

OVERVIEW OF COMPETITION

This is the application for Scranton/Lackawanna County Continuum of Care (PA-508) new projects for the 2023 Continuum of Care Competition.

AVAILABLE FUNDING: New project funding is available through the CoC Bonus and DV Bonus.

- CoC Bonus: \$237,764
- DV Bonus: \$339,663

Applicants may apply for CoC bonus funding, DV bonus funding, or both, but must submit separate applications for each funding category.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

The following types of new projects will be considered:

- **FOR COC BONUS and DV BONUS:**
 - **New rapid rehousing (RRH) projects that will serve** homeless individuals and/or families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters, or meeting the criteria of paragraph (4) of the HUD definition of homeless. (See Appendix for Definition of Category 4 - fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or other dangerous situations).
 - **New Joint TH and RRH component projects**, which will include transitional housing and rapid rehousing in a single project, to serve homeless individuals and families. For these projects, at least 2/3 of funding must be dedicated to the RRH component.
- **For COC BONUS Only:**
 - **New permanent supportive housing (PSH) projects that will serve either** 1) persons experiencing chronic homelessness at the time they initially enroll, or 2) persons who meet the definition of DedicatedPLUS. In general, a DedicatedPLUS PSH projects can serve individuals, households with children, and unaccompanied youth (including pregnant and parenting youth) that, at intake, are:
 - Chronically homeless
 - Living in a transitional housing project that is closing and were chronically homeless at entry to the TH project
 - Living unsheltered, in emergency shelter, or safe haven and (1) were admitted in a permanent housing project in the past year but could not maintain the housing and (2) were chronically homeless at entry to the PSH project
 - Living in transitional housing funded by a Joint TH and RRH component project and were experiencing chronic homelessness

- Living in a place not meant for human habitation, Safe Haven, or emergency shelter currently and for at least 12 months in the last three years, but not on four separate occasions and the individual or head of household meet the definition of 'homeless individual with a disability; or
- Receiving assistance through a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-funded homeless assistance program and met one of the above criteria at initial intake to the VA's homeless assistance system.

New projects to be included in the PA-508 2023 CoC Application to HUD will be selected by an independent scoring committee based on the attached scoring criteria. Final decisions regarding awards will be made by HUD via the national competition.

All applications will be reviewed to ensure they meet HUD's Threshold Standards. Applications that do not meet these standards will not be further reviewed.

All applications are due by 5 PM on August 25, 2023 and should be submitted via email to: nmorgan@uncnepa.org.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS AND PRIORITIES:

- Eligible activities/projects for the Funds:
 - All projects must be Permanent Supportive Housing (CoC Bonus Only), Rapid Re-Housing, or Joint TH-RRH
 - Projects can request funds for:
 - PSH: Leasing (tenant or project based only), operating funds, supportive services, admin – for CoC Bonus Only
 - RRH: Rental assistance (tenant based only), supportive services, admin
 - Joint TH-PH RRH
 - Term – 1 year
 - Eligible Supportive Services Costs are limited to the categories included in the Budget Detail.
 - Operating funds or project based rental assistance may be used for units owned by the applicant organization. These must be units newly designated to serve homeless people and ready for occupancy no later than 6 months after the award of funds. Projects must provide a deed demonstrating site control for a building or units where evidence of site control exceeds the requested grant term.
 - Projects applying for RRH should include at least \$4,000 per household served at a point in time for supportive services. For example, if the project will support 20 households at a given point in time, the annual supportive services budget should be at least \$80,000.
 - Projects applying for PSH should include at least \$5,000 per household annually for supportive services.
 - Projects must agree to enter client data into the PA-508 HMIS (with the exception of Victims Services Providers as they are prohibited from doing so by law. VSPs must enter data into a comparable database), participate in the annual homeless count, participate in and accept referrals only from the applicable **Coordinated Entry System** and comply with all other HUD requirements and PA-508 CoC Policies.
 - Applications must demonstrate:
 - A plan for **rapid implementation** of the program; the project narrative must document how the project will be ready to begin housing the first program participant within 6 months of the award.
 - A connection to **mainstream service systems**, specifically:
 - 1) that services are in place to identify and enroll all Medicaid-eligible program participants and to connect Medicaid-enrolled participants to Medicaid-financed services, including behavioral health services, or other services important to supporting housing stability.
 - 2) that services are in place to connect participants to mainstream resources, including benefits, health insurance and employment services
 - 3) for stable PSH participants, that the project will assess participants' interest in moving on to independent affordable housing and offer assistance, to help tenants who would like to move on to explore independent housing options and apply for mainstream affordable housing opportunities.
 - Experience in operating a successful **housing first** program and a program design that meets the definition of Housing First as adopted by the PA-508 CoC and the additional housing first principles outlined in the Appendix.
 - A plan for outreach to the eligible population (see below).
 - That they meet HUD's match requirements. See Sources of Match.
- Eligible localities:

- Projects must be located within Lackawanna County, PA.
- Eligible applicants:
 - Eligible project applicants for the CoC Program Competition are nonprofit organizations, States, local governments, and instrumentalities of State and local governments, and public housing agencies.
 - Applications shall only be considered from project applicants in good standing with HUD, which means that the applicant does not have any open monitoring or audit findings, history of slow expenditure of grant funds, outstanding obligation to HUD that is in arrears or for which a payment schedule has not been agreed upon, or history of serving ineligible program participants, expending funds on ineligible costs, or failing to expend funds within statutorily established timeframes.

New Project Application
2023 Scranton/Lackawanna County Continuum of Care

- **Applications are due by 5 PM on August 25, 2023 and should be sent to:**
nmorgan@uncnepa.org.
- **Please contact nmorgan@uncnepa.org for questions about the form or process.**
- **Please save your document with the following naming convention:**
 <Agency name –Program name-NEW PA508-18>.
 Example: ABC Services-Home to Stay-NEW PA508-18.doc
- **The CoC reserves the right not to review late or incomplete applications or projects that do not meet the HUD threshold or Project Requirements and Priorities described above.**

1. Project Applicant Information:

- a. Name of Organization: _____
- b. Organization Type
 Units of Local Government Non-profit 501(c)(3) PHA
 State Government Other: Describe _____
- c. UEI Number: _____

2. Sub-Recipient Organization (if applicable):

- a. Name of Organization: _____
- b. Organization Type
 Units of Local Government Non-profit 501(c)(3) PHA
 State Government Other: Describe _____
- c. UEI Number: _____

3. Contact person for this application:

- a. Name: _____ Title: _____
- b. Phone: _____
- c. Email: _____

4. Project Location (town(s)): _____

5. Type of Project: PSH RRH JOINT TH-RRH

6. DV Bonus: Yes No

7. Proposed Project Budget

Activities	Total Assistance Requested
1. Leasing	
2. Rental Assistance	
Indicate Type of RA: <input type="checkbox"/> TBRA (required for RRH) <input type="checkbox"/> PBRA	
3. Supportive Services	
4. Operations	
5. Administrative costs (Up to 7% of amount requested)	
6. Sub-total Request (Add lines 1-5)	
7. Cash Match	
8. In-kind Match	
9. Total Match (Add lines 7 and 8) – must equal at least 25% of line #6 for RRH and Joint TH-RRH projects or 25% of (line #6 minus line #1) for PSH projects	
10. Total Budget (Add lines 6 & 9)	

8. Housing Type

- a. Type: Single Site Scattered Site
- b. Total Number of Units: _____
- c. Total Number of Beds: _____

9. A. Population to be Served in the Project (Point-in-Time)

Households	HH's with At Least One Adult and One Child	Adult Households without Children	Households with Only Children	Total
Total Number of Households				

B. Population to be Served in the Project (Annually – over the course of a year)
(Not applicable for PSH - Applies to RRH only)

Households	HH's with At Least One Adult and One Child	Adult Households without Children	Households with Only Children	Total
Total Number of Households				

10. Experience of Applicant/Sponsor

- A. Describe the experience of the project applicant, sub-recipients (if applicable), and partner organizations (e.g., key contractors, service providers if applicable) as it relates to providing supportive services and housing for homeless persons, and carrying out the activities of the project. Be sure to provide concrete examples that illustrate 1) experience/expertise with renting units, operating rental assistance, and providing supportive services similar to the activities proposed in the applications 2) working with and addressing the target population’s identified housing and service needs. Specifically describe your experience with:
- The Housing First model
 - Delivering or securing Medicaid funded services for participants in the agency’s programs
 - Linking participants to mainstream resources, including benefits, health insurance, employments services, and mainstream affordable housing
 - Assessing stable participants’ interest in moving on to independent affordable housing and offering assistance, as indicated, to help tenants who would like to move on to explore independent housing options and apply for mainstream affordable housing opportunities (PSH ONLY)
 - Provide recent data which demonstrates strong performance for relevant services and/or housing services provided in the past. Please include a description of the services and population, and please list the measures, the targets, the outcomes, and the time period(s) for any data presented.

B. Describe experience of project applicant and partners (if applicable) relating to serving the eligible population you are proposing to serve.

C. Describe the basic organization and management structure of the applicant and sub recipients (if any). Include description of internal and external coordination, structures for managing basic organization operations, and an adequate financial accounting system that will be used to administer the grant.

D. Describe the experience of the applicant and potential sub recipients (if any), in effectively utilizing federal funds and performing the activities proposed in the application, given funding and time limitations.

[Empty response box]

E. Describe the experience of the applicant and potential sub recipients (if any) in identifying and securing matching funds and leveraging other Federal, State, local, and private sector funds. If the applicant and sub recipient have no experience, indicate “No experience leveraging other Federal, State, local or private sector funds.”

F. Have any of your agency’s HUD funded programs (including ESG) received a HUD audit in the last 12 months?
 yes no

If yes, were there any findings from the audit? yes no

If there were findings, please describe the findings and your agency’s corrective actions to satisfy the findings and attach a copy of the corrective action plan that you submitted to HUD.

G. Are there any unresolved monitoring or audit findings for any HUD grants (including ESG) operated by the applicant or potential sub recipients (if any)?

Yes No

If Yes, describe the details of unresolved monitoring or audit findings and steps that will be taken to resolve.

H. Have you returned any funds to HUD on any existing grants in the last two years?

Yes No

- If yes, how much has been returned?
- What is the reason that the funds have been returned?
- What actions are you taking to ensure full spending?

I. Do you have any outstanding obligation to HUD that is in arrears or for which a payment schedule has not been agreed upon?

Yes No

- If yes, how much is owed?
- What is the reason for the obligation to HUD?
- What is preventing establishing a payment schedule?

I. Have you consistently drawn down funds at least quarterly on all HUD CoC grants in the last two years?

Yes No

- If no, What is the reason that the funds have not been drawn down?
- What actions are you taking to ensure timely draw down?

J. Have you submitted on time Annual Progress Reports (APRs) for all HUD CoC Grants in the last two years?

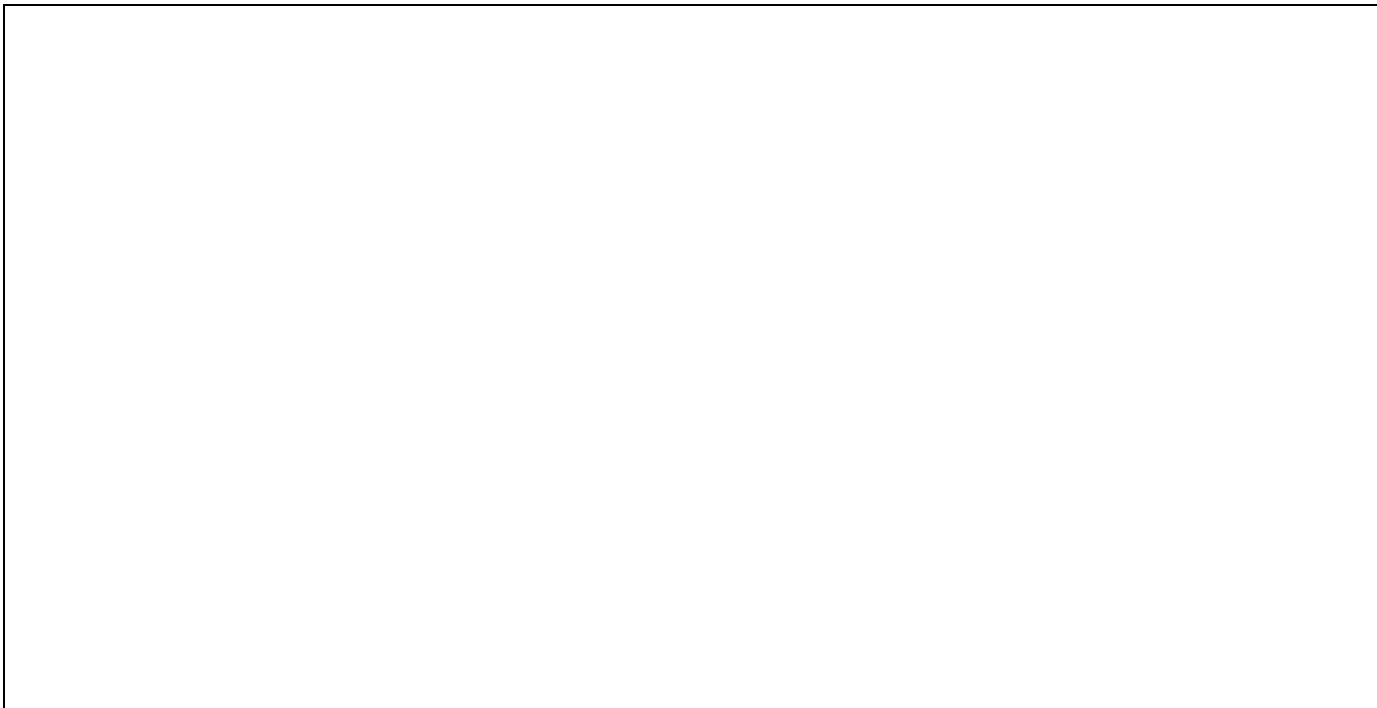
Yes No

- If no, what is the reason that APRs were late?
- What actions are you taking to ensure timely submission?

11. Project Description

- A. Provide a description that addresses the entire scope of the proposed project. The project description should be complete and concise. It must address the entire scope of the project, including a clear picture of the community/target population(s) to be served, the needs of the clients to be served, the plan for addressing the identified needs/issues of the CoC community/target population(s), projected outcome(s), and any coordination with other source(s)/partner(s). The description must be consistent with other parts of this application and identify the target population including the number of single adults and the number of families with children to be served when the project is at full capacity.
- Address and location of units (indicate if address is confidential is serving victims of DV)
 - Type and number of units – scattered site or single site, single or multi-family homes, etc. and how the type, scale, and location of units fit the needs of the clients to be served
 - The specific services that will be provided and outreach methods to be used to serve the long-term homeless population, and how supportive services meet the needs of the clients to be served
 - Projected outcomes
 - Coordination with partners
 - Project timeline – when units will be developed or leased-up
 - HMIS implementation
 - How the project will leverage or deliver Medicaid and other mainstream services to participants
 - For RRH, how the applicant recruits and engages landlords

B. Describe the estimated schedule for the proposed activities, the management plan, and the method for assuring effective and timely completion of all work.



12. Supportive Services for Participants

A. For projects serving **families with dependent children and single adults 24 years old or younger**, does the applicant/sponsor have policies and practices that are consistent with, and do not restrict the exercise of rights provided by the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act, as updated by the Every Student Succeeds Act, and other laws relating to the provision of educational and related services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness?

- Yes No

B. For projects serving **families with dependent children and single adults 24 years old or younger**, does the applicant/sponsor have a designated staff person responsible for ensuring that children are enrolled in school and connected to the appropriate services within the community, including early childhood education programs such as Head Start, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Act, and McKinney-Vento education services?

- Yes No

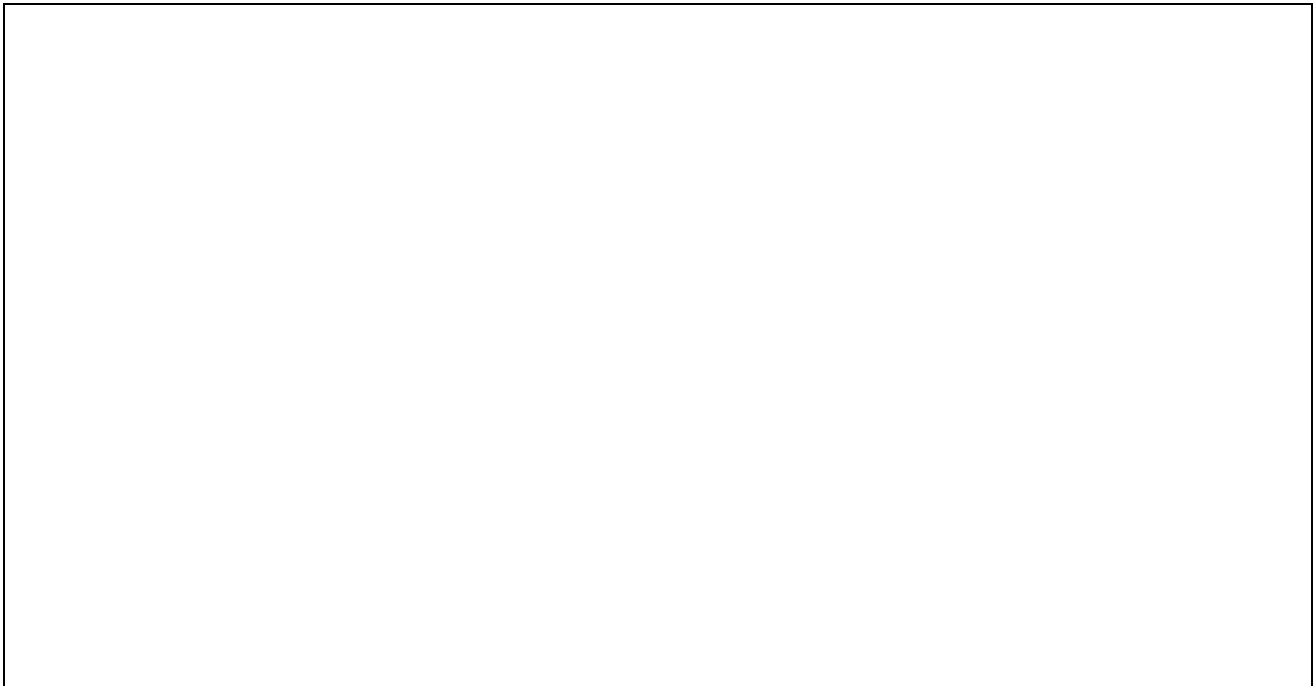
C. Describe how participants will be assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing. The description must be consistent with other parts of this application and identify:

- Plan to move eligible participants into the project
- Needs of tenants and plan for addressing those needs including but not limited to: health, behavioral health, education, employment, life skills and childcare services
- How units will be identified and rent reasonableness will be determined

D. Describe how participants will be assisted to increase employment and/or income and to maximize their ability to live independently. The description must be consistent with other parts of this application and

identify:

- Needs of target population and services required
- How tenants will access these services
- Coordination with other providers and mainstream systems
- How tenants will access SSI/SSDI and other mainstream benefits
- Unique needs of youth (if applicable)



E. Describe how you will coordinate effort with and connect tenants to mainstream employment organizations. These are organizations that provide job readiness, job training, and/or employment opportunities for all individuals and not exclusively for homeless individuals (e.g. Labor Ready).



F. Please identify whether the project will include the following activities:

- Transportation assistance to clients to attend mainstream benefit appointments, employment training, or jobs? Yes No
- Regular follow-ups with participants to ensure mainstream benefits are received and renewed? Yes No
- Will project participants have access to SSI/SSDI technical assistance provided by the applicant, a sub recipient, or partner agency? Yes No
- Indicate the last SOAR training date for the staff person providing the technical assistance: _____

13. Supportive Services Type and Frequency:

- A. For all supportive services available to participants, indicate who will provide, how they will be accessed and how often they will be provided **regardless of the resources that will be used to pay for the services.**

For Provider, indicate: “Applicant” if the applicant will provide the service directly; “Sub recipient” if a sub recipient will provide the service directly; “Partner” if an organization that is not a sub recipient of project funds but with whom a formal agreement or memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed will provide the service directly; or, “Non-Partner” if a specific organization with whom no formal agreement has been established regularly provides the service to clients.

Supportive Services	Provider	Frequency – select one per service type				
		Daily	Weekly	Bi-monthly	Monthly	N/A
Assessment of Service Needs						
Assistance with Moving Costs						
Case Management						
Child Care						
Education Services						
Employment Assistance/Job Training						
Food						
Housing Search/ Counseling Services						
Legal Services						
Life Skills						
Mental Health Services						
Outpatient Health Services						
Outreach Services						
Substance Abuse Treatment Services						
Transportation						
Utility Deposits						

- B. How accessible are basic community amenities (e.g. medical facilities, grocery store, recreation facilities, schools, etc.) to the proposed project?

- Yes, very accessible
- Somewhat accessible
- Not accessible

14. Population Characteristics

Population Characteristics	Persons in HH's with At Least One Adult and One Child	Adult Persons in Households without Children	Persons in Households with Only Children	Total
Disabled Adults over age 24				
Non-disabled Adults over age 24				
Disabled Adults ages 18-24				
Non-disabled Adults ages 18-24				
Accompanied Disabled Children under age 18				
Accompanied Non-disabled Children under age 18				
Unaccompanied Disabled Children under age 18				
Unaccompanied Non-disabled Children under 18				

Totals from Above:				
Total Number of Adults over age 24				
Total Number of Adults ages 18-24				
Total Number of Children under 18				
Total Persons				

15. Subpopulations – For PSH, each person must be listed as chronically homeless and at least one adult in each household must be listed as disabled. DV is not considered a disability by HUD.

Households with At Least One Adult and One Child

	Chron. Homlss Non-Vets	Chron. Homlss Vets	Chronic Subs. Abuse	Persons with HIV/AIDS	Severely Mentally Ill	Dom. Violence	Phys. Disab	Dvlpmt Disab	Not Other-wise Represented
Disabled Adults over age 24									
Non-disabled Adults over age 24									
Disabled Adults ages 18-24									
Non-disabled Adults ages 18-24									
Disabled Children under age 18									
Non-disabled Children under age 18									
Total Persons									

Adult Households without Children

	Chron. Homlss Non-Vets	Chron. Homlss Vets	Chronic Subs. Abuse	Persons with HIV/AIDS	Severely Mentally Ill	Victims of Dom. Viol.	Phys. Disab	Dvlpmt Disab	Not Other-wise Represented
Disabled Adults over age 24									
Non-disabled Adults over age 24									
Disabled Adults ages 18-24									
Non-disabled Adults ages 18-24									
Total Persons									

Households with Only Children

	Chron. Homlss Non-Vets	Chron. Homlss Vets	Chronic Subs. Abuse	Persons with HIV/AIDS	Severely Mentally Ill	Victims of Dom. Viol.	Phys. Disab	Dvlpmt Disab	Not Other-wise Represented
Unaccompanied Disabled Children >18									
Unaccompanied Non-Disabled Children >18									
Accompanied Disabled Children >18									
Accompanied Non-Disabled Children >18									
Total Persons									

16. Outreach for Participants

A. Enter the percentage of homeless persons who will be served by the proposed project for each of the following locations:

- ___ Persons who came from the street or other locations not meant for human habitation
- ___ Persons who came from Emergency Shelters
- ___ Persons who came from safe havens
- ___ Persons eligible under category 4 – e.g., fleeing DV, stalking, violence (see appendix for definition)
- ___ Total of above percentages

B. Describe the outreach plan to bring eligible homeless participants into the project.

17. HMIS Participation

- a. Does your agency currently participate in HMIS? Yes No
- b. Will your agency enter data into the HMIS for this proposed project? Yes No

18. HUD System Performance Objectives and Strategies to Advance System Performance

A. Please describe at least two project performance targets that contribute to advancing system performance measures. More information regarding developing effective performance targets is included in **Attachment A**.

B. Please explain how meeting the identified project performance targets will contribute to the CoC's system performance. Specifically describe how your project will advance the system performance objectives set forth by HUD: reducing new entries into homelessness, reducing length of time people are homeless, reducing returns to homelessness, and increases in participant income.

C. Please describe how the type, scale, and location of supportive services fit the needs of the program participants, are readily accessible, and advance system performance objectives. This includes services funded by the CoC grant and other project funding sources.

D. For RRH projects, describe how the project meets the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) RRH standards as outlined in [Performance-Benchmarks-and-Program-Standards.pdf](#) ([endhomelessness.org](#))

E. For PSH projects, describe how there are sufficient services to ensure participants are successfully supported to access and sustain housing

F. For Joint TH-RRH projects, describe how the project will provide both transitional housing and rapid rehousing options to all participants, and how the project will align with the NAEH RRH standards for the RRH component.

19. Addressing Racial Equity

A. Please describe how the project will conduct ongoing assessment to ensure the project is promoting racial equity and will take steps to address identified disparities.

B. Please describe the project’s plan to ensure there are no barriers to participation faced by persons of different races and ethnicities.

C. Does your organization have BIPOC individuals in managerial or leadership positions?

Yes No

Please Describe:

D. Describe how your organization has or will review internal policies and procedures with an equity lens to develop a plan for updating policies that center a white-dominant culture.

E. Describe how your organization has reviewed program participant outcomes with an equity lens, including the disaggregation of data by race, ethnicity, gender identity, and/or age.

F. Describe how your organization has identified programmatic changes needed to make program participant outcomes more equitable and developed a plan to make those changes.

20. Involving People with Lived Experience

- A. Please describe your agency’s relevant experience and history of involving people with lived experience of homelessness in service provision and decision making.

- B. Please describe how the project will involve people with lived experience of homelessness in providing input on program planning and evaluation, development of policies and procedures, and decision-making structures and processes.

- C. Discuss any ways in which your organization provides professional development (e.g. internships, continuing education, skill-based training) and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

- D. Does your board of directors include representation of individuals with lived experience with homelessness?

21. Coordination with Housing and/or Healthcare Agencies

If you wish to be considered for bonus points for coordination with housing and/or healthcare agencies, please complete the following additional questions and attach copies of commitment letters or MOUs.

- A. Describe how the project will utilize housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG program, such as through private organizations, State or local government (including HOME funds from the American Rescue Plan), Public Housing Agencies, faith-based organizations or federal programs other than CoC or ESG. Attach evidence of commitment from housing provider (e.g., letter, MOU, etc.)

- B. Describe how the project involves a commitment from a health care organization that: (i) in the case of a substance abuse treatment or recovery provider, it will provide access to treatment or recovery services for all program participants who qualify and choose those services; or (ii) the value of assistance being provided is at least an amount that is equivalent to 25 percent of the funding being requested for the project, which will be covered by the healthcare organization. **Provide a written documentation of commitment from the healthcare organization that includes the value of the commitment and dates the healthcare resources will be provided.**

22. DV Bonus: Engagement of Survivors

- a. Please describe how your organization involves/will involve survivors with lived expertise in the policy and program development.

23. Budget detail

Leased Units Budget (enter number of units by unit type; the applicable Fair Market Rent (FMR) level, multiply units times FMR times 12 (1 year grant) and enter totals. Link for 2023 FMRs:

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2023_code/select_Geography.odn

Unit Size	No. of Units	FMR (Insert local FMR)	Term (12 months)	Total Costs (\$)
Efficiency		\$	X 12 months	
1 Bedroom		\$	X 12 months	
2 Bedroom		\$	X 12 months	
3 Bedroom		\$	X 12 months	
4 Bedroom		\$	X 12 months	
Totals				

Rental Assistance Budget (enter number of units by unit type; the applicable Fair Market Rent (FMR) level, multiply units times FMR times 12 (1 year grant) and enter totals. Link for 2023 FMRs:

https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr/fmrs/FY2023_code/select_Geography.odn. The Type of Rental

Assistance: Project Based Tenant Based

Unit Size	No. of Units	FMR (Insert local FMR)	Term (12 months)	Total Costs (\$)
Efficiency		\$	X 12 months	
1 Bedroom		\$	X 12 months	
2 Bedroom		\$	X 12 months	
3 Bedroom		\$	X 12 months	
4 Bedroom		\$	X 12 months	
Totals				

Operating Costs

Enter the quantity and total budget request for each operating cost. The request entered should be equivalent to the cost of one year of the relevant operating costs. When including staff costs, please include title, salary and FTE.

Operating Costs	Quantity Description (max 400 characters)	Annual Budget Request
Maintenance and repair		
Electricity, Gas and Water		
Property Tax and Insurance		
Furniture		
Replacement Reserve		
Equipment		
Building Security		
Total Operating Request		

Supportive Services: Enter the quantity and total budget request for each supportive services cost. The request entered should be equivalent to the cost of one year of the relevant supportive service. When including staff costs, please include title, salary and FTE.

Eligible Costs	Quantity Description (max 400 characters)	Annual Budget Request
Assessment of Service Needs		
Assistance with Moving Costs		
Case Management		
Employment Services		
Food		
Housing Search/Counseling		
Legal Services		
Life Skills		
Outreach Services		
Transportation		
Utility Deposits (only if not included in lease agreement)		
Total Annual Assistance Requested for Supportive Services		

Sources of Match – Please complete the match table below.

Match is actual cash or in-kind resources contributed to the grant. All costs paid for with matching funds must be for activities that are eligible under the CoC Program, even if the recipient is not receiving CoC Program grant funds for that activity. All grant funds must be matched with an amount no less than 25% of the awarded grant amount (with cash or in-kind resources). Match resources may be from public or private resources.

Identify Type of Contribution: Cash or In kind	Name the Source of Contribution	Identify Source as: (G) Government or (P) Private	Date of Written Commitment	Value of Written Commitment
<i>Example: Cash</i>	DMHAS	G	7/15/19	\$10,000
			TOTAL:	\$

APPENDIX

PA-508 Adopted Definition of Housing First

Housing First is an approach in which housing is offered to people experiencing homelessness without preconditions (such as sobriety, mental health treatment, or a minimum income threshold) or service participation requirements and in which rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing are primary goals. PSH projects that use a Housing First approach promote the acceptance of applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services. HUD encourages all recipients of CoC Program-funded PSH to follow a Housing First approach to the maximum extent practicable.

Housing First Principles

Housing First is a programmatic and systems approach that centers on providing homeless people with housing quickly and *then* providing services as needed using a low barrier approach that emphasizes community integration, stable tenancy, recovery and individual choice.

Low barrier approach to entry:

- Housing First offers individuals and families experiencing homelessness immediate access to permanent supportive housing without unnecessary prerequisites. For example:
 - a. Admission/tenant screening and selection practices do not require abstinence from substances, completion of or compliance with treatment, or participation in services.
 - b. Applicants are not rejected on the basis of poor or lack of credit or income, poor or lack of rental history, minor criminal convictions, or other factors that might indicate a lack of “housing readiness.”
 - c. Blanket exclusionary criteria based on more serious criminal convictions are not applied, though programs may consider such convictions on a case-by-case basis as necessary to ensure the safety of other residents and staff.
 - d. Generally, only those admission criteria that are required by funders are applied, though programs may also consider additional criteria on a case-by-case basis as necessary to ensure the safety of tenants and staff. Application of such additional criteria should be rare, and may include, for example, denial of an applicant who is a high risk registered sex offender by a project serving children, or denial of an applicant who has a history of domestic violence involving a current participant.

Community integration and recovery:

- Housing is integrated into the community and tenants have ample opportunity and are supported to form connections outside of the project.
- Housing is located in neighborhoods that are accessible to community resources and services such as schools, libraries, houses of worship, grocery stores, laundromats, doctors, dentists, parks, and other recreation facilities.
- Efforts are made to make the housing look and feel similar to other types of housing in the community and to avoid distinguishing the housing as a program that serves people with special needs.

- Services are designed to help tenants build supportive relationships, engage in personally meaningful activities, and regain or develop new roles in their families and communities.
- Services are recovery-based and designed to help tenants gain control of their own lives, define their personal values, preferences, and visions for the future, establish meaningful individual short and long-term goals, and build hope that the things they want out of life are attainable. Services are focused on helping tenants achieve the things that are important to them and goals are not driven by staff priorities or selected from a pre-determined menu of options.

DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS:

Category 4 – HUD Homeless Definition. HUD defines four categories under which individuals and families may qualify as homeless. Category four is individuals and families who are fleeing, or are attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member. Section 605 of VAWA 2022 amended section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to require HUD to consider as homeless:

any individual or family who—

- (1) is experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to, or fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized;
- (2) has no other safe residence; and
- (3) lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing.

Chronically Homeless. The definition of “chronically homeless”, as stated in Definition of Chronically Homeless final rule is:

1. **(a)** A “homeless individual with a disability,” as defined in section 401(9) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11360(9)), who:
 - i. lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and
 - ii. Has been homeless and living as described in paragraph (a) (i) continuously for at least 12 months or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of not living as described in paragraph (a) (i). Stays in institutional care facilities for fewer than 90 days will not constitute as a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the 12-month total, as long as the individual was living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or an emergency shelter immediately before entering an institutional care facility;
- (b)** An individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, substance abuse or mental health treatment facility, hospital, or other similar facility, for fewer than 90 days and met all of the criteria in paragraph (a) of this definition, before entering the facility;

(c) A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (a) or (b) of this definition (as described in Section I.D.2.(a) of this Notice), including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

Disabling Condition: Disabling Condition is defined by HUD as a condition that: (i) Is expected to be long-continuing or of indefinite duration; (ii) Substantially impedes the individual's ability to live independently; (iii) Could be improved by the provision of more suitable housing conditions; and (iv) Is a physical, mental, or emotional impairment, including an impairment caused by alcohol or drug abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder, or brain injury; (2) A developmental disability, as defined in this section; or (3) The disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) or any conditions arising from the etiologic agent for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, including infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

ATTACHMENT A

Developing Effective Performance Targets

The application narrative requires project applicants to develop at least two performance targets for the proposed project that align with and advance the CoC's system performance measures.

Applicants are encouraged to review HUD's System Performance Measures Introductory Guide at [System Performance Measures Introductory Guide \(hudexchange.info\)](http://hudexchange.info) prior to drafting their performance targets. The system performance measures outlined in this guide are as follows:

Measure 1: Length of time persons remain homeless

Measure 2a: The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing destinations return to homelessness within 6 to 12 months

Measure 2b: The extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing destinations return to homelessness within 2 years

Measure 3: Number of homeless persons

Measure 4: Employment and income growth for homeless persons in CoC Program-funded projects

Measure 5: Number of persons who become homeless for the first time

Measure 6: Homelessness prevention and housing placement of persons defined by Category 3 of HUD's homeless definition in CoC Program-funded projects

Measure 6a: Preventing returns to homelessness within 6 and 12 months among this subset of families and youth

Measure 6b: Preventing returns to homelessness within 24 months among this subset of families and youth

Measure 6c: Successful housing placement among this subset of families and youth

Measure 7a: Successful placement from street outreach

Measure 7b: Successful placement in or retention of permanent housing

ATTACHMENT B
Project Scoring

The new project ranking tool, with scoring criteria is included on the following page and is available for download on the CoC website at <https://www.uncnepa.org/scranton-lackawanna-county-continuum-of-care/>.

**2023 Scranton/Lackawanna County (PA-508)
Continuum of Care Scoring Sheet for NEW Project
Applications**

SCORING

CATEGORY	POSSIBLE SCORE	APPLICANT SCORE
EXPERIENCE		
<p>1. <i>Applicant has experience working with the proposed subpopulation and in providing housing services similar to that proposed in the application. Applicants with more experience (length of service and/or number of participants served) serving the target population, more experience providing the specified housing services (length of service and/or number of participants served), or, unique experience serving a particularly underserved population, should be scored more highly.</i></p> <p><i>Up to 10 points for detailed descriptions of past programming and experience serving proposed target population. Up to 5points for data on past performance</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 10: Experience of Applicant/Sponsor, Question A.</p>	15	
<p>2. <i>Applicant provides detailed description of their experience using the Housing First Approach to services. Projects must demonstrate that they have no preconditions for entry (allowing entry regardless of current or past substance abuse, income, criminal records, etc.) to receive full points.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 10: Experience of Applicant/Sponsor, Question A.</p>	10	
<p>3. <i>Applicant has experience utilizing federal funds including HUD grants and other public funding, including timely submissions of required reports.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 10: Experience of Applicant/Sponsor, Question D.</p>	5	

DESIGN OF HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES		
<p>1. <i>Extent to which:</i></p> <p>a) <i>Applicant demonstrates and understanding of the needs of the clients to be served – up to 3 points</i></p> <p>b) <i>Applicant demonstrates that the type, scale, and location of housing fits the needs of clients to be served – up to 3 points</i></p> <p>c) <i>Applicant demonstrates that the type and scale of supportive services meet the needs of clients to be served – up to 3 points</i></p> <p>d) <i>Applicant demonstrates how clients will be connected with mainstream benefits – up to 3 points</i></p> <p>e) <i>Applicant establishes performance measures for housing and income that are objective, measurable, and trackable – up to 3 points</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 11: Project Description, Question A and Section 12: Supportive Services For Participants, Question E.</p>	15	
<p>2. <i>Extent to which applicant describes a plan to assist clients to rapidly secure and maintain permanent housing that is safe, affordable, accessible, and acceptable to their needs.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 12: Supportive Services For Participants, Question C.</p>	5	
<p>3. <i>Extent to which applicant describes how clients will be assisted to increase employment and/or income and to maximize their ability to live independently.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 12: Supportive Services For Participants, Question D.</p>	5	
TIMELINESS		
<p>1. <i>Extent to which applicant describes a plan for rapid implementation of the program, and the extent to which the timeline is reasonable.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 11: Project Description, Question B.</p>	10	
FINANCIAL		
<p>1. <i>Extent to which the project is cost effective and projected cost per person is reasonable.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 23: Budget Detail</p>	5	

<p>2. <i>Agency provides written documentation for all match commitments, and match commitments meet HUD mandatory minimum requirements for match.</i></p> <p>Refer to application section 23: Budget Detail, and any attached match commitment letters.</p>	<p>5</p>	
<p>EQUITY FACTORS</p>		
<p>1. <i>Project has individuals from an under-represented population (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, etc.) in managerial and leadership positions – one individual from underrepresented population in managerial and leadership positions = 5 points; 2 or more individual from underrepresented population in managerial and leadership positions = 10 points</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 19: Addressing Racial Equity, Question C.</p>	<p>10</p>	
<p>2. <i>Agency’s board of directors has individuals with lived experience on the board. One individual with lived experience on the board =5 points 2 or more individuals with lived experience on the board = 10 points</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 20: Involving People with Lived Experience, Question D.</p>	<p>10</p>	
<p>3. <i>Extent to which applicant describes relational process for receiving and incorporating feedback from persons with lived experience, or provides a plan to create one.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 20: Involving People with Lived Experience, Questions B and C.</p>	<p>10</p>	
<p>4. <i>Extent to which applicant has described processes to review internal policies and procedures with an equity lens and has a plan for development and implementing equitable policies.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 19: Addressing Racial Equity, Question D.</p>	<p>10</p>	
<p>PROGRAM PARTICIPANT OUTCOMES</p>		
<p>1. <i>Applicant describes their plan for reviewing participant outcomes with an equity lens, including the disaggregation of data by race, ethnicity, gender identity, and/or age.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 19: Addressing Racial Equity, Question E.</p>	<p>10</p>	

<p>2. <i>Applicant describes their plan to review whether programmatic changes are needed to make program outcomes more equitable and developed a plan to make changes.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 19: Addressing Racial Equity, Question F.</p>	<p>10</p>	
<p>BONUS POINTS</p>		
<p>1. <i>Extent to which the applicant describes ability to leverage housing resources with housing subsidies or units not funded through CoC or ESG programs. 5 points for description of housing resources leveraged, 5 points for signed written commitment from housing agency.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 21: Coordination with Housing and/or Healthcare Agencies, Question A.</p>	<p>10</p>	
<p>2. <i>Extent to which applicant describes how the project will leverage health resources, including a partnership commitment with a healthcare organization. 5 points for description of leveraging health resources, 5 points for signed written commitment from a healthcare organization.</i></p> <p>Refer to application Section 21: Coordination with Housing and/or Healthcare Agencies, Question B.</p>	<p>10</p>	
<p>TOTAL SCORE</p>		<p>155</p>