



Homeless Coalition of The Alabama Gulf Coast

279 N. Washington Ave. • Building B • Mobile, Alabama 36603

FY2021 CoC Program NOFO

NEW Project Ranking Criteria and Methodology

New Project Eligibility and Threshold Requirements:

New projects must meet minimum project eligibility, capacity, timeliness, and performance standards identified in the NOFO or they will be rejected from consideration for funding. Project applicants must demonstrate the financial management capacity and experience to carry out the project as detailed in the project application and the capacity to administer federal funds.

All projects must meet basic eligibility requirements as outlined in *24 CFR 578*.

All projects must also meet all eligibility and threshold requirements as outlined in the 2021 CoC Program Competition NOFO. New projects that do not meet all threshold requirements will be rejected. **(See page 3, threshold requirement checklist.)**

Reallocation Process:

Renewal projects may voluntarily reallocate a portion of their funds by reducing the amount in their renewal project application. Renewal projects may be reallocated in part or in whole during the review and ranking process because of poor performance, unused budget amounts from previous years, or need for increased funding in a higher priority project type according to the CoC's local priorities. Lower performing projects that score more than 20% below higher performing projects will be automatically considered for reallocation by the CoC.

Ranking Process:

Project applications submitted to the CoC must be reviewed and either accepted and ranked, approved, or rejected by the CoC. All project applications approved by the CoC must be listed on the CoC Priority Listing in rank order. Higher ranked projects will be assigned to Tier 1 and lower ranked projects will be assigned to Tier 2.

Tier 1 is equal to 100% of the combined Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) for all projects eligible for renewal. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of renewal, reallocation, and CoC Bonus funds that a CoC can apply for, but does not include CoC planning projects or projects selected with DV Bonus funds.

ARD: \$3,816,265

Tier 1: \$3,816,265

Tier 2: \$ Any Applicable Bonus Funds

Any COC Board Member associated with an agency that is applying for funding will not be a part of the ranking process.

The CoC's ranking process is intended to be a coordinated, inclusive, and outcome-oriented community process for the objective ranking and selection of project applications. Renewal projects will be evaluated and ranked as follows:

1. New and Renewal/Expansion projects will be accepted and ranked, or rejected, based on the project meeting all threshold criteria as well as serving a prioritized population or population in need.

2. New projects will be scored and ranked according to the attached "New Project Scoring" point system:

- New Projects will be evaluated based on capacity, need, and demonstrated ability to successfully operate programs to reduce and end homelessness
- Data will be pulled from HMIS where applicable, or from a comparable database for domestic violence service providers

3. In the event two or more projects' scores result in an identical rating, the tie will be broken according to any locally established priorities outlined in the "2021 CoC Priorities" document. Should the tying projects be of identical project type or if the CoC has established no local priorities, then the tie will be broken according to the requested amount of grant funding - with larger grants being rated above grants with less funding.

4. CoC infrastructure projects - HMIS and Coordinated Entry - will automatically be ranked in Tier 1.

5. The CoC reserves the right to adjust a project's ranking and remove a project from Tier 2 – regardless of score - if the Tier 2 project fills a critical service gap and/or community need or serves any established priority populations.

6. The CoC reserves the right to adjust a project's ranking and place a project into Tier 2 - regardless of score - if the Tier 1 project is deemed noncompliant with CoC Policies & Procedures, noncompliant with HUD regulations, fails to adhere to the Housing First Model of assistance, no longer fills a critical service gap or no longer serves an established priority population.



FY2021 CoC Program Application

New Project Thresholds

The CoC Board will review all projects to determine if they meet the following eligibility threshold requirements on a pass/fail standard. If the CoC Board determines that the applicable standards are not met for a project, the project will be rejected.

- Coordinated Entry Participation - Project must receive 100% of program participants through the Coordinated Entry Process or an approved alternative system for projects serving victims of domestic violence.
- Housing First Model/Low-Barrier Implementation - Project must follow the Housing First Model and certify as such in the eSnaps project application form.
- Documented, secured minimum match - All matching funds must be identified, and the commitment must be documented.
- Applicant is active CoC participant – Sub-recipient agencies must be current members of the CoC General Membership.
- Application is complete and data are consistent - All sections of the project application must be complete and agree in numbers and activities in all sections.
- Acceptable organizational audit/financial review.
- Documented organizational financial stability - financial structure, policies & procedures, and general ledger must demonstrate appropriate capacity for managing federal funds.
- Project meets HUD's NOFO Application Threshold Requirements
- Project meets a current CoC service gap or area of need

NEW PROJECT SCORING

Question	Clarifications/Breakdown	Max Score
<p>Q1. Describe the experience of the applicant and subrecipients (if any) in working with the proposed housing.</p>	<p>8 points for experience with population / subpopulation to be served; 7 points for experience working with proposed housing type.</p>	<p align="center">15</p>
<p>Q2. Describe experience with utilizing a “housing first” approach, include (1) Eligibility criteria, (2) process for accepting new clients, and (3) process and criteria for exiting clients. - - Must demonstrate there are no preconditions to entry, allowing entry regardless of current or past substance abuse, income, criminal records (with exceptions of restrictions imposed by federal, state, or local law or ordinance), marital status, familial status, actual or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Must demonstrate the project has a process to address situations that may jeopardize housing or project assistance to ensure that project participation is terminated in only the most severe cases.</p>	<p>If proposed project demonstrates utilization of a housing first model in these three areas, then they will receive the maximum of 5 points. If they are deficient in any of these areas, they shall receive no points - - since they either are or are not practicing a housing first model.</p>	<p align="center">5</p>
<p>Q3. Describe experience in effectively utilizing federal funds including HUD grants and other public funding, including satisfactory drawdowns and performance for existing grants as evidenced by timely reimbursement of subrecipients (if applicable), regular drawdowns, timely resolution of monitoring findings, and timely submission of required reporting on existing grants.</p>	<p>Max. points awarded if project shows satisfactory experience utilizing federal funds though any of the listed and applicable areas. No points if deemed unsatisfactory or inefficient.</p>	<p align="center">5</p>
<p>Q4. Extent to which the applicant: (1) Demonstrates understanding of the needs of the clients to be served. (2) Demonstrates that type, scale, and location of the housing fits the needs of the clients to be served. (3) Demonstrates that type and scale of all supportive services, regardless of funding sources, meets the needs of the clients to be served. (4) Demonstrates how clients will be assisted in obtaining mainstream benefits. (5) Established performance measures for housing and income that are objective, measurable, trackable, and meet or exceed any established HUD or CoC benchmarks.</p>	<p>Project shall be awarded 3 points for each of these five areas which are satisfiably demonstrated.</p>	<p align="center">15</p>

Question	Clarification/Breakdown	Max Score
Q5. Describe the plan to assist clients to rapidly secure and maintain permanent housing that is safe, affordable, accessible, and acceptable to their needs.	Max. points awarded if such a reasonable plan exists. No points if the plan is nonexistent or unreasonable.	5
Q6. Describe how clients will be assisted to increase employment and/or income and to maximize their ability to live independently.	Max. points awarded if such a reasonable plan exists. No points if the plan is nonexistent or unreasonable.	5
Q7. Describe plan for rapid implementation of the program, documenting how the project will be ready to begin housing the first program participant. Provide a detailed schedule of proposed activities for 60 days, 120 days, and 180 days after grant award.	Max. points awarded if such a reasonable plan exists. No points if the plan is nonexistent or unreasonable.	10
Q8. Project is cost-effective when projected cost per person served is compared to CoC average within project type.	Max. points awarded if projected cost does not exceed type average. No points if cost exceeds project type average.	5
Q9. Organization's most recent audit: Found no exceptions to standard practices.	Max. points for question being satisfied. No points if unsatisfied.	2
Q10. Budgeted costs are reasonable, allocable, and allowable.	Max. points for question being satisfied. No points if budgeted costs are unreasonable, unallocable, or unallowable	20

Total Available Points

87

Project Name: _____

Total Score: _____

2021 CoC Priorities

The AL-501 CoC requires participating projects to utilize Coordinated Entry for 100% of their program participant referrals. Using the VI-SPDAT, Coordinated Entry evaluates and refers participants according to the highest vulnerability and need. The CoC currently funds programs serving chronically homeless, homeless with disabilities including serious mental illness, families and youth, and those exiting institutions and incarceration.

Following a review of community data and examination of the local homeless assistance system's currently funded programs, the CoC Board of Directors for the Homeless Coalition of the Alabama Gulf Coast voted not to prioritize any project type or subpopulation over others for the 2021 NOFO Application process.