COALITION for the HOMELESS
Educate Advocate Coordinate

Louisville Metro CoC Policy for Funding Consideration

BACKGROUND

HUD provides funding for three homeless assistance programs authorized under the Stewart B. McKinney Act, including the Supportive Housing Program (SHP), Shelter Plus Care (S+C), and SRO Moderate Rehabilitation (SRO). HUD's overall initiative is referred to as the Continuum of Care (CoC) application. Annually, HUD releases a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) which details the requirements for the Continuum and its applicants. One requirement of the NOFA is that each application is reviewed and approved for funding consideration by a group of community stakeholders.

OFFICIAL HUD DEFINITION: *"The Continuum of Care is a community plan to organize and deliver housing and services to meet the specific needs of people who are homeless as they move to stable housing and maximum self-sufficiency. It includes action steps to end homelessness and prevent a return to homelessness."*

WHY IS THE CONTINUUM SO IMPORTANT? As HUD says, the Continuum:

- **Assesses capacity and identifies gaps:** The planning process provides communities with an opportunity to critically assess capacity, and develop solutions to move homeless people toward permanent housing and self-sufficiency.
- **Is Pro-active rather than reactive:** This process helps communities look comprehensively at needs, anticipate policy or demographic changes, and develop the capacity to respond to these changes.
- **Sets common goals for which to advocate:** This process helps communities develop a common vision and a set of common goals.
- **Provides coordination and linkages:** CoC planning allows providers to identify ways of coordinating and linking resources to avoid duplication and facilitate collaboration.

WHY IS A FUNDING POLICY SO IMPORTANT? After consultation with HUD and extensive research with other comparative CoC Communities, it was evident that a funding policy is imperative to ensure that CoC applications are focused on the specific requirements that are essential to HUD, in order to receive the maximum amount of funding for our community.

To be eligible for funding consideration, ALL applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must meet all HUD eligibility criteria.
- Applicants must meet the application deadlines set by the Continuum.
- Applicants must be a 501(c) 3, 501 (c) 4, PHA, or local government.
- Applicants must possess legal authority to apply for and receive funds and carry out activities authorized by the Continuum of Care Program.
- Applicants must provide the supplementary match funds required by HUD.
- Applicants must comply with HUD's standards for participation in a local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and the collection and reporting of client-level information.
- Applicants must participate fully in the Continuum of Care process to coordinate and integrate with other mainstream programs for which homeless populations may be eligible.
- Applicants must assume ultimate responsibility for preparing an accurate and complete application for submission to HUD that meets all federal rules and regulations.
- Applicants must be in compliance with all local, state, and federal civil rights laws and Executive Orders as well as all standards outlined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In order to meet the local needs in serving the homeless population, the following guidelines have been established. These guidelines in no way prohibit any HUD eligible project from applying for HUD funding but rather state the community's priorities, encourage projects that respond to local needs and position the community to bring maximum benefit to serving our homeless population.

New Applicants

- Housing related projects have been identified by the CoC Community to be our highest priority and will be considered as such.
- HUD has indicated that the ideal ratio of housing to services dollars is 80/20. Projects with a ratio that is over 20% services dollars must be approved by the Continuum of Care community.
- New applicants must include homeless persons in the design, the implementation and/or the evaluation of programs and services.
- New nonprofit applicants must submit a copy of their current IRS form 990 and current list of volunteer board of directors.
- New applicants are required to describe how implementing the community's HMIS program will be funded.
- At the time of pre-application new applicants are required to submit three (3) letters of support indicating the need for this project.

Renewal Applicants

- Renewal applicants must be current with the HMIS system, with at least 75% of their client records entered and a Quality rating of B or higher as determined by the HMIS Coordinator.
- Renewal applicants must have submitted their most current APR and review letter from HUD to the CoC Advisory Group.
- Where applicable, renewal applicants must be in compliance with Louisville Metro Licensing requirements and the community's Quality Assurance Standards (QAS).

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Executive Director Date CoC Delegate Date

Agency Name: _____