**Letter of Interest**

**For the Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO**

**Ohio Balance of State Continuum of Care**

**Background**

On June 22nd, HUD [announced](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_22_113) 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](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=341301&utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=17f58ed7c9-Special_NOFO_CoC_Unsheltered_Rural_6_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-17f58ed7c9-19409793) (referred to as the Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO). CoC’s must submit applications to HUD by October 20, 2022.

This NOFO requires CoC’s to manage the application process, to develop a comprehensive 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 nationally, $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. 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.

You can find more information from the Ohio BoSCoC about this funding opportunity on the CoC’s webpage [here](https://cohhio.org/boscoc/coc-program/). Direct questions to [ohioboscoc@cohhio.org](mailto:ohioboscoc@cohhio.org).

**Letter of Interest**

To help the Ohio BoSCoC determine the level of interest and status of project development, eligible organizations, interested in developing projects through, this new funding opportunity, must first submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) addressing all sections included below. The LOI enables organizations to provide preliminary information about proposed projects. Proposed budgets and elements of program design may be changed after submission of the LOI as appropriate. After LOIs has been submitted and reviewed, a more detailed New Project Proposal (NPP) form must be completed for formal consideration for this funding opportunity. NPPs are due September 2, 2022.

**LOIs are due to** [**ohioboscoc@cohhio.org**](mailto:ohioboscoc@cohhio.org) **by Friday, August 12, 2022.**

# Primary Contact

Provide information about the primary contact person for all communication related to this LOI.

* Primary Contact Name:
* Primary Contact email address:

**Applicant Information**

Provide information about the organization that will be seeking funding via this funding opportunity.

* Organization Name:
* Organization Address:
* Organization Primary Contact info (name and email for primary contact):

**Geography Included in the LOI**

* Identify all counties included in the proposed project’s service area
* Identify if you are seeking funding under the Unsheltered Set-Aside or Rural Set-Aside (you cannot seek funding from both in one project)
* Indicate if the proposed service area is currently served by any CoC Program funded project(s)

**Homeless Planning Region Support**

Along with the LOI, please provide evidence of the local Homeless Planning Region’s support for the proposed project. You can find more information on Homeless Planning Region’s [here](https://cohhio.org/boscoc/gov-pol/).

# Proposed Project General Information

In this section of your LOI, provide general information about the project you are hoping to create through this new funding opportunity. Be sure that you are proposing project types and activities that are eligible for funding by reviewing the [Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=341301&utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=17f58ed7c9-Special_NOFO_CoC_Unsheltered_Rural_6_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-17f58ed7c9-19409793) and [CoC Program Rule](https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2033/hearth-coc-program-interim-rule/) as needed.

**Program Type** (select from dropdown list)**:**

**Provide a brief general description of the project:**

The description must include the target population, type of program and housing to be provided, and the number of units/beds to be provided. Follow the instructions below for specific project types as appropriate.

**For RRH/PSH Projects only, describe how you will ensure clients have access to housing units:**

If proposing to provide housing via tenant-based assistance, describe the landlord engagement and retention strategy. If you are proposing to use project-based assistance, either through project development or via a partnership with a local mainstream housing provider, such as a Housing Authority, describe the plan.

**For SSO-Street Outreach only, describe how your outreach will be** [**housing focused**](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Core-Components-of-Outreach-2019.pdf)**. Describe how you will ensure access to housing units for those identified via outreach.**

**For Joint TH-RRH only, describe the building/units you have secured for the TH component of the project. Describe how you will ensure clients have access to housing units as part of the RRH component. Specifically describe your landlord engagement and recruitment strategy.**

**Describe how this project meets community needs in its service area:**

The description must include discussion of current homeless program housing inventory in the proposed service area and identification of any gaps therein, particularly related to addressing unsheltered homelessness and homelessness among those with most severe service needs.

# Proposed Project: Advancing HUD Priorities

In this section of the LOI, provide information about the ways in which the proposed project will help advance the HUD priorities identified in this funding opportunity.

HUD 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
* Involve a broad array of stakeholders in the CoC effort to reduce homelessness
* Advance equity
* Use a Housing First approach

**Describe how the proposed project will help reduce unsheltered homelessness and/or homelessness among those with severe service needs.**

**Identify the mainstream housing providers and/or mainstream healthcare providers who will be formal partners in this project. Describe the written commitments you have in place with those partners and what they will be providing to the project. If written commitments have not yet been secured, describe the status of the potential commitment and your confidence level that you will be able to secure a written commitment** (written commitments will be required as part of application submission)**.**

**Describe how you are incorporating people with lived experience (PLE) of homelessness into your project planning and/or system planning efforts (eg, a PLE workgroup).**

**Describe how this project will advance race equity.**

The description should include how the advancement of race equity and equitable practices will be incorporated into project Policies and Procedures, as well as how the project will ensure race equity in hiring practices, management of staff, and overall implementation. Also describe how data will be used and monitored to ensure the project is serving those disproportionately impacted by homelessness.

# Describe how Housing First practices will be used in this project.

# Describe the proposed eligibility criteria, how clients will be assisted to identify or remain in housing, how clients will be assisted to increase employment and income via a Housing First model.

# Applicant and Partner Experience

In this section of the LOI, provide information about the experience of the applicant organization and any key partners in administering homelessness assistance programs and/or housing programs. Key partners are only those agencies that will be providing funding or services to the project and/or its participants.

**Describe the applicant’s and partners’ experience administering homelessness and/or housing programs including years of program implementation, experience managing federal and state grant funds.**

**Describe the applicant’s and partners’ experience providing services to persons experiencing homelessness.**

**Preliminary Project Budgets**

In this section of the LOI, provide preliminary information about the proposed projects’ Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness funding request as well as the proposed total budget. You will be allowed to modify budgets after submitting this LOI, if needed. Please note that all funding requested (except leasing) has a 25% match obligation and must be allowable costs as outlined in the [Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=341301&utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=17f58ed7c9-Special_NOFO_CoC_Unsheltered_Rural_6_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-17f58ed7c9-19409793) and [CoC Program Rule](https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2033/hearth-coc-program-interim-rule/).

Please note, you cannot request both rental assistance and operations funding for the same project. Rental assistance and leasing budgets should be calculated based the [Fair Market Rent](https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4424/coc-rent-reasonableness-and-fair-market-rent/) (FMR) for the units the project is seeking to support over a one-year period.

**PSH Project Funding Request**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **TOTAL Request Year 1** |
| 1. Leased Units |  |
| 2. Rental Assistance |  |
| 3. Supportive Services |  |
| 4. Operations |  |
| 5. HMIS |  |
| *6. Total Request*  *(Subtotal lines 1-5)* |  |
| 7. Administrative Costs  (Up to 10% of line 6) |  |
|  |  |
| **Total Request**  **(Total lines 6 & 7)** |  |

**RRH Project Funding Request**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **TOTAL Request Year 1** |
| 1. Rental Assistance |  |
| 2. Supportive Services |  |
| 3. HMIS |  |
| *4. Total Request*  *(Subtotal lines 1-3)* |  |
| 5. Administrative Costs  (Up to 10% of line 4) |  |
|  |  |
| **Total Request**  **(Total lines 4 & 5)** |  |

**Joint TH-RRH Project Funding Request**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **TOTAL Request Year 1** |
| 1. Leasing |  |
| 2. TH Operations Costs |  |
| 3. Supportive Services |  |
| 4. RRH Rental Assistance |  |
| 5. HMIS |  |
| *6. Total Request*  *(Subtotal lines 1-5)* |  |
| 7. Administrative Costs  (Up to 10% of line 6) |  |
|  |  |
| **Total Request**  **(Total lines 6 & 7)** |  |

**SSO Project Budget**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **TOTAL Request Year 1** |
| 1. Supportive Services |  |
| 2. HMIS |  |
| *3. Total Request*  *(Subtotal lines 1-2)* |  |
| 4. Administrative Costs  (Up to 10% of line 3) |  |
|  |  |
| **Total Request**  **(Total lines 3 & 4)** |  |

**Proposed Additional Eligible Activities – Rural Set-Aside Funding Only**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activities** | **TOTAL Request Year 1** |
| 1. Rent or utility assistance after 2 months of nonpayment to prevent eviction or loss of service; up to 6 months |  |
| 2. Repairs to make housing habitable to be used as transitional or permanent housing for homeless. Total costs may not exceed $10,000 per structure |  |
| 3. Capacity building activities   * Employee education, job training, staff retention activities such as financial incentives, continuing ed opportunities, professional development opportunities |  |
| 4. Emergency food and clothing assistance |  |
| 5. Costs associated with using Federal Inventory property programs to house homeless households |  |
|  |  |
| **Total Request**  **(Total lines 6 & 7)** |  |

**Proposed Project Total Budget**

In the table below, provide information about the total budget proposed for this project. This should include any additional grant funds that have been identified to support the project, the value of any housing commitments (eg, the value of project-based vouchers committed by the local housing authority), and the value of any services that have been committed to the project (eg, the value of behavioral healthcare services that have been committed by a local behavioral healthcare provider).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Funding Sources** | **TOTAL Annual Budget** |
| 1. Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Funding Request |  |
| 1. Additional Eligible Activities – Rural Set-Aside Only  * No more than 20% of the total funding request can be for capacity building activities |  |
| 3. Other funding sources – *identify source* |  |
| 4. Other funding sources – *identify source* |  |
| 5. Other funding sources – *identify source* |  |
|  |  |
| **Total Budget (total of rows above)** |  |

**Proposed Project Match**

Describe the value of the match you are expecting to bring to this project, the match source, and describe the status of the commitment (eg, you have a firm commitment, have a firm written commitment, have a verbal commitment, or have only started discussions). Do not identify an organization or funding source as a match source if you have not even started discussions related to a possible project. Match can be cash or in-kind services.