

Annual McKinney-Vento Funding Competition

The Principles of fair play through an open application process will be employed

The Continuum will manage the application process with an openness throughout, including significant information exchange, the assignment of staff to help clarify and assist applicants throughout the process. The application criteria are developed in an open process of the Continuum of Care Steering Committee with minutes of meetings at which all interested parties are invited to join and participate. The rating criteria are reviewed and subject to modification by the Continuum Steering Committee on an annual basis.

Members of the Rating and Ranking Committee are invited by staff of the Continuum to participate in the rating and ranking process. Persons are chosen for their non-conflicted position. No applicants may participate in a Committee to review and rate projects which are competing or potentially competing with their project(s). Membership on the Committee will reflect as much as feasible the major geographical framework of the Continuum with at least one representative from the eastern and the western regions of the state. In addition, to the extent feasible, a former homeless person will be included (as has been the case from 2011-2015).

Project Selection Criteria

The Rating Criteria will be provided to all interested parties as part of the Invitation to Apply Notice. The Criteria are approved each year by the Continuum. There may be separate selection criteria dependent upon the need to respond to the HUD NOFA (for instance, the 2015 Project Selection Process included 3 separate rating systems – Renewal, Reallocations and Bonus Fund applications. For 2015, those criteria are found below and were posted on the Continuum website and included in e-mail communications to all potential interested persons in the Balance of State jurisdiction.

Rating criteria for renewals will be based upon primarily objective and outcome-based data on the performance of the existing project and projects requesting new funds will be based largely upon the quality of the proposal, capacity, extent to which they serve the most difficult populations, housing first commitments and leverage. The full set of criteria can be found at the end of this document.

Encouragement of applications for counties and new applicants not previously funded with McKinney-Vento Funds

The Continuum will encourage new applications from counties and applicants which have not received prior funding. Counties will be notified of this preference in the Invitation for Applications. In addition, applications from new counties will be given bonus points in the rating system. Finally, applicants from previously unfunded counties will be special technical assistance to help them prepare for applying for funds.

Timing of Application Process

The following guidelines will be followed to the extent feasible in completing the annual application process:

Notices inviting applications for various categories will be forwarded the broadest e-mail list maintained by the Continuum as soon as the analysis of the annual HUD NOFA is completed and input from the Continuum Steering Committee is obtained to set priorities and process. This notice will also be posted on the Continuum's website. All major amendments or changes will be similarly announced by e-mail communication on a timely basis.

At least 15 days prior to the deadline for submission of the HUD application, all applicants whose application is rejected or otherwise will not be sent to HUD with the Continuum's application will be provided written notice of the results, the reasoning for the decision and the opportunity for to appeal the results prior to submission of the Continuum's CoC application.

At least 2 days prior to the submission of the HUD application to HUD, the Final Project Listing will be posted on the Continuum website and the full membership, stakeholders and interested parties will be provided an e-mail communicating the results of the Project Listing (including the projects rejected and accepted) and where on the Continuum's website the information is located.

In addition, the Continuum has established a goal of posting on the Continuum website at least two days prior to the HUD submission deadline, the Continuum's Consolidated Application with attachments.

Applicants will be advised they have the right of appeal of the process in adequate time for potential correction of any error in the process.

2015 Rating and Ranking Criteria

1. Rating Criteria for Current Projects to Renew

Criteria for rating and ranking of renewal applications is based largely on their performance in their current project. HMIS and Annual Progress Report data are the primary source of information. To the extent feasible two years' worth of data are used to prevent anomalies.

1. **Extent to the project provides Housing Stability (0-10 points)** – Transitional Housing Projects will be rated based upon their relative ability to move persons from transitional to permanent housing. Permanent Housing projects are rated based upon the length of stay in permanent housing.
2. **Non-cash resources for Participants (0-10 points)** - The extent of providing exiting participants with non-cash resources.
3. **Employment Income (0-10 points)** – The extent to which participants exiting have employment.
4. **Employment Increase (0-10 points)** – The extent to which exiting participants have increased their employment income.
5. **Other Sources of Income (0-10)** – The extent to which the exiting participants leave with other sources of income.
6. **Increased Other Sources of Income (0-10)** – The extent to which the exiting participants leave with additional other income
7. **Hard to Serve Population (0-10)** – The extent to which the project serves difficult to serve populations such as substance abusers, mentally ill persons, domestic violence victims, etc.
8. **Whether the project is the only McKinney-Vento project in the County (0 or 2 points)**
9. **The extent to which the project leverages significant other funds (0-5 points)** – Based upon the percentage of leverage to grant request for leverage letters meeting the federal guidelines submitted by the deadline for information requested in the Invitation to submit a renewal application.
10. **Utilization of funds (0-10)** – The extent to which the project uses all funds and does not have funds returned to Treasury.
11. **The extent to which the project serves chronic homeless persons (0-4 points)**
- 12.

Threshold Criteria

All Applications and Grantees must meet the following threshold requirements:

1. Submit an application by the 10/19/15 5:00 PM deadline
2. Applicant's capacity is adequate to successfully manage McKinney-Vento funds
3. Applicants meet the HUD eligibility requirements and thresholds
4. Activities meet McKinney-Vento eligibility requirements
5. Review of their latest Independent Audit reveals no major findings unaddressed
6. Review of their latest HUD Monitoring letter reveals no major findings unaddressed

2. Rating Criteria for Scoring of New Permanent Housing Projects Created through Reallocation

All reallocation projects will be ranked in Tier 1. However the Continuum anticipates using the following criteria to determine the ranking of reallocation projects in Tier 1. ,

(1) Project Prioritizes Based on Greatest Need (20 points). *(Only PSH projects serving Chronic Homeless persons will be rated against this criterion. Rapid Rehousing projects will not be rated but will receive the average of the PSH-CH applicants' scores for this criterion.)* PSH-CH applicants will receive points based on the extent to which the project applicant demonstrates that it will first serve the chronically homeless according to the order of priority established in Section III.A. *Notice CPD-14-012: Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status (see attachment).* To receive full points, the applicant must clearly describe the system it will use to determine severity of need for the chronically homeless, its process for prioritizing persons with the most severe needs, and the outreach process used to engage chronically homeless persons living on the streets and in shelter.

(2) Housing First (20 points). Applicants will receive points based on the extent to which the Permanent Housing Bonus project will follow a Housing First model. To receive full points, the applicant must demonstrate it has experience in operating a successful housing first program, and clearly describe a program design that meets the following definition of Housing First: Housing First is a model of housing assistance that is offered without preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold or employability criteria) or service participation requirements. Included is the extent to which the applicant commits to provide low-barrier housing. Rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing are primary goals.

(3) Capacity (10 points) Applicants will receive points based up the extent to which the applicant's experience is relevant to the type of participants to be served and they typed of housing proposed.

(4) Readiness (10 points) Applicants will receive up to five points based upon the extent of the project's readiness to proceed. The score will be based upon a) a paragraph describing the actions to be taken and b) a projected timeline of major steps indicating by number of months, between execution of a HUD contract leading to up to occupancy, indicating when the steps will be taken.

(5) Soundness of the Approach/Likelihood of Success (20 points) Applications will be scored based upon the description of the project and its proposed outcomes. Consideration will include the feasibility of the project design and the likelihood that it will result in the stabilization of the persons it serves. Outcomes proposed will be considered based on the appropriateness of proposed activities that would result in their achievement.

(6) Leveraging (10 points). Applicants may receive up to 5 points based on the extent to which the project will leverage additional resources to develop a comprehensive project that meets the needs of the chronically homeless and ensure successful program outcomes. To receive full points, applicants must demonstrate, with a written commitment, that the cash or in-kind value

of leveraged commitments is at least 200 percent of the total request to HUD. The applicants will be rated based upon the amount of valid, firm commitments in signed letters submitted by the 10/19/15. The selected applicant will be asked to include as many more commitments as possible prior to 11/14/15.

Threshold Criteria

All Applications and Grantees must meet the following threshold requirements:

1. Submit a complete application by the 10/19/15 5:00 PM deadline
2. Applicant's capacity is adequate to successfully manage McKinney-Vento funds
3. Applicants meet the HUD eligibility requirements and thresholds
4. Activities meet McKinney-Vento eligibility requirements
5. Request is reasonable

Preliminary Application Components:

Following are the required documents for a Preliminary Application for Bonus Funds to be submitted to johnepler@comcast.net and nick.mondau@commerce.wa.gov:

1. A completed "Response to Rating Criteria"
2. Evidence of agency's adequate capacity determined by the applicant's response to criterion number 3 above and the receipt of the summary pages of the applicant's most recent Audit. Applicants who currently have HUD McKinney grants must also include the latest HUD monitoring letter and, if appropriate, evidence of actions to clear findings or evidence findings cleared by HUD.
3. Leverage Letters submitted to johnepler@comcast.net by application deadline.

Applicants may begin working on the E-Snaps application at any time. Please contact Nick Mondau for instructions on the E-Snaps submission.

Technical Assistance

Contact John Epler at 206-794-5125 or johnepler@comcast.net for any questions or for technical assistance in preparing your application.

3. Rating Criteria for Scoring of New Permanent Housing Bonus Projects

The Continuum will use the following rating criteria to score and select the Permanent Housing Bonus Applications based upon a 125 maximum score. Each application will be scored on the overall quality of the project, and the extent to which the applicant can clearly demonstrate the following:

(1) Project Prioritizes Based on Greatest Need (20 points). *(Only PSH projects serving Chronic Homeless persons will be rated against this criterion. Rapid Rehousing projects will not be rated but will receive the average of the PSH-CH applicants' scores for this criterion.)* PSH-CH applicants will receive points based on the extent to which the project applicant demonstrates that it will first serve the chronically homeless according to the order of priority established in Section III.A. *Notice CPD-14-012: Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status (see attachment).* To receive full points, the applicant must clearly describe the system it will use to determine severity of need for the chronically homeless, its process for prioritizing persons with the most severe needs, and the outreach process used to engage chronically homeless persons living on the streets and in shelter.

(2) Housing First (20 points). Applicants will receive points based on the extent to which the Permanent Housing Bonus project will follow a Housing First model. To receive full points, the applicant must demonstrate it has experience in operating a successful housing first program, and clearly describe a program design that meets the following definition of Housing First: Housing First is a model of housing assistance that is offered without preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold or employability criteria) or service participation requirements. Included is the extent to which the applicant commits to provide low-barrier housing. Rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing are primary goals.

(3) Mainstream Services (20 points). Applicants will receive points based on the extent to which the project is fully leveraging mainstream resources for supportive services. To receive full points, applicants must demonstrate the leveraging of Medicaid resources available in the applicant's state. Applicants will receive up to 10 points as follows:

(a) Applicants may receive up to 10 points for demonstrating that specific activities are in place to identify and enroll all Medicaid-eligible program participants, regardless of whether the project applicant's state is participating in Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act; and

(b) Applicants may receive up to 10 points for demonstrating that 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). No points will be awarded for Medicaid-financed health services provided in a hospital setting. Where projects can demonstrate that there are barriers to including Medicaid-financed services in the project, applicants will receive up to 10 points under this paragraph for demonstrating that the project leveraged non-Medicaid resources available in the CoC's geographic area, including mainstream behavioral health system resources such as mental health or substance abuse prevention and treatment block grants or state behavioral health system funding.

(4) Leveraging (10 points). Applicants may receive up to 5 points based on the extent to which the project will leverage additional resources to develop a comprehensive project that meets the needs of the chronically homeless and ensure successful program outcomes. To receive full points, applicants must demonstrate, with a written commitment, that the cash or in-kind value of leveraged commitments is at least 200 percent of the total request to HUD. The applicants will be rated based upon the amount of valid, firm commitments in signed letters submitted by the 10/19/15. The selected applicant will be asked to include as many more commitments as possible prior to 11/14/15.

(5) Readiness (10 points) Applicants will receive up to five points based upon the extent of the project's readiness to proceed. The score will be based upon a) a paragraph describing the actions to be taken and b) a projected timeline of major steps indicating by number of months, between execution of a HUD contract leading to up to occupancy, indicating when the steps will be taken.

(6) Capacity (10 points) Applicants will receive points based up the extent to which the applicant's experience is relevant to the type of participants to be served and they typed of housing proposed.

(7) Effectiveness of the Use of Funds (10 points) Applications will receive points based upon the extent to which the project will utilize the funds effectively and efficiently in order to maximize the impact of the funds over time. While applicants may request 1, 2 or 3 years of funds, applicants who have projects which will use the funds within one year will receive more points than an applicant that uses the funds over 3 years (because the one year project will be able to serve approximately 3 times the number of homeless persons that if the project funds were spread over three years). Projects which request funds for renewable operations or rental assistance budgets will receive more points than projects which request capital costs.

8) Soundness of the Approach/Likelihood of Success (20 points) Applications will be scored based upon the description of the project and its proposed outcomes. Consideration will include the feasibility of the project design and the likelihood that it will result in the stabilization of the persons it serves. Outcomes proposed will be considered based on the appropriateness of proposed activities that would result in their achievement.

9) Project will Provide Homeless Housing in County not Currently Served by McKinney-Vento CoC Assistance (5 points) In order to broaden the range of assistance throughout the 33 county Continuum, 5 points will be given to projects located in counties which do not currently have McKinney-Vento CoC grants.

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5. Request is reasonable
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9. Evidence of agency's adequate capacity determined by the applicant's response to criterion number 6 above and the receipt of the summary pages of the applicant's most recent Audit. Applicants who currently have HUD McKinney grants must also include the latest HUD monitoring letter and, if appropriate, evidence of actions to clear findings or evidence findings cleared by HUD.
10. Leverage Letters submitted to johneppler@comcast.net by application deadline.

Technical Assistance

Contact John Epler at 206-794-5125 or johneppler@comcast.net for any questions or for technical assistance in preparing your application. Priority for TA will be given to projects in counties not currently served by McKinney-Vento funds.