U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Community Planning and Development

Notice of Funding Availability for the 2015 Continuum of Care Program Competition
FR-5900-N-25

Nani A. Coloretti
Deputy Secretary

9/17/2015
Date

Harriet Tregoning
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Community Planning and Development

9.17.2015
Date

OVERVIEW INFORMATION

A. Federal Agency Name: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Community Planning and Development.

Funding Opportunity Title: Notice of Funding Availability for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program.

B. Announcement Type: Initial Announcement.

C. Funding Opportunity Number: The funding opportunity number is **FR-5900-N-25.**

The OMB Approval number is 2506-0112.

D. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 14.267.

E. Deadline: The deadline for submitting applications to HUD for the FY 2015 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition (CoC Program Competition) is **7:59:59 p.m. eastern time, November 20, 2015**. Applicants will be required to complete and submit their applications in *e-snaps* at www.hud.gov/esnaps. See Section VI. of this NOFA for application submission and timely receipt requirements.

F. For Further Information: HUD staff will be available to provide general clarification on the content of this NOFA. HUD staff is prohibited from assisting any applicant in preparing the application(s) in *e-snaps*.

1. **Local HUD CPD Field Office.** Questions regarding specific program requirements should be directed to the local HUD CPD Field Office, a directory of which can be found at www.hudexchange.info/manage-a-program/cpd-field-office-directory/.

2. **Training and Resources.** Collaborative Applicants and project applicants that need assistance completing the applications in *e-snaps* or understanding the program requirements under the CoC Program may access the CoC Program interim rule (24 CFR part 578 published July 31, 2012 at 77 CFR 45422), training materials, and program resources via the HUD Exchange at www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/.

3. **The HUD Exchange Ask A Question (AAQ).** CoCs, Collaborative Applicants, and project applicants that require information and technical support concerning this NOFA and the applications in *e-snaps* may submit an electronic inquiry via the HUD Exchange *e-snaps* AAQ at www.hudexchange.info/get-assistance/. The AAQ is accessible 24 hours each day. Starting 2 days prior to the application deadline for FY 2015 funds, the AAQ will respond only to emergency technical support questions up to the deadline of 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time. Applicants that are experiencing technical difficulty should contact the *e-snaps* AAQ immediately for assistance and document their attempts to obtain assistance.

4. **HUD Homeless Assistance Listserv.** HUD may provide Collaborative Applicants and Project Applicants with additional information through HUD websites located at www.hud.gov and www.hudexchange.info, and via the CoC Program email-based listserv. Visit the following website to join the listserv:

www.hudexchange.info/mailinglist. This additional information will not change the selection criteria or selection process included in this NOFA, but may include items such as updates on the status of *e-snaps* and reminders of impending deadlines.

G. General Section Questions. The Notice of FY 2015 Policy Requirements and General Section to HUD's FY 2015 NOFAs for Discretionary Programs (General Section) is applicable to the FY 2015 funding made available under this NOFA. The General Section can be found at www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/fy-2015-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/.

Questions regarding the General Section should be directed to the Office of Strategic Planning and Management, Grants Management and Oversight Division at (202) 708-0667 (this is not a toll-free number). Persons with hearing or speech impairments can access these numbers via TTY by calling the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

Additional Overview Information

A. Available Funds. Approximately $1.89 billion is available in this FY 2015 CoC Program NOFA. HUD may add to this amount any available funds that have been carried over or recaptured from previous fiscal years. All of the requirements in the FY 2015 application process, including requirements for the entire CoC Consolidated Application and the total amount of funding available are contained in this NOFA.

Although the available amount of funding is expected to be sufficient to fund anticipated eligible renewal projects in FY 2015, HUD will continue to require Collaborative Applicants to rank all projects, except CoC planning and UFA Costs, in two tiers. Tier 1 is equal to 85 percent of the CoC's FY 2015 Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) approved by HUD on the final HUD-approved Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW), finalized either during the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration process or during the 10-day grace period after this NOFA was published. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's ARD plus any amount available for the permanent housing bonus as described in Section II.B.3. of this NOFA.

B. Eligible Applicants.

1. *Collaborative Applicant.* CoCs were required to designate a Collaborative Applicant to submit the CoC Consolidated Application on behalf of the CoC as part of the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration process. Collaborative Applicants will not be able to access the CoC Consolidated Application in *e-snaps* if the CoC does not have an approved FY 2015 CoC Program Registration. The Collaborative Applicant approved by HUD during the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration Process must be the same entity that submits the FY 2015 CoC Consolidated Application–which includes the CoC Application, CoC Priority Listing that lists all project applications accepted and ranked or rejected in the CoC local competition, and the Project Application(s)–during the CoC Program Competition. CoCs should not attempt to change Collaborative Applicants during the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition without HUD's prior approval. HUD will approve Collaborative Applicant changes after the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration process under circumstances that include:

a. an error made by the Collaborative Applicant when entering the Collaborative Applicant's name in the CoC Applicant Profile;

b. the Collaborative Applicant chosen by the CoC is no longer in business;

c. the Collaborative Applicant withdrew; or

d. the CoC withdrew the Collaborative Applicant.

In cases where the CoC needs to change the Collaborative Applicant approved during the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration process, the CoC must notify the local HUD CPD Field Office in writing stating the reason for the Collaborative Applicant change. The notice to HUD must provide documentation of the CoC's approval of the change (e.g., a copy of the meeting minutes, to include the date and attendees).

2. *Project Applicants.* Eligible project applicants for the CoC Program are identified in Section V.A.

C. Amendments to FY 2015 CoC Program Registration. If a geographic area that includes projects eligible to apply for renewal funding during the CoC Program Competition was not claimed by a CoC with an approved FY 2015 CoC Program Registration, a contiguous CoC, or the Balance of State CoC may contact HUD in writing to request that its Registration and final HUD-approved FY 2015 Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) be amended to include the unclaimed geographic area and the renewal projects. Additionally, if a CoC with an approved FY 2015 CoC Program Registration failed to include an eligible renewal project on the CoC's FY 2015 GIW during the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration, the CoC will have the opportunity to amend its FY 2015 GIW to add the missing eligible renewal project. Similarly, any projects that were previously included on the GIW, where it is determined that they are no longer eligible for renewal in FY 2015, must be removed. Any changes to the FY 2015 GIW after the CoC Program Registration process must be approved by the local HUD CPD Field Office, in consultation with HUD Headquarters, within 10 days (grace period as described in Section II.B.4. of this NOFA) after the publication of this NOFA.

The due date of final HUD approval for FY 2015 GIW changes is **September 28, 2015 by 5:00 p.m.,** local time of the applicant. Collaborative Applicants will be required to attach the final HUD-approved FY 2015 GIW that contains the final FY 2015 ARD to the CoC Priority Listing. HUD will not consider any changes that would increase a CoCs ARD to the FY 2015 GIW following the 10-day grace period. However, if any ineligible projects are included on the CoC's GIW, HUD will remove the ineligible projects from the GIW which will result in the CoC's ARD being reduced by the amount of the ineligible project.

D. Eligible Costs. Provisions at 24 CFR 578.37 through 578.63 identify the eligible costs for which funding may be requested under the CoC Program. HUD will reject any requests for ineligible costs.

E. Match. 24 CFR 578.73 describes match requirements.

F. Requirements. The following requirements apply to funding available under this NOFA.

1. *DUNS number and SAM*. Project applicants are required to register with Dun and Bradstreet to obtain a DATA Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number, if they

have not already done so, and complete or renew their registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) per Section IV.C.1. of the FY 2015 General Section. HUD will not enter into a grant agreement with an organization that does not have a DUNS Number or an active SAM registration.

2. *Major natural disaster areas*. HUD will award at least 30 points out of 60 points for questions under Section VII.A.6. of this NOFA in the FY 2015 CoC Application for CoCs where at least one project was directly impacted by a major disaster, as declared by President Obama under Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Act, that occurred in the 12 months prior to the application deadline for the CoC Consolidated Application for FY 2015 funds.

G. Local Competition Deadlines. Provisions at 24 CFR 578.9 require CoCs to design, operate, and follow a collaborative process for the development of an application in response to a NOFA issued by HUD. As part of this collaborative process, CoCs should implement internal competition deadlines to ensure transparency and fairness at the local level. The implementation of deadlines that meet the standards outlined below for FY 2015 Project Applications will be considered as part of scoring criteria as detailed in Section VII.A.2.b. of this NOFA.

1. Project Applications. All project applications were required to be submitted to the CoC no later than 30 days before the application deadline of November 20, 2015.

2. CoC Notification to Project Applicants. The CoC notified all project applicants no later than 15 days before the 2015 application deadline regarding whether their project applications would be included as part of the CoC Consolidated Application submission.

Any project applicant that submits a project that was rejected by the CoC in the local competition must have been notified in writing by the CoC, outside of *e-snaps*, with an explanation for the decision to reject the project(s). Project applicants whose project was rejected may appeal the local CoC competition decision to HUD if the project applicant believes it was denied the opportunity to participate in the local CoC planning process in a reasonable manner by submitting a Solo Application in *e-snaps* directly to HUD prior to the application deadline of **7:59:59 p.m. eastern time on November 20, 2015**. The CoC's notification of rejection of the project in the local competition must be attached to the Solo Application. If the CoC fails to provide written notification outside of *e-snaps*, the Solo Applicant must attach evidence that it attempted to participate in the local CoC planning process and submitted a project application that met the local deadlines, along with a statement that the CoC did not provide the Solo Applicant written notification of the CoC rejecting the project in the local CoC competition. CoCs that fail to provide rejection notification to a project applicant that submitted its project application within the local deadline will not receive the maximum number of points available in Section VII.A.2.b. of this NOFA.

H. CoC Transparency. In order to receive the maximum number of points available in Section VII.A.2.b., each CoC must have in place a process to make all parts of the CoC

Consolidated Application (which are the CoC Application and CoC Priority Listing with all project applications accepted and ranked, or rejected) available on its website to its community for inspection and to notify community members and key stakeholders that the CoC Consolidated Application is available. If the CoC does not have a website, the CoC should post this information to a partner website within the CoC (e.g., county/city website). The process must be conducted in a manner that is accessible for persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency.

I. CoC Review of Project Applications. HUD expects each CoC to implement a thorough review and oversight process at the local level for both new and renewal project applications submitted to HUD in the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition. It has been HUD's experience that many project applications contain information that results in conditions on the grant, or for more serious infractions, a project being rejected. Deficient project applications prolong the review process for HUD, which results in delayed funding announcements, lost funding for CoCs due to rejected projects, and delays in funds to house and assist homeless individuals and families, whom we serve. Specifically, CoCs are expected to closely review information provided in each project application in order to ensure that:

1. all proposed program participants will be eligible for the program component type selected;

2. the proposed activities are eligible under the 24 CFR part 578;

3. each project narrative is fully responsive to the question being asked and that it meets all of the criteria for that question as required by this NOFA and included in the detailed instructions provided in *e-snaps*;

4. the data provided in various parts of the project application are consistent; and

5. all required attachments correspond to the attachments list in *e-snaps* and the attachments contain accurate and complete information, and are dated between July 1, 2015 and November 20, 2015.

FULL TEXT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT

I. Funding Opportunity Description.

A. Program Description: The CoC Program (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, and local governments to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

B. Authority: The CoC Program is authorized by subtitle C of title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, (42 U.S.C. 11381–11389) (the Act), and the CoC Program regulations are found in 24 CFR part 578 (the CoC Program interim rule). The FY 2015 funds for the CoC Program were authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2015 (Public Law 113-235, approved December 16, 2014) (the "FY 2015 HUD Appropriations

Act").

C. Summary of the Application Process: The FY 2015 CoC Program Competition is administered under the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition NOFA and 24 CFR part 578. Applicants should review and follow the steps as outlined below to ensure applications are complete and submitted on time. Documents referenced in this section can be found on the HUD Exchange at www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/.

1. Collaborative Applicants must have completed and successfully submitted the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration in accordance with the *Notice of Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Opportunity to Register and Other Important Information for Electronic Application Submission for Continuum of Care Competition* (FY 2015 CoC Program Registration Notice) posted April 28, 2015. Documents referenced in this section can be found on the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition Funding Available page on the HUD Exchange.

2. Project applications submitted to the CoC for inclusion on the FY 2015 CoC Priority Listing as part of the CoC Consolidated Application must be reviewed and either accepted and ranked or rejected by the CoC. All projects approved by the CoC must be listed on the CoC Priority Listing in rank order, with the exception of project applications for CoC planning and UFA Costs which will not be ranked, to establish the projects located within Tier 1 and the projects located within Tier 2, as described in Section II.B.15. of this NOFA. The purpose of this two-tiered approach is for CoCs to clearly indicate to HUD which projects are prioritized for funding (Tier 1, which is 85 percent of the CoC's ARD).

3. The Collaborative Applicant, including any Collaborative Applicant designated by HUD as a Unified Funding Agency (UFA), is responsible for submitting the CoC Consolidated Application in *e-snaps* on behalf of the CoC. The CoC Consolidated Application is made up of the following three parts:

a. FY 2015 CoC Application. The Collaborative Applicant must provide information about the CoC planning body, governance structure, overall performance, and the strategic planning process. This part of the application is scored and will determine the order in which CoCs are funded.

b. FY 2015 Project Applications. A project application must be completed by project applicants for CoC planning, UFA Costs, new, and renewal project requests. New project applicants applying for funds through reallocation or the permanent housing bonus and renewal projects must provide a description of the proposed project including the population/sub-population it will serve, the type of housing and services that will be provided, and the budget activities that are being requested. Project applicants applying for CoC planning must provide a description of the activities that will be carried out with grant funds for CoC planning and UFA Costs. Project applicants must provide a description for the budget line items that are being requested with grant funds. For more information on project applications, see Section V. of this NOFA.

c. FY 2015 CoC Priority Listing includes:

(1) the reallocation forms for CoCs to indicate which projects, if any, will be reallocated;

(2) four separate project listing forms–New Project Listing, Renewal Project Listing, UFA Costs Project Listing, and CoC Planning Project Listing; and

(3) an attachment form for required attachments for the final HUD-approved FY 2015 GIW; and

(4) form HUD-2991, Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan.

The Project Listings ranks projects in order of priority and identifies any project applications rejected by the CoC. HUD is not requiring Collaborative Applicants to rank CoC planning or UFA Costs projects; however, Collaborative Applicants must ensure that only one project application for CoC planning and if designated, UFA Costs is submitted by the CoC. The Collaborative Applicant cannot accurately complete the project listing forms of the CoC Priority Listing until all project applications have been submitted to the CoC. Further, the Collaborative Applicant will be required to certify that there is a demonstrated need for all ranked permanent housing renewal projects on the Renewal Project Listing. For more information on the CoC Priority Listing, see Section VI.C.3. of this NOFA.

4. If a collaborative applicant included a grant on its final HUD-approved Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) used to calculate the CoC's annual renewal demand (ARD) and the grant proposes and expends funds in the geographic area(s) of one or more other CoCs, then the collaborative applicant that included the grant on its final HUD-approved GIW must provide certification from the other CoCs. The certification must provide that the other CoCs approve of the collaborative applicant's inclusion of the grant on its HUD-approved GIW. Those certifications from all the other CoCs must be submitted with the grant's FY 2015 Project Application.

D. FY 2015 CoC Program Competition NOFA. CoCs and applicants should read the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition NOFA in its entirety in conjunction with the CoC Program interim rule (24 CFR part 578) in order to ensure a comprehensive understanding and compliance with all CoC Program requirements. This NOFA frequently makes reference to citations from 24 CFR part 578. Applicants should review the FY 2015 General Section of the NOFA, published on October 21, 2014 as well as any additional Notices and HUD guidance provided in relation to the CoC Program.

1. CoCs should consider the policy priorities established in this NOFA in conjunction with local priorities to determine the ranking of new and renewal projects requests. See Section II. of this NOFA for more information on HUD's homeless policy priorities.

2. HUD will conduct a threshold review of ranked projects for all CoCs that submit the

CoC Consolidated Application by the application deadline.

3. HUD intends to issue one conditional funding announcement for all projects submitted by the application deadline.

4. HUD will score FY 2015 CoC Applications in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section VII. of this NOFA.

5. HUD will select new and renewal project applications in Tier 1 in accordance with the criteria set forth in Section II.B.15. of this NOFA.

6. The CoC Application score and the project application score(s) will determine which projects in Tier 2 will be conditionally selected for award.

II. HUD's Homeless Policy and Program Priorities

A. Policy Priorities. The General Section establishes specific department wide policy priorities and permits each program NOFA to award up to 4 points for these priorities. While HUD will award up to two points for Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing per Section VII.A.1.j. of this NOFA, this NOFA will not award any additional points on the General Section policy priorities. Rather, this NOFA focuses on the Administration goals articulated in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. The goals of *Opening Doors* are consistent with the Department's homeless goals as stated in HUD's Strategic Plan. This section explains HUD's Policy Priorities for this CoC Program Competition NOFA and provides Collaborative Applicants and Project Applicants with additional context about the selection criteria and selection process. The actual selection criteria and selection process is described in Section VII, Application Review Information.

1. **Strategic Resource Allocation.** Using performance and outcome data, CoCs should decide how to best use the resources available to end homelessness within the community, including CoC and ESG Program funds, State and local funds, public and assisted housing units, mainstream service resources such as Medicaid, and philanthropic efforts. Decisions about resource allocation should include the following:

    a. *Comprehensive Review of Projects.* CoCs should reallocate funds to new projects whenever reallocations would reduce homelessness. Communities should use CoC approved scoring criteria and selection priorities to determine the extent to which each project is still necessary and addresses the policy priorities listed in this NOFA.

    b. *Maximizing the Use of Mainstream Resources.* HUD strongly encourages CoCs and project applicants to ensure that they are maximizing the use of all mainstream services available. While 24 CFR part 578 allows for the payment of certain supportive service costs, it is more efficient for CoCs to use mainstream resources where possible. CoCs should proactively seek and provide information to all stakeholders within the geographic area about mainstream resources and funding opportunities, particularly new opportunities made available under the Affordable Care Act and related technical assistance initiatives. Additionally, where homeless assistance

projects are providing specialized services, such as employment services, mental health services, or substance abuse recovery services, they should be coordinating with State or local agencies responsible for overseeing these services to ensure that they are using best practices and that there is proper oversight of their programs.

c. *Leveraging Resources through Partnerships.* CoCs should partner with other stakeholders within the community such as Public Housing Agencies (PHAs), philanthropic organizations, and other agencies and organizations that have resources that could be used to serve persons experiencing homelessness.

d. *Reviewing the Efficacy of Transitional Housing.* Recent research shows that transitional housing is generally more expensive than other housing models serving similar populations with similar outcomes. HUD also recognizes that transitional housing may be an effective tool for addressing certain needs– such as housing for underage homeless youth, safety for persons fleeing domestic violence, and assistance with recovery from addiction. HUD strongly encourages CoCs and recipients to carefully review the transitional housing projects within the geographic area for cost-effectiveness, performance, and for the number and type of eligibility criteria to determine if rapid re-housing might be a better model for the CoC's geographic area.

2. Ending Chronic Homelessness.

a. *Increasing Units.* In order to increase the number of units for chronically homeless individuals and families and work towards the goal of ending chronic homelessness, HUD encourages CoCs to create new projects through reallocation that exclusively serve chronically homeless individuals and families and/or create a permanent housing bonus project specifically for chronically homeless individuals and families. Chronically homeless and permanent supportive housing are defined in 24 CFR 578.3. Projects are prohibited from discriminating against chronically homeless families with children.

b. *Targeting*: 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. CoCs are encouraged to implement a process for prioritizing homeless individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness consistent with Notice CPD 14-012: *Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status*.

3. Ending Family Homelessness. Most families experiencing homelessness can be

housed quickly and stably using rapid re-housing, although some will need the long-term support provided by a permanent housing subsidy or permanent supportive housing. CoCs should adjust the homeless services system for families to ensure that families can easily access rapid re-housing and other housing assistance tailored to their needs. CoCs should also be working with their affordable housing community to facilitate access to affordable housing units. CoCs should also ensure that their projects address the safety needs of persons fleeing domestic violence.
Rapid re-housing is designed to assist homeless individuals and families, with or without disabilities, to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is time-limited, individualized, and flexible, and should complement and enhance homeless system performance. HUD encourages CoCs to use reallocation to create new rapid re-housing projects for families.

4. **Ending Youth Homelessness.** CoCs should understand the unique needs of homeless youth and should be reaching out to youth-serving organizations to help them fully participate in the CoC. CoCs and youth serving organizations should work together to develop resources and programs that better end youth homelessness and meet the needs of homeless youth, including Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) youth. When evaluating the performance of youth programs, CoCs should take into account the specific challenges faced by homeless youth. When CoCs identify lower performing youth serving projects, they should seek to reallocate funds from those projects to better projects serving youth.

5. **Ending Veteran Homelessness.** Ending veteran homelessness is within reach for many communities, and CoCs should take specific steps to reach this goal including:

    a. CoC Program-funded projects should, to the extent possible, prioritize veterans and their families who cannot be effectively assisted with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) services. When it is determined a veteran cannot be effectively assisted with VA housing and services and has the same level of need as a non-veteran (as determined using a standardized assessment tool) the veteran should receive priority.

    b. CoCs should work closely with the local VA and other Veteran-serving organizations and coordinate CoC resources with VA-funded housing and services including HUD-VASH and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF).

6. **Using a Housing First Approach**. *Housing First* is an approach to homeless assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold. Projects using a housing first approach often have supportive services; however, participation in these services is based on the needs and desires of the program participant. Specific steps to support a community-wide Housing First approach include the following:

    a. *Removing Barriers to Entry.* CoCs should review system- and project-level eligibility criteria to identify and remove barriers to accessing services and

housing that are experienced by homeless individuals and families. Many projects currently have barriers to entry.

b. *Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System.* Centralized or coordinated assessment is a key step in assessing the needs of homeless individuals and families requesting assistance and prioritizing those households for assistance. Establishment and operation of a centralized or coordinated assessment system is a requirement of 24 CFR part 578. HUD also posted a *Coordinated Entry Policy Brief* on the HUD Exchange to help inform local efforts to further develop CoCs' coordinated entry processes.

c. *Client-centered Service Delivery.* Housing and service options should be tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual or family presenting for services. Program participants should not be required to participate in services that they do not believe will help them to achieve their goals.

d. *Prioritizing Households Most in Need.* CoCs should prioritize those who are identified as most in need (e.g., those who have been living on the street the longest, homeless households with children living in unsheltered situations, those who are considered most medically vulnerable) for placement into appropriate housing.

e. *Inclusive Decision-making.* CoCs should ensure that the needs of all individuals and families experiencing homelessness are represented within the CoC structure by including providers serving groups such as persons fleeing domestic violence, the LGBTQ community, victims of human trafficking, unaccompanied youth, and other relevant populations in the planning body. Including these groups in the decision-making structures of the CoC ensures that service delivery is both client-centered and culturally competent.

HUD recognizes that there may be some instances where the Housing First approach is not appropriate for a particular permanent or transitional housing project. For example, this may include projects where residents are focused on obtaining support to recover from substance use disorders, and such projects may be alcohol and drug free to support their continued sobriety. However, in general, Housing First approaches are encouraged across all types of projects.

B. CoC Program Implementation. The following list highlights important information that applicants should consider as they are preparing the FY 2015 CoC Application and Project Application(s). This is not an exhaustive list of considerations or requirements–all applicants and CoC stakeholders should carefully review 24 CFR part 578 for comprehensive information.

1. In the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition, in addition to requests for renewal projects and CoC planning and UFA Costs project requests, CoCs may submit requests for new projects through the process of reallocation or the permanent housing bonus.

2. Through the reallocation process CoCs may create the following type of new projects:

a. CoCs may create new permanent supportive housing projects where all beds will be dedicated for use by chronically homeless individuals and families, as defined in 24 CFR 578.3.

b. CoCs may create new rapid re-housing projects for homeless individuals and families who enter directly from the streets or emergency shelters, youth up to age 24, and persons who meet the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless.

c. CoCs may create a new Supportive Services Only (SSO) project specifically for a centralized or coordinated assessment system.

d. CoCs may create a new dedicated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) project for the costs at 24 CFR 578.37 that must be carried out by the HMIS Lead.

3. CoCs may create new projects through the permanent housing bonus up to 15 percent of the CoC's FPRN for the following types of new projects:

a. CoCs may create new permanent supportive housing projects that will serve 100 percent chronically homeless families and individuals, and

b. CoCs may create new rapid re-housing projects that will serve homeless individuals and families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters, and includes persons fleeing domestic violence situations and other persons meeting the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless.

4. Any changes to the FY 2015 GIW after the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration process must be approved by the local HUD CPD Field Office, in consultation with HUD Headquarters, within the 10 day grace period after the publication of this NOFA. The due date of final HUD-approval for changes to the FY 2015 GIW is **September 28, 2015 by 5:00 p.m. local time**. Collaborative Applicants will be required to attach the HUD-approved FY 2015 GIW that contains the final HUD-approved FY 2015 ARD to the CoC Priority Listing. HUD will not consider any changes that would increase a CoCs ARD to the FY 2015 GIW following the 10-day grace period. If an ineligible project is included on the CoC's GIW, HUD will remove the ineligible project from the GIW, which will result in the CoC's ARD being reduced by the amount of the ineligible project application. It is crucial that CoCs ensure that the final FY 2015 GIW is accurate and that it only lists those renewal projects that are eligible for renewal in FY 2015. In order to be eligible for renewal in FY 2015, a project must have an executed grant agreement by December 31, 2015 and have an expiration date in Calendar Year (CY) 2016 (between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016).

5. Eligible renewal projects requesting rental assistance are permitted to request a per-unit amount less than the Fair Market Rent (FMR), based on the actual rent costs per unit. This will help to reduce the number of projects receiving rental assistance that have large balances of unspent funds remaining at the end of the operating year. Renewal project applicants must ensure that the amount requested will be sufficient to

cover all eligible costs as HUD cannot provide funds beyond what is awarded through the competition. Project applications for rental assistance cannot request more than 100 percent of the published FMR. New project applications must adhere to 24 CFR 578.51(f) and must request the full FMR amount per unit. See Section VIII.B. of this NOFA for additional information regarding FMR adjustments for projects receiving funds for rental assistance.

6. CoCs will be evaluated on the extent to which they are prioritizing chronically homeless individuals and families in all CoC Program-funded permanent supportive housing–not just those units that are dedicated to this population. CoCs should prioritize chronically homeless individuals and families for placement as units become available through turnover. For more information, see Section III.A.3.c. of this NOFA.

7. CoCs were required to submit the FY 2015 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) and Point-in-Time (PIT) count data directly to the HUD Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) website by the submission deadline of May 15, 2015. CoCs that did not meet the established deadline for HIC and PIT count data submission will not be eligible to receive the maximum number of points available as described in Sections VII.A.3. and VII.A.4. of this NOFA.

8. In order to receive the maximum number of points available as described in Section VII.A.2. of this NOFA, CoCs must:

a. establish an internal CoC deadline for project applications to be submitted to the CoC that is no later than 30 days before the application deadline; and

b. notify, in writing and outside of *e-snaps*, all project applicants who submitted their project applications to the CoC by the CoC-established deadline whether their project application(s) will be accepted (and ranked on the CoC Priority Listing) or rejected by the CoC within 15 days of the application deadline. Where a project is being rejected, the CoC must indicate the reason(s) for the rejection. Per 24 CFR 578.35(b), project applicants that believe they were denied the opportunity to participate in the local CoC planning process in a reasonable manner and were rejected by the CoC may appeal the rejection directly to HUD by submitting as a Solo Applicant prior to the application deadline of November 20, 2015 by 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time.

9. Only one CoC planning project application may be submitted per CoC per funding year. Similarly, only one project application for UFA Costs may be submitted for HUD-designated UFAs per funding year. The project applications for CoC planning and UFA Costs must be submitted by the Collaborative Applicant and must match the organization listed as the Collaborative Applicant in the CoC Applicant Profile in *e-snaps*. HUD is not ranking CoC planning and UFA Costs projects in the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition so they will not affect a CoC's available amount for funding for new and renewal project applications.

10. CoCs must consult with Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) recipients within the geographic area on the plan for allocating ESG funds and reporting on and evaluating

the performance of ESG recipients and subrecipients. Each CoC will be required to describe how it is coordinating, or if coordination is not already occurring, how coordination with ESG recipients will occur and what processes are required to be in place at the CoC level to ensure this requirement is met. See Section VII.A.1.c. for more information about scoring criteria related to coordinating with ESG recipients.

11. As directed by Congress, HUD must provide an annual estimate of all individuals and families experiencing homelessness nationwide and within the territories. Therefore, all CoCs must have an HMIS that has the capacity to collect unduplicated counts of individuals and families experiencing homelessness and provide information to project subrecipients and applicants for needs analysis and funding priorities. Additionally, CoC and ESG recipients must participate in the local HMIS; unless a recipient is a domestic violence provider or legal service provider in which case it must use a comparable database and provide de-identified information to the CoC. For many communities, the inclusion of ESG recipients and subrecipients and other HUD Federal partners (e.g., the Department of Health and Human Services and VA) that require their programs to use the CoC's HMIS, will mean an increase in users that the HMIS must be able to accommodate. HUD expects communities to be able to use the HMIS information to review performance for the entire CoC geographic area, not just at the project level. The HMIS Lead should continue to consider any unique needs that the HMIS might be required to address in order to accommodate emergency shelter, street outreach, homelessness prevention, and other Federal programs.

12. CoCs may request, in the FY 2015 CoC Application, that up to 10 percent of funding for each fiscal year awarded under this NOFA be approved to serve homeless households with children and youth defined as homeless under other Federal statutes who are unstably housed (paragraph 3 of the definition of homeless found at 24 CFR 578.3). Approved CoCs are limited to using only up to 10 percent of the total amount awarded for each fiscal year appropriation to the CoC to serve this population, and must determine which project(s) will be permitted to use some or all of their funding for this purpose. The only project types that can serve this population are Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only.

In order to be approved to serve this population, CoCs making this request must be able to demonstrate that serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth, than serving the homeless as defined under paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3. CoCs must thoroughly describe how the requirements describe in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act will be met. CoCs will be required to identify the specific project(s) that will use funding for this purpose (up to 10 percent of the CoC total award) by submitting an attachment in *e-snaps* that states the following:

a. Project name(s) as listed on the CoC Priority Listing; and

b. Amount of funding in the project or per project that will be used for this

purpose.

Where HUD does not approve a CoC's request, any awards for the project(s) proposed in FY 2015 to be used for this purpose will be conditioned upon award that no funds may be used to serve this population. See 24 CFR 578.54 and 24 CFR 578.89 for more information about this limitation.

13. HUD will allow new reallocated projects to request funding for 1 year to facilitate implementation of CoC strategies to reduce gaps in permanent housing. Any new reallocated projects requesting capital costs (i.e., new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation) are not eligible for 1-year requests and HUD will increase the grant term to 3-years if they are submitted for 1-year terms.

14. CoCs will be required to rank all projects, except CoC planning and UFA Costs, submitted by project applicants in *e-snaps*: renewal, new projects created through reallocation, and permanent housing bonus. HUD will not review any project that is rejected by the CoC. CoCs may only submit one application for CoC planning costs and if designated as UFA, one application for UFA Costs. The applicant for CoC planning and UFA Costs must be the Collaborative Applicant that is listed on the CoC Applicant Profile in *e-snaps*.

15. HUD will continue the Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding process; however the process in the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition is completely different from the past CoC Program Competitions; therefore, CoCs and applicants should ensure there is thorough understanding of the information provided in this NOFA. HUD will establish each CoC's Tier 1 and Tier 2 amounts based on the final HUD-approved GIW. A report that lists each CoC's ARD Tier 1 amount, Tier 2 amount, and permanent housing bonus amount available will be posted to the HUD Exchange website no earlier than October 9, 2015. Section VIII. of this NOFA provides additional information regarding project selection.

a. Tier 1 is equal to 85 percent the CoC's ARD amount approved on the final HUD-approved GIW and projects in this tier will be conditionally selected from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC, **provided the project applications pass both eligibility and threshold review**. Any type of new or renewal project application can be placed in Tier 1. However, in the event HUD is required to drastically reduce the total amount of funds available under this NOFA, the Tier 1 amount per CoC will be reduced proportionately among all CoCs which could result in some Tier 1 projects falling into Tier 2. Therefore, CoCs should carefully determine the priority and ranking for all project applications in Tier 1 as well as Tier 2, which is described below.

b. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's ARD plus any amount available for the permanent housing bonus (before adjustments are made to permanent housing leasing, operating, and rental assistance line items based on changes to FMR) as described in Section II.B.3. of this NOFA. This does not include the amounts available for CoC planning and UFA Costs. Project applications that are in Tier 2 will be selected for FY 2015 CoC Program

funding using the process described in Section II.B.16. of this NOFA. Projects placed in Tier 2 will be assessed for eligibility and threshold requirements, and funding will be determined using the CoC Application score as well as the factors listed in Section II.B.16. of this NOFA.

c. If a project application straddles the Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding line, HUD will conditionally select the project up to the amount of funding that falls within Tier 1 as stated above; and then, using CoC score and other factors described in Section II.B.16 of this NOFA, HUD may fund the Tier 2 portion of the project. If HUD does not fund the Tier 2 portion of the project, HUD may award project funds at the reduced amount provided the project is still feasible with the reduced funding (e.g., is able to continue serving homeless program participants effectively).

d. As previously stated, CoC planning and UFA Costs are not ranked; therefore, will not be included in Tier 1 or Tier 2. CoC planning and UFA Costs projects that pass eligibility and review threshold will be conditionally selected using CoC scores from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC.

16. HUD will award a point value to each new and renewal project application that are in Tier 2 using a 100 point scale:

a. *CoC Score.* Up to 60 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application rounded to the nearest whole point. CoCs must receive at least 198.5 points out of the 200 CoC Application points available to receive the full 60 points for the CoC Application score. For example, if a CoC received 100 out of 200 points on the CoC application, the project application would receive 30 out of 60 points for this criterion.

b. *CoC Project Ranking.* Up to 20 points for the CoC's ranking of the project application(s). In order to more evenly distribute funding across CoCs and take into account the CoC's ranking of projects, point values will be assigned directly related to the CoCs ranking of projects. The calculation of point values will be 20 times the quantity (1-x) where x is the ratio of (the cumulative funding requests for all projects or portions of projects ranked higher by the CoC in Tier 2 plus one half of the funding of the project of interest) to the total amount of funding available in Tier 2. For example, if a CoC is eligible to apply for projects totaling $500,000 in Tier 2 and applies for 5 projects ranked in Tier 2 of $100,000 each: the highest ranked project would receive 18 points and then the subsequently ranked projects would receive 14, 10, 6, and 2 points.

c. *Project Type.* Up to 10 points will be based on the type of project application submitted and the population that will be served with the following points

available for the following project types:

(1) 10 points for renewal and new permanent housing (permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing), renewal Safe Haven, Homeless Management Information System, Supportive Services Only (SSO) for Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System, or transitional housing that exclusively serve homeless youth projects;

(2) 3 points for renewal transitional housing, except those transitional housing projects that exclusively serve homeless youth which will be scored as discussed in paragraph (1); and

(3) 1 point for renewal SSO project applications

d. *Commitment to Policy Priorities.* Up to 10 points for how the permanent housing project application commits to applying the Housing First model. Transitional housing projects and SSO projects that are not for centralized or coordinated assessment can receive up to 10 points for how the project demonstrates that it is low-barrier, prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions to entry (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). HMIS projects and SSO projects for a centralized or coordinated assessment system will automatically receive 10 points.

17. HUD intends to issue one funding announcement in FY 2015 for all projects.

III. Continuum of Care Program Requirements

The CoC Program interim rule at 24 CFR part 578 details the requirements with which grants awarded under this competition must comply. Regulatory citations are provided below so that applicants can refer to specific areas of the CoC Program interim rule for details.

A. Definitions and Concepts. The definitions and concepts contained in this section include terms that are important for all applicants to understand in order to complete all parts of the FY 2015 CoC Consolidated Applications in *e-snaps* on behalf of the CoC.

1. Definitions from 24 CFR 578.3. The following terms are defined in 24 CFR 578.3. Applicants must refer to the CoC Program interim rule for the definitions contained in this section.

a. *Annual Renewal Amount (ARA)*

b. *Applicant*

c. *Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System*

d. *Chronically Homeless*

e. *Collaborative Applicant*

f. *Continuum of Care*

g. *Consolidated Plan*

h. *Final Pro Rata Need*

i. *High Performing Community*

j. *Homeless*

k. *Permanent Housing*

l. *Permanent Supportive Housing*

m. *Private Nonprofit Organization*

n. *Program Participant*

o. *Project*

p. *Recipient*

q. *Subrecipient*

r. *Transitional Housing*

s. *Unified Funding Agency*

2. **CoC Program NOFA Definitions.** The following terms are not found in 24 CFR part 578, but are used in this NOFA to define concepts that pertain specifically to the FY 2015 CoC Consolidated Application.

   a. *Consolidated Plan Certification.* The statutory form in which a State or local official certifies that the proposed activities or projects are consistent with the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan and, if the applicant is a State or unit of local government, that the jurisdiction is following its Consolidated Plan.

   b. *Housing Inventory Count (HIC).* A complete listing of the community's HUD and non-HUD funded beds dedicated to homeless individuals and families.

   c. *Project Applicant.* An applicant designated by the CoC to carry out activities related to a specific project(s) as defined in 24 CFR 578.3. This includes Collaborative Applicants that apply for CoC planning funds and, if designated, UFA Costs funds.

   d. *Rapid Re-housing.* A type of permanent housing meeting the requirements of 24 CFR 578.37(a)(1)(ii).

3. **Concepts.** The concepts contained in this section are important for all applicants to understand in order to complete all parts of the FY 2015 CoC Consolidated Application. These concepts are used throughout this NOFA:

   a. *Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) (24 CFR 578.17(b)(2)).* The total amount of all the CoC's projects that will be eligible for renewal in the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition, before any required adjustments to funding for leasing, rental

assistance, and operating budget line items based on FMR changes.

b. *Beds Dedicated to Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families.* A permanent supportive housing bed that is dedicated specifically for use by chronically homeless individuals and families within a CoC's geographic area, as reported in the CoC's Housing Inventory Count (HIC). When a program participant exits the project, the bed must be filled by another chronically homeless participant unless there are no chronically homeless persons located within the CoC's geographic area. This concept only applies to permanent supportive housing projects.

c. *Beds Prioritized for Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families.* A permanent supportive housing bed that is prioritized for use by chronically homeless individuals and families within a CoC's geographic area, preferably in accordance with the order of priority included in *Notice CPD-14-012: Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status*. When a participant exits the program, the recipient is not required to fill that bed with another chronically homeless participant but is expected to prioritize chronically homeless individuals and families in at least as many beds made available through turnover as indicated in the project application.

d. *Definition of Homelessness and Human Trafficking.* HUD wishes to clarify that persons who are fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking may qualify as homeless under paragraph 4 of the "homeless" definition at 24 CFR 578.3, and therefore may be eligible for certain forms of homeless assistance under the CoC Program, subject to other restrictions that may apply. HUD considers human trafficking, including sex trafficking, to be "other dangerous or life threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member" under paragraph 4 of the definition of "homeless" at 24 CFR 578.3. Where an individual or family is fleeing, or is attempting to flee human trafficking, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence; and the individual or family has no other residence; and the individual or family lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing; HUD would consider that individual or family to qualify as "homeless" under paragraph 4 of the definition.

e. *Housing First.* A model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). Transitional housing and supportive service only projects can be considered to be using a housing first model for the purposes of this NOFA if they operate with low-barriers, work to quickly move people into permanent housing, do not require participation in supportive services, and, for transitional housing projects, do not require any preconditions for moving into the transitional housing (e.g., sobriety or minimum income threshold). Additional information regarding Housing First is in Section II.A.6. of this NOFA.

f. *Non-Dedicated Permanent Supportive Housing Beds.* Permanent supportive housing beds within a CoC's geographic area that are not currently dedicated specifically for use by chronically homeless individuals and families.

g. *Permanent Housing Bonus.* The Permanent Housing Bonus is available to all CoCs to apply for funding to create new permanent supportive housing projects that will exclusively serve chronically homeless individuals and families or rapid re-housing projects that will serve individuals, families or unaccompanied youth who come directly from the streets, emergency shelters, or are fleeing domestic violence or other persons who meet the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless. A CoC is eligible to apply for up to 15 percent of its FPRN and may apply for more than one permanent housing bonus project. New projects created through a permanent housing bonus must meet the project eligibility and threshold requirements established by HUD in Sections V.F.2.d and V.F.2.e of this NOFA.

h. *Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN).* The amount of funds a CoC could receive based upon the geographic areas claimed by the CoC and reviewed by HUD during the CoC Program Registration process. To determine the amount of funding available for each geographic area, HUD will use the formula set forth at 24 CFR 578.17(a). Each year, HUD publishes the PPRN for each jurisdiction on the HUD Exchange. A CoC's PPRN is determined by adding the published PPRN of each metropolitan city, urban county, and other county located within the HUD-approved CoC geographic area.

i. *Reallocation.* Reallocation is when a CoC shifts funds in whole or part from existing eligible renewal projects to create one or more new projects without decreasing the CoC's ARD. New projects created through reallocation must meet the requirements set forth in Section II.B.2. of this NOFA and the project eligibility and project quality thresholds established by HUD in Sections V.F.2.d. and V.F.2.e. of this NOFA. In the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition, CoCs may use reallocation to create new permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals and families, rapid re-housing to serve homeless individuals, families and unaccompanied youth coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters or persons that meet the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless, dedicated HMIS, and SSO for a centralized or coordinated assessment system.

B. Establishing and Operating the CoC. Provisions at 24 CFR 578.5 and 24 CFR 578.7 detail the requirements for the establishment of a CoC and its operations.

C. CoC Geographic Area. Provisions at 24 CFR 578.5 require representatives from relevant organizations within a geographic area to establish a CoC to carry out the duties within the geographic area. The boundaries of identified CoC geographic areas cannot overlap, and any overlapping geographies are considered Competing CoCs. HUD will follow the process at 24 CFR 578.35(d) to determine which CoC HUD will fund in the case of CoC geographic areas that overlap in whole or in part. See Section III.H. of this NOFA for more information about how HUD will award funding to projects in Competing CoCs.

D. Planning Duties of the CoC. Planning duties for CoCs are detailed in 24 CFR 578.7.

E. Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System. The definition of Centralized or Coordinated Assessment can be found at 24 CFR 578.3. Provisions at 24 CFR 578.7(a)(8) detail the responsibilities of the CoC with regard to establishing and operating such a system. In addition to the definition, HUD also posted on the HUD Exchange the *Coordinated Entry Policy Brief* in February 2015 that helps inform local efforts to further develop CoCs' coordinated entry processes. CoCs may use planning costs to design and plan for the implementation of a centralized or coordinated assessment system. These systems help communities assess the needs of program participants and effectively match the homeless with the most appropriate resources available to address their particular needs.

F. CoC Program Components. Provisions at 24 CFR 578.37 state that CoC funds may be used for projects under five program components: permanent housing (including rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing); transitional housing; Supportive Services Only; HMIS; and in some cases, homelessness prevention. Homelessness prevention is a component through the implementation of High Performing Communities (HPC), since only designated HPCs may carry out homelessness prevention activities through the CoC program. Although CoCs were able to apply for HPC designation during the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration process, HUD did not receive any requests for HPC designation; therefore, no CoCs may request funds for homelessness prevention. The only components that will be funded in the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition are:

1. Permanent Housing;
2. Transitional Housing;
3. Supportive Services Only; and
4. HMIS.

These components are fully described at 24 CFR 578.37.

G. Collaborative Applicant. HUD will only review CoC Consolidated Applications submitted from the Collaborative Applicant that has been designated by the CoC. As set forth at 24 CFR 578.9(a)(3), the Collaborative Applicant will compile all parts of the CoC Consolidated Application, including the FY 2015 CoC Application, the FY 2015 CoC Priority Listing, and all Project Applications for FY 2015 funds the CoC has ranked for funding within the geographic area. Additionally, as set forth at 24 CFR 578.3, the Collaborative Applicant is the only entity that may apply to HUD for CoC planning costs and for UFA Costs, if the Collaborative Applicant is designated to apply as an UFA applicant.

H. Competing CoCs. For the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition there are no Competing CoCs.

I. CoC Maximum Award. The process for determining a CoC's maximum award amount is detailed in 24 CFR 578.17(b). HUD is required to adjust awards for leasing, operating, and rental assistance budget line items based on changes to the Fair Market Rents (FMR). All adjustments for each fiscal year appropriation will be made prior to award announcement. HUD will make these adjustments as follows:

1. Funds awarded for rental assistance will be adjusted in one of two ways:

    a. Funds awarded for rental assistance in all new projects and all renewal projects requesting the FMR will be adjusted by applying the FMR in effect at the time of application submission to HUD, including in the cases where the FMR for a specific area has decreased from the previous year.

    b. Funds awarded for rental assistance for renewal projects that request less than FMR, that is, a per-unit amount based on the actual rent costs per unit, will be increased based on the average increase in FMR amounts within the CoC's geographic area, weighted for population density. In the event that the FMR for a specific area decreased from the previous year, project applicants will not receive an award that exceeds the FMR after adjustment. If the FMR for the project applicant's area decreased from the previous year, the project will be awarded the lesser amount of the per-unit amount requested by the project applicant, based on the actual rent costs per unit, or the FMR after adjustment.

2. Funds awarded for operating and leasing in permanent housing projects will be increased based on the average increase in FMR amounts within the CoC's geographic area, weighted for population density. Because leasing and operating costs do not decrease relative to rent amounts for specific units (e.g., operating costs for 10 units that have rents of $500 are likely the same as for 10 units that have rents that are $450) adjustments to leasing and operating budget line items will not include decreases if FMRs decrease in the geographic area. The operating and/or leasing budget line items in these projects will remain the same as in the most recent grant agreement or grant agreement amendment.

IV. Award Information

A. Amount Allocated. Approximately $1.89 billion of FY 2015 funds is available for funding. Carried over or recaptured funds from previous fiscal years, if available, may be added to this amount. Although the available amount of funding is expected to be sufficient to fund anticipated eligible renewal projects in the FY 2014 funding process, HUD will continue to require Collaborative Applicants to rank all projects in two tiers. Tier 1 is equal to 85 percent of the CoC's FY 2015 ARD approved during the FY 2015 CoC Registration process. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's ARD plus any amount available for the permanent housing bonus as described in Section II.B.3. of this NOFA.

B. Distribution of Funds. The distribution of funds will depend largely on CoC locally determined priorities and HUD selection priorities, overall demand, and renewal eligibility.

1. *Renewals.* Awards made under the CoC Program, Supportive Housing Program (SHP), and Shelter Plus Care (S+C) are eligible for renewal for FY 2015 funds if they have an executed grant agreement by December 31, 2015 and have an expiration date the occurs in Calendar Year (CY) 2016 (the period between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016). These projects are renewable under the CoC Program Competition as set forth in 24 CFR 578.33 to continue ongoing leasing, operating, supportive services, rental assistance, HMIS, and project administration costs. Grant agreements for FY 2014 funds must be executed by December 31, 2015 in order to be

eligible for renewal. If a project application is submitted for FY 2015 funds where the grant agreement for FY 2014 funds is not executed by December 31, 2015, HUD will withdraw any funds conditionally awarded for FY 2015.

Applicants that were eligible under the SHP and S+C programs but are no longer eligible under the CoC Program, will continue to be eligible for renewal of leasing, operating, supportive service, rental assistance, HMIS, and project administration costs under 24 CFR 578.33(d)(1), so long as their project continues to serve the same population and the same number of program participants or units in the same type of housing as identified in their most recently amended grant agreement signed before August 30, 2012. No new Safe Haven projects will be funded; however, existing Safe Haven projects may be renewed to continue to carry out activities that are eligible costs under Subpart D. of the CoC Program interim rule.

2. *New Project Grant terms.* The initial grant term for new project applications may be 1-year, 2-years, 3-years, 4-years, 5-years, or 15-years. However, the following exceptions apply:

a. Any new project that requests tenant-based rental assistance may request a 1-year, 2-year, 3-year, 4-year, or 5-year grant term.

b. Any new project that requests leasing–either leasing costs only or leasing costs plus other costs (e.g., supportive services, HMIS.)–may only request up to a 3-year grant term.

c. Any new project that requests project-based rental assistance or sponsor-based rental assistance, or operating costs may request up to a 15-year grant term; however, the project applicants may only request up to 5 years of funds. Funding for the remainder of the term is subject to availability and applicants must apply for additional funds at such time and in such manner as HUD may require.

d. Any new project that requests operating costs, Supportive Services Only, HMIS, and project administration may request 1-year, 2-year, 3-year, 4-year, or 5-year grant terms with funding for the same number of years.

e. Any new project that requests new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation must request a minimum of a 3-year grant term and may request up to a 5-year grant term.

f. If an applicant requests funds for new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation in addition to requesting funds for operating, supportive services, or HMIS, the funding will be for the 3 years requested, and the grant term will be 3 years plus the time necessary to acquire the property, complete construction, and begin operating the project. HUD will require recordation of a HUD-approved use and repayment covenant (a form can be obtained from the local HUD CPD Field Office) for all grants of funds for new constructions, acquisition, and rehabilitation. (24 CFR 578.81)

g. All new CoC planning or UFA Costs applications are limited to 1-year grant terms and 1-year of funding.

3. *Renewal Project Grant Terms.*

a. All renewal project applications, including rental assistance, are limited to 1-year grant terms and 1-year of funding.

b. Any renewal permanent housing project that receives project-based rental assistance or operating costs may request up to a 15-year grant term; however, the project applicants may only request 1 year of funding. Funding for the remainder of the term is subject to availability and applicants must apply for additional funds at such time and in such manner as HUD may require.

V. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Project Applicants. (24 CFR 578.15) Eligible project applicants for the CoC Program Competition are nonprofit organizations, States, local governments, and instrumentalities of State and local governments, and public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100, without limitation or exclusion. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants or to be subrecipients of grant funds.

B. Renewal Projects. Awards made under the CoC Program, SHP, and S+C programs are eligible for renewal for FY 2015 funds if they are currently in operation and have an executed grant agreement that is dated no later than December 31, 2015 and expires in Calendar Year (CY) 2016 (the period from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016).

1. HUD will not select renewal projects for an award for FY 2015 funds in the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition unless the grant agreement has been signed by both HUD and the recipient, and the project meets one of the following additional eligibility requirements:

a. Any CoC Program, SHP, or S+C grants awarded in a preceding competition that expires in CY 2016.

b. Any S+C grant awarded prior to FY 2002 for which funding is expected to run out in CY 2016, and which has never applied for renewal funding.

c. Any SHP or S+C grant originally awarded in the FY 2009 Homeless Assistance Programs Competition and, notwithstanding the expiration date, that has funds expiring in CY 2016 or later and has not been renewed in a previous competition. Funds for these grants will no longer be available after September 30, 2016. The Line of Credit Control System (LOCCS) requires that all draws for the grants awarded in the FY 2009 Homeless Assistance Programs Competition be made no later than September 22, 2016. Funds from these expiring grants will be recaptured and will no longer be available for expenditure, even if the end date established in the grant agreement is beyond September 30, 2016. Recipients are prohibited from accelerating their spending rate to spend down funds by September 22, 2016. Local HUD CPD Field Offices will monitor draws for affected grants to ensure that funds will

be drawn only to reimburse the affected recipients for actual costs incurred in accordance with the project budget on, or before, the LOCCS availability of funds deadline. Grants awarded in the FY 2009 Homeless Assistance Competition are not eligible for renewal in the CoC Program Competition if they expired, or are expiring, in CY 2015 (time period from January 1, 2015, through December 31, 2015), were not renewed in a previous competition, or were not approved for extension into CY 2016. Grants awarded in the FY 2009 Homeless Assistance Programs Competition that have an expiration date beyond CY 2016 **must** apply for renewal in the FY 2015 funding process. The only exception is for any grant awarded as S+C grant that included rehabilitation that has a 10-year grant term, which will expire in FY 2018.

2. The total request for each renewing project may not exceed the ARA approved by HUD for that project. Because funds for acquisition, new construction, and rehabilitation may not be renewed, grants being renewed whose original expiring award included those funds may only renew leasing, supportive services, rental assistance, operating, and HMIS costs and may not exceed 10 percent in administrative costs. For information on Annual Renewal Amount, see Section III.A.1.a. of this NOFA.

3. HUD will recapture grant funds remaining unspent at the end of the previous grant period when it renews a grant.

4. HUD encourages the consolidation of appropriate renewal grants when the grants are with the same recipient, have the same component and expire in the same year. However, projects that have not yet been consolidated must submit separate project applications for individual renewal grants. Where a recipient intends to consolidate renewal grants, this action can be accomplished by the local HUD CPD Field Office at the point of renewal grant agreement execution. Projects that have outstanding audit findings or that are poor performers cannot be consolidated. Further, any grant that applied to move from SHP leasing to rental assistance in the CoC Program Competition cannot be consolidated in the first year after the change from leasing to rental assistance occurs. This paragraph does not apply to CoCs that are designated by HUD as a UFA, since UFAs will enter into a single renewal grant agreement with HUD for the CoC's entire geographic area.

5. Shelter Plus Care projects renewing for the first time under this NOFA are allowed to indicate a higher number of units than approved in the original application on the GIW during the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration process. However, in order for HUD to approve this increase, the applicant must have provided their local HUD CPD Field Office with copies of all executed leases to support the higher number of units. This must have been completed prior to the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration process as the increase in units affected the project's ARA. HUD will consider the number of documented units under lease at the time of GIW submission the maximum number of units eligible for renewal in the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition.

C. New Projects.

1. CoCs may submit new projects created through reallocation, permanent housing bonus projects, CoC planning, and UFA Costs (if applicable).

2. In order to expend funds within statutorily required deadlines, applicants funded for sponsor-based and project-based rental assistance must execute the grant agreement and begin providing rental assistance within 2 years. However, HUD strongly encourages all rental assistance to begin within 12 months of award. Applicants that are unable to begin rental assistance within the 12-month period should consult with the local HUD CPD Field Office.

3. All applicants must meet statutory deadlines regarding the obligation of grant funds by September 30, 2017, as stated in the FY 2015 HUD Appropriations Act. All subrecipients must meet applicant eligibility standards as described in Section V.A. of this NOFA. HUD will review project subrecipient eligibility as part of the threshold review process. Project applicants are required to submit documentation of subrecipients' eligibility with the application.

D. Matching. 24 CFR 578.73 provides the information regarding match requirements.

E. Indirect Costs. Indirect costs (also known as "facilities and administrative costs," defined at 2 CFR 200.56) represent the expenses of doing business that are not readily identified with a particular cooperative agreement, grant, contract, project function, or activity, but are necessary for the general operation of the applicant organization and the conduct of activities it performs. Refer to 200.413 and 200.414 for additional information on determining if costs charged to the award are direct or indirect.

Applicants selected for funding pursuant to this NOFA may charge indirect costs to the award. Applicants with an approved federally negotiated indirect cost rate must submit with their application a copy of their approved Indirect Cost Rate Proposal to substantiate their request.

Applicants that do not have an approved federally negotiated indirect cost rate may charge a maximum rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs. 2 CFR 200.414(f) states that nonfederal entities that have never received a negotiated indirect cost rate, except those non-Federal entities described in Appendix VII to Part 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Costs Proposals, paragraph D.1.b. may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs, which may be used indefinitely. If chosen, this methodology must be used consistently for all federal awards until the entity chooses to submit an indirect cost rate proposal and negotiate for a rate.

If an applicant chooses to negotiate for an indirect cost rate, the applicant must contact the designated cognizant agency for indirect costs. The cognizant agency for indirect cost rates is defined at 2 CFR 200.19. For assignments of cognizant agencies see the following:

1. For Institutions of Higher Education: Appendix III to 2 CFR part 200—Indirect (F&A) Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs), paragraph C.11.
2. For nonprofit organizations: Appendix IV to 2 CFR part 200—Indirect (F&A)

Costs Identification and Assignment, and Rate Determination for Nonprofit Organizations, paragraph C.12.

3. For State and local governments: Appendix V to 2 CFR part 200—State/Local Government-wide Central Service Cost Allocation Plans, paragraph F.1.
4. For Indian tribes: Appendix VII to 2 CFR part 200—States and Local Government and Indian Tribe Indirect Cost Proposal, paragraph D.1.

If HUD is the applicant's cognizant agency for indirect costs, the applicant shall submit its Indirect Cost Rate Proposal to the following person and address of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development: Lisa Abell, Director, Budget Director, Office of Community Planning and Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 7236, Washington, DC, 20410. Approval of the proposal may take several weeks.

F. Other Project Eligibility Requirements.

1. **Statutory and Regulatory Requirements.** To be eligible for funding under this NOFA, project applicants must meet all statutory and regulatory requirements in the Act and 24 CFR part 578. Project applicants can obtain a copy of the Act and 24 CFR part 578 on the HUD Exchange or by contacting the NOFA Information Center at 1-800-HUD-8929 (1-800-483-8929).

2. **Threshold Requirements:**

   a. *Ineligible Applicants.* HUD will not consider an application from an ineligible project applicant, including an application submitted for CoC planning funds or UFA Costs from an applicant other than the Collaborative Applicant.

   b. *DUNS Number Requirement.* All project applicants seeking funding under this NOFA must have a DUNS number and include the number in the Standard Form 424 (SF-424). The SF-424 must be submitted along with the project application in *e-snaps.* See Section IV.C.2. of the FY 2015 General Section for additional information.

   c. *Active Registration in SAM.* All project applicants seeking funding under this NOFA must have an active SAM registration. HUD will not issue a grant agreement for awarded funds to a project applicant until an active SAM registration has been verified. See Section IV.C.1. of the FY 2015 General Section for additional information.

   d. *Project Eligibility Threshold.* HUD will review all projects to determine if they meet the following eligibility threshold requirements on a pass/fail standard. If HUD determines that the applicable standards are not met for a project, the project will be rejected from the competition. Any project requesting renewal funding will be considered as having met these requirements through its previously approved grant application unless information to the contrary is received (e.g., monitoring findings, results from investigations by the Office of Inspector General, the recipient routinely does not draw down funds from LOCCS at least once per quarter, consistently late

APRs.). Approval of new and renewal projects is not a determination by HUD that a recipient is in compliance with applicable fair housing and civil requirements.

(1) Project applicants and potential subrecipients must meet the eligibility requirements of the CoC Program as described in 24 CFR part 578 and provide evidence of eligibility required in the application (e.g., nonprofit documentation).

(2) Project applicants and subrecipients must demonstrate the financial and management capacity and experience to carry out the project as detailed in the project application and to administer Federal funds. Demonstrating capacity may include a description of the applicant/subrecipient experience with similar projects and with successful administration of SHP, S+C, or CoC Program funds for renewing projects or other Federal funds.

(3) Project applicants must submit the required certifications as specified in this NOFA.

(4) The population to be served must meet program eligibility requirements as described in the Act, and the project application must clearly establish eligibility of project applicants. This includes the following additional eligibility criteria for certain types of projects:

(a) The only persons who may be served by any non-dedicated permanent supportive housing beds are those who come from the streets, emergency shelters, safe havens, institutions, or transitional housing.

i. Homeless individuals and families coming from transitional housing must have originally come from the streets or emergency shelters.

ii. Homeless individuals and families with a qualifying disability who were fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life threatening conditions and are living in transitional housing are eligible for permanent supportive housing even if they did not live on the streets, emergency shelters, or safe havens prior to entry in the transitional housing.

iii. Persons exiting institutions where they resided for 90 days or less and came from the streets, emergency shelter, or safe havens immediately prior to entering the institution are also eligible for permanent supportive housing.

(b) The only persons who may be served by dedicated or

prioritized permanent supportive housing beds are chronically homeless individuals and families as defined in 24 CFR 578.3.

(c) Rapid Re-housing projects originally funded to serve individuals and families coming from the streets or emergency shelters or persons meeting the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless, must continue to do so.

(d) New Rapid Re-housing projects created through reallocation may serve individuals, including unaccompanied youth, and families coming from the streets or emergency shelters or persons fleeing domestic violence or other persons who qualify under paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless; however, these program participants must meet the all other criteria for this type of housing (i.e., individuals and household with children who enter directly from the streets or emergency shelter).

(e) The projects originally funded as part of the FY 2008 Rapid Re-Housing for Families Demonstration may transition in this CoC Program Competition to permanent housing: rapid re-housing. Therefore, any of these projects that want to change from transitional housing with leasing, may change the current budget line items from leasing to tenant-based rental assistance (may request actual rent or FMR) and move any operating costs to an eligible supportive services activity, an HMIS budget line item, or may be used to add additional units. If the project wants to remain as transitional housing, it must continue operating in accordance with the FY 2008 CoC Homelessness Assistance Grants Programs NOFA.

(f) Renewal projects originally funded under the Samaritan Housing Initiative must continue to exclusively serve chronically homeless individuals and families, unless there are no chronically homeless individuals and families within the CoC geographic area that can be served by the project. CoCs should not hold units vacant, but instead should prioritize other vulnerable and eligible households as outlined in Notice CPD-14-012.

(g) Renewal projects originally funded under the Permanent Supportive Housing Bonus in previous years must continue to serve the homeless population in accordance with the respective NOFA under which it was originally awarded.

(h) Renewal projects that indicated they would prioritize chronically homeless persons in beds that become available through turnover in non-dedicated permanent supportive housing projects must continue to do so.

(5) The project must be cost-effective, including costs of construction, operations, and supportive services with such costs not deviating substantially from the norm in that locale for the type of structure or kind of activity.

(6) Project applicants, except Collaborative Applicants that only receive awards for CoC planning costs and, if applicable, UFA Costs, must agree to participate in a local HMIS system. However, in accordance with Section 407 of the 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.

(7) Project applicants must administer their programs or activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified homeless with disabilities. This means that programs or activities must be offered in a setting that enables the homeless with disabilities to interact with others without disabilities to the fullest extent possible.

e. *Project Quality Threshold.* HUD will review all new project applications to determine if they meet the following project quality threshold requirements with clear and convincing evidence. Any project requesting renewal funding will be considered as having met these requirements through its previously approved grant application unless information to the contrary is received (e.g., monitoring findings, results from investigations by the Office of Inspector General, consistently slow draws from LOCCS, consistently late APRs) and if the renewal project has compliance issues which results in the project not operating in accordance with 24 CFR part 578. These projects are required to meet the requirements outlined in this section of this NOFA. 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 in compliance with applicable fair housing and civil rights requirements.

(1) To be considered as meeting project quality threshold, new permanent housing–permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing–project applications must receive at least 3 out of the 5 points available for the criteria below. New permanent housing project applications that do not receive at least 3 points will be rejected.

(a) Whether the type, scale, and location of the housing fit the needs of the program participants (1 point);

(b) Whether the type and scale of the supportive services fit the needs of the program participants–this includes all supportive services, regardless of funding source (1 point);

(c) Whether the specific plan for ensuring program participants will be individually assisted to obtain the benefits of the mainstream health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible to apply meets the needs of the program participants (1 point);

(d) Whether program participants are assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs (1 point); and,

(e) Whether at least 75 percent of the proposed program participants come from the street or other locations not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, safe havens, or fleeing domestic violence (1 point).

(2) To be considered as meeting project quality threshold, new SSO projects for centralized or coordinated assessment systems must receive at least 2 out of the 4 points available for the criteria below. SSO projects for centralized or coordinated assessment systems that do not receive at least 2 points will be rejected.

(a) Whether the centralized or coordinated assessment system is easily accessible for all persons within the CoC's geographic area who are seeking information regarding homelessness assistance (1 point);

(b) Whether there is a strategy for advertising the program that is designed specifically to reach homeless persons with the highest barriers within the CoC's geographic area (1 point);

(c) Whether there is a standardized assessment process (1 point); and

(d) Whether the program ensures that program participants are directed to appropriate housing and services that fit their needs (1 point).

(3) To be considered as meeting project quality threshold, new HMIS project applications must receive at least 3 out of the 4 points available for the criteria below. New HMIS projects that do not receive at least 3 points will be rejected.

(a) How the HMIS funds will be expended in a way that is consistent with the CoC's funding strategy for the HMIS and furthers the CoC's HMIS implementation (1 point);

(b) Whether the HMIS collects all Universal Data Elements as set forth in the HMIS Data Standards (1 point);

(c) Whether the HMIS un-duplicates client records (1 point); and

(d) Whether the HMIS produces all HUD-required reports and provide data as needed for HUD reporting (e.g., APR, quarterly reports, data for CAPER/ESG reporting) (1 point).

(4) To be considered as meeting project quality threshold, the Collaborative Applicant's application for new CoC planning funds must receive at least 6 out of 10 points using the criteria below. Applications that do not receive at least 6 points will be rejected. Applications for UFA Costs are not subject to a threshold review, as UFA status was determined as part of Registration.

(a) Governance and Operations. Whether the CoC conducts meetings of the entire CoC membership that are inclusive and open to members and whether the CoC is able to demonstrate that is has a written governance charter in place that contains CoC policies (2 points).

(b) CoC Committees. Whether the CoC has CoC-wide planning committees, subcommittees, or workgroups to the address homeless needs in the CoC's geographic area that recommend and/or set policy priorities for the CoC (2 points).

(c) The proposed planning activities that will be carried out by the CoC with grant funds are compliant with the provisions of 24 CFR 578.7 (4 points); and

(d) The funds requested will improve the CoC's ability to evaluate the outcome of both CoC Program-funded and ESG-funded projects (2 points).

(5) Additionally, HUD will assess all new projects for the following minimum project eligibility, capacity, timeliness, and performance standards. To be considered as meeting project quality threshold, all new projects must meet all of the following criteria:

(a) Project applicants and potential subrecipients must have satisfactory capacity, drawdowns, and performance for existing grant(s) that are funded under the SHP, S+C, or CoC Program, as evidenced by timely reimbursement of subrecipients, regular drawdowns, and timely resolution of any monitoring findings;

(b) For expansion projects, project applicants must clearly articulate the part of the project that is being expanded. Additionally, the project applicants must clearly demonstrate that they are not replacing other funding sources; and

(c) Project applicants must demonstrate they will be able to meet all timeliness standards per 24 CFR 578.85. Project

applicants with existing projects must demonstrate that they have met all project renewal threshold requirements of this NOFA. HUD reserves the right to deny the funding request for a new project, if the request is made by an existing recipient that HUD finds to have significant issues related to capacity, performance, or unresolved audit/monitoring finding related to one or more existing grants. Additionally, HUD reserves the right to withdraw funds if no APR is submitted on the prior grant.

f. *Project Renewal Threshold.* A CoC must consider the need to continue funding for projects expiring in CY 2016. Renewal projects must meet minimum project eligibility, capacity, timeliness, and performance standards identified in this NOFA or they will be rejected from consideration for funding.

(1) When considering renewal projects for award, HUD will review information in LOCCS; Annual Performance Reports (APRs); and information provided from the local HUD CPD Field Office, including monitoring reports and A-133 audit reports as applicable, and performance standards on prior grants, and will assess projects using the following criteria on a pass/fail basis:

(a) Whether the project applicant's performance met the plans and goals established in the initial application as amended;

(b) Whether the project applicant demonstrated all timeliness standards for grants being renewed, including that standards for the expenditure of grant funds have been met;

(c) The project applicant's performance in assisting program participants to achieve and maintain independent living and record of success, except HMIS-dedicated projects are not required to meet this standard; and

(d) Whether there is evidence that a project applicant has been unwilling to accept technical assistance, has a history of inadequate financial accounting practices, has indications of project mismanagement, has a drastic reduction in the population served, has made program changes without prior HUD approval, or has lost a project site.

(2) HUD reserves the right to reduce or reject a funding request from the project applicant for the following reasons:

(a) Outstanding obligation to HUD that is in arrears or for which a payment schedule has not been agreed upon;

(b) Audit finding(s) for which a response is overdue or unsatisfactory;

(c) History of inadequate financial management accounting practices;

(d) Evidence of untimely expenditures on prior award;

(e) History of other major capacity issues that have significantly affected the operation of the project and its performance;

(f) History of not reimbursing subrecipients for eligible costs in a timely manner, or at least quarterly; and

(g) History of serving ineligible program participants, expending funds on ineligible costs, or failing to expend funds within statutorily established timeframes.

g. *Resolution of Outstanding Civil Rights Matters Threshold.* In order for a project application to be eligible for rating and ranking by HUD, the project applicant and the proposed subrecipient must meet the civil rights threshold requirements in Section III.C.2.b. of the FY 2015 General Section.

h. *Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan.* For each applicant that is not a State or unit of local government, the applicant must submit a certification by the jurisdiction in which the proposed project will be located that the applicant's application for funding is consistent with the jurisdiction's HUD-approved consolidated plan. The certification must be made in accordance with the provisions of the consolidated plan regulations at 24 CFR part 91, subpart F. Form HUD-2991 must be used and must list all new projects, CoC planning, UFA Costs, and renewal projects within the jurisdiction that are consistent with the Consolidated Plan.

For a project applicant that is a State or unit of local government, the jurisdiction must certify that it is following its HUD-approved Consolidated Plan.

3. Other HUD Requirements. The list below highlights requirements contained in the FY 2015 General Section (and in other regulations) that is especially important for CoCs and project applicants to review in detail. This is not an exhaustive list of all HUD requirements. All of the requirements of the FY 2015 General Section apply to the CoC Program, except as otherwise specified in this NOFA.

An applicant can access the General Section of HUD's FY 2015 NOFA http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail/2015gensec. Note that the General Section of HUD's FY 2015 NOFA is critical and must be carefully reviewed to ensure an application can be considered for funding, with the exception of reference to the www.grants.gov application process and other exceptions specifically listed in this NOFA. The CoC Program uses an electronic system outside of www.grants.gov called *e-snaps*. Notification of the availability of the application will be released via HUD's websites located at www.hud.gov and www.hudexchange.info. To sign up for HUD's CoC Program email-based listserv, go to www.hudexchange.info/mailinglist/.

a. *Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.* See 24 CFR 578.93 for specific requirements related to Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

b. *Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity*. See the *Federal Register* dated February 1, 2012, Docket No. FR 5359-F-02 and Section VI.B.2. of the General Section.

c. *Debarment and Suspension.* See Section III.C.4.c. of the FY 2015 General Section. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the recipient to ensure that all subrecipients are not debarred or suspended. (24 CFR 578.23((3)(c)(4)(v).

d. *Delinquent Federal Debts.* See Section III.C.4.a. of the FY 2013 General Section.

e. *Compliance with Fair Housing and Civil Rights.* See Section III.C.3.a. of the FY 2015 General Section.

f. *Executive Order 13166, "Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency (LEP).* See Section III.C.3.d. of the FY 2015 General Section.

g. *Economic Opportunities for Low- and Very Low-income Persons (Section 3).* See Section III.C.3.c. of the FY 2015 General Section.

h. *Real Property Acquisition and Relocation.* See Section VI.B.4. of the FY 2015 General Section.

i. *Conducting Business in Accordance with Core Values and Ethical Standards/Code of Conduct.* See Section III.C.3.f. of the FY 2015 General Section.

j. *Prohibition Against Lobbying Activities.* See Section III.C.3.h. of the FY 2015 General Section.

k. *Participation in HUD-Sponsored Program Evaluation.* See Section VI.B.6. of the FY 2015 General Section.

l. *Environmental Requirements.* Notwithstanding provisions at 24 CFR 578.31 and 24 CFR 578.99(a) of the CoC Program interim rule, and in accordance with Section 100261(3) of MAP-21 (Pub. L. 112-141, 126 Stat. 405), activities under this NOFA are subject to environmental review by a responsible entity under HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58.

(1) For activities under a grant to a recipient other than a State or unit of general local government that generally would be subject to review under part 58, HUD may make a finding in accordance with 24 CFR 58.11(d) and may itself perform the environmental review under the provisions of 24 CFR part 50 if the recipient objects in writing to the responsible entity's performing the review under part 24 CFR part 58.

(2) Irrespective of whether the responsible entity in accordance with 24 CFR part 58 (or HUD in accordance with 24 CFR part 50) performs the environmental review, the recipient must supply all available, relevant information necessary for the responsible entity (or HUD, if applicable) to perform for each property any required environmental review. The recipient also must carry out mitigating measures required by the responsible entity (or HUD, if applicable) or select alternative property.

(3) The recipient, its project partners, and their contractors may not acquire, rehabilitate, convert, lease, repair, dispose of, demolish, or construct property for a project under this NOFA, or commit or expand HUD or local funds for such eligible activities under this NOFA, until the responsible entity (as defined by 24 CFR 58.2(a)(7)) has completed the environmental review procedures required by 24 CFR part 58 and the environmental certification and Request for Release of Funds (RROF) have been approved or HUD has performed an environmental review under 24 CFR part 50 and the recipient has received HUD approval of the property. HUD will not release grant funds if the recipient or any other party commits grant funds (i.e., incurs any costs or expenditures to be paid or reimbursed with such funds) before the recipient submits and HUD approves its RROF (where such submission is required).

m. *Drug-Free Workplace.* See Section VI.B.9. of the FY 2015 General Section.

n. *Safeguarding Resident/Client Files.* See Section VI.B.10 of the FY 2015 General Section.

o. *Compliance with the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 209-282) (Transparency Act), as amended.* See Section VI.B.11. of the FY 2015 General Section.

p. *Lead-Based Paint Requirements.* For housing constructed before 1978 (with certain statutory and regulatory exceptions), CoC Program recipients must comply with the requirements of the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4801, *et seq.*), as amended by the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 4851, *et seq.*); and implementing regulations of HUD, at 24 CFR part 35; the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at 40 CFR part 745, or State/Tribal lead rules implemented under EPA authorization; and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration at 29 CFR 1926.62 and 29 CFR 1910.1025.

VI. Application and Submission Information

A. Application Package. The submission summary in *e-snaps* provides the list of elements required to complete each type of project application. A Collaborative Applicant will not be able to submit an application to HUD until all required parts are completed, including the project-level review and either accepting and ranking or rejecting the project applications.

Once available, the CoC Consolidated Application, Project Application, and CoC Priority Listing can be accessed at www.hud.gov/esnaps.

B. Content and Form of Application Submission. The CoC Consolidated Application for funds under this NOFA includes FY 2015 CoC Application, which describes the CoC's plan for ending homelessness, its system-level performance, and addresses the selection criteria specified in Section VII of this NOFA. The CoC Priority Listing includes the reallocation forms, all Project Applications submitted to the CoC for funding consideration that are either approved and ranked or rejected, the final HUD-approved GIW attachment, and the form HUD-2991–Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan.

C. CoC Consolidated Application. An entire CoC Consolidated Application must be submitted by the Collaborative Applicant on behalf of the CoC. The application will include the following parts, all of which will be submitted electronically either through *e-snaps* or as an uploaded attachment (for more information see the Training on *e-snaps* at www.hudexchange.info/e-snaps/guides/coc-program-competition-resources/) to be considered for funding:

1. The FY 2015 CoC Application, including:

a. The CoC plan with all charts and narratives completed as applicable;

b. All required attachments, including:

(1) CoC Review, Score, and Ranking Procedures–The CoC's written procedures that are publicly posted for all interested stakeholders and applicants that clearly describe the project-level review and ranking process that is used by the CoC to determine how CoC Program project applications submitted to the CoC are reviewed, scored, and ranked.

(2) CoC's Process for Reallocating–The CoC's written and publicly posted process for how the CoC determines if a project(s) should be reduced and/or cut in order to create new projects through reallocation in the local CoC competition process;

(3) Public Posting of FY 2015 Project Selections, Ranking, and CoC Application–a screen shot of the CoC webpage(s) (or partner's webpage if the CoC does not have a website) that was made publicly available to all project applicants before the application deadline and that clearly displays the website's address;

(4) Governance Charter (HMIS Governance)–The section of the governance charter containing the policies and procedures used by the CoC to comply with the HMIS requirements prescribed by HUD. Alternatively, if the CoC has created a separate document (e.g., an HMIS Governance Agreement) to outline the policies and procedures related to HMIS governance and incorporated this document into the governance charter by reference, the CoC may attach that document.

(5) PHA Administrative Plan– If the CoC is seeking points under Section

VII.A.1.e. of this NOFA, the relevant excerpt from a written plan, if any was developed between the CoC and the PHA(s) located within the CoC's geographic area that clearly describes the PHA(s) homeless preference for housing. Instead of a relevant excerpt from the written plan, a letter from the PHA(s) may be attached that clearly describes the PHA(s) homeless preference for housing; and

(6) Projects to Serve Persons Defined as Homeless under paragraph 3–If the CoC is seeking to serve persons defined as homeless under paragraph 3 of the homeless definition, a list of projects that will serve persons defined as homeless under paragraph 3 of the homeless definition.

2. FY 2015 Project Application(s), including, for each project application:

a. Project application charts, narratives, and attachments;

b. SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance;

c. The SF-424 Supplement, Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunities for Application is for private nonprofit applicants only and completion/submission of this survey is voluntary;

d. Documentation of Applicant and Subrecipient Eligibility–all project applicants must attach documentation of eligibility–subrecipient eligibility must also be attached to the project application;

e. Applicant Certifications;

f. Form HUD-2880, Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report must be attached for each project. Form HUD-2880 must include the correct amount of HUD assistance requested and must be dated between July 1, 2015 and November 20, 2015;

g. SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying of Activities (if applicable);

h. Applicant Code of Conduct. The Code must be attached in *e-snaps* or on file with HUD at http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/conduct; and

i. Form HUD-50070, Certification for a Drug-Free Workplace dated no earlier than July 1, 2015.

j. If applicable, the certifications required under I.C.4 regarding grants that propose or expend funds in the geographic area(s) of one or more other CoCs.

3. The FY 2015 CoC Priority Listing, including:

a. Project reallocation forms (if applicable) that indicates the eligible renewal projects that are being reallocated in whole or part to create new project applications for:

(1) new permanent supportive housing project(s) for chronically homeless individuals and families as defined in 24 CFR 578.3;

(2) rapid re-housing project(s) for homeless individuals, families and unaccompanied youth coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters, or fleeing domestic violence or other persons that meet the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless;

(3) dedicated HMIS projects; or

(4) SSO projects for centralized or coordinated assessment.

b. New Project Listing;

c. Renewal Project Listing;

d. UFA Costs Project Listing;

e. CoC Planning Project Listing; and

f. Required Attachments:

(1) Final HUD-approved FY 2015 GIW; and

(2) Form HUD-2991–Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan. For each applicant that is not a State or unit of local government, the applicant must submit a certification by the jurisdiction in which the proposed project will be located that the applicant's application for funding is consistent with the jurisdiction's HUD-approved consolidated plan. Form HUD-2991 must be used and must include a list of all projects submitted for funding on the CoC Priority Listings–New, Renewal, UFA, and CoC Planning.

4. Solo applicants–eligible project applicants that attempted to participate in the CoC planning process in the geographic area in which they operate, that believe they were denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner–may submit an application to HUD and may be awarded a grant from HUD by following the procedure found in 24 CFR 578.35. Solo applicants must submit their project application to HUD by **7:59:59 p.m. eastern time, November 20, 2015,** which must include the CoC's notification of rejection of the project in the local competition as an attachment to the Solo Applicant's project application. If the CoC fails to provide written notification, outside of *e-snaps*, the Solo Applicant must attach a statement that the CoC did not provide the Solo Applicant written notification of the CoC rejecting the project in the local CoC competition. See Section X.C. of this NOFA for additional information regarding the Solo Applicant appeal process.

5. The General Section of HUD's FY 2015 NOFA contains certifications that the applicant will comply with fair housing and civil rights requirements, program regulations, and other Federal requirements, and (where applicable) that the proposed activities are consistent with the HUD-approved Consolidated Plan of the applicable State or unit of general local government.

D. Submission Dates and Times.

1. Application Deadline Date

a. Completed applications must be submitted to HUD on or before **7:59:59 p.m. eastern time on November 20, 2015.**

b. Provisions at 24 CFR 578.9 require CoCs to design, operate, and follow a collaborative process for the development of an application in response to a NOFA issued by HUD. As part of this collaborative process, CoCs must implement internal competition deadlines to ensure transparency and fairness at the local level. The implementation of deadlines that meet the standards outlined below for FY 2015 Project Applications will be considered as part of scoring criteria as detailed in Section VII.A.2. of this NOFA.

(1) *Project Applicants.* All project applications were required to be submitted to the CoC no later than 30 days before the application deadline.

(2) *CoC Notification to Project Applicants.* The CoC notified all project applicants no later than 15 days before the application deadline regarding whether their project applications would be submitted as part of the CoC Consolidated Application. Any project applicants that were rejected by the CoC must be notified in writing outside of *e-snaps*, with an explanation for the decision to reject the project application. CoCs that fail to provide such notice will not receive the maximum number of points available in Section VII.A.2.b. of this NOFA.

c. All applicants may access the HUD Exchange Ask A Question (AAQ) any time prior to 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time, on the application submission deadline date for FY 2015 funds. Applicants that are experiencing technical difficulty should contact the AAQ immediately for assistance and document their attempts to obtain assistance. HUD strongly encourages CoCs to allow ample time to resolve any technical difficulties that might be encountered during the submission of the application to HUD. Applicants should not wait until the final minutes before the application submission deadline to submit CoC Priority Listing.

d. In order for the CoC Consolidated Application to be considered complete and properly submitted for review by HUD in the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition, the Collaborative Applicant must submit the entire CoC Consolidated Application by the submission deadline which includes: CoC Application, the CoC Priority Listing, and the project applications on behalf of the CoC. Note that the "**Submit**" button will not be available on the Submission Summary of the CoC Application and CoC Priority Listing until all required sections of the application and all parts of the listings, including accepting and ranking with a unique rank number or rejecting project applications have been completed. Collaborative Applicants should review the Submission Summary form carefully to ensure that no sections state "Please Complete." **The CoC Application and the CoC Priority Listing are separate submissions in**

***e-snaps*; therefore, Collaborative Applicants must ensure that both the CoC Application and the CoC Priority Listing, with all project applications either approved and ranked or rejected, are submitted in *e-snaps* prior to the application submission deadline.**

e. Collaborative Applicants must print a copy of the Submission Summary form from the CoC Application and the CoC Priority Listing before closing their internet browser after the CoC Consolidated Application has been submitted to HUD. This is the Collaborative Applicant's receipt of submission and proof of compliance with the application deadline. HUD will not give funding consideration to any Collaborative Applicant whose CoC Application and/or CoC Priority Listing are determined to be late and that are unable to provide HUD with a record of submission that verifies the FY 2015 CoC Consolidated Application was submitted prior to the application deadline date and time.

f. HUD strongly suggests that applicants use the "Export to PDF" functionality of *e-snaps* to print a hard copy of all submission documents for their records. This can be completed prior to or after submission.

E. Intergovernmental Review. Not Applicable.

F. Funding Restrictions. Not Applicable.

G. Other Submission Requirements

1. **Waiver of Electronic Submission Requirements**. The regulatory framework of HUD's electronic submission requirement is the final rule established in 24 CFR 5.1005. CoCs seeking a waiver of the electronic submission requirement must request a waiver in accordance with 24 CFR 5.1005. HUD regulations allow for a waiver of the electronic submission requirement for good cause. For the Continuum of Care Program Competition, HUD is defining good cause as follows:

    a. there are no computers that could be used by applicants and/or the Collaborative Applicant that are newer than 5 years old anywhere within the CoC's geographic area; or

    b. there are no computers that could be used by applicants and/or the Collaborative Applicant anywhere within the CoC's geographic area; or

    c. there is no internet access that could be used by applicants and/or the Collaborative Applicant anywhere within the CoC's geographic area.

    HUD will grant waivers only at the CoC level and not at the individual project applicant level, and only to CoCs that were approved by HUD during the required CoC Registration process.

    If the waiver is granted, the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs' response will include instructions on how many copies of the paper application must be submitted, as well as where to submit them. CoCs that are granted a waiver of the electronic submission requirement will not be afforded additional time to submit their applications. Therefore, Collaborative Applicants seeking a waiver of the electronic submission

requirement on behalf of the CoC should submit their waiver request with sufficient time to allow HUD to process and respond to the request. Collaborative Applicants should also allow themselves sufficient time to submit the application on behalf of the CoC so that HUD receives the application by the established deadline date. For this reason, HUD strongly recommends that if a Collaborative Applicant finds it cannot submit its application electronically and must seek a waiver of the electronic grant submission requirement, it should submit the waiver request to the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs no later than 30 days after the publication date of this NOFA. To expedite the receipt and review of each request, Collaborative Applicants may fax their written requests to Norm Suchar, at (202) 401-0053. If HUD does not have sufficient time to process the waiver request, a waiver will not be granted. Paper applications received without a prior approved waiver and/or after the established deadline will not be considered.

VII. Application Review Information.

A. Criteria. CoC Consolidated Applications will be assessed on a 200 point scale, plus a possible 3 bonus points. No Collaborative Applicants have exercised the authority 422(j) of the Act; therefore, no selection criteria based on section 427(b)(1)(A)(viii) is included in this NOFA. Additionally, for purposes of the requirements of section 427 (b)(1)(B)(iv)(II) of the Act HUD considers "all relevant subpopulations" to mean families, youth, veterans, persons fleeing domestic violence, persons who are unsheltered homeless, and chronically homeless individuals and families.

1. **CoC Coordination and Engagement.** HUD will award up to 49 points to CoCs that demonstrate coordination with other systems of care that serve homeless individuals and families, including sources of funding other than the CoC Program; an inclusive and outcome-oriented community process, including an organization structure(s) and decision-making process for developing and implementing a CoC strategy that is inclusive of representatives from both the private and public sectors, has a fair and impartial project review and selection process; and has created, maintained, and built upon a community-wide inventory of housing for homeless individuals and families. HUD will award up to:

   a. *Inclusive Structure and Participation.* Up to 7 points to CoCs that clearly demonstrate that the CoC solicits and considers opinions from individuals and organizations with knowledge of homelessness in the geographic area or an interest in preventing or ending homelessness in the geographic. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that clearly demonstrate the CoC membership includes and has an open invitation process for individuals and organizations located within its geographic area that serve homeless persons, particularly victim service providers and homeless youth providers; and shows that the CoC accepts and considers proposals from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding.

   b. *CoC Commitment to Opening Doors Goals.* Up to 2 points to CoCs that clearly demonstrate the CoC has set a timeline to meet the goals of ending homelessness as defined in *Opening Doors.* The CoC must also identify the

individuals, committees, or organizations that will be responsible for ensuring the CoC meets the goals and timeline established. Maximum points will be awarded to the CoC if it clearly demonstrates the individuals, committees, or organizations selected are actively involved in the goal of ending homelessness and how their activity produces the necessary results towards this goal.

c. *Coordination with the Consolidated Plan, Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG), and Other Organizations.* Up to 8 points to CoCs that identify:

(1) Up to 2 of the 8 points to CoCs that coordinate with other organizations that serve homeless individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, and persons fleeing domestic violence. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that indicate the CoC coordinates with organizations not funded by the CoC Program. To receive maximum points CoCs must demonstrate coordination with organizations funded by Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY), Head Start programs, and other housing and service programs funded through Federal, State, local, and private processes.

(2) Up to 6 of the 8 points to CoCs that demonstrate how the CoC coordinates with each Consolidated Plan jurisdiction(s) located within its CoC geographic area and the extent to which the CoC participates and provides information to the help the Consolidated Plan jurisdiction(s) complete their plan(s). Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that demonstrates how the CoC consults with each Consolidated Plan jurisdiction(s), whether PIT count data is provided for the development or update to the Consolidated Plane, and whether the CoC provides consultation to the ESG recipient in determining the ESG funding allocation plan and performance plan, including how to evaluate and improve performance of ESG project activities.

d. *Addressing the Needs of Victims of Domestic Violence.* Up to 3 points to CoCs that demonstrate efforts to address the needs of persons fleeing domestic violence, including their families. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that clearly demonstrate how the CoC ensures that persons fleeing domestic violence are offered available safe housing and services available. CoCs will receive full points if the CoC addresses how housing and services are made available to persons fleeing domestic violence from the following programs: the CoC Program, ESG Program, programs funded by the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services.

e. *Public Housing Agencies.* Up to 3 points to CoCs that demonstrate coordination with the PHAs located in the CoC's geographic area resulting in PHAs that have admission preferences for households experiencing homelessness or can demonstrate that new PHA admissions are households that were experiencing

homelessness. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that demonstrate coordination with the PHA(s) located in the CoC's geographic area and includes documentation from the PHA (e.g., excerpt from the PHA(s) plan that specifically addresses homeless preferences or a letter from the PHA(s) that addresses homeless preferences) that must be attached to the CoC Application.

f. *Discharge Planning.* Up to 2 points to CoCs that clearly demonstrate coordination with and assistance in State or local discharge planning efforts to ensure that those discharged are not released directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance programs. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that demonstrate an active state-level or local-level discharge process is in place or has ongoing planning processes to ensure persons discharged from institutions or systems of care (i.e., health care, mental health care, and correctional facilities) are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance programs.

g. *Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System.* Up to 3 points to CoCs that demonstrate the existence of a centralized or coordinated assessment system and describe how the CoC ensures that its entire geographic area is covered by the system to ensure identification, engagement, and assistance for homeless individuals and families to ensure appropriate housing and services based on their level of need. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that demonstrate the existence of a centralized or coordinated assessment system that covers the entire CoC geographic area, is easily accessible for all persons who need homelessness assistance, has a strategy for advertising the program that is designed to specifically reach homeless persons with the highest barriers, includes a standardized assessment process, and ensures that program participants are directed to appropriate housing and services that fit their needs. The CoC must also identify the types of organizations (e.g., local government, law enforcement, CDBG/HOME/ESG entitlement jurisdictions, affordable housing developers, education authorities, mental health organizations.) that participate in the centralized or coordinated assessment system meetings to ensure the locally developed system provides the necessary support for homeless or near-homeless persons seeking housing and services.

h. *Reducing Barriers to Housing.* Up to 6 points to CoCs that demonstrate at least 75 percent of the project applications submitted under this NOFA are low barrier projects, meaning the projects allow entry to program participants that includes: low or no income, current or past substance use, criminal records–with the exceptions of restrictions imposed by federal, state or local law or ordinance (e.g., restrictions on serving people who are listed on sex offender registries), and history of domestic violence. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs where both the CoC Application and project application(s) clearly demonstrate that at least 75 percent of the project application(s) commit to operating as low barrier. Any project application(s) that indicates low barrier and is reviewed, approved, and ranked by the CoC and is awarded FY 2015 CoC Program funds will be required to operate as a low barrier project.

i. *Housing First for Permanent Housing.* Up to 6 points to CoCs that demonstrates at least 75 percent of the permanent housing (permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing) applications submitted under this NOFA are using the Housing First model (as defined in section III.A.3.e) when housing program participants in their project and that at least 75 percent of the transitional housing projects are supporting the Housing First model by providing low-barrier transitional housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions to entry (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold) and that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs where both the CoC Application and project application(s) clearly demonstrate that at least 75 percent of the permanent housing and transitional housing projects commit to use of the Housing First model described above. Any project application(s) that indicate a Housing First approach and is reviewed, approved, and ranked by the CoC that is awarded FY 2015 CoC Program funds will be required to operate as a Housing First project.

j. *Outreach.* Up to 2 points to CoCs that demonstrate recipients have implemented specific strategies that prevent criminalization of homelessness, affirmatively further fair housing as detailed in 24 CFR 578.93(c), and ensure that outreach is conducted to homeless individuals and families who are least likely to request housing or services in the absence of special outreach. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that provide information that demonstrates that 100 percent of the geographic area is covered by the strategies and that describes the specific outreach procedures in place that are used by the homeless service organizations to identify and engage homeless individuals and families, including their efforts to provide meaningful outreach to persons with disabilities and persons with limited English proficiency. Applicants must describe how they are reducing criminalization of homelessness and the procedures they will use to market their housing and supportive services to eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, familial status, or disability who are least likely to apply in the absence of special outreach.

k. *Rapid Re-housing.* Up to 4 points to CoCs that demonstrates an increase in the number of rapid re-housing units available as recorded on the 2015 HIC data submitted to HUD. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that demonstrate an increase in the number of rapid re-housing units in the CoC geographic area as reported in HDX from 2013, as reported in the FY 2013/FY 2014 CoC Application, to 2015.

l. *Mainstream Benefits.* Up to 2 points to CoCs that demonstrate homeless program participants receive assistance obtaining mainstream benefits. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that demonstrate systematically keeping program staff up-to-date regarding mainstream resources available for homeless program participants, collaboration with healthcare organizations to assist homeless program participants to enroll in health insurance, and assistance with the effective utilization of available healthcare benefits.

m. *Leveraging.* Up to 1 point to CoCs that demonstrate the extent to which the

amount of assistance to be provided will be supplemented with resources from other public and private sources, including mainstream programs. The point will be awarded to CoCs that have a minimum 150 percent in leveraging and where the project applicant(s) have attached the commitment letter(s) to their project applications and those letters are dated within 60 days of the application deadline.

2. **Project Ranking, Review, and Capacity.** HUD will award up to 26 points to CoCs that clearly demonstrates the existence of a coordinated, inclusive, and outcome-oriented community process for the solicitation, objective review, ranking, and selection of CoC Program project applications that includes a GIW that does not require revisions that would have increased the CoC's ARD after the 10-day grace period described in the Section, "Additional Overview Information, C. Amendments to FY 2015 CoC Program Registration" to accurately reflect those projects eligible for renewal, and a process by which renewal projects are reviewed for performance and compliance with 24 CFR part 578. HUD will award up to:

   a. *Objective Criteria and Past Performance.* Up to 16 points to CoCs for the extent to which it demonstrates the use of established objective criteria used to review project applications requesting CoC Program funding. Out of the available 16 points, up to 10 points will be awarded to CoCs that attach the written documentation that clearly demonstrates the CoC uses objective criteria (e.g., project type, project performance, monitoring results) in the review, ranking, and selection process for the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition. Up to 3 points are for demonstrating the consideration of past performance with CoC Program funds (or if a first-time renewal SHP or SPC funds) as evidenced by the review of renewal project APRs or other performance data (e.g., custom generated HMIS reports). Up to 3 points will be for the extent to which CoCs consider the severity of needs and vulnerabilities experienced by program participants which includes, but is not limited to: low or no income, current or past substance abuse, criminal record–with the exception of restrictions imposed by federal, state, or local law or ordinance–and chronic homelessness in the CoC Program-funded projects as these barriers relate to determining project review, selection, priority, and ranking.

   b. *Ranking and Selection Process.* Up to 3 points to CoCs that demonstrate the use of a ranking and selection process for project applications that is publicly announced by the CoC, including published written policies and procedures that include maintaining dated meeting minutes for all meetings that pertain to the CoC's local competition process. The CoC will be required to submit written documentation of a rating and ranking/review process for all projects (new and renewal). This may be published written policies and procedures for this CoC Program Competition in the CoC governance charter or a standalone document. Evidence of the rating and ranking/review process decision must be presented via dated meeting minutes, and evidence that the meeting minutes were made available to the CoC's full membership. Additionally, to receive maximum points, the CoC must post on its website all parts of the CoC Consolidated Application, including the Priority Listing with all project applications accepted and ranked or rejected and all attachments that will be submitted to HUD, a minimum of 2 days before the application submission deadline and notify

community members and key stakeholders that the application and priority listings are available. CoCs that do not have a website must post this information to a partner website within the CoC (e.g., county/city website). In the event that HUD is notified and confirms that a CoC did not notify project applicants who submitted their project applications to the CoC by the required deadline whether their project application(s) were accepted or rejected in writing, outside of *e-snaps* and including the reasons for the rejection–no later than 15 days before the application deadline, the CoC will automatically receive 0 points for this selection criteria. If a project applicant appeals the decision by the CoC to reject its project application(s) because it believes it was denied the right to participate in the local CoC planning process in a reasonable manner, HUD will follow the process outlined in 24 CFR 578.35(b) and Section X of this NOFA. This could result in HUD electing to fund the appealed project by de-funding or cutting other project(s), including renewal projects, within the CoC.

c. *Recipient Performance Monitoring.* Up to 4 points to CoCs that demonstrate they monitor the project performance of grants and capacity of recipients whose renewal grants are included on the Project Listing in the CoC's FY 2015 CoC Application. To receive maximum points, the CoC must have monitored the renewing project applicants and projects for utilization rates, increasing housing stability, participant eligibility, length of time homeless, destination upon program exit, increasing participant income, and connecting program participants to mainstream benefits. The CoC must describe the criteria and processes it uses for monitoring recipients, including how the CoC assesses project capacity to implement CoC Program requirements (e.g., timely submission of APRs, timely draws from LOCCS.) in order to successfully carry out the requirements of the Act, 24 CFR part 578, and local CoC priorities.

d. *Accuracy of GIW.* 1 point to CoCs that attach a GIW that was finalized either during the CoC Program Registration process, or if applicable, during the 10-day grace period following the publication of this NOFA that did not require revisions that would have increased the CoC's ARD after the 10-day grace period described in the Additional Overview Information, C. of this NOFA to accurately reflect those projects eligible for renewal.

e. *Accuracy of Project Submissions.* Up to 2 points to CoCs that accurately and completely include all submitted project applications on the form HUD-2991, Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan and confirms that all of the CoC's project recipients have an up-to-date, accurate, and complete HUD Form 50070, Drug Free Workplace and HUD-2880, Applicant/Recipient Disclosure attached to the appropriate Project Applicant Profile in *e-snaps.* The forms must be dated between July 1, 2015 and November 20, 2015 and signed by the authorized person(s) in the CoC's geographic area in order to receive points. If any of these forms are missing entirely, missing information, incorrectly dated, or not signed by the correct authorizing official, the CoC will receive 0 points.

3. Homeless Management Information System. HUD will award up to 18 points to CoCs that clearly demonstrate the existence of a functioning HMIS that facilitates the

collection of information on homelessness using residential and other homeless services and stores that data in an electronic format. HUD will award:

a. *HMIS Governance.* Up to 2 points to CoCs that have in place a governance charter that addresses the policies and procedures necessary to meet the HMIS requirements established by HUD. These policies may be incorporated directly into the governance charter or prepared in a separate document and incorporated by reference into the governance charter. To receive maximum points, the CoC and the HMIS Lead must also have a formal written agreement, a memorandum of understanding or a memorandum of agreement that clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of the CoC and HMIS Lead. A copy of the sections of the governance charter addressing the HMIS policies and procedures (or the document incorporated by reference) and the agreement or memorandum must be attached to the CoC Application in *e-snaps.*

b. *HMIS Policy and Procedures.* 3 points to CoCs that adopt and follow an HMIS Policy and Procedures Manual that includes signed agreements that specify the roles and responsibilities of the HMIS Lead and the Contributing HMIS Organizations (CHOs). A copy of the HMIS Policy and Procedures must be attached to the CoC Application in *e-snaps.*

c. *Housing Inventory Count (HIC).* 1 point to CoCs that submitted the 2015 HIC data in the HDX by the May 15, 2015 submission deadline. If a CoC did not submit the 2015 HIC by May 15, 2015, the CoC will receive 0 points.

d. *Bed Coverage.* Up to 4 points to CoCs that recorded 86 percent or higher for the bed coverage rate in the CoC's geographic area. CoCs will be assessed on the bed coverage rate for each housing type within the CoC that includes: emergency shelter, safe haven, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, and other permanent housing beds that are dedicated to serve homeless persons (e.g., Veterans Affairs programs, HOPWA). The bed coverage rate is the number of HMIS participating beds divided by the number of year-round beds dedicated to homeless persons in the geographic area covered by the CoC. Beds funded by victim service providers must not be included in this calculation. Further, if the bed coverage rate is 0-64 percent, the CoC must provide clear steps on how it intends to increase this percentage over the next 12 months to receive partial credit.

e. *Data Quality.* Up to 4 points to CoCs that reports the number of unduplicated client records with null or missing values for the Universal Data Elements on a single day, as selected by the CoC, within the last 10 days of January 2015. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that have below 10 percent null or missing values and below10 percent of refused or unknown values for the Universal Data Elements as recorded in the HMIS based on the number of unduplicated client records based on a single day, selected by the CoC, within the last 10 days of January 2015; demonstrates that HMIS data is reviewed at least quarterly, and provides standardized HMIS data quality reports for the CoC and CHOs.

f. *Required HMIS Reports.* Up to 4 points to CoCs that demonstrates it is able to generate HUD required reports (e.g., CoC Annual Performance Report, ESG Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), and HIC. HUD will award 2 of the 4 points to CoCs that demonstrate all tables submitted to HUD were accepted and used in the last AHAR.

4. Point-in-Time Count. HUD will award up to 9 points to CoCs related to the collection, use, and submission of 2015 PIT count data. HUD will award:

a. *PIT Count and Data Submission.* Up to 3 points to CoCs that conducted a PIT count and reported the data in HDX. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that:

(1) conducted a sheltered and unsheltered PIT count during the last 10 days January 2015, or if an exception was requested and provided to HUD during the time period agreed upon by the CoC and HUD; and

(2) submitted the PIT data for 2015 in HDX by May 15, 2015.

b. *Methodology for Sheltered PIT Count.* Up to 2 points to CoCs for the CoC's ability to collect and report data on sheltered homeless during the 2015 PIT count that includes the methods used to ensure an accurate count of homeless individuals and families, including subpopulation information, and the processes in place to ensure data quality and whether there were any changes to the methodology used from the 2014 sheltered count.

c. *Methodology for Unsheltered PIT Count.* Up to 2 points to CoCs for its ability to collect and report thorough, accurate, and quality data on unsheltered homelessness to ensure data quality, reducing the occurrence of counting unsheltered homeless more than once during a 2015 PIT count, and whether there were any changes from the previous unsheltered count (2013 or 2014).

d. *Commitment to Conducting a 2016 Unsheltered PIT Count.* 2 points to CoCs that commits to conducting an unsheltered PIT count in the last 10 days of January 2016. A CoC that affirmatively states it will conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2016 and requests a CoC planning project that passes eligibility and threshold will be required to conduct a 2016 unsheltered PIT count. If the CoC does not conduct a 2016 PIT count, the CoC planning project funds will be withdrawn and a grant agreement will not be issued. CoCs that do not commit to an unsheltered PIT count in 2016 will receive 0 points.

5. System Performance. HUD will award up to 38 points based on CoC system-wide performance related to reducing homelessness within the CoC's defined geographic area. HUD will award:

a. *Reducing the Number of Homeless Individuals and Families.* Up to 9 points to CoCs that demonstrate an overall reduction the number of individuals and families who experience homelessness. The information provided for both

sheltered and unsheltered homeless based on the criteria below will be verified against the information submitted to the HDX. To receive maximum points:

(1) the CoC must demonstrate a decrease in the number of sheltered homeless individuals and families since the 2014 PIT compared to the 2015 PIT as recorded in HDX; and

(2) the CoC must demonstrate a decrease in the number of unsheltered homeless individuals and families since the previous PIT (2013 or 2014) count compared to the 2015 PIT as recorded in HDX.

b. *Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless.* Up to 2 points for a CoC that demonstrates how it is working to reduce the number of individuals and families who become homeless for the first time. Maximum points will be awarded to CoCs that identify the process by which risk factors are identified in its community for becoming homeless for the first time and clearly describe the strategies and partnerships in place to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless.

c. *Length of Time Homeless.* Up to 6 points to CoCs that provide information to HUD on the length of time individuals and families remain homeless and specifically describes how the length of time individuals and families remain homeless has been reduced in the CoC's geographic area and the ongoing efforts that the CoC will carry out to continue to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless. To receive maximum points, a CoC must provide a narrative that describes specific efforts currently used to track and record the length of time individuals and families have remained homeless and the planning process to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless. The narrative must indicate how data from CoC and ESG funded projects are considered, particularly in relation to the identification of and provision of housing for individuals and families with the longest length of time homeless.

d. *Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention.* Up to 8 points to CoCs on the extent to which projects exit program participants into permanent housing (subsidized or non-subsidized) or the retention of program participants in CoC Program-funded permanent supportive housing. To receive maximum points, a CoC must demonstrate that 80 percent of persons who exit CoC program-funded transitional housing, supportive services only, and rapid re-housing projects exit to a permanent housing destination and that 80 percent of people in CoC program-funded permanent supportive housing remain for at least 12 months.

e. *Returns to Homelessness.* Up to 5 points to CoCs that provide information to HUD on the extent to which individuals and families leaving homelessness experience additional spells of homelessness and specifically describe how the number of individuals and families who return to homelessness will be reduced in the community. In order to receive maximum points, CoCs will be assessed on the strategies that have been implemented to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness and the strategies that will reduce the number of additional

returns to homeless. Additionally, CoCs must demonstrate the use of HMIS, or a comparable database, within the CoC to monitor and record returns to homelessness by program participants who exit rapid re-housing, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing.

f. *Jobs and Income Growth.* Up to 5 points to CoCs that demonstrate specific strategies in place to assist its CoC Program-funded projects increase program participants' incomes from employment and non-employment sources and whose CoC-funded projects have increased program participants' income from employment and non-employment sources. To receive maximum points, CoCs must describe the strategies that have been implemented to access employment and mainstream benefits, how CoC Program-funded projects have been assisted to implement the strategies, and the CoC Program-funded projects' success at increasing program participant income from employment and mainstream benefits. For applicants that plan to use funding for construction and/or rehabilitation, to receive the maximum points, the applicant must include information that describes the actions that will be taken by recipients that receive the project funding to 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 135 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. This does not affect the applicants' existing responsibilities to provide training, employment, and other economic opportunities pursuant to Section 3 that result from their receipt of other HUD funding.

b. *Thoroughness of Outreach.* Up to 3 points to CoCs that demonstrate the ability to identify and engage unsheltered homeless individuals and families that encompass the entire CoC geographic area. CoCs that cover geographic areas that include uninhabited areas (e.g. deserts, mountain ranges, wetlands) or that include large mountainous or rural areas must describe the criteria and decisions-making process that the CoC used to identify and exclude specific geographic areas from the 2015 unsheltered count.

6. Performance and Strategic Planning. HUD will award up to 60 points based on the CoC's plan for and progress towards reducing homelessness within its geographic area and decreasing the number of recurrences of homelessness.

As found in section 427(b)(1)(A) of the Act, CoCs will be evaluated on performance related to reducing homelessness, including performance for projects funded through the ESG program in the geographic area. Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act outlines required selection criteria regarding the CoC's plan to meet specific goals. HUD will award a minimum of 30 out of the 60 points available in this section to CoCs with projects that have been impacted by a major disaster, as declared under Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Act that occurred in the 12 months prior to the publication of this NOFA. Those CoCs in impacted areas must notify HUD in writing prior to the close of this FY

2015 CoC Program Competition. Send written notification to Norm Suchar, Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs, at CoCDisaster@hud.gov..

HUD will award points based on the following criteria:

a. *Ending Chronic Homelessness.* HUD will award up to 15 points to CoCs for demonstrating the extent to which they are ending chronic homelessness by 2017. CoCs will be evaluated based on the extent to which it is making progress to achieve this goal within the specified time frame. HUD will award points for each of the following:

(1) Up to 2 points to CoCs that demonstrate the strategies set forth in the FY 2013/FY 2014 CoC Application were accomplished.

(2) Up to 6 points to CoCs that demonstrate that chronically homeless individuals and families will be prioritized in permanent supportive housing that is not dedicated for chronically homeless individuals and families. 3 of the 6 points will be awarded to CoCs that have adopted the order of priority described in *Notice CPD 14-012: Prioritizing Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness in Permanent Supportive Housing and Recordkeeping Requirements for Documenting Chronic Homeless Status* as evidenced in the CoC's written standards. Up to 3 of the 6 points will be awarded to CoCs based on the percentage of CoC Program-funded permanent supportive housing that becomes available through turnover will be prioritized for chronically homeless individuals or families. To receive all three points, at least 85 percent of CoC Program-funded permanent supportive housing beds that become available through turnover must be prioritized for chronically homeless individuals and families.

(3) Up to 2 points to CoCs that increase or maintain the total number of PSH beds (from any funding source) that were identified as dedicated for use by chronically homeless individuals and families in the 2015 HIC, as compared to those identified in the 2014 HIC.

(4) Up to 5 points to CoCs for reducing the number of chronically homeless individuals and families in the CoC, as reported by the CoC in the 2015 PIT count compared to the 2014 PIT count (or the 2013 PIT count if an unsheltered count was not conducted in 2014). Maximum points to CoCs that are able to demonstrate a decrease in both the total number of chronically homeless individuals and families as well as a decrease in the total unsheltered chronic homeless population. CoCs must explain any increase or no change to the number of chronically homeless individuals and families in the CoC.

b. *Ending Homelessness Among Households with Children.* HUD will award up to 15 points to CoCs based on the extent to which they will end homelessness among households with children by 2020. CoCs will be evaluated based on the extent to which they are making progress to achieve this goal within the

specified time frame. HUD will award:

(1) Up to 3 points to CoCs that prioritize households with children based on need, including factors such as: vulnerability to victimization, number of previous homeless episodes, unsheltered homeless, criminal history, bad credit or rental history.

(2) Up to 3 points to CoCs based on the local plan to rapidly re-house households with children within 30 days of those families becoming homeless.

(3) Up to 5 points to CoCs for the implementation of a rapid re-housing model that will reduce the number of homeless households with children and demonstrated an increase in the number of rapid re-housing units available to serve families based on the rapid re-housing units reported in the 2014 HIC when compared to the 2015 HIC.

(4) Up to 2 points to CoCs for ensuring emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing–permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing–projects within the CoC do not deny admission to or separate family members when they enter shelter or housing.

(5) Up to 2 points to CoCs that demonstrate the total number of homeless households with children and youth, as reported in the 2015 PIT count compared to 2014 (or 2013 if an unsheltered count was not conducted in 2014) has decreased. CoCs must explain any increase or no change to the number of homeless household with children and youth in the CoC.

c. *Ending Youth Homelessness.* HUD will award up to 15 points to CoCs based on the extent to which it is making progress towards ending homelessness among unaccompanied youth by 2020. HUD will award:

(1) Up to 5 points to CoCs for strategies that address the unique needs of unaccompanied homeless youth and the existence of a proven strategy that addresses homeless youth trafficking and other forms of exploitation.

(2) Up to 5 points to CoCs that demonstrate an increase, as recorded in the HMIS data field "residence prior to entry" from October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014, in the number of unaccompanied homeless youth (up to age 24) served who were residing on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation prior to entering a homeless project.

(3) Up to 3 points to CoCs that demonstrate a proposed plan to increase funding for unaccompanied youth homeless programs in Calendar Year 2016.

(4) Up to 1 point to CoCs that specifically describe how it collaborates with local education authorities and school districts in the geographic area to assist in the identification of individuals and families who become or remain homeless and are informed of the eligibility of services under

subtitle B of title VII of the Act (42 U.S.C. 11432, *et seq.*). This includes demonstrating that the CoC has established policies that require homeless providers funded by both the CoC and ESG programs, to ensure all children are enrolled in early childhood programs or in school and connected to appropriate services in the community.

(5) Up to 1 point to CoCs that demonstrate the extent in which youth service and education representatives and CoC representatives have participated in each other's meetings over the past 12 months. Additionally, the CoC will describe how the CoC collaborates with the McKinney-Vento local education liaisons and State education coordinators.

d. *Ending Veteran Homelessness.* HUD will award up to 15 points to CoCs for the extent to which it is making progress towards ending veteran homelessness by the end of calendar year 2015. HUD will award:

(1) Up to 7 points to CoCs that demonstrate the total number of homeless veterans in the CoC, as reported in the 2015 PIT count compared to 2014 (or 2013 if an unsheltered count was not conducted in 2014) has decreased. CoCs must explain any increase or no change to the number of homeless veterans in the CoC.

(2) Up to 3 points to CoCs that demonstrate a 75 percent reduction in the total number of homeless veterans and unsheltered homeless veterans as reported in the 2015 PIT count, compared to 2010 (or 2009 if an unsheltered count was not conducted in 2010).

(3) Up to 2 point to CoCs that demonstrate it identifies, assesses, and refers homeless veterans who are eligible for Veterans Affairs services and housing to appropriate resources such as HUD-VASH and SSVF.

(4) Up to 3 point to CoCs that demonstrate how the CoC is prioritizing CoC Program-funded resources that serve veterans who are not eligible for homeless assistance through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs programs.

7. Bonus Points. HUD will award 3 bonus points to CoCs that submit the FY 2015 CoC Consolidated Application by 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time on November 19, 2015. In order to receive these points, the Collaborative Applicant must submit the CoC Consolidated Application–CoC Application **and** CoC Priority Listing with all project applications either accepted and ranked or rejected–no later than 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time on November 19, 2015. HUD will review the date and time stamp that appears beside both the CoC Application and the CoC Priority Listing in *e*-snaps to determine if both submissions were received by 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time on November 19, 2015.

8. CoCs That Have Claimed the Same Geographic Area (Competing CoCs). There are no CoCs that claimed the same geographic area as determined by the FY 2015 CoC Program Registration process; therefore, there are no competing CoCs.

VIII. Project Review and Selection Process

A. Review, Rating, and Ranking. Two types of reviews will be conducted–selection criteria rating for the overall CoC Application and threshold review for project applicants and project applications. For new projects, the review process will consider applicant and sponsor eligibility and capacity, project eligibility, and project quality as part of the threshold review. The renewal project threshold review will consider applicant and sponsor capacity and eligibility. The renewal project threshold reviews are explained in Section V.F.2.e. of this NOFA, which covers eligible applicants and projects.

HUD may employ rating panels to review and rate all or part of the CoC Applications according to the rating criteria in Section VII. of this NOFA. See the General Section of HUD's FY 2015 NOFA for more information on rating panels.

1. *Threshold Review: Applicant and subrecipient eligibility, capacity, and quality.* HUD will review project applications to determine whether applicants and subrecipients meet the eligibility and capacity thresholds, and whether the projects meet the eligibility and project quality thresholds detailed in Section V.F.2.d. and V.F.2.e. of this NOFA. If HUD determines these standards are not met, the project will be rejected from the competition. If a new project receives sufficient points to pass the project quality threshold review described in Sections V.F.2.e.(1),(2), (3) or (4) of this NOFA, as applicable, but does not meet one or more of the criteria within the rating factors, then HUD may place conditions on the grant award and the applicant must demonstrate that the criteria will be met before HUD will execute a grant agreement with the applicant for the project. If an applicant is unable to demonstrate that the project quality threshold criteria are met within the time frame specified by HUD, HUD reserves the right not to withdraw the conditionally awarded funds.

2. *Conditional Selection and Adjustments to Funding.* HUD will conditionally select project applications for funding using the following process:

a. *CoC planning projects.* HUD will conditionally select all CoC planning projects that pass eligibility and threshold review.

b. *UFA Costs projects.* HUD will conditionally select all UFA Costs projects submitted.

c. *Projects fully in Tier 1.* HUD will conditionally select projects that are fully within Tier 1 that pass eligibility and threshold, based on CoC score beginning with the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC. As stated in Section II.B.15. of this NOFA, if the available funding under this NOFA is reduced, a reduction will be made to all CoC's Tier 1 amount proportionately which would result in lower ranked Tier 1 projects falling into Tier 2.

d. *Projects in Tier 2.* HUD will conditionally select projects that pass eligibility and threshold review in Tier 2 using the criteria in Section II.B.16. of this NOFA. HUD will select projects in order of point value until there are no more funds available. In the case of a tie, HUD will fund the projects in the

order of CoC application score. In case there is still a tie, HUD will select the project from the CoC that has the highest score on the rating factors described in Section VII.A.5.a.

B. Adjustments to Funding. HUD may adjust the selection of competitive projects as follows:

1. The FMRs used in calculating award amounts will be those in effect at the time the of application submission deadline.

2. *Geographic Diversity*. HUD has determined that geographic diversity is an appropriate consideration in selecting homeless assistance projects in the competition. HUD believes that geographic diversity can be achieved best by awarding grants to as many CoCs as possible. To this end, in instances where any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa do not have at least one funded CoC, HUD reserves the right to fund eligible project(s) with the highest total score in the CoC.

3. *Funding Diversity*. HUD reserves the right to reduce the amount of a grant, if necessary, to ensure that no more than 10 percent of assistance made available under this NOFA will be awarded for projects located within any one unit of general local government or within the geographic area covered by any one CoC.

4. If HUD exercises a right it has reserved under this NOFA, that right will be exercised uniformly across all applications received in response to this NOFA.

5. *Tie-breaking Rules.* In the case of a tie, HUD will fund the projects in the order of CoC application score. In case there is still a tie, HUD will select the project from the CoC that has the highest score on the rating factors described in Section VII.A.5.a.

C. Corrections to Deficient Applications. HUD will exercise the authority for curing deficiencies as provided in the General Section of HUD's FY 2015 NOFA, if needed, on a consistent and uniform basis for all CoCs and applicants. Correction of technical deficiencies must be received by HUD within 7 calendar days after notification is received by the applicant from HUD via email or fax. The start of the cure period will be the date stamp on the email HUD sends to the authorized representative as noted in the Project Applicant Profile in *e*-snaps; therefore, it is critical that the project applicant's authorized representative's information is accurate. Additionally, HUD reserves the right to respond to unanticipated system defects, ambiguities, and technical difficulties in application submissions in *e-snaps* through a flexible implementation of its authority to cure application deficiencies through written inquires seeking clarification and additional information (also known as callbacks). Upon proper publication in the *Federal Register*, HUD reserves the right to extend the competition deadline for good cause.

IX. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

1. Action on Conditionally Selected Applications. HUD will notify conditionally selected applicants in writing. HUD may subsequently request conditionally selected applicants to submit additional project information–which may include

documentation to show the project is financially feasible; documentation of firm commitments for match; documentation showing site control; information necessary for HUD to perform an environmental review, where HUD determines to do so in accordance with 24 CFR 58.11(d); a copy of the organization's Code of Conduct; and such other documentation as specified by HUD in writing–to the application, that confirms or clarifies information provided in the application. HUD will require the submission of the additional project information no later than 30 days after the date of the letter for such information, except as otherwise provided in 24 CFR 578.21(c). If an applicant is unable to meet any conditions for fund award within the specified time frame, HUD reserves the right not to award funds to the applicant and add those funds to the funds available for the next competition.

2. **Applicant Debriefing**. See the General Section of HUD's FY 2015 NOFA for applicant debriefing procedures.

3. **Appeals Process**. Applicants may appeal funding decisions only as provided in 24 CFR 578.35. See Section X of this NOFA regarding the CoC Program specific process for appeals.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. Administrative and Other Program Requirements

a. Federal agencies are required to measure the performance of their programs. HUD captures this information not only from monitoring visits and APRs, but also on the data gathered in annual competitions. HUD's homeless assistance programs are being measured in FY 2015 by the objective to "end chronic homelessness and to move the homeless to permanent housing." HUD has chosen six indicators which directly relate to the CoC Program. These six indicators, as described below, will be collected in the FY 2015 CoC Application:

(1) The creation of new PSH beds for chronically homeless individuals and families;

(2) The decrease in the number of chronically homeless individuals and families in the CoC's geography;

(3) The increase of employment of the homeless residing in or exiting HUD homeless assistance projects;

(4) The increase of the use of mainstream resources for the homeless residing or exiting from HUD homeless assistance projects;

(5) The percentage of turnover in CoC Program-funded PSH not dedicated to chronically homeless that will be prioritized to serve chronically homeless individuals and families; and

(6) The percentage of individuals and households with children that are served in rapid re-housing that came from unsheltered locations.

b. *Procurement of Recovered Materials*. See Section VI.B.5. of the General Section of HUD's FY 2015 NOFA and the interim rule at 24 CFR 578.99(b) for further information.

c. Reference the General Section of HUD's FY 2015 NOFA for other administrative requirements.

2. Timeliness Standards. The FY 2015 HUD Appropriations Act requires HUD to obligate FY 2015 CoC Program funds by September 30, 2017. Obligated funds remain available for expenditure until September 30, 2022. However, HUD reserves the right to require an earlier expenditure deadline under a grant agreement. The applicant is expected to initiate the approved projects promptly in accordance with the requirements of this section of this NOFA. Grant terms, and associated grant operations, may not extend beyond the availability of funds. Applicants must plan accordingly and only submit applications that can start operations in a timely manner with sufficient time to complete post award process within the awarded grant term. In addition, HUD will take action if the grantee fails to satisfy the timeliness standards found in 24 CFR 578.85.

3. Reporting

a. In accordance with program regulations at 24 CFR 578.103, applicants must maintain records and within the time frame required, make any reports, including those pertaining to race, ethnicity, gender, and disability status that HUD may require. CoC applicants may report this data as part of their APR submission to HUD. Also, recipients who expend $750,000 or more in 1 year in Federal awards are reminded they must have a single or program-specific audit for that year in accordance with the provisions of 2 CFR part 200, subpart F.

b. *Section 3 Reporting Regulations.* Pursuant to 24 CFR 135.3(a)(2), the Section 3 requirements apply to housing and community development assistance that is used for housing rehabilitation, housing construction and other public constructions. Recipients of CoC Program funds must submit Form HUD-60002 to the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) at the time they submit their APR to the Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs. This form can be completed electronically at www.hud.gov/section3.

c. Award notices may also include requirements for sub-award reporting in compliance with the requirements of the Federal Financial Assistance Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-282) (Transparency Act) and Section 872 of the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (Pub. L. 110-417), referred to as "Section 872." See the General Section for further information.

X. Appeals.

A. Description. The process for appeal options are found at 24 CFR 578.35. Sections

578.35(b)(3), (b)(4), (c)(1), and (d)(2) authorize HUD to establish requirements for the form and manner of submissions for appeals by Solo Applicants, applicants with denied or decreased funding, and from competing CoCs. For HUD to consider an appeal under 24 CFR 578.35(b) or (c), the applicant must follow the applicable process set forth in this NOFA. In addition, this NOFA provides guidance to CoCs and applicants regarding appeals of a jurisdiction's refusal to sign the Consolidated Plan certification for a project under 24 CFR 578.35(c).

Additionally, HUD is clarifying the impact that Solo Applicant appeals will have on HUD signing grant agreements for FY 2015 funds awarded under this NOFA. If HUD receives one or more Solo Applicant appeals from a CoC for FY 2015 funds, then HUD will determine the amount of funding that the Solo Applicant(s) have requested; and HUD, will delay signing grant agreements for the awarded project(s) listed at the bottom of the CoC's Priority Listing that have requested funding for FY 2015 equal to double the amount requested by the Solo Applicant(s). Refer to the Solo Applicant appeal process set forth in this NOFA for additional information about the Solo Application appeal process.

Finally, for the purposes of the appeals identified in this NOFA where 24 CFR 578.35 requires that all evidence be sent to the CoC and that the CoC respond to evidence, this means that correspondence to the CoC should be addressed to the CoC designated Collaborative Applicant and all correspondence to HUD from the CoC should be addressed from the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant. If the CoC has authorized another entity other than the Collaborative Applicant to respond to the appeals identified in this NOFA on its behalf, it should notify HUD by sending an email to snapsappeals@hud.gov.

B. Types of Appeals. Provisions at 24 CFR part 578 set forth the following types of appeals:

1. **Solo Applicants.** A process for eligible project applicants that attempted to participate in their CoC planning process and believe they were denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner.

2. **Denied or Decreased Funding.** A process for eligible applicants that are denied funds by HUD, or that requested more funds than HUD awarded to them.

3. **Consolidated Plan Certification.** A process for eligible applicants whose jurisdiction refused to provide a Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan (form HUD-2990).

4. **Competing CoCs.** A process when more than one CoC claims the same geographic area for eligible applicants of lower scoring CoCs, to appeal to HUD's decision to fund the competing CoC. **There were no Competing CoCs for FY 2015 funds; therefore, this NOFA does not address the process for appealing HUD's decision to award the competing CoC.**

C. Solo Applicant. Project applicants that attempted to participate in the CoC planning process for FY 2015 funds in the geographic area in which they operate, that believe they were denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner may appeal the CoC decision not to include their project application in the CoC Priority Listing for FY 2015 funds. In order to appeal, the project applicant must have submitted a Solo Application for funding to HUD, in

e-snaps by the application submission deadline of November 20, 2015 by 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time. With the project application submitted in *e-snaps*, the project applicant must have attached a written notice of their intent to appeal in *e-snaps.* At the time the application and notice of intent to appeal are submitted to HUD through *e-snaps*, the project applicant must also provide a copy of the notice of intent to appeal to the CoC. The copy should be addressed to the authorized representative from the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant. Additionally, HUD encourages the project applicant to share a copy of the notice of intent to appeal to the chair of the CoC Board or the Chair of another CoC leadership committee. This notice of intent to appeal should be sent by email, from the organization's email address, or by mail, on the organization's letterhead and signed by the authorized representative.

The appeals process for FY 2015 funds is as follows:

1. **Written Notice of Intent to Appeal.** With the FY 2015 project application that is submitted through *e-snaps* by the application deadline, the project applicant must also submit a written notice of intent to appeal. At the time the application and notice of intent to appeal are submitted to HUD through *e-snaps*, the project applicant must also provide a copy of the notice of intent to appeal to the CoC. The copy should be addressed to the authorized representative from the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant. Additionally, HUD encourages the project applicant to share a copy of the notice of intent to appeal to the chair of the CoC Board or the Chair of another CoC leadership committee. Once the project applicant submits an appeal, the project applicant is thereafter known as a Solo Applicant.

2. **Evidence Supporting Appeal.** Between November 20, 2015 at 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time and December 21, 2015 at 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time, the Solo Applicant must submit any evidence indicating that the CoC did not allow the Solo Applicant to participate in the CoC planning process in a reasonable manner to HUD by email to snapsappeals@hud.gov. Solo Applicants must submit all evidence by email, from the Solo Applicant's organization's email address, on the Solo Applicant's letterhead to HUD and to the authorized representative from the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant. Additionally, HUD encourages the project applicant to share a copy of the notice of intent to appeal to the chair of the CoC Board or the Chair of another CoC leadership committee.

   HUD will only consider one submission from the Solo Applicant. If HUD receives more than one submission from any Solo Applicant, HUD will only consider the first submission it receives and will not review any subsequent submissions; therefore, it is important that the Solo Applicant include all relevant evidence that it intends HUD to consider in its initial submission.

   The Solo Applicant should include all evidence that it believes supports its claim that it was not allowed to participate in the CoC planning process in a reasonable manner; however, at a minimum, the evidence submitted to support the appeal request should include the following information:

   a. the notification process used by the CoC to provide public notification of all planning meetings;

b. the invitation process used by the CoC to invite new members to join the CoC;

c. the number of CoC planning meetings the Solo Applicant attended between November 1, 2014 and October 31, 2015;

d. the role the Solo Applicant played as a member of its local CoC;

e. the portion of the CoC's governance charter containing the collaborative process used to develop and approve the submission of applications for the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition; and,

f. the selection process used to rate and rank project applications for FY 2015 funds in this NOFA.

In the information submitted to HUD, the Solo Applicant must include documentation that identifies the person to whom within the CoC the evidence was sent and the date on which it was sent.

3. **CoC Response.** No later than 30 days after the date the CoC receives the evidence from the solo applicant, the CoC must send a response to HUD with a copy to the solo applicant. The CoC must submit its written response by email, from the organization's email address on the organization's letterhead and signed by the authorized representative. If HUD receives more than one written response, HUD will only consider the first response it receives and will not considered any subsequent responses.

   The response must include information and documentation that addresses each of the solo applicant's claims that the Solo Applicant was denied the right to participate in the CoC planning process in a reasonable manner. In the information submitted to HUD, the CoC must include documentation that the response was sent to the Solo Applicant and the date on which it was sent.

4. **HUD Decision and Notification of Decision.** HUD will review the evidence submitted by the Solo Applicant and the written response from the Collaborative Applicant to determine whether the Solo Applicant was permitted to participate in the CoC's planning process in a reasonable manner.

   a. If the CoC fails to submit a written response, then HUD will consider the evidence submitted by the Solo Applicant to make its decision. HUD will also consider whether the Solo Applicant complied with 24 CFR 578.35 and with the requirements established in and guidance provided in this NOFA.

   b. If HUD finds that the Solo Applicant was permitted to participate in the CoC's planning process in a reasonable manner, then the Solo Applicant will not receive funding for its project application.

   c. If HUD finds that the Solo Applicant was not permitted to participate in the CoC's planning process in a reasonable manner, then HUD will review the project application to determine whether it meets the quality and eligibility thresholds set forth in the CoC Program NOFA. If the project meets all quality and eligibility thresholds, then the Solo Applicant will receive funding directly from HUD, for

the project. However, because a CoC is prohibited from receiving more total funding than was awarded in the CoC Program Competition, HUD will reduce or eliminate funding for the awarded project(s) listed at the bottom of the CoC's Priority Listing for FY 2015 funds until the CoC's total FY 2015 award amount, including the solo applicant's project, is within the total amount awarded originally approved by HUD.

d. HUD will provide written notification, by email, of its decision to the authorized representative from the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant and the Solo Applicant within 60 days of the date of the receipt of the Collaborative Applicant's response. Where the CoC failed to submit a response, HUD will provide written notification within 90 days of its receipt of the evidence submitted by the Solo Applicant. The CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant should share HUD's written notification with the CoC and the CoC Board or other relevant CoC leadership committee or workgroup. If HUD determines that the Solo Applicant will receive funding, then HUD will consider the project application for funding in the FY 2015 CoC Program Competition in accordance with the review standards set for in this NOFA. HUD will also provide the list of project(s) whose funding will be reduced or eliminated to accommodate the Solo Applicant's project in the notification sent to the CoC.

D. Denied or Decreased Funding. Eligible applicants, including project applicants and Collaborative Applicants, that submitted an application to HUD in response to this NOFA, that were either not awarded funds by HUD, or that requested more funds than HUD awarded, may appeal HUD's decision. Only those applicants with projects that were ranked within the CoC's maximum amount available will be considered for funding or additional funding.

To appeal HUD's decision, the applicant must submit a written appeal to HUD, with a copy to the authorized representative from the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant. The written appeal must include evidence demonstrating HUD error and follow the instructions in this section.

Note: HUD may correct any funding errors that it identifies, per Section VI.B.3 of the Notice of FY 2015 Policy Requirements and General Section to HUD's FY 2015 NOFAs for Discretionary Programs (General Section), outside of the process outlined below for denied or decreased funding. This includes any technical errors to CoCs score that may have impacted the funding of its projects.

The applicant must submit its written appeal by email to snapsappeals@hud.gov, from the organization's email address on the organization's letterhead and signed by the authorized representative. The appeal process is as follows:

1. **Denied Funding.** To appeal HUD's decision, the applicant must submit a written appeal to HUD using the process outlined in Section X.F. of this NOFA within 45 days of the date of the announcement of the conditional awards from HUD, with a copy to the authorized representative from the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant.

a. Projects, including projects for CoC planning funds and Unified Funding Agency (UFA) costs, could have been rejected by HUD because:

(1) the individual project application failed to meet eligibility and quality thresholds set forth in this NOFA;

(2) the individual project application met eligibility and quality thresholds set forth in this NOFA, but was ranked in a position where a portion of the grant funds were outside the CoC's maximum award amount, and after HUD reduced its funding to fit within the CoC's maximum award amount, HUD determined that the project was no longer feasible; or

(3) HUD did not have sufficient funding to fund all eligible projects ranked within the CoC's maximum award amount.

b. For applicants that were fully denied funding for a grant, the applicant must provide evidence that demonstrates HUD error in not awarding the grant. Documentation submitted by the applicant must include:

(1) documentation that the project was ranked within the maximum award amount available to the CoC;

(2) evidence from the project application supporting the applicant's claim that the project application met eligibility and quality thresholds set forth in this NOFA; and

(3) evidence that the applicant believes HUD failed to follow its selection priorities set forth in this NOFA which resulted in the project not being funded (e.g., selecting a lower-scored project within the CoC or a similar project from another CoC).

c. For applicants that were denied funding due to the individual project's funding being decreased to such a level that the project was no longer feasible, documentation submitted by the applicant must include the evidence in the Additional Overview Information Section, G. Local Competition Deadlines of this NOFA as well as evidence for decreased funding in Section X.D.2. of this NOFA.

d. For CoCs that were denied funding due to the score of the CoC Application or the score of the project application not being high enough to result in the funding of project(s) within the CoC, and the lower score for one or both application types was the result of HUD error, the CoC may appeal the CoC or project application score and request funding for affected projects. Documentation submitted by the Collaborative Applicant on behalf of the CoC must include the evidence of the HUD error when calculating the CoC Application or Project Application score.

Note: HUD can only consider information submitted with the CoC Application. HUD will not consider additional information in support of the CoC Application.

2. **Decreased Funding.** To appeal HUD's decision, the applicant must submit a written

appeal by email, from the organization's email address on the organization's letterhead and signed by the authorized representative to the HUD email address at snapsappeals@hud.gov with a copy to the authorized representative from the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant.

Documentation submitted by the applicant must include evidence of the HUD error the applicant believes was made.

3. **HUD Decision and Notification of Decision.** Where HUD determines that HUD error occurred, and the applicant should have been awarded additional funding, then HUD will provide funding from the next available funds and make necessary adjustments by amending the award. HUD will reverse a decision only when the applicant can show that HUD error caused the denial or decrease.

E. Consolidated Plan Certification. An applicant may appeal to HUD a jurisdiction's refusal to provide a certification of consistency with the Consolidated Plan. The appeals process is as follows:

1. **Written Appeal**. With the project application that is submitted by the application deadline, the applicant must submit a written appeal. Project applicants may submit its appeal in *e-snaps* with its project application. When submitted with the project application in *e-snaps*, the applicant must also email a copy of this appeal to the jurisdiction that denied the certification of consistency, and, should send a copy to the authorized representative from the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant, unless it is the Collaborative Applicant that is filing the appeal. Otherwise, the project applicant or Collaborative Applicant may submit the appeal to HUD using one of the methods in Section X.F. of this NOFA. The written appeal must include the following information:

   (a) a copy of the applicant's request to the jurisdiction for the certification of consistency with the Consolidated Plan;

   (b) a copy of the jurisdiction's response stating the reasons for denial, including the reasons the proposed project is not consistent with the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan in accordance with 24 CFR 91.510(c); and

   (c) a statement of the reasons why the applicant believes its project is consistent with the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

   The appeal may include additional information the applicant believes supports its appeal, including: (1) any additional communication between the applicant and the jurisdiction regarding the request for certification of consistency; and (2) documentation that identifies to whom within the jurisdiction the evidence was sent and date on which it was sent.

2. **Jurisdiction Response.** The jurisdiction will have 10 days after the receipt of the applicant's written appeal to submit a written response to HUD. The response must be sent by email to snapsappeals@hud.gov on the organization's letterhead, with a copy to the project applicant and the authorized representative of the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant. The response must include the following

information:

(a) an explanation of the reasons originally given for refusing to provide the Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan; and

(b) a written rebuttal to any claims made by the applicant in the written appeal.

3. HUD Decision and Notification of Decision.

(a) HUD will review the submissions and will provide written notification, by email, of its decision to the applicant and the jurisdiction, with a copy to the authorized representative from the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant within 45 days of the date of the receipt of the jurisdiction's response. In making its decision, HUD will consider whether the applicant submitted the request to the appropriate certifying jurisdiction and the reasonableness of the jurisdiction's refusal to provide the certificate.

(b) If HUD finds that the certifying jurisdiction's refusal to provide a certification of consistency with the Consolidated Plan was reasonable, then HUD will automatically reject the project application. If HUD finds that the certifying jurisdiction's refusal to provide a certification of consistency with the Consolidated Plan was not reasonable, then HUD will consider the project application for funding in the respective FY CoC Program Competition in accordance with the review standards set forth in this NOFA.

(c) If the jurisdiction failed to provide written reasons for refusal, including the reasons why the project is not consistent with the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan in its initial response to the applicant's request for a certification, HUD will find for the applicant without further inquiry or response from the political jurisdiction.

(d) HUD will provide written notification of this decision within 45 days of the date of HUD's receipt of the jurisdiction's response. Where the jurisdiction failed to provide a written response, HUD will provide written notification of its decision within 55 days of the date of HUD's receipt of the project applicant's response.

F. Appeals Submission.

1. Submission of Appeals by Email. Appeals must be submitted via email to snapsappeals@hud.gov. The subject line of your email must include the **CoC Number, "Appeal Notice,"** and type of appeal, i.e., **Participation, HUD Error,** or **Consolidated Plan Certification.** A sample email Subject Line is: **Subject: XX-500 – Appeal Notice–Consolidated Plan Certification.**

2. HUD Response. HUD will respond to all appeals via email. HUD will not consider any requests to reconsider funding for FY 2015 funds except for those appeals outlined in this NOFA.

XI. Agency Contacts

A. For Further Information. Individuals who are hearing or speech-impaired should use the

Information Relay Services at 1-800-877-8339 (these are toll-free numbers). Recipients and individuals can use the locator at www.hudexchange.info to find contact information for the Collaborative Applicant and for the local HUD CPD Field Office serving the CoC's territory.

B. For Technical Assistance. HUD will make appropriate resources available for technical assistance related to *e-snaps*. Specifically, HUD will make available *e-snaps* AAQ at www.hudexchange.info/get-assistance/. To address technical or other questions, local HUD CPD Field Office staff will also be available to help citizens identify organizations in the community that are involved in developing the CoC system. HUD staff and HUD contractors are prohibited from providing CoCs and project applicants with guidance that will result in a competitive advantage for any CoC or project applicant.

Following conditional selection of applications, HUD staff will be available to assist conditionally awarded applicants in clarifying or confirming information that is a prerequisite to the offer of a grant agreement by HUD. However, between the application deadline and the announcement of conditional selections, HUD is prohibited from and will not accept any information that would improve the substantive quality of a CoC's application pertinent to HUD's funding decision.

C. Satellite Broadcast. HUD will hold one or more informative broadcast(s) via satellite for potential applicants to provide guidance on the program and preparation of the application. HUD strongly recommends that applicants view these broadcasts, which will provide critical information on the application process. For more information about the date and time of the broadcast, individuals should consult the HUD website at www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm.

XII. Other Information

A. Paperwork Reduction Act. The information collection requirements contained in this document have been submitted for approval by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520) and the OMB approval number is 2506-0112. In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, HUD is prohibited from conducting or sponsoring, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless the collection displays a currently valid OMB control number. Public reporting burden for the collection of information and grant administration is estimated to average 250 hours per annum per respondent for the application and grant administration. This includes the time for collecting, reviewing, and reporting the data for the application, semi-annual reports and final report. The information will be used for grantee selection and monitoring the administration of funds.

B. Environmental Impact. A Finding of No Significant Impact with respect to the environment has been made for this notice, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 50 that implement section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)). The Finding of No Significant Impact is made available with the posting of this NOFA at http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail.