

Community Action Pioneer Valley's Three County CoC  
**Ranking and Evaluation Committee**  
**Friday, July 8, 2022 11:30-1pm**

Present: Brad Gordon, BCRHA; Pamela schwartz, WMNEH; Betsy Shally Jensen, APP; Andy Klatka, ELIOT; Teri Koopman, CoC; Michele LaFleur, CoC; Kim Croce, GHA; Calpurnya Roberts, MHSA; Dave Christopolis, Hilltown CDC; Deb McPartlan, Wayfinders; Justine Dodds, City of Pittsfield

**FY21 New funding Updates**

- **July grants**
  - Completing technical submissions for these, August and September Grants in esnaps, currently.
  - Have received grant agreement for IHS, but needed to return for start dates, awaiting new agreement.
    - Have begun referrals for this project (14 people chosen from the BNL so far – and working with Dr. Bossie to train her and staff on the CoC work and processes.
  - CE expansion is combined with the original CE grant – so these funds begin on July 1.
    - Working with consultants and a planning committee to work through system expansion to meet the needs of victims of DV.
      - Released a “letter of intent” for response from Providers interested in housing navigators that will be paid for out of this grant expansion.

**FY22 Special NOFO/discussion of process & board recommendation for R&E committee**

- **Special NOFO response will coincide with the regular Annual CoC Competition.** This is specifically to implement coordinated approaches – with housing first and public health principles, to reduce unsheltered homelessness.
  - Due October 20, 2022.
  - Fiscal year 22FMRs, funds will be awarded based on the FY23 FMRs but maximum awards are still the same. So if we apply for all the funding and then the FMR increases, you'd still only receive the amount allotted for your CoC in total – so HUD would adjust the budget.
  - Not available in esnaps yet – so cannot see the applications..also no instruction manuals yet
  - Must implement local competition
  - Includes review and ranking process (Board and ranking committee involvement)
    - Any planning funds are also ranked, which is not the same as the normal process.
  - Consolidated Application includes (see page 34, 35 of the NOFO):
    - CoC Review, ranking, and scoring procedures
    - LSA report
    - Plan for serving Ind and families with server service needs (see section Vii.B.4 of the NOFO)

- Several written commitments – hospitals.health care providers/ formal agreements re new housing development or opportunities
  - Letter from PLE advisory group
  - Letter of commitment from PHAs
  - Project applications
  - Priority listings for each set aside (including cons plan letters)
- **Seems to include the same level (and somewhat more) of documentation and process as the regular NOFO.**
  - 3 year grants (renewable, other than the rural capital funds projects.)
  - Must develop a working group of PLE (not sure how we are funding their participation).
  - Letters of commitment
  - Letter of consistency with the consolidated plan in that geography.
  - Must write a coordinated plan to serve Individuals and families with “severe service needs” (15 pages – described in detail in the NOFO on page 46) and each application must reference sections of that plan/adhere to it. This should describe how it supports the whole COC, though might also include more detail about how it supports the rural area.
    - Demonstrate current strategies for comprehensive outreach and access to low barrier shelter/temporary support and immediate access to housing.
    - Demonstrate how they will leverage mainstream housing and healthcare resources and increase employment access
    - Involving PLE in the decision making processes & demonstrate a participative planning process including traditionally marginalized groups
    - How this will support underserved communities.
    - How funds will reduce unsheltered homelessness in the region.
- **Funding Amounts** - MA-507 (Three County CoC) has the potential for a maximum of **\$1,981,165** in **Unsheltered Set aside**. (\$660,388 annually)
  - Up to 30 Bonus points given to CoCs that have more than 1000 – **this will be very tough for this CoC to meet due to our limited numbers of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness versus many Urban areas.**
  - Participant Eligibility -
    - Category 1 (literally homeless) and 4 (fleeing) (though if in TH, must have only been there 90 days and was previously unsheltered.)
      - **Does not have to be chronic.**
  - Project types
    - Planning funds (only available in this set aside) - up to 3% of the maximum award amount - **\$59,434.95 if we were awarded the full amount, otherwise it would be adjusted based on 3% of actual award.**
    - SSO
    - HMIS
    - PH
      - PSH, RRH, Joint TH.RRH Projects
- **\$54,500,000 for rural** - MA 507- **\$511,860** for Rural Homelessness. (\$170,620 annually)
  - No bonus points here – so based on a score of up to 100 – better chance to get this.

- Ony Franklin County (cannot serve other areas in the CoC)
  - Participant Eligibility – categories, 1, 2 and 4
    - **Does not have to be chronic.**
  - Project types
    - Construction/rehabilitation (must demonstrate it complies with section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development act of 1968, must be supported in letter form by the CoC, **and is not renewed**)
    - SSO
    - HMIS
    - PH
      - PSH, RRH, Joint TH.RRH Projects
- **Major considerations:**
  - Timeline pieces (see page 37 of the NOFO) - proof of all of this will have to be submitted with the application.
    - Happening at the same time as the regular annual NOFO competition.
    - Project applications must be received by CoC 30 days prior to due date
      - So must be received by Sept 20, though earlier if possible
      - RFP would need to be released by August 20, though earlier if possible.
    - CoCs must notify Applicants of acceptance/rejection and ranking at least 15 days prior to submission date
  - HMIS user increases would be required, so would need to apply for HMIS funds.
  - Scoring for unsheltered set aside would set our COC behind
    - Up to 30 additional points awarded to CoCs with over 1000 unsheltered homeless counted in PIT.
    - Large amount of time/process/competition/staff capacity for limited likelihood of funding
  - For the Rural Set aside –CAPV would not suggest releasing an RFP for more than capacity to build housing or SSO projects.
    - housing in Franklin County is extremely limited, YHDP projects are still trying to find housing to support the programs we funded 2 years ago
    - This CoC has a higher level of funding capacity in Franklin than other regions due to YHDP. consideration of staff capacity to support other parts of the region should be evaluated if we were to increase project funding in Franklin only.
  - Is there interest? - should we release a question/letter of interest to orgs to see if it is viable – individual outreach efforts prior to the regular NOFO release is suggested.
    - Are there agencies that are able to apply in Franklin county for the Rural funds.
  - Planning funds are only in the unsheltered set aside
  - **There are eligible costs in this (page 21) that are not always available**
  - **These projects do have the opportunity to meet the needs of ppl experiencing homelessness that are NOT Chronic (could help with equity measures/support our DV expansion.)**
    - **Hoping the actual NOFO will too, but unknown!!**
  - 25% match is required for all grants.
- **Scoring:** 100 pt scale
  - CoC application scoring can be found starting on page 40 of the NOFO.

- Up to 50 pts from direct proportion to the score received on the questions from the CoC application for the rural set aside (*example: 60 out of 89 points would result in 34 out of 50*)
- Up to 40 points for the ranking of projects (rural set aside specifics as well)
- Serving “structurally disadvantaged areas” - 10 points if the applicant makes a commitment to serve individuals in geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty and are located where CoC services have until now been entirely unavailable (trust lands and reservations – **which there are not any in our geography?**)
- CoCs must receive at least 50% of the points available before they are able to receive funding for any of it’s projects.
  - Points structure
    - Project capacity review and ranking – 4
    - Systems performance measures – 18
    - Coc coordination and engagement – 8
    - COC plan for serving Individuals and families with severe service needs - (70 points for unsheltered set aside, 59 points for rural set aside)

**Discussion notes:**

- Regular process requires a full time FTE - would we be compromising the regular process?
- Seems like the capacity to do this just ins’t there this year?
- Is this funding that we will see in the future? - so hard to know
- In the moment all of us are very stretched, but we should be having conversations about our priorities and funding. - How do we spend time and capacity to develop that – Capital investments, supporting marginalized groups.
- One big unknown is if there will be overlap in what is expected? Can we wait? this seems possible – we could include a response to this NOFO in the RFP if there is opportunity to align these responses. Keleigh will inform.
- Brad –
  - empower Keleigh/CoC staff – it does not look viable now, but allow the collaborative applicant to just communicate if something changes
    - If there is Greater interest
    - If there is Greater understanding of viability
    - Other NOFO information provides guidance that it requires something very similar and it is closely aligned in terms of responsibilities and timelines.
  - Release an LOI/ or do a little bit of homework to do it with full confidence.
  - All in agreement.

**FY22 – preliminary Ranking/ FY22-Special Board meeting planning/discussion of process for regular FY22 NOFO**

- CAPV has completed preliminary ranking of projects. There are a few surprises in the ranking.

- *See attachment -*
- ranking committee will need to determine if they recommend to the board, continuing to rank in the same way as we have in the past.
  - *See attachment -*
  - Historically, we have also placed a new project at the top.

#### **HUD Audit – findings of note, so far**

- No findings have been provided as of yet.
  - Assumed findings:
    - Operating funds - Village Center Apartment Project
      - Likely repayment will be expected of CAPV.
    - Administrative funds use – projects will be notified of some changes in expectations once we hear from HUD.
    - Client file – insufficient eligibility documentation – COC staff are working on a training to address this for CE partners and all funded agencies.
    - Insufficient project monitoring efforts – this will be brought to the board/ranking committee in the future, once we receive further information.