

Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care**Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Governance Board**
Approved August 9, 2022**2022 Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Special Competition to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness**

The Georgia Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) is issuing the following guidance for the 2022 Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Spec NOFO) competition. This guidance applies to all new applications submitted either for rapid re-housing (RRH), permanent supportive housing (PSH), Joint Transitional Housing (TH) and Permanent Housing Rapid Re-housing (PH-RRH) component, supportive services, Homeless Management and Information System (HMIS), and CoC Planning. This announcement is being provided in accordance with the HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Docket No. FR-6500-N-25S) at: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO. Information can also be found at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/>.

Funding for new projects under this Special NOFO is only available for projects that serve rural areas as defined in section III.C.2.k (Rural Set Aside), and for projects as part of the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside. Based on HUD's determination as defined in the Special NOFO (see Appendix A) the Balance of State CoC may create new project(s) through the Rural Homelessness Set Aside, which is expected to be around \$11,485,847, through the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside, which is expected to be around \$25,279,593.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), designated as the Collaborative Applicant for the Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC), is responsible for overseeing and managing the application process for the 2022 HUD Spec NOFO funding process. HUD requires that the CoC develop a process for submitting one consolidated application for the Spec NOFO. The Collaborative Applicant works with the Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee to develop and recommend the process for CoC Board approval. The BoS CoC Board approved this policy on August 9, 2022.

The following document outlines the policy and process for the Spec NOFO funding cycle.

Timeline

June 22, 2022 – Special NOFO released by HUD.

August 3, 2022 - Standards, Rating, and Review Committee meeting to approve policy, materials, and recommend process for scoring and ranking held.

August 9, 2022 - CoC Board meeting to approve policy, materials, and process recommended by the Standards, Ratings, and Review Committee held.

August 9, 2022 – Balance of State CoC Spec NOFO Competition Policy, Process, Timeline, Review Applications, Scoring Criteria, Addendum, and other Competition materials released (approved by the BoS CoC Standards, Rating, and Project Selection Committee and the Balance of State CoC Board).

August 11th, 15th, and 16th, 2022- Informational Webinar for New PSH, RRH, Joint TH & PH-RRH, and SSO applicants held by DCA, and materials from the webinar were posted.

August 17, 2022 – Proposal Outlines for New PSH, RRH, Joint TH & PH-RRH Component, or SSO projects due.

August 29, 2022 - Review Applications (including both Addendums) for NEW PSH, RRH, Joint TH & PH-RRH Component, SSO-Street Outreach, Standalone SSO, and SSO Coordinated Entry projects, as well as all required copies and supplemental documents (listed on pages 11-12 of this document), due by 3:00 pm.

August 31-September 15, 2022 – Review Team Sub-Committee application review of new projects.

September 14, 2022 – ALL new project applications (PSH, RRH, Joint TH & PH-RRH Component SSO-CE, SSO-SO, Standalone SSO, CoC Planning, and HMIS) and updated certifications must be entered into *e-snaps* by 5:00 pm.

September 21 or 22, 2022 - Standards, Rating, and Review Committee meeting to approve and recommend results and ranking of projects for Special NOFO held.

September 28 or 29, 2022 - CoC Board meeting to approve results and ranking recommended for Special NOFO by the Standards, Ratings, and Review Committee held.

September 30, 2022 - Notification given to all applicants whether their project application(s) will be accepted and ranked on the CoC Priority Listing, rejected, or reduced by the CoC in the Special NOFO (due 10/5/22).

October 7, 2022 - ALL Special NOFO project application corrections (if applicable) should be completed in *e-snaps* by 2:00 pm.

October 17, 2022 – Estimated public posting of CoC Application (due 10/18/22).

October 18, 2022 – Estimated CoC application submission to HUD (due 10/20/22).

Summary of Policy Priorities for the FY 2022 Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care Special Competition to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness

Please note that there have been significant changes in the process and method by which local CoCs are being scored under Federal priorities in recent years. All applicants and interested parties are strongly encouraged to read this document, as well as the HUD FY 2022 NOFO Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Docket No. FR-6500-N-25S) and any supplemental materials at: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO and

<https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/> in their entirety to ensure there is complete understanding of the information provided. There are differences between this Special NOFO and previous annual competitions. Some of the key elements and policy priorities include:

- Through both the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside and the Rural Homelessness Set Aside the following types of new project applications will be accepted: (a) Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH); (b) Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) for individuals and families; (c) Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects; (d) Supportive Services Only Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE); (e) Supportive Services Only Street Outreach (SSO-SO); and (f) Standalone SSO. In addition to selecting the project type, applicants must determine which funding source they are requesting funding under within the Balance of State CoC Review Application, and within HUD's electronic application in e-snaps.
- All permanent housing (Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing), Joint TH and PH-RRH Component, and SSO projects must follow a Housing First approach as defined in Section III.C.2.e of the HUD Special NOFO.
- Only organizations serving as the Lead Agency in a Coordinated Entry Implementation Site/Region are eligible to apply for a SSO Coordinated Entry project. This includes agencies that have been identified as the lead agency for the local coordinated entry implementation but have not yet fully implemented coordinated entry.
- Participant Eligibility. Projects funded through this Special NOFO must have the following eligibility criteria for program participants (page 9 of HUD's Special NOFO):
 - o Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside. Projects funded through the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside must have the following eligibility criteria for program participants:
 - meet the criteria of paragraph (1) of the definition of homeless at 578.3, except that persons coming from transitional housing must have originally come from places not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, safe havens, or institutions where they resided for 90 days or less and originally came from places not meant for human habitation, safe havens, or emergency shelters; or
 - meet the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 578.3.
 - o Rural Set Aside. Projects funded through the Rural Set Aside may serve any program participant meeting the criteria of the definition of "homeless" in 24 CFR 578.3. Please note the CoC does not have approval to serve individuals and families meeting the criteria of paragraph (3) of the definition of homelessness.
 - o For both funding opportunities, references to paragraphs of the definition of homelessness refer to the paragraphs listed under the definition of "homeless" in 24 CFR 578.3. All projects must participate in coordinated entry. Additionally, all projects must operate consistently with the CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs described in Section VII.B.4 of HUD's Special NOFO.

HUD will review all project applications to determine if they meet the project quality threshold requirements. If awarded, a recipient is required to meet all the criteria listed in the criteria column for its component as listed in the HUD Special NOFO. Additionally, the housing and services proposed must be appropriate to the needs of the program participants and the community. A determination that a

project meets the project quality threshold is not a determination by HUD that a recipient is compliant with applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements.

- Under the HUD Special NOFO, CoCs are required to competitively rank all project applications to be considered in the selection process, including project applications for CoC Planning, submitted by project applicants in e-snaps as outlined in Section VII.B.2.b of the NOFO.

- HUD Funding Process: HUD will use two processes to select projects for this Special NOFO -one for the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside and one for the Rural Set Aside. The maximum amount of funding available for each set aside can be found in Section III.j of the HUD Special NOFO.
 - a. Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside. HUD will select CoCs for funding based on CoC score, meaning the highest scoring CoC will have its rated and ranked projects that pass thresholds as described in Section V.C.3 and VIII.A.1 of the HUD NOFO conditionally selected for funding. HUD will select projects in this manner until no more funds are available.
 - b. Rural Set Aside. Projects included on the CoC's Rural Set Aside project listing will be selected in order, up to the CoC's maximum funding amount, based on project application scores HUD will award as follows: HUD will award a point value to each project application that is on the Rural Set Aside project listing using a 100-point scale (please see full details on page 8 of the NOFO):
 - CoC Score – up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the questions required to be answered for the Rural Set Aside;
 - CoC Project Ranking – up to 40 points for the CoC's ranking of the project application(s); and
 - Serving Structurally Disadvantaged Areas – 10 points if the project applicant makes a commitment to serve individuals and families in geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty, and are located where CoC services have until now been entirely unavailable, such as, for example, trust lands and reservations.

CoCs must demonstrate how they will leverage both mainstream housing and healthcare resources to assist in their efforts to end unsheltered homelessness and stabilize individuals and their families in housing and increase access to employment opportunities for those experiencing homelessness. The CoC is actively working to secure written commitments of both housing and healthcare resources. Applicants that make it into the final ranking may be given access to these resources as they are available and applicable.

- New project applications requesting funding for acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation activities under the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside are not eligible under this HUD NOFO, and will not be accepted.

- The CoC will submit New PSH project applications requesting funding for acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation activities under the Rural Homelessness Set Aside provided they meet feasibility and capacity requirements. Requirements for PSH project applications requesting funding for development activities under the Rural Homelessness Set Aside include:
 - HUD has set the initial grant term for 3 to 5 years, with up to 2 years of that time to complete the acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation
 - Projects are limited to up to ten (10) units at any one site

- Required to describe the proposed development activities if you are requesting capital costs (i.e., acquisition (24 CFR 578.43), rehabilitation (24 CFR 578.45), new construction (24 CFR 578.47). 24 CFR 578.25 provides the requirements for site control, including a 15-year use period (24 CFR 578.81) that will remain in place even if the project no longer receives CoC Program funding. You should review 24 CFR part 578 for all requirements related to capital costs as not all are included in these instructions.
- If requesting new construction, applicants are required to justify using new construction instead of rehabilitation
- The per unit cost must be reasonable and adequate justification provided
- Applicant must have a dollar-to-dollar match for capital costs from sources other than the CoC Program or ESG Program.
- If requesting programmatic costs, must meet the services or housing support from other sources expectation
- PSH project application must score high enough, regardless of funding source for administering the project after development is complete

As part of the application, the applicant must submit a letter from the CoC in support of the new construction and rehabilitation activities. The support letter must include specific details as to how the project will comply with Section 3 of the housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) (Section 3) and HUD's implementing rules at 24 CFR part 75 to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very low-income persons.

- Application materials that will be posted on the Balance of State CoC Special NOFO competition web site will include a list of developers that have worked with DCA in the past to develop affordable housing. This list is meant as a resource and not a recommendation on suitable vendor for development.
- For the Rural Set Aside if more applications are received than funding available: After exhausting the allowable funding with the highest ranked projects, the CoC will consider new projects that pass eligibility and quality threshold as Unsheltered Set Aside projects as funding allows.
- While using a Housing First approach is a threshold requirement, points in the scoring criteria will be available for the level that projects demonstrate they will operate under a Housing First model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. To receive any of these points, applicants that pass threshold should demonstrate that the project is low-barrier, prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and has no service participation requirements and no preconditions to entry.

Points in the scoring criteria will be available to all project applications that commit to being low barrier projects and will not terminate program participants for failure to participate in supportive services, make progress on a service plan, loss of income or failure to improve income, or other activities not covered in a lease agreement typically found for unassisted persons in the area.

- Bonus points will be available for new projects proposed by applicant actively serving as a lead agency in a Coordinated Entry implementation. Actively serving as a lead agency is defined as managing the local assessment, prioritization, and referral process for Coordinated Entry. Agencies

that have been identified as the lead agency for a local coordinated entry implementation but have not yet begun actively serving as the lead agency are not eligible for these bonus points. They are eligible to submit a SSO-CE project application. Bonus points will be available for applicants who served as a homeless count coordinator for the 2022 Homeless Count in February 2022, in an effort to assist the CoC to identify people experiencing homelessness in their area. Bonus points will also be available for Rural Set Aside projects that demonstrate they will be located in geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty, and are located where CoC services have until now been entirely unavailable.

- New BoS CoC PSH projects that do not have 100% of their beds dedicated to people who are chronically homeless will be required to prioritize at least 90% of their non-dedicated beds to people who are chronically homeless*. The BoS CoC Written Standards prioritizes homeless individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness consistent with *Notice CPD 16-011: Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and Other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status*. Chronically homeless individuals and families should be given priority for permanent supportive housing beds not currently dedicated to this population as vacancies become available through turnover. Permanent supportive housing renewal projects serving specific disabled subpopulations (e.g., persons with mental illness or persons with substance use disorder) must continue to serve those subpopulations, as required in the current grant agreement. However, chronically homeless individuals and families within the specified subpopulation should be prioritized for entry. The full notice can be found at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5108/notice-cpd-16-11-prioritizing-persons-experiencing-chronic-homelessness-and-other-vulnerable-homeless-persons-in-psh/>. *Projects that committed to prioritizing 100% of non-dedicated beds to people who are chronically homeless in previous competitions are required to continue at 100%.
- In order to maintain alignment with HUD priorities for this funding and to address the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, the BoS CoC will rank projects within the following groupings for the Unsheltered Set Aside:
 - o New PSH, RRH, Joint TH and PH-RRH Component, and SSO projects (based on score)
 - o New CoC Planning and HMIS projects
 - o New Projects that met project eligibility and quality threshold that were originally submitted as Rural Set Aside projects but did not score well enough to be included within maximum funding allocated to the CoC (based on score)
- In order to maintain alignment with HUD priorities for this funding and to address the severe service needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in rural areas, the Balance of State CoC will rank projects submitted as scored for the Rural Set Aside provided that:
 - o Project meets feasibility, eligibility, and threshold
 - o Inclusion of the project does not push the overall application request over the maximum amount of funding available to the CoC
 - o Development projects must demonstrate capacity to execute both development and implement the project within the allocated time frame
- Compliance with Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Rule. On November 16, 2016, HUD published its VAWA final rule (81 FR 80798), which provides various protections to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking under the CoC Program and other HUD programs. The grants to be awarded under this NOFO must comply with the VAWA rule as provided

in 24 CFR 578.99(j). To enable full compliance with this rule, the CoC established an emergency transfer plan under 24 CFR 578.7(d) and made related updates to the written standards for administering CoC program assistance under 24 CFR 578.7(a)(9)(ii), (iii) and (v) on 6/20/17. All CoC-funded projects must follow the *Georgia Balance of State CoC Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Policies and Procedures* established on 6/20/17 (located at:

<https://www.dca.ga.gov/housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/policies>) and be fully compliant. New and first-time renewal projects should be fully compliant by the time the local CPD Field Office issues the FY 2022 grant agreement for a project in the CoC's geographic area.

The Collaborative Applicant will submit an application for planning funds as allowed by HUD. The amount of funds requested will be equal to three (3) percent of the total amount awarded within the Unsheltered set Aside. CoC Planning applications are required to be ranked under this Special NOFO and will be included as described in the grouping above.

General Information

In addition to the information presented in this document, it is expected that all applicants read the HUD Continuum of Care supplemental NOFO to address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness, related scoring criteria, and any supplemental materials (https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO and <https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/>) in their entirety to ensure there is complete understanding of the information provided.

All agencies submitting an application, must submit a complete application packet for each project requested, as described below, in order to be considered for scoring.

It is the responsibility of the agencies to ensure that all the application materials are received by DCA, by the established deadlines. Applications are required to be scored and ranked by the CoC in order to be included in the CoC's project listing submitted to HUD, and an applicant's failure to meet deadlines may result in the denial of an applicant's request for funds.

Agencies submitting an application must select either the Unsheltered Set Aside or the Rural Set Aside and must submit one (1) application per project they are proposing. If submitting a Rural Set Aside project then all project participants must reside within rural areas within the Balance of State as described in Section III.C.2.k (and Appendix B located at: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO/supplemental)

All new project applications must pass both an organizational threshold review and project quality threshold review. They will then be scored according to specific criteria. The criteria will consist of agency capacity, agency experience, program description and design, commitment to participation in the CoC's Coordinated Entry System, proposed project performance, commitment to Housing First, cost effectiveness, project commitment to serving the most vulnerable participants with severe service needs and vulnerability, leveraging housing and healthcare, supportive services offered, and advancing equity. The review application will be scored by an independent review panel. The independent review panel will submit their results to the Collaborative Applicant who will consolidate all scores, rank projects, and publish the results with the BoS CoC Board's approval. Please note, as indicated in the HUD Special NOFO on pages 25-30, HUD will review all project applications to determine if they meet

the project quality threshold requirements. If awarded, a recipient is required to meet all the criteria listed in the criteria column for its component.

Severe Service Needs means any combination of the following factors: facing significant challenges or functional impairments, including any physical, mental, developmental or behavioral health disabilities regardless of the type of disability, which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing (this factor focuses on the level of support needed and is not based on disability type); high utilization of crisis or emergency services to meet basic needs, including but not limited to emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities; currently living in an unsheltered situation or having a history of living in an unsheltered situation; experiencing a vulnerability to illness or death; having a risk of continued or repeated homelessness; and having a vulnerability to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking or sex work.

The CoC continues work to assess racial disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance. In order for the CoC to assess each project, applicants submitting a new project are asked to identify steps they will take to identify barriers to participation in their project faced by person of different races and ethnicities, and what steps will be taken to eliminate identified barriers. All projects reviewed will be scored on this.

New project applications that score high enough will be eligible to be included in the final prioritization ranking presented to HUD. Please note, however, eligibility does not guarantee funding. The BoS CoC Board will make the final determination of which projects will be ranked and presented to HUD for funding consideration within the limited funding available.

In addition to the application packet required to score and rank projects, all new projects must also complete the HUD application in *e-snaps*. Completing the application in *e-snaps* does not guarantee that the project will be put forth in the HUD application, nor does it guarantee that the project will be funded.

The BoS CoC is required by CoC regulations to operate a HMIS and carry out planning activities in accordance with the Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule. Therefore, any new application(s) for HMIS and CoC Planning will be prioritized for placement in the final ranking submitted to HUD.

DCA, as the Collaborative Applicant, will post any additional details of the competition and HUD resources as they become available on the Continuum of Care webpage specifically for the CoC Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Special NOFO). It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that they check both the BoS CoC (<https://www.dca.ga.gov/safe-affordable-housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/2022-0>) and the HUD CoC (https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO AND <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>) websites regularly for the latest updates. Please note that all of HUD's competitions and e-snaps materials, notices, and training guides can be accessed on the HUD pages.

Project applicants must agree to enter client data into Georgia's BoS Homeless Management Information System (ClientTrack), participate in the CoC's Coordinated Entry System, and participate in the homeless counts in Georgia's BoS jurisdiction. However, in accordance with Section 407 of the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Act, any victim service provider that is a recipient or subrecipient

must not disclose, for purposes of HMIS, any personally identifying information about any client. Victim service providers must use a comparable database that meets the needs of the local HMIS.

The Georgia Department of Community Affairs, as the Collaborative Applicant, believes in a commitment to end homelessness throughout the State of Georgia. To this end, DCA generally encourages all grantees to ensure that no household is turned away because they have previously resided in a differing Continuum. However, as these projects are funded to address unsheltered homelessness in the Balance of State Continuum of Care, each project must demonstrate how they are targeting, providing outreach, and participating in local coordinated entry implementation areas (as applicable), or working with providers in the county(ies) of the project's location, in order to reduce homelessness in the Balance of State CoC. Please note that under this Special NOFO, to be considered for Rural Set Aside funding, project applications must serve 100 percent rural areas in the Balance of State CoC as described in Section III.C.2.k (and Appendix B located at: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO/supplemental) and must be ranked on the Rural Set Aside project listing.

Project applicants are required to be registered with <https://www.sam.gov/SAM>, if they have not already done so, and complete or renew their registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) per Section V.A.1 of the FY 2022 Special NOFO. For more information on the SAM registration and required UEI number requirement go to: <https://sam.gov/content/duns-uei>. HUD will not enter into a grant agreement with an entity that does not have a UEI Number or an active SAM registration.

All project applicants must ensure their organization has a Code of Conduct that complies with the requirements of 2 CFR part 200 and is on file with HUD at: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/spm/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/conductgrants. If the organization's Code of Conduct does not appear on HUD's website, the project must attach its Code of Conduct that includes all required information to its Project Applicant Profile in *e-snaps*.

All project applicants must have a Certification of Consistency from the jurisdiction in which each of the proposed project(s) will be located. This assures the application for funding is consistent with the jurisdiction's HUD-approved consolidated plan as described in the NOFO. DCA staff will work with applicants and the appropriate Consolidated Planning jurisdiction for the required form *HUD-2991 - Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan*, but it is the applicant's responsibility to follow up with respective jurisdictions to ensure those jurisdictions have the project information they need to provide the certification(s) in a timely manner. Certifications must be dated between June 22, 2022 and October 20, 2022.

Project applicants must ensure that applications (Review Application and HUD application in the E-Snaps system) are complete and the information within the application is consistent throughout the application. Narratives must be fully responsive to the question being asked, and responses should meet all the criteria for that question as required by the Special NOFO and the detailed instructions provided in E-Snaps. Applicants must also ensure that proposed program participants are eligible for the program component type selected, and proposed activities are eligible under 24 CFR part 578. Applicants should also ensure that all required attachments correspond to the attachments as required in E-Snaps contain accurate and complete information.

Appeals

In accordance with 24 CFR part 578.35 and Section X of the Special NOFO (pages 60-64), applicants have the right to appeal if they believe that they were improperly denied the right to participate in the CoC planning process in a reasonable manner; were improperly denied or decreased funding; or were improperly denied a Certification of Consistency from the local government with the Consolidated Plan. The appeal MUST be carried out in the timeframe and process announced by HUD within the Special NOFO.

New Project Application Information

In line with information presented in the Special NOFO, the BoS CoC will seek applications for the following new projects under the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside: Permanent Housing projects including permanent supportive housing (PH-PSH) projects and permanent housing-rapid rehousing (PH-RRH) projects; Supportive Service Only projects including SSO Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) projects, SSO Outreach (SSO-SO) projects, and Standalone Supportive services only (SSO) projects; and Joint TH and PH-RRH projects that will serve homeless individuals and families that meet the criteria of paragraph (1) of the definition of homeless at 578.3, except that persons coming from transitional housing must have originally come from places not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, safe havens, or institutions where they resided for 90 days or less and originally came from places not meant for human habitation, safe havens, or emergency shelters; or meet the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless at 578.3..

In line with information presented in the Special NOFO, the BoS CoC will seek applications for the following new projects under the Rural Set Aside: Permanent Housing projects including permanent supportive housing (PH-PSH) projects and permanent housing-rapid rehousing (PH-RRH) projects; Supportive Service Only projects including SSO Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) projects, SSO Outreach (SSO-SO) projects, and Standalone Supportive services only (SSO) projects; and Joint TH and PH-RRH projects that will serve homeless individuals and families that meet the criteria of the definition of "homeless" in 24 CFR 578.3. Please note the CoC does not have approval to serve individuals and families meeting the criteria of paragraph (3) of the definition of homelessness.

Eligible project applicants for this Special NOFO are found at 24 CFR 578.15 and the Act and include nonprofit organizations, states, local governments, instrumentalities of state and local governments, Indian Tribes and TDHEs (as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103). Public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100, are eligible without limitation or exclusion. For-profit entities are ineligible to apply for grants or to be subrecipients of grant funds (Section V.A and V.B.3.a of the Special NOFO).

All agencies interested in applying for a new PH-PSH, PH-RRH, Joint TH and PH-RRH Component, SSO-CE, SSO-SO, or Standalone SSO project should complete and submit a Proposal Outline (Intent to Apply) to alert the Collaborative Applicant of their intent no later than August 17, 2022. The Proposal Outline form is attached to the notice, and it will also be available at: <https://www.dca.ga.gov/safe-affordable-housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/2022-0>. Submitting a Proposal Outline will signal DCA staff to forward information to organizations (intending to submit a new project application) regarding HUD training events, webinars, etc., as well as any updated CoC policies, updated scoring criteria, notice of CoC changes, etc.

As indicated in Section V.B.3.c (page 20) of the Special NOFO, HUD has set the initial grant term for projects awarded funds for acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation (which are only permissible for projects awarded under the Rural Set Aside) and other activities to serve program participants will be 3 to 5 years. These grants will provide up to 2 years to complete the acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation activities, and upon completion of the acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation, will require the remaining grant activities to serve program participants for 3 years. The initial grant term for all other projects will be 3 years, including for CoC planning and UFA costs. Grant terms may be extended, consistent with 2 CFR 200.308 and 2 CFR 200.309.

There will be **three webinars for NEW Applicants on Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 10:00 A.M., Monday, August 15, 2022, at 3:00 P.M., AND Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 12:00 P.M. Noon** to discuss the Review Application document, competition policy, scoring criteria, etc. To receive login details for these webinars, you will need to register, and once registered, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Webinar. **Please click below to register for the webinar time slot you prefer (the second and third webinars are a repeat of the first):**

- To register for 2022 Balance of State Continuum of Care **Special NOFO Applicant Webinar #1 on Thursday, August 11, 2022, 10:00 AM** go to: <https://gadca.webex.com/gadca/j.php?RGID=re50a3a6d959e2232452b1f4639b47f00> (meeting password: BoSSpecialNOFO)
- To register for 2022 Balance of State Continuum of Care **Special NOFO Applicant Webinar #2 on Monday, August 15, 2022, at 3:00 PM** EDT go to: <https://gadca.webex.com/gadca/j.php?RGID=r329add7536b975e9a9add0a54283afe4> (meeting password: BoSSpecialNOFO)
- To register for 2022 Balance of State Continuum of Care **Special NOFO Applicant Webinar #3 on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 12:00 PM** Noon EDT go to: <https://gadca.webex.com/gadca/j.php?RGID=r374f67c564f8425c46df00aff0ae7df2> (meeting password: BoSSpecialNOFO)

All agencies submitting an application for a new PSH, new RRH, new Joint TH and PH-RRH component, SSO-CE, SSO-SO, or Standalone SSO project must submit a complete application package to the Department of Community Affairs. A complete application package includes the following for each project requested:

- The Review Application for new projects (including match/leveraging documentation and both required Addendum documents (FY 2022 BoS CoC *Special NOFO - Competition Certification-Policy Addendum* and FY *BoS CoC Special NOFO - Competition Coordinated Entry System Policy Addendum*) for each project requested);
- The agency 501(c)(3), if applicable (the 501(c)(3) for any sub-recipients must also be attached);
- A current list of Board of Directors;
- The most recent independent financial audit, or equivalent financial statement; and
- A current 990 IRS Form: Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, if applicable.

All complete new project packages must be received by the CoC Collaborative Applicant, the Department of Community Affairs, by August 29, 2022 at 3:00 pm. Submissions must be emailed to Tina Moore, CoC Program Coordinator at BoSMonitoring@dca.ga.gov.

It is the responsibility of the agencies to assure that a complete copy of all application materials are received by Tina Moore, by the above deadline (for each project). No late submissions for new projects will be accepted.

In addition to the application packet described above, applicants for new RRH, PSH, Joint TH and PH-RRH Component, SSO-CE, SSO-SO, and Standalone SSO projects must also complete, and submit, the HUD application (including all required certifications and documentation) in *e-snaps*.

The complete scoring criteria for new PSH, RRH, and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component, SSO-CE, SSO-SO, and Standalone SSO projects will be posted on the Balance of State Continuum of Care webpage at: <https://www.dca.ga.gov/safe-affordable-housing/homeless-special-needs-housing/georgia-balance-state-continuum-care/2022-0>. Applicants are strongly advised to review the criteria before submitting an application.

Applicants must clearly demonstrate that they have experience and sufficient capacity to serve fragile, chronically homeless, and service resistant clients, and that sufficient services will be provided to clients proposed to be served.

Points will be awarded to new PH-PSH or PH-RRH projects that will utilize housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through CoC or Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), where at least 50% of units in project are subsidized by Non-CoC, Non-ESG source.

Points will be awarded to new PSH or RRH projects that will utilize healthcare resources to help participants. Value of healthcare services provided must be at least 50% of funding requested.

Threshold Criteria for All New Permanent Supportive Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, Joint TH and PH-RRH Component, SSO Coordinated Entry, SSO Street Outreach, and Standalone SSO project applications.

The CoC reserves the right not to review incomplete applications or projects that don't meet eligibility requirements. Applications may receive a threshold denial for any of the following reasons;

- Agency does not meet HUD's eligibility criteria.
- Agency does not demonstrate adequate capacity to carry out grant.
- Application proposes ineligible costs or activities.
- Application proposes to serve ineligible populations.
- Application does not show required match or insufficient commitments for leveraging.
- Proposed project does not have a specific plan to coordinate and integrate with other mainstream health, social, and employment programs to ensure that program participants are assisted to obtain benefits from the mainstream programs for which they may be eligible (e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, Food Stamps, local Workforce office, early childhood education).
- Compliance or performance issues on current projects.
- Project does not demonstrate adequate impact or cost effectiveness.
- Project does not meet key federal requirements.
- New proposals requesting funding through the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside must be located within Georgia's 152 county Balance of State Continuum of Care jurisdiction.

Applications proposing projects in the following jurisdictions are not eligible to be submitted under the BoS CoC application: Atlanta, Fulton County, DeKalb County, Cobb County, Columbus-Muscogee County, Augusta-Richmond County, Athens-Clarke County, Savannah, and Chatham

County. To submit an application in one of the listed jurisdictions, you should contact the appropriate CoC jurisdiction for information.

- Agency submits an incomplete application, which includes not submitting the necessary documents listed above, or certifications/documentation as required in the HUD application.
- Agency does not utilize, or commit to utilize, ClientTrack HMIS (or a comparable family violence HMIS alternative) to capture client-level data on all clients in the project.
- Agency does not follow, or commit to follow, the Balance of State CoC's Coordinated Entry System policy and process.
- Project does not demonstrate compliance with the Fair Housing Act and 24 CFR 5.105(A)(2) – Equal Access to HUD.

Additional Threshold Criteria for projects requesting Funding under the Rural Homelessness Set Aside are as follows:

- To be considered for the Rural Set Aside project applications must serve 100 percent rural areas as described in Section III.C.2.k and must be ranked on the Rural Set Aside project listing. Projects not meeting this requirement will not be considered under this selection process in Sections II.B.2 and VIII.A of the HUD NOFO.
- A listing of Georgia Balance of State CoC counties that are defined as “Rural” as described in Section III.C.2.k can be found in Appendix B at: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO/supplemental).
- Generally, project applicants will need to select the funding type for which they are applying. However, project applications submitted requesting Rural Homeless Set Aside funding where the coverage area or project location includes one or more counties not included on Appendix B, will be reviewed as a request for Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside funding. As such, it will be required to meet eligibility requirements of the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside funding.

Additional Threshold Criteria for Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects are as follows:

- The Joint TH and PH-RRH component project combines two existing program components—transitional housing and permanent housing-rapid rehousing—in a single project to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Recipients should prioritize those with the highest needs using an evidence-based approach designed to provide stable housing and services that, to the greatest extent possible, move the participant towards self-sufficiency and independence.
- Joint component projects must:
 - Demonstrate the project will follow a low barrier approach and prioritize rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing.
 - Demonstrate the project will be able to provide both components to all participants.
 - Use a Housing First approach with client-driven service models and a focus on helping people move to permanent housing as quickly as possible.
 - Incorporate client-choice
 - Target and prioritize people experiencing homelessness with higher needs and who are most vulnerable.
 - Limit costs as follows:
 - Leasing and operating costs for TH portion only
 - Short- or medium-term tenant-based rental assistance in RRH portion
 - Supportive services, HMIS (including for a comparable database for victim service providers), and administrative costs across the entire project.

Match and Leveraging

Applications must meet HUD's match requirements and have at least 25% of the amount of the HUD funding request in total match (outside of the amount for leasing), as well as the CoC's requirement to report an additional 75% of the amount of the HUD funding request in total leveraging, to score the maximum amount of points available for match and leveraging for the BoS CoC scoring (100% match and leveraging). Leveraging includes all funds, resources, and/or services that the applicant can secure on behalf of the client being served by the proposed project. While leveraging includes all cash and in-kind matching resources, it is broader in scope, including any other services, supplies, equipment, space, etc. that are provided by sources other than HUD.

Review Application guidelines for New projects state that projects should only report match and leveraging where there are commitment letters on file that are dated January 1, 2022 or later, and documentation should be submitted to HUD as required. New project application packages are required to include match and leveraging documentation for the scoring and ranking process.

Rural Set Aside PSH Projects ONLY: In addition to demonstrating match and leveraging for programmatic costs requested, organizations requesting capital costs for a project (i.e., acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction) must provide documentation demonstrating there will be a dollar-for-dollar match supporting proposed development activities.

E-Snaps Information for All Renewal and New Applications

Applicants should review and follow the steps as outlined herein and in the NOFO to ensure that applications are complete and submitted in a timely manner.

For reference, the Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule was published in the Federal Register on July 31, 2012, and was effective on August 31, 2012. This information can be accessed at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2033/hearth-coc-program-interim-rule/>.

For information on accessing HUD's *E-Snaps* system to complete and submit a full BoS CoC Project Application, please go to: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/>. Note that once the competition begins, there will be a significant time delay if applicants need to register new users on the *E-Snaps* system. All applicants should ensure that they have access to the system immediately.

Other Information

DCA is committed to providing equal access to all of its programs, services and activities regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, disability or age. Any individual who needs an accommodation because of a disability or documents in accessible electronic formats (e.g. PDF) should contact Tina Moore at 404-327-6870 or email fairhousing@dca.ga.gov. Individuals who are hearing- or speech-impaired should use the Georgia Relay services at 1-800-255-0056 or by dialing 7-1-1 (no charge to use Georgia Relay within the local calling area). More information on Georgia Relay can be found at <https://georgiarelay.org/>.

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Attached is one (1) document:

- 1) 2022 Balance of State CoC Proposal Outline – Special NOFO