



Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

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MO-604 Annual CoC NOFA Competition Overview

Purpose of the Manual

This document describes the processes and protocol for the annual Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition, including:

- Overview of the HUD CoC Competition
- Identification and overview of the role of the local CoC Lead Agency
- Publicizing the HUD-issued CoC Program Competition notice of funding availability (NOFA)
- Establishing and publicizing the local:
 - timeline and submission process;
 - priorities; and
- CoC policies.

This document is reviewed annually, with updates made as necessary.

HUD's Continuum of Care Program Competition

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) makes available federal resources for homeless housing and services to communities around the nation through the Continuum of Care Program (CoC) grant competition. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) may be issued annually or as proscribed by HUD. CoC's – planning bodies that coordinate housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals in a particular geographic region – access these funds by completing and submitting a collaborative application on behalf of the local homeless service provider agencies, as well as individual project applications submitted through a local competition process.

Through the NOFA process, HUD publishes federal priorities, eligible types of project submissions, and amounts of funding available. The CoC Program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness, including providing funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and/or local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth. The NOFA determines the framework for the CoC to abide by for the local competition and allows for the CoC to determine local deadlines, local priorities, and ultimately provide a slate of projects to be recommended for

funding, ranked in order of priority.

Project types eligible for funding through the HUD CoC NOFA include:

1. Permanent Supportive Housing (new, renewal, expansion)
2. Rapid Re-Housing (new, renewal, expansion)
3. Joint PH: Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-Housing (new, renewal, expansion)
4. Transitional Housing (renewal, expansion)
5. HMIS (limited to HMIS Lead only)
6. Planning (limited to Collaborative Applicant only)
7. Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry (new, renewal, expansion)

Additional information on the HUD CoC Program and the annual competition for funding may be accessed at www.hudechange.info.

Local Continuum of Care

The Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH) is the Lead Agency representing and acting on behalf of MO-604, a bi-state, multi-county Continuum of Care, providing collaborative planning around homeless services. Counties included in the MO-604 CoC service area include Jackson County, Missouri, and Wyandotte County, Kansas. For the MO-604 CoC, GKCCEH also acts as the Collaborative Applicant; publishes local timelines, priorities and policies; and prepares and submits the consolidated application for federal funding, utilizing community input and resource data. Any agency located in the CoC service area interested in applying for these funds must participate in local homeless planning efforts and GKCCEH's local CoC competition for funding.

In conjunction with GKCCEH agency staff, members of the Administration Committee of the CoC are primarily responsible for the preparation of the CoC Consolidated Application. The Administration Committee reviews and submits to the GKCCEH Board for approval any revisions to the annual competition overview, new or amended NOFA policies, and a local competition timeline and priorities. The Committee also assists Collaborative Applicant staff in writing the Consolidated Application. GKCCEH staff conduct a technical review of all HUD CoC Program applications submitted for consideration through the local competition. A non-conflicted, unbiased sub-committee of community volunteers comprises the Rank and Review sub-committee, which objectively ranks and scores the final project applications, presenting the priority ranked slate of applications recommended for funding to the Board of Directors for final approval prior to submission to HUD.

Local Timeline and Process

Upon publication by HUD, the annual Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is posted to the GKCCEH website (www.gkcceh.org) and is emailed to all current members of GKCCEH.

Upon publication of the NOFA, GKCCEH agency staff and members of the Administration

Committee will establish and make public a timeline for the local competition. The timeline will be posted to the GKCCEH website and emailed to all current members of GKCCEH. The timeline will include all local and HUD-mandated competition deadlines, including any mandatory and/or optional training dates.

Local Priorities

Utilizing current local data, including from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), HUD System Performance Measures (SPM), needs and/or gaps analyses, community surveys, or other tools, GKCCEH may establish local priorities for the annual competition, to define the need for specific types of programs or sub-populations served within the CoC competition. Such priorities, if established, will be identified and made public during mandatory applicant training sessions and posted to the CoC's website.

CoC Policies and Procedures

All applicants must adhere to the CoC's established policies and associated procedures, which are reviewed annually and revised as needed. Policies regarding competition priorities, adherence to Housing First, reallocation, rank and review, and the appeals process are reviewed annually, with revision made as needed. If any policy changes, adherence to the prior and revised policy, within their respective timeframes, is required for the NOFA competition. Policies are posted at www.gkcceh.org and include but are not limited to:

NOFA-Related Policies:

- Housing First/Housing Focus
- Participation Requirements for Eligible Applicants
- Prioritization
- Reallocation
- Ranking
- Appeals

Program-Related Policies:

- Anti-discrimination
- Emergency Transfer
- Housing Solutions Team Attendance
- Rapid Re-Housing