

CoC Planning Grant RFP

Background: Homeless Alliance of WNY (HAWNY) is the Continuum of Care and HMIS lead for the Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Wyoming, and Orleans County. HAWNY is the recipient of the CoC Planning funds awarded by HUD during the last CoC competition. We are looking to sub-contract a portion of this grant to improve homeless service coordination within the 5 county region.

This RFP specifically addresses the need for coordinating the following services:

1. Improving employment outcomes for participants who are residing in CoC funded housing programs.
2. Improving health outcomes for homeless or formerly homeless clients in emergency, transitional, permanent supportive or rapid rehousing programs.
3. Improving the coordination of Veterans services with the goal of reducing and ending Veterans homeless including reducing the length of stay in transitional housing and quickly housing Veterans experiencing homelessness.
4. Other coordinating services that will help to reduce homelessness or reduce the length of stay for those experiencing homelessness or helping clients remain stably housed after experiencing homelessness.
5. Any other coordination of services that would assist those experiencing homelessness to remain stably housed.

All proposals should address how they will provide coordinating services within the 5 county Continuum of Care.

Eligible entities: non-for-profit organizations and researcher professionals

Amount: up to \$100,000 per category is available

Term: One year, with the possibility of it being renewable dependent upon continued HUD funding. We expect to select a majority of the projects before August 1, 2019 and execute the contract as soon as we receive a contract from HUD. There is no deadline for the submission of proposals.

Match requirement: a minimum of 25% of the requested amount can be in-kind or cash match.

Leverage requirement: 1.5 times of the request amount preferable. But it is not required.

Eligible activities: Funds cannot be used as direct service to clients. Funds can be used to coordinate services, creating strategies/ partnerships to improve system outcomes, providing training to case managers etc. Operating costs may be included for travel, office space, phone etc. **Admin costs such as supervision are not eligible through this grant.**

Applicant can apply for one or more areas below:

1. **Employment Proposals need to address one or more identified gaps:**

- Lack of employers who are willing to hire homeless or previously homeless clients
- Lack of knowledge of existing mainstream resources to assist clients gain workable skills, soft skills and employment
- Coordination of employment activities through workforce development agencies in each county.
- Coordination of employment activities through each Department of Social Services in each county.
- Develop relationships with employers, educational and vocational institutions that will allow formerly homeless clients access to employment and training.

Outcomes:

- Increase employment rate by at least 5% for participants who reside in CoC funded housing programs (Permanent supportive housing, Rapid Rehousing and Transitional Housing)
- Creation of system/resources that are sustainable if funding is discontinued.

2. Coordination of Health Services needed to address the following:

- Assist the CoC in implementing the Upstate New York H2 Action Plan (a draft of the plan can be found here: <http://wnyhomeless.org/update-new-york-h2-action-plan-working-draft/>)
- The plan will focus heavily upon developing data driven interventions with the CoC HMIS system, PPS and RHIOs to identify homeless clients, ensuring their health needs are being met and identifying them upon entering the healthcare system and ensuring housing stability and health treatment upon exit.
- How can data be shared to ensure client confidentiality while addressing their health and housing needs?
- Develop partnerships between the healthcare community, CoC, County Departments of Social Services, Department of Health and others.
- Coordinate planning efforts with the DRIP.
- Increase the capacity to bill Medicaid for services.

3. Coordination of Veterans Services

- Assist in the coordination of VA and CoC resources to ensure that Veterans who are experiencing homelessness have a reduced average length of stay in emergency and transitional housing by 20% and are permanently and stably housed as quickly as possible (target is within 90 days of the clients accepting an offer of housing).
- Assist in the coordination of the CoC Veterans Task Force.
- Assist in the coordination of the Veteran By-Name list and meetings.
- Work collaboratively with the VA, GPD, VASH and CoC homeless providers to coordinate services to prevent and end Veterans homelessness.

4. Housing Services

- Assist the CoC in identifying permanent housing options in the CoC service area.
- Assist in landlord identification and education on CoC housing programs
- Assist in the coordination of housing services in the CoC.

5. Other Research or Coordinating Services

- There may be other services or research projects that require coordination that have not been mentioned that could help assist those experiencing homelessness. Research proposals should have a direct correlation on system wide enhancements that can improve housing outcomes for persons who become homeless. Proposals should be very specific in the services they feel they could provide, the outcomes they expect to deliver, who their work partners would be and all other pertinent information.

6. Trainings for Front Line Staff

- There are opportunities to train front line staff in areas such as Moving On strategies, Motivational Interviewing, Trauma Informed Care or other topics.

7. Youth Homelessness Plan Update

- We would like assistance in updating our plan to end Youth Homelessness as part of our 10 year plan to end homelessness. A copy of our entire plan can be found here: <https://wnyhomeless.org/continuum-of-care/coc-documents/>

Reporting requirements:

Applicant must detail how this project can benefit participants in CoC funded housing programs and use specific measurements to prove that project have direct impact on improving employment. Quarterly reports on measurements set by the applicants will be required to submit to Homeless Alliance.

Compliance requirements:

Applicant must comply with financial draws that will be developed with the Homeless Alliance in compliance with all HUD regulations and generally accepted accounting principles. The applicant agrees to allow the Homeless Alliance or their representative access to all financial records, time sheets and other records to confirm compliance with HUD regulations.

Application and Budget worksheet

A narrative of no more than 2 pages should describe the service you plan to provide, including any partner agencies with whom you may be collaborating.

The budget detail should include each position that will be paid for through this grant including any fringe benefits and a breakdown of other funding sources and the amount of time to be allocated to this endeavor.

All proposals must be submitted electronically to Dale Zuchlewski
zuchlewski@wnyhomeless.org.

Open deadline. This RFP will remain open until all HUD Planning funds are allocated.

The Homeless Alliance reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals or to accept or reject proposals in full or in part.