

DV BONUS SOLO Applicant

New Project Application Instructions (FY23 CoC Competition)

Overview: The WI Balance of State CoC will consider applications for Permanent Housing Projects for the following types of programs. Note: these applications are requests to be direct recipients of HUD, not a sub-recipient of the WI Balance of State CoC.

- New Rapid Re-housing (RRH) projects serving people experiencing homelessness and qualify under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3, Section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. the amendment to criteria for qualifying as “homeless” under Category 4)
- New Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-housing (TH/RRH) projects serving people experiencing homelessness and qualify under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of 24 CFR 578.3, Section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Additional Information:

- The project must follow a housing first approach, which includes a determination that the project participant’s immediate safety needs have been addressed.
- New DV Bonus projects must serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who qualify as homeless under paragraph (1) or (4), including the amendment that includes experiencing trauma or a lack of safety as part of the definition under 24 CFR 578.3 or Section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- HUD considers human trafficking, including sex trafficking, to be “other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member” under paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3. DV Bonus projects may not exclusively serve people fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking.
- Projects must agree to provide people access to housing and trauma-informed, victim-centered services that prioritize the survivor’s safety needs, accommodate their unique circumstances, and maximizes client choice. For the purposes of this application, HUD has defined as follows:
 - Trauma-Informed: Approaches delivered with an understanding of vulnerabilities and experiences of trauma survivors, including the prevalence and physical, social and emotional impact of trauma. A trauma-informed approach recognizes signs of trauma in staff, clients, and others, and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings. Trauma-informed approaches place priority on reassuring the survivor’s feelings of safety, choice, and control. Programs, services, organizations and communities can be trauma-informed.
 - Victim-Centered: Placing priorities, needs, and interests at the center of the work with the victim; providing nonjudgmental assistance, with an emphasis on client self-determination, where appropriate, and assisting victims in making informed choices; ensuring that restoring victims’ feelings of safety and security are a priority and safeguarding against policies and practices that could inadvertently re-traumatize victims; ensuring that victims’ rights, voices, and perspectives are



incorporated when developing and implementing system- and community-based efforts that impact crime victims.

If the DV Bonus SOLO Application is selected by CoC, the agency will be required to complete a new project application in *e-snaps*. If awarded by HUD, the new project will start following technical submission. There is no guaranteed project start date.

Due Date: Applications and required attachments are due **no later than Tuesday, August 29, 2023** to wiboscoc@gmail.com. **Please submit your application as a .pdf file.**

Review Process: Each application will be reviewed by the CoC Director, in consultation with select Board members. There is a specific scoring rubric available for this application. The highest scoring project(s) will be selected. A final decision will be made no later than **Wednesday, September 6, 2023**. Selected applicants will work with the CoC Director to submit a new project application in *e-snaps*. The new project submission deadline into *e-snaps* is **Monday, September 11, 2023**.

The selected project applicant will be required to:

- (1) Complete a new project application in *e-snaps*;
- (2) Agree to have the new project application completed in *e-snaps* be reviewed by the CoC Director
- (3) Agree to have the approved project ranked in the CoC priority ranking as a new project.

Disclaimer:

- Only applications selected for the CoC Competition by the Review team will be included with the collaborative application.
- Submitting a project in the CoC Competition does not guarantee the project will be funded by HUD.

Process:

HUD will review projects marked as “DV BONUS” in a separate manner. HUD will award a point value to each project application combining both the CoC Application score and responses to the domestic violence bonus specific questions in the CoC Application using the following 100-point scale (as indicated in the NOFO FY22, I.B.3.l(1)).

- (a) CoC Score. Up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application.
- (b) CoC Collaboration with Victim Service Providers. Up to 10 points in direct proportion to the score received on the following rating factors in the CoC application: Section V.B.1.e, V.B.2.c, and Section V.B.3.b.
- (c) Need for the Project. Up to 10 points based on the extent the CoC quantifies the need for the project, the extent of the need, and how the project will fill that gap.
- (c) Quality of the Project Application. Up to 15 points based on the previous performance of the applicant in serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and their ability to house survivors and meet safety outcomes.



(d) Demonstration of inclusion of victim-centered practices. Up to 8 points based on the quality of the project's plan to address the housing and safety needs of survivors by adopting victim-centered practices (e.g. Housing First, Trauma-Informed Care, Confidentiality) in operating their project. Fully points will be awarded to project applicants that can demonstrate they are already adopting victim-centered practices.

(e) Demonstration of plan to include survivors with lived experience. Up to 7 points based on the project's ability to demonstrate its plan to involve survivors in policy and program development throughout the project's operation.

CoCs are required to rank all DV Bonus projects on the New Project Listing of the CoC Priority Listing with a unique rank number. If a project application designated as DV Bonus is conditionally selected by HUD with DV Bonus funds, HUD will remove the ranked DV Bonus project from the New Project Listing and all other project applications ranked below the DV Bonus project will slide up one rank. If the DV Bonus project application is not conditionally selected with DV Bonus funds, the project application will remain in its ranked position and will be considered for funding as a bonus project with available CoC Program funds provided the CoC meetings the requirements of the FY2023 NOFO.

Contact: The contact for this application process is Carrie Poser, CoC Director. Her email address is: carrie.poser@wibos.org or 715-598-3301.

Please Note: *This application was designated according to our interpretation and understanding of the NOFO for the FY2023 Competition. Completion of this form in no way absolves agencies from reading the NOFO themselves. The Balance of State is not responsible for any omissions or misinterpretations of the NOFO. If applicants wish to supply additional material that they believe is in line with the NOFO, they should feel free to do so.*

Pertinent details regarding this grant: All applicants must read the *Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Fiscal Year 2023 Continuum of Care Program Competition FR-6700-N-25* to ensure that their application meets all of the required HUD Guidelines and adheres to the rules that affect how HUD evaluates applications.

- Match requirements can be found at 24 CFR 578.73 and are the responsibility of the applicant.
- New project applications must adhere to 24 CFR 578.51(f) and must request the full FMR amount per unit.
- New projects must use HMIS unless statutorily prevented from doing so and then are required to use an HMIS comparable database.
- All applicants must meet statutory deadlines regarding the obligation of grant funds by September 30, 2024.
- Project Applicant must be in good standing with HUD – defined as no open findings or history of slow expenditure of grant funds.
- Project Applicant must be in good standing with the Balance of State CoC – defined as no open findings or confirmation of finding resolution and progress and committed to the use of coordinated entry.
- Demonstrate a connection to mainstream service systems
- Demonstrate a plan for rapid implementation of the program

Funding Available:

- Total Domestic Violence (DV) BONUS funds available to the WI Balance of State CoC is determined by HUD. The total amount available is: **\$1,340,253.**

- DV Bonus funds can be used to expand the current DV RRH grant (Balance of State CoC is the lead); a new stand-alone permanent housing project; and/or an expansion of the current SSO CE DV grant (Balance of State is the lead).

While the Balance of State has not limited the amount an organization can apply for, the amount must be tied directly to the need using data. If the applicant applies for \$500,000 but cannot show that level of need while using the funds in an efficient and effective manner, then the application will be reduced and/or denied.

HMIS: Each sub-recipient must agree to complete the required data sharing documents and any other forms necessary and required by the HMIS Lead for the purposes of data reporting on this grant, APR submission, and any other requirements set forth during contract execution. Data sharing could include but would not be limited to: COC Director and staff direct access to data associated with this grant in HMIS, receiving reports, and establishing data specific submission requirements. Each sub-recipient must be prepared to pay for user and reporting licenses as needed. Compliance with a comparable database and the ability to generate an APR is required for those that cannot use HMIS.

Eligible Applicants: Eligible project applicants for CoC Program Competition are identified in NOFO FY23, III.A.5 of the NOFO (specifically 24 CFR 578.15, 24 CFR 5.100). For-profit entities are ineligible to apply for grants or to be sub-recipients of grant funds.

Agencies do not have to be Victim Service Providers to apply. If an agency identifies as a Victim Service Provider, the agency must meet the criteria outlined in 24 CFR 578.3 – which includes: a private nonprofit organization whose primary mission is to provide services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Eligible Permanent Housing Types: The Balance of State CoC will consider the following permanent housing projects:

- Rapid Re-housing or Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-housing: Serving households experiencing homelessness, including unaccompanied youth, who meet the following criteria:
 - Residing in a place not meant for human habitation;
 - Residing in an emergency shelter;
 - Persons meeting the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless, including persons fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence situations;

New Budget Line Items (BLI)

1. NOFO FY23, I.3.d(1) and II.B.4.a(3): VAWA Emergency Transfers: The VAWA 2022 Reauthorization added the following activity to the HEARTH statute to clarify CoC Program eligible costs for VAWA related emergency transfers – Section 423: Eligible Activities: (13) Facilitating and coordinating activities to ensure compliance with [the emergency transfer plan requirement in 34 U.S.C. 12491(e)] and monitoring compliance with [confidentiality protections of the confidentiality requirement in 34 U.S.C. 12491(c)(4)].
 - a. HUD has determined that this new eligible activity category is not subject to the CoC program’s spending caps on administrative costs, may be included in new project applications, and may also be

added to eligible renewal projects through expansion or added to eligible renewal projects by shifting up to 10% of funds from one eligible activity to the VAWA cost line item.

- b. Examples of eligible costs are outlined in NOFO FY23, page 42-43.
2. NOFO FY23, I.3.d(2) and II.B.4.a(4): Rural Cost Budget: Applications can request a new Rural Cost Budget line item for the following activities:
 - a. Short-term emergency lodging to include housing in motels or shelters, either by providing direct funding or through vouchers;
 - b. Repairs to housing units in where people experiencing homelessness will be housed, including housing units currently not fit for human habitation;
 - c. Staff training to include professional development, skill development, and staff retention activities.

Note: HUD has determined that this new eligible Rural cost category may be included in new project applications or added to eligible renewal projects through expansion. HUD will publish a list of CoCs located in rural areas.

Participative Planning and Implementation: Applicants must identify the steps they will take to ensure that traditionally underserved populations (such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons; Asian American persons, Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; LGBTQ+ persons; persons who live in rural areas; persons with disabilities; and others adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality) will be able to meaningfully participate in the planning process. The applicant must identify the specific populations that it will include, identify community organizations that represent these populations, and describe how these populations will be included in the planning process. In seeking public participation, applicants and recipients must ensure that all communications are provided in a manner that is effective for persons with hearing, visual, and other communication-related disabilities consistent with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and, as applicable, the Americans with Disabilities Act. In additional, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C 2000d require that grantees take reasonable steps to ensure meaningful access to services, programs, and activities by persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP persons).

Rules that affect how HUD evaluates applications.

1. Assessing Application risk. In evaluating risks posed by project applicants, HUD may use a risk-based approach and may consider any items such as the following:
 - Financial stability
 - Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards prescribed in 2 CFR part 200
 - History of performance
 - Reports and findings from audits performed under Subpart F-Audit Requirements of 2 CRF part 200
 - The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.
2. **Past Performance in managing funds.** This includes, but is not limited to:

- The ability to account for funds in compliance with applicable reporting and recordkeeping requirements
- Timely use of funds received from HUD
- Timely submission and quality of reports submitted to HUD
- Meeting program requirements
- Meeting performance targets as established in the grant agreement
- The project applicant's organizational capacity, including staffing structures and capabilities
- Timelines for completion of activities and receipt of promised matching and leveraged funds
- The number of persons to be served or targeted for assistance
- Promoting self-sufficient and economic independence
- Producing positive outcomes and results

3. **Experience Promoting Racial Equity** – HUD will consider the extent to which the application demonstrates that the applicant has the experience and the resources to effectively address the needs of underserved communities. For examples of experience, see NOFO FY23, III.C.3.

4. **Statutory and Regulatory Requirements** - To be eligible for funding under the FY23 CoC Program Competition NOFO, project applicants must meet all statutory and regulatory requirements in the Act, and the Rule. See NOFO FY23, III.C.4.

5. **Threshold Requirements: Project Eligibility Threshold**

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

- Project applicants and potential sub-recipients must meet the eligibility requirements of the CoC Program as described in the Act and the Rule and provide evidence of eligibility required in the application (e.g. nonprofit documentation).
- Project applicants and sub-recipients must demonstrate the financial and management capacity and experience to carry out the project as detailed in the project application and the capacity to administer federal funds. Demonstrating capacity may include a description of the applicant/sub-recipient experience with similar projects and with successful administration of COC program funds or other federal funds.
- Project applicants must submit the required certifications as specified in the NOFO.
- The population to be served must meet program eligibility requirements as described in the Act, the Rule, and NOFO FY23, Section I.B.3.m.
- Project applicants must agree to participate in a local HMIS system. However, any victim service provider that is a recipient or sub-recipient must not disclose, for purposes of HMIS, any personally identifying information about any client. Victim service providers must use a comparable database that meets the needs of the local HMIS.

4. **Threshold Requirements: Project Quality Threshold**

HUD will review all new project applicants to determine if they meet project quality threshold requirements outlined in the NOFO FY23, Section III.C.5(c). The housing and services proposed must be appropriate to the needs of the program participations and the community.

- Rapid Rehousing must receive at least 4 out of 5 available points (outlined in the chart).
- Joint TH/RRH must receive at least 6 out of 8 available points (outlined in the chart).

The Balance of State CoC requires each new project to 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 Strategic Goals and Homeless Policy Priorities:** Project applicants are expected to adhere and align to the specific goals, objectives, and measures outlined in NOFO FY23, I.A.4(a) and (b). HUD will monitor compliance with the goals, objectives, and measures in your project.
 - a. **Strategic Goals** sets the direction and focus of HUD programs to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable homes for all. The NOFO FY23 supports HUD's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 2022-2026 to accomplish HUD's mission and vision.
 - b. **Homeless Policy Priorities** provide additional context regarding the selection criteria outlined in the NOFO FY23 and project applicants are required to comply with these priorities, including:
 - i. Ending homelessness for all persons
 - ii. Using a housing first approach
 - iii. Reducing unsheltered homelessness
 - iv. Improving system performance
 - v. Partnering with housing, health, and service agencies
 - vi. Racial equity
 - vii. Improving assistance to LGBTQ+ individuals
 - viii. Persons with lived experience
 - ix. Increasing affordable housing supply
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 approve by the Board or membership. This includes, but is not limited to:



- Committee participation
- Actively involved 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 6 meetings is required).
- Good Standing with Balance of State CoC policies, including coordinated entry.