

Before Starting the Special CoC Application

You must submit both of the following parts in order for us to consider your Special NOFO Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application, and
2. the CoC Priority Listing.

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

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

1. The Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The Special NOFO Continuum of Care (CoC) Application Detailed Instructions for Collaborative Applicants 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.

CoC Approval is Required before You Submit Your CoC's Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application 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 the [Specific Attachment Name] attachment to the 4A. 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

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1A-1. CoC Name and Number: MN-503 - Dakota, Anoka, Washington, Scott, Carver Counties CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Hearth Connection

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: ICA

1A-5.	New Projects	
	Complete the chart below by indicating which funding opportunity(ies) your CoC applying for projects under. A CoC may apply for funding under both set asides; however, projects funded through the rural set aside may only be used in rural areas, as defined in the Special NOFO.	
1.	Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside	Yes
2.	Rural Homelessness Set Aside	No

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

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1B-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for project application submission for your CoC's local competition.	08/16/2022

1B-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.a.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected new project applications during your CoC's 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

1B-3.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	1. Did your CoC reject or reduce any project application(s)?	Yes
	2. Did your CoC inform the applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced?	Yes
	3. If you selected yes, for element 1 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, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	10/07/2022

1B-3a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	10/07/2022
1B-4.	Web Posting of the CoC-Approved Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC posted its Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or affiliate’s website–which included: 1. the CoC Application, and 2. Priority Listings.	10/07/2022

2A. System Performance

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2A-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors.	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.b.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC determined which risk factors your CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;	
	2. how your CoC addresses 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 or to end homelessness for individuals and families.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC accessed technical assistance from state partners to determine risk factors to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time. State partners provided resources for TA that researched national trends to identify who is likely to become homeless. CoC members conducted outreach to persons in unstable housing, seeking input into housing and employment barriers, reasons for homelessness, and to identify resources most needed to prevent homelessness. The information provided has identified key areas of focus such as service needs for SSI and medical assistance needs, eviction and criminal expungement, job and skills training, landlord strategies such as conflict resolution. 2) In order to address the risk of households becoming homeless, the CoC maximizes homeless prevention from multiple funding sources to fund strategies most likely to prevent first time homelessness. Utilization of a prevention targeting tool has shifted the CoC's use of prevention resources toward serving higher needs households. The CoC is now increasingly moving toward more service intensive models, with deeper subsidies and longer periods of engagement to better ensure stability. The CoC also works with food shelves, homeless school liaisons, etc. to identify households at risk of homelessness to connect them to Coordinated Entry & emergency services. Along with long term strategies, the CoC utilized COVID-19 specific funds to prevent evictions during the pandemic. Outreach teams were put together that included culturally specific agencies. The CoC funded radio ads and utilized online advertising forums to ensure the community was widely aware of the opportunity for rental assistance. The implementation of these programs helped to prevent first time homelessness. 3) The CoC has established prevention coordinators in each of the counties within the CoC are responsible for overseeing the strategies to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time.

2A-2.	Length of Time Homeless—Strategy to Reduce. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.c.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
2.	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)

In the summer of 2020, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) implemented Housing Stabilization Services, a new set of Medicaid reimbursable services to help people who are homeless or at risk of homeless find and keep housing. These services are not time limited and in the SMAC region there are 82 enrolled providers of Housing Stabilization Services. The CoC has identified and supported providers to connect persons experiencing homelessness with these MA billable services. A household is assisted with developing a person-centered housing plan and then connected with a provider who can provide Transition Services which include housing search and application support, resolving barriers to accessing housing, securing additional resources to help secure housing, and help a household organize their move. Connecting households experiencing homelessness with a service provider that can offer these Transition Services as quickly as possible will reduce the length of time households are homeless. Once a household is housed, they are provided with Sustaining Services which is a range of services to keep the person housed including mediation with the landlord, applying for and maintaining mainstream benefits and establishing community supports. In order to identify and house households with the longest lengths of time homeless the CoC utilizes a case consultation approach within the CE process. This approach includes a weekly review of a by name list by a team of professionals that discuss households on the list that have been homeless the longest. The focus of the discussions is to move those households into permanent housing as quickly as possible and identify what supportive services the household may need ongoing to remain stably housed. The CoC's Governing Board is responsible for overseeing the implementation of strategies that will reduce households' length of time homeless.

2A-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.d.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC will increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in:	
1.	emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and	
2.	permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC utilizes a case consultation process through Coordinated Entry which uses a by name list for weekly review by a team of professionals, including shelter staff, to quickly move households into permanent housing. This process ensures households staying in emergency shelter are served timely through the CE process and are exiting to permanent destinations. In addition to the weekly case consultation meeting, a domestic violence-specific case consultation meeting takes place every 2 weeks to ensure confidentiality for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Emergency shelters across the region are actively working with landlords to facilitate permanent exits from the shelter. The CoC convenes and facilitates regular check in meetings with RRH providers across region which offer exit planning support for all who attend. The CoC also has a transition plan in Coordinated Entry policy. This policy supports households in transferring from one housing program to another if housing stability is at risk. The transition plan details the CES Advisory Committee that works with housing program staff to facilitate a transition if necessary. The CES Advisory Committee is an elected group of providers and assessors from across the region. The Advisory meets monthly or more frequently as needed to review, discuss, and facilitate transitions. One strategy the CoC utilizes to increase retention of permanent housing is quarterly monitoring of permanent housing retention and exit destinations through quarterly review of APR data. The CoC offers support to programs that have not met performance measures as outlined by the CoC scoring tool. An additional strategy is the implementation of the Move On program through the partnership with Metro HRA in 2020. The CoC intends to try and extend this program to other PHAs within the region in the coming year.

2A-4.	Returns to Homelessness—CoC’s Strategy to Reduce Rate. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.e.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2.	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)

The CoC identifies common factors of households who return to homelessness by reviewing System Performance Measures and Coordinated Entry data quarterly. The Governing Board reviews progress data on System Performance measures each quarter including how many households have returned to homelessness during that period. The system performance report is then cross referenced with Coordinated Entry data to ensure households who have returned to homelessness are rehoused as quickly as possible. The CoC’s strategy to reduce returns to homelessness is to create a network of resources households served in the CoC can turn to prior to returning to homelessness. To accomplish this the CoC worked with housing providers across the region to revise written standards for RRH and PSH providers. These updates include expectations on case management services and after care services. A key component in the expectations is communicating early and often with the household about the resources available to regain housing stability. Providers across the region are committed to re-engaging with households after program exit if the household needs support in re-stabilizing their housing. In addition to creating a robust provider network, the CoC implemented region wide eviction prevention programming utilizing CARES funds. These eviction prevention programs targeted households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as other risk factors for homelessness. Dakota County has implemented an Eviction Court which pairs people facing eviction with legal assistance, housing case worker and resources to remain in housing. The CoC Governing Board is responsible to oversee the strategy to reduce the rate of households returns to homelessness.

2A-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase employment cash sources;
2.	how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their 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)

The CoC's strategy to increase access to employment includes quarterly monitoring of income performance measures through review of APR data. The CoC offers support to programs that have not met performance measures as outlined by the CoC scoring tool. Training is offered to projects on increasing employment income at least annually. All projects work closely with employment service providers to provide targeted employment services and comprehensive supports to increase earned income from employment with the specific goal of increasing income. The CoC attempts to increase access to earned income through promoting job/career fairs throughout the region. Employers are invited to attend Project Community Connect events in the region to connect those experiencing homelessness directly to employment opportunities. Providers within the CoC work with participants on work readiness activities such as resume/application support and interview coaching. The CoC utilizes expertise of its members and partners, including employment services providers, such as Tasks Unlimited, Guild, & the CareerForce Centers. Governing Board members attend Work Force Center board meetings and share relevant information and ideas across sectors. CareerForce Centers staff are active member of the local homeless planning committees and partner in providing trainings and resources during community events targeted to households experiencing homelessness.

2A-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income—Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase non-employment cash income;	
2.	your CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources; and	
3.	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)

The CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash includes quarterly monitoring of non-employment income performance measures through review of APR data. The CoC offers support to programs that have not met performance measures as outlined by the CoC scoring tool. In addition, the CoC partners with the State of MN to offer SOAR trainings to increase staff capacity & assist people enrolling in SSI & SSDI. SOAR trained providers also attend CoC meetings & offer SOAR services to projects who may not have a SOAR person on staff. The CoC also partnered with the state to offer a half day training on all mainstream benefit programs including but not limited to Food Stamps, SSI, and General Assistance. This training was offered free of charge to providers in the CoC. This training will be offered annually at a minimum. Access Points for the CoC's Coordinated Entry System are responsible to connect all households to mainstream benefits as part of the assessment process. CoC programs are also required to ensure participants are receiving all benefit they are eligible for. The CoC Governing Board working closely with the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee is responsible for ensuring projects have strategies to increase income.

2B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

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2B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Sections VII.B.3.a.(1)	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022:	
	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 of CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	No	Yes
2.	Agencies serving survivors of human trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	No	Yes
4.	CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	No	No
5.	CoC-Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	No	No
6.	Disability Advocates	Yes	No	No
7.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	No	No
8.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	No	No
9.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	No	No	No
10.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Hospital(s)	No	No	No
12.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Yes	No	No
13.	Law Enforcement	Yes	No	No
14.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	No	Yes
15.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	No	Yes
16.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	No	Yes
18.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	No	No

20.	Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	No	No
21.	Non-CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	No	No
22.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	No	No
24.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	No	Yes
25.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	No	Yes
27.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	No	No
28.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	No	No
30.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	No	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)			
33.				
34.				

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

2B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(2), V.B.3.g.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	communicated the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2.	ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;
3.	conducted outreach to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join your CoC; and
4.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC is made up of a broad stakeholder membership. 1) Invitation to apply for open voting positions on the Governing Board is conducted annually. The CoC communicates in multiple ways to make stakeholders aware of open voting positions on the Governing Board. Open positions and the application process are posted on the CoC website. The CoC Coordinator maintains a listserv & sends information regarding open positions and updates to all stakeholders annually at a minimum. Opportunities are also shared at CoC committee meetings & through presentations to local stakeholder groups such as school liaisons, police departments, etc. Interested members are asked to complete a short application. Applications are reviewed and members are selected by the CoC's Directors Council, a group of people with lived experience of homelessness. 2) Information for open board positions is available in electronic format through email or the CoC website. In addition, opportunities are verbally communicated during stakeholder meetings of the CoC. All CoC Governing Board & broad stakeholder meetings are held in physically accessible locations, when held in person. 3) The CoC's Governing Board was restructured in 2020 to better incorporate members with lived experience of homelessness. The CoC formed a Directors Council in February of 2020. The Council members are all people who have lived experience. The restructure of Governing Board voting membership reserves 20% of the seats for Directors Council members. Directors Council elect their own representation on the Governing Board. 4) One of the primary goals with restructuring the voting membership for the Governing Board in 2020 was to include more people of color. The CoC's Governing Board conducts outreach to organizations serving culturally specific communities. The CoC's by-laws empower the Director's Council to ensure diversity on the Governing Board. The Directors Council Members review all materials submitted by Governing Board applicants and make selection of all board members. Directors Council Members work to ensure a minimum 30% of the board members are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color. Currently the board membership is 67% POC.

2B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.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; and
3.	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)

The CoC solicits and considers opinions and input from a robust range of community stakeholders representing interests that are committed to preventing and ending homelessness. Broad CoC membership includes over 75 organizations from a diverse group of providers 1) The CoC Governing Board and all committees annually review membership participation. The CoC tracks demographics of all Governing Board members such as race and ethnicity, age, gender identity, interest group etc. Outreach is conducted to under-represented groups. The CoC’s governance and voting procedures provide equal representation among all interests and ensure all opinions are heard. The CoC worked diligently and successfully to increase participation of people of color and people with lived experiencing into voting positions and as committee leadership across the CoC structure since 2019. 2) The CoC communicates in multiple ways to make stakeholders aware of public meetings. Meeting times, location, and agendas are posted on the CoC website. The CoC Coordinator maintains a listserv and sends meeting reminders and updates to all stakeholders monthly. Meetings invites are also shared at all committee meetings. Board membership by people of color and people with lived experience has increased from virtually none to now it is the vast majority of the board. 3) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all CoC Governing Board and committee meetings were shifted to virtual platforms. In addition to regularly scheduled Governing Board and committee meetings, the CoC held regular check in meetings with provider groups across the continuum of services to ensure system adjustments could be made as needed. The CoC also worked through the SMAC EQUITY TEAM (formerly SPARC) process during 2019 and 2020. CoC leadership engaged multiple stakeholder groups in various meetings to share the recommendations of SMAC EQUITY TEAM(formerly SPARC) and get input on strategies to advance racial equity across the CoC.

2B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(4)	

Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:	
1.	that your CoC’s local competition was open and accepting project applications;
2.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;
3.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications;
4.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and
5.	how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC solicits new proposals for funding annually to encourage development of new projects & expand CoC resources. 1) The CoC distributed the new funding announcement through broad distribution lists & posted on the CoC website on 8/12/22. The request for proposals was also detailed at the Governing Board meeting on 7/19/22. The CoC reached out directly to providers to discuss CoC priorities for new projects & encourage applications. Specific outreach was conducted to DV providers to ensure these providers were aware of the bonus opportunity & to encourage them to apply. Technical assistance was offered to all projects that have not previously received CoC funds. Specific outreach was conducted to local providers not funded by HUD. 2) At the time the application was published on the CoC website an information packet was also posted & sent via email. The information packet includes all materials a new applicant would need to complete the local CoC application & information on how to submit applications. It was requested that applications should be submitted via email to the CoC Coordinator. 3) The CoC uses a competitive process to determine the new projects to be included in CoC Program Competition. Data is reviewed & used to set local priorities. These priorities are used in selecting new projects to ensure they will fill the identified gaps in the CoC. The application for new projects is developed by the Governing Board & is widely distributed. A scoring rubric is developed & shared at the time the application is released. Responses are submitted to the CoC Coordinator & then shared with the CoC Ranking Committee, made up of members of the Governing Board and the Directors Council of people with lived experience. Ranking members score each application & discuss all responses at a virtual meeting to determine which projects will be included in the CoC Program Competition. 4)The application notices and information were accessible to individuals with disabilities and provided electronically and in meetings.

2C. Coordination / Engagement—with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

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2C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.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 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)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Yes
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		

2C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC engages with both ESG recipients in the region, Dakota County CDA and the State of Minnesota, in developing plans and allocating funding. 1) The State of Minnesota has a bi-annual competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process for ESG funds. Representatives from the CoC participate in the review of funding applications. This review process, along with additional RFP meetings, provides an opportunity for meaningful CoC input in the allocation of ESG funds in the CoC. In addition, the CoC meets at least monthly with the Dakota County CDA through the Dakota County Affordable Housing Coalition meeting where ESG planning and funding allocation are included on the agenda annually at a minimum. The CoC collaborated closely with both ESG recipients during the allocation of ESG-CV funds through monthly planning discussions and shared review of applications for funding. 2) The CoC has collaborated with all ESG recipients to create written standards that define practices, performance standards, outcomes and evaluation processes for all ESG funded programs within the CoC. The CoC works with both the Dakota County CDA and the State recipient of ESG funds to evaluate the performance of the ESG recipients, as defined by the written standards through the meetings detailed above. 3) The Consolidated Plan jurisdictions covered by the CoC include: Anoka, Dakota and Washington Counties, Woodbury City and the State of Minnesota. Staff from Con Plan jurisdictions are active in CoC committees. The CoC provides input during the development of the Con Plan including providing data from HDX (PIT and HIC) and HMIS (Coordinated Entry) that inform trends and CoC identified priorities. There is regular phone and email contact between Con Plan jurisdiction staff and the CoC on projects of interest and in-person attendance at CoC committee meetings.

2C-3.	Discharge Planning Coordination. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.c.	

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

2C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:

1.	Youth Education Provider	No
2.	State Education Agency (SEA)	Yes
3.	Local Education Agency (LEA)	No
4.	School Districts	Yes

2C-4a.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts–Formal Partnerships. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC collaborates with the entities checked in Question 2C-4; and
2.	the formal partnerships your CoC has with the entities checked in Question 2C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The SMAC COC has a formal Partnership agreement with Minnesota Department of Education outlining shared goals, roles, responsibility and frequency of meetings. Formal partnerships exist between the CoC & Education Services: 1) The CoC has agreements with youth education providers primarily through in-reach into the schools across the region. Youth outreach workers provide targeted in reach into schools that includes talking with administrative staff to identify youth & families that may be experiencing homelessness. The outreach workers provide access to services within the school &/or can meet with the youth or family outside of the school if that is what the youth or family prefers. These youth outreach workers regularly participate in CoC Committee meetings. 2) The agencies that employ staff doing school in-reach have formal partnerships with individual schools allowing outreach staff to enter school buildings & meet with youth and families on site. 3) The CoC has a strong history of collaborating with the McKinney-Vento State Education Agency. The CoC worked closely with MN Department of Education & school district staff to develop a formal partnership document between the CoC & the school districts within the region. 4) A formal partnership exists between the SEA & the CoC through the statewide Heading Home Alliance & the charter document in place for that group. 5) The CoC collaborates with school districts throughout the year in several ways. LEAs & school district staff attend monthly CoC committee meetings & provide data on households experiencing homelessness within the district. The CoC has partnered with school districts in planning specific to Homework Starts with Home which is a state funded homelessness prevention program. This planning has included strategies to connect families with housing instability to homeless response system resources. 6) The CoC intended to pursue formal partnership agreements with school districts as described in (3) above. The COVID-19 pandemic made this challenging. Entering into these agreements with school districts has become a focus in 2022 for the CoC. Anoka County has a formal agreement with the Anoka-Hennepin School District. to administer a program to serve homeless students and their families.

2C-4b.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC's Education Policy has been in place since 2014 and is reviewed regularly and updated as needed. All homeless assistance projects within the CoC region that serve households with children (shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing) are expected to comply with the following policies: A. Ensure that all homeless families are informed of the McKinney Vento Act to ensure that their children are able to maintain enrollment in school. B. Advocate for families with their school district to ensure that transportation is arranged (as needed). C. Track school attendance for all children served within your program and help families to resolve any barriers that are contributing to the absences (as needed). D. Assist families in developing education related goals for all family members when completing Housing Goal Plans. E. Ensure that all family members are connected to relevant educational resources in the community. F. Encourage and assist families with children ages 3-5 to apply for the Head Start Program and provide referrals to agencies that offer Head Start. All CoC funded projects serving families must sign this policy each year during the local NOFO renewal process. Annually as part of the NOFO local competition review process, all projects that serve families with school aged children must sign a certification attesting they will follow this policy.

2C-5.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Training of Project Staff. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

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

	Mainstream Resource	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI—Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
4.	Substance Abuse Programs	Yes
5.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
6.	Other	

You must select a response for elements 1 through 6 in question 2C-5.

2C-5a.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Collaboration with Project Staff Regarding Healthcare Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

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, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance;

3.	provides assistance to project staff with the effective use of Medicaid and other benefits; and
4.	works with projects to promote SOAR certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

CoC provides monthly updates on mainstream benefit programs through CoC committee meetings and email distribution. The CoC partners with the State of Minnesota to offer a half day training on all mainstream benefit programs including but not limited to Food Stamps, SSI, and General Assistance. This training was offered free of charge to providers in the CoC. This is an ongoing will offer it annually at a minimum. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CoC now provides weekly updates on availability of resources and distributes the information via email to CoC stakeholders. In addition, vacancies for the state's Housing Supports program (a PSH housing benefit) are filled through the CoC's CES. Projects are made aware of availability through a weekly phone call. 2) The CoC has collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to implement a new Medicaid benefit, Housing Stabilization Services, and ensure that CoC participants are able to access this healthcare service. The CoC also includes several mental health organizations that participate in the Governing Board and provide PSH. 3) The state of Minnesota has a contracted providers who are trained and certified with SOAR these contracted providers proved hands on application assistance to people are homeless or at risk of homelessness to apply for Social Security benefits. All of the housing and service providers in SMAC Coc are given an updated list of SOAR certified providers each year.

3A. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects. (Rural Set Aside Only).	
	Special NOFO Section VII.A.	
	If the answer to the question below is yes, you must upload the CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project(s) under the Rural Set Aside for housing rehabilitation or new construction costs?	No

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

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	

Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?	No
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3B-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
	You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	If you answered yes to question 3B-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)

SMAC Coc - Not eligible for Rural set aside.

4A. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

Please read the following guidance to help you successfully upload attachments and get maximum points:

- | | | |
|--|----|---|
| | 1. | You must include a Document Description for each attachment you upload; if you do not, the Submission Summary screen will display a red X indicating the submission is incomplete. |
| | 2. | You must upload an attachment for each document listed where 'Required?' is 'Yes' |
| | 3. | We prefer that you use PDF files, though other file types are supported—please only use zip files if necessary. Converting electronic files to PDF, rather than printing documents and scanning them, often produces higher quality images and reduces file size. Many systems allow you to create PDF files as a Print Option. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you should consult your IT Support or search for information on Google or YouTube. |
| | 4. | Attachments must match the questions they are associated with. |
| | 5. | Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. |
| | 6. | If you cannot read the attachment, it is likely we cannot read it either.
- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).
- We must be able to read everything you want us to consider in any attachment. |
| | 7. | Open attachments once uploaded to ensure they are the correct attachment for the required Document Type. |

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1B-1. Local Competition Announcement	Yes		
1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes		
1B-3. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes		
1B-3a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes		
1B-4. Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application	Yes		
3A-1. CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs	No		
3B-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment	No		
P-1a. PHA Commitment	No		
P-3. Healthcare Leveraging Commitment	No		
P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter	No		
Plan. CoC Plan	Yes		

Attachment Details

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Submission Summary

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

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	10/17/2022
1B. Project Review, Ranking and Selection	10/18/2022
2A. System Performance	10/17/2022
2B. Coordination and Engagement	10/18/2022
2C. Coordination and Engagement–Con't.	10/18/2022
3A. New Projects With Rehab/New Construction	No Input Required
3B. Homelessness by Other Federal Statutes	10/18/2022
4A. Attachments Screen	Please Complete
Submission Summary	No Input Required