



# Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Funding Opportunity Ohio BoSCoC Application Plan July 2022

## Background and Introduction

### Organization of the Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care

The Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care (BoSCoC) is comprised of the 80 rural counties in Ohio and represents diverse populations, needs, and capabilities. The 80 counties within the Ohio BoSCoC are further organized into 17 Homeless Planning Regions that engage in collaborative planning around homeless programming. A map of the Ohio BoSCoC Homeless Planning Regions can be found [here](#).

The Ohio BoSCoC Board, which is comprised in part of one representative from each BoSCoC Homeless Planning Region, guides the policy and planning direction of the continuum. The CoC Board has designated the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), as the Collaborative Applicant for the Ohio BoSCoC. In this role, ODOD is responsible for submitting the annual consolidated application for CoC Program funding on behalf of the Ohio BoSCoC, as well as submitting the consolidated application for this special funding opportunity. In turn, ODOD has contracted with the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) to provide primary staff support to the Ohio BoSCoC.

### HUD's Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, HUD [announced](#) it was making \$322 million in competitive funding available to communities to address unsheltered and rural homelessness through a [Special CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity \(referred to as the Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO\)](#). Applications are due to HUD October 20, 2022.

This NOFO requires CoC's to manage the application process, to develop a Plan to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness ('CoC Plan'), to ensure involvement in decision-making from those with lived experience of homelessness, and to manage a project selection process that aligns with the priorities of the CoC Plan.

Of the \$322 million available, \$267.5 million will be awarded under the Unsheltered Set-Aside, and \$54.5 million will be awarded under the Rural Set-Aside. Only counties that have been defined as rural per the NOFO may submit applications for funding in the Rural Set-Aside. A map of the rural counties in the Ohio BoSCoC has been included at the end of this document. The Ohio BoSCoC is eligible to submit funding requests that total up to \$22 million in the Unsheltered Set-Aside and up to \$13.8 million in the Rural Set-Aside.

This special funding opportunity would provide funding to projects in the Ohio BoSCoC in addition to those already funded via HUD's CoC Program. The Ohio BoSCoC currently receives about \$23 million annually for projects via the CoC Program, representing over 100 transitional and permanent housing programs across 80 counties.

## Purpose of this Document

This document is intended to provide Ohio BoSCoC members with basic information about how the CoC will manage the process for submission of new project applications for funding available via the Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO, including:

- Policy priorities of the NOFO
- Priorities for new projects
- The process for submitting a Letter of Interest and New Project Proposal
- How the CoC will incorporate people with lived experiences of homelessness (PLE) into decision-making, project ranking, and selection

- How the CoC will prepare the CoC Plan to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- Overall timeline

## **Priorities of the Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO**

Through this Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO, HUD is seeking to advance the following policy priorities:

- Address and reduce unsheltered homelessness
- Address and reduce unsheltered homelessness and homelessness among those with severe service needs in rural areas, especially rural areas with no CoC Program funded projects
- Provide assistance on tribal lands
- Involve a broad array of stakeholders in the CoC effort to reduce homelessness
- Advance equity
- Use a Housing First approach

Additionally, HUD is requiring all CoCs to submit a comprehensive CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs (referred to as CoC Plan). This CoC Plan must address the following:

- Describe the CoC's strategies for conducting coordinated and comprehensive outreach, providing access to low-barrier shelter and other temporary accommodations, and providing immediate access to low-barrier permanent housing
- Demonstrate how the CoC will leverage both mainstream housing and healthcare resources to assist in their efforts to end unsheltered homelessness and stabilize individuals and their families in housing and increase access to employment opportunities for those experiencing homelessness
- Demonstrate how the CoC will support underserved communities, identify barriers that led to any disparities in communities being served, and support equitable community development by taking steps to address such barriers when using these funds
- How the CoC will involve individuals with lived experience in the decision-making process of the CoC
- Demonstrate how the CoC will ensure resources funded under this Special NOFO will contribute to reducing unsheltered homelessness in their geographic area

More details about how the Ohio BoSCoC will develop the CoC Plan can be found later in this document.

## **New Project Priorities and Proposal Submission Process**

The Ohio BoSCoC is preparing to submit new project applications for this Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO under both the Unsheltered Set-Aside and the Rural Set-Aside. However, it is important to understand possible competitiveness challenges for our CoC under the Unsheltered Set-Aside specifically. Namely, HUD will award up to 30 bonus points to CoCs with the highest numbers of unsheltered homelessness, based on 2019 PIT data. The Ohio BoSCoC is not eligible for any of these bonus points.

The following section provides information about eligible new projects, priorities for new project consideration, and details about the proposal submission process and deadlines.

### **Eligible Project Types**

Under this NOFO, the following new project types are eligible to seek funding:

- Supportive Services Only (SSO) for Coordinated Entry or Street Outreach
  - The Ohio BoSCoC will only consider SSO projects for street outreach
- Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Joint Transitional Housing – Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH-RRH)

### **Eligible Activities**

Prospective applicants should review the [CoC Program Rule](#) and this [Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO](#) for more details about activities that may be funded through this funding opportunity.

- Rental Assistance
- Leasing
- Supportive Services
- HMIS

Project seeking funding through the Rural Set-Aside may submit applications that include the following additional eligible activities:

- Rent or utility assistance after 2 months of nonpayment to prevent eviction or loss of service; up to 6 months
- Short term emergency lodging in motels or shelters (not existing shelter beds)
- Repairs to make housing habitable to be used as transitional or permanent housing for homeless. Total costs may not exceed \$10,000 per structure
- Capacity building activities
  - Employee education, job training, staff retention activities such as financial incentives, continuing ed opportunities, professional development opps
  - Up to 20% of total request can be for capacity building activities
- Emergency food and clothing assistance
- Costs associated with using Federal Inventory property programs to house homeless households

### **Eligible Applicants**

Any non-profit or governmental entity in good standing in the Ohio BoSCoC geography is eligible to submit a new project proposal. However, organizations must be registered with [SAM](#) and must be able to provide their UEI number in order to submit an application.

### **Funding Requests**

Prospective applicants may submit funding requests for any amount, but should ensure costs are eligible under the CoC Program (which is the program providing this funding and under which projects will renew funding) and that they can provide the required 25% cash or in-kind match. More details can be found [here](#).

The maximum funding amounts for the Ohio BoSCoC identified in the first section of this document are the maximum amounts the Ohio BoSCoC may apply for; this funding level is not guaranteed. Additionally, the maximum funding amounts are for an initial 3-year grant term. This means that for the Rural Set-Aside, the Ohio BoSCoC may request funding for no more than \$13.8 million for ALL projects submitted in the Rural Set-Aside project listing and all funding requests should be for an initial 3-year term. When these projects are eligible to have funding renewed, they will renew funding on an annual basis. The maximum annual renewal amount in the Rural Set-Aside for the Ohio BoSCoC is \$4.6 million.

### **Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness and Homelessness Among Those with Most Severe Needs**

In the spirit of this NOFO, new project proposals should be targeted to those experiencing unsheltered homelessness and to those with the most severe needs.

### **Leveraging Mainstream Housing and Healthcare Provider Partnerships**

A key priority of this Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO is that it supports projects that leverage partnerships with local mainstream housing providers, such as Public Housing Authorities (PHA), and mainstream healthcare providers (including behavioral healthcare agencies) to address unsheltered homelessness and homelessness among those with the most severe needs.

Examples of projects involving strong partnerships with PHAs may include:

- PSH project application where local PHA commits rental assistance or project-based units for all PSH units and nonprofit service provider commits to provision of supportive services to participants. Application could include a funding request for supportive services, for example
- PSH project application where nonprofit service provider and local PHA have entered into formal agreement to implement a moving-on strategy with PSH participants who no longer need intensive services but need access to affordable housing. As part of the moving on strategy, the PHA prioritizes the participants who are ready to exit the PSH project for its available housing options

Examples of projects involving strong partnerships with healthcare providers may include:

- PSH project application where a local behavioral healthcare organization partners with a non-profit housing provider. In this partnership, the housing provider manages the PSH units/site, and the behavioral healthcare organization partner provides supportive services to clients in those units. Application could include a funding request for rental assistance, for example

### **Implementing Housing First Practices**

In the spirit of the NOFO, new project proposals are expected to provide detailed information about how they will incorporate [Housing First](#) practices into all aspects of project design.

### **Geographic Priorities**

New project proposals serving regions/counties of the CoC that have the highest need may be more competitive. However, applicants may propose to serve any geography in the Ohio BoSCoC. Prospective applicants should review the Ohio BoSCoC System Needs Analysis available on the [CoC Program page](#) of the CoC website to help identify areas of high need, ensure proposed projects are located in priority areas, and ensure applicants understand the type and scale of local need. Please note, the CoC team is currently updating the System Needs Analysis and will post the updated analysis once ready.

New projects that are awarded funding through this NOFO will be required participate in the Ohio BoSCoC HMIS and CE process.

### **Process for Submitting New Project Proposals**

#### **Letter of Interest**

New project applicants first submit a Letter of Interest, using the Letter of Interest template. Submit LOIs via email to [ohioboscoc@cohhio.org](mailto:ohioboscoc@cohhio.org) by **August 12, 2022**.

#### **Project Proposal**

Organizations wanting to continue to move forward with their proposed project must then submit the Project Proposal (PP) form in which they will be able to provide more detailed information about the proposed project. PPs should be sent to the CoC at [ohioboscoc@cohhio.org](mailto:ohioboscoc@cohhio.org) by **September 2, 2022**.

### **New Project Ranking and Selection Priorities**

Project Proposals will be reviewed and scored using a set of criteria that primarily seeks to advance HUD's policy priorities for the Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO. Once the more detailed scoring priorities have been determined by the CoC and PLE Workgroup, more information will be shared.

Once all Project Proposals have been reviewed and scored, final decisions about which projects will be included in the CoC's consolidated application for this NOFO, final funding request amounts, and the order in which projects will be ranked will be communicated to all applicants. The CoC team will communicate this no later than September 20, 2022. Applicants will then be assisted to complete final project applications in HUD's grant management system – [esnaps](#).

## **Final Submission of the Ohio BoSCoC Consolidated Application for Funding under the Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO**

While organizations are working on their project proposals, the Ohio BoSCoC will also be working on drafting the required CoC Plan and will work to convene and host a Workgroup of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness (PLE) to advise on development of the CoC Plan and identify the priorities that will guide the new project selection and ranking process.

The CoC Plan and ranked new project applications will be submitted by the CoC Team and ODOD to HUD by the October 20, 2022 deadline.

Questions can be directed to [ohioboscoc@cohhio.org](mailto:ohioboscoc@cohhio.org).

## **Rural Counties for Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO**

Counties in blue are considered rural and are able to be included in applications for funding in the Rural Set-Aside.



## Timeline for Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO

DATE COMPLETE	ACTIVITY
7/27/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ohio BoSCoC: Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO Information Session</li> </ul>
8/12/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letters of Intent (LOIs) due to <a href="mailto:ohioboscoc@cohhio.org">ohioboscoc@cohhio.org</a></li> </ul>
9/2/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Proposal Forms due to <a href="mailto:ohioboscoc@cohhio.org">ohioboscoc@cohhio.org</a></li> </ul>
9/20/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicants receive communication re: project selection or denial, and rank order in the project listing(s)</li> </ul>
10/1/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project applications for selected projects due in e-snaps</li> </ul>
10/10/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corrections to project applications due in e-snaps</li> </ul>
10/20/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ohio BoSCoC submits consolidated application to HUD for Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO</li> </ul>