

Nebraska Balance of State Continuum of Care Request for Applications 2024 Collaborative Application for HUD Continuum of Care Funding

Invitation to Bid: The Nebraska Balance of State CoC (NE BoS) announces the opportunity to apply for funding under the 2024/2025 HUD Continuum of Care Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Detailed instructions for renewal and new project applications are below.

2024/2025 Continuum of Care Competition

This opportunity is available for renewal and new projects under the annual Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity. All Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project grants expiring in Calendar Year 2025 **MUST** apply for renewal as part of this competition. Any eligible organization is invited to apply for new project funding.

This is HUD's first two-year CoC NOFO. For 2024, the CoC will submit a full CoC Collaborative Application and Project Priority List. In 2025, the CoC will submit an application to renew any CoC grants expiring in 2026 that did not submit a renewal application in the 2024 competition. Grants funded for one year in the 2024 competition will automatically be renewed in 2025 without having to submit a renewal application. In 2025 there may be a competition for bonus and/or reallocated funding.

RENEWAL GRANTS: Any organization with HUD Continuum of Care funding in the NE BoS that is expiring in Calendar Year 2025 must apply for renewal funding through this funding opportunity. Failure to submit a renewal application under designated timeline or other application requirements may result in exclusion in the Nebraska Balance of State Collaborative Application and funding being discontinued.

BONUS PROJECTS (NEW PROJECTS): Opportunity to apply for bonus funding to create new permanent housing projects. The amount of potential bonus funding has increased for 2024.

Eligible new project types include:

- Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH)
- Joint Transitional- Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH-RRH)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BONUS: opportunity for project applications that exclusively serve populations eligible for services under HUD Category 1 or 4 Homeless.

Eligible project types include:

- Rapid rehousing (RRH)
- Joint Transitional- Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH-RRH)

- Coordinated Entry (SSO- limited to CE Lead)
- The amount of DV bonus funds that the CoC can apply for has increased.

YHDP RENEWAL AND REPLACEMENT PROJECTS: Current YHDP funded organizations within the Nebraska BoS must submit a renewal or replacement YHDP project application under the 2024 Collaborative Application to receive on-going funding. YHDP projects are being renewed NON-COMPETITIVELY and will not be ranked or scored. If the current recipient of YHDP funding will no longer operate the project and the project has been renewed at least once on a CoC competition, the YHDP funding may be reallocated to one or more new recipients. Any project assisted with YHDP resources may only serve youth aged 24 and under.

Current YHDP grantees may make minor changes to their renewal applications. Significant changes (changing program component, significant budget changes) require a YHDP replacement application.

RANK AND REVIEW: Under the Continuum of Care NOFO, HUD requires CoCs to rank project applications in priority order and to base that ranking, at least partially, on how the project succeeds in meeting HUD system performance measures. Due to the need to continue providing services and support to households currently receiving CoC assistance, the CoC policy has been to prioritize well-performing renewal projects. Renewal projects, except for projects renewing for the first time and lacking a full year of operational experience and those essential to the operation of the CoC (HMIS and coordinated entry), are ranked according to their renewal evaluation score. That score, in turn, is based on HUD system performance measures and compliance with CoC and HUD requirements and policies as determined collectively by the Nebraska Balance of State CoC.

All YHDP projects are non-competitively renewed and are not ranked in the 2024 competition.

All CoC NOFO documents for the Nebraska Balance of State, including the Renewal Project Evaluation Scoring Criteria, New Project Scoring Criteria, and the Rank and Review Policy, will be posted to the CoC website as soon as available. <https://ccfl.unl.edu/community-services-management/resources/bos-coc-ne-500>

ELIGIBLE COC ACTIVITIES:

In the 2023 NOFO HUD identified new activities that can be funded using CoC resources. These additional activities are directed toward compliance with provisions of the Violence Against Women Act 2022 and for additional support in areas that HUD has defined as 'rural'. The majority of the Nebraska Balance of State is considered by HUD to be rural.

VAWA Costs: Funding can be requested for facilitating and coordinating activities to ensure compliance with the emergency transfer plan requirement and monitoring compliance with confidentiality protections.

Rural Costs: activities that address barriers to transitioning families in rural areas to permanent housing and activities to increase capacity to address unique housing challenges in rural areas. Eligible CoC activities in rural areas include:

- (a) Payment of short-term emergency lodging, including in motels or shelters, directly or through vouchers.

(b) Repairs to units in which homeless individuals and families will be housed; or are currently not fit for human habitation.

(c) Staff training, professional development, skill development, and staff retention activities

Organizations submitting new project applications may submit eligible rural and VAWA activities as part of their application. Existing grantees submitting renewal applications may submit an expansion application (new project) to add rural or VAWA activities to an existing CoC grant. Alternatively, renewal grantees may take advantage of HUD policy allowing non-significant changes involving shifting up to 10% of funds from one eligible activity to another, and transfer funds from existing budget lines to either the VAWA or rural budget lines.

Housing and Healthcare Leveraging

- New project applications meeting the Housing and Healthcare leveraging requirements will earn points for the CoC in the CoC application. Fully meeting the requirements for either healthcare or housing leverage will each result in the CoC scoring 7 points for a total possible 14 points. There are only 200 possible points, so scoring these leveraging points is very important for both new and renewal grants.

- Housing Leverage.

PSH projects that can demonstrate that at least **25%** of the units included in the project will have housing subsidies or subsidized units that are funded with sources other than the CoC or ESG program will score 7 points for the CoC.

Similarly, RRH projects where at least 25% of the projected participants will be assisted by housing resources that are NOT CoC or ESG will also qualify the CoC for the 7 points.

- Healthcare leverage. This leveraging commitment can be met by:

(a) The healthcare leverage will be met if at least one PSH or RRH project obtains a commitment from a healthcare organization that it will provide assistance to the project in a dollar amount that is equal to at least **25%** of the total funded requested for the project.

(b) The healthcare leverage can also be met by a commitment for substance use treatment services. A commitment from a substance use treatment provider to offer substance use treatment to all participants who qualify for and choose to participate in treatment will meet the healthcare leveraging requirement.

- Meeting the healthcare leverage will result in the CoC scoring 7 points in the competition.

- **Eligible Applicants.** Eligible organizations¹ are invited to submit new or renewal applications for CoC funding to be included in the 2024 Collaborative Application. The only entities that may submit a CoC renewal application are current HUD CoC grantees that have a grant with an end date in calendar year 2025. Only current YHDP recipients may apply to renew or replace YHDP funds. Applicants for new projects can be nonprofit organizations, agencies of local government, Indian Tribes or TDHEs, and public housing agencies (PHAs).

PROJECT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

All applications must be completed using HUD’s online application platform, the E-SNAPS system. Additionally, new project applications seeking funding through the 2024 CoC NOFO must address two additional questions:

- If a current or recent CoC or ESG recipient: Identify a project and indicate your success in meeting HUD system performance measures in terms of increasing employment, access to benefits, permanent housing placement/retention, and not returning to homelessness. If not a current or recent recipient: Indicate whether you review participant outcomes in terms of the above factors, and if so, what are your outcomes on these factors.
- Describe any barriers to participation in your project(s) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented among people experiencing homelessness in your community, and identify the steps you have taken to eliminate these barriers
 - Provide answers to these questions in E-SNAPS on Screen 2B-1, Applicant Experience.

TIMELINE:

Project applications submitted after the designated due date will NOT be considered for inclusion in the 2024 Nebraska Balance of State CoC Collaborative Application

2024 Continuum of Care Competition

- **Letter of Intent, New Project Applicants.** Any eligible organization considering a new project application is requested to submit a letter of intent to do so by September 3, 2024. These are non-binding. The BoS CoC will provide technical assistance to new applicants in meeting the requirements.
- **Renewal project applications** [including YHDP renewal/replacement] must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm CDT on September 13, 2024.**
- **New project applications** must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm CDT on September 20, 2025**

¹ Eligible organizations include nonprofit organizations and government entities including public housing agencies. Individuals and for-profit entities are ineligible to apply.


Information and Resources

All information required for this competition will be posted on the CoC website, found here: <https://ccfl.unl.edu/community-services-management/resources/bos-coc-ne-500>. Information posted on the website includes:

- The NOFO published by HUD and supporting information provided by HUD.
- The CoC's policies for review and ranking of new and renewal applications
- CoC's policies regarding reallocation – including voluntary and mandatory reallocation.
- Scoring factors for the review and ranking of renewal applications
- Scoring factors for new project applications for the NOFO.
- Links to resources available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in support of the competition.

Possible application types:

Eligible organizations may submit one or more of the following application types:

- **Renewal application.** Any organization with a CoC funded grant that is expiring in calendar year 2025 must submit a renewal application in order to continue the project. This includes all YHDP projects. The total funds requested **must match the ARA** (Annual Renewal Amount) shown for the project in the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW). The project component, numbers of units, and the numbers and types of persons served must be fully consistent with the expiring grant. Minor budget changes involving shifting 10% or less of a budget line item can be made as part of the renewal process – significant changes cannot be made.
- All renewal projects (with the exception of YHDP, which is not ranked) that have at least one full year of operational experience will be ranked in the competition according to the scores received in the renewal evaluation process. Projects that do not meet the minimum threshold score for renewal must either submit and obtain approval for a Project Improvement Plan or agree not to renew the grant and to reallocate the funding. Those projects without a full year of operational experience will be ranked without score and in a position to promote funding.
- **New project application.**  project applications may be for any of the eligible new project categories.

Funding for new projects will come from bonus funding and from any funds that may be available from reallocation. The amount of potential bonus funding has increased for 2024.

New project applications may submit a new project requesting 1 year of funding but with a longer initial grant term not to exceed 18 months. This will permit the project to start up and become fully operational. New project applications seeking to expand an existing project may only apply for 12 months of funding. New project applicants allowed to request an initial term of greater than 12 months are strongly encouraged to do so.

Additional Options for Projects

- **Transition application.** An existing renewal application (not including YHDP – this is accomplished through YHDP replacement) may be submitted as a ‘transition’ application. This is a new project application. A transition application will start the program year as one component and through the course of the program year, the project will transition from that component to one of the eligible new project components. At the completion of the program year, the project will renew under the new component. A transition application may be the most effective way to accomplish a ‘voluntary’ reallocation where the grantee with funds to reallocate is also the planned grantee for the reallocated project. Grantees interested in the transition application process must contact and obtain approval from the CoC.
- **Consolidated Application.** Also continued from prior years, a grantee with more than one grant with the same program component (e.g., RRH, PSH) may consolidate those individual grants into a single grant. Up to ten grants could be consolidated through this process. To submit a consolidated application, applicants must submit renewal applications for each project and indicate the intent to consolidate. If all the renewal grants are ranked so that each is funded by HUD, HUD consolidates the renewal grants into a single grant that will have as its start date, the earliest initial date of the consolidated projects. The only limitations on consolidating grants are that they must be the same recipient and the same program component (e.g., RRH, PSH) and that no more than 10 grants be consolidated. There is no requirement that consolidated grants have the same budget line items or use the same subsidy approach (i.e., a leasing project can be consolidated with a tenant based rental assistance or project-based rental assistance project).
- **Expansion Applications.** Grantees may choose to submit a new project application in the NOFO competition that expands a currently funded CoC grant to serve additional persons, provide additional units, or provide additional services to existing program participants. HMIS may also be expanded. Expansion grants may only request 12 months of funding. Grants may be expanded solely to incorporate the newly established rural CoC or VAWA activities.

Rating and Ranking of Projects

Renewal projects will be ranked in the Collaborative Application according to the rating score provided as part of the renewal evaluation process. The primary factors affecting the ranking of renewal projects have to do with project performance and the extent to which the project is contributing to an overall improvement in the CoC’s system performance. Projects submitted by victim services providers are evaluated based on data from non-HMIS comparable systems regarding housing and income outcomes and on the extent to which the project improved the safety of participants.

New project applications will be reviewed by an independent panel with subject matter expertise but no conflicts of interest regarding the application. New projects will be scored according to the [HUD New Projects Rating Tool](#) modified to meet BOS CoC criteria.

Invitation to organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding:

The CoC actively seeks applications from organizations that have not previously received HUD CoC funding. HUD places considerable requirements on grantees and the application process can be challenging. Organizations without CoC grant experience are invited to reach out to the CoC by contacting Jeff Chambers (jchambers1@unl.edu) and/or Jay Schalk (jschalk3@unl.edu) and request assistance in understanding program requirements or the application process. Requirements on eligible participants and activities are very stringent and organizations are encouraged to discuss potential projects and the application process.

Presentation and Question and Answer Sessions

Renewal project applications including YHDP renewal and replacements:

August 27, 2024, 9:00 am – 10:30 am Central Time

New Project applications

August 28, 2024, 9:00 am – 10:30 am Central Time

Funding Amounts

HUD will be releasing potential funding amounts for the CoC and DV Bonus in the near future. This information will be incorporated into the presentation question and answer sessions noted above

Please plan to attend the information sessions to obtain more information and to ask questions. Additional support can be obtained by contacting the NE Balance of State CoC Planning Manager, Jayson Schalk, jschalk3@unl.edu; 402-472-0541.