

HAMPDEN COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE
2014 Continuum of Care Competition

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For a Hampden County Project to Provide

**Permanent Supportive Housing
for Chronically Homeless Individuals or Families**

Available Funding: \$530,189

RFP Available: Monday, September 22, 2014

Bidder's Conference: Wednesday, October 1, 2014, 10 a.m.

Office of Housing, 1600 E. Columbus Ave., Springfield

Applications Due: Tuesday, October 14, 2014, 4 p.m.

Office of Housing, 1600 E. Columbus Ave., Springfield

INTRODUCTION

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the 2014 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program (Docket No. FR-5800-N-30) on September 16, 2014. Continuum of Care (CoC) applications must be submitted to HUD no later than October 30, 2014, 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time.

The HUD NOFA sets up the procedure by which a CoC, through its designee, submits a single collaborative application to fund the CoC and eligible projects that advance the CoC goals. The designee, or “Collaborative Applicant”, for the Hampden County CoC (also called the Springfield/Chicopee/Holyoke/Westfield/ Hampden CoC) is the City of Springfield, which administers the CoC and all grants awarded to the CoC.

The consolidated application that will be submitted by the City of Springfield for the FY2014 CoC Program Competition may include one new application for bonus funds to be used to provide permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless individuals or families. The CoC is seeking proposals from Hampden County providers of services and housing for new permanent supportive housing.

Applications for the new permanent supportive housing bonus projects must be submitted in HUD’s electronic grant application system *esnaps*. The City of Springfield will provide applicants access to *esnaps* and technical assistance regarding use of the system. An explanation of the process that will be used for selection of projects, including the scoring criteria, is attached as Appendix A. The Hampden County CoC Supplemental Application, which must also be submitted as part of the application process, is attached as Appendix B.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT

Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Individuals or Families

This competition is only for NEW permanent supportive housing projects that will serve 100% chronically homeless individuals or families.

Permanent housing is community-based housing, the purpose of which is to provide housing without a designated length of stay. Grant funds may be used for leasing, rental assistance, operating costs, and supportive services; definitions and guidance for each of these items is at 24 CFR 578.43-578.63.

“Chronically homeless” is defined as:

- (1) An individual who: (i) Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and (ii) Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in in emergency shelter continuously for at least

one year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years; and (iii) Can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability; or

(2) an individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, mental health or substance abuse facility, hospital or other similar facility for fewer than 90 days and has met all the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition before entering that facility; or

(3) A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The Hampden County CoC seeks to select a single project with a budget totaling up to \$530,189.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include non-profits, local and state government, and housing authorities.

ELIGIBLE HOUSING TYPES

Any of the following types of housing can be used to provide permanent supportive housing: shared housing, SRO units, clustered apartments, scattered site apartments, or single family homes/townhouses/duplexes. The provider agency may own or lease the units, or may provide rental assistance which enables a program participant to rent the unit. Supportive services designed to meet the needs of the program participants must be made available to the program participants.

The applicant may propose to provide permanent supportive housing through scattered-site leasing or tenant-based rental assistance; or, if the applicant can provide a deed or long-term lease demonstrating site control for a building or units where evidence of site control exceeds the requested grant term, and where the building or units are ready to be occupied no later than 6 months after the award of funds, the applicant may instead request operating costs or project-based rental assistance.

The CoC will give highest priority to projects that will provide rental assistance and supportive services to people living in scattered site housing units.

FUNDING LIMITATION

No less than 70 percent of total program funding (not including funds for administration) must be used for leasing, rental assistance, or operating costs. No more than 30 percent of the total program funding may be used for supportive services costs.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

The following guidance indicates the costs that may be included in program budgets, to be paid for by the CoC grant or by matching funds.

Rental Assistance

Rental assistance for homeless individuals and families, including tenant-based rental assistance. Grant funds may be used for security deposits in an amount not to exceed two months of rent, as well as last month's rent.

Leasing

The costs of leasing scattered site units to provide housing to homeless persons.

Caution: Leasing – Conflict of Interest

Leasing funds may not be used to lease units or structures owned by the recipient, subrecipient, parent organization, or any other related organization, unless HUD authorizes an exception for good cause.

Leasing: Limits on rent costs. Rents paid must be reasonable in relation to comparable space or units, and may not be more than the owner charges others for comparable units. Rents for residential units cannot exceed the HUD Fair Market Rent (FMR).

Utilities. Utilities are not a leasing line item. If utilities are not provided by the landlord, utility costs are an operating cost.

Security deposits and first and last month's rent. Grant funds may be used to pay security deposits, in an amount not to exceed two months of actual rent, as well as last month's rent.

Supportive Services

The eligible costs of supportive services that address the special needs of the program participants.

Supportive Services Must Relate to Housing Stability

Supportive services must be necessary to assist program participants obtain and maintain housing, and agencies must conduct an annual assessment of the service needs of the program participants and adjust services accordingly.

Eligible supportive services costs:

- Reasonable one-time moving costs
- Case management
- Food—meals or groceries for program participants
- Housing search and counseling services
- Life skills training
- Outreach services
- Transportation
- Utility deposits (one-time fee, paid to utility companies)
- Direct provision of services: 1) costs of labor, supplies, and materials; and 2) salary and benefit packages of service delivery staff.

Ineligible costs: Any cost that is not described as an eligible cost is not an eligible cost.

Operating Costs

Grant funds may be used to pay the costs of the day-to-day operation of permanent supportive housing in a single structure or individual housing units.

Eligible operating costs:

- Maintenance and repair of housing
- Property taxes and insurance
- Building security for a structure where more than 50 percent of the units or area is paid for with grant funds
- Electricity, gas, and water
- Furniture
- Equipment.

Ineligible costs Program funds may not be used for rental assistance and operating costs in the same project. Program funds may not be used for the maintenance and repair of housing where the costs of maintaining and repairing the housing are included in the lease.

Project Administration

The Project Sponsor may use up to 50% of the HUD-allowed administrative funds associated with the project. The HUD-allowed administrative costs are 7% of the full grant; the remaining 50% of the administrative funds are retained by the City of Springfield.

MATCHING FUNDS AND LEVERAGE

The grantee must match all grant funds, except for leasing funds, with no less than 25% of funds or in-kind contributions from other sources. Guidance regarding cash and in-kind match is at 24 CFR 578.73.

Grantees must leverage other services or funds for program participants. The expectation is that the use of leveraged additional resources will enable applicants to develop a comprehensive project that meets the needs of the chronically homeless and ensure successful program outcomes. In particular, the service needs of chronically homeless persons may be met through leveraging of Medicaid-financed services, including case management, tenancy supports, behavioral health services, or other services important to supporting housing stability. Guidance regarding leverage is provided in Appendix C to this document.

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

All successful project applicants, with the exception of entities that are victim service providers, must agree to participate in the CoC's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

GRANT TERM

New projects may request funds for an initial grant term of 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 4 years, 5 years, or 15 years. The funding request submitted at this time must cover the entire period of the initial grant term (with the exception of projects with a 15-year grant term, as explained below). This means that if a project's annual budget is \$100,000, the project must request \$200,000 if applying for a 2-year term, \$300,000 if applying for a 3-year term, and 500,000 for a 5-year term.

Grant terms are subject to the following requirements:

- Any new project created through the Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus that requests tenant-based rental assistance may request a 1-year, 2-year, 3-year, 4-year, or 5-year grant term.
- Any new project created through the Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus that requests scattered-site leasing—either leasing costs only or leasing costs plus other costs (e.g., supportive services, HMIS, etc.) may only request up to a 3-year grant term.
- Any new projects created through the Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus that requests project-based rental assistance or sponsor-based rental assistance, or operating costs may request up to a 15-year grant term; however, the project applicants may only request up to 5 years of funds. Funding for the remainder of the term is subject to availability and applicants must apply for additional funds at such time and in such manner as HUD may require.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for shorter grant terms. The competition for Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus funds is part of the federal commitment to ending chronic homelessness by the end of 2016. Accordingly, there is an emphasis on quickly increasing the stock of permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless. Historically, once a CoC program has been established, it is renewed annually, provided that it is a high-quality and effective program.

THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS AND COMPETITIVE REVIEW

Threshold Requirements

To become eligible for consideration by the CoC Scoring and Ranking Committee, all projects must first successfully pass a review of threshold requirements. The City of Springfield CoC Administrator will perform a threshold review of all submitted projects. ***Each project must meet the following minimum standards:***

1. The project must meet HUD eligibility requirements.
2. Persons served by the project must meet the HUD definition of homeless.
3. The application must be complete and submitted in the correct format.
4. The application must be submitted on time.

Competitive Review

All applications that meet the threshold requirements will be forwarded to the CoC Scoring and Ranking Committee for evaluation, selection and ranking. Appendix A explains the process that will be used for the competitive review.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The deadline for submittal of Renewal Project Applications is October 14, 2014 at 4:00 pm.

There are **two required parts of submittal**, both of which must be completed by the deadline.

1. Submittal of the electronic **application in esnaps**. The electronic application must include the following required attachments:
 - a. Documentation of **501(c)(3) status**.
 - b. Documentation of **Match**.
2. Submittal of **CoC Supplemental Application for New Bonus Projects** to the Springfield Office of Housing, 1600 E. Columbus Ave., Springfield, MA. The Supplemental Application is attached to this RFP as Appendix B. It includes a list of required documents which must be submitted with the CoC Supplemental Application.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION IN ESNAPS

1. Applicant access to *esnaps*.

- The applicant must designate a staff person to access *esnaps*.
- The designated individual must visit the *esnaps* site, www.esnaps.hud.gov, click the “Create Profile” button, and provide the required information. Following this step, the individual must send an email to Deborah Merkman, dmerkman@springfieldcityhall.com, and request that the individual be linked to the Hampden County CoC account. Ms. Merkman will send a response email conforming that the individual has been added.
- Ms. Merkman will also create a new project application for the proposed project, which shall be the name of the applicant agency – name of the proposed project. If the applicant does not provide Ms. Merkman with a name for the proposed project, she will name it: Name of the applicant agency – Bonus Project. This name can be changed at a later date.

2. Accessing program application in *esnaps*.

- The applicant’s *esnaps* user should log-in to *esnaps* and click the “Submissions” button in the left-hand column. At the top middle of the page that opens is a section named “Submissions Filters” and the top line is “Applicant Project Name.” Use the drop-down menu to find your project. Once your agency and program name are in the box from the drop-down menu, click the “Filter” button.
- Once the system filters to only your program, look in the second column for “New Project Application FY2014.” To open the application, click on the orange and grey icon to the left of the program name.

3. Completing the *esnaps* application.

- Note that Part 1 of the application has been completed by the City of Springfield. Because HUD grants are actually awarded to the City, the City is considered the applicant. Each program grantee is a subrecipient. Subrecipient information begins in Part 2.
- Detailed instructions for completing the application are available by clicking “FY2014 New Project Renewal Detailed Instructions” in the left-hand column.
- An additional resource for completing the renewal application is the *esnaps* Instructional Guide: New Project Application, available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2014-New-Project-Application-Instructional-Guide.pdf>.

4. *Esnaps* attachments.

- All new applications must contain two attachments, which are uploaded at screen 8A.
- Each application must have documentation of the agency's 501(c)(3) status attached.
- Each application must also upload documentation of Match (funds or in-kind). The documentation must be scanned and uploaded.

5. Submittal of the *esnaps* application.

- Once the application is complete, the "Submit" button on screen 9B will no longer be greyed out. Click the Submit button.

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN NARRATIVE RESPONSES IN ESNAPS

There are several factors that HUD has identified which are particularly important in this competition. The applicant must ensure that narrative responses in *esnaps* address the following:

(1) **Prioritizing Highest Need.** The applicant must indicate that it will use the CoC's selected screening tool, the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) to determine the appropriate level of service needs for project participants, and will work with the Hampden County CoC to house chronically homeless people according to the following prioritization: Priority 1: Persons homeless one year or longer, with severe service needs; Priority 2: Persons homeless one year or longer, without severe service needs; Priority 3: Persons homeless four or more times in the last three years, with severe service needs; and Priority 4: persons homeless four or more times in the last three years without severe service needs. The applicant must also describe the outreach process used to engage chronically homeless persons living on the streets and in shelter.

(2) **Housing First.** Applicants must commit to using a Housing First model. The applicant should describe experience operating a successful housing first program, and clearly describe a program design that meets the definition of Housing First.

(3) **Mainstream Services.** Applicants must describe the extent to which the project is fully leveraging mainstream resources for supportive services. At a minimum, applicants should indicate that specific activities will be incorporated into the project to identify and enroll all Medicaid-eligible program participants. The narrative should describe if the project includes Medicaid-financed services, including case management, tenancy supports, behavioral health services, or other services important to supporting housing stability. Project applicants may include Medicaid-financed services either by the recipient receiving Medicaid coverage payments for services provided to project participants or through formal partnerships with one or more Medicaid billable providers (e.g., Federally Qualified Health Centers).

(4) Rapid implementation. Applicants must demonstrate a plan for rapid implementation of the program; the project narrative must document how the project will be ready to begin housing the first program participant within 6 months of the award.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF COC SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION FOR NEW BONUS PROJECTS

1. Availability of the CoC Supplemental Application for New Bonus Projects.
 - The CoC Supplemental Application for New Bonus Projects is attached to this RFP as Appendix B.
 - The CoC Supplemental Application for New Bonus Projects will also be available throughout the competition at <http://westernmasshousingfirst.org/fy2014-continuum-of-care-funding-competition>

2. List of required documents.
 - The CoC Supplemental Application for New Bonus Projects includes a checklist of required documents. Please provide one copy of each of the required documents.
 - If any document is not available by the required deadline, the applicant must provide a written explanation of the reason the document is not available and a firm date, no later than October 27, 2014, by which the document will be made available. The CoC Scoring and Ranking Committee reserves the right to revoke approval of any application which does not have all required documents on file prior to submittal of the CoC application to HUD on October 30, 2014.

3. Submittal of the CoC Supplemental Application for New Bonus Projects and accompanying documents.
 - The CoC Supplemental Application for New Bonus Projects and all required documents must be delivered to the Springfield Office of Housing by the RFP application deadline (October 14, 2014, 4:00 p.m.)

HAMPDEN COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

CoC Application Selection and Ranking Process 2014

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the Continuum of Care (CoC) FY2014 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) on September 16, 2014. The NOFA is available at www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/nofa-for-fy2014-funds-in-the-fy2013-fy2013-coc-program-competition.pdf.

The Hampden County CoC will submit a **collaborative application** to HUD for competition funds on **October 30, 2014**. The application will include three types of individual project applications:

1. Grantees with current projects (FY13) seeking **renewal** of those same projects;
2. Grantees with current projects (FY13) seeking **reallocation** funds for a new eligible project; and
3. A single applicant proposal for a new **Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus** project.

The application may also include a proposal for the CoC to receive a one year **Planning** grant, for an amount up to \$44,182.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Project applications for renewal, reallocation and permanent supportive housing bonus must be submitted to the CoC in the electronic *esnaps* system no later than **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct.14, 2014**.

Scoring of applications will be completed by the CoC Scoring and Ranking Committee, which will be made up of CoC members who are not employed by or associated with any of the project sponsors applying for funds.

The CoC Scoring and Ranking Committee will score submitted proposals according to objective criteria provided as part of the application process, and will rank proposals in order according to scores. The committee will then consider overall CoC priorities and strategy to determine a final list of projects to be submitted to HUD, and the amounts of funding to be requested for each project. **Proposers will be notified in writing on October 20, 2014** of whether they will be included and the amount to be allocated for each project, and the list and rationale for selection shall be posted on the website of the Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness on that date.

Funding Amounts are as follows:

Tier 1	\$2,454,415
Tier 2	\$50,090
Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus	\$530,189

All projects included in the applications must be fully placed in either Tier 1 or Tier 2. Projects submitted to HUD in Tier 1 are expected to be funded. Tier 2 projects will be awarded funds based on the CoC 's

FY2013 competitive score and the availability of HUD funds. The Tier 1 amount is set at 2% below the amount needed to fully fund all existing CoC projects eligible for renewal in 2014.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR RENEWALS AND REALLOCATIONS

For the FY2014 competition only, only existing grantees may submit applications for renewal and reallocated projects. The reasons for a more limited competition this year are the very short application period combined with planning done as part of the FY13 application for reallocations to take place in this FY14 application. The CoC will return to a fully open competitive process for the FY15 application.

Applicants will need to log in to *esnaps* to complete a renewal or reallocation application.

Renewal. The City of Springfield will create renewal application files in *esnaps* for each existing project no later than Monday, September 22, 2014. Renewal applicants must open the renewal application, fill in missing information, update existing information, and upload any required supporting documents. Once complete, applicants must submit the renewal application.

Reallocation. Existing grantees may elect not to submit a renewal application and may instead apply for a new project, a process called reallocation. Certain grantees committed in the FY13 application that they would reallocate in the FY14 application, and these grantees are *required* to do so. The required reallocation projects are MHA Annie's House, MHA Safe Havens, Providence Ministries Loreto House and Samaritan Inn. Any other reallocation grantees must provide notice to Gerry McCafferty, gmccafferty@springfieldcityhall.com, of the intent to reallocate and whether the new project being created is 1) permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and families, or 2) rapid rehousing for homeless families. Within 24 hours of notification, the new project application will be set up in *esnaps* and ready for entry of application information. Reallocation project sponsors must open the new project application, fill in application information, and upload required supporting documents. Once complete, applicants must submit the reallocation application.

HUD's NOFA emphasizes that people living in transitional housing do not meet the definition of chronically homeless. Any program reallocating from transitional housing to permanent supportive housing must make a plan for transitional housing residents to move out prior to the end of the current grant year, and must commit to serve 100% of the required eligible population. In addition, permanent supportive housing projects must commit to use of the VI-SPDAT and prioritization processes established by the CoC, which may include a centralized waitlist.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING BONUS

New applicants and existing grantees may apply for the Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus. Applicants for the Bonus must contact Gerry McCafferty, gmccafferty@springfieldcityhall.com, to be given access to *esnaps* and have an application created. The application will be created within 24 hours of notice to Ms. McCafferty. Ongoing technical assistance regarding use of *esnaps* will be provided by Deborah Merkman, dmerkman@springfieldcityhall.com, 413-787-7756.

Additional written guidance regarding program and application requirements for bonus projects will be made available no later than September 22, 2014.

ESNAPS GUIDANCE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Esnaps is available at www.esnaps.hud.gov. If you do not already have the ability to log in to the CoCs *esnaps* account, you must request access from Deborah Merkman, dmerkman@springfieldcityhall.com or 413-787-7746. Deborah Merkman can also provide technical assistance regarding *esnaps* use throughout the application process.

SCORING, RANKING AND SELECTION

All complete, timely, and eligible applications will be scored by the CoC Application Committee, using a scoring rubric attached to this guidance. Scores will determine each project's rank in the CoC's application to HUD, and rank will be the primary determinant of placement into Tier 1 (which will be fully funded by HUD) and Tier 2 (which will only be funded if the CoC's score is high enough and if there are sufficient resources). Scores may also be used to reject applications or to reduce budgets for low-scoring projects.

The scoring rubric evaluates past performance (of renewal/reallocation applicants) and promotes certain best practices or practices that will improve our local response to homelessness and align our response with national policies and best practices. These include:

- Agreement to use the CoC-selected assessment tool and prioritization standards;
- Commitment to a Housing First low-demand service model;
- Significant leveraging other resources; and
- Projects that promote geographic diversity of programs throughout our CoC.

The process for considering projects will include the following:

- A threshold requirement that submissions required in this guidance are complete and timely (failure to meet this requirement will result in project not being scored);
- Project scoring;
- Responses to requests for explanations or requests for more information from the Scoring and Ranking Committee; and
- [Possibly] Applicant interviews for proposers of Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus projects.

Once the committee completes the scoring and ranking, the committee may consider the CoC's priorities, as established at the Sept. 19, 2014 Board of Directors meeting, whether the initial scoring is likely to result in any critical service gaps, and strategy related to Tier cut offs and HUD's selection process, and may make adjustments to budgets and produce the final ranking of projects to be included in the CoC application. The Committee's rationale for any adjustments must be recorded and made public with the published rankings.

Project selections, rankings and tier allocations will be provided to proposers by written notice and published on the following website no later than 8:00 pm on October 20, 2014:

Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness,
<http://westernmasshousingfirst.org/coc/hampden-coc>

Applicants not selected by the CoC to be included in the CoC submission to HUD may appeal by submitting their *esnaps* Solo Application directly to HUD not later than October 30, 2014, 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time.

TIMELINE

Sept. 22, 2014	Hampden County CoC FY2014 Competition Opens
Oct. 1, 2014 10:00 a.m.	Bidders Conference 1600 E. Columbus Ave., Springfield, MA
Oct. 14, 2014 5:00 pm	Deadline for Submittal of Complete Application for Rating and Ranking Complete applications include: <ol style="list-style-type: none">Esnaps submittal with following attachments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Documentation of agency 501(c)(3) statusMatch commitment lettersDelivery of CoC Supplemental Application to the Springfield Office of Housing, 1600 E. Columbus Ave. Springfield. The CoC Supplemental Application is a brief questionnaire and a list of required documents which must be submitted. The required documents are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Leverage commitment lettersAgency Articles of Incorporation;Minutes of Board of Directors meeting authorizing application for new or renewal funding;Current List of Board of Directors with identification of Officers and terms;The following completed forms: Notarized Tax Certification Affidavit; Conflict of Interest Statement; Debarment Certificate; Internal Control Questionnaire; and CoC Program Project Sponsor Certifications.Certified Organization Audit/Financial Statements of most recent year: 1) Copy of OMB A-133 Audit (Required if \$500,000 or more in aggregate Federal funds expended); or 2) Financial statements audited by a CPA (if not bound by the requirements of OMB A-133).Agency Financial Management Policies and Procedures;Agency Procurement Policies and Procedures; and

- The following agency policies: Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest; Drug-Free Workplace; Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing; Reasonable Accommodation and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities; Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment; and Confidentiality.
- The following completed forms: Notarized Tax Certification Affidavit; Conflict of Interest Statement; Debarment Certificate; Internal Control Questionnaire; and CoC Program Project Sponsor Certifications.

**Oct. 20, 2014
8:00 pm**

Ranking and Selection Results posted on Network website and sent to applicants in writing

Oct. 30, 2014

**CoC Application Submitted to HUD in *esnaps*
Any rejected applicants may submit *esnaps* Solo Application directly to HUD
no later than 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time**

Dec. 2014

Expected announcement of project awards

Spring 2015

Commencement of new projects

SCORING FOR RENEWAL/REALLOCATION APPLICATIONS FOR FY2014 COC PROGRAM COMPETITION

Total points available: 100

PROGRAM 36 points <i>Source:</i> Project Application, Supplemental Survey	Program Type (up to 10 points)	Permanent Supportive Housing—10 points Rapid Rehousing for homeless families—10 points Transitional Housing for Youth – 10 points Other—0
	Population Served (up to 8 points)	If PSH: 100% Chronically Homeless—8 points If RRH: 100% Families in shelter—8 points Transitional Housing: Youth Up to Age 24—8 points Other—0 points
	Contributes to geographic diversity of services (up to 5 points)	Largely underserved location –5 points Moderately underserved location – 2 points Other—0 points
	Commits to use Coordinated Assessment: VI-SPDAT and prioritization (up to 5 points)	Yes – 5 points No—0 points
	Commits to use of a Housing First model and demonstrates understanding of Housing First principles (up to 5 points)	Yes—5 points No—0 points
	Type of site/building –(3points)	Scattered site program <u>OR</u> program operates in a building subject to CoC deed restriction – 3 points
PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES 24 points <i>Source:</i> HMIS APR for period 7/1/2013 – 6/30/2014	Housing Stability (up to 6 points): PH: 84% or more remained in PH or exited to permanent housing TH: 65% or more of exits are to permanent housing	Scoring for each standard: 6 pts. – Exceeded benchmark 5 pts. - Met benchmark 3 pts. – Missed benchmark but provided a realistic plan for improvement of 10% or more over next year 0 pts. – Missed benchmark and no plan for improvement
	Employment Income (up to 6 points): 20% or more of adults increased employment income	
	Non-employment Income (up to 6 points): 54% or more of adults increased non-employment income	
	Mainstream Benefits (up to 6 points): 70%or more of adults maintained or increased mainstream benefits	
FINANCIAL 20 points <i>Source:</i> Budget submittal, leverage letters, program audit	Leverage (up to 10 points)	Documented leverage of 175% or more – 10 points Documented leverage of 150-174% - 6 points Documented leverage of 100-149% - 3 points
	Audit (up to 5 points)	No findings – 5 points; Findings – 0 points
	Budget submission (up to 5 points)	Budget accurate & compliant with CoC rules – 5 points Other—0 points
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT 20 points <i>Source:</i> APR, agency policies and procedures	HMIS data quality (up to 7 points)	5% or less null/missing data – 7 points 6-10% null/missing data – 4 points
	Program utilization (up to 7 points)	Utilization 90% or above – 7 points Utilization 85-90% - 4 points
	Complete and fully compliant policies & procedures (up to 6 points)	All policies & procedures submitted timely – 2 points Policies & procedures compliant with HUD rules – 4 points

SCORING FOR PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING BONUS FOR FY2014 COC PROGRAM COMPETITION

Total points available: 100

PROGRAM 36 points <i>Source:</i> Project Application	Commits to Housing First model, demonstrates understanding of Housing First principles, and experience with Housing First (up to 16 points)	Housing First – 8 to 16 points (depending on demonstrated understanding and experience) Other model – 16 points
	Contributes to geographic diversity of services (up to 5 points)	Largely underserved geographic location –5points Moderately underserved geographic location – 2 points Other—0 points
	Commits to use Coordinated Assessment: VI-SPDAT and prioritization (up to 5 points)	Yes—5 points No—0 points
	Demonstrated connection to mainstream service systems (up to 5 points)	Yes—5 points No—0 points
	Site Type: scattered (5 points)	Program uses a scattered site model – 5 points
AGENCY EXPERIENCE and HISTORY OF PARTICIPATION & COLLABORATION 24 points <i>Source:</i> Application	Agency experience in performing the proposed activities and in utilizing federal funds (up to 6 points)	Extensive experience serving population or performing the proposed activities – 6 points Some experience serving population or performing the proposed activities – 3 points
	Applicant’s organization and management structure demonstrates internal coordination and an adequate financial accounting system (up to 6 points)	Description shows strong coordination & financial accounting – 6 points Description shows adequate coordination & financial accounting – 3 points
	Participation in CoC or Network (up to 6 points)	Regular attendance at CoC/Network meetings – 6 points Occasional attendance at CoC/Network meetings – 5 points Infrequent attendance – 3 points
	Evidence of external coordination – <i>i.e.</i> , examples of collaboration with other entities serving the same population (up to 6 points)	Provides 2 examples of inter-agency collaboration - 6 points Provides 1 example of interagency collaboration – 3 points
FINANCIAL 20 points <i>Source:</i> Budget submittal, leverage letters, program audit	Budget submission (up to 10 points)	Budget is accurate& complies with CoC Interim Rule –10 points
	Leverage (up to 5 points)	Documented leverage of 200% or more – 5 points Documented leverage of 150-199% - 4 points Documented leverage of 100-149% - 2 points
	Audit (up to 5 points)	No findings – 5 points; Findings – 0 points
PROGRAM MANAGEMENT 20 points <i>Source:</i> Application, agency policies and procedures	HMIS experience (up to 7 points)	Agency provides HMIS data on existing program(s) to City of Springfield HMIS or MA ASIST – 7 points
	Schedule & management plan (7 points)	Full points where there is a plan for timely and rapid start up and strong management
	Complete and compliant policies & procedures (up to 6 points)	Full points where all required policies and procedures are submitted and comply with HUD requirements.

DEFINITIONS

Chronically Homeless (1) An individual who: (i) Is homeless and lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; and (ii) Has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least one year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years; and (iii) Can be diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions: substance abuse disorder, serious mental illness, developmental disability, post-traumatic stress disorder, cognitive impairments resulting from brain injury, or chronic physical illness or disability; or (2) an individual who has been residing in an institutional care facility, including a jail, mental health or substance abuse facility, hospital or other similar facility for fewer than 90 days and has met all the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition before entering that facility; or (3) A family with an adult head of household (or if there is no adult in the family, a minor head of household) who meets all of the criteria in paragraph (1) of this definition, including a family whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

CoC Deed-Restricted means a site-based program in a building purchased, constructed or rehabilitated with Continuum of Care funds, where the building is subject to a deed restriction related to its CoC funding requiring that it be used for transitional housing or permanent supportive housing for a period of 10 years after the date of initial occupancy, and the building is within the 10-year restricted period.

Housing First is a model of housing assistance that is offered without preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold) or service participation requirements, and rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing are primary goals. The only real expectations of Housing First, which the individual agrees to prior to starting with the program, is to agree to have support workers visit at home, to pay their rent on time and in full (or agree to third party payment of rent), and to avoid disrupting the reasonable enjoyment of other tenants in the same building that would cause their eviction.

Mainstream Services Publicly-funded programs that provide services, housing and income supports to low-income persons whether they are homeless or not. They include programs providing welfare, health care, mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and veterans' assistance.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) means permanent housing in which supportive services are provided to assist homeless persons with a disability to live independently. Permanent housing is community-based housing without a designated length of stay. To be permanent housing, the program participant must be the tenant on a lease for a term of at least one year, which is renewable for terms that are a minimum of one month long, and is terminable only for cause.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) means short-term (up to 3 month) or medium-term (3 to 24 months) financial assistance to obtain or maintain permanent housing, along with case management during the period of rental assistance.

Scattered Site means a housing model in which the housing units are not located in a single building.

Transitional Housing (TH) means housing, where all program participants have signed a lease or occupancy agreement, the purpose of which is to facilitate the movement of homeless individuals and families into permanent housing within 24 months or such longer period as HUD determines necessary. The program participant must have a lease or occupancy agreement for a term of at least one month that ends in 24 months and cannot be extended.

Underserved geographic area is an area with limited or no Continuum of Care programs. The following chart identifies geographic areas within the Hampden County CoC, and CoC resources available in each area. Following the chart, there are indications of the areas considered “largely underserved” and “moderately underserved.”

Geographic Distribution of Existing PSH, TH, SH and RRH Resources in Hampden County As reported in January 28, 2013 Housing Inventory Report					
	PSH beds/units for Individuals	TH/SH beds for Individuals	PSH beds for Families	TH beds for Families	Rapid Rehousing
Chicopee	15	0	8	0	Single provider serves the region
Holyoke	33	21	4	21	
Springfield	380	85	229	95	
Westfield	43	10	4	10	
Remainder of Hampden Co.	17	9	5	0	

Largely underserved: Hampden County outside cities of Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke, Westfield

Moderately underserved: Chicopee, Holyoke, Westfield

COC SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION FOR NEW BONUS PROJECTS

Applicant Name: _____

Project Name: _____

Required Documents for FY2014 CoC Application

Please submit each of the following:

_____ Agency Articles of Incorporation;

_____ Current List of Board of Directors with identification of Officers and terms;

_____ Minutes of Board of Directors meeting authorizing application for renewal funding
(Note: if the agency's Board of Directors will not meet before Oct. 14, 2014 and does not vote electronically, please submit a letter with the date of the next Board of Directors meeting and a commitment to schedule a vote on this application at that meeting, and then submit minutes following the meeting);

_____ Certified Organization Audit/Financial Statements of most recent year:

- Copy of OMB A-133 Audit (Required if \$500,000 or more in aggregate Federal funds expended); or
- Financial statements audited by a CPA (if not bound by the requirements of OMB A-133); or
- Profit and Loss statement (only those who do not meet above criteria may submit);

_____ Agency Financial Management Policies and Procedures;

_____ Agency Procurement Policies and Procedures;

The following completed forms (which are attached):

_____ Notarized Tax Certification Affidavit;

_____ Conflict of Interest Statement;

_____ Debarment Certificate;

_____ Internal Control Questionnaire; and

_____ CoC Program Project Sponsor Certifications.

The following agency policies:

- _____ Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest;
- _____ Drug-Free Workplace;
- _____ Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing;
- _____ Reasonable Accommodation and Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities;
- _____ Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment; and
- _____ Confidentiality.

Notarized Tax Certification Form

Individual Social Security Number State Identification Number Federal Identification Number

Company: _____

P.O.Box (if any): _____ Street Address Only: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

List address(es) of all other property owned by company in Springfield: _____

Please identify if the bidder/proposer is a:

Corporation _____

Individual _____ Name of Individual: _____

Partnership _____ Names of all Partners: _____

Limited Liability Company _____ Names of all Managers: _____

Limited Liability Partnership _____ Names of Partners: _____

Limited Partnership _____ Names of General Partners: _____

You must complete the following certifications and have the signature(s) notarized on the lines below. Any certification that does not apply to you, write N/A in the blanks provided.

FEDERAL TAX CERTIFICATION

I _____ certify under the pains and penalties of perjury that _____, to the best of my knowledge and belief, has/have complied with all United States Federal taxes required by law.

Bidder/Proposer Authorized Person's Signature Date

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD TAX CERTIFICATION (IF APPLICABLE)

I _____ certify under the pains and penalties of perjury that _____, to the best of my knowledge and belief, has/have complied with all City of Springfield taxes required by law (has/have entered into a Payment Agreement with the City).

Bidder/Proposer Authorized Person's Signature Date

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS TAX CERTIFICATION

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 62C '49A, I _____ certify under the pains and penalties of perjury that _____, to the best of my knowledge and belief, has/have filed all state tax returns and has/have complied with all state taxes required by law.

Bidder/Proposer

Authorized Person's Signature

Date

Notary Public

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

_____, SS

_____, 20__

Then personally appeared before me [name] _____, [title] _____ of [company name] _____, being duly sworn, and made oath that he/she has read the foregoing document, and knows the contents thereof; and that the facts stated therein are true of his/her own knowledge, and stated the foregoing to be his/her free act and deed and the free act and deed of [company name] _____.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

No staff or Board of Director of the _____ will financially benefit from performing their prescribed duties other than receiving their normal compensation per salary of contract. Additionally no staff member of Board of Director can use or take possession of any of the _____ resources without express approval of its Board of Director's Chairperson.

All transactions conducted by staff and the Board of Directors must be arms' length transactions, whose sole intent is to enhance the role and the mission of _____.

Dated: _____

(signature of authorized agent)

(printed name of agent)

(title of agent)

IF YOU DO NOT ALREADY HAVE A CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT, YOU MAY USE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED HERE. HOWEVER, THE CERTIFICATE MUST BE PRINTED ON YOUR ORGANIZATION'S LETTERHEAD AND SIGNED BY AN AUTHORIZED AGENT.

DEBARMENT CERTIFICATE

In accordance with 24 CFR 24.100 through 24.714, _____ hereby certifies that neither the agency nor any of its principal employees has been disbarred, suspended or voluntarily excluded by any Governmental agency from receiving Federal financial assistance and non-financial assistance and benefits.

By signing this Certificate, the organization expressly understands and acknowledges that any person or entity that has been debarred or suspended is not eligible to receive Federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits under Federal programs and activities.

Dated: _____

(signature of authorized agent)

(printed name of agent)

(title of agent)

This Certificate must be printed on agency letterhead.

Internal Control Questionnaire

DATE _____

NAME OF OPERATING AGENCY _____

ADDRESS OF OPERATING AGENCY _____

TAX ID OF OPERATING AGENCY _____

TEL # _____ FAX # _____ CONTACT PERSON _____

TITLE OF PROJECT _____

PROJECT LOCATION _____

AMOUNT OF FUNDING _____

SOURCE OF FUNDING: Continuum of Care Program

1. Name and Title of individual(s) signing Schedule of Reimbursable expenses request and checks:

A. REIMBURSABLE EXPENSE REQUEST _____

B. CHECK SIGNATURE _____

2. Name of person responsible for maintaining records for this contract (list title also).

3. Name of person who is responsible for:

A. Maintaining payrolls _____

B. Maintaining Time Sheets _____

C. Reconciling Bank Statements _____

D. Preparing Statement of Project Costs _____

E. Preparing Checks _____

F. Purchasing _____

4. Name of person who will maintain the following books of record (at least)

1. Cash receipts and Disbursements Ledger _____

2. Voucher Register _____

3. Project Cost Ledger _____

5. Name of Employees Bonded:

6. Does the agency maintain a purchase requisition system, and who authorizes purchases?

7. Who signs all vouchers ready for payment?

8. What is included or needed for authorization to disburse checks (e.g., voucher, purchase order, receiving slip)?

9. Who is responsible for hiring personnel?

10. Who is responsible for submitting time sheets of employees?

11. What controls are in place for equipment purchases?

I HEREBY ATTEST THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE AND CORRECT.

Signature of Authorized Representative for Agency

Date

CoC Program Project Sponsor Certifications

In accordance with the applicable statutes and the regulations governing the Continuum of Care Program regulations, the Agency _____ certifies that:

Confidentiality Regarding Domestic Violence

- It will maintain the confidentiality of records pertaining to any individual or family that was provided family violence prevention or treatment services through the project;
- It will maintain confidentiality of the addresses or locations of family violence projects, except with written authorization of the person responsible for such project;

Access to Education and Related Services

- The Agency will establish policies and practices that are consistent with, and do not restrict, the exercise of these rights provided by subtitle B of title VII of the Act and other laws relating to the provision of educational and related services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness;
- If the Agency provides housing or services to families, the Agency will designate a staff person to be responsible for ensuring that children served in the program are enrolled in school and connected to appropriate services in the community, including early childhood programs such as Head Start, part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and programs authorized under subtitle B of title VII of the Act;

No Debarment

- The Agency, its officers, and employees are not debarred or suspended from doing business with the federal government; and

Provision of Information to HUD

- The Agency agrees to provide information, such as data and reports, as required by HUD.

Dated: _____

(signature of authorized agent)

(printed name of agent)

(title of agent)

HAMPDEN COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE

Leverage for the Continuum of Care Program

Leverage includes all funds, resources, and/or services that your agency can secure on behalf of clients served in your CoC-funded project. **Leverage can be cash or in-kind contributions**, and is all services made available to program participants, whether or not the services would be eligible to be funded under the CoC program.¹ HUD provides important context for the leverage requirement here: <https://www.onecpd.info/news/snaps-weekly-focus-leveraging-mainstream-services-funding>.

What Counts as Leverage?

Leverage is the value of all the community resources that support people in your program, including your own program's volunteer and cash contributions, but also every other service in the community. **The next page provides a detailed list of community services that your program may be leveraging.**

What CANNOT be Counted as Leverage?

Rent or occupancy fees paid by program participants cannot be counted as leverage. Leverage for the Continuum of Care Program does not include other CoC-funded programs, and it does not include programs that provide services to CoC program participants before their entry into, or after their exit from, your CoC-funded housing program.

How Much Leverage Does My Program Need?

Each CoC program must leverage resources, and the entire CoC must leverage resources equal to 150% of our CoC grant. To meet this CoC requirement, all programs are asked to provide 150% leverage. However, because some programs are not expected to be able to meet this requirement, all programs are asked to document as much leverage as possible.

How Is Leverage Documented ?

Leverage commitments must be documented in a letter from the entity that will provide the cash or in-kind commitment. A template is attached to this document to assist in making sure you provide all necessary information in leverage letters from your program partners.

What's the Value of In-kind Contributions?

Services provided by individuals must be valued at rates consistent with those ordinarily paid for similar work in the recipient or subrecipient's organization. If the recipient or subrecipient does not have employees performing similar work, the rates must be consistent with those ordinarily paid by other employers for similar work in the same labor market.

¹ Leverage is different from, and in addition to, program matching funds. Match, which may also be cash or in kind, only includes items that would be eligible to be funded under the CoC grant.

Examples of CoC Leverage

Advocacy

Immigration assistance
Benefits advocacy
Housing advocacy
Legal services
Mental health advocacy
Tenants' rights workshop

Children

After-school program
Child development consult
Child care services
Children's books, art supplies
Children's art program
Children's holiday party, holiday gifts, shopping
Parenting classes
Summer camp
Therapeutic day care

Education, Employment, training

Computer classes
Benefits and work workshops
Education
Job development
Job research
Job placement
Job retention
Leadership training
Life skills training
Literacy
Nutrition/cooking classes
School supplies
Training tuition
Tutoring
GED training
Uniform vouchers
Vocational services

Human resources

Consultation staff
Volunteer staff hours
New employee orientation

Counseling

Bereavement counseling
Pastoral services
Counseling services
Crisis intervention
Landlord-tenant counseling
Recovery groups
Support groups
Therapy

Financial services

Asset/resource management
Money management
Representative payee service

Health

Acupuncture
Adult day care
AID-related services
Dental services
Detoxification services
Emergency room services
Gynecological services
Health care resources & education
Healthcare services
Medical services
Psychiatric services
Prescription medication
Pharmaceutical services
Medication support
Mental health services
Peer support
Pregnancy testing
Prenatal care
Psychotherapy
Residential & outpatient treatment
Respite care
Substance abuse services
Triage

Transportation

Subsidized/free bus passes

Transportation
Vehicle

Housing

Housing placement
Housing search
Building
maintenance/beautification
Move-in assistance
Property management
Furnishings
Household items

Operations

Administrative support
Clerical services
Consulting and practical services
Facility space
Mail service
Office/workshop space
Programming
Voicemail

Supportive services

Artistic services
Assessment services
Case management
Family support services
Haircuts, grooming
Independent living services
Mentoring services
Outreach
Recreational trips & activities
Referrals
Restraining order assistance
Support services supervision
Team leader
Technical assistance
Translation services
Veterans services
Health club membership fees

[This must be on the letterhead of the entity providing the resource]

DOCUMENTATION OF LEVERAGED RESOURCED OR CASH MATCH

Information regarding the leveraged resource or cash match to be provided by this agency is in the chart below.

Name of organization providing contribution	
Type of contribution ²	
Numbers of clients to be served with the contribution	
Value of the contribution per client	
Total value of the contribution	
Name of project	
Name of project sponsor agency	
Date the contribution will be available ³	[____],2015 through [____],2016
Name of person authorized to commit these resources	
Title of person authorized to commit these resources.	
Signature of person authorized to commit these resources.	
Date	

² E.g., cash (contributed by recipient agency only), childcare, case management, etc.

³ For renewals, this date must coincide with your 2015-2016 operating year.