Illinois InfoNet to address needs related to domestic violence and similar offenses. Illinois InfoNet is operated and maintained by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. It is used by the vast majority of victim service providers in the state. Infonet captures de-identified HUD data elements.

(iii) We gather additional data from our HMIS system and Macon County criminal justice records. This data captures the calls local law enforcement agencies receive, as well as victims who request assistance from the criminal justice system.

2. Our CoC’s sole DV provider, the Dove Domestic Violence Program, is a program arm of the Collaborative Applicant, and it reports de-identified, aggregated InfoNet data directly to Dove and then to the CoC Board. We communicate this information to the CoC through our monthly Governing Board meetings as well as our bi-monthly Homeless Advisory Council meetings.

This process spurs ongoing discussion related to service needs and potential program expansion to address the needs of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking survivors. We share this information with the local Family Violence Coordinating Council, which is the network for family violence in our community. We also provide these data to funders, grantees, and the general community to raise awareness about domestic violence.

As a result of these discussions, we have applied for expansion of safe and appropriate assessment and housing opportunities for DV survivors through HUD and state sources.

** **

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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. Our CoC has a continuum-wide Emergency Transfer Policy. It covers coordinated entry and all HUD-assisted providers. Our emergency transfer plan is modeled after HUD’s sample plan, but it has fewer restrictions on who can request a transfer and the time limits for doing so.

2. It provides that any participant living in a CoC assisted unit who feels unsafe or threatened due to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking may request a transfer to another location, and that the CoC and its providers must respond to that request.

The process reads: “To request an emergency transfer, the tenant shall notify the CoC’s management office and submit a written request for a transfer to Dove Homeward Bound. The CoC will provide reasonable accommodations to this policy for individuals with disabilities. The tenant’s written request for an emergency transfer should include either: (1) A statement expressing that the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under the CoC’s program; OR (2) A statement that the tenant was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises.”

3. Our policy requires the CoC to act promptly to identify safe housing options within the limits of its capacity. The policy reads. “The CoC will act as quickly as possible to move a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to another unit, subject to availability and safety of a unit. If the CoC has no safe and available units for which a tenant who needs an emergency is eligible, the CoC will assist the tenant in identifying other housing providers who may have safe and available units to which the tenant could move. At the tenant’s request, the CoC will also assist tenants in contacting the local organizations offering assistance to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking that are attached to this plan.”

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 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. We assure that survivors are given equal access to housing and services. We quickly offer all DV survivors access to housing. This process is streamlined because the CoC's Coordinated Entry system (CE) is under the same organizational umbrella as the DV project. Dove, Inc. (which is a Collaborative Applicant) is the grantee for both CE and state domestic violence project funds. The Dove Domestic Violence Program (DVP) works hand-in-glove with CE to assure that survivors are assisted to move into permanent housing as quickly as they can safely do so. We utilize all available housing resources – those from the CoC and those available through victim services funding streams.

DVP conducts assessments to determine which survivors they will offer to refer to CE for housing placements. DVP describes the options to the survivors, who have the choice to accept or decline. DVP then refers survivors who can safely leave the shelter to CE. As soon as they are referred to CE, CE conducts a housing assessment, assigns a housing case manager, and places the survivor on priority lists for the appropriate type of permanent housing (i.e., RRH, PSH, or OPH). The assessment protocol gives DV survivors high priority.

2. We work constantly to make our homeless response system totally barrier-free for all survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. From the time they enter our response system, participants begin working towards safe permanent housing which they can sustain, even after an RRH subsidy terminates. Working with case managers, they create individualized housing plans which can include budgeting, credit repair, applying for Housing Choice Vouchers, and other steps.

Case managers from DVP and CE work with the client to present client-centered options. For example, CE might identify units, and DVP helps the participant assess the units in terms of location and safety features such as locked entryways, street-level visibility, and exterior lighting.

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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 CoC has a strong commitment to the involvement of persons with lived experience at all levels. A member of the CoC’s Board, many persons on the Coordinated Entry staff, and several members of the Collaborative Applicant’s Board of Directors are themselves persons who were unhoused when fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking.

We safely engaged persons with lived experience through the Dove Domestic Violence Program. The DV Program identified and recruited them, and it has its own advisory council that reviews and recommends policies and procedures.

They bring specific expertise from their own histories of being subjected to intimidation, isolation, terror, and physical torture. This helps others understand the dynamics of power and control, and how difficult and dangerous it can be to make changes. We integrate this feedback into programming at all levels, stressing client-centered care, trauma awareness, and empathy, rather than “just telling people what they should do.”

2.Our CoC is sensitive to the needs of survivors. Their safety is our top concern, We never identify anyone as a survivor of domestic violence unless we have blanket permission from them in advance. In the vast majority of cases, they self-identify in order to have their experience and expertise recognized. Of course, we ask for and honor each person’s preferences in terms of name and gender identity.

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 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 CoC has a strong anti-discrimination policy, and we update it based on stakeholder feedback. For example, due to stakeholder guidance the CoC strengthened its policies on gender identity when it appeared that HUD might loosen its regulations in 2019 and 2020. We keep all providers and participants apprised of the policy and updates. The CoC conducts annual training for the Governing Board and all providers. The trainer is the Human Rights Investigator for the City of Decatur, who is responsible for enforcing the City’s Unlawful Discrimination Ordinance and serves as a consultant to the CoC.

2.All CoC and ESG providers have anti-discrimination policies in place. Each provider has policies to ensure that persons receive all services regardless of sex, gender identity or sexual orientation. The Human Rights Investigator for the City of Decatur is available to assist any provider – and all CoC members – in developing effective antidiscrimination policies. In reality, all of our CoC providers are under the direct control of HUD or other federal and state agencies that mandate them to have antidiscrimination policies that assure fair and equal access and treatment for LGBTQIA+ individuals and families.

3.We evaluate compliance with antidiscrimination policies as part of our annual ranking process. The CoC Ranking Committee is responsible for assuring compliance. All CoC Providers must complete and submit an “Equity Questionnaire” to the Ranking Committee on an annual basis. This questionnaire asks the following, among other questions: “Do you disaggregate program data by race, ethnicity, gender identity, or age? In the past 3 years, have you assessed your program for racial/ethnic equity in participation and outcomes? In the past 3 years, has your organization adopted written plans to address inequities? In the past 3 years, has your organization taken any specific steps to address inequities?” We require written documentation.

4.The process for addressing noncompliance with CoC policies is clear. The Ranking Committee notifies the provider that it is out of compliance. If the issue is not resolved, the Governing Board will conduct an investigation and ultimately has the power to terminate the provider and transfer their projects (with HUD approval). We have never had an issue of noncompliance with antidiscrimination policies.

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 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? |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| Decatur Housing Authority | 3% | Yes-HCV | No |
| | | | |

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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)

Our CoC has one PHA, the Decatur Housing Authority. Its geographic area is identical to that of the CoC: all of Macon County, Illinois. This PHA currently has a limited homeless admission preference for HCV units, and is adding a question to the HCV application form to ascertain whether the applicant is currently housed.

We are excited that HUD has issued new guidance for PHAs on housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness through the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Programs. When HUD released Notice PIH 2023-13, CPD 2023-05 on June 8, the CoC Chairperson immediately contacted the PHA and requested that the CoC and PHA work together on local strategies.

However, due to the sudden death of the PHA's Executive Director, we have put discussions on hold while the PHA Board of Commissioners selects new leadership.

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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) | No |
| 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)? | No |
| | | 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. | |

| | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| 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 |
|--|--|-----|

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 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 |
|--|--|-----|

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | 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. | |
|--|---|--|

| |
|----------------------|
| PHA |
| Decatur Housing A... |

1C-7e.1. List of PHAs with MOUs

Name of PHA: Decatur Housing Authority

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. | 7 |
| 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. | 7 |
| 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 evaluates every project for fidelity to the evidence-based Housing First model. To assure compliance, the CoC’s Ranking Committee requires every project to complete the HUD Housing First Assessment Tool. The committee uses the results from the Assessment as a ranking criterion for new and renewal projects.

We enforce fidelity to Housing First in policy and in practice. The CoC’s policy is clear that all funded projects must not require service participation or place preconditions (other than HUD’s project eligibility standards). Our Coordinated Entry (CE) referral process mandates that projects do not place preconditions on acceptance of referrals. CE is the gateway to all housing projects, and it refers those who have the greatest needs and highest vulnerabilities without regard to preconditions. The CoC also mandates that all providers attend the annual Housing First training.

2. In our annual evaluation and ranking process, we use the following Housing First factors as scoring criteria: low-barrier access; prompt attachment to permanent housing; no discrimination on basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or familial status; cultural appropriateness; person-centered approach; participant choice and input; voluntary services; no unnecessary denial of housing; and eviction avoidance.

We use the following Housing First performance indicators: length of time from project entry to move-in date; percentage of participants with high barriers; percentage of participants coming from uninhabitable locations; and percentage of participants with zero income at entry.

3. The CoC Ranking Committee monitors each project every three months for adherence to Housing First. This monitoring includes reviewing each project’s length of time from project entry to move-in date, as well as analyzing project-level data for permanent housing placement and retention.

| | | |
|-------|------------------------|--|
| 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.Our CoC conducts daily outreach through our CE staff and Continuum Homeless Action Team (CHAT). CHAT is a team of street outreach workers from behavioral health, emergency shelters, CE, and health care. Through outreach, we identify and engage all persons experiencing long-term unsheltered homelessness. With a by-name list, we develop relationships from a foundation of dignity and respect for individual choice. We use a person-centered approach to relationship building with consistent contacts over time.

The CoC advertises housing and support services with website postings, newsletter distribution, online housing search websites, 211 telephone referral service, and social media. The CoC uses a “Language Line” that allows individuals with limited English and/or disabilities to quickly access information and services. All materials related to the CoC’s housing and services make clear that housing and services are available to all who are eligible regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identify, sexual orientation, age, familial status, or disability.

2.Our street outreach covers 100% of our geographic area for quick identification and engagement of individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. There are no gated communities or deserts in our CoC.

Agencies, businesses, churches, and community members contact our CE Hotline when they become aware of someone who may be experiencing homelessness. From that contact, we deploy staff to make a connection and offer support and services. The CE outreach staff, and CHAT meet weekly to review information, and they report to the CoC Board.

3.The CoC conducts outreach every weekday, and weekends when requested. Outreach workers comb the streets daily and visit places where homeless persons may be found. When persons are not ready to engage, the workers build trust and chart progress using the Stages of Change model.

4.Unhoused persons in the central business district are the least likely to seek assistance among all persons experiencing homelessness in our CoC. The CoC tailors its outreach to reach persons in this group. We dispatch outreach teams every weekday into the downtown area, varying the hours in order to contact as many persons as possible. The outreach team includes a social worker who is stationed at the downtown public library, where unhoused persons often hang out.

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 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 | No |
| 4. | Implemented community wide plans | Yes | No |
| 5. | Other:(limit 500 characters) | | |
| | Community education programs | Yes | No |

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 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 | 50 | 62 |

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 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) | |
| | Township General Assistance; Workfare | Yes |

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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. Every month the CoC disseminates the availability of mainstream resources and other assistance information to projects at CoC meetings, and more often via email when new information becomes available. CoC program staff and providers keep up to date regarding mainstream resources with an annual staff training that covers all resources and defines utilization strategies. We held our most recent training on January 9, 2023. Two major primary care providers, Crossing Healthcare and SIU School of Medicine, participate in these sessions. Additionally, CoC staff take part in bimonthly service coordination meetings hosted by the University of Illinois Extension Office. At these meetings, mainstream programs update local agencies.

Our CoC works with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), which administers SNAPs, TANF, and Medicaid. Our CoC's CE case managers assist in online applications for mainstream benefits and transport clients to appointments with providers. This process assures that all participants apply for and receive all benefits for which they are eligible.

2. A large Federally Qualified Health Center, Crossing Healthcare, is a leading member of the CoC. Crossing assures that all program participants have access to quality healthcare services. Crossing enrolls participants on an as-needed basis. In addition, the community behavioral healthcare provider, Heritage Behavioral Health Center, is now offering primary care to its clients to "treat the whole person." Many of Heritage's clients are CoC program participants.

3. The Decatur/Macon County CoC was a pilot target for enhanced SOAR training in 2016. As a result of this effort, the CoC and all providers keep current with SOAR training. The CoC project ranking scales use SOAR training as a scoring criteria; projects that do not have a person who has been SOAR-trained in the past 24 months receive fewer points and are ranked lower.

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 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)

Our CoC utilizes two resources to increase our capacity for non-congregate sheltering.

i. With additional support from IDHS, we dramatically increased our capacity for non-congregate lodging in motels and hotels for persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. In 2022 and 2023, our CoC received two grants for nearly \$200,000 from IDHS. At negotiated rates, this covers more than two thousand room-nights of non-congregate shelter – more than doubling our previous capacity.

ii. Using ESG-CV support, channeled through the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), our CoC and its partners housed 56 persons in non-congregate lodging during FY 2022. This approach prevented the spread of infectious diseases and provided private shelter space as an alternative for persons and families who had previously been in congregate shelters.

These steps prevented infections from spreading, especially to highly vulnerable persons with pre-existing conditions that compromise their protection against infectious diseases. Additionally, we find that persons who have private accommodations for themselves and their families not only feel safer, but they are more apt to accept long-term housing assistance and build more trusting relationships with coordinated entry staff.

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 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.From our experience with COVID-19, we developed several systems that have become our permanent response to future outbreaks of infection diseases. The two most prominent components of this collaboration are the CoC Emergency Response Team and our partnership with public health agencies.

In the spring of 2020, the CoC quickly formed a COVID Emergency Response Team consisting of all local organizations that received COVID relief funds from any source – federal, state, local, and private. This group coordinated response efforts throughout several counties and provided clear, unambiguous messaging to providers and the community. We will reactivate this team in future public health emergencies.

We rely on our large Federally Qualified Health Center, Crossing Health Care, to guide our approach. With more than 10,000 patients and a campus spreading over four city blocks, Crossing is by far the large public health agency in the CoC, and it is a major partner on the CoC’s Board. We linked Crossing directly to homeless providers, giving them a personal connection to infectious disease experts and how to implement protocols. This helped providers far more than merely distributing lists of restrictions.

2.To decrease the spread of diseases among persons experiencing homelessness, Crossing conducts on-site testing and consultation at shelters and other homeless housing facilities. Crossing advises CoC members when closures are needed, what steps to take to lessen disease spread, and if providers should operate remotely or at decreased capacity. Crossing recommends specified protocols for operating emergency shelters, transitional housing projects, and for lodging in hotels.

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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 CoC shares information about public health measures with all providers, and it encourages direct communication between providers and public health agencies. In specific, the CoC gave every homeless service provider an electronic copy of the excellent guide from the Illinois Department of Public Health, “Updated Interim COVID-19 Guidance for Shelters.” This well-written 6-page document “includes recommendations for testing strategies and is intended to support response planning by shelters and homeless service providers in coordination with public health authorities and emergency management officials.”

Although its title indicates it is intended for shelters, it makes clear that it is targeted at all homeless service providers including shelters, drop-in centers, and meal stations. The guidance includes sections on prevention of spread, design and layout, screening, testing, response and vaccinations. The CoC advised all providers to follow the instructions in this guide.

2.To ensure straightforward communication, the CoC put all homeless service providers in direct contact with Crossing Healthcare, the large Federally Qualified Health Center. With more than 10,000 patients and a campus spreading over four city blocks, Crossing is by far the large public health agency in the CoC, and it is a major partner on the CoC’s Board. Crossing takes the lead in recommending safety measures. These are disseminated in emails and the virtual meetings.

The Illinois Department of Public Health and the Macon County Health Department notify the CoC and all providers when restrictions change. Crossing Healthcare is extremely helpful in giving personal consultation to providers in compliance with restrictions and maximizing safety for staff and project participants.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 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. Our Coordinated Entry (CE) system covers 100% of the CoC’s geographic area, which consists of the City of Decatur and surrounding rural communities in Macon County, Illinois. To reach the entire geography, CE relies on a stakeholder network. The CoC has an extensive network of referral agencies and uses billboards to inform the wider community of the coordinated entry system.

2. Our CE uses a standardized assessment protocol to prioritize those most in need. Starting with the first point of contact, CE staff obtain necessary household information and identify priority needs. Our protocol consists of a series of assessments to identify and prioritize those who have the highest needs and greatest vulnerabilities. It starts with a The Brief Assessment tool. This is a one-page form using HMIS data. It is designed to identify and address immediate crises, identify and refer victims of domestic violence (including stalking, sexual assault, and trafficking), and determine if diversion is possible and appropriate.

The second step is a full assessment of strengths and vulnerabilities. This results in a numerical score, which is used to inform placement on the prioritization list and the type of housing most likely to help the household achieve housing stability. However, the score is not the final determinant; the CE staff uses case conferencing to adjust for special circumstances.

3. Our CoC’s Strategic Planning Committee implements regular updates to the CE system. For example, a CE evaluation received feedback from participants and allied projects. It recommended more frequent contact with those on prioritization lists, and upgrading HMIS. The CoC Board adopted both recommendations and changed HMIS vendors to improve collection and analysis of assessment data.

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 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. In our CoC, the long-term unsheltered population in the downtown area is least likely to seek assistance. To reach this population, our CE outreach workers conduct daily outreach in the central business district and have a social worker stationed in the public library. Through weekly meetings and reviewing the by-name list, we update the status of each unsheltered individual and track their level of readiness to engage with the homeless service system.

Additionally, a CE staff person attends the weekly eviction sessions at the Macon County Courthouse. This person approaches persons and families who are facing evictions, attempts to negotiate with landlords to prevent the eviction, refers them to legal assistance, and – if they are evicted – offers them access to housing and services via the CE system.

2. Our CE assessment protocol prioritizes those most in need. Starting with the first point of contact, CE staff obtain necessary household information and identify priority needs. Our protocol consists of a series of assessments to identify and prioritize those who have the highest needs and greatest vulnerabilities. The top priority is long-term unsheltered homeless persons with disabilities and severe service needs. The next priority is persons and families experiencing non-chronic homelessness including those with disabilities, episodic homelessness, and high service needs.

3. Our CoC ensures timely assistance to those most in need of assistance by placing them at the top of the prioritization list for housing referrals. Those most in need – as measured by length of unsheltered homeless, disabling conditions, and barriers – have the first offers of housing when units become available.

4. Our CE Policy Manual states, “The intake and assessment process has several steps that are followed in sequence. The principles behind this are to respect the dignity of each person and address immediate crises without burdening the person with unneeded inquiries and paperwork. HUD and other funding sources have detailed and complex requirements for determining eligibility for various services and housing. However, the intent of Macon County’s CE system is to use only those forms and collect only that information that are needed for the next step in the process. Workers explain the purpose for each form and safeguard the privacy of each person.” Thus we do not collect PII until it is clearly required by the HMIS data standards.

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 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. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. We intentionally market our housing and services to all persons with a strong emphasis on reaching groups that are overrepresented in the homeless population and/or have cultural characteristics requiring specific competencies. To advertise to racial minorities, we have alliances with several culturally specific organizations who are members of the CoC including Caring Black Men, the Black Chamber of Commerce, Decatur Pride, Sista Girls and Friends, and the Ink Spot business incubator. We also place billboards at key inner-city intersections. We partner with the CHICO organization to advertise to our county's growing Hispanic community, attending their monthly meetings to promote easy access to the CoC. Decatur Pride, an LGBTQ+ organization, is active in the CoC and on the CoC Board; it markets the CoC to those who are sexually and gender diverse.

2. All persons entering the CE process are informed for the rights and available remedies at the intake interview. Intake workers inform them of their rights under fair housing and other nondiscrimination laws and give them a fair housing pamphlet. To supplement this work, the CoC sponsored three fair housing workshops in the past year – one at the CE office for program participants, one at the CoC Advisory Council, and one for the wider community at the public library.

The consultant to the CoC also serves as the Human Rights Investigator for the City of Decatur's Human Relations Commission. He answers questions about fair housing and processes charges alleging unlawful discrimination in housing, employment, credit, and public accommodations.

3. If we observe conditions or actions that impede fair housing choice, we immediately report them in written form to the City of Decatur's Community Development Department, which conducts consolidated planning for the jurisdiction. This Department is a permanent member of the CoC Board. If we observe a potential violation of fair housing law, we also report it to the City of Decatur's Human Relations Commission, which is responsible for enforcing the City's Unlawful Discrimination ordinance.

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 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. | 07/17/2023 |

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| 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. Our analysis studies racial disparities for three factors: the likelihood of becoming homeless; the likelihood of receiving housing assistance; and the likelihood of obtaining positive housing outcomes.

The process had three steps. First, we compared the racial and ethnic composition of the general population with that of the homeless population using the most recent available data.

Second, we compared the racial composition of persons in the homeless system – as measured by HMIS – with the makeup of those receiving distinct types of housing assistance. We looked at the three groups of housing assistance provided directly by Continuum of Care providers: Emergency Shelters and Transitional Housing projects (ES and TH); Rapid Rehousing projects (RRH); and Permanent Supportive Housing projects (PSH).

Finally, we compared the housing outcomes experienced by members of the two largest racial groups. We looked at three outcomes that relate directly to HUD's System Performance Measures: days homeless (SPM 1), returns to homelessness (SPM 2); and exits to permanent housing (SPM 7).

Our data sources were the American Community Survey of the United States Census Bureau, the HUD Racial Equity CoC Analysis Tool, HDX 1.0 Point-in-Time data, HDX 2.0 LSA and Stella P data, and the Racial Equity Toolkit of the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

2. The analysis made the following findings:

- (i) Blacks are extremely over-represented in the unhoused population.
- (ii) Black households are more likely than White households to receive RRH housing assistance, and less likely to receive PSH assistance. In emergency shelters and transitional housing projects, Black households are equally likely to receive assistance as are White households.
- (iii) Black participants are more likely to exit to permanent housing, but also more likely to return to homelessness than are Whites. However, Blacks have shorter average length of homelessness.

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| 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. | The CoC participates in local community-wide efforts to increase diversity, equity and inclusion in all aspects of community life. | Yes |

| | | |
|---------|--|--|
| 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 CoC and its homeless providers have taken the following steps to address disparities:

- We adjusted our ranking criteria in 2022 by more than doubling the scoring weight assigned to equity concerns, increasing it from 10 to 25 points. We also strengthened to questions used to score this item by asking providers what specific steps they have taken to address disparities in their programs.
- We encouraged all providers to adopt a racial equity plan with all providers. We distributed a model plan that mandates annual assessments of equity based on disaggregated data and requires the activation of specific corrective measures when inequities occur. It included the use of benchmarking to measure the impact of the corrective measures.
- Our Strategic Planning Committee is revising the Coordinated Entry assessment protocol. We were disturbed by studies that found racial bias embedded in the VI-SPDAT. We are closely following the efforts of other CoCs to implement nonbiased tools. We hoped that a nationally recognized organization would have created and tested an unbiased instrument by now. That has not happened, so we are creating a customized local tool and monitor it for bias.
- It is especially important to demonstrate diversity and inclusion at top levels. We are doing that in our CoC. The Collaborative Applicant is headed by a person of color, as is its homeless program arm. Two other CoC member organizations also have persons of color in their top executive positions. All three organizations were previously led by white persons.

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| 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.To determine our progress, we compare disparities studies over time, conducting an in-depth Equity Analysis every two years. The results are reported in detail to the CoC Planning Committee and Board and to the governing board of the Collaborative Applicant.

This analysis examines three key questions: (1) Are persons of differing races or ethnicities more or less likely to experience homelessness? (2) Are persons of differing races or ethnicities more or less likely to receive homeless assistance? (3) Are persons of differing races or ethnicities more or less likely to experience positive outcomes?

At the project level, we will continue to prioritize equity as a major factor in project monitoring and ranking, while we offer technical assistance to organizations in tracking and addressing disparities. The City of Decatur’s Human Rights Investigator serves as a consultant to the CoC. This person advises organizations on creating inclusive and diverse workplaces.

2.To measure progress, we rely exclusively on objective data from the CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool, the U.S. Census Bureau, our PIT count, HMIS, and HDX 2.0. Each year we examine the racial makeup of the homeless population compared with the general population to see what groups are over-represented. Next, we look at access by comparing the racial makeup of the homeless population with the racial makeup of program participants. We then study outcomes – Who is more likely to achieve permanent housing? How long do they have to wait? What groups are more apt to experience returns to homelessness?

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 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)

In order to obtain leadership from those with lived experience of homelessness, the CoC formed a Resident Council in 2021. This group consists entirely of persons residing in ESG and CoC funding projects (ES, PH-RRH, and PH-PSH, and OPH). The Resident Council meets monthly. It plans and conducts its own meetings. It is charged with recommending and reviewing plans and priorities and making recommendations to the CoC Board. It is represented on the CoC Board. In addition to the Resident Council, we have resident-led peer groups in three supportive housing projects. These informal, independent committees establish agendas and run their own meetings.

To engage the members of the Resident Council and the three peer groups, we conducted target outreach in each permanent housing project, and the Dove Domestic Violence Program also conducted outreach among survivors who had experienced homelessness, such as the people who lead regular peer support groups.

The officers of the Resident Council are active in a statewide organization of persons with lived experience of homelessness. This group operates under the sponsorship of the Illinois Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA). The President and Vice President of our CoC's Resident Council participated in five full days of SHPA Peer Leadership Development Workshops in July and August of 2023.

| | | |
|---------|--|--|
| 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. | 2 | 2 |
| 2. | Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups. | 17 | 17 |
| 3. | Included in the development or revision of your CoC's local competition rating factors. | 1 | 1 |
| 4. | Included in the development or revision of your CoC's coordinated entry process. | 2 | 2 |

| | | |
|---------|--|--|
| 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)

At least four CoC member organizations employ those with lived experience. The Community Action Agency has at least three current employees with lived experience of homelessness; it operates two non-HUD-funded projects: an emergency voucher project and transitional housing. God’s Shelter of Love, which operates privately-funded emergency shelter and transitional housing, has at least two formerly unhoused persons on its small staff. The CE project has at least one formerly unhoused person on its staff, as does the Salvation Army emergency shelter. The HMIS administrator is a person with lived experience; the CoC provides this person with professional development to advance skills in data analysis and organizational leadership.

The CoC provides professional development for persons with lived experience of being unhoused through the EnRich training program at Richland Community College. EnRich provides opportunities for adults with multiple barriers to employment. Participants receive a stipend while enrolled, and can earn certificates in fields such as healthcare (CNA), truck driving (CDL), logistics, and welding. Richland has a liaison position dedicated 100% to working with persons with lived experience of homelessness, and EnRich has a permanent seat on the CoC Board.

Other CoC member organizations, including the Community Action Agency, the WIOA agency, and the community behavioral health provider, offer a variety of career development opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness. These prepare persons to advance in career field such as hospitality and logistics, while building soft skills and overcoming barriers through skilled case management.

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| 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 Decatur/Macon County CoC systematically conducts exit interviews to gather objective feedback from persons with lived experience of homelessness. We invite individuals to participate in these interviews as an integral part of our “Moving On” assessment, which we conduct when persons exit PH-RRH or PH-PSH units. In the interview we ask the exiting participant about: (1) their overall experience with the CoC and the project; (2) their experience with case management; (3) their experience with any specialized services such as life experience classes or job readiness; (4) any suggestions they have for improving our housing and services.

2.We also gather feedback from our Resident Council, which consists entirely of persons residing in ESG and CoC funding projects (ES, PH-RRH, and PH-PSH, and OPH). The Resident Council members discuss various aspects of the CoC, from outreach and coordinated entry to case management. The Council offers valuable feedback and recommendations to the CoC’s Governing Board.

3.We addressed challenges related to feelings of “being outnumbered” and “being tokenized.” Project participants expressed a strong desire to meet by themselves and offer support to one another, so the CoC facilitated the formation of the resident-led peer groups in permanent housing projects. These groups schedule their own meetings, set the agendas, and lead the meetings.

Another challenge raised by participants is the shortage of permanent supportive housing for unhoused single adults. In response, the CoC is in the midst of a large non-CoC funded effort to develop new PSH units for chronically homeless. These efforts include retrofitting a former group home donated to the CoC by the City, and an influx of state funding to create scattered-site PSH units for single individuals and families.

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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. We have no zoning or land use policies that present barriers to housing development. We meet regularly with elected and appointed City officials to explore ways to increase the inventory of affordable housing. The City of Decatur works closely with the CoC to encourage additional development of affordable housing.

One example is that the City donated a former group home to the CoC to be used as permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals. Not only did the City donate the property, it committed funds for rehabilitation and the first few years of operating costs. In addition, the City has devoted millions of dollars to improving the infrastructure in the immediate neighborhood, assisted by a donation from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation. The same neighborhood contains the CoC's headquarters and coordinated entry office, a PSH project, and an OPH development for unhoused families.

2. There are no local regulations that present barriers to affordable housing development.

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. | |
|-------|---|--|

| | | |
|----|--|------------|
| 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. | 07/12/2023 |
| 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. | 07/12/2023 |

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 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: | |
|-------|---|--|

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 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. | Yes |
| 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)? | 190 |
| 2. | How many renewal projects did your CoC submit? | 8 |
| 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.To assess how successful projects were in providing and sustaining permanent housing, we generated SAGE APR reports from HMIS for each renewal project for the 12-month period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. We scored each project on retention of PH (the number of participants staying in the project plus the number exiting to a PH destination, divided by the total number of participants). The sources are Q5 and Q23c in the APRs. To score, we used a sliding scale from 50% to 100%, with a maximum score of 25 points.

2.To assess how long it takes to house people in permanent housing, we used the same data source: the SAGE APR reports. For this criteria, we used Q22e - Length of Time Prior to Housing. To score, we used a sliding scale from 90 to 0 days, with a maximum score of 20 points.

3.The CoC’s ranking criteria gave specific and measurable advantages to projects that serve persons with severe needs and vulnerabilities. Specifically, the criteria gave points to projects with higher percentages of participants with the following needs and vulnerabilities:

- Persons with histories of or currently fleeing domestic violence, including stalking, sexual abuse, dating violence, and human trafficking.
- Persons who were chronically homeless.
- Persons with the following types of conditions: mental health issues, alcohol/substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, chronic health conditions, physical disabilities, and developmental disabilities.
- Persons with little or no income.
- Persons coming from places unfit for human habitation.
- Single adults.

To determine how each project scored, the committee used objective data from the same SAGE APR project-level performance reports. The criteria provided graduated scales for each factor. Projects serving higher percentages of each group received more points, with a maximum of 50 points.

4.The CoC took into account the fact that projects serving high-need populations may have lower performance outcomes. Of 190 maximum points in the project ranking scale, 50 points (26% of the total) were based entirely on whether a project served large proportions of person with severe needs and vulnerabilities.

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 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. African Americans are overrepresented in the homeless population, making up 14% of the general population and 46% of the unhoused population. The CoC Ranking Committee, which was primarily responsible for determining the rating criteria and reviewing project applications, has five members. Of the five, three (60%) are African American. The Ranking Committee received input from the CoC's Governing Board. Of the 26 members of the Governing Board, 7 are African American. The only other major source of input into rating factors was HUD, via its NOFO scoring criteria and its Rating and Ranking Tool.

2. The Ranking Committee was solely responsible for the review, selection, and ranking process for all projects, new and renewal. Of the five members of this committee, three (60%) are African American.

3. In determining ratings and rankings, the Ranking Committee considered (1) whether applicants had underrepresented groups in their leadership and board, (2) if they disaggregated data by race and ethnicity, (3) if they had assessed for inequities in participation and outcomes, and (4) if they had taken specific and meaningful steps to address racial inequities. This amounted to 13% of the final score.

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 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 reallocation process was approved by the CoC Board in 2019 and distributed to project applicants. The process has two elements: rigorous project monitoring, and decision-making by the CoC Board.

The CoC determines whether a project is low-performing through a quarterly monitoring process. The monitoring tool assesses program compliance as well as utilization rates, housing stability, eligibility, length of homelessness, destination at exit, income growth, and mainstream benefits. With this process, there are no surprises; we identify performance issues at regular three-month intervals throughout the year. Based on monitoring results, the Board determines if any projects are low-performing or address needs that are no longer high-priority concerns. As an example, in 2019 the Board reallocated all funds from our last remaining transitional housing project into a new Joint TH and PH-RRH project.

2.No projects were identified as low performing or less needed in this year’s local competition. In terms of performance, all projects scored in a narrow band with only 32 of 190 points separating the highest score from the lowest. We view this as evidence that our quarterly monitoring process is working as intended. It is designed to correct deficiencies, not punish them. All remaining projects address either high-need populations or high-priority needs, and projects all are high performing.

3.The CoC did not reallocate any projects this year.

4.The reason we did not reallocate is that we had no low performing or less-needed projects. Reallocation accomplished its goals several years ago in our CoC. We see no moral justification for reallocating high performing projects on the chance it will gain us a few points in the CoC competition.

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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? | No |
|--|--|----|

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 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? | Yes |
| 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? | Yes |

| | | |
|--|---|------------|
| | <p>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.</p> | 08/12/2023 |
|--|---|------------|

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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. | |

| | | |
|--|---|------------|
| | <p>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.</p> | 08/25/2023 |
|--|---|------------|

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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. | |

| | | |
|--|--|-----|
| | <p>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.</p> | Yes |
|--|--|-----|

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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. | |

| | | |
|--|---|------------|
| | <p>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.</p> | 08/30/2023 |
|--|---|------------|

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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. | 08/30/2023 |
|--|--|------------|

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. | We are currently using Social Solutions and switching to WellSky. |
|--|--|---|

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 2A-2. | HMIS Implementation Coverage Area. | |
| | Not Scored–For Information Only | |

| | | |
|--|--|------------|
| | Select from dropdown menu your CoC’s HMIS coverage area. | Single CoC |
|--|--|------------|

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--|
| 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. | 04/04/2023 |
|--|---|------------|

| | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| 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. Dove, Inc. is the HMIS lead as well as the largest victims service provider in the CoC. This structure ensures close cooperation and sharing of de-identified data between the DV wing and the HMIS wing of the agency.

We have one project that is aimed at serving and housing DV survivors. For this project we created a separate firewalled database using the Efforts to Outcomes (ETO) HMIS software from Social Solutions. This database is completely de-identified and is used to obtain aggregate data for this project. It fully meets 2022 HMIS Data Standards.

We are in the process of transitioning our CoC’s HMIS to WellSky and will have this completed by October 2023. WellSky is also compliant with FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards.

2. To assure that all DV data, including that outside the scope of the CoC, meets HMIS Data Standards, the Dove DV Program is transitioning its client data to the Osnum database platform. Osnum is compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards. According to its creators, “Osnum is an HMIS/HUD comparable database, meaning our database is consistent with HMIS Data and Technical Standards and meets HPRP reporting requirements. The database is equipped with both the ESG Caper and APR reports exportable in CSV format for uploading to the SAGE portal.” However, it is important to note that this database is outside the scope of HUD’s span and has no impact on the CoC’s data collection or submission practices. It will make internal reporting consistent.

3. The CoC’s HMIS is compliant with FY 2022 HMIS 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 | 102 | 0 | 89 | 87.25% |
| 2. Safe Haven (SH) beds | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| 3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds | 11 | 0 | 11 | 100.00% |
| 4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds | 62 | 0 | 49 | 79.03% |
| 5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds | 83 | 0 | 73 | 87.95% |
| 6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds | 65 | 0 | 65 | 100.00% |

| | | |
|--------|--|--|
| 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.The HDX Competition Report shows 79.03% of RRH beds in HMIS. It shows one project not participating in HMIS, the DVP Housing Project with 13 beds. That was due to a mistake that we made. The DVP Housing Project is an HMIS-participating project, but we entered it incorrectly in the HIC. We will correct this error in the 2024 HIC submission. We are in fact at 100% HMIS participation for our RRH beds.

2.We will correctly categorize this project in the 2024 HIC.

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 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. | 01/26/2023 |
|--|---|------------|

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| 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. | 04/04/2023 |
|--|---|------------|

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| 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. We engaged several stakeholders that serve homeless youth from the private nonprofit sector and from public schools during the planning process for the 2023 PIT count. From the nonprofit sector we engaged Hilltop Shelter, Set Free, and the Safe Place for Youth. Hilltop Shelter is operated by Webster Cantrell Youth Advocacy, a fully certified youth and family service agency that offers a wide range of strength-based, trauma informed services. Set Free focuses on youth trafficking, and a Safe Place for Youth is a grassroots group. From the public schools we engaged the Student Services Department of Decatur Public Schools, the largest district in the CoC, and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison for the same district.

2. To select locations where homeless youth were most likely to be identified, the PIT team consulted all the groups mentioned above. As a result, the PIT team canvassed certain urban parks, the city library, and specific fast-food outlets. All of these locations were suggested by the young person and the stakeholders.

3. Although we had several youth work as counters and interviewers, we did not have any youth experiencing homelessness serve as counters in the 2023 PIT.

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 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)
 Not Applicable

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 CoC determined risk factors for becoming homeless for the first time by reviewing Coordinated Entry assessments of first-time homeless persons and analyzing the factors that led them to homelessness. We held fact-finding meetings with schools and community planning groups to identify common factors that cause loss of housing. Several partners worked with us in identifying the at-risk population, including Decatur Housing Authority, Crossing Healthcare, Heritage Behavioral Health Center, the Community Action Agency, school homeless liaisons, and privately funded homeless prevention programs.

2.We utilize two strategies to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless. First, we use prevention and diversion resources to deter persons from becoming homeless. The CoC receives prevention funding from the State of Illinois. We use this for past due rent and utilities, transportation, childcare, and work clothes. The CoC is now launching a large diversion effort, funded by a new \$92,604 grant from the State of Illinois. W will use these funds for past-due rent and utilities, short-term lodging, and other needs.

Our second strategy is to intervene in Eviction Court. We approach persons and families who are facing evictions and negotiate with landlords to prevent the eviction. The effectiveness of these strategies is evidenced by the fact that our CoC reduced first-time homelessness by 14% in FY 2022, bucking the national average of a 25% increase.

3.The CoC Coordinator is responsible for overseeing our CoC’s strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time.

| | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| 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:

| | | |
|-----------|---|----|
| 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. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The shortage of decent and affordable housing is the major factor driving the length of time that individuals and families remain homeless in our CoC. Our average length of time, at 60 days, is far below the national average of 158 days. However, many participants languish in our shelters and transitional housing because they have no other place to go. Our strategy to reduce the length of time is to increase the inventory of housing stock that is available to persons experiencing homelessness.

New funding from the State of Illinois supports this strategy. The Illinois Department of Human Services recently announced two renewable grants to the CoC: \$300,000 for short-term rapid rehousing, and \$150,000 for scattered-site permanent supportive housing. In this CoC NOFO, we are applying for a PSH expansion project of \$66,396. In addition, the City of Decatur donated a former group home to the CoC and will fund the rehabilitation and operations, enabling us to develop 12 more units of PSH.

2.We utilize our outreach team, PIT surveys and HMIS data to identify persons experiencing long-term homelessness. We have a team of street outreach workers from behavioral health, emergency shelters, CE, and health care. This team regularly visits all emergency shelters, and it combs the streets, parks, and other places where unsheltered persons can be found. It identifies and engage all persons experiencing long-term unsheltered homelessness.

The outreach team coordinates with HMIS, which tracks the length of time persons remain homeless. HMIS automatically flags persons who need attention. CE staff evaluates the client’s CE files every 30 days to update information and to follow-up on progress with housing.

We use these data to identify participants with long term homelessness and address barriers that extend their homelessness, and work to match participants to appropriate housing. Those with the longest lengths of time homeless are at the top of the housing prioritization list, and we offer them housing as soon as a unit becomes available. The team reports the data and its progress to the CoC Board every month.

3.The CoC’s Planning Committee is responsible for overseeing our CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| 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 CoC’s rate of exits to permanent housing is 35%, only 1% above the national average of 34%. To increase this rate, we overhauled our strategy for housing persons who are in emergency shelters, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing. We have implemented a two-pronged process and intensified our fidelity to Housing First principles. First, outreach workers meet 3-4 times per week with each adult participant. They secure immediate shelter and then conduct assessments and arrange for supportive services, including access to mainstream benefits. Second, a housing advocate meets weekly with each adult, developing and monitoring a permanent housing plan and exploring options – for example, determining eligibility for specific housing developments, paying off back utilities, etc.). We expect that this approach will increase our rate of exits into permanent housing in the current and future fiscal years.

2.Our rate of retention of permanent housing increased from 86% to 91% in FY 2022, but it was unacceptably low, under the national average of 96%. One PSH project is responsible for almost all of the unsuccessful exits (when participants exit PSH into non-permanent housing). We are implementing two strategies. First, we are intensifying the frequency and duration of case management in this project to assure that we identify and intervene early in situations that could lead to the loss of housing. Second, we are identifying persons who may no longer need intensive on-site services and working with them to apply for other permanent housing, using a move-on approach.

3.The Homeward Bound Program Director is responsible for overseeing our CoC’s strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to permanent housing. The CoC’s Case Managers are responsible for overseeing our CoC’s strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families retain permanent housing.

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 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.To identify individuals and families who return to homelessness, we utilize our HMIS database. At the point of entering client-level data, our HMIS software alerts users whenever a person with similar properties exists in the database. They show up in HMIS as a duplicated participant. We also generate a monthly report for all providers. This report identifies all persons who have returned into the database in the past month.

2.Our rate of returns over 24 months is a very low 3%. To maintain this low rate, we follow up for six months with all persons who exited to permanent housing, regardless of where they exited from, and regardless of the type of permanent housing they exited to. HUD permits project funds to be used follow-up case management with RRH participants for up to 6 months after cessation of rental assistance, but HUD does not permit funds to be used for persons who exit shelters into non-CoC permanent housing.

We use non-HUD funds to offer case management for up to six months to everyone who exits to PH from shelters and transitional housing. Case managers contact them regularly to learn of their current housing situation and identify difficulties in retaining their housing. This is particularly crucial for persons who exit to permanent housing with friends or family members and do not have leases. They are at highest risk of returning to homelessness, according to a recent study by the University of California at San Francisco’s Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative. This focused strategy allows us to intervene in circumstances that are likely to lead to returns to homelessness.

3.Dove, Inc.’s Homeward Bound Director is responsible for overseeing our CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate of individuals and person in families returns to homelessness.

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 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. Our strategy to increase employment income centers around a subcommittee of the CoC called the Decatur Jobs Council (DJC). DJC is a client-centric interagency network that was created by the CoC. It works with front line employment specialist staff to identify barriers from the client's point of view such as criminal records, mandated drug drops, and court appearances during work hours. Once these barriers are identified, the DJC addresses them. For example, we connect clients with free legal assistance for record expungement. CoC workers go to the public library to help unhoused persons complete online job applications, and CoC members offer computer literacy courses at multiple locations. On a quarterly basis, the DJC tracks the employment and income growth in all projects (SPM #4) from data collected and entered into HMIS.

2. The WIOA administrator is a member of the CoC Board and the Decatur Jobs Council. Through a partnership with the CoC, WIOA fast-tracks all CoC referrals into a Boot Camp for job readiness, résumé building and interview skills. This particular strategy increases the chances of gaining employment and thereby increasing their cash income.

For persons who do not qualify for WIOA assistance, we offer access to the EnRich Training Program at Richland Community College. It has less restrictive enrollment criteria than WIOA, and it offers stipends to enrollees. EnRich participants can become certified in healthcare as CNAs, in transportation as CDL-qualified truck drivers, in warehouse logistics, or in welding. The college has a fulltime staff member who works exclusively with unhoused and formerly unhoused persons. A Black-led organization, Sista Girls and Friends, provides job readiness and pre-apprenticeship preparation for careers in the building trades.

3. The Decatur Jobs Council is responsible for overseeing our CoC's strategy to increase income from employment. The Jobs Council includes the WIOA administrator, Richland Community College, Sista Girls and Friends, Dove, the Community Action Agency, the community behavioral health center, and the Salvation Army.

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 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. Our strategy to increase non-employment cash income consists of two parts. The first part involves a continued assessment of participants' needs and complete awareness of non-employment income. In all projects, case managers assess each participant upon project entry and at least annually to determine if the participant meets qualifications for non-employment cash income. The second part involves work by our case managers to continually be informed about all potential sources of non-employment cash and to not limit their assessment to the most common sources such as TANF, SSI and SSDI.

Client-centered care is rooted in our strategy to increase participants' access to non-employment cash sources. Case managers work with our participants in navigating and applying for benefits from all available sources including Social Security through our SOAR-trained team (for SSI, SSDI, pension and survivor benefits); the abe.illinois.gov website (for TANF, AABD, and Refugee Resettlement); our SSVF workers (for VA benefits); Township Offices (for General Assistance); Legal Aid (for child support and spousal support); the Illinois Department of Employment Security (for unemployment); and Community Services Block Grant (for cash scholarships for education and training opportunities).

To ensure program participants receive all non-employment cash income they are entitled to, our case management staff screen participants on an ongoing basis. Once we identify a participant who meets eligibility for a non-employment cash income source, staff offer a range of personal assistance to ensure accurate and timely application.

2. Case Managers are responsible for overseeing our CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.

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? | Yes |
|--|--|-----|

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| 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? | Yes |
|--|--|-----|

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| 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 |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Permanent Housing... | PH-PSH | 9 | Both |

3A-3. List of Projects.

1. What is the name of the new project? Permanent Housing Consolidation Expansion
2023

2. Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): M6SLNNMVBBG3

3. Select the new project type: PH-PSH

4. Enter the rank number of the project on your CoC's Priority Listing: 9

5. Select the type of leverage: Both

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)

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 |
|--|--|----|

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 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)

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? | Yes |
|--|-----|

| | | |
|--------|-------------------------|--|
| 4A-1a. | DV Bonus Project Types. | |
| | NOFO Section I.B.3.I. | |

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the type(s) of new DV Bonus project(s) your CoC included in its FY 2023 Priority Listing.

| | Project Type | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1. | SSO Coordinated Entry | Yes |
| 2. | PH-RRH or Joint TH and PH-RRH Component | No |

You must click "Save" after selecting Yes for element 2 PH-RRH or Joint TH/RRH Component to view questions 4A-3b. through 4A-3h.

| | | |
|-------|--|--|
| 4A-2. | Information About the Project Applicant for the New Support Services Only Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) DV Bonus Project. | |
| | NOFO Section I.B.3.I(3) | |

Enter in the chart below information about the project applicant applying for the new SSO-CE DV Bonus project:

| | | |
|----|--|--------------|
| 1. | Applicant Name | Dove, Inc. |
| 2. | Project Name | DV SSO |
| 3. | Project Ranking on Priority Listing | 10 |
| 4. | Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) | M6SLNNMVBBG3 |
| 5. | Amount Requested | \$56,898 |

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| 4A-2a. | Addressing Coordinated Entry Inadequacies through the New SSO-CE DV Bonus Project. | |
| | NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(3)(c) | |

Describe in the field below:

| | |
|----|--|
| 1. | the inadequacies of your CoC's current Coordinated Entry that limits its ability to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and |
| 2. | how the proposed project addresses inadequacies identified in element 1 of this question. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The current Coordinated Entry (CE) system has three major gaps. Although the CoC's CE project and its DV victim services program are both operated by the Collaborative Applicant, Dove Inc., their offices are located in different parts of the city of Decatur. Our CE system has three inadequacies:

(i) When persons first contact the DV program offices, it is difficult for DV staff to collect and correctly categorize the intake and assessment information required by CE. As a result, the CE system often lacks the full information it needs to properly prioritize survivors for housing.

(ii) On the other hand, when persons first contact the CE program offices, they are screened for domestic violence and referred to the DV program via a warm telephone handoff. However, many times participants do not follow through after an initial phone call with DV.

(iii) Clients in the DV shelter wait too long for housing. If they are not adequately assessed or if assessment data is incomplete, they languish on the prioritization list and remain in the shelter longer than needed.

2. We will modify our system so it becomes seamless, client-centered and trauma aware. We will add a new liaison position to be on both staffs – the DV Program and the CE project. We will fully train the liaison in DV dynamics and in CE policies and processes. The person will be located at the DV office, where the majority of persons made homeless by domestic violence call or walk in.

Adding this position will address all three gaps:

(i) When persons fleeing domestic violence contact or come to the DV program offices, the liaison will conduct a full CE assessment. They will transmit assessment data fully and accurately to the CE office while maintaining confidentiality compliant with VAWA requirements.

(ii) When persons come to the CE office and indicate they are fleeing due to domestic violence, the liaison will meet them at the CE office. In addition to gathering CE information, the liaison will offer emergency shelter, safety planning, legal advocacy, peer support, and the entire range of ancillary services provided by the DV program.

(iii) The liaison will advocate for the safety of survivors throughout the prioritization, housing search, and housing referral processes. This person will work one-on-one with survivors to address their supportive service needs, participate in CE staffings, and advocate for them to receive housing priority.

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>4A-2b. Involving Survivors in Policy and Program Development, Operations, and Evaluation in the New SSO-CE DV Bonus Project.</p> | |
| | <p>NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(3)(d)</p> | |
| | <p>Describe in the field below how the new project will involve survivors:</p> | |
| | <p>1. with a range of lived expertise; and</p> | |
| | <p>2. in policy and program development throughout the project's operation.</p> | |

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Dove Inc. has a strong commitment to the involvement of persons with lived experience at all levels. More than half of our employees in the DV program, a significant number of CE workers, and several members of our Board of Directors are themselves persons who were unhoused due to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking. We will build on that foundation if HUD approves this proposed project.

We will enhance the role of survivors in day-to-day programming. We will involve survivors in recruiting, screening, and selecting the person who fills the new liaison position. We will bolster our peer support programming. In support groups we will lean on the leadership of survivors to guide us as we add individual “housing check-ins” to group meetings.

We will continue to develop our “DV 101” curriculum that is offered to all survivors. Led by a person with lived experience, this course addresses the effects of trauma on survivors and witnesses. It has 23 learning units exploring the personal and systemic dynamics of domestic abuse. It leads participants to a certificate of accomplishment when they complete the entire curriculum.

2. To assure that survivors with a wide range of lived experience participate in policy and program development, we will re-establish a DV advisory council that withered during the COVID pandemic.

We will set a goal for the majority of members of this council to be persons who are survivors with lived experience. We will ask the council to initiate a thorough review of all DV and CE policies and practices, focusing on the extent to which our housing and services are client-centered and sensitive to trauma. We will ask the council to recommend improvements to the Dove Board of Directors when needed. This group will conduct an evaluation of our CE and DV program, gathering input from other persons with lived experience and suggesting changes.

| Applicant Name |
|-----------------------------|
| This list contains no items |

Attachment Details

Document Description: PHA Homeless Preference

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description: Letter Signed by Working Group

Attachment Details

Document Description: Housing First Evaluation

Attachment Details

Document Description: Web Posting of Local Competition Deadline

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Scoring Tool

Attachment Details

Document Description: Scored Forms for One Project

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Projects Accepted

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Selection Results

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description: HUD Homeless Data Exchange (HDX)
Competition Report

Attachment Details

Document Description: Housing Leveraging Commitments

Attachment Details

Document Description: Healthcare Formal Agreements

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Submission Summary

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

| Page | Last Updated |
|---|--------------|
| 1A. CoC Identification | 07/27/2023 |
| 1B. Inclusive Structure | 08/26/2023 |
| 1C. Coordination and Engagement | 08/26/2023 |
| 1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd | 08/29/2023 |
| 1E. Project Review/Ranking | 08/30/2023 |
| 2A. HMIS Implementation | 08/26/2023 |
| 2B. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count | 08/26/2023 |
| 2C. System Performance | 08/26/2023 |
| 3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare | 08/26/2023 |
| 3B. Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs | 08/26/2023 |
| 3C. Serving Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes | 08/26/2023 |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| 4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants | 08/26/2023 |
| 4B. Attachments Screen | Please Complete |
| Submission Summary | No Input Required |