

Western PA Continuum of Care (CoC) FY2021 Request for Proposals Domestic Violence Coordinated Entry Funding

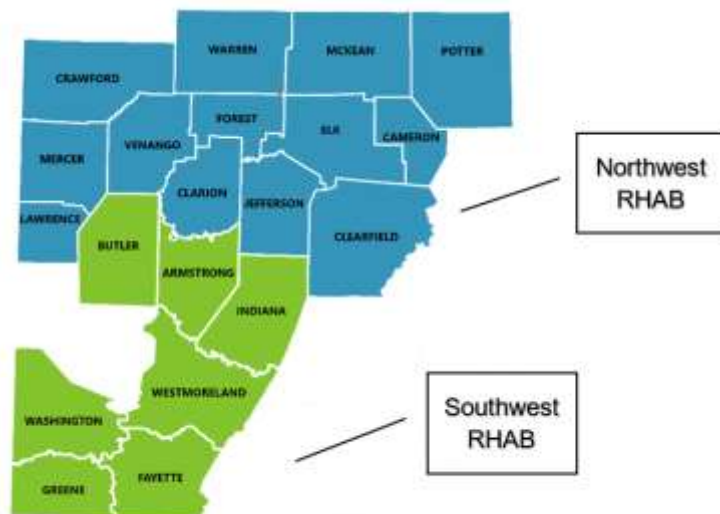
Preliminary Application due by Close of Business on October 13, 2021

The Western PA CoC submits an annual application to HUD in order to secure federal funding for new and existing projects that work to reduce and end homelessness throughout the CoC's 20-county geographic area. This year, HUD has made an additional \$102M available nationally to specifically fund Domestic Violence projects, through a "DV Bonus". The CoC is eligible to apply for up to \$1,708,642 under the DV Bonus.

New projects will be selected by the CoC through this RFP (for DV Coordinated Entry projects) and a second RFP for DV Rapid Re-Housing projects. The purpose of this RFP is to identify new projects that will increase the Coordinated Entry System capacity to best serve Survivors.

Per the [FY 2021 HUD CoC NOFA](#), DV Bonus projects for Coordinated Entry are to further the CoC's ability to *implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.*

- Any activities funded through this RFP must be designed to ensure the CoC provides a survivor driven, trauma informed housing/ homeless assistance response to survivors across the Western PA CoC.



The Western PA CoC includes 20 counties located in two regions, represented by Regional Housing Advisory Boards (RHABs):

- Southwest – Armstrong, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Washington, Westmoreland
- Northwest – Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, McKean, Mercer, Potter, Venango, Warren

Funding is not guaranteed to the organization(s) selected through this RFP. Funding will be made available by HUD based on the performance of the Western PA CoC in the 2021 Continuum of Care national competition. If funded by HUD, the project will initially be awarded a 1-year grant, which will be eligible for annual renewal, dependent on the availability of

ongoing funding from HUD and project performance. To indicate your interest in a new project, please submit a Preliminary Application by close of business on **October 13, 2021**.

- The Preliminary Application must be submitted via Alchemer at the following link: <http://s.alchemer.com/s3/Western-PA-CoC-FY2021-Preliminary-App-DV-Bonus-CE>.
- You will also be asked to attach a budget using the Excel template provided (can be downloaded here: https://mcusercontent.com/e1a442ef49ad7761f7575387a/files/c703bff7-10fe-5cda-e1db-c18b5ca57bf6/Western_PA_CoC_DV_Bonus_CE_Project_Budget_Form.xlsx), which you can attach/upload in Alchemer.
- A copy of the Preliminary Application is available at https://mcusercontent.com/e1a442ef49ad7761f7575387a/files/b3a7671f-1f45-c2f9-f463-5663b589a1f5/FY2021_Western_PA_CoC_DV_Bonus_CE_Preliminary_Application_FOR_REFERENCE.pdf, so the questions can be reviewed prior to beginning the application in Alchemer.

Please review the information provided below regarding project type, eligible participants, eligible activities, expectations and requirements of the project recipient, and selection/scoring criteria to be used in the selection of new project applicants.

What is my project budget? Allowable expense categories per the 2021 HUD NOFA include:

- Supportive Services
 - HUD notes that project applicants for SSO-CE projects should only request Supportive Service funds in eligible cost categories that are directly related to carrying out the CoC's coordinated entry processes (e.g. Assessment of Service Needs).
 - *Project applicants may only include category 17. "Operating Costs" (maintenance, repair, building security, furniture, utilities, and equipment) in the Supportive Services budget, if the costs are for a facility that is used to provide supportive services for program participants.
 - Note: while Operating Costs are an eligible expense, these costs could instead be provided in-kind towards the match requirements.
- Admin (up to 10%)
 - Please review 24 CFR § 578.59 for more information about eligible administrative costs.

Are there match requirements? The grantee must provide a 25% match – either cash or in-kind. In-kind match, for example, can be any CoC eligible services listed within the [CoC regulations](#). Match commitments require an MOU and documentation.

Are there any special considerations that I need to be aware of?

- All providers are expected to provide tailored services to each project participant, based on the survivor's individual needs, using a trauma-informed and victim-centered approach.
 - Trauma-informed: This includes approaches delivered with an understanding of the vulnerabilities and experiences of trauma survivors, including the prevalence and physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma. A trauma-informed approach recognizes signs of trauma in staff, clients, and others and responds by integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, and settings. Trauma-informed approaches place priority on restoring the survivor's feelings of safety, choice, and control.
 - Victim-centered: Placing the crime victim's priorities, needs, and interests at the center of the work with the victim; providing nonjudgmental assistance, with an emphasis on client self-determination, where appropriate, and assisting victims in making informed choices; ensuring that restoring victims' feelings of safety and security are a priority and safeguarding against policies and practices that may inadvertently re-traumatize victims; ensuring that victims' rights, voices, and perspectives are incorporated when developing and implementing system- and community-based efforts that impact crime victims.

- Data entry into a HMIS comparable database, including adherence to the data quality and data timeliness expectations outlined within the HMIS User Agreement.

- Applicants will be expected to participate in the monthly meetings of the Southwest Regional Homeless Advisory Board (RHAB) and/or the Northwest Provider's meeting. In addition, all applicants must be or must become a member of the Western PA CoC, attend semi-annual meetings of the full CoC, and attend trainings provided through the CoC.

- Fulfill requirements outlined by HUD including:
 - Submit a timely Annual Progress Report (APR) or equivalent data requirement:
 - Draw down funds at least quarterly
 - Expend all grant funds within each 12-month grant period

How will projects be selected for submission to HUD? All Preliminary Applications will be reviewed by the Western PA CoC Funding Committee based on the following criteria. Those that are selected for submission will be notified no later than October 21, 2021.

- Selection Criteria: Projects will be scored based on several factors, including the below listed criteria:
 - Demonstration of need, through both data and narrative.
 - Capacity of the applicant to implement a regional project.
 - Experience partnering with the Western PA CoC's Coordinated Entry System.
 - Experience providing trauma-informed, victim centered and culturally competent services to any household qualifying under Category 4 of the HUD homeless definition.
 - Organizational capacity to ensure successful program operation. This includes new

- organizations not currently receiving CoC-funding, as well as organizations already receiving funds.
- Organizational capacity and experience to ensure successful and inclusive program operation. Specifically, the CoC will determine if the applicant organization has experience serving and improving outcomes for communities that have been historically marginalized (e.g. people of color, LGBTQ+, people that do not speak English as their primary or first language) and experience providing culturally responsive services.

If I have questions about this who should I contact? Please contact the Western PA CoC's Consultant (DMA) at westerncoc@pennsylvaniacoc.org