**2018 BoS CoC Bonus Project Scoring Criteria**

**1. Threshold Criteria:**

1. Applicant agrees to operate the program using a low barrier, Housing First model according to the definition below, [Section 2.1.3 of the Commerce Guidelines for the Consolidated Homeless Grant; March 2018](https://deptofcommerce.app.box.com/s/jkp9s9jscbzuu4buw25a5or61b03x1ra), and as described in the [USICH Housing First Checklist; September 2016](https://www.usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/Housing_First_Checklist_FINAL.pdf).

Housing First means low barrier projects that do not have service participation requirements or preconditions to entry and prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing. This means the projects allow entry to program participants regardless of their income, credit history, current or past substance use, history of victimization (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse), and criminal record. Participants are not terminated from the program for loss of income or failure to increase income, failure to participate in supportive services, failure to make progress toward a service plan, or any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found for unassisted persons in the project’s geographic area.

1. Applicant agrees to serve vulnerable homeless populations (see [HUD CPD Notice 16-11](https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/notice-cpd-16-11-prioritizing-persons-experiencing-chronic-homelessness-and-other-vulnerable-homeless-persons-in-psh.pdf)).
2. Applicant is participating (or agrees to participate) in the local Coordinated Entry System, which must be in compliance with [BoS CoC CE guidelines](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CSHD-HAU-CoC-Coord-Entry-Guideline.pdf).
3. Projects serving persons with disabilities must provide a brief statement on how they will ensure that persons with disabilities can interact with other persons without disabilities.

**2. Rating Criteria:**

Each application will be scored on the overall quality of the project, and the extent to which the applicant is able to clearly demonstrate the following:

**(1) Project Prioritizes Based on Greatest Need/Vulnerability (0-20 points).**

All projectswill receive points on how well they describe the severity of need of the population they propose to serve and how they will prioritize the most vulnerable populations. To receive full points, applicants must clearly describe:

* the outreach process used to engage homeless persons living on the streets or in shelter;
* the process used for prioritizing persons with the most severe needs;
* identify the specialized needs of vulnerable populations they will serve such as unaccompanied youth, families with children, Veterans, victims of domestic violence, and chronic homeless persons

Applicants should carefully review [HUD CPD 16-11](https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/notice-cpd-16-11-prioritizing-persons-experiencing-chronic-homelessness-and-other-vulnerable-homeless-persons-in-psh.pdf) *Notice* *Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing* and consider the requirements found in [HUD CPD 17-01](https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/17-01CPDN.PDF) *Notice Establishing Additional Requirements for a Continuum of Care Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System*.

**(2) Housing First (0-20 points).**

Applicants will receive points based on the extent to which the project will follow a Housing First model, based on the definition in the ‘Threshold’ section.

To receive full points, the applicant must:

* Demonstrate the extent of experience it has in operating a successful Housing First program or demonstrate a plan to develop the knowledge necessary to operate a successful Housing First program
* Clearly describe a program design that meets the above definition of Housing First

**(3) Coordination with Local Providers and Mainstream Services (0-15 points).**

Applicants will receive points based on the extent to which the project leverages mainstream and/or local resources for supportive services. To receive full points, applicants must demonstrate the leveraging of Medicaid resources available in the state. Applicants will receive points as follows:

* Applicants may receive up to 10 points for demonstrating a strong partnership with Medicaid services. Applicants should demonstrate that specific activities are in place to identify and enroll all Medicaid-eligible program participants. Applicants should also ensure that a process is in place to link program participants to 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 local continuum’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.
* Applicants may receive up to 5 points for demonstrating that the project will utilize partnerships with existing local service providers to enhance the range of and access to additional resources that promote housing stability and positive grant outcomes. Optional services through such partnerships may include but are not limited to: home visitation, job training, substance abuse treatment, financial literacy, life skills education, mental health services, etc. Applicants can also describe the service partnerships that exist within its own organization, especially in communities without other local providers to offer these services.

**(4) Leveraging (0-5 points).**

Applicants may receive points based on the extent to which the project will leverage additional resources to develop a comprehensive project that meets the needs of the 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.

* Applicants will be scored on the amount of valid, firm commitments in signed letters meeting HUD requirements and submitted by the due date (see “2018 Information on Leverage Letter Requirements”).

**(5) Readiness (0-10 points)**

Applicants will receive points based upon the extent of the project’s readiness to proceed. The score will be based on the following.

* Narrative describing the actions taken and actions to be taken, including but not limited to staffing, training, developing program operating procedures, coordination or negotiation with landlords (if appropriate), and any steps involved in the development of the housing resource - to prepare for an early and successful start of the program.
* Projected timeline of major steps, indicating the number of months between each step beginning from the execution of a HUD contract to beginning occupancy to full occupancy.

**(6) Capacity (0-10 points)**

Applicants will receive points based on the extent to which the applicant’s experience is relevant to the type of participants to be served and the type of housing proposed. If the applicant does not have current capacity for its proposed project, but plans to build that capacity by the project’s start date, it must clearly demonstrate how it will build that capacity in its application. Capacity includes:

* Overall experience of the organization
* Experience of the organization in undertaking similar activities - including experience with the population to be served and the type of housing and services to be provided)
* Experience of staff proposed to operate the program OR the standards the organization will use in recruiting/hiring for positions in the project

**(7) Soundness of Approach (0-15 points)**

Applications will be scored based upon the description of the project and its proposed outcomes. Outcomes proposed will be considered based on the appropriateness of proposed best practices and activities that would result in their achievement.

* Description of project model
* If the project is not operated by a domestic violence provider, applicant must describe how the project plans to collaborate with its local DV provider to help ensure the safety and confidentiality of DV survivors served by the project
* If the project is operated by a domestic violence provider, applicant must describe how the project adheres to DV survivor project best practices, as defined here: <https://wscadv.org/projects/domestic-violence-housing-first/toolkit/survivor-driven-trauma-informed-mobile-advocacy/>
* Use data to demonstrate performance of similar projects serving same populations in the community or elsewhere
* Description of the major outcomes to be achieved through the program (use annualized data/outcomes as a timeframe where appropriate)
* Description of major steps that will be taken to achieve the proposed outcomes

**(8) Meeting a Community Need (0-10 points)**

* Applicant utilizes data to demonstrate an unmet community need
* Description of how the project fits with local community plan

**(9) The project is in a county that doesn’t already have a CoC Program grant (0 or 5 points)**

To broaden the range of assistance throughout the 34-county Continuum, 5 points will be given to projects proposed in counties which do not currently have CoC Program grants.

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| 1 | Project Prioritizes Based on Greatest Need/Vulnerability | 20 |
| 2 | Housing First | 20 |
| 3 | Coordination with Local Providers and Mainstream Services | 15 |
| 4 | Leverage | 5 |
| 5 | Readiness | 10 |
| 6 | Capacity | 10 |
| 7 | Soundness of Approach | 15 |
| 8 | Meeting a Community Need | 10 |
| 9 | The project is in a county that doesn’t already have a CoC Program grant | 5 |
|  | **Total Points Possible:** | **110** |