



Homebase

ADVANCING SOLUTIONS TO HOMELESSNESS

19 August, 2025

Contra Costa County CoC— NOFO Work Group

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Zoom Housekeeping

Tips to enhance the experience for you and other attendees

Mute

Please mute your microphone when you are not talking.



Captions

Captions are available (Click "Show Captions")



Questions

Please type your questions in the chat.



Tech Issues

Email contracosta@homebaseccc.org for additional tech support during the webinar.



Introductions



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Introductions

CoH Members

Name, pronouns, seat,
organization

1. Courtney Pal
2. Dani Jimenez
3. Hope Dixon
4. Nicole Green
5. Sherina (Rina) Criswell
6. Wayne Earl
7. Yahel Moreno

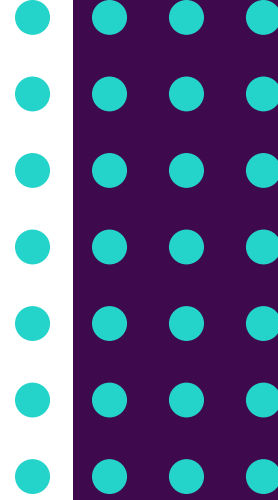
Community Members

Name, pronouns, organization

NOFO Competition Overview

CoC Program Basics

CoC Competition Process



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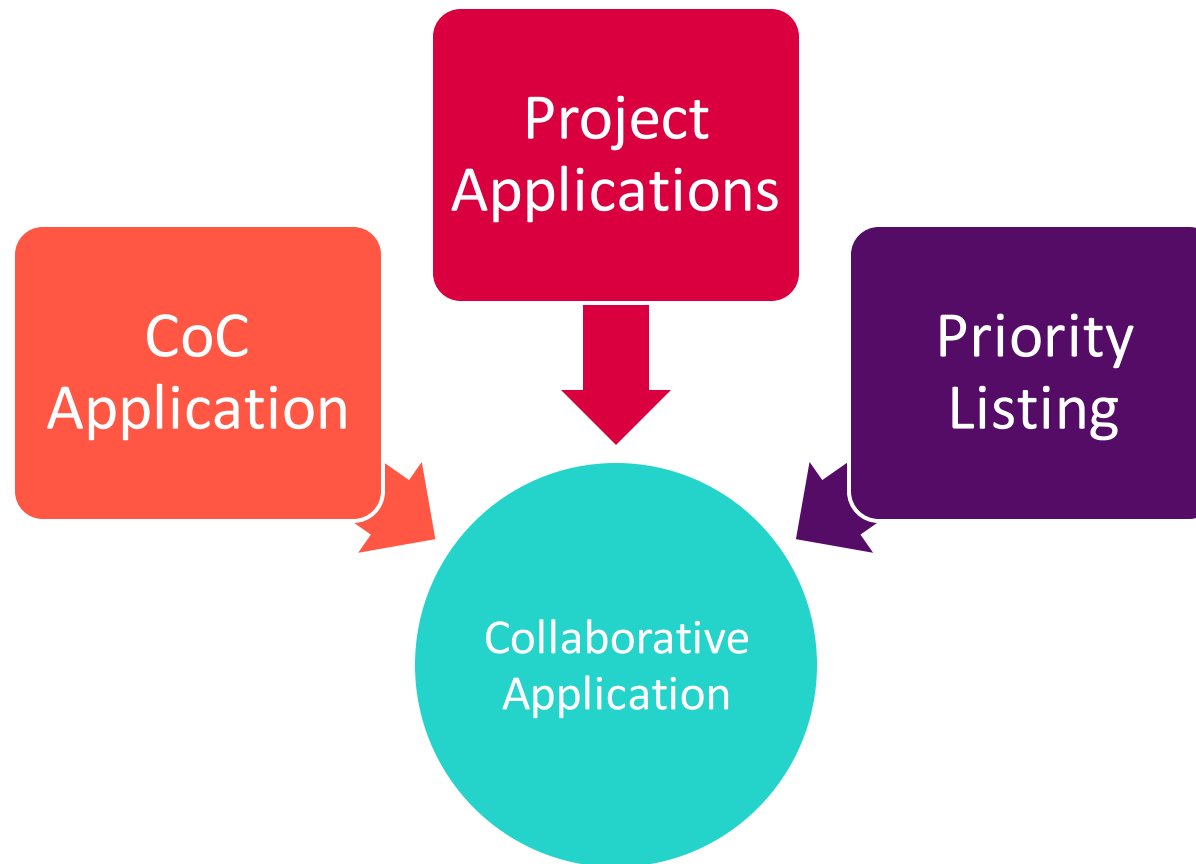
CoC Program Basics

Program Basics

- Federal funding dedicated to ending homelessness
- Funding administered by HUD
 - 2-year grants (as of 2024) but may be back to 1-year
 - Announced through Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
- Funding distributed to local providers who participate in a Continuum of Care (e.g., Contra Costa County CoC)

CoC Competition Process

Collaborative Application



CoC Competition Process

Two-Part Selection Process

Part 1: Local Competition

- a. The CoC creates a local process adhering to HUD and NOFO priorities
- b. Agencies submit local applications
- c. Local applications are “reviewed & ranked” by a scoring panel

Part 2: National Competition

- a. The CoC submits the Collaborative Application to HUD
- b. HUD decides what to fund
- c. The CoC's Priority Listing is key!

CoC Competition Process

The Local Process

1. **Community discusses scoring tools for renewal and new projects**
2. CoH approves scoring tool recommendations from Funding Committee (previously CoC/ESG)
3. HUD releases NOFO which provides details on this year's competition
4. Providers prepare and submit their project applications
5. Review and Rank panel reviews applications and creates "priority listing" of projects
6. Collaborative applications are due to HUD

Framing the Conversation

What we know right now
Planning ahead

What We Know Right Now

- In 2024, HUD announced that the NOFO was moving to a 2-year cycle (next competition was set for 2026)
- Recently, HUD announced that **a 2025 NOFO is on the horizon**
- We don't know if and when the 2025 NOFO will be released
- There might be a quick turnaround from release to due date
- We expect shifts in CoC funding policies and priorities

Bottom line: this will not be a typical competition year!

Planning Ahead

- The Work Group will meet every three weeks, potentially through November depending on NOFO release and application deadlines.
- To accommodate an unexpected NOFO, the Work Group will focus on aligning with new HUD priorities and streamlining local scoring tools and policies
 - Revisions will prioritize sustaining and supporting the most community members that we can
- Scoring tools and competition policies are revisited every year
- The Funding Committee will convene early in 2026 to plan more strategically for future NOFOs

Recap of 2024 Revisions

2024 Revision Goals

2024 Summary of Revisions

2024 Revision Goals

- **Streamline** the competition process for applicants, panelists, and staff
- Enhance **scoring objectivity** of factors in Renewal Project Scoring Tool
- **Better differentiate** between high and higher performing projects

2024 Summary of Revisions (1 of 2)

1. **Deleted factors** – 1A Prioritizing Chronically Homeless Households, 2B Exits to Homelessness, 3A Administrative Structure, 3C CoC Participation, 3D Consistent Implementation of Housing First
2. **Adjusted allotment of points** – increased max point value for remaining factors
3. **Increased scoring objectivity** – 3B HMIS Participation and Data Quality, 3E Quality Assurance
4. **Revised scoring scales** – 2A Housing Stability, 2D Connection to Non-Cash Mainstream Benefits, 2E Connecting to Health Insurance, 3D Consistent Implementation of Housing First, 4A Utilization Rate

2024 Summary of Revisions (2 of 2)

5. **Streamlined Lived Experience Engagement and Racial Equity factors** – removed documentation requirements, moved lower impact strategies into “Threshold” section, consolidated remaining strategies, added component to share % of staff (total lived experience, total BIPOC, total BIPOC in management)
6. **Adjusted panelist discretion** – limited discretion to 25% of the max possible point value per scoring factor, required panelists document reason for alteration
7. **Adopted policy prioritizing high performing renewal projects over new projects** – based on meeting 3 objective performance measures (housing stability, utilization, unspent grant funds), extenuating circumstances, and/or adverse impact to underserved populations)
8. **Align New Project Scoring Tool** – ensured alignment with revised Renewal Project Scoring Tool

Renewal Project Scoring Tool

Goals for Revisions

Proposed Recommendations

Potential Revisions (depending on NOFO
Specifications)

Goals for Renewal Tool Revisions

We will go factor by factor reviewing the 2024 Renewal Project Scoring Tool with these two goals in mind.

1. Federal Policy Alignment

- Align scoring and application with HUD and NOFO priorities in order to score high and sustain funding in our community

2. Streamlining

- Reduce burden for applicants and simplify the scoring process where possible
- Anticipating a shorter competition timeline than recent years

Threshold Questions

Federal Policy Alignment

Remove threshold questions with language/concepts that conflict with current federal policies

- **Equal Access/Fair Housing:** “The project provides equal access and fair housing, and will not discriminate against a program participant or prospective program participant on the basis of race, color, citizenship, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, age, familial status, disability, actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, marital status, source of income, genetic information, status as a survivor of domestic violence, or other reasons prohibited by law.” **Recommend to remove in alignment with federal policy.**
- **Housing First:** “The project is committed to the principles of Housing First, and this is reflected in the project’s written policies and procedures.” **Recommend to remove or rephrase in alignment with federal policy**
- **Public Commitment to Address Racial Inequities:** “The agency has a public written commitment to address/eliminate racial and ethnic inequities included in the organization’s mission, vision, goals, etc.” **Recommend to remove in alignment with federal policy**

Threshold Questions (cont.)

Streamlining

Remove this threshold question

- **Program Policies & Procedures:** “Project has submitted policies and procedures that are consistent with minimum HUD requirements.”
 - *Why?*
 - *Policies and procedures (P&Ps) already reviewed during monitoring process*
 - *Limiting number of attachments will reduce burden on applicants and keep scoring process focused to objective data and narrative responses*

Factor 1.A. Project Impact

Streamlining

Simplify process for applicants

- **Current Factor Language:** Impact of the program in addressing local needs. Consider:
 - Subpopulations served
 - Demonstrated need for the project type in the community
 - Leveraged resources (e.g., site-based housing, match)
- Panelists should consider the impact on the community if the project's funding were reduced or eliminated. Data packet provided during the competition can help inform if a project is meeting local need.
- **Proposed Revision:** Prepopulate response from last year and ask applicants – “Do you have any updates regarding project impact and responsiveness to local need?”

Factor 3.A. Data Quality

Streamlining

Clarify scoring for project serving DV survivors (Feedback from 2024 NOFO)

- **Current Factor Language:**

Factor 3.A. Data Quality	Scale	Points
% of values that are missing/unknown for required HUD Universal Data Elements (UDEs)	1% of fewer	8
	1.1%-2%	4
	2.1% or more	0

- **Proposed Revision:** Add “Projects that serve Domestic Violence (DV) survivors that are prohibited from entering client-level data into HMIS will receive full points for this factor if they use a comparable database.”

Factor 3.D. Racial Equity

Federal Policy Alignment

Remove this scoring factor as it conflicts with current federal executive orders

- **Current Factor Language (shortened):**

- “Does the agency implement one or more of the strategies below to advance racial equity? 1 point will be awarded for each strategy. (5 pts)
 - *Internal structures to address racial equity; Recruit and retain diverse staff; Regular training re: racial equity; Review project outcomes by race and ethnicity; Available translated materials and interpretive services*
- Does the agency provide a percentage of its total staff who are Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Color (BIPOC)? (1.5 pts)
- Does the agency provide a percentage of its management/leadership level staff who are BIPOC? (1.5 pts)”

Factor 5.A. Reallocation Bonus

Streamlining

Clarify bonus points should be awarded to projects reallocating CoC funding, not agencies (Feedback from 2024 NOFO)

- **Current Factor Language:** “Did the Agency voluntarily reallocate a renewal project? Consider:
 - How much funding was reallocated?
 - What was the project type?
 - Panelists will award up to 5 points if the agency has voluntarily reallocated funds to a renewal project during this NOFO cycle.”
- **Proposed Revision:** “Did the **project** voluntarily reallocate **some or all of its funding**?”

Potential Revisions

Factors to keep an eye out when the NOFO is released


- As of now, there is no indication that these are not in alignment with federal priorities but we can revisit once the NOFO is released
 - **Threshold Question #9 Involving People with Lived Experience in Program Development**
 - **Factor 3.C Lived Experience Engagement**

What's Next

Tentative Timeline

General NOFO Updates (as needed)

Tentative Timeline



Meeting #	Meeting	Topics
Meeting #1	August 19, 2025 12pm – 2pm	Overview of CoC NOFO competition Discuss revisions to Renewal Scoring Tool
Meeting #2	September 16, 12:30 – 2:30pm	Continue discussing revisions to Renewal Scoring Tool Discuss revisions to New Scoring Tool (as needed) Discuss policies for renewal projects (as needed) Finalize recommended revisions (if time permits)
Meeting #3	September 30, 2025 12pm – 2pm	If needed
Meeting #4	TBD	If needed
Meeting #5	TBD	If needed

General NOFO Updates

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