

Announcement of 30-Day Local Competition Deadline -  
Advance Public Notice of How Your CoC Would Review, Rank, and Select Projects

Attachment 1E-1 - Local Competition Announcement

Decatur/Macon County CoC

IL-516

## Public Posting - Availability of Grants for Homelessness

Date: 8/19/2021

The Macon County Continuum of Care announces the availability of grants to prevent and end homelessness through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's "Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Fiscal Year 2021 Continuum of Care Competition." The Coe 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 Coe funding in the past are encouraged to apply.

### **NEW PROJECTS**

- Only these basic types of new projects are eligible: Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless and other specific high-risk populations, Rapid Rehousing, Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing, Coordinated Entry, and HMIS. The NOFO provides details on each of these.
- HUD also will consider applications that serve only victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. These projects must be Rapid Rehousing, Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing, or Coordinated Entry.

Applicants for all new projects must submit a Letter of Intent including the project type and estimated amount of request to the Macon County CoC Ranking Committee. The Letter of Intent must be sent by email to **Mary Garrison at [mgarrison@millikin.edu](mailto:mgarrison@millikin.edu)** by Friday, September 10. All interested organizations are urged to contact the CoC and read the NOFO in its entirety before submitting a letter of intent. Select [this link](#) to download the FY 2021 NOFO. Select [this link](#) to access critical instructions and guidance from the HUD website.

New projects that have been accepted must complete applications in HUD's e-snaps electronic grants systems by Friday, October 16.

### **RENEWAL PROJECTS**

Applicants for renewal project must indicate their intent to renew and their plans for voluntary reallocation by Friday, September 3. Please submit notify the Ranking Committee by sending an email to **Mary Garrison at [mgarrison@millikin.edu](mailto:mgarrison@millikin.edu)**.

Renewal projects must complete their e-snaps applications by Friday, October 1.

### **ALL PROJECTS**

The Ranking Committee will notify all applicants of acceptance, rejection, or modification of their projects no later than October 19.

Please understand that HUD has specific requirements for applicants, including:

- The Ranking Committee will carefully review the qualifications of the applicant and the proposed project to assure that they meet HUD's threshold requirements.
- Projects that (1) are eligible; and (2) that meet HUD's threshold requirements; and (3) that demonstrate need; and (4) that demonstrate organizational capacity, will be accepted, and ranked in priority order using an objective process.
- Individuals, for-profit organizations, and unincorporated entities are not eligible to apply.
- Applicant organizations must use thee-snaps system to submit their proposals. If interested, you are strongly urged to create an "Applicant Profile" in e-snaps immediately. Select [this link](#) to access instructions and the log-in page *fore-snaps*. If you do not have an *e-snaps* user account, select "Create a Profile" from *thee-snaps* log-in page. The Macon County Coe will provide assistance with this step upon request.

**Contact Mary Garrison at [mgarrison@millikin.edu](mailto:mgarrison@millikin.edu) for more information.**





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The Macon County CoC announces the availability of grants to prevent and end homelessness through the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's "Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY 2021 Continuum of Care Competition."

The Pantagraph @Pantagraph · 1m

Three names have risen to the top of the short list.

Now who will be the new 'Jeopardy!' host?

Three names have risen to the top of the short list.

pantagraph.com

IllinoisStatePolice @ILStatePolice · 19m

Today is the last day of the Illinois State Fair! The weather is beautiful to spend the day outside!

Please remind your children we are here to help them.

76°F Sunny

9:37 AM

8/23/2021

Herald & Review Solicitation 8/26/21

## **Herald & Review**

**Macon County Continuum of Care accepting applications for homeless project funding**

- **Mateusz Janik**
- Aug 26, 2021 Updated Aug 26, 2021

DECATUR -The Macon County Continuum of Care is accepting applications from local nonprofits for federal grant funding to support projects aimed at preventing homelessness.

**/(If we can get funding for the projects that we have and any new projects, that is our path to ending homelessness," said consultant Mary Garrison, a professor of social work at Millikin University. "If it was easy, it would be done and we wouldn't have these issues. It's just a complicated situation based on the systems that are in place.'<sup>1</sup>**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced its 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity competition where local nonprofits apply for discretionary funding that will support various housing initiatives.

**Garrison said the Continuum of Care will be reviewing applications and ranking each project on whether or not it reflects the needs of the community and if there are similar projects,**

**Only permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, coordinated entry of homeless and homeless management information systems are allowed for new projects, as well as projects that serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.**

### Press Release

Mary Garrison <mgarrison@millikin.edu>

Thu 8/19/2021 6:44 AM

To: sperry@herald-review.com <speny@herald-review.com>

1 attachments (18 KB)

2021 Public Posting - Solicitation Announcement - IL516.docx;

Hello Scott

Please see the attached press release for distribution to the public. I would appreciate you posting this.

Thank you,

Mary

Mary E. Garrison, LCSW, ACSW  
Professor of Social Work  
Millikin University  
1184 W. Main Street  
423D Shilling Hall  
Decatur, IL 62522  
mgarrison@millikin.edu  
217-424-5074 office  
309-532-1803 cell



14 **Community News****Macon County Continuum of Care Announces Availability Of Grants To Prevent And End Homelessness**

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**Edwards Chapter #399 Of NARFE To Meet Sept. 1**

Edwards Chapter #399 of NARFE, National Active & Retired Federal Employees, will meet 1 PM, Wed., September 1st at Royal International Buffet, 2036 Mt Zion Rd, Decatur.

The speaker will be Alyssa Pollock, Deputy Regional Disaster Officer of Red Cross. She will be talking about her trip to the Holy Land.

All federal employees, retirees, spouses and survivor annuitants are eligible for membership. Guests are always welcome.

Call Ilene McQuality, 217-429-1367, for information or with questions.

**Rep. Caulkins Issues Statement on Upcoming Redistricting Special Session**

Friday, the Democratic leaders of the Senate and House issued a Joint Proclamation (2021-143) calling the General Assembly in to a Special Session on August 31st. The purpose of the session as stated in the proclamation is to "amend the redistricting plan...or adopt a new redistricting plan" previously adopted as House Bill 2777.

The call for a Special Session has triggered a Republican response as it amounts to an acknowledgement of the unconstitutional nature of the maps that were passed on May 28th and signed into law by Governor Pritzker on June 4th.

The facts in Federal lawsuit alleging the unconstitutional nature of the map are now admitted to by the Democrat defendants and the Republicans are asking the court to issue a summary judgement in their favor, sending the map drawing process to the commission per the Illinois Constitution.

State Representative Dan Caulkins (R Decatur) issued the following statement:

"Today, the Democrat leadership has finally acknowledged what has been obvious since May 28th. The map they drew in secret without any public input using flawed data won't pass constitutional muster. Their attempt to draw districts that not only protect their members but choose the people who can vote for them has failed. It is appalling that they think we will allow them to do this again on August 31st."

"I'm calling on every Democratic member of the General Assembly to take a public stand against this corrupt process. Do what you told your voters you would do. You all know what's right. Now is the time to honor your word."

**2021 Arts in Central Park To Be Held Sept. 17-19**

Decatur Area Arts Council and Gallery 510 invite you to Arts in Central Park in downtown Decatur's beautiful Central Park on Saturday and Sunday, September 18 and 19, 2021, as well as a Friday evening, September 17, VIP preview party.

Approximately 50 booths will be open with artists from throughout the Midwest exhibiting a variety of artwork for sale, including jewelry, pottery, metal sculptures, glass, fiber arts, paintings, and more.

Enjoy a festive weekend, including a few new activities.

• Kids' art activities sponsored by Children's Museum of Illinois

• Caricatures by local artist Ed Lozano, Jr.

• A special Kids ArtShop for children 12 and under to buy art in the Transfer House

• Live music - Sat., 10:30-12:30,

DECATUR TRIBUNE  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021



Composting can be as simple as collecting disease- and insect-free plant debris, placing it in a pile and letting it rot. (Photo Credit: Melinda Myers, LLC)

**Put Kitchen Scraps and Landscape Trimmings to Work in the Garden**

By Melinda Myers, LLC

Convert landscape and garden trimmings into valuable compost. Incorporate this soil amendment into garden soil to improve drainage in clay soil and increase water-holding ability in fast draining sandy soils. It also promotes healthy plant growth more resistant to insect and disease problems and keeps plant-based kitchen scraps and garden waste out of landfills.

Composting is as simple as placing disease- and insect-free plant debris into a pile and letting it rot. Don't add meat, dairy, or fat that attracts rodents or weeds that have gone to seed, invasive plants or perennial weeds that can survive the compost process and end up back in the garden.

You can enclose the pile in a bin to keep the process neat, tidy, and out of sight. Some gardeners prefer tumbler composters for added ease when it comes to loading, unloading, and turning the pile. Dual bin tumblers allow you to stockpile the raw materials in one bin while actively composting in the other.

Always check with your municipality first. Some have restrictions on the type of bins that are acceptable while others may offer them at a discount.

Start your pile in an accessible space hidden by nearby plantings, fences, or decorative bins. Turn the pile frequently, moving the more decomposed materials in the center to the outside and less decomposed to the center.

Speed things up by mixing nitrogen and carbon rich plant debris, topping with soil or compost, and adding a bit of fertilizer. Including equal parts of nitrogen rich (green) materials like herbicide-free grass clippings, fruit

wastes, vegetable clipping and manure with carbon rich (brown) cornstalks, evergreen needles, straw and fall leaves will speed the process. But don't let this recipe prevent you from composting. All plant waste will eventually decompose as weather, insects and micro-organisms digest the materials over time.

Start with an 8- to 10-inch layer of garden trimmings. Cover with an inch of soil or compost and sprinkle with fertilizer to help speed things along. Repeat until the pile is at least three feet tall and wide. Moisten the pile to a consistency of a damp sponge.

Turn the pile as time allows or frequently for faster results. Move the more decomposed materials from the center to the outside of the pile. It's a great work out and speeds up the decomposition.

The more effort you put into composting the sooner you will have rich organic matter for your garden. But even casual composters end up with a wonderful amendment for the garden.

Compost is ready when it is brown and crumbly. Mix finished compost into potting mixes for containers, work it into garden beds or spread a one-inch layer over the soil surface of perennial gardens every other year.

Start putting your landscape trimmings in a heap and watch the magic happen.

Melinda Myers is the author of over 20 gardening books, including *The Midwest Gardener's Handbook* and *Small Space Gardening*. She hosts *The Great Courses* "How to Grow Anything" DVD series and the nationally-syndicated *Melinda's Garden Moment* TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine. Her website is [www.MelindaMyers.com](http://www.MelindaMyers.com).

thank you to those who commit to purchase at least one piece of artwork from the participating artists during the weekend. The selection and price is up to you.

**Volunteer for Arts in Central Park**

There are a variety of tasks and shifts for you to sign up to help throughout the weekend. Volunteer online at - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DACAFA29AFAAC61-arts>

Sponsored by Hickory Point Bank, Decatur Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ameren Illinois, Cromwell Media, Children's Museum of Illinois, and Jergers Pediatric Dentistry.

For more information, visit [DecaturArts.org](http://DecaturArts.org) or email [arts4all@decaturarts.org](mailto:arts4all@decaturarts.org) or call 217-423-3189.

## Project Ranking Criteria

The Decatur/Macon County Coe (IL-516) uses the **FY2021 HUD Ranking Tool** as its foundation for project ratings and rankings. The complete tool is available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/project-rating-and-ranking-tool.xlsb>. This document provides details on the actual scoring criteria applied to the Ranking Tool for renewal projects and new projects.

When rating and ranking projects, the Monitoring, Review and Ranking Committee is guided by HUD's National Priorities and Coe priorities. HUD has five National Priorities:

- Ending homelessness
- Housing First
- Reducing unsheltered homelessness
- Improving system performance
- Partnering with housing, health and service agencies

The Decatur-Macon County Coe has three local priorities:

- Improve data accuracy system-wide by increasing HMIS capacity
- Reduce length of time in emergency shelters
- Increase supply of housing for single adults

Of the unhoused population, 90% are single adults, and 7% are others in adult-only households. Only 3% are in households with children (2021 PIT).

## Projects Submitted by Victim Service Providers

Restrictions are in place that protect privacy and foster safety for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, and human trafficking. These restrictions prohibit victim service providers from entering client data in the CoC's HMIS database. Therefore for ranking purposes, the CoC requires victim service providers to submit de-identified equivalent data from a comparable database.

In addition, projects serving victims of violence must prioritize housing safety over permanent housing. The CoC has modified the scoring scales for projects submitted by victim service providers. The changes are shown in footnotes in the Point Values sections.

## Threshold Criteria

The Coe requires all applicants to meet the following criteria in order for their projects to be selected and ranked:

- The applicant has the demonstrated capacity to implement the project.
- The applicant is in good standing with HUD and other governmental and regulatory agencies.
- The applicant has successfully completed all required certifications and registrations as required in Project App, and has a current and accurate Profile in e-snaps.
- The projects and activities proposed are eligible for funding under the HEARTH Act and the FY2021 NOFO.
- The proposed project commits to full participation in Coordinated Entry and HMIS.<sup>1</sup>
- The proposed project commits to implementing Housing First principles and practices.

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<sup>1</sup> Victim service providers must use a comparable database instead of the CoC's HMIS.



## Renewal Project Rating

The following criteria apply to two types of renewal projects: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Permanent Housing - Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH). The Coe has one Joint TH and PH-RRH project.<sup>2</sup> That project had only one TH participant in the 12-month period upon which ratings were based; therefore, it is rated using the RRH criteria.

- System Performance Measures (85 points, 49% of total score)
  - o Length of Stay (20 points)
  - o Exits to PH (25 points)
  - o New or Increased Income and Earned Income (40 points)
- High Need Populations (40 points, 23% of total score)
  - o Vulnerabilities at project entry (30 points)
  - o History of or fleeing domestic violence (10 points)
- Project Effectiveness (30 points, 17% of total score)
  - o Bed Utilization (10 points)
  - o Housing First (10 points)
  - o Data Quality (10 points)
- Local Priority for Single Adults (10 points, 6% of total score)
- Equity Factors (10 points, 6% of total score)

**Of the 175 total points, 165 are based on objective, quantifiable data (94%).**

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<sup>2</sup> TH= Transitional Housing

## Renewal Project Criteria

CRITERIA	Maximum Points
<p>1. Length of Stay</p> <p>PSH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.5180 days from project entry to move-in= 10 points</li> <li>90-179 days from project entry to move-in= 5 points</li> </ul> <p>RRH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>:515 days from project entry to move-in= 10 points</li> <li>8-14 days from project entry to move-in= 5 points</li> </ul> <p>SOURCE: Q22c<sup>3</sup></p>	20
<p>2. Exits to Permanent Housing</p> <p>PSH and RRH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% exiting to or remaining in permanent housing= 25 points</li> <li>80% to 89% exiting to or remaining in permanent housing= 20 points</li> <li>70% to 79% exiting to or remaining in permanent housing= 15 points</li> <li>60% to 69% exiting to or remaining in permanent housing= 10 points</li> <li>50% to 59% exiting to or remaining in permanent housing= 5 points</li> </ul> <p>SOURCE: QOSa and Q23c (On Q23c, including Institutions as positive exits)</p>	25
<p>3. New or Increased Income and Earned Income</p> <p>PSH and RRH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28% of adult stayers with new or increased employment income= 10 points</li> <li>C::4% of adult stayers with new or increased employment income= 5 points</li> <li>28% of adult leavers with new or increased employment income= 10 points</li> <li>24% of adult leavers with new or increased employment income= 5 points</li> <li>210% of adult stayers with new or increased other cash income= 10 points</li> <li>25% of adult stayers with new or increased other cash income= 5 points</li> <li>210% of adult leavers with new or increased other cash income= 10 points</li> <li>25% of adult leavers with new or increased other cash income= 5 points</li> </ul> <p>SOURCE: Q19a1 and Q19a2, Line 5</p>	<b>40</b>
<p>4. Vulnerabilities at Project Entry</p> <p>PSH and RRH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>245% of adults with zero income at entry= 10 points</li> <li>23%-44% of adults with zero income at entry= 5 points</li> <li>227% of adults with multiple barriers at entry= 10 points</li> <li>14% to 26% of adults with multiple barriers at entry= 5 points</li> <li>225% of adults entering project from places unfit for human habitation= 10 points</li> <li>13% to 24% of adults entering project from places unfit for human habitation= 5 points</li> </ul> <p>SOURCE: QOS, Q16, Q 13a2, Q15</p>	<b>30</b>

<sup>3</sup> Refers to item in Sage report for July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. In all cases, Victim Service Providers must submit data from an equivalent database.

CRITERIA	Maximum Points
<p><b>5. History of or Fleeing Domestic Violence</b></p> <p>PSH and RRH:  90% to 100% fleeing domestic violence or with history of domestic violence= 10 points  20% to 89% fleeing domestic violence or with history of domestic violence = 5 points</p> <p>SOURCE: QOS, Q14a, Q14b</p>	10
<p><b>6. Bed Utilization</b></p> <p>PSH and RRH:  90% of beds utilized on average over 12 months = 10 points  50% to 89% of beds utilized on average over 12 months= 5 points</p> <p>SOURCE: Q7b, Housing Inventory Count</p>	10
<p><b>7. Housing First</b></p> <p>PSH and RRH:  94-100% of maximum available points= 10 points  89-93% of maximum available points= 8 points  83-88% of maximum available points= 6 points  78-82% of maximum available points= 4 points  72-77% of maximum available points= 2 points</p> <p>SOURCE: Housing First Self-Assessment score</p>	10
<p><b>8. Data Quality</b></p> <p>PSH and RRH:  0% error rate = 10 points  &gt;0% but ≤1% error rate= 5 points</p> <p>SOURCE: QOS, Q06a (less column 1), Q06b, Q06c</p>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>9. Local Priority for Single Adults</b></p> <p>PSH and RRH:  90%-100% of beds devoted to single adults= 10 points  20%-89% of beds devoted to single adults= 5 points</p> <p>SOURCE: 2021 Housing Inventory Count</p>	10
<p><b>10. Racial Equity</b></p> <p>SCALE:  2 points if grantee has underrepresented individuals (BIPOC, LGBTQ+ etc.) persons in leadership  2 points if grantee's board includes at least one person with lived experience  2 points if grantee disaggregates programmatic data by race, ethnicity, gender identity or age  2 points if grantee has assessed inequities in outcomes  2 points if grantee has specific plans to make program outcomes equitable</p> <p>SOURCE: Equity Questionnaire</p>	10
MAXIMUM TOTAL POINTS	175

## **New Project Rating**

- System Performance Measures (45 points, 26% of total score)
  - o Exits to PH (15 points)
  - o New or Increased Income and Earned Income (15 points)
  - o Returns to Homelessness (15 points)
- High Need Populations (20 points, 11% of total score)
  - o Vulnerabilities at project entry (10 points)
  - o History of or fleeing domestic violence (10 points)
- Project Effectiveness (30 points, 17% of total score)
  - o Housing First (20 points)
  - o Data Security (10 points)
- Local Priority for Single Adults (20 points, 11% of total score)
- Equity Factors (20 points, 11% of total score)
- HUD Bonus (40 points, 23% of score)

Of the 175 total points, 110 are based on objective, quantifiable data (63%).

## New Project Criteria

CRITERIA	Maximum Points
<p>1. System Performance Measures</p> <p>HOW MEASURED: Capacity of project to improve the CoC's System Performance Measures (SPMs)</p> <p>CALCULATION:</p> <p>This measure looks at three SPMs where a project can make a substantial impact on the overall system performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exits to PH {Placement and/or retention of permanent housing} <sup>4</sup></li> <li>New or Increased Income and Earned Income</li> <li>Returns to homelessness after exiting the project</li> </ul> <p>SCALE:</p> <p>Each 5PM is worth a maximum of 15 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects receive 5 points for mentioning in their Project Application that they have a plan to help participants improve that measure.</li> <li>Projects can receive up to 10 points for the quality of the plan, taking into consideration three factors: the applicant's past experience, details of the plan, and impact on SPM.</li> </ul> <p>SOURCE: Project Application</p>	45
<p>2. High Need Populations</p> <p>HOW MEASURED: Percentage of anticipated participants with high barriers and/or domestic violence.</p> <p>CALCULATION:</p> <p>Percentage of anticipated participants with more than one disability (mental illness, substance use disorder, HIV/AIDS, physical disability, intellectual disability).</p> <p>SCALE:</p> <p>Projects with 100% = 10 points  Projects with 60% to 99% = 6 points  Projects with 10% to 59% = 3 points  Projects with less than 10% = 0 points</p> <p>CALCULATION:</p> <p>Percentage of anticipated participants who are fleeing domestic violence (including sexual assault, dating violence, trafficking, and stalking)</p> <p>SCALE:</p> <p>Projects with 100% = 10 points  Projects with 60% to 99% = 6 points  Projects with 10% to 59% = 3 points  Projects with less than 10% = 0 points</p> <p>SOURCE: Project Application</p>	20

<sup>4</sup> For projects submitted by victim service providers, replace "permanent housing" with "safe housing."

CRITERIA	Maximum Points
<p>3. Housing First</p> <p>HOW MEASURED: Housing First Self-Assessment score</p> <p>SCALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>94-100% = 20 points</li> <li>89-94% = 16 points</li> <li>83-89% = 12 points</li> <li>78-83% = 8 points</li> <li>72-78% = 4 point</li> <li>Under 72% = 0 points</li> </ul> <p>SOURCE: HUD Housing First Self-Assessment Tool</p>	20
<p>4. Data Security</p> <p>HOW MEASURED: Security measures to protect client data</p> <p>CALCULATION:</p> <p>Completion of HMIS security checklist.</p> <p>SCALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to 10 points for HMIS questionnaire:</li> <li>Follow all Core Elements plus at least 1 Advanced Element= 10 points</li> <li>Follow all Core Elements= 5 points</li> <li>Does not follow all Core Elements= 0 points</li> </ul> <p>SOURCE: HMIS Questionnaire</p>	10
<p>S. Local Priority Projects</p> <p>HOW MEASURED: Incentives for projects that provide permanent housing for single adults.</p> <p>SCALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90%-100% of total beds projected for single adults= 20 points</li> <li>20%-89% of total beds projected for single adults= 10 points</li> </ul> <p>SOURCE: Project application</p>	20
<p>6. Racial Equity</p> <p>HOW MEASURED: As reported by grantees</p> <p>SCALE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 points if grantee has underrepresented individuals (BIPOC, LGBTQ+ etc.) persons in leadership</li> <li>4 points if grantee's board includes at least one person with lived experience</li> <li>4 points if grantee disaggregates programmatic data by race, ethnicity, gender identity or age</li> <li>4 points if grantee has assessed for inequities in outcomes</li> <li>4 points if grantee has specific plans to make program outcomes equitable</li> </ul>	20

CRITERIA	Maximum Points
<p>7. HUD Bonus</p> <p>HOW MEASURED: Ability of project to qualify the Coe for FY 2021 HUD Bonus Points</p> <p>SCALE:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Qualify for Housing Bonus= 20 points</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><b>Qualify for Healthcare Bonus= 20 points</b></p> <p>SOURCE: Project Application</p>	40
MAXIMUM TOTAL POINTS	<b>175</b>

**Critical Needs.** Generally, new projects will be ranked below renewals. However, if the Ranking Committee determines that there is a critical need for a certain project, the committee may rank that project above renewals if the situation warrants doing so.