

## Before Starting the CoC Application

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

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

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

1. The FY 2024 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2024 CoC Application Detailed Instructions which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachment are provided.

Your CoC Must Approve the Consolidated Application before You Submit It  
- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the CoC Consolidated Application for the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition on behalf of your CoC.  
- 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit the Consolidated Application into e-snaps.

### Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

### Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You Must Upload an Attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

- Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.

- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

## 1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

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

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

**1A-1. CoC Name and Number:** MD-513 - Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester Counties CoC

**1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name:** Somerset County Health Department

**1A-3. CoC Designation:** CA

**1A-4. HMIS Lead:** Somerset County Health Department

## 1B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

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

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<b>1B-1.</b>	<b>Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.</b>	
	NOFO Sections V.B.1.a.(1), V.B.1.e., V.B.1f., and V.B.1.p.	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024:	
1.	select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted—including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC’s coordinated entry system; or	
2.	select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC’s geographic area:	

	Organization/Person	Participated in CoC Meetings	Voted, Including Electing CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	No
2.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
9.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	Yes	No
14.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	No	No

17.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	No
21.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Other Victim Service Organizations	Yes	No	No
29.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	Yes	No	No
30.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	Yes	No	No
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other: (limit 50 characters)			
34.	Veteran's agencies: VA staff, SSVF agencies	Yes	Yes	Yes
35.	Fair Housing Organization; 211 hotline	Yes	Yes	Yes

<b>1B-1a.</b>	<b>Experience Promoting Racial Equity.</b>	
	NOFO Section III.B.3.c.	

Describe in the field below your CoC's experience in effectively addressing the needs of underserved communities, particularly Black and Brown communities, who are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

The CoC has made strides to make services more accessible for these residents by having certain CoC documents translated into both Spanish and Haitian Creole. Our CoC is also in contact with existing organizations that serve these populations in our area, and is made aware of new organizations through various CoC members. We have not had any CoC-wide homelessness-specific conversations with these organizations, as a small percentage of homeless residents utilizing emergency shelters are non-English speaking. This is not to say we do not on occasion have this concern, but it is not especially prevalent in our CoC at this time. What we hear from representatives that work with these populations is that many of them are housed by friends or family if they are not in a place of their own.

The populations continue to grow, however, and it is time that our CoC begin to have more in-depth conversations about the future and homelessness trends as more and more new arrivals from both Spanish-speaking and Haitian Creole-speaking countries arrive to our region.

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC solicits new members continuously throughout the year, this has been more helpful than having an annual drive. We have a standing invitation on the CoC website, communicate updates through our ~230 member email database, and have a permanent notice on the front page of our HMIS system about meeting dates and accessibility. Regular reminders are distributed about CoC meetings as well as training opportunities, community events, and general updates that are pertinent to the work that providers are doing. Our daily bed availability email has been a popular addition to our email list, and a majority of new list members have joined just to have access to this list. We receive regular requests from CoC members about adding new recipients to the list and inviting new community stakeholders to our meetings. Word of mouth is a powerful tool in our area, and many of our current members will invite others in their networks to meetings.
2. All correspondence from the CoC is distributed electronically in a format that is accessible to those with disabilities. When sharing information, we strive to include both text, images, and complete information both in the body and as an attachment to ensure it is successfully received, read, and understood. To ensure that information being shared by our partner organizations is appropriate and correct, we do request that any organization wishing to share information with the full CoC membership first send it to a CoC contact person, who will then forward it to all recipients. This allows the CoC to use the most up-to-date email list and contact as many members as possible. If anyone has technical issues or other requests regarding correspondence, the CoC is absolutely willing to provide assistance. Regarding CoC meetings, they are currently all happening in person at a location that is ADA compliant and accessible to those with physical disabilities. Meeting agendas and minutes are distributed via email prior to the CoC meetings, with physical copies of agendas and minutes available at meetings also.
3. Several local organizations exist that assist communities of certain cultures, and these providers receive CoC information through the email list or that attend CoC meetings. Since the return to in-person meetings, we have begun having a monthly presentation and some of these presentations have been specific to addressing equity within our community.

1B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(3)	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	

1.	solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness, or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;
2.	communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information;
3.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
4.	took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC solicits and considers opinions from organizations in the homelessness domain through emails, phone calls, as well as in-person feedback. The return to in-person CoC meetings has made a considerable difference in the reception of feedback from various stakeholders. Prior to each monthly meeting, an agenda is prepared and distributed to all recipients of the CoC email list. If a CoC participant is interested in officially adding a topic to the agenda, that can be accomplished by contacting one of the three co-chairs of the CoC. For less formal feedback not needing discussion, a part of the meeting is set aside for any agency or attendee to discuss opinions, current needs, or present information to the group. Since reconvening in-person, we have noticed that feedback and conversation have greatly increased amongst CoC participants. CoC subcommittees have also increased their feedback collection and will present information back to the full group for discussion.
2. At CoC meetings, members and guests are given the opportunity to present information on their programs and share information about upcoming meetings, forums, job fairs, experiences with landlords, life skills training, and other topics. This information is collected in the meeting minutes so those who could not attend may also learn. Some agenda items may require a vote from CoC membership; these items are discussed and CoC members are given time to discuss and ask questions before the final vote is taken. Several of our CoC members have websites and social media that they use to disseminate information with the public and also receive feedback, which can then be shared with the full group.
3. All CoC meeting information is shared electronically and our CoC meetings occur in a location that is accessible to those with physical disabilities.
4. We welcome information garnered from other local meetings and forums and will distribute any appropriate information requested with the CoC through email and during monthly meetings. Our CoC continually strives to find new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness and greatly values receiving information and feedback from other local organizations.

1B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Awarded CoC Program Funding.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(4)	

Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:

1.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;
2.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications—the process;
3.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and

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

1. When the HUD CoC NOFO competition is opened, the CoC solicits project applications by notifying the CoC membership via email as well as posting a notice on our website that gives full information on available funding for both renewal and new projects with a contact person listed to request assistance in submitting a project application. In the notice referenced above, the collaborative agent encourages agencies who have not previously been funded through a NOFO to submit a new or bonus project. Deadlines are clearly stated to ensure they meet HUD and CoC requirements. Additionally, the NOFO is discussed at several monthly CoC meetings, to hopefully reach all possible applicants.

2. The notice distributed via email to the CoC and posted on the website states that new project applicants must submit their project applications via e-snaps by a certain date and time, with this application to be preceded by a letter of intent sent to a CoC contact person. For organizations that have not previously used e-snaps, assistance in accessing the portal will be provided by the collaborative applicant (as stated in the NOFO announcement letter).

3. A new project from an organization not previously funded will be vetted by the CoC using specific determination criteria. The HMIS system administrator will pull the project(s) into the priority listing. The project is then reviewed to determine if it meets project threshold requirements as determined by the HUD rating and ranking tool. If all criteria are met, the project will be ranked by the committee.

4. All correspondence regarding the CoC NOFO application process was distributed electronically, so that it may be accessible to those with disabilities.

# 1C. Coordination and Engagement

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

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<b>1C-1.</b>	<b>Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	
	In the chart below:	
	1. select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC’s coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC’s geographic area.	

	Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects	Coordinates with the Planning or Operations of Projects?
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Yes
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Yes
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		

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

In the chart below select yes or no to indicate whether your CoC:

1.	Consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG Program funds?	Yes
2.	Provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area?	Yes
3.	Ensured local homelessness information is communicated and addressed in the Consolidated Plan updates?	Yes
4.	Coordinated with ESG recipients in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients?	Yes

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

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

1.	Conducted mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated?	Yes
2.	Conducted optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure family members are not separated?	No
3.	Worked with CoC and ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients?	Yes
4.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within your CoC's geographic area that might be out of compliance and took steps to work directly with those facilities to bring them into compliance?	Yes
5.	Sought assistance from HUD by submitting questions or requesting technical assistance to resolve noncompliance by service providers?	No

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

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

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

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

Each of the three counties within the CoC has its own board of education. These three local boards of education have been actively collaborating with the CoC since it was established in 2002. These boards as well as Head Start (early learning organization) providers participate in CoC meetings, the Youth REACH MD count (when it is active), and also keep CoC membership aware of activities through meeting and email list participation. These local boards of education are very involved in the activities of the CoC, but we do not hold any formal partnerships with these local education agencies, or LEAs.

Each of the three school districts have designated staff who visit shelters and other homeless providers to ensure that children who are experiencing homelessness or living with other (non-immediate) family are able to maintain educational consistency. In our rural communities, LEAs know these children by name and follow them as they move from school to school. Each school district has MOUs with county government to provide educational services to children experiencing homelessness.

The state education agency (SEA) is in constant contact with the LEAs (boards of education) and provides direction and coordination during Youth REACH counts, when they occur. The SEA has worked with the LEA and CoC for the past several years to survey children in schools who lack fixed permanent addresses.

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

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC uses to inform individuals and families who have recently begun experiencing homelessness of their eligibility for educational services.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has a policy to ensure that the educational needs of homeless children are met, which requires the Board of Education and Head Start liaisons to collaborate and provide annual reports of the number of homeless children being assisted.

The procedure is as follows:

(1) regionally managed Head Start centers ensure all children can enroll in early childhood education programs and provide written material to parents informing them of their rights

(2) a local board of education homeless student liaison has policies and procedures to assist shelters and ensure that children are enrolled in school and immediately connect them to services and provide needed supplies and materials;

(3) a local board of education has policies and procedures that cover guidelines for identification of homeless children/youth, registration/enrollment procedures, determination of best interests, withdrawal procedures, the role of the homeless liaison, and procedures for resolving enrollment disputes;

(4) a local board of education homeless liaison will collaborate with shelters and other agencies to identify homeless youth and inform families of their eligibility for McKinney Vento services as well as having access to the full array of academic, social, and career programs; and

(5) a local board of education homeless liaison will inform parents of their right to keep children in the school of origin or for the child to attend the school located where they are temporarily living; each decision is made considering the best interest of the student;

(6) when disagreements arise, the board of education liaison will inform parents of their rights and explain the dispute resolution process;

(7) once a parent decides on which school their student will attend, homeless liaisons work diligently and closely with other local board of education liaisons within the CoC as well as in Delaware and Virginia (bordering states) to minimize further disruption in the student/family situation;

(8) the goal is success and nothing less for all students.

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

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

		MOU/MOA	Other Formal Agreement
1.	Birth to 3 years	No	No
2.	Child Care and Development Fund	No	No
3.	Early Childhood Providers	No	No

4.	Early Head Start	No	No
5.	Federal Home Visiting Program—(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV)	No	No
6.	Head Start	No	No
7.	Healthy Start	No	No
8.	Public Pre-K	No	No
9.	Tribal Home Visiting Program	No	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)		
10.			

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

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

	Organizations	
1.	State Domestic Violence Coalitions	No
2.	State Sexual Assault Coalitions	No
3.	Anti-trafficking Service Providers	Yes
	Other Organizations that Help this Population (limit 500 characters)	
4.		

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

Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations that you selected yes to in Question 1C-5 to:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Our CoC has one dedicated domestic violence shelter. This organization provides the entire CoC with an annual training on domestic violence safety planning, trauma informed care and victim centered care approaches. If updates to policies are needed, the CoC and DV provider work together to update training and policy. Staff at the Life Crisis Center maintains up-to-date training from local and statewide domestic violence organizations and they are a valuable resource for the CoC when questions arise around domestic violence.

2. Many of the organizations that participate in the CoC are already regularly trained on trauma-informed care and continually stay up-to-date on this information. As other trauma-informed care training opportunities present themselves, the CoC lead and other agencies within the CoC share these opportunities with the entire membership, with an explanation of the importance of this training. We have also linked with organizations outside of our service area to provide resources to our CoC members. Earlier this year, our CoC had a presentation from the Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence that shared a comprehensive GIS site that will aid families in need in finding rental housing and other services across the state. While this is not DV-specific, the cross-CoC collaboration allows our network to expand beyond county/CoC borders to assist more people in need.

Recently, a training for the entire CoC about the topic of human trafficking was offered at an in-person CoC meeting. This training covered various trafficking types (labor, sex, familial, child), the action, means, and purpose of trafficking, what to look for with suspected trafficking victims, and how the regional navigator program at Life Crisis operates and how to refer victims to the program. For those who could not attend the in-person training, resources were forwarded to the full CoC membership. This information is still constantly relevant, and is re-shared often so that new and ongoing CoC members will have this information.

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC coordinated entry tool screens for victims of domestic violence and agency staff are trained to refer to Life Crisis. Our CoC uses a no wrong door model for coordinated entry, supplemented by 211 which is managed by Life Crisis. DV survivors are given victim-centered, trauma-informed services that align with best practices, and generally stay at the safe house for 60 days but can stay longer if safe housing cannot be located. Often, Life Crisis receives the initial call about people fleeing domestic violence and takes immediate steps to get them to the safety of their shelter. Life Crisis also has planning resources available on their website.

2. CoC and domestic violence staff were involved in the planning and implementation of the coordinated entry process which maximizes client choice for housing and services while ensuring safety and confidentiality. The DV provider utilizes a comparable database that also ensures confidentiality of client identity.

1C-5c.	Coordinated Annual Training on Best Practices to Address the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

In the chart below, indicate how your CoC facilitates training for project staff and coordinated entry staff that addresses best practices on safety planning and confidentiality protocols:

		Project Staff	Coordinated Entry Staff
1.	Training Occurs at least annually?	Yes	Yes
2.	Incorporates Trauma Informed best practices?	Yes	Yes
3.	Incorporates Survivor-Centered best practices?	Yes	Yes
4.	Identifies and assesses survivors' individual safety needs?	Yes	Yes
5.	Enhances and supports collaboration with DV organizations?	Yes	Yes
6.	Ensures survivors' rights, voices, and perspectives are incorporated?	Yes	Yes
	Other? (limit 500 characters)		
7.			

&nbsp;

1C-5d.	Implemented VAWA-Required Written Emergency Transfer Plan Policies and Procedures for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	whether your CoC's written policies and procedures include an emergency transfer plan;
2.	how your CoC informs all households seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance about their rights to an emergency transfer;
3.	what your CoC requires households to do to request emergency transfers; and
4.	what your CoC does in response to households requesting emergency transfers.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Yes, our CoC includes an emergency transfer plan in its policies.
2. HALS CoC has protocols in place to prioritize the safety needs of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking survivors. The CoC employs a "no wrong door" approach to ensure DV survivors are assessed using the same Coordinated Assessment tool and methodology so that referrals are consistent across the CoC. The HALS CoC's Coordinated Assessment is client centered to address the needs of the client, including safeguards and exceptions for survivors of domestic violence. When a DV survivor presents at shelters, they are referred to Life Crisis for housing at the safe house or another secure location.
3. When a household requests an emergency transfer, they are referred to Life Crisis Center immediately. The household need only ask for assistance and they will receive a transfer.
4. A referral to Life Crisis Center is made by phone to protect the privacy of the individual(s) seeking assistance. During the phone call with Life Crisis Center Safe House staff, staff explore safety and housing needs to coordinate safe transfer of the individual or family seeking services to the Life Crisis Center. Coordination of safe emergency transfer is handled on an individual basis between the referral source and Life Crisis Center staff. Life Crisis Center follows a trauma-informed care approach across all programs, including a 24 hour crisis hotline and safe house. Life Crisis Center staff are trained in trauma informed and victim-centered care. Safety planning is completed over the phone with the survivor prior to entry at the safe house to disable location services on electronic devices and explore safe transportation and arrival at the safe house. Additional safety planning is completed while the survivor is in services at Life Crisis Center.

1C-5e.	Facilitating Safe Access to Housing and Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC ensures households experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have safe access to all of the housing and services available within your CoC's geographic area.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

CoC and DV staff were involved in all planning and implementation of the Coordinated Assessment process which maximizes client choice for housing and services while ensuring safety and confidentiality. DV survivors usually stay at the safe house for 60 days but can stay longer if safe housing cannot be located for them within that period.

1C-5f.	Identifying and Removing Barriers for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC ensures survivors receive safe housing and services by:
1.	identifying barriers specific to survivors; and
2.	working to remove those barriers.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. 2. Our CoC is still working to streamline our coordinated entry system and along with that will come addressing systemic barriers to many populations which will include survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
2. This is an ongoing process.

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

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

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The equity committee for the CoC is the primary entity tasked with updating anti-discrimination policies. This committee has recently become more active, with new members and with the CoC now meeting in-person, has begun to have some deeper conversations. The committee is primarily focused on racial and LGBTQ+ equity and will update the policy with a more focused lens on these two areas. The committee distributed a CoC-wide survey about equity and access at various providers and the results were quite eye-opening. Many of the responses were from non-CoC funded organizations that may not be officially required to comply with certain regulations around equity and housing, but with this information in hand the committee can now work towards convincing these organizations to take on a more equitable outlook.
2. The equity committee is planning to provide an updated anti-discrimination training to all CoC members, not just certain funded agencies or specific providers. The CoC Lead, who is a member of the equity committee as well, is the contact person for anyone in a shelter or program who feels that their rights have been violated. Because the CoC Lead is collecting complaints and information, she is able to guide the equity committee to create an updated policy for providers to follow that aligns with the CoC policy as a whole.
3. Currently, compliance issues are directed to the CoC Lead directly. She follows up with the complainant and the provider, and investigates the claim.
4. If the complaint is found to be legitimate, the CoC Lead informs the provider of the outcome of the investigation and will let them know of continued monitoring, punishment, and additional follow-up activities. Currently, a log is not retained of the various complaints but this is in the works to be used going forward in order to be able to see if certain providers are receiving more complaints than others, or if certain types of complaints are being received more often than others.

1C-7.	Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC's Geographic Area–New Admissions–General/Limited Preference–Moving On Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

You must upload the PHA Homeless Preference\PHA Moving On Preference attachment(s) to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter information in the chart below for the two largest PHAs highlighted in gray on the current CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report or the two PHAs your CoC has a working relationship with—if there is only one PHA in your CoC's geographic area, provide information on the one:

Public Housing Agency Name	Enter the Percent of New Admissions into Public Housing or Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2023 who were experiencing homelessness at entry	Does the PHA have a General or Limited Homeless Preference?	Does the PHA have a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On?
MD Department of Housing and Community Development	0%	No	Yes
Wicomico Housing Authority	0%	No	Yes

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Neither of the PHAs that provide housing have a specific housing preference, although they do serve homeless individuals. Both PHAs are active CoC members that collaborate with the CoC to provide Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs), and an MOU has been signed by the CoC Lead and both PHAs. Additionally, one of the local PHAs (Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development) is the only local PHA that manages HUD VASH vouchers.

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

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

1.	Multifamily assisted housing owners	No
2.	PHA	Yes
3.	Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments	Yes
4.	Local low-income housing programs	Yes
	Other (limit 150 characters)	
5.		

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

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

1.	Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)	No
2.	Family Unification Program (FUP)	No
3.	Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)	No
4.	HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	No
5.	Mainstream Vouchers	No

6.	Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers	No
7.	Public Housing	No
8.	Other Units from PHAs:	

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

1.	Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a competitive joint application(s) for funding or jointly implement a competitive project serving individuals or families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other programs)?	No
		Program Funding Source
2.	Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement.	

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

	Did your CoC coordinate with any PHA to apply for or implement funding provided for Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to homelessness, including vouchers provided through the American Rescue Plan?	No
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## 1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

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

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1D-1.	Preventing People Transitioning from Public Systems from Experiencing Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.h.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the public systems 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.	Prisons/Jails?	Yes
2.	Health Care Facilities?	Yes
3.	Residential Care Facilities?	Yes
4.	Foster Care?	Yes

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

1.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition.	7
2.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.	7
3.	This number is a calculation of the percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, SSO non-Coordinated Entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	100%

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

You must upload the Housing First Evaluation attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.  
Describe in the field below:

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

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC holds regular meetings to discuss projects, participants and wait list clients. The projects that adhere to the Housing First approach regularly confirm that there are no preconditions to assistance nor service participation requirements.

2. To ensure a project is compliant with housing first, the CoC explores factors such as no income requirements, no services requirements, no criminal background checks, and no requirement to be substance free; i.e., the Housing First parameters.

3. Five of our projects are administered by the Somerset County Health Department, which is also the collaborative applicant for this NOFO. Because of this, those overseeing the project are very much aware of the importance of Housing First and strive for compliance. The other two projects applied for in this NOFO are administered by the Maryland BHA, who is also dedicated to compliance. Projects outside of the competition are not formally evaluated, but the case managers and providers are all contacted frequently. If any information from clients or other sources reaches the CoC Lead that Housing First is not being followed, this will prompt an investigation.

4. At this time, we are relying on conversations with our providers that are required to follow Housing First to ensure that they are in compliance. Housing First is often a topic of discussion at CoC meetings but there is no formal process to improve fidelity.

1D-3.	Street Outreach—Data—Reaching People Least Likely to Request Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.j.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC tailored its street outreach to people experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.
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**(limit 2,500 characters)**

All three counties in the CoC (Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester) have PATH and SSVF programs covering the entire area and 2 counties have HSP/ESG funded agencies who conduct street outreach of homeless individuals. In addition, each county health department has peer support specialists who connect people with substance abuse issues with needed services. These peer support specialists refer clients they meet on the street to PATH & HSP/ESG case managers for assistance.

PATH, SSVF and HSP/ESG-funded street outreach case managers travel to locations where unsheltered homeless either frequent or live (such as encampments) on a weekly basis. Thanks to additional funding from HSP and ESG funding, the CoC's street outreach has been strengthened. In continuation of changes made several years ago when the CoC mandated street outreach, the PATH program continues to be conducted by visiting those who are street homeless outside of shelters and agencies and who are least likely to request assistance. Regular outreach is still being conducted by a local homeless outreach team (HOT) to engage and stabilize those who are most vulnerable.

One of our emergency shelter providers who routinely did outreach in Worcester County has now expanded to serve all three counties, and hopes to expand further with CoC bonus funding.

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

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate your CoC's strategies to prevent the criminalization of homelessness in your CoC's geographic area:

	Your CoC's Strategies	Engaged/Educated Legislators and Policymakers	Implemented Laws/Policies/Practices that Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness
1.	Increase utilization of co-responder responses or social services-led responses over law enforcement responses to people experiencing homelessness?	No	Yes
2.	Minimize use of law enforcement to enforce bans on public sleeping, public camping, or carrying out basic life functions in public places?	No	No
3.	Avoid imposing criminal sanctions, including fines, fees, and incarceration for public sleeping, public camping, and carrying out basic life functions in public places?	No	No
4.	Other:(limit 500 characters)		

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

		HIC Longitudinal HMIS Data	2023	2024
	Enter the total number of RRH beds available to serve all populations as reported in the HIC or the number of households served per longitudinal HMIS data, e.g., APR.	Longitudinal HMIS Data	226	217

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

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

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

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

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1.	works with projects to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including those that provide substance use disorder treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services, including Medicaid; and
2.	promotes SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Through the CoC email group, mainstream resource availability information and materials are distributed to all members. The CoC website also contains the annually updated HALS Resource Guide.

2. The SOAR program is an ongoing state program working to combat the opioid crisis. The largest mental health provider in the CoC takes the lead for SOAR and conducts monthly case conferencing with SOAR case managers and also provides primary care services. SOAR training in Maryland is comprised of the SAMHSA training plus an additional training put on by the state. We recently shared the state training information as it only occurs at certain times of the year, and also shared with the CoC the procedure on how to access both the federal and state opportunity.

ID-7.	Partnerships with Public Health Agencies—Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent the Spread of Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to develop CoC-wide policies and procedures that:

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and                                 |
| 2. | prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness. |

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC is directly involved with public health departments for the three counties it serves. There is constant discussion and information sharing among the CoC and HD as well as the CoC and providers. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, guidance was quickly issued from the state level and disseminated through all three health departments.

2. Since the COVID pandemic, all congregate shelter providers have been very interested in their clients' health and safety status, and our outreach teams have always been aware of safety needs. PPE, testing, cleaning protocols, and quarantine options were all implemented initially and as the pandemic has changed over the past two years, precautionary steps are evaluated regularly. Local street outreach providers are still regularly checking on our unsheltered clients and needs are met for them as well. The CoC recently had a discussion and shared feedback to HUD (through our technical assistant) regarding the possibility of vaccine clinics for our homeless residents.

ID-7a.	Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | effectively shared information related to public health measures and homelessness; and  |
| 2. | facilitated communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers to ensure street outreach providers and shelter and housing providers are equipped to prevent or limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants. |

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Pertinent information received from CDC, HUD, and the State health department is shared electronically with the CoC in a timely manner. If a provider has immediate questions or concerns, they are able to reach any of the collaborative applicant (Somerset County Health Department) or their own local health department staff and they can answer questions or offer assistance.

2. Our CoC Lead is housed at the local health department (Somerset County, MD) and has no issue communicating with providers. The CoC Lead has an excellent working relationship with the other two local health departments and can provide information and referrals to them as needed. If a provider has an issue needing resolution involving infectious disease, they may contact the CoC Lead for guidance or directly contact their county health department for assistance.

1D-8.	Coordinated Entry Standard Processes.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:	
1.	can serve everybody regardless of where they are located within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	uses a standardized assessment process to achieve fair, equitable, and equal access to housing and services within your CoC;
3.	collects personal information in a trauma-informed way; and
4.	is updated at least annually using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Our CoC's coordinated entry system is based on the no wrong door approach to ensure that all geographic areas are covered. The CoC's geographic area consists of three counties and our coordinated entry contains resources separated by each county, if appropriate. Some resources will accept individuals from multiple counties and those are noted as well.

2. The CoC continues to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the coordinated assessment system to ensure that it reaches those people who are least likely to apply for homelessness assistance. Our tool was modified to include COVID-19 resources and we continue to divert to emergency shelters as possible and still utilize outreach workers to seek out those who are street homeless or individuals living in encampments. Two groups within the CoC continue to seek out and connect with chronically homeless individuals and assist them with shelter PSH or HUD VASH vouchers, on a weekly and biweekly basis. Agencies work to identify needs using the coordinated assessment tool and matrix and once needs are identified, agencies work together to find services in a timely manner for clients most in need of assistance. The CoC monitors the coordinated entry system to ensure timeliness of services and it continues to be a dynamic and evolving process. The assessment tool includes a self-sufficiency outcome matrix which allows for prioritization of rapid rehousing and permanent housing for those clients most in need. We continue to offer case management services for need identification and follow-up.

3. Many of the organizations that participate in the CoC are already regularly trained on trauma-informed care and continually stay up-to-date on this information. As other trauma-informed care training opportunities present themselves, the CoC lead and other agencies within the CoC share these opportunities with the entire membership, with an explanation of the importance of this training.

4. In response to staff turnover at agencies within the CoC and a general discussion about the shortfalls our our coordinated assessment system, the CoC has begun to work towards overhauling coordinated entry process and forms. We are exploring the possibility of a complete renovation of our system with the assistance of HUD TA, which we will pursue after this NOFO has been submitted.

1D-8a.	Coordinated Entry--Program Participant-Centered Approach.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:
1.	reaches people who are least likely to apply for homeless assistance in the absence of special outreach;
2.	prioritizes people most in need of assistance;
3.	ensures people most in need of assistance receive permanent housing in a timely manner, consistent with their needs and preferences; and
4.	takes steps to reduce burdens on people seeking assistance.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC continues to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the coordinated assessment system to ensure that it reaches those people who are least likely to apply for homelessness assistance. Our tool was modified to include COVID-19 resources and we continue to divert to emergency shelters as possible and still utilize outreach workers to seek out those who are street homeless or individuals living in encampments. Two groups within the CoC continue to seek out and connect with chronically homeless individuals and assist them with shelter PSH or HUD VASH vouchers, on a weekly and biweekly basis.

2. The assessment tool includes a self-sufficiency outcome matrix which allows for prioritization of rapid rehousing and permanent housing for those clients most in need. We continue to offer case management services for need identification and follow-up.

3. Agencies work to identify needs using the coordinated assessment tool and matrix and once needs are identified, agencies work together to find services in a timely manner for clients most in need of assistance. The CoC monitors the coordinated entry system to ensure timeliness of services to the client's satisfaction, and it continues to be a dynamic and evolving process.

4. Our CoC's coordinated entry system is based on the no wrong door approach to ensure that all geographic areas are covered. The CoC's geographic area consists of three counties and our coordinated entry contains resources separated by each county, if appropriate. Some resources will accept individuals from multiple counties and those are noted as well.

1D-8b.	Coordinated Entry--Informing Program Participants about Their Rights and Remedies--Reporting Violations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC through its coordinated entry:
1.	affirmatively markets housing and services provided within the CoC's geographic area and ensures it reaches all persons experiencing homelessness;

	2.	informs program participants of their rights and remedies available under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws; and
	3.	reports any conditions or actions that impede fair housing choice for current or prospective program participants to the jurisdiction(s) responsible for certifying consistency with the Consolidated Plan.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Our coordinated entry process is utilized by many providers in the CoC, and not only the ones who are required to use it. With this expanded partnership, it is very likely that we are reaching as many people experiencing homelessness as possible.
2. Each coordinated entry-utilizing provider that is providing housing services will inform participants of their rights under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws.
3. All providers using the CoC's coordinated entry system have a good working relationship with the CoC lead/collaborative applicant. Any conditions or actions that impede fair housing for current or prospective participants should be reported to the CoC lead for review and correction.

1D-9.	Advancing Racial Equity in Homelessness—Conducting Assessment.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

1.	Has your CoC conducted a racial disparities assessment in the last 3 years?	No
2.	Enter the date your CoC conducted its latest assessment for racial disparities.	

1D-9a.	Using Data to Determine if Racial Disparities Exist in Your CoC’s Provision or Outcomes of CoC Program-Funded Homeless Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	the data your CoC used to analyze whether any racial disparities are present in your CoC’s provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance; and	
2.	how your CoC analyzed the data to determine whether any racial disparities are present in your CoC’s provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Data to analyze racial disparities in CoC Program-funded projects (currently only permanent supportive housing) is completed using HMIS data.
2. We have utilized Stella P data to analyze this data.

1D-9b.	Implemented Strategies to Prevent or Eliminate Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p	

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

1.	Are your CoC's board and decisionmaking bodies representative of the population served in the CoC?	Yes
2.	Did your CoC identify steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC?	Yes
3.	Is your CoC expanding outreach in your CoC's geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups?	Yes
4.	Does your CoC have communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups?	Yes
5.	Is your CoC training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness?	No
6.	Is your CoC establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector?	Yes
7.	Does your CoC have staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness?	Yes
8.	Is your CoC educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national nonprofit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity?	Yes
9.	Did your CoC review its coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness?	Yes
10.	Is your CoC collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system?	Yes
11.	Is your CoC conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness?	Yes
	Other:(limit 500 characters)	
12.		

1D-9c.	Plan for Ongoing Evaluation of System-level Processes, Policies, and Procedures for Racial Equity.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

Describe in the field below your CoC's plan for ongoing evaluation of system-level processes, policies, and procedures for racial equity.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The most recent analysis of our homeless system was completed in 2019. The results of that analysis identified two areas needing attention: the higher rate of non-white people needing homeless assistance and a higher rate of non-white people with a poorer outcome after homeless assistance. We will utilize at the HUD racial equity tool and are planning on completing a separate racial disparity analysis on each program using customized HMIS reports, LSA, and SPM data.

The below statements are pulled from the racial disparity analysis in 2019 and still reflect what the CoC must focus on:

- The CoC is expanding outreach in geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups.
- The CoC has revived the homeless advisory council of homeless or formerly homeless individuals to solicit their opinions about racial disparity.
- The CoC has committees and other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness.
- The CoC continues to analyze coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness.
- The CoC is also using Stella and the HUD Racial Disparity Tool to continue its analysis of racial disparity.
- The CoC is conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of difference races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness.
- The CoC has started to analyze racial disparity by program and then by agency through quarterly HMIS data.

The results of this analysis initially shows that people of different races seek services from agencies where the staff look like them. In counties with higher concentrations of difference races, CoC agencies also serve races representative of their county's racial composition.

1D-9d.	Plan for Using Data to Track Progress on Preventing or Eliminating Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. the measures your CoC plans to use to continuously track progress on preventing or eliminating racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and	
	2. the tools your CoC plans to use to continuously track progress on preventing or eliminating racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The statements below are still accurate, even though they were initially introduced several years ago. The CoC remains in a rebuilding process post-COVID and is also working through staff changes that affected the activity of some committees, but we are committed to tracking and either preventing or eliminating future disparities.

- The CoC is expanding outreach in geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups.
- The CoC has revived the homeless advisory council of homeless or formerly homeless individuals to solicit their opinions about racial disparity.
- The CoC has committees and other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness.
- The CoC continues to analyze coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness.
- The CoC is conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness.
- The CoC has started to analyze racial disparity by program and then by agency through quarterly HMIS data.

2. Two formal tools that the CoC is using in this process are STELLA data and HUD Racial Disparity Tool to continue its analysis of racial disparity. Eva has also been an excellent tool that we utilize often to ensure that our HMIS data is as complete and correct as possible and to aid our CoC in tracking its progress towards a more equitable system.

1D-10.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking—CoC’s Outreach Efforts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

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

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

Our recently revived Homeless Advisory Council has primarily done outreach verbally and via flyers posted at the location of the council meetings, where many homeless individuals receive services. The council has tried other in-person events as well, with participation at a giveaway event for homeless residents in Wicomico County and with several visits to the pallet home neighborhood to have conversations with residents in transitional housing there. Going forward, the meetings could be advertised on various social media outlets as appropriate and perhaps either phone call or text messaging reminders could be implemented.

1D-10a.	Active CoC Participation of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

**You must upload the Lived Experience Support Letter attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.**

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

	Level of Active Participation	Number of People with Lived Experience Within the Last 7 Years or Current Program Participant	Number of People with Lived Experience Coming from Unsheltered Situations
1.	Routinely included in the decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	2	2
2.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	2	2
3.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's local competition rating factors.	2	2
4.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's coordinated entry process.	2	2

1D-10b.	Professional Development and Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness. NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	
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Describe in the field below how your CoC or CoC membership organizations provide professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

The organizations providing employment and and professional development to homeless individuals include the One Stop Job Market, Department of Labor, Tri-County Workforce Development, Goodwill Employment Program, Telamon, Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP), Wor-Wic Community College and the work of case management staff at shelters, rapid rehousing and prevention programs who connect their participants to employment opportunities.

1D-10c.	Routinely Gathering Feedback and Addressing Challenges of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness. NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	
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Describe in the field below:

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

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Retaining the presence of people with lived experience has been a difficulty for our CoC recently. We do have some providers who will routinely provide feedback from comments they receive from their clients. The CoC has recently revived our Homeless Advisory Council to some success. This council is facilitated by CoC members and is intended to include people with lived experience providing feedback on their needs and concerns with the plan to take these needs and concerns back to the CoC as a whole and make supportive and appropriate changes. This council has not been very successful with getting feedback yet, but is actively pursuing other means of meeting homeless individuals and getting information.
2. Our CoC does not have a formal feedback process, but we attempt to gather feedback as often as possible.
3. Feedback is gathered through continual follow-ups with clients who are receiving case management services.
4. We do not have a formal feedback process, but if feedback is received from those who have received assistance, we will share and follow up as appropriate.
5. Our CoC members are vocal about challenges that arise, and this applies to information that comes from current homeless clients as well. The CoC may not hear directly from those with lived experience consistently, but members of the CoC will regularly share issues their clients are having or noticing either in the full CoC meeting or in the smaller committee and client review meetings.

1D-11.	Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	
	Describe in the field below at least two steps your CoC has taken in the past 12 months to engage city, county, or state governments that represent your CoC's geographic area regarding the following:	
	1. reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; and	
	2. reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The largest city within our Continuum of Care, Salisbury, has been working towards creating a pallet housing village for the past two years. This self-contained "neighborhood" sits within a residential area on city-owned property but before it could be built, an amendment had to be passed to authorize the zoning code (among other exemptions). The initial zoning change allowed these 24 8x8 single-occupancy homes, plus one office, to sit on a residential city lot. Each tiny home will have electricity, heating and air conditioning but residents will share a communal bathroom building. One of the zoning changes included an amendment to the building code to allow buildings used for human habitation to be exempt from the existing plumbing rule, in order to more quickly make these homes habitable and keep costs down. Another approved resolution authorized the establishment of a temporary housing facility and defining the need for the facility and the services provided. It also authorizes the city administration to develop eligibility criteria, a selection process, and rules and regulations for the village.

2. Salisbury has also created the "Here is Home" housing expansion initiative, with incentives to bring over 8,000 new housing units to the area in the next 5 years. The incentive program offers waivers for connection fees, site fees, building permits, and water/sewer fees on all new single-family, multi-family, duplex, townhouse apartment, assisted living, senior living, group care, and condominium construction projects, provided they will be shovel-in-the-ground no later than October 2023. Most of the unsheltered homeless persons in the CoC reside in the Salisbury area, and the city is also experiencing a massive growth spurt which equates to serious housing demand along with increased housing shortages. As of the close of the program application period in February, Salisbury's Department of Infrastructure and Development had received plans for over 5,000 apartment units, 161 assisted-living units, 376 duplexes, almost 1,400 single-family detached homes, 600 townhomes, and over 400 units that will become either townhomes or apartments depending upon future demand.

## 1E. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking—Local Competition

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

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1E-1.	Web Posting of Advance Public Notice of Your CoC's Local Competition Deadline, Scoring and Rating Criteria.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a. and 2.g.	

1.	Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for New Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC's local competition.	08/28/2024
2.	Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for Renewal Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC's local competition.	08/28/2024

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

You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected project applications during your local competition:

1.	Established total points available for each project application type.	Yes
2.	At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH).	Yes
3.	At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness).	Yes
4.	Provided points for projects that addressed specific severe barriers to housing and services.	Yes
5.	Used data from comparable databases to score projects submitted by victim service providers.	Yes

6.	Provided points for projects based on the degree the projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.	Yes
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1E-2a.	Scored Project Forms for One Project from Your CoC's Local Competition. We use the response to this question and Question 1E-2. along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC's eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.  NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.	
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You must upload the Scored Forms for One Project attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.  
Complete the chart below to provide details of your CoC's local competition:

1.	What were the maximum number of points available for the renewal project form(s)?	140
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	8
3.	What renewal project type did most applicants use?	PH-PSH

1E-2b.	Addressing Severe Barriers in the Local Project Review and Ranking Process.  NOFO Section V.B.2.d.	
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Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding each project that has successfully housed program participants in permanent housing;
2.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding how long it takes to house people in permanent housing;
3.	how your CoC considered the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities experienced by program participants preventing rapid placement in permanent housing or the ability to maintain permanent housing when your CoC ranked and selected projects; and
4.	the severe barriers your CoC considered.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Each project for this year was a renewal project, so the ranking committee utilized HMIS data (using each project's APR for the previous year) to analyze housing data.
2. Length of time to permanent housing was also pulled from the APR for each project. Due to the unfortunate side effects of COVID and the effect this has had on the landlord/renter relationship, not many clients were able to exit PSH into permanent housing. Thankfully, no clients exited any projects back into homelessness or temporary housing situations, but we are still challenged with finding safe, cost-effective, and client-approved housing.
3. Additional preference was given to projects with higher numbers of chronically homeless individuals represented.
4. We considered specific severity and vulnerabilities
5. The severe barriers we considered were chronic homelessness, more than one disability, zero income at entry, and entry from a place not meant for human habitation.

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

Describe in the field below:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The rating factors were developed for the previous competition (2019) and the committee involved consisted of four members, all women: three white women and one Black woman. The members represented various (non-CoC funded) local providers and each member has also been involved in our local homelessness community for several years.

2. The review, selection and ranking process was completed by the same committee.

3. No specific barriers to participation have been identified within the seven PSH projects submitted for renewal.

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

Describe in the field below:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC has documented reallocation process that was developed in 2016, modified and approved in 2018 and is available to all CoC members. The steps are:

- Prior to the CoC NOFO competition, each CoC-funded project is asked about their desire to voluntarily reallocate their project.
- If problems are identified as a result of annual project monitoring and issues are not corrected within the specified time period, the governance committee may notify the CoC-funded PSH project that they will recommend reallocation to the full CoC. At the next CoC meeting after the project is notified, the findings of the monitoring review will be given to the full CoC and they will be asked to vote on whether or not to reallocate the project in the new CoC NOFO competition.

2. No projects were identified using this criteria for this year.

3. No projects were reallocated this year.

4. There was not one specific project that was obviously less well-performing this year compared to the other projects. All of these projects are renewals and have been renewed for several years, and looking back on historical ranking data, each project does well some years and less well other years. This fact, coupled with the continued need for housing and supports for the clients in these programs has made it difficult to define what is less needed.

1E-4a.	Reallocation Between FY 2019 and FY 2024.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2019 and FY 2024?	No
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1E-5.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

1.	Did your CoC reject any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
2.	Did your CoC reduce funding for any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
3.	Did your CoC inform applicants why your CoC rejected or reduced their project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
4.	If you selected Yes for element 1 or element 2 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2024, 06/27/2024, and 06/28/2024, then you must enter 06/28/2024.	

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

	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New and Renewal Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2024, 06/27/2024, and 06/28/2024, then you must enter 06/28/2024.	10/11/2024
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1E-5b.	Local Competition Selection Results for All Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Selection Results attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Does your attachment include: 1. Project Names; 2. Project Scores; 3. Project Status–Accepted, Rejected, Reduced Reallocated, Fully Reallocated; 4. Project Rank; 5. Amount Requested from HUD; and 6. Reallocated Funds +/-.	Yes
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1E-5c.	Web Posting of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application 2 Days Before CoC Program Competition Application Submission Deadline.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g. and 24 CFR 578.95.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC posted the CoC-approved Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or partner’s website—which included: 1. the CoC Application; and 2. Priority Listings for Reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.	10/30/2024
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1E-5d.	Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders by Email that the CoC-Approved Consolidated Application is Posted on Website.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified community members and key stakeholders that the CoC-approved Consolidated Application was posted on your CoC’s website or partner’s website.	10/30/2024
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## 2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

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

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>2A-1.</b>	<b>HMIS Vendor.</b>	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Enter the name of the HMIS Vendor your CoC is currently using.	WellSky
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<b>2A-2.</b>	<b>HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.</b>	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

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

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 HIC data into HDX.	05/10/2024
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<b>2A-4.</b>	<b>Comparable Databases for DV Providers—CoC and HMIS Lead Supporting Data Collection and Data Submission by Victim Service Providers.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.b.	

	In the field below:	
1.	describe actions your CoC and HMIS Lead have taken to ensure DV housing and service providers in your CoC collect data in HMIS comparable databases; and	
2.	state whether DV housing and service providers in your CoC are using a HUD-compliant comparable database—compliant with the FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Our CoC only has one DV provider and we have had conversations with their administrative team to discuss their use of a comparable database.
2. Yes, the one dedicated DV service/housing provider in the CoC is using a database that is compliant with the FY2024 HMIS Data Standards.

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

Using the 2024 HDX Competition Report we issued your CoC, enter data in the chart below by project type:

Project Type	Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current Non-VSP Beds [Column F of HDX Report]	Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current VSP Beds [Column K of HDX Report]	Total Year-Round, Current, HMIS Beds and VSP Beds in an HMIS Comparable Database [Column M of HDX Report]	HMIS and Comparable Database Coverage Rate [Column O of HDX Report]
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	252	0	252	100.00%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	0	0	0	0.00%
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	23	0	21	91.30%
4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	119	0	119	100.00%
5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	293	0	293	100.00%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	0	0	0	0.00%

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

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

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

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

We have no projects falling under an 84.99% coverage rate.

2A-6.	Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX 2.0.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.d.	
	You must upload your CoC's FY 2024 HDX Competition Report to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

Did your CoC submit at least two usable LSA data files to HUD in HDX 2.0 by January 24, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST?	Yes
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## 2B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

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

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

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

	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2024 PIT count.	01/24/2024
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2B-2.	PIT Count Data—HDX Submission Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 PIT count data in HDX.	05/10/2024
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2B-3.	PIT Count—Effectively Counting Youth in Your CoC’s Most Recent Unsheltered PIT Count.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.b.	

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC works very closely with the sole organization specifically serving homeless youth, Fenix Youth Project. FYP is proactive and understands the importance of the PIT count and although they did not have a dedicated overnight shelter at the time of the 2022 PIT count, they were receptive to information that will help them in the future as they have plans to open an emergency shelter.

2. Fenix Youth Project, the sole youth-focused organization within the CoC, interviews the youth that attend their drop-in center during the day and evening, but there is no particular location that was identified where these folks would be staying overnight. Many homeless youth in our area do not fit in the HUD definition of homelessness as they tend to couch surf for overnight shelter. As of this writing, the drop-in center has now closed so next year's PIT may require a different method.

3. Some homeless youth were represented in the actual PIT count if they were staying in an emergency shelter or included in the unsheltered count. The actual count was completed by PIT teams in each of the CoC's three counties but no homeless youth were on these teams.

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

In the field below:	
1.	describe any changes your CoC made to your sheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;
2.	describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;
3.	describe whether your CoC's PIT count was affected by people displaced either from a natural disaster or seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance who recently arrived in your CoCs' geographic; and
4.	describe how the changes affected your CoC's PIT count results; or
5.	state "Not Applicable" if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2024.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Not applicable - no changes to sheltered PIT count.
2. Implementation and methodology were unchanged, but the primary unsheltered PIT count vendor for one of our CoC's counties had a challenging year and went through many staffing changes. Due to this, we were unable to get a robust unsheltered count for our largest county.
3. Not applicable.
4. See question 2.

## 2C. System Performance

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

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>2C-1.</b>	<b>Reducing the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe how your CoC determined the risk factors to identify persons experiencing homelessness for the first time;	
2.	describe your CoC’s strategies to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and	
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Our CoC determines risk factors to identify persons experiencing homeless for the first time with the use of our coordinated entry system. The primary risk factors we have identified include mental health and/or substance use issues, lack of affordable housing, low incomes, and the lack of accessibility to consistent and reliable transportation due to the majority of our CoC being a rural area. Our CoC receives travelers from across state lines as we border two other states very closely, and our CoC typically has more shelter beds available than either of the bordering CoCs. Due to this close proximity of state/CoC borders, these individuals and families from other areas are identified as newly homeless even if they have a history of homelessness in their previous area making our numbers of new homeless individuals possibly higher than they actually are. Additional risk factors will also come from input from formerly homeless individuals who are contacted through CoC subcommittees or by providers with whom they are working.

2. The strategy our CoC continues to use to address those at risk of homelessness is utilizing supports and services through the Homelessness Solutions Program (HSP). This program increased funds available for shelters, rapid rehousing, outreach, prevention, and case management. Case management has, and will continue to be, one of our primary methods in the strategy to address homelessness on the lower shore. The additional funds provided by HSP allow us to not solely rely on HUD funding. The CoC also investigates other means of funding for future expansions of services.

3. Ultimately, oversight of the strategy to reduce first time homelessness for individuals and families lies with the position of CoC Lead. With that said, the CoC Lead works closely with two CoC subcommittees which are tasked with researching first time homelessness in our area and will bring recommendations to the Governance committee.

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

Was your CoC's Number of First Time Homeless [metric 5.2] affected by the number of persons seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance displaced due to:
--

1.	natural disasters?	No
2.	having recently arrived in your CoC's geographic area?	No

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

In the field below:
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1.	describe your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
2.	describe how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and	
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. To reduce the length of time that individuals and families remain homeless, providers within our CoC will not only help the client directly in searching for housing, but will also assist clients with applying for emergency housing vouchers (EHVs). Also, depending on the provider/client relationship, feedback will be requested from clients regarding housing opportunities that may not be appropriate for them necessarily but where opinions of those with lived experience are helpful. Shelters have been able to revert back to their pre-COVID bed numbers and all shelters in our CoC area are consistently full even at full capacity. While the CoC always has a goal of permanent housing placement for everyone homeless, additional federal funding that was disbursed during the pandemic has now expired and many individuals and families are still homeless. A transitional housing tiny home village has been completed in one county (with the largest homeless population) and it is slowly being populated by residents. This village accepts single persons only. Also in the works is a possible renovated hotel in another county that may be utilized for rentals or transitional housing but a timeline and how that location will work out remains to be seen. As best as they can, all our CoC providers will work to rapidly rehouse homeless individuals and families with what funds they do have and continue case management as long as possible to get the client on solid footing with rent payments.

2. To identify those who have been homeless the longest and work to house these individuals and families, the main systems the CoC uses are HMIS and various waiting lists (Veteran by-name list, permanent supportive housing waiting list). PSH vacancies are filled by prioritized individuals and families who have been homeless the longest. Providers who utilize the coordinated entry process utilize the self-sufficiency matrix, which through a series of questions with qualitative scoring will show the level of need.

3. Ultimately, the position that holds responsibility for overseeing the strategy to reduce the length of time homeless for individuals and families is the CoC Lead. Several subcommittees also work on this process to aid the CoC Lead: the Veterans Affairs committee and the Data Committee.

2C-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention –CoC’s Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.d.	

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

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. In order to increase the rate that individuals and families currently residing in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or rapid rehousing exit to permanent destinations, constant case management is the primary strategy (per feedback from the CoC). Providing very hands-on services to clients in need has been the best way to maintain contact and work towards the goal of permanent housing. Emergency housing vouchers (EHVs) were helpful when they were given to individuals and families in a timely manner but the backlog on EHVs has made them unattainable to new applicants currently. Some landlords did not want to utilize EHVs which created a hardship as well. Providers within the CoC do try and reassure landlords that clients are receiving ongoing case management services to ensure compliance with housing rules, etc. but it is an uphill battle in some cases. Utilization of HSP funding for case management assistance will also help to exit individuals and families from emergency shelter, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing situations to permanent housing. Some landlords have begun to purchase new properties to be used as rental housing, but these are not all necessarily up to HUD standards and therefore cannot be used by CoC-funded programs. The CoC continues to brainstorm additional strategies such as discussions with legislators, the local chambers of commerce, builders/renovators, and property management companies to positively engage them and convey our concerns and thoughts about local rentals. Engagement of new landlords and rental companies and cultivating relationships with existing landlords is also part of the strategy.

2. To increase the rate that individuals and families retain permanent housing, continuous case management is also the primary strategy. With continued case management, clients who have exited to housing are still worked with by providers who will try to get ahead of any issues that may arise around housing/landlords, employment or other income, mental and physical health, and any other needs of the individual and/or family. If the provider cannot help with a specific concern, referrals to other service providers will be made as needed.

3. Ultimately, the position that holds responsibility for overseeing the strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing is the CoC Lead.

2C-4.	Reducing Returns to Homelessness—CoC’s Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.e.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC’s strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness;	
2.	describe your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate that individuals and families return to homelessness; and	
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. To identify individuals and families who return to homelessness, the CoC uses data from HMIS (reports and client information from the system itself), annual reports based off the HMIS data such as the system performance measure (SPM) and longitudinal systems analysis (LSA), and case management follow-ups. Our HMIS system is open, therefore agency staff who receive referrals from our coordinated entry process can immediately see prior instances of homelessness during the initial intake process. With additional funding received for case management over the last few years, case managers can seek information from previous providers and attempt to determine reasons that resulted in any return to homelessness. Intensive case management continues to be one of the primary methods of keeping clients housed and successful. One of our larger providers has recently purchased an additional case management software program that will allow all their staff to see notes and information on each client staying at that emergency shelter or receiving other services there.

2. To reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness, intensive case management is again a main method. This includes keeping an open line of communication with landlords, clients, and other parties with whom the client is working. Feedback from the CoC regarding this strategy also includes having a go-to person to help with finding landlord and with hotel stays (if needed). Local higher education organizations also continuously distribute information about available training and classes, and financial literacy organizations will often work with individuals needing budgeting help. Our CoC's youth organization also interviews their participants and found that many of them come out of foster care, don't have jobs, or have judicial involvement and will help these youth and young adults with navigating resources such as credit counseling, expungement clinics, and successful renters programming. A new program (Critical Time Intervention) has also been trialed in one urban area that provides emotional and practical support during the critical time of transition from hospitals, shelters, prisons and other institutions. and by strengthening the individual's long-term ties to services, family, and friends.

3. The CoC lead is ultimately responsible for the strategy to reduce returns to homelessness, with the assistance of the Homeless Needs and Solutions subcommittee.

2C-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income—CoC's Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to access employment cash sources;	
2.	describe how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their employment cash income; and	
3.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase income from employment.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC strategy to access employment cash services lies with continued partnerships with member agencies that provide either job training, assistance finding jobs, and coordinating resources between organizations. Local organizations that work closely and consistently with CoC agencies are the Department of Labor, Telamon, and the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program (HVRP) through the VA. Case managers working with homeless individuals will provide them transportation to job fairs across all three counties in the CoC, develop relationships with local employers who may need seasonal or year-round workers, and bring employment information to individuals housed in shelters. On occasion, local hotels and restaurants that have high seasonal staffing needs will contact shelters directly to find temporary help. The state of Maryland has also removed certain education requirements for state jobs this year with the goal that more workers will fill these jobs. There are also apprenticeship programs locally that provide income during the training period and employers who are beginning to offer transportation to jobs. Additionally, there is a mobile job search bus that travels to locations in each county on a regular schedule and staff there will help find and apply for jobs.

2. Mainstream employment agencies such as local temp agencies and the American Job Center are being utilized by those experiencing homelessness and without employment, or who are looking for more stable or higher-paying employment. Case managers and other agency staff have also been building relationships with local small businesses. Our CoC covers a relatively small geographic area, and that makes it much easier to reach out personally to many businesses. Small businesses have been much more understanding of the high turnover rates that sometimes occur with homeless employees, especially youth.

3. The Homeless Needs Subcommittee is responsible for oversight of the CoC's strategy to increase job and income growth through employment. The ultimate strategic responsibility to increase job and income growth through employment is with the CoC lead.

2C-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income—CoC's Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe your CoC's strategy to access non-employment cash income; and	
	2. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Case managers at CoC agencies will help their clients apply for appropriate programs, such as SSI or SSDI. Some case managers within CoC organizations are SOAR certified and others have expressed interest in gaining certification.

2. The ultimate strategic responsibility to increase non-employment cash income is with the CoC lead.

### 3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare

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

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

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

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

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	No
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<b>3A-3.</b>	<b>Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.</b>	
	NOFO Sections V.B.6.a. and V.B.6.b.	

If you selected yes to questions 3A-1. or 3A-2., use the list feature icon to enter information about each project application you intend for HUD to evaluate to determine if they meet the criteria.

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

### 3B. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

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

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

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

Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project application requesting \$200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction?	No
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3B-2.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

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

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

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

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

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

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

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

	Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?	No
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3C-2.	Cost Effectiveness of Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

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

If you answered yes to question 3C-1, describe in the field below:

1.	how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and
2.	how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.

(limit 2,500 characters)

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

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

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

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

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