

FY2018 NY-508 HUD CoC Funding Guide

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The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Continuum of Care(CoC) program is a nationwide competition for homeless funding. The competition is usually a two-step process. First, a local application has to be submitted in response to the Request For Proposal (RFP) released by the Homeless Alliance of Western New York (HAWNY), the CoC collaborative applicant. Projects that make the selection list will advance to the federal application process. Applicants are responsible for the preparation of both the local application and the eventual HUD electronic submission through Esnap of their project application if the project is approved locally for funding.

FY2018 HUD funding availability

Total Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) \$11,655,799

Tier 1(94% ARD): \$10,956,451

Tier 2(6% ARD) + Permanent Housing Bonus = \$ 1,613,366

DV Bonus: 1,666,241

Guiding Principles on Project Review and Ranking

- Priority will be given to programs that are most successful in ending homelessness and have a positive impact upon overall CoC system performance.
- The goal is to direct new resources toward existing known service gaps including geographic gaps.
- The goal is to provide an incentive to all funded providers to monitor and improve their performance in order to ensure continued funding with CoC resources.
- The Project Selection Committee will attempt to maximize funding available to end homelessness in the CoC.
- New Projects will compete with renewal projects for ranking in both Tier 1 & 2.
- All renewal projects will be ranked based on Renewal Scoring Standards found on page 3 during the local application process.
- Lower performing projects or projects that don't meet the thresholds will be required to meet with the Project Selection Committee to determine if the project should be reallocated.

Reallocation Process

Reallocation means to partially reduce or entirely eliminate a project and utilize the funds for one or more new projects. Funds are reallocated to new projects whenever reallocation would improve outcomes, result in more efficient use of resources and/or reduce homelessness. The CoC Board establishes the project scoring standards to comprehensively review project quality, performance and cost effectiveness annually. The standards are disseminated widely via email and posted to the web. The scoring standards for renewal projects use objective, performance based scoring criteria and selection priorities that are approved by the CoC Board to determine the extent to which each project is improving CoC System Performance, successfully helping homeless people to quickly obtain and retain housing without unnecessary barriers, and to increase their income.

Reallocation can occur under the following circumstances:

1. A currently funded project declines to renew their project.
2. A currently funded project adjusts their budget to a lower amount.
3. A currently funded project voluntarily reallocates funding to do a new project that aligns better with HUD priorities and project design best practices.
4. The Project Selection Committee can make decisions on a partial or full funding cut on currently funded projects when a project has underperformed. Underperformed is defined as any of the following:
 - continually has a substantial amount of unspent funds;
 - has an unreasonable budget line item;
 - has performed poorly as it relates to local and federal performance outcomes;
 - has a low utilization rate;
 - has not utilized coordinated entry;
 - has not served the proposed target population;
 - has a program design/model that no longer lines up with HUD goals;
 - misuse of federal funds and not following federal regulations with no plans to come into compliance are grounds for immediate defunding;
 - has program design that has a negative impact on system performance and /or overall CoC score.
 - Has higher cost per client/ cost per successfully housed client compared to similar program.

In this funding cycle, the CoC Project Selection Committee will try to make reallocation decisions prior to the release of the NOFA if possible. The Project Selection Committee will meet to determine which renewal projects may be reallocated in part or full, based on the circumstances above. Projects will then have 5 days after the receiving notification of the recommended reallocation to appeal. The appeal process can be found on page 6 of this guide.

The CoC offers providers education & technical assistance regarding reallocation:

- HUD priorities and best practice models for different populations are discussed at every monthly membership meeting.
- Performance reports are released quarterly to the public

- Low performing providers are scheduled to meet with HAWNY staff to discuss an improvement plan.

Renewal Scoring Standards:

Renewal projects will receive their performance information to be used for scoring at least 30 days prior to the selection committee meeting. Providers will have at least two weeks to review and correct their performance data. HAWNY staff will provide technical assistance if needed. The performance data will be final on a notified date. It is the provider's responsibility to ensure their performance data is accurate. Project Selection Committee will not accept low performing due to data inaccuracy.

Renewing housing application **must** meet the following **thresholds**:

- Use Coordinated Entry.
- Use a Housing First approach and low barriers to admission and retention in the program.
- All PSH programs must be Dedicated or Dedicated Plus.

Type	Evaluation Criteria		Measurement	Total Points
Annual Performance (75 pts)	1 a	Occupancy/Utilization: PSH,RRH & SH (exclude new renewal)	$\geq 95\%=10$ $90-95\%=5$	10
	1 b	Occupancy/Utilization: TH Programs	90%	10
	1 c	Occupancy/Utilization: New renewal	$\geq 90\%=10$	10
	2 a	Non-CH dedicated PSH and SH Programs: Remained in permanent housing program or exited to permanent housing ¹	$\geq 90\%=15$ $80-89\%=7$	15
	2b	CH dedicated PSH Programs: Remained in permanent housing program or exited to permanent housing ¹	$\geq 85\%=15$ $80-84\%=7$	15
	2c	RRH Programs: Exit to permanent housing destination ¹	80%	15
	2d	TH for youth: Exit to safe housing	90%	15
	3a	PSH & SH Programs (exclude new renewal PSH): Percentage of adult participants that maintained, gained or increased earned income from entry to exit/follow-up ²	$\geq 20\%=5$ $10-19\%=3$	5
	3b	TH & RRH: Percentage of adult participants that maintained, gained or increased earned income from entry to exit/follow-up	$>30\%=5$ $20-29\%=3$	5
	4a	non-New renewal: 1.Percentage of adult participants that increased non-employment income ² OR 2.Have any income ²	1. $\geq 40\%=5$ or 2. $\geq 84\%=5$	5
	4b	New Renewal:Percentage of adult participants who have any income ²	$\geq 84\%=10$ $>60\%=5$	10

¹ Exclude Foster care home, Hospital, long term care facility, nursing home or deceased in the denominator

² PSH/SH's denominator exclude people who are reside in housing for less than one year.

5a	Quickly housing clients: PSH (days from referral date to program entry date)	<= 45 days=20 46-60 days=10 61-90 days=5	20
5b	Quickly housing clients: RRH(days from program start date to move-in date)	<=30days=20 31-45days=10	20
6	Recidivism (within 6 months of program exit. Include all exit destinations but jail):	<=15%	10
SOAR	Have a SOAR trained staff		5
Project compliance (20 pts)	HUD or CoC Monitoring and Financial Audit		5
	HMIS data quality and timeliness		10
	Submit timely and accurate Annual Performance Report		5
Total			90
Bonus (30pt)	1	75% of client with 2 or more disabilities for PSH	20
	2	50% of client with at least 1 disability for RRH/TH	10
	2	100% dedicated youth project	10

Note: "New renewal" is defined as a Rapid Rehousing project operating over 1 year, but less than 2 years, and a Permanent Supportive Housing project operating over 1 year, but less than 3 years.

Programs that have been operating for less than 1 year will not be scored based on the measures above. There are no VAWA funded DV programs in this year's renewal applications, therefore no separate evaluating process is set up using comparable data.

All projects that are lower performing, but due to population or region considerations giving chance for improvement will be put on probation period for a year. Projects that are on probation will be required to meet with the Homeless Alliance of Western New York quarterly.

New Project Scoring Standards:

New Projects that do not meet threshold criteria or submit after the deadline stated in the local Request for Proposal (RFP) will not be reviewed or scored.

Threshold Criteria
Commitment to prioritize clients using CoC Coordinated Entry system (Q5)
Using a Housing First Approach and low barriers (Q3)
Matching funds equal or over 25% of request (Budget sheet)
No more than 7% of the program expense budget can be for administrative cost

For PSH, a project must dedicate 100% of units to chronically homeless clients or Dedicated Plus and use the Order of Prioritization established in CoC Written Standard and Coordinated Entry Policy and Procedure. ³	
For RRH, project must meet category 1 or 4 in the homeless definition ⁴ .	
New project scoring	
Clearly demonstrate the unmet need for the proposed population using local data (Q2)	15
Program design is suitable for proposed population (Q1)	10
Project proposed outcomes align with CoC system and project outcome(Q1)	10
Experience with proposed homeless population and previous performance (Q3)	15
Experience with grant management (Q4)	10
Accessing mainstream benefits (Q3)	10
Cost are reasonable and activities are eligible (Budget sheet)	10
Leverage meeting 150% (Budget sheet)	5
No findings in audited financial statement (attached financial statement)	5
Is housing vs services cost reasonable?	10
Total Points	100
Bonus(will be given to max. 4 projects scored the highest within its proposed population and meeting the community needs)	20

Ranking Policy:

Tier 1:

- 1: Renewal Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Transitional Housing, and Safe Haven based on Project Score. (Depends on the amount of funding available in Tier 1, the lower scoring programs may be ranked in Tier 2 or reallocated)
- 2: PSH that have operated for less than 1 year.
- 3: New project (based on project quality and community need)
- 4: HMIS & Coordinated Entry

³ <http://wnyhomeless.org/continuum-of-care/coc-documents/>

⁴ https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HomelessDefinition_RecordkeepingRequirementsandCriteria.pdf

5: RRH (Depends on funding, projects may be in Tier 1 or straddle between Tier 1 and Tier 2)

Tier 2:

1: Remaining PSH, SH based on performance score. (TH ranked within Tier 2 will be eliminated.)

2: Remaining new projects based on Project Score

Funding Security for Regions

CoC agrees to attempt to maintain the level of funds that are available to newly merged areas: Niagara and GOW(Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming),and seek opportunities to expand its funding if the programs perform well or through new applications. Renewal projects are still held the same standards in terms of performance.

Appeals

An applicant organization that has been denied funding or awarded funds in an amount that is less than applied for or requested under the local application process may submit an appeal to the CoC Project Selection Committee under any of the following conditions:

- a. If they were denied the right to reasonably participate in the local application process;
- b. If the Project Selection Committee overlooked information in the application that would have caused the application to meet thresholds or be successfully scored. No additional application information may be submitted after the deadline stated in local RFP;
- c. A decision made by the CoC Project Selection committee regarding the ranking, rejection, or funding of their project was unsubstantiated by the project performance standards.

If the applicant can prove it meets one of these criteria, the applicant organization may file an appeal to be re-considered for inclusion in either the local competition or federal competition. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to address each area(s) identified as a factor(s) of the funding decision in a manner that could result in a more favorable decision. **An appeal shall not be used as negotiation tool to extend a poor performing program with the promise to better in the future.**

A written appeal request must be submitted to HAWNY within **five business days** of the notice of the decision with detailed reasons, for appeal, in accordance with the criteria above (a,b, or c). The Project Selection Committee will then respond to the appeal by provide either a written letter respond or schedule a hearing with the applicant within ten business days. The decision made by the Project Selection Committee will be final.