



## **Wisconsin Balance of State Continuum of Care Reviewing, Ranking & Selecting New Projects – CoC Competition Process**

Once the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is released, the CoC Director initiates the New Project Application Process. The New Project Application Process may include, but is not limited to, BONUS funds, expansion funds through reallocation, transition grants, and set-aside new funding. The CoC Director reviews the NOFO and the New Project Application to ensure that all HUD requirements are being met. Once the review process is complete, the CoC Director revises the New Project Application and scoring rubric. The CoC Director distributes the application and scoring rubric by email to the full CoC memberships, posts the documents on the Balance of State website, promotes applications through social media, and sends out to any other interested parties.

The Balance of State Board of Directors and CoC Director will ensure that any new project addresses gaps and needs within the Balance of State geographic area. This year, the Board approved the following priority:

- **Housing Resources** – utilize housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG programs. For PSH, the housing units must provide at least 25% of the units included in the project. For RRH, the housing units must serve at least 25% of the program participants anticipated to be served by the project (for RRH). Housing subsidies or subsidized housing units may be funded through an of the following sources:
  - Private organizations
  - State or local government, including by HOME funding provided through the American Rescue Plan
  - Public Housing Agencies, including by set aside or limited preference
  - Faith-based organizations,
  - Federal programs other than CoC or ESG programs
- **Healthcare Resources** – utilize healthcare resources to help households experiencing homelessness. The value of the assistance being provided is at least an amount equal to 25% of the funding being requested for the project and covered by the healthcare organization. For substance abuse treatment or recovery providers, the organization agrees to provide access to treatment or recovery services for all program participants who qualify and choose those services. Sources of health care resources include:
  - Direct contributions from a public or private health insurance provider to the project (e.g. Medicaid)
  - Provision of health care services by a private or public organization (e.g. Ryan White funded organization) tailored to the program participants of the project
  - Eligibility for the project must comply with HUD program and fair housing requirements. Eligibility criteria cannot be restricted by the eligibility requirements of the health care service provider



In addition, all new projects must meet the following criteria:

1. **Housing First philosophy and low barrier to entry:** Housing First is a model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). This approach quickly connects people experiencing homelessness to permanent housing:
  - No barriers to entry (e.g. sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements);
  - No preconditions (e.g. sobriety, income);
  - Does not terminate program participants from the project for lack of participation in the program (e.g. supportive service participants requirements or rules beyond normal tenancy rules).
  
2. **Coordinated Entry:** Project applicants are required to comply with the policy and procedures, written standards, and order of priority for the specific project type requested. Participation includes but is not limited to: pre-screen, assessment, referral, follow-up.
  
3. **Adherence to HUD's Homeless Policy and Program Priorities:** Project applicants are required to comply with HUD's homeless policy and program priorities as listed in the NOFO FY22, Section II, A (1-9).
  
4. **Balance of State COC:** Project applicants are required to comply with the Balance of State COC bylaws, governance charter, and other policy and procedure manuals as approved by the Board or membership. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - Committee participation
  - Active involvement in the Point-in-Time overnight street/known location count twice a year
  - Active involvement in their local coalition
  - Attendance at quarterly Balance of State meetings (at time of application, documented attendance at 2 of the last 4 meetings is required).
  - Good Standing with Balance of State CoC policies, including coordinated entry.

Once the new project applications are submitted to the CoC Director, the applications are shared with the review team comprised of members from the Balance of State Board of Directors. If a Board member has a conflict, he/she will recuse themselves from the application review process. A conflict can include being a member of the local coalition or agency that is applying for new funding. If a new project application is submitted after the submission deadline, it will not be submitted for view by the Board.

Each application will be reviewed and scored by the review team and the CoC Director using the previously approved and published rubric. The CoC Director will collect all scoring sheets and calculate the totals. The results will be shared with the review team and a final decision will be made. The Balance of State Board of Directors retains the right to make a final decision on which new project(s) will



be included in the CoC Competition process after taking into account gaps and needs of the geographic territory as a whole and additional Board discussion.

All projects will receive notification from the CoC Director outside of *e-snaps* by the HUD approved deadline. Notification will occur via electronic mail. Those projects selected through the new project scoring process will work directly with the CoC Director to submit a new project application in *e-snaps*.

- **Note:** Only applications selected for the CoC competition by the Board of Directors will be included with the collaborative application.
- **Note:** Submitting a project in the CoC Competition does not guarantee the project will be funded by HUD. All new projects will be placed on the Tier in accordance with the policies established in the CoC Project Scoring Tool explanation guide.

There are two appendices included in this policy to reflect a current CoC Competition process. As the timeline and results will change from year-to-year, a change in the appendices does not necessitate a full review or approval of this policy.

This policy has been approved by majority vote of the WI Balance of State CoC Board of Directors and shall be reviewed as needed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Haen", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the word "Signature" is printed in a black, sans-serif font.

Signature

September 6, 2022

Date

Lisa Haen  
Board Chair, WI Balance of State CoC



Appendix 1 – Timeline

**FY2022 New Project Application Timeline**

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| HUD releases the NOFO  | <b>8/1/2022</b>                                  |
| New Project Applications (BONUS and Reallocation/Transition), instructions and scoring rubric posted on website and email sent to the membership | <b>8/16/2022 - email<br/>8/17/2022 – website</b> |
| New Project Applications (DV RRH Expansion), instructions and scoring rubric posted on website and email sent to the membership                  | <b>8/16/2022 – email<br/>8/17/2022 - website</b> |
| New Project Application deadline – submission to CoC Director  | <b>8/31/2022</b>                                 |
| Review team evaluates and scores projects, makes a recommendation on New Project applications  | <b>8/31 – 9/5/22</b>                             |
| Announcement to full COC Membership of New Project application selection and posted on website   | <b>9/6/2022</b>                                  |
| New Project Applications deadline – submission in <i>e-snaps</i>   | <b>9/9/2022</b>                                  |
| The FINAL Board Scoring Tool results posted  | <b>9/10/2022</b>                                 |
| Required by HUD: Final Project Ranking and notification to all projects outside of <i>e-snaps</i>  | <b>9/15/2022</b>                                 |
| Entire CoC Consolidated Application deadline   | <b>9/30/2022</b>                                 |