

Before Starting the CoC Application

You must submit all three of the following parts in order for us to consider your Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application,
2. the CoC Priority Listing, and
3. all the CoC's project applications that were either approved and ranked, or rejected.

As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The FY 2023 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2023 CoC Application Detailed Instructions which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachment are provided.

Your CoC Must Approve the Consolidated Application before You Submit It
- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the CoC Consolidated Application for the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition on behalf of your CoC.

- 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit the Consolidated Application into e-snaps.

Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You Must Upload an Attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

- Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.

- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1A-1. CoC Name and Number: NY-503 - Albany City & County CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: CARES of NY, Inc.

1A-3. CoC Designation: UFA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: CARES of NY, Inc.

1B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.1.a.(1), V.B.1.e., V.B.1f., and V.B.1.p.	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023:	
	1. select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted—including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC’s coordinated entry system; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC’s geographic area:	

	Organization/Person	Participated in CoC Meetings	Voted, Including Electing CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
9.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	No	Yes
14.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

16.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	No	No	No
22.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Other Victim Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other: (limit 50 characters)			
34.	Legal Services	Yes	Yes	Yes
35.	Health Insurance/ Managed Care Org	Yes	Yes	Yes

1B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(2)	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	communicated a transparent invitation process annually (e.g., communicated to the public on the CoC's website) to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
3.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC communicates the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join by posting the invitation for the Annual Membership Meeting & New Member Application on the CoC’s website; asking listserv recipients to forward invitations; announcing at full Membership meetings & encouraging current members to invite others; & conversations w/key systems partners focusing on the benefits and responsibilities of CoC membership. The Membership App is posted year-round on the CoC’s website and accepted on a rolling basis. Additionally, to solicit new members to join the CoC, the CoC assesses current members and conducts targeted outreach. Specifically, on an annual basis, the CoC Board assesses what agencies participate in CoC Membership, on the Board, and on Committees, and identifies stakeholders missing from the CoC that should be engaged to support the community’s efforts to systematically address homelessness. Following, the Board creates an outreach plan in collaboration with the Collaborative Applicant. 2) The CoC ensures effective communication and access for individuals with disabilities by sharing invites/apps in a variety of accessible electronic formats, including the CoC webpage, which is responsive to screen reader software (e.g., accessibility tags to PDF docs) & email listservs. Individuals can physically access communication the CoC provides to the public on how to join through announcements during in-person, virtual/remote meetings; and invitations offered at other housing and/or human service coalitions public events/venues. 3) The CoC has invited orgs serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness to become members by a) assessing representation at the Membership and Board levels through an annual Diversity Assessment tool and b) conducting targeted personal outreach when representation among orgs serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness is lacking. Additionally, the Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC) (on which the CoC participates) created and presented the CoC 101 series which provides a comprehensive overview of the CoC, its benefits and requirements to encourage diverse participation on membership and Board. One example of this assessment, education, and outreach, In Our Own Voices, a local org dedicated to BIPOC LGBTQ+ Youth, has joined CoC Membership & the Board, received CoC funding in FY22, and has again applied for New Bonus funding in FY23.

1B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(3)	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness, or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;
2.	communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information;
3.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
4.	took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC uses specific strategies to solicit & consider opinions from a broad array of organizations & individuals with knowledge of/interest in preventing & ending homelessness. Input is solicited from knowledgeable stakeholders (e.g., persons w/lived experience, housing providers, physical/mental/behavioral health providers, law enforcement, faith-based orgs, gov't agencies). Strategies to solicit opinions include web-based forums (e.g., interactive webinars/trainings, email listservs, email submission form on CA's website), regular interviews w/current program clients, & recruiting agencies to join the CoC/CoC meetings. Specifically, the CoC has developed, presented at CoC Membership, recorded, and stored on its website for public viewing a CoC 101 presentation series to communicate info about the CoC to potential new members. Additionally, the Collaborative Applicant (CA) leads a workshop series w/expert panelists from the community which is intended to solicit feedback & spark dialogue on topics relevant to the community. These workshops reach interested parties across the community through live streaming/archived video. 2) The CoC communicated info during public meetings &/or other forums year-round through direct community interaction (e.g., CoC Membership meetings held six times/year, web postings, email listservs & bimonthly Newsletters). 3) The CoC ensures effective communication with & access for individuals w/disabilities through online, in-person, & public events and/or meetings by sharing info (invites/apps, workshops, solicitation for public input, etc.) in a variety of accessible electronic formats, including the CoC webpage, which is responsive to screen reader software (e.g., accessibility tags to PDF docs), at housing &/or human services public events/venues, & email listservs. 4) Info gathered through this outreach is considered by the CoC to develop new approaches to prevent/end homelessness (e.g., the Systems Committee created a new Gaps in Systems workgroup as a result of feedback from a neighborhood association about ongoing panhandling; utilizing input at CoC membership meetings & funding forums to determine priorities for ESG, CoC, & HOME-ARP funding). Minutes taken at every public meeting provide the CoC Board w/considerations of how further work may be assigned to standing committees (who update the Board on findings/suggest next steps). Developments are shared during full Membership meetings.

1B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Awarded CoC Program Funding.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(4)	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:	
1.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;	
2.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications—the process;	
3.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and	
4.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC notified the public that the local competition was open and would be accepting project applications (including from non-CoC funded organizations) via a public posting on the Collab Applicant's (CA's) website & listserv email announcement on 7/24/23. On 7/18/23, a public posting on the CA's website and an invitation via email explicitly targeted non-CoC funded organizations, community stakeholders and the public to participate in an in-depth discussion (via webinar on 7/25/23) about new CoC funding opportunities available this year. The discussion and question & answer were recorded and posted on the CA website on 7/26/23 for agencies/public to reference throughout the application process. The invitation to potential applicants stated that "[agencies] do not have to be currently CoC funded to apply." 2) All communications made clear that proposals must be submitted via email to the CA using the New Project, DV Bonus Project, or HMIS/CE Bonus Project applications posted on the CA website. The 7/25/23 workshop/webinar detailed the application process, including eligibility, and ensured all parties understood the method for submitting proposals. Experienced CA staff were also readily available throughout the process to field questions from the public. 3) The CoC notified the public about how the CoC determines which project/s would be submitted to HUD through public posting of the Written Process on the CoC website; announcements via the membership listserv; & by communicating local competition priorities and the Rank & Review process during the new project webinar & Membership meetings. The CoC determines whether project/s will be submitted to HUD for funding using a CoC-created and approved review and ranking process that includes criteria to score all new projects based on local community need and HUD best practices; agency experience; equitable program outcomes; fiscal capacity; etc. The tool makes clear additional points are awarded to non CoC-funded agencies. The Board reviews all projects included in the Priority Listing and provides final approval for all new projects. 4.) The CA ensured effective communication and access for individuals with disabilities by posting content, documents, and a recording of the New Project webinar on its website that is responsive to screen-reader software (e.g., accessibility tags to PDF documents & closed captioning).

1C. Coordination and Engagement

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
 - 24 CFR part 578;
 - FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
 - Section 3 Resources;
 - PHA Crosswalk; and
 - Frequently Asked Questions

1C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	
	In the chart below:	
	1. select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC's coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC's geographic area.	

	Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects	Coordinates with the Planning or Operations of Projects?
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Yes
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Yes
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	

18.	
-----	--

1C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG Program funds;
2.	participated in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients;
3.	provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area; and
4.	provided information to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions to address homelessness within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in the Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC actively consulted in planning and allocating ESG funds with the two recipients in its geographic area: City of Albany (City) and NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (OTDA). As part of the annual competitive ESG procurement process, the CoC NOFO Committee consulted with the City to update the application process documents, prioritizing application questions based on community need; formed an impartial panel to review applications; and provided the City with allocation recommendations based on past project performance, cost effectiveness, and CoC priority needs. The CoC consulted with OTDA to review and comment on proposals and provided letters of support for those submitted. Several state ESG-funded agencies are actively involved in the CoC and consult with the Coordinated Entry and CoC on their proposed projects. 2) The CoC played a critical role in evaluating and reporting on ESG (as well as ESG-CV) program performance via onsite program/fiscal monitoring conducted by the Collaborative Applicant on behalf of the grantees (i.e., the City and OTDA). Specifically, the CoC assisted in developing ESG/ESG-CV performance standards and reviewing project compliance via monitoring by the Collaborative Applicant Compliance Team. The Collaborative Applicant, in conjunction with the UFA Fiscal Committee, updated the monitoring tool, conducted onsite monitoring, reviewed results and provided guidance for best practices to ensure compliance. Monitoring results were shared with subrecipients, including the City and OTDA. 3) Collaborative Applicant and UFA Fiscal Committee provided the City and OTDA with HIC/PIT and HMIS/DV data via public posting on the Collaborative Applicant's website. 4) The CoC also provided quarterly HMIS-derived CAPERs and other relevant info to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions to address homelessness in its geographic area for use in future Consolidated Plan updates and/or amendments. Information was available on the CA website for Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions to access at any time.

1C-3.	Ensuring Families are not Separated.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.c.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ensures emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH) do not deny admission or separate family members regardless of each family member's self-reported sexual orientation and gender identity:

1.	Conducted mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated.	Yes
2.	Conducted optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated.	Yes
3.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients.	Yes
4.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within your CoC's geographic area that might be out of compliance and took steps to work directly with those facilities to bring them into compliance.	Yes
5.	Sought assistance from HUD by submitting questions or requesting technical assistance to resolve noncompliance by service providers.	No

1C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:

1.	Youth Education Provider	Yes
2.	State Education Agency (SEA)	Yes
3.	Local Education Agency (LEA)	Yes
4.	School Districts	Yes

1C-4a.	Formal Partnerships with Youth Education Providers, SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Describe in the field below the formal partnerships your CoC has with at least one of the entities where you responded yes in question 1C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has formal partnerships with youth education providers, State Education Agencies (SEA), Local Education Agencies (LEA), and School Districts by engaging such agencies to: a) fill out CoC Membership and Board applications (a formal agreement); b) participate in the Regional Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness; and c) formally partner during the annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count. a) The CoC actively engages youth education providers, SEAs, LEA's, and school districts to join the CoC and fill out formal CoC Membership/Board applications through annual one-on-one outreach by the Collaborative Applicant and CoC Board members. For example, the CoC recruited an Albany Community Action Partnership (ACAP, the local Head Start provider) staff member and St. Anne's Institute (a local special education provider) to join the CoC Board/Membership. b) The CoC also engages youth education providers, SEA, LEA, and school districts in monthly Regional Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness (RABYH) committee meetings, facilitated by the CoC's Collaborative Applicant. RABYH is comprised of representatives from CoCs across upstate New York that formally join to identify the extent of youth homelessness, advocate for additional resources, and address concerns identified regionally in programs and policies related to youth homelessness. Youth education providers, SEA, LEA, school districts, and others interested in ending youth homelessness created a systems map of services available to unaccompanied youth and youth experiencing homelessness regionally to assist in providing services swiftly to youth while minimizing the disruptions or disturbances to their education. Representatives for the Albany County CoC on the RABYH include youth education providers and school districts, such as: Equinox, St. Anne's Institute, St. Catherine's Center for Children, Northern Rivers Family of Services, and Glenmont Job Corps. c) Finally, the CoC annually partners with youth education providers and school districts by asking such agencies to commit in writing to conducting the annual PIT count. Specifically, the CoC collects data from participating youth education providers and school districts (i.e., McKinney-Vento School Liaisons) that report demographics on youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness. This data, as well as trending data analyzed from the last several years, is used to inform the RABYH action plan for the upcoming year.

1C-4b.	Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC uses to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for educational services.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has adopted policies and procedures within its Written Standards to ensure all programs consistently and accurately inform individuals and families experiencing homelessness about available education services and related eligibility. This CoC policy requires CoC providers serving households with children to designate a specialized staff person to serve as the educational liaison to inform individuals and families of their eligibility for schooling. They provide direct support to set up services on their behalf to ensure no disruption in current education services for students entering shelter or transitioning from shelter into permanent housing. Specifically, educational liaisons are responsible for ensuring children continue to be enrolled in school and connected to age-appropriate services in the community (e.g., Head Start, public Pre-K, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Part C: Infant & Toddler Program, McKinney Vento Education Services, as well as county opportunities for High School Equivalency (HSE), job training, and higher education courses). Educational liaisons are expected to connect and work with homeless individuals, families, schools, and education programs to ensure the most appropriate educational services are made available and barriers to accessing these educational services are removed. For example, CoC agency staff are required to coordinate with McKinney-Vento Liaisons in families' existing school districts to coordinate transportation services and ongoing enrollment. The Regional Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness regularly conducts a survey of all CoC funded agencies to collect contact information on the agency-appointed staff serving as the educational liaison. Moving forward, the CoC program monitoring process will incorporate a review of agency connection with the local schools and corresponding McKinney-Vento representative and following protocols to ensure all children are being appropriately served by their school. At the CoC system level, the CoC fosters strong partnerships with education via the McKinney-Vento homeless liaisons by encouraging participation on the CoC Board and relevant committee work. The CoC meets at least annually with McKinney Vento liaisons to specifically review the CoC policies and procedures to ensure full compliance and best practice with regulations.

1C-4c.	Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC has written formal agreements or partnerships with the listed providers of early childhood services:

		MOU/MOA	Other Formal Agreement
1.	Birth to 3 years	Yes	Yes
2.	Child Care and Development Fund	No	Yes
3.	Early Childhood Providers	Yes	Yes
4.	Early Head Start	Yes	Yes
5.	Federal Home Visiting Program—(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV)	No	No
6.	Head Start	Yes	Yes
7.	Healthy Start	No	No
8.	Public Pre-K	No	Yes

9.	Tribal Home Visiting Program	No	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)		
10.			

	1C-5. Addressing Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors—Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers. NOFO Section V.B.1.e.
--	---

In the chart below select yes or no for the organizations your CoC collaborates with:

	Organizations	
1.	state domestic violence coalitions	Yes
2.	state sexual assault coalitions	Yes
3.	other organizations that help this population	Yes

	1C-5a. Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers to Address Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors. NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
--	--	--

Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations indicated in Question 1C-5 to:

	1. update CoC-wide policies; and
	2. ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC's geographic area are trauma-informed and can meet the needs of survivors.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC regularly collaborates with NYS’s Domestic Violence Coalition, NYS’s Coalition Against Sexual Assault and other organizations that help survivors of DV to update CoC policies. These collaborations ensure that Victim Service Providers (VSPs) are informed and assist in the process of developing and updating CoC-wide policies and ensure that all housing and services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed and meet the needs of survivors who present at mainstream programs within the CoC. 1) Equinox Inc, which is a VSP, CoC- and ESG-funded, and part of the NYS DV and Sexual Assault Coalitions, actively participates on both the CoC Board and Governance committees, and line staff attend CoC membership meetings. Equinox has been involved in the process of updating the CoC governance charter and Written Standards. Equinox is also the lead agency for the parallel DV Coordinated Entry system that serves survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and is active in developing CE processes within the CoC. Unity House, also a VSP, participates in Albany CoC and attends membership meetings. Unity House’s participation has allowed the CoC to have access to perspectives of multiple VSPs in the Capital Region with overlapping service areas to better inform policies and procedures within the CoC. 2) Training provided by state coalitions to VSP’s, such as Equinox, ensures all housing and services provided in the CoC and funded through ESG are trauma-informed and meet the needs of providers through annual and as- needed training. Past training focused on victim services through trauma-informed screening and care. The DV Regional Advisory Board, comprised of VSPs across New York State hosts annual safety planning trainings to all CoC member providers on trauma-informed care & best practices to meet the needs of survivors. Policy adoption of a Housing First approach by all CoC-funded providers ensures that survivors presenting at any location will be served quickly and appropriately. Resources and training provided by state coalitions are shared at CoC membership and CE meetings. Finally, the CoC awards points in its NOFO Rank & Review process to agencies providing proof of trauma-informed care & provision of equitable services for staff.

1C-5b.	Coordinated Annual Training on Best Practices to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC coordinates to provide training for:	
1.	project staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma-informed, victim-centered) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually); and	
2.	Coordinated Entry staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma informed care) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually).	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Collaborative Applicant (CA), with participation of CoC members and the Regional DV Advisory Board (DV Board), coordinates with victim service providers (VSP) to offer annual trainings for CoC and Coordinated Entry (CE) staff. Training topics cover trauma informed & victim centered best practice approaches serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. 1&2) This year, the CA hosted a safety planning training for CoC project and CE staff with a quiz at the end to ensure comprehension. The training reinforced the importance of incorporating victim’s rights, voices and perspectives when assessing victims’ individual safety needs. Examples of this training include developing home visit protocol for project staff to ensure victim safety during the visits; information on orders of protection; and risks associated with referring clients to mainstream programs. The CA promoted HUD’s webinar series “Housing Services for Persons Impacted by DV and Sexual Assault” which detailed using a trauma informed approach in delivering all services. Other webinars are regularly posted on the CoC’s website, used by CoC and CE project staff and publicized at CoC membership and CE meetings. 1) Annually, the CoC collaborates with Equinox, the CoC funded VSP provider and DV CE Lead, to develop trainings on Trauma-Informed care and Victim-Centered approaches. Equinox participates in the DV Board, comprised of providers across NY, that meets bimonthly. Examples of the Board's work include reviewing and informing on the CoC’s Emergency Transfer Plan (ETP) before it is reviewed and adopted by the CoC. For example, the ETP includes eligibility for emergency transfers and outline protocols for confidentiality to ensure safety when rapidly re-housing DV Victims. 2) Equinox also hosts annual trainings for mainstream housing providers about protocols to minimize traumatization for survivors when completing the CoC CE assessment for mainstream housing programs. Equinox’s involvement in the CE program development and administration (has improved) the process for victims of domestic violence, making it safer and more client driven. The CE Policies and Procedures Manual includes safety and confidentiality protocols for survivors applying for housing programs with Equinox ensuring they are built on a trauma-informed, victim-centered lens.

1C-5c.	Implemented Safety Planning, Confidentiality Protocols in Your CoC’s Coordinated Entry to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC’s coordinated entry includes:	
1.	safety planning protocols; and	
2.	confidentiality protocols.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC's Coordinated Entry (CE) process includes policies & procedures related to 1) Safety protocols and, 2) Confidentiality protocols for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault & stalking to safely access needed services, as outlined in the CE Policies & Procedures Manual & the Written Standards (addendum: Emergency Transfer Plan). 1) The CoC's CE safety protocols include adopting a "No Wrong Door" approach; implementing safety planning; & offering referrals to DV providers. The CoC has adopted a "No Wrong Door" approach in which assessments are completed where clients present for housing and at locations where survivors feel safest at the time. The CoC coordinates the efforts of both DV/ non-DV providers to ensure mainstream housing programs adhere to DV safety protocols (i.e. implementing a safety plan w/ clients) and provide survivors a wide range of service options. Survivors presenting at non-DV providers are offered to be linked w/ DV services via a phone assessment. 2) Confidentiality protocols include collecting self-reported information w/in the HMIS system so clients only disclose information they are comfortable reporting. The CoC has an anonymization policy to support de-identified data collection at intake which allows for the Prioritization Index to be completed w/out sensitive information being entered into the mainstream CE database. Additionally, the CoC CE confidentiality protocol requires each client participating within the CE project to complete the HMIS inclusion disclosure form. This document clearly informs clients of their rights surrounding data collection & entry including the right to refuse entry into the HMIS & instead choose utilizing the comparable database w/ de-identified data, as well as the opportunity for clients to give or decline permission for other participating agencies to access their application data. Another safety protocol that is used is the VAWA compliant informed consent forms; agencies are not allowed to discuss client specific information with a partner agency. Finally, the CoC has a parallel & comparable CE database for survivors of DV, capturing only de-identified information. Victim Service Provider agency staff are trained annually on the database for client intakes & service referrals.

1C-5d.	Used De-identified Aggregate Data to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	the de-identified aggregate data source(s) your CoC used for data on survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and	
2.	how your CoC uses the de-identified aggregate data described in element 1 of this question to evaluate how to best meet the specialized needs related to domestic violence and homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC uses de-identified aggregate data from three sources: a) comparable databases, such as Empower, (Equinox is the DV-CE Lead agency and utilizes Empower), b) HMIS for DV clients that choose to use the mainstream coordinated entry program, and c) data provided by DV and VSPs who collect de-identified aggregate data outside of the comparable database (such as information from DV hotlines) to assess special needs related to DV, dating violence, sexual assault, & stalking survivors. CARES of NY organized and facilitates a Regional Domestic Violence Advisory Board with the purpose of analyzing DV data to assess the special needs related to this population using the analyses to inform community planning for these populations. Currently the DV Board reviews APRs and collects CAPERs quarterly to identify common characteristics regarding the needs of DV survivors to better inform CoCs on gaps in services. 2) The CoC used the de-identified aggregate data described in part 1 above for the a) HIC & PIT, b) Rank & Review (R&R), & c) DV Coordinated Entry (CE). a) Data provided for the HIC & PIT informs the CoC on demographics including disabling condition, & household size to determine the number and type of housing needed to meet the special needs (including safety) of victims of DV. b) The CA also collects de-identified data from CoC-funded DV providers for the CoC R&R. This data assists the CoC in ensuring program performance outcomes of DV providers, helping to inform priorities for DV Bonus projects. c) Finally, the DV CE lead provides a comprehensive assessment of special needs through data collection from the vulnerability assessment that is separate from the mainstream CE tool, that identifies the severity & type of special needs among households fleeing domestic violence. Data fields on the assessment include the number of episodes of homelessness, income, employment status, identified disability, & specific needs related to immediate & ongoing safety. This de-identified qualitative info is shared through mainstream CE case conferencing to ensure and identify appropriate housing options. The CoC also uses the de-identified aggregate data from DV agencies provided for the Rank and Review Process to inform Strategic Planning & local needs. Deeper analysis of these data sources allows the CoC to assess & understand the scale & demographics of the population & tailor interventions that meet specific needs.

** **

1C-5e.	Implemented Emergency Transfer Plan Policies and Procedures for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC communicates to all individuals and families seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance:

1.	whether your CoC has policies and procedures that include an emergency transfer plan;
2.	the process for individuals and families to request an emergency transfer; and
3.	the process your CoC uses to respond to individuals' and families' emergency transfer requests.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC communicates Emergency Transfer Plan (ETP) policies and procedures for survivors to households seeking/receiving CoC Program assistance by posting the CoC’s policies and procedures (including the EPT) on the CA’s website; posting the process for individuals/ families to request an emergency transfer and documenting the process the CoC uses to respond to transfer requests. The CoC provides training to CE providers on how to identify households who can benefit from the policy and how to discuss this process with households who request services. The CoC has a membership/Board approved plan, reviewed by both the CoC Board and membership annually. During the review, members discuss the EPT including eligibility, documentation required, confidentiality/safety precautions and the transfer process itself. CoC members include private sector, healthcare, housing, faith based and advocacy groups that forward information to all those seeking/receiving CoC program funding assistance. Equinox the DV/CE lead educates the Board/Membership on the EPT policy and procedures. The EPT is posted on the CoC’s website and updated as necessary. 2)To request an emergency transfer, a tenant must notify the housing program’s administrator and submit a written request. The CoC communicates this process to all households seeking/receiving CoC program assistance. The CoC DV-CE and mainstream CE programs are responsible for educating case managers participating in CE on the process to request an emergency transfer and take the lead with clients requesting transfers. Case managers inform those seeking/receiving CoC Program assistance on the emergency transfer process and work with case managers from the referral agency to ensure safety/confidentiality of the client. 3)The CoC responds to a household's emergency transfer request by quickly moving a tenant who is a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to another unit, subject to the availability/safety of a unit. If the housing program the client currently resides in does not expect to have another unit available shortly, it will contact other housing programs to locate an available unit. De-identifiable information is provided to the referring agency. The case manager working with those requesting an emergency transfer communicates with the case manager of the referral agency and initiates a warm hand off. This process will be documented within the Written Standards and reviewed annually.

1C-5f.	Access to Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	ensures that survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have safe access to all of the housing and services available within the CoC’s geographic area; and
2.	proactively identifies systemic barriers within your homeless response system that create barriers to safely house and provide services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC ensures survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault or stalking are provided the same access to housing and services as all other populations experiencing homelessness within the CoC’s geographic area by operating and monitoring a coordinated DV and mainstream Coordinated Entry Program (CE). The coordination of both CE programs ensures the same access to all housing and services to survivors as all other populations experiencing homelessness—not just assistance from victim service organizations within the CoC’s geographic area. Equinox, a VSP and the DV/CE lead, and HATAS, the mainstream CE lead, jointly host monthly case conferences with participating providers to review all clients placed on both CE priority lists. Providers work directly with both CE Leads to ensure safety and confidentiality protocols are in place for all participants with a focus on the unique needs of survivors. 2) The CoC proactively identifies systemic barriers within the homeless response system that create barriers to safely house and provide services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence sexual assault or stalking by a) ensuring regular assessment of the CE Policy and Procedure manual which details safety planning protocol and b) by participating in and requesting feedback specifically regarding systemic barriers to housing from the DV Regional Advisory Board (DVRAB). This Board is comprised of representatives from 12 CoCs across NY state, many of whom are Survivors with Lived Expertise themselves, who work collaboratively w/ local CoCs to directly inform CoC policy & program priorities & ensure survivor voices are heard. These proactive measures have allowed the CoC to better identify barriers and allowed mainstream and DV providers to better serve those in need.

1C-5g.	Ensuring Survivors With a Range of Lived Expertise Participate in Developing CoC-Wide Policy and Programs.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	ensured survivors with a range of lived expertise are involved in the development of your CoC-wide policy and programs; and
2.	accounted for the unique and complex needs of survivors.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC ensures Survivors w/ a range of lived expertise (SWLE) are involved in the development of CoC-wide policy & programs by ensuring safe recruitment & meaningful participation in the development of CoC policies & programs. 1.1 Currently there is one self-identified SWLE on the Board. They are an active Board member & participate in a standing committee. Additionally, there are self-identified members within the CoC that participate on standing committees, including but not limited to committees that focus on the local Rank & Review (R&R) process &/or development of governance documents. 1.2. The CoC safely engages & recruits SWLE through email promotion of board openings & 1-on-1 outreach by current CoC members. W/ all recruitment efforts, people are encouraged to self-identify as having lived experience; disclosure is always voluntary. The CoC has extensive training opps to onboard SWLE recruited to participate in CoC activities including webinar series & individual training with board & members. Currently, the CoC does not fiscally compensate SWLE participants, however this past Spring the CoC Board committed to compensating SWLE for time spent supporting CoC work & is identifying options for compensation (fiscal & non-fiscal) which SWLEs can choose. 1.3 The CoC intentionally & meaningfully integrates survivors' feedback by participating in & requesting feedback from the DV Regional Advisory Committee (DVRAC). This Committee is comprised of representatives from at least 12 NYS CoCs, many of whom are SWLE themselves, who work collaboratively w/ local CoCs to directly inform CoC policy & program priorities & ensure survivor voices are heard. An example of this collaboration is the direct feedback the group provided to the CoC on this year's R&R tool. 2) The CoC ensures the unique & complex needs of survivors are accounted for w/in program & policy development through recruitment of SWLE & through participation within the DVRAC. The CoC explicitly requests Board & CoC members preferred name & gender (only sharing this information w/ permission, & allows for multiple options for safe communication w/ all who participate (e.g. voice, text, email, fax, & paper mail). Any safety protocols suggested to ensure safety are followed, including name changes, exclusion from public postings, offering flexibility in meetings (i.e. hybrid options), & always ensuring consent from the survivor before SWLE status is disclosed or referenced in CoC work.

1C-6.	Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+—Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

	1. Did your CoC implement a written CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination?	Yes
	2. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access Final Rule)?	Yes
	3. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs (Gender Identity Final Rule)?	Yes

1C-6a.	Anti-Discrimination Policy—Updating Policies—Assisting Providers—Evaluating Compliance—Addressing Noncompliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC regularly collaborates with LGBTQ+ and other organizations to update its CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy, as necessary to ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed and able to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and families;
2.	how your CoC assisted housing and services providers in developing project-level anti-discrimination policies that are consistent with the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy;
3.	your CoC's process for evaluating compliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies; and
4.	your CoC's process for addressing noncompliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The Coc regularly collaborates with LGBTQ+ & other orgs to update its CoC wide anti-discrimination policy as included within the ACCH Written Standards by gathering stakeholder input throughout the year & during the annual review of Written Standards. This process ensures among other priorities, all housing/ services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed & able to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals & families. Specifically, the Collaborate Applicant (CA) annually reviews & recommends updates to the anti-discrimination policy to the Governance Committee, Board, & then Membership Committee. The committees make edits, & vote to implement the policy, ensuring a comprehensive review by a myriad of agencies. 2)The CoC assisted providers in developing & implementing project-level anti-discrimination policies consistent with the CoC-wide policy by providing an agency-level policy template & offering TA during the development & implementation of the provider anti-discrimination policies. The CoC also assists agencies during project monitoring which includes a review of agency level policies, including anti-discrimination, to ensure alignment with current CoC policies & HUD regulations, & best practices. 3)The CoC evaluates compliance with anti-discrimination policies during annual program monitoring, the Rank & Review process and CoC offered trainings. The annual monitoring process ensures agency-level anti-discrimination policies exist (and clearly detail who to contact if a client's civil rights are violated), and shared w/all clients & staff. The Rank & Review process provides further verification by requiring renewal project applicants to submit an up-to-date anti-discrimination policy with their application. Points are awarded to projects that affirm LGBTQ+ households will receive services & housing free from discrimination. Finally, CoC & ESG-funded agencies participate in annual, mandatory anti-discrimination training which allow the CoC to gauge if any concerns w/compliance exist. 4)The CoC's process for addressing non-compliance with CoC anti-discrimination policy as outlined in the Written Standards includes notifying the agency & scheduling of TA provided by the CA during which, a corrective action plan is developed, implemented & reviewed after 30 days. Non-compliance is indirectly addressed through the Rank & Review process when a renewal project application receives lower scores if the agency does not have an up-to-date discrimination policy.

1C-7.	Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC's Geographic Area—New Admissions—General/Limited Preference—Moving On Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

You must upload the PHA Homeless Preference\PHA Moving On Preference attachment(s) to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter information in the chart below for the two largest PHAs highlighted in gray on the current CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report or the two PHAs your CoC has a working relationship with—if there is only one PHA in your CoC’s geographic area, provide information on the one:

Public Housing Agency Name	Enter the Percent of New Admissions into Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2022 who were experiencing homelessness at entry	Does the PHA have a General or Limited Homeless Preference?	Does the PHA have a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On?
Albany Housing Authority	25%	Yes-Both	Yes
Town of Colonie	0%	Yes-HCV	No

1C-7a. Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences with PHAs.	
NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

Describe in the field below:

1. steps your CoC has taken, with the two largest PHAs within your CoC’s geographic area or the two PHAs your CoC has working relationships with, to adopt a homeless admission preference—if your CoC only has one PHA within its geographic area, you may respond for the one; or
2. state that your CoC has not worked with the PHAs in its geographic area to adopt a homeless admission preference.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC has taken the following steps to strengthen existing relationships with the Albany Housing Authority (AHA) & the Town of Colonie, a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) administrator, which resulted in successful adoption of a homeless preference in their admission policies: a) focus on relationship building to ensure PHA participation & collaboration with the CoC; & b) providing advocacy & education on homeless needs through data sharing. The CoC, through one-on-one meetings & email communication, encouraged PHA/HCV staff to participate in the CoC’s strategic planning process, leadership, & become active in the CoC’s Landlord Engagement committee. As a result, the Executive Director of AHA joined the CoC Board in 2020 & was elected as CoC Chair in 2022. The CoC’s collaborative relationship with AHA has resulted in exemplifying the continued need for a homeless preference; as well as the development of new partnerships/processes to address homelessness through PHA resources, such as implementation of the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) & Family Unification Programs (FUP). The CoC continues to collaborate with the Town of Colonie to promote & support its homeless admission preferences. Data collected during the strategic planning process & collaboration between the CoC & PHA/HCV staff highlighted for PHA/HCV staff the current needs of the homeless population & the need for & benefits of creating & sustaining a homeless preference. Additionally, the CoC shares Point-in-Time & Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) data with the PHAs to a) review preference criteria to ensure they reflect local community needs; & b) educate administrators on the need for such policies. As a result of these efforts, the CoC has a robust pool of PHA resources (i.e. PHA preferences, EHV, FUP) to support homeless clients with housing options.

1C-7b.	Moving On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers.	
	Not Scored–For Information Only	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate affordable housing providers in your CoC's jurisdiction that your recipients use to move program participants to other subsidized housing:

1.	Multifamily assisted housing owners	Yes
2.	PHA	Yes
3.	Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments	Yes
4.	Local low-income housing programs	Yes
	Other (limit 150 characters)	
5.		

1C-7c.	Include Units from PHA Administered Programs in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

In the chart below, indicate if your CoC includes units from the following PHA programs in your CoC's coordinated entry process:

1.	Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)	Yes
2.	Family Unification Program (FUP)	No
3.	Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)	No
4.	HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	Yes
5.	Mainstream Vouchers	No
6.	Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers	No
7.	Public Housing	No
8.	Other Units from PHAs:	
		No

1C-7d.	Submitting CoC and PHA Joint Applications for Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

1.	Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a competitive joint application(s) for funding or jointly implement a competitive project serving individuals or families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other programs)?	Yes
		Program Funding Source
2.	Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement.	Mainstream Housing Vouchers, Foster Youth Initiative Vouchers, NYS ESSHI

1C-7e.	Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV).	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

	Did your CoC coordinate with any PHA to apply for or implement funding provided for Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to homelessness, including vouchers provided through the American Rescue Plan?	Yes
--	--	-----

1C-7e.1.	List of PHAs with Active MOUs to Administer the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program.	
	Not Scored–For Information Only	

	Does your CoC have an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any PHA to administer the EHV Program?	Yes
--	--	-----

	If you select yes to question 1C-7e.1., you must use the list feature below to enter the name of every PHA your CoC has an active MOU with to administer the Emergency Housing Voucher Program.	
--	---	--

PHA	
	Albany Housing Au...

1C-7e.1. List of PHAs with MOUs

Name of PHA: Albany Housing Authority

1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1D-1.	Discharge Planning Coordination.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.h.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the systems of care listed to ensure persons who have resided in them longer than 90 days are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs.

1. Foster Care	Yes
2. Health Care	Yes
3. Mental Health Care	Yes
4. Correctional Facilities	Yes

1D-2.	Housing First—Lowering Barriers to Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

1.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2023 CoC Program Competition.	28
2.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2023 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.	27
3.	This number is a calculation of the percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, SSO non-Coordinated Entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	96%

1D-2a.	Project Evaluation for Housing First Compliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

You must upload the Housing First Evaluation attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC evaluates every project—where the applicant checks Housing First on their project application—to determine if they are using a Housing First approach;
2.	the list of factors and performance indicators your CoC uses during its evaluation; and
3.	how your CoC regularly evaluates projects outside of your local CoC competition to ensure the projects are using a Housing First approach.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1&3) The CoC regularly evaluates every project to ensure those checking Housing First (HF) on project applications carry out its core principles through Coordinated Entry (CE), Training & Technical Assistance (TA), the local CoC Competition, and Project Monitoring. The CoC continually evaluates Housing First (HF) practices outside the local competition through bi-weekly CE (i.e., Single Point of Access/CE case review) meetings which allow members to assess in real time (peer-to-peer) if projects consistently adhere to the HF approach. When necessary, after CE meetings, the CE Lead in collaboration with the Collaborative Applicant (CA)] follows up with agencies/projects struggling to consistently apply Housing First practices to provide individualized training/TA to ensure project-based and system-wide adherence. The CoC’s annual Renewal & New/Bonus Rank & Review tools include point-bearing questions regarding applicants’ commitment to implementing Housing First (e.g., not requiring service participation or preconditions of program participants). Additionally, annual CoC project monitoring includes an initial review of Housing First (HF) practices (based on HUD’s HF Checklist) and, in alternating years, a more in-depth evaluation using HUD’s HF Assessment Tool. Projects out of compliance are issued concerns/findings and provided individualized training/TA. 2) The list of factors and performance indicators used by the CoC to evaluate the extent to which local programs implement Housing First include ensuring a) program access and continuation is not contingent on current or past substance use, treatment completion, service participation, income requirements, criminal record, or history of victimization (e.g., domestic violence, childhood abuse); b) programs do not deny access based on credit/financial history, poor/lack of rental history, or behaviors perceived as lacking “housing readiness”; c) service goals/plans are tenant-driven, engagement-focused (though not required) and grounded in the harm-reduction model; d) programs provide tenants flexibility to pay their portion of rent (on time), offering payment plans and/or financial management assistance as needed; and e) every effort is made to avoid returns to homelessness through program discharge (i.e., coordinating transfers to new housing/services through referrals & CE).

1D-3.	Street Outreach—Scope.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.j.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	your CoC’s street outreach efforts, including the methods it uses to ensure all persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness are identified and engaged;
2.	whether your CoC’s Street Outreach covers 100 percent of the CoC’s geographic area;
3.	how often your CoC conducts street outreach; and
4.	how your CoC tailored its street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC’s street outreach (SO) methods to identify/engage all persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness include a) street canvassing across the county & b) coordinating with providers, businesses, police, & hospitals across the CoC to ensure there is coordination for services w/ outreach teams when persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness are identified. The CoC has 3 active street outreach teams led by Joseph’s House & Shelter (JH), St Catherine’s Center for Children (SCCC), & St. Anne’s Institute (focused on youth). Mobile outreach teams identify/maintain a regular presence in areas frequented by unsheltered persons & connect them to appropriate services. JH operates an outreach van & employs a nurse practitioner (NP) to document disabling conditions, removing barriers to supported housing. SCCC operates Pathways to Health, a SO program that works closely with local hospitals, serving those w/severe service needs & people who typically do not seek health services. The CoC this year will be adding a fourth outreach team by Rehabilitation Support Services (RSS), newly funded by NYS Office of Mental Health, providing daily street outreach in coordination with JH & SCCC & 24/7 on-call response. The CoC connects w/the VA Outreach Program, Soldier On, which engages unsheltered veterans & connect them to services. The CoC also has a relationship w/County Mental Health which administers an Assertive Community Treatment program, which engages unsheltered persons experiencing mental health crises. 2) The CoC provides SO throughout 90% of its geographic area (Albany County), as 10% is inaccessible to SO workers because it is private farms, rivers, lakes, etc. The CoC provides outreach to 100% of the accessible geographic area of the CoC. 3) All outreach methods are conducted daily w/day/evening hours. 4)The CoC targets SO to persons least likely to request assistance by utilizing client-centered & trauma- informed approaches, including a) hiring staff w/lived experience to conduct outreach; b) utilizing a NP to document disabling conditions (instead of requiring medical appts to gain necessary documentation to move into PSH), c) identifying locations most visited by the unsheltered (i.e. libraries, laundromats, convenience stores, churches, parks); d) building trust over time through consistent engagement; & e) providing translation services & accommodations (i.e. braille, sign-language interpreters) as needed to effectively communicate.

1D-4.	Strategies to Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.k.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate strategies your CoC implemented to ensure homelessness is not criminalized and to reverse existing criminalization policies in your CoC’s geographic area:

	Your CoC’s Strategies	Ensure Homelessness is not Criminalized	Reverse Existing Criminalization Policies
1.	Engaged/educated local policymakers	Yes	No
2.	Engaged/educated law enforcement	Yes	No
3.	Engaged/educated local business leaders	Yes	No
4.	Implemented community wide plans	Yes	No
5.	Other:(limit 500 characters)		

--	--	--

1D-5.	Rapid Rehousing–RRH Beds as Reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) or Longitudinal Data from HMIS.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.I.	

	HIC Longitudinal HMIS Data	2022	2023
Enter the total number of RRH beds available to serve all populations as reported in the HIC or the number of households served per longitudinal HMIS data, e.g., APR.	Longitudinal HMIS Data	330	394

1D-6.	Mainstream Benefits–CoC Annual Training of Project Staff.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m.	

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains program staff annually on the following mainstream benefits available for program participants within your CoC's geographic area:

	Mainstream Benefits	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI–Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	SSDI–Social Security Disability Insurance	Yes
4.	TANF–Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
5.	Substance Use Disorder Programs	Yes
6.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
7.	Other (limit 150 characters)	

1D-6a.	Information and Training on Mainstream Benefits and Other Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1.	systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, SSDI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services; and
3.	works with projects to promote SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC systemically provides up-to-date info on mainstream resources available for programs/participants during their bi-monthly membership meetings. Agencies including non CoC members, provide updates, thus increasing the breadth of knowledge of community resources available. Examples include: DSS (SNAP, TANF, Medicaid, Employment, etc.); Equinox DV; St. Anne’s- youth; Albany Housing Coalition-vet providers; County Mental Health (MH); SPARC- substance use disorder (SUD) and Naloxone training programs; Alliance for Positive Health- Health Homes/Medicaid case mgmt. The CoC also updates its members on changes in accessing/utilizing mainstream benefits via email. If a change in referral/access to resources requires additional TA for agencies to enact, the CA provides webinars as needed. 2)The CoC collaborates w/healthcare orgs to assist program participants w/receiving healthcare services (i.e. SA/MH treatment) by engaging healthcare partners, both CoC/non-CoC members to present at Membership meetings. The VP of Community Engagement at local Managed Care Org (MCO), CDPHP, regularly shares on vaccine availability (COVID19, flu,) & the Albany Damien Center provides resources specific to clients living w/HIV/AIDS. This info is communicated directly w/ program staff, who connect participants w/appropriate healthcare services. Additionally, the Systems Committee has convened CoC meetings btw MH/SA providers & hospitals w/CoC outreach, shelter & housing programs to discuss & establish referral processes to streamline access to health care. Through CE, the CoC also coordinates case conferencing w/NYS Dept of MH’s SPOA through Albany Co. Dept of MH. The CoC also provides TA annually to new CoC project applicants in coordination w/ healthcare providers to ensure participants receive necessary healthcare services. Finally, the CoC partners w/MCOs to directly connect participants to healthcare. Specifically, in partnership w/CDPHP, the CoC developed an HMIS question on intake that asks about CDPHP membership. This allows program staff to connect member participants to CDPHP care managers who support ongoing physical/mental/behavioral healthcare. On an annual basis, the CA provides TA to new project applicants on how to coordinate with healthcare providers to ensure program participants can receive necessary healthcare services. 3)The CoC actively promotes the SOAR model/trainings hosted by the regional SOAR TA provider during membership meetings.

1D-7.	Increasing Capacity for Non-Congregate Sheltering.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC is increasing its capacity to provide non-congregate sheltering.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC is increasing its capacity to provide non-congregate sheltering by (1) advocating for non-congregate shelter w/in various funding streams & (2) connecting clients sheltered in hotel/motels with case management services to create non-congregate-like settings & support. (1) The CoC successfully advocated to the City of Albany & NYS to prioritize funding for the acquisition & development of non-congregate shelter within the jurisdictions' HOME-ARP Allocation Plan, bridging a gap in emergency housing options for those in need. Currently, approximately 30% of shelter beds in Albany County are non-congregate. However, these programs focus on serving victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking, & families. Therefore, the CoC deemed it important to advocate for a portion of HOME-ARP allocated funds to develop non-congregate shelter that is open for all persons experiencing homelessness & in need of a private setting, such as those w/severe mental illness or substance use disorders. Specifically, the CoC's Collaborative Applicant partnered with the City and NYS Homes & Community Renewal (HCR) to host community planning sessions related to HOME-ARP. Several CoC members participated in such forums to advocate for non-congregate shelter. In 2023, The City of Albany & The Consortium (which includes a town within Albany County) HOME-ARP Plans earmarked a portion out of the total pot of \$886,808 to programs developing non-congregate shelter. Requests for proposals were released in 2022 for both HOME-ARP Plans. (2) Additionally, as a right to shelter state, if shelter beds are not available, the County Department of Social Services shelters clients in hotel/motels. The CoC has worked to create non-congregate-like settings for clients in hotels/motels by providing on-site wrap-around services to clients placed in hotel/motels. Support services include case management, community referrals, transportation, & access to basic necessity items, such as food & hygiene kits. As a result, clients receive the necessary support services in a private room setting similar to a non-congregate shelter, increasing self-sufficiency and referrals to wrap-around services.

ID-8.	Partnerships with Public Health Agencies—Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent Spread of Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to:	
1.	develop CoC-wide policies and procedures to respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and	
2.	prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has developed partnerships w/ state & local public health agencies to ensure 1) the CoC has policies & procedures (P&P) in place to respond to infectious disease outbreaks & 2) the CoC can effectively prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness. 1) The CoC edited its Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures and Prioritization Index to prioritize persons who are sick/quarantined or economically impacted by infectious diseases such as COVID-19. The Collaborative Applicant is the lead agency on a statewide project in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) and the University of Rochester to develop health policies, distribute PPE and cleaning supplies and disseminate information on preventing outbreaks and the spread of infectious diseases in emergency shelters. Results and policies that have been created through this partnership will be shared with the CoC and incorporated into applicable CoC practices. The CoC will continue to collaborate w/state & local public health agencies to craft responsive CoC-wide Policies and Procedures that prioritize care through the lens of infectious disease prevention (i.e. safety measures, quarantine protocols, accessing PPE), ensuring the CoC has a coordinated response to future infectious disease outbreaks. 2) The CoC effectively collaborates with state & local public health agencies to prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness primarily through sharing info/resources at CoC Membership meetings & ensuring representation from state and local public health officials at meetings. For example, a) CA shares updates related to the DOH statewide project preventing infectious diseases in emergency shelters; b) the Albany Co Dept. of Social Services & Dept. of Mental Health regularly share via CoC Membership presentations & email blast updates on public health & county services available to people at greatest risk of severe infectious disease; c) provider agencies that work primarily w/clients with HIV/AIDS diagnoses present resources at CoC membership meetings on supporting immunocompromised clients; & d) the CoC has a close partnership with CDPHP, a local Managed Care Organization, that shares resources and updates at membership and board meetings. Together, development of infectious disease procedures & resource sharing has resulted in a community of providers that are well-informed & prepared to respond to ongoing/future public health crises.

ID-8a.	Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	shared information related to public health measures and homelessness, and	
2.	facilitated communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers to ensure street outreach providers and shelter and housing providers are equipped to prevent or limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC shares info related to public health measures & homelessness through a) Collaborative Applicant (CA) partnership with the Dept. of Health (DOH) on shelter best practices related to infectious disease & b) sharing public health information through a bi-monthly newsletter to membership. The CA supports direct service providers by processing & filtering all the updated public health/safety guidance/restrictions provided by the CDC, HUD, & state/local health depts through regular email communication & website updates. The CA also shares new public health measures related to homelessness through a partnership w/ the state DOH to disseminate supplies & research health measures to mitigate infectious disease for both sheltered & unsheltered populations. Through this partnership, the CA develops policies & procedures, in collaboration with the University of Rochester, to equip outreach programs, shelters & housing providers w/ strategies & best practices to limit & prevent infectious disease outbreaks. The CA will continue sharing necessary public health measures through newsletters & an up-to-date website. For pressing updates (i.e., vaccine availability, infectious disease protocols, COVID waves), CoC providers communicate to fellow outreach, shelter, & housing providers through the CoC Board & Membership email listservs. 2) The CoC facilitates communication between public health agencies & homeless service providers to ensure service providers are equipped to prevent/limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants by a) hosting online dialogues w/public health experts at Board & Membership meetings, & b) participating in collaborative street outreach to provide proactive healthcare to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. a) The CoC hosts virtual/hybrid Board & Membership meetings that include presentations by public health agencies .Emergency shelter & housing providers share best practices/resources on ensuring staff & client safety compliance, vaccine hesitancy, etc. b) Joseph’s House, St. Catherine’s Center for Children & local law enforcement worked together w/ a mobile health unit to conduct outreach on Lark St. in Albany, demonstrating the CoC’s effective partnership w/ multiple agencies to prevent the spread of infectious diseases (e.g. COVID, flu). The CA will continue to host opportunities to communicate w/ public health & pilot programs that mirror the success of this above Lark St. initiative.

1D-9.	Centralized or Coordinated Entry System—Assessment Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC’s coordinated entry system:	
1.	covers 100 percent of your CoC’s geographic area;
2.	uses a standardized assessment process; and
3.	is updated regularly using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The Albany CoC Coordinated Entry System (CES) is a "No Wrong Door" system reaching homeless households covering 100% of the CoC's accessible geographic area. Agencies serving as Points of Entry (POE) are located across the County and include outreach services, emergency shelters, housing providers and local departments of social services. The breadth of the system is captured by the CE priority list which documents client location at intake. The CE Committee reviews POE data to ensure the CoC has accessible CE sites. If a disparity is noted, the Committee engages providers to ensure CE access and address barriers impacting referrals. The CE Committee also considers geographic areas where no referrals are coming in and a reported homeless population exists and areas without access to emergency shelter. 2)The CoC uses a standardized assessment process and tool. The CoC updates the tool and process to ensure consistency with HUD requirements and to meet local needs. The assessment process prioritizes people in greatest need of assistance via a prioritization score, including homeless chronicity, disability, and legal system involvement. Participant prioritization is verified by the CE Committee which reviews the list at bi-weekly case conferences to ensure prioritization is given to those with the most severe service needs. 3) The CoC assesses the CES using feedback from participating providers/ households' and reviews data from the CE/HMIS programs. During these meetings the process is discussed and the tool is reviewed. The committee looks at current vulnerabilities being prioritized within the CoC and compares them to the current priority list to ensure consistency. HMIS/CE data is reviewed to look at length of time individuals remain on the priority list awaiting housing referrals; extent of engagement w/individuals while on the list; and length of time between referral and placement. This data review helps to identify barriers to quickly obtain housing, ensure equity and informs necessary changes to the process/tool. In addition, the CoC Board acts as the CES Evaluation Entity. They are tasked with using participant/provider data to measure the functioning of the CES. To measure functioning and effectiveness, they developed a survey to evaluate the CES. This survey tool is completed by participating providers/households that have participated in CE to gauge the effectiveness/efficiency of the CE process and the results are used to inform changes.

1D-9a.	Program Participant-Centered Approach to Centralized or Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:
1.	reaches people who are least likely to apply for homeless assistance in the absence of special outreach;
2.	prioritizes people most in need of assistance;
3.	ensures people most in need of assistance receive permanent housing in a timely manner, consistent with their preferences; and
4.	takes steps to reduce burdens on people using coordinated entry.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoCs Coordinated Entry System (CES) targets outreach to those least likely to apply for homeless assistance in the absence of special outreach as outlined in the CE Marketing Plan. This Plan incorporates outreach best practices such as street canvassing and developing one-on-one relationships to build/gain trust and peer referrals. 2) The CoC prioritizes people most in need by utilizing the standardized CE assessment tool and prioritization index. This tool uses a set of community-wide prioritization criteria such as length of time homeless, physical/mental health barriers and prior legal system involvement to ensure persons with the greatest service need, most barriers are prioritized. 3) The CoC ensures people most in need of assistance receive permanent housing in a timely manner by ensuring their first point of entry quickly shares the intake information for housing services with the CE Lead and referral agencies. The assessment documents need including special needs, domestic violence, length of time homeless and familial status to ensure thoughtful referrals are made consistent with the client’s needs and preferences. Once assessed, these clients are immediately added to the by-name priority list and referrals are sent to appropriate housing providers for review and consideration. 4) The NY 503 CoC has reduced the burden of those using the CES by including adopting a no wrong door system which allows individuals experiencing a housing crisis to access the CES at numerous points within the CoC’s entire geographic area including emergency shelters, permanent housing agencies and local department of social services. The no wrong door system ensures the client is only required to make one connection/complete one application to be connected to the most appropriate homeless housing services within the CoC. This system alleviates the burden on the client to find the right service location for their needs. Clients will only be referred to projects where they meet eligibility requirements and criteria to avoid wasting their time. In addition, utilizing one application for all housing opportunities ensures the client will not be answering the same question multiple times or collecting duplicate documentation. The CE committee meets regularly to review the process, exclude invasive questions from the tool and ensure it remains client centered and efficient as possible.

1D-9b.	Informing Program Participant about Rights and Remedies through Centralized or Coordinated Entry–Reporting Violations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC through its centralized or coordinated entry:	
1.	affirmatively markets housing and services provided within the CoC’s geographic area and ensures it reaches all persons experiencing homelessness;	
2.	informs program participants of their rights and remedies available under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws; and	
3.	reports any conditions or actions that impede fair housing choice for current or prospective program participants to the jurisdiction(s) responsible for certifying consistency with the Consolidated Plan.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)Through its Coordinated Entry System (CES)The NY 503 CoC affirmatively markets housing and services provided within the CoC’s geographic area and ensures it reaches all persons experiencing homelessness by employing marketing strategies designed to be inclusive and considerate of the diverse population of individuals experiencing homelessness. The CoC partners with community agencies including translation and disability service providers to ensure marketing materials are available in commonly spoken languages within the community and accessible to individuals with disabilities. The CoC also uses a variety of outreach channels to maximize its reach. This includes online platforms, social media, community events, and collaboration with local service providers specifically those outreaching to the BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities.

2)All marketing materials explicitly state the CoC’s commitment to fair housing and non-discrimination, and clearly communicate the eligibility criteria for accessing housing and services within the CoC. The CoC also collaborates with community organizations, advocacy groups, and service providers including Legal Aid and United Tenants that educate CES providers and program participants of their rights and remedies available to them under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws. These agencies conducted an annual training session open to the entire CoC, focusing on educating participants about fair housing principles, laws, and available courses of action.

3)The CoCs strategy for reporting observed conditions or actions that impede fair housing includes actively monitoring its coordinated entry system and participating programs to identify any conditions or actions that could potentially impede fair housing choice for program participants. This includes discriminatory practices, barriers to access, or any actions that hinder equal opportunity and the housing first principle. If the CES identifies such conditions or actions, it would be documented and communicated to the CoC as well as the City of Albany and NYS Homes and Community Renewal, the jurisdiction(s) responsible for certifying consistency with the local and state Consolidated Plan. The CoC will continue to monitor its coordinated entry system and programs to ensure that fair housing principles are upheld.

1D-10.	Advancing Racial Equity in Homelessness–Conducting Assessment.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

1.	Has your CoC conducted a racial disparities assessment in the last 3 years?	Yes
2.	Enter the date your CoC conducted its latest assessment for racial disparities.	09/23/2022

1D-10a.	Process for Analyzing Racial Disparities–Identified Racial Disparities in Provision or Outcomes of Homeless Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

	Describe in the field below:	
1.	your CoC’s process for analyzing whether any racial disparities are present in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and	

2. what racial disparities your CoC identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has made a commitment to identify and eradicate racial disparities in the provision and outcome of homeless assistance. 1) NY-503's process for analyzing racial disparities in the provision and outcomes of homeless assistance included tasking a regional committee with identifying and reporting racial disparities found within data reported in the HMIS. This analysis was conducted by the Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC); a regional committee comprised of 11 New York State CoCs. The mission of the Committee is to serve local Continuums of Care as a primary resource and catalyst for the work of racial justice within the homeless service system. RRJAC analysis focused on admission and discharge data from the HMIS per program component type. In collaboration with the HMIS and CE Leads, the Committee reviewed this data with a racial equity lens and then presented findings to the Board and Membership. Findings were made accessible online via a PowerPoint for full community transparency. The HMIS data analysis was modeled after the HUD's Racial Equity Analysis Tool. In the most recent analysis, the RRJAC focused most heavily on Coordinated Entry data, including destinations by race. 2) Analysis identified the following disparities: Black or African Americans made up 75% of the clients in Emergency shelters and outreach. However Black or African Americans made up 61% of those on the Coordinated Entry Waitlist. Additionally, regarding housing referrals from Coordinated Entry, only 37% of Black or African American clients on the Coordinated Entry waitlist were referred to Permanent Supportive Housing. These results can indicate that Black or African American clients are underrepresented in Coordinated Entry, and that there is racial disparity in Permanent Supportive Housing referrals.

1D-10b.	Implemented Strategies that Address Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the strategies your CoC is using to address any racial disparities.

1.	The CoC's board and decisionmaking bodies are representative of the population served in the CoC.	Yes
2.	The CoC has identified steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC.	Yes
3.	The CoC is expanding outreach in geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups.	Yes
4.	The CoC has communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups.	Yes
5.	The CoC is training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness.	Yes
6.	The CoC is establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector.	Yes
7.	The CoC has staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness.	Yes
8.	The CoC is educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national nonprofit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity.	Yes
9.	The CoC reviewed coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes

10.	The CoC is collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system.	Yes
11.	The CoC is conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes
	Other:(limit 500 characters)	
12.		

1D-10c.	Implemented Strategies that Address Known Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below the steps your CoC is taking to address the disparities identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

CE data indicates disparities in the provision/outcomes of homeless assistance. Analysis indicates Black & African American clients are underrepresented on the CE waitlist compared to the homeless pop (sheltered & unsheltered), & that persons on the CE waitlist & the percentage of Permanent Supportive Housing referrals per race reflect disparity compared to the CoC's homeless population. The CoC & local homeless providers have taken the following steps to address these disparities, 1) conducted an analysis of CoC governing documents & Board composition 2) updated the Rank and Review tool to focus on racial equity & 3) conducted an analysis of CE data. 1) The CoC participated in a Regional Summit which produced racial equity related policy recommendations. CoC bylaws & Written Standards were updated to include a commitment to center client voices in the creation of CoC policies with the goal of creating more racially equitable service provider practices. These changes to the CoC mission informed updates made to the CE written standards, intended to directly increase equity in housing outcomes. As part of the actions resulting from the Summit, the Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC) and NY-503 also analyzed the demographic composition of the CoC Board by distributing the diversity assessment tool which tracks recruitment of board members that identify as BIPOC & persons w/ lived experience. The tool intends to ensure equitable representation on the Board of populations served w/in the homeless system, which will also lead to more racially equitable homeless service provision through changes to CoC policy & provider practices. 2) In early 2023, the RRJAC reviewed the rank & review tool for its level of emphasis on racial equity within agencies. The Committee provided edits to questions regarding agencies' racial equity statement that requires agencies to have an anti-discrimination policy that is transparent, public, & enforced within CoC agencies. The CoC adopted these edits in its ranking process. 3) The RRJAC Data workgroup conducted further analysis of NY-503's CE priority list data to understand the impact race & ethnicity has for clients who remain on the CE priority list waiting for housing; the analysis revealed that BIPOC populations have longer wait times for housing placement. These results will be used to inform updates to the CE intake tool to address the causes of the racial disparities identified in the next six months.

1D-10d.	Tracked Progress on Preventing or Eliminating Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. the measures your CoC has in place to track progress on preventing or eliminating disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and	
	2. the tools your CoC uses.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

Analysis completed by NY-503 indicates disparities in the provision/outcomes of homeless assistance. Analysis indicates Black & African American clients are underrepresented on the CE priority list compared to the homeless population (sheltered and unsheltered), and that persons on the CE waitlist & the percentage of Permanent Supportive Housing referrals per race reflect disparity compared to the CoC's homeless population. 1) Measures currently being used to track progress on preventing or eliminating disparity are a) tracking successful placements within the CE program by race, b) tracking the number of positive PSH program connections by race, and c) tracking the average length of stay on the CE list by race. These measures are used to illustrate whether positive and efficient housing outcomes on the CE list are proportional to the population size of each racial group. The CoC participates in the Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC), a regional committee comprised of 11 New York State CoCs formed to provide opportunities for community members to get involved in actionable systems change to address racial disparities within the homelessness service sector. The mission of the Committee is to serve local Continuums of Care as a primary resource and catalyst for the work of racial justice within the homeless service system. The collection of these measures was requested by the RRJAC to be analyzed per each participating community. The RRJAC plans to conduct this data collection annually for each community, including NY-503. 2) The tools the CoC uses to measure and track progress are locally derived analysis platforms that utilize HMIS and CE data. The data analysis was modeled after the data sources and versions of analysis of HUD's recommended Racial Equity Analysis Tool. The data analysis of NY-503 and all RRJAC communities are collected into a shared excel sheet, which includes data visualizations. The RRJAC disseminates the results of this tool yearly to its members. The RRJAC references this tool to measure the effectiveness of the systems change put into effect to eradicate racial disparities within service and outcomes.

1D-11.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking—CoC's Outreach Efforts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	
	Describe in the field below your CoC's outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decision making processes.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC's outreach efforts to engage persons w/ lived experience and expertise of homelessness (PLEEH) in leadership roles & decision-making making processes was prioritized this past year and includes: a) the development of a Persons with Lived Experience Advisory Committee b) promotion of open board positions to those with lived experience via direct client outreach c) ensuring transparent and publicly posted Membership and Committee information for full public participation a) In collaboration with the Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC), the CoC has taken the first steps to develop a Persons with Lived Experience Advisory Committee, which is intended to provide policy recommendations to the Board, to make CoC policies reflect the experience of its clients. The Committee will be advertised via the dissemination of a written survey to clients within CoC agencies. The survey will ask clients general questions about their experience with CoC services, as well as if they are interested in joining the PLEEH Advisory Committee. The PLEEH advisory committee, will be tasked with analyzing specific CoC policies for areas of improvement, which will be used to inform board decisions. b) The CoC Board promoted open seats via a monthly newsletter, and which emphasized the recruitment of those with lived experience for the board. CoC members were also encouraged to promote the open board seats throughout their networks to those with lived experience. CoC Board members conduct targeted outreach to PLEEH from their own programs/agencies to fill board vacancies. c) The CoC also conducts outreach by keeping up to date membership meetings & committee information on the CoC website & encouraging providers to refer clients to this information. Open Committee meetings are publicized, and important Committee information is featured on the CARES website.

1D-11a.	Active CoC Participation of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

You must upload the Letter Signed by Working Group attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
 Enter in the chart below the number of people with lived experience who currently participate in your CoC under the four categories listed:

	Level of Active Participation	Number of People with Lived Experience Within the Last 7 Years or Current Program Participant	Number of People with Lived Experience Coming from Unsheltered Situations
1.	Included in the decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	0	2
2.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	0	3
3.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's local competition rating factors.	0	1
4.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's coordinated entry process.	0	1

1D-11b.	Professional Development and Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC or CoC membership organizations provide professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC & CoC membership orgs provide professional development & employment (emp.) opportunities to persons w/lived experience of homelessness (PWLE) by 1) promoting connection between the CoC & emp. agencies, and 2) creating emp. programs for PWLE where there were gaps in such services. 1) The CoC continually reaches out to agencies whose exp/knowledge would promote linkages to emp. opportunities for clients. Through this outreach, Albany Community Action Partnership (ACAP), which offers emp. & ed. training programs, became a member, holds a seat on the CoC Board & participates in CE. Currently, the CoC is working to add ACAP's intake to the CE intake, which will streamline connecting those on the CE list to emp. & ed. opportunities w/ ACAP. Including agencies that foster upward economic mobility for their clients in membership & CoC leadership allows CoC providers to share professional development & emp. resources with current clients/prior clients w/ lived experience of homelessness (i.e. those in PH programs/ have graduated from PH programs). CARES of NY, Inc. (CARES), a PH provider & the Collaborative Applicant, applied for & received an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocation & developed a workforce development program for the community. This project, which collabs w/ the City of Albany's Career Central, directly connects the emp. & homeless housing systems to create a pathway for PWLE to enter & stay in the workforce. The project aims to build & improve the existing prevention, rapid rehousing, & emergency housing programs by linking clients to new workforce supports. Specifically, participants have access to one-on-one consults which assists in removing barriers to entering/remaining in the workforce & provide scholarships for trades training in high demand occupations. 2) CoC member orgs have also created programs that connect PWLE to employment. For example, IPH hires PWLE as Albany Ambassadors, which provides hospitality services for local theaters in downtown Albany. The initiative provides an opportunity for PWLE to build hard & soft skills, expand their resumes, & gain confidence. IPH also directly hires clients/prior clients w/i its agency to fulfill duties in the programs, facilities, and kitchens. Finally, Albany Damien Center hires peer advocates that act as liaisons between tenants, case managers & landlords/property managers.

1D-11c.	Routinely Gathering Feedback and Addressing Challenges of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC routinely gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;
2.	how your CoC routinely gathers feedback from people who have received assistance through the CoC or ESG Programs; and
3.	the steps your CoC has taken to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1&2) The CoC routinely gathers feedback from persons experiencing homelessness and those who have received assistance through CoC or ESG programs by a) administering client surveys & hosting interviews to assess gaps in homeless services & areas for system improvement & b) encouraging people w/ lived experience of homelessness to join the Board. a) The CoC Systems Committee (SC) surveyed & interviewed clients at provider agencies to identify gaps in services, how funds should be spent (i.e. CoC Bonus, ARPA funds), & the CoC's strategies to best address homelessness. The CoC also included a question on the local Rank & Review tool about how agencies collect & implement feedback from their clients to encourage agency participation in client engagement. Information from this data collection was formally presented to the Board, informing the focus of CoC work & resource allocation. The CoC also annually assesses the CE system for accessibility & effectiveness by surveying clients who are /were on the CE priority list. b) The CoC encourages PWLE of homelessness to join the Board through targeted outreach. Moving forward, the CoC is developing a formal PWLE committee that will be tasked w/ informing CoC funding priorities, who should be included in leadership, & what projects are needed to have an impact. These recommendations will be given to the Board. 3) The CoC has taken steps to address challenges raised by PWLE by a) advocating for funding to directly address identified needs, b) developing &/or charging CoC committees w/actions to address needs, & c) updating CoC processes to reduce barriers to housing & services. Specifically, to increase the amount of affordable housing & prevention funds in the community, an issue identified by PWLE through surveys & focus groups, the CoC advocated for City of Albany & NYS HOME-ARP to fund prevention financial assistance & support affordable housing dev. applicants' w/ letters of support for NYS & federal funding. In response to PWLE feedback that affordable housing units are challenging to find even w/ rental assistance in hand, the CoC created a Landlord Engagement group & supported the CE Lead in hiring a landlord navigator to build new, trusting relationships w/ landlords to create a larger pool of readily available units. In terms of updating processes, feedback from CE client surveys is discussed at CE Advisory Committee meetings & used to improve CE accessibility & intake processes.

1D-12.	Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.t.	
	Describe in the field below at least 2 steps your CoC has taken in the past 12 months to engage city, county, or state governments that represent your CoC's geographic area regarding the following:	
1.	reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; and	
2.	reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1&2) The CoC has engaged local governments within the last 12 months to reform zoning & land use policies to permit more housing and reduce regulatory barriers to housing development by taking the following steps: a) advocating to local govts, b) advocating for zoning changes when developing housing, & c) providing data on housing needs. a) CoC members have engaged local govt officials & planning boards to advocate for the creation of new affordable housing by rezoning & reducing barriers to housing development. For example, the CoC member agency, United Tenants of Albany, engaged city council members on the effort to "ReZone Albany". The CoC supported the city's efforts to draft the most significant updates to the city's zoning map in 40 years. As a result, overlay districts were approved resulting in development of new rental housing. b) CoC agencies advocate for zoning changes & reduction of regulatory barriers when developing housing projects. Specifically, CoC member agencies partner with and/or develop affordable housing & work with local planning bodies to attain permits & approvals which include zoning variances. For example, IPH, a CoC-funded agency, successfully secured zoning variances to build additional units onto their Community Connections Center, a repurposed school that required zoning approvals from City Council. Similarly, CARES, the Collab App, educated both the Council & the public to get approvals for the Elm Street Project (15 units of PSH in a highly resourced community). The CoC as a whole collaborates with local coalitions to advocate for specific housing projects by providing support letters, attending public hearings, & providing written comments. Several affordable housing proposals in the CoC geographic area prompted CoC member orgs to become more involved in local efforts for zoning/regulatory changes or approval of projects. c) Using data & best practice research, the CoC also conducts outreach to educate localities & the public on the need for & value of additional affordable rental units. The CoC provides data from the Housing Inventory (HIC) & Point in Time (PIT) counts for housing needs assessments & Consolidated Plans. This HIC/PIT data & CoC system performance data (i.e. average length of time homeless & first-time homeless) demonstrate a need to create new affordable units & provides demographic information to ensure new housing units will fit the needs of the homeless & very low-income populations.

1E. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1E-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC’s Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. NOFO Section V.B.2.a. and 2.g. You must upload the Web Posting of Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	
-------	---	--

1.	Enter your CoC’s local competition submission deadline date for New Project applicants to submit their project applications to your CoC—meaning the date your CoC published the deadline.	07/24/2023
2.	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for Renewal Project applicants to submit their project applications to your CoC’s local competition—meaning the date your CoC published the deadline.	06/07/2023

1E-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. We use the response to this question and the response in Question 1E-2a along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC’s eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below. NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., 2.d., and 2.e. You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen. Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected project applications during your local competition:	
-------	---	--

1.	Established total points available for each project application type.	Yes
2.	At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH).	Yes
3.	At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness).	Yes
4.	Provided points for projects that addressed specific severe barriers to housing and services.	Yes

5.	Used data from comparable databases to score projects submitted by victim service providers.	Yes
6.	Provided points for projects based on the degree the projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.	Yes

1E-2a.	Scored Project Forms for One Project from Your CoC's Local Competition. We use the response to this question and Question 1E-2. along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC's eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.	

You must upload the Scored Forms for One Project attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
 Complete the chart below to provide details of your CoC's local competition:

1.	What were the maximum number of points available for the renewal project form(s)?	183
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	28
3.	What renewal project type did most applicants use?	PH-PSH

1E-2b.	Addressing Severe Barriers in the Local Project Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.d.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding each project that has successfully housed program participants in permanent housing;
2.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding how long it takes to house people in permanent housing;
3.	how your CoC considered the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities experienced by program participants preventing rapid placement in permanent housing or the ability to maintain permanent housing when your CoC ranked and selected projects; and
4.	considerations your CoC gave to projects that provide housing and services to the hardest to serve populations that could result in lower performance levels but are projects your CoC needs in its geographic area.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC collected & analyzed data on projects that successfully housed program participants in permanent housing (PH) using HMIS/CE project data (or a comparable database) to answer objective questions in the local Rank & Review (R&R) tool. Specifically, the tool scores on utilization, the number of chronically homeless (CH) persons served, positive outcomes, & income growth. The NOFA Committee updates the R&R tool, including data to assess project performance. The tool is approved by the Board & the HMIS Lead pulls data or collects aggregate data from a VSP (a comparable database) & sends it to applicants to utilize when completing the local R&R tool. 2) The CoC assessed the length of time between program entry & housing placement using APR data and narrative to explain how projects move clients quickly into housing. 3) The CoC considered the specific severity of needs when ranking projects by including quantitative (i.e. prioritizing specific populations) & qualitative questions within the R&R application process (including the application tools & interviews). Specifically, the R&R tool prioritized projects serving the chronically homeless, youth, veterans, or victims of DV. Through the narrative & interview portions of the R&R application, agencies explain and can recoup points based on unique client needs & vulnerabilities that may have impacted project performance, such as preventing rapid placement in permanent housing & housing stability. The CoC considers these factors to ensure effective prioritization & allocation of resources to serve those with the most severe service needs within the CoC's geographic area. The CoC also specifically included bonus questions on the local R&R tool for DV & Youth providers to explain positive outcomes that don't meet HUD's traditional definitions of positive outcomes. The corresponding Att. 1E-2: documents these practices. 4) The CoC considered the following severity of needs & vulnerabilities when ranking projects: CH, Veteran status, history of DV, severe mental illness, youth populations, low/no income, substance abuse and/or criminal history. The local R&R interview process also allowed for agencies to explain how serving those with the most severe service needs impacted their performance levels and could recoup points through that explanation.

1E-3.	Advancing Racial Equity through Participation of Over-Represented Populations in the Local Competition Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.e.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC used the input from persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, to determine the rating factors used to review project applications;
2.	how your CoC included persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population in the review, selection, and ranking process; and
3.	how your CoC rated and ranked projects based on the degree to which their project has identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC obtained & included input from persons of different races, particularly those over-represented in the local homeless pop, when determining rating factors used to review project apps by engaging the Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee (RRJAC) in creating/editing Rank & Review (R&R) tool questions. As part of the RRJAC, the CoC works to identify & implement strategic initiatives that promote racial equity within the CoC & homeless services system. This year, the CoC worked w/the RRJAC to create/edit/review app questions from a Racial, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion perspective. Currently, Black or African American individuals are overrepresented in the CoC's HMIS at 61%, compared to 7.89% of the general population.2)Input from persons of different races affected how the CoC determined rating factors used to review project apps resulting in R&R tools that rated projects on their agency practices to increase racial equity & address existing racial disparities in the system. The CoC included persons of different races, particularly those identified as over-represented in the local homelessness pop, in the review, selection & ranking process by working w/ the RRJAC to ensure a diverse CoC Membership, Board & committees. The RRJAC Committee promotes diversification through regular assessment of current CoC member demographics & creation of CoC outreach/education materials. The CoC prioritized ensuring diversity within the Review team to ensure persons of different races were included in the review, selection & ranking process. This team is responsible for scoring the renewal, new, DV & HMIS/CE bonus apps for the NOFO competition. This year 33% of Rank and Review reviewers who scored applications identified as BIPOC.3)The CoC rated & ranked projects based on the degree to which projects have identified barriers to participation & have taken steps to eliminate those barriers by asking projects in the R&R tools a)to identify the degree to which program participants mirrored the homeless population; b) how they achieved equitable mirroring or how they plan to improve outreach & assess policies that may contribute to current racial disparity; c) to attach their agency's anti-discrimination policy; & d)if project staff participated in DEI training. It should be noted that 16% of the CoC's rank & review tool questions focus on steps agencies are taking to eliminate barriers to racial equity.

1E-4.	Reallocation—Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	your CoC's reallocation process, including how your CoC determined which projects are candidates for reallocation because they are low performing or less needed;	
2.	whether your CoC identified any low performing or less needed projects through the process described in element 1 of this question during your CoC's local competition this year;	
3.	whether your CoC reallocated any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year; and	
4.	why your CoC did not reallocate low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year, if applicable.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC determines candidates for reallocation due to low performance or less needed projects as a tool to make strategic improvements to the homeless system. 1) The reallocation process is outlined in the Rank & Review (R&R) Written Process, which is reviewed, updated, posted for public comment, & approved by the NOFA Co. & CoC Board on an annual basis. The process starts w/UFA Fiscal monitoring, as mandated by the UFA Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The Fiscal Committee (FC) regularly reviews expenditure percentages & SOP benchmarks to ensure all funds will be spent, identifies projects that have a history of inadequate financial mgmt. or recaptured funds, & recommends reallocation of poor performing projects to the Board. Additionally, the R&R tool is annually updated to assess projects on performance & local HUD priorities, including utilization, serving the chronically homeless, returns to homelessness, positive outcomes, client income growth, & serving local priority populations. The R&R Review Team flags projects that a) demonstrate ongoing poor project performance outcomes &/or b) consistently score low on the R&R tool. From R&R & monitoring, recommendations are made regarding reallocation to the Board. The Board makes the final decision to reallocate funding to create a new high performing project by reviewing the project's performance outcomes, pops served & the need for the project & shares its decision with CoC Membership. If a project is considered needed in the community (i.e. uniquely serves a hard-to-serve population), the Board works w/the Collaborative Applicant to provide TA to address underperformance. If it is decided reallocation would be a better use of CoC funds to best serve homeless clients, funding is made available through the new project R&R process. 2) The CoC did not identify any low performing or less needed projects through this process this year. High project performance was demonstrated through the FC, R&R, and monitoring, & the need for each project is demonstrated by CoC projects actively accepting those with the most s from the CE list. 3) As such, no projects were identified for reallocation during the local competition. Between 2018-2023, no CoC funding has been reallocated. This is a direct result of the CoC being a UFA, which ensures funds are seamlessly moved between projects as needed. 4) Through the local competition it was determined all projects are high performing & address community needs.

1E-4a.	Reallocation Between FY 2018 and FY 2023.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

	Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2018 and FY 2023?	No
--	--	----

1E-5.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

1.	Did your CoC reject any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
2.	Did your CoC reduce funding for any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
3.	Did your CoC inform applicants why your CoC rejected or reduced their project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
4.	If you selected Yes for element 1 or element 2 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2023, 06/27/2023, and 06/28/2023, then you must enter 06/28/2023.	08/25/2023

1E-5a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New and Renewal Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2023, 06/27/2023, and 06/28/2023, then you must enter 06/28/2023.	08/25/2023
--	--	------------

1E-5b.	Local Competition Selection Results for All Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Selection Results attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Does your attachment include: 1. Project Names; 2. Project Scores; 3. Project accepted or rejected status; 4. Project Rank–if accepted; 5. Requested Funding Amounts; and 6. Reallocated funds.	Yes
--	---	-----

1E-5c.	Web Posting of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application 2 Days Before CoC Program Competition Application Submission Deadline.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g. and 24 CFR 578.95.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC posted the CoC-approved Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or partner’s website–which included: 1. the CoC Application; and 2. Priority Listings for Reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.	09/21/2023
--	--	------------

1E-5d.	Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders that the CoC-Approved Consolidated Application is Posted on Website.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	

You must upload the Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

	Enter the date your CoC notified community members and key stakeholders that the CoC-approved Consolidated Application was posted on your CoC's website or partner's website.	09/21/2023
--	---	------------

2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2A-1.	HMIS Vendor.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Enter the name of the HMIS Vendor your CoC is currently using.	Foothold Technology
--	--	---------------------

2A-2.	HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Select from dropdown menu your CoC’s HMIS coverage area.	Multiple CoCs
--	--	---------------

2A-3.	HIC Data Submission in HDX.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.a.	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2023 HIC data into HDX.	04/26/2023
--	---	------------

2A-4.	Comparable Database for DV Providers—CoC and HMIS Lead Supporting Data Collection and Data Submission by Victim Service Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.b.	

	In the field below:	
1.	describe actions your CoC and HMIS Lead have taken to ensure DV housing and service providers in your CoC collect data in HMIS comparable databases;	
2.	state whether DV housing and service providers in your CoC are using a HUD-compliant comparable database—compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards; and	

3. state whether your CoC's HMIS is compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC and HMIS lead ensure DV housing and service providers in the CoC collect data in databases that meet HUD's comparable database requirements by attending monthly meetings held by the Regional Domestic Violence Advisory Board. This Board's priority is to ensure this compliance and offer technical assistance if needed.

1) Specifically, the Collaborative Applicant, CARES of NY, Inc, engaged Domestic Violence providers from a variety of CoC's they work with to form a Regional DV Board. One task of the Regional DV Board is to ensure compliance within the comparable database and with the 2022 HMIS Data Standards. To meet this goal, CARES requested HUD TA for the Regional DV Committee, and was provided such guidance. This TA resulted in clarification of comparable database requirements and discussion on how CoCs can ensure compliance. All providers completed an annual survey asking the name of their current comparable database and its reporting abilities. CARES of NY, Inc. (the HMIS Lead) vetted each identified software vendor to ensure their database is compliant. 2&3) With the guidance from HUD TA and CoC oversight, our CoC DV providers are compliant with the 2022 HMIS Data Standards. Currently, the CoC's DV Comparable database is Empower. Examples of compliance include submitting de-identified aggregate data to the CoC for inclusion in the Housing Inventory Chart and Point In Time Count; and utilizing the data in the Rank and Review tool. Additionally, CoC DV providers regularly perform CSV uploads for ESG-CV funding reporting as well as uploads to Sage for APRs.

2A-5. Bed Coverage Rate—Using HIC, HMIS Data—CoC Merger Bonus Points.
 NOFO Section V.B.3.c. and V.B.7.

Enter 2023 HIC and HMIS data in the chart below by project type:

Project Type	Total Year-Round Beds in 2023 HIC	Total Year-Round Beds in HIC Operated by Victim Service Providers	Total Year-Round Beds in HMIS	HMIS Year-Round Bed Coverage Rate
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	314	0	167	53.18%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	2	0	2	100.00%
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	157	0	41	26.11%
4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	283	0	185	65.37%
5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	822	0	812	98.78%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	25	0	0	0.00%

2A-5a. Partial Credit for Bed Coverage Rates at or Below 84.99 for Any Project Type in Question 2A-5.
 NOFO Section V.B.3.c.

For each project type with a bed coverage rate that is at or below 84.99 percent in question 2A-5, describe:

1.	steps your CoC will take over the next 12 months to increase the bed coverage rate to at least 85 percent for that project type; and
2.	how your CoC will implement the steps described to increase bed coverage to at least 85 percent.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) Over the next 12 months the CoC, Collaborative Applicant and HMIS lead will take the following step to increase the bed coverage rate to at least 85% for the ES & TH project type by engaging the Capital City Rescue Mission to participate in HMIS. The Capital City Rescue Mission is a faith-based organization with large ES and TH programs, whose lack of participation in HMIS has resulted in the low bed coverage rates for these components. The Rescue Mission's philosophy is not to participate in any government funded or sponsored activity. Therefore, the workaround to obtain their ES and TH data is to work instead with the local Department of Social Service (DSS) which refers homeless persons to the Mission for shelter.

2) The step to implement to increase the bed coverage is for the HMIS Lead to continue its work with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to retrieve data for all persons referred by it to the Capital City Rescue Mission by DSS. This step will increase bed data from the Capital City Rescue Mission from 60% to 80% in HMIS. The Collaborative Applicant, Board, and Operations Committee will simultaneously continue working with the Capital City Rescue Mission directly to try and come to a data entry agreement that includes either data integration or direct data entry. The Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead will build on success in other communities incorporating faith-based organization data into HMIS to collaborate with the Capital City Rescue Mission. Equinox is an agency that while not a designated VSP, operates a RRH project that receives VAWA funding and is prohibited from entering data into the HMIS. Additionally, beds designated as OPH are Emergency Housing Voucher beds and are not required to be entered into the HMIS, however the Collaborative Applicant, Board, and HMIS Lead will work with the Housing Authority to come to a data entry agreement that includes data integration or direct data entry.

2A-6.	Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX 2.0.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.d.	
	You must upload your CoC's FY 2023 HDX Competition Report to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

Did your CoC submit at least two usable LSA data files to HUD in HDX 2.0 by February 28, 2023, 8 p.m. EST?	Yes
--	-----

2B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2B-1.	PIT Count Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2023 PIT count.	01/26/2023
--	---	------------

2B-2.	PIT Count Data–HDX Submission Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2023 PIT count data in HDX.	04/26/2023
--	---	------------

2B-3.	PIT Count–Effectively Counting Youth in Your CoC’s Most Recent Unsheltered PIT Count.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.b.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	engaged unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations in your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process;
2.	worked with unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations to select locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified during your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process; and
3.	included youth experiencing homelessness as counters during your CoC’s most recent unsheltered PIT count.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC implemented measures in the planning process for the 2023 PIT Count to 1) engage youth and RHY-funded/youth focused agencies, 2) connect with unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations to identify hotspots or locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified, and 3) engage youth experiencing homelessness as counters during the unsheltered Point in Time (PIT) Count. 1) During the planning process for the 2023 PIT Count, the Collaborative Applicant facilitated meetings with the unsheltered PIT Lead and the Regional Advisory Board on Youth Homelessness (RABYH), a group of key RHY-funded agencies, McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons, and youth-focused service providers, to discuss ways to engage additional RHY funded/youth focused agencies in participating in the PIT to expand the geographic reach and recruit volunteers focused on surveying youth during the count. As a result of this collaborative planning effort between mainstream housing providers, youth serving agencies, and the RABYH, a list of best practices is created and integrated into the CoC PIT Leads trainings. 2) This collaborative planning effort between the unsheltered PIT Lead and youth serving organizations also resulted in selecting locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified during the PIT count. Specifically, youth serving organizations (St. Anne’s & Albany Housing Authority) reported hotspots that were collected by surveying youth & unaccompanied youth during outreach shifts, at schools, or at agency drop-in centers. Youth serving agencies relayed these identified hotspots reported by youth/unaccompanied youth when planning for the annual PIT count. 3) The unsheltered PIT lead, Joseph’s House, engaged/trained in advance a wide range of community stakeholders who encounter unsheltered homeless youth, such as law enforcement, faith-based organizations, soup kitchens/pantries, public libraries, and other human service providers to encourage youth experiencing homelessness to participate as counters during the unsheltered Point in Time Count. Additionally, the McKinney-Vento Homeless liaisons assisted in identifying homeless youth within the school system to participate.

2B-4.	PIT Count–Methodology Change–CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.a and V.B.7.c.	

	In the field below:	
1.	describe any changes your CoC made to your sheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2022 and 2023, if applicable;	
2.	describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2022 and 2023, if applicable; and	
3.	describe how the changes affected your CoC’s PIT count results; or	
4.	state “Not Applicable” if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2023.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) From 2022-2023 the CoC implemented data quality actions to improve the validity of the sheltered PIT count; no methodology changes were made. Data quality changes included a) tailored technical assistance w/non-HMIS providers (i.e., DV providers) & b) improved HMIS training w/participating agencies. These data quality activities improved the validity of the count & played a role in confirming an increase in shelter stays on the night of the count. Tailored technical assistance w/non-HMIS agencies improved data quality by confirming numbers submitted. The CoC has strengthened relationships w/non-HMIS agencies through their participation in CE, allowing for better collaboration during the PIT Count. Specifically, the CE Lead & Collaborative Applicant (CA) worked w/agencies who provide Code Blue (extreme weather) services, faith-based shelters, & DV shelters. Training focused on understanding that 100% data completeness for this vulnerable population, although important, was not necessary when reporting for the PIT count. Similarly, improved data quality training w/HMIS-participating agencies supported improved data collection & timely data submission. The HMIS Lead, in coordination w/the CA, organized/analyzed PIT data reports from HMIS, focusing on data quality/completeness, & had one-on-one phone calls w/providers. Review of intake dates noted w/in HMIS ensured a proper count of those utilizing shelter services on the night of the count. This review & subsequent data correction by agencies resulted in a more accurate census count. 2) Similarly for the unsheltered PIT count, the CoC implemented data quality actions to improve the validity but made no methodology changes. The unsheltered PIT count was improved between 2022-2023 through a) increased/improved PIT count training, b) additional volunteers, & c) expanded coverage area. The expanded training/additional volunteers allowed the CoC to canvass additional areas, including hospital emergency & rural communities in Albany County, resulting in identifying additional persons. 3) As a result of these improvements in data quality, the sheltered PIT count increased from 667 to 788 in 2023. The Unsheltered PIT Lead hosted trainings with all hospitals in Albany County, resulting directly in the unsheltered PIT count increasing from 67 in 2022 to 101 in 2023. The Unsheltered PIT count also saw an increase in numbers due to the impacts of COVID and evictions being processed in the court system.

2C. System Performance

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless–Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe how your CoC determined the risk factors to identify persons experiencing homelessness for the first time;	
	2. describe your CoC’s strategies to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC continues to develop its process to determine risk factors used to identify persons that may become homeless for the first time, with the goal to decrease the number of first time homeless from year to year. 1) The process includes analyzing HMIS and LSA (Stella, SPMs, & CE) data & hosting community discussions to identify risk factors for becoming homeless for the first time. The HMIS & CE Advisory Committees are responsible for reviewing HMIS data (Stella, SPMs, CE) to identify & consider characteristics of those who are first-time homeless, including demographics, cause of homelessness, & disabling conditions as potential factors. Race & ethnicity of those who are first time homeless is assessed as the CoC/Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee continues to identify ways to address the role structural racism plays in housing & eviction. The CoC also identifies factors contributing to first-time homelessness through community conversations & CE case conferencing with prevention providers, emergency shelters, Dept. of Social Services, & faith-based leaders. This qualitative info supplements HMIS data to create a holistic picture of local causes of first-time homelessness. 2) The CoC has developed four strategies to address households at risk of becoming homeless for the first time. These strategies include a) educate community providers who serve those with the most severe service needs (i.e. prevention providers, food pantries, health clinics) about risk factors & newly developed CE prevention referral protocols to support those households; b) communicate risk factors for first time homelessness identified through data analysis w/CE. The CE committee utilizes this info to continually update the CE Prioritization Index w/characteristics associated w/first time homelessness; c) increase the amount of prevention funding available in the community on an ongoing basis (i.e. HOME-ARP, EHV), an essential component of increasing the number of households able to remain stably housed, preventing new episodes of homelessness; & d) to increase the amount of affordable housing options for those at risk, such as through partnering with Albany Housing Authority to access Emergency Housing Vouchers (which served those at risk of homelessness) & advocating to the City of Albany for affordable housing development through HOME-ARP funds. 3) The CE Advisory and HMIS Advisory Committees, which report to the CoC Board, oversee these strategies.

2C-1a.	Impact of Displaced Persons on Number of First Time Homeless.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b	

Was your CoC's Number of First Time Homeless [metric 5.2] affected by the number of persons seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance displaced due to:

1.	natural disasters?	No
2.	having recently arrived in your CoCs' geographic area?	No

2C-2.	Length of Time Homeless—CoC's Strategy to Reduce.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.c.	

In the field below:

1.	describe your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
----	--	--

2.	describe how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time (LOT) individuals & families remain homeless includes: a) increase the number of appropriate housing options by advocating for additional affordable housing, engaging other systems of care that provide housing (DV, Mental Health, PHAs, etc.), & engaging landlords; b) ensure CoC & program policies remove barriers to rapid housing; & c) coordinate housing opportunities through the CE system. The CoC routinely advocates for increasing permanent housing (PH) options. The CoC advocated to the City of Albany to increase affordable rental housing stock through HOME-ARP funding, secured dedicated homeless beds from the Albany Housing Authority (AHA) through partnership w/a newly funded CoC program, & partnered w/ AHA to implement Emergency Housing Vouchers through CE. The CoC also routinely supports members applying for State funding for PH units w/ letters of support. The CoC ensures units are accessible in conjunction w/rental assistance by building partnerships w/developers & landlords. The CoC's Landlord Engagement (LE) workgroup created a consolidated list of landlords w/quality, affordable units available to streamline placement & has collaborated w/the CE Lead, which hired a new Housing Navigator, to locate units continue fostering new landlord relationships. To implement policies to remove barriers to housing, the CoC provides 1-on-1 technical assistance on implementing Housing First (HF) policies w/in all programs & prioritizes HF projects through Rank & Review. The CE system works to reduce LOT homeless by including LOT as a prioritizing criterion within the CE's prioritization process. Together, these strategies result in an increase in immediate housing opportunities for homeless households. 2) The CoC identifies, prioritizes, & houses households w/ the longest LOT homeless through the CE system. During bi-weekly CE case conferencing, SO, ES, & PH staff discuss barriers to housing those who have remained homeless the longest, including any relevant characteristics of those w/ the longest LOT homeless. Through these discussions & analyses, the CE Committee develops solutions to find the most immediately available appropriate housing for these individuals/families. These combined strategies of increased supply & prioritizing LOT on the CE list aim to lower the average LOT homeless in the CoC. 3) The Systems Committee & its LE sub-group oversee these strategies & report progress to the CoC board.

2C-3.	Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations/Retention of Permanent Housing—CoC's Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.d.	

In the field below:

1.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
2.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC works to increase the rate that households in ES, SH, TH, & RRH exit to permanent housing destinations through several strategies, including a) connecting unsheltered persons & those w/ the most severe service needs in ES to PH through an efficient & effective Coordinated Entry (CE) System; b) expanding housing opps through CE by partnering w/ non-CoC-funded agencies such as mental health housing (e.g., County Mental Health Dept.), substance disorder recovery housing (e.g., Office of Addiction Services), non-profit affordable housing (e.g., DePaul) & PHAs for project-based Housing Choice Vouchers & Emergency Housing Vouchers; c) connecting households to wrap-around services & benefits (e.g., SSI, DSS rental allowance, substance abuse or mental health treatment); & d) connecting households to education/training/employment opps to improve earned income. These strategies ensure households are rapidly housed from ES, TH, SH & RRH, linked to affordable/supportive housing options & have the necessary income to pay rent and access support services w/in the community to ensure ongoing housing stability. 2) The CoC increases the rate households residing in PH retain housing or exit to PH (95% in FY22) through several successful strategies, including a) engaging w/ clients to aid in meeting individualized goals (e.g., physical/mental health appts, securing/maintaining employment) to remain stably housed; b) connecting those timing out of RRH programs who still need intensive case management services to supports to remain stably housed; c) implementing the CoC Moving On Strategy by providing pre-transition services (e.g., life skills training, employment, community integration supports) & strong aftercare supports to ensure successful transition from supportive housing; & d) partnering w/ affordable housing providers (e.g., working w/ PHA to prioritize those moving on for EHV) & cultivating relationships w/ local landlords to maintain an active list of vacancies. 3) The CoC has a landlord engagement subgroup to identify landlords w/ available, quality, affordable housing. The subgroup has consolidated this info into a usable resource, which leads to more efficient housing placement & can allow clients to transition from PH to privately sustained housing. These strategies ensure clients are supported to maintain housing while fostering opportunities for greater independence. 3) The Systems Committee, which reports to the board, oversees these strategies.

2C-4.	Returns to Homelessness—CoC’s Strategy to Reduce Rate.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.e.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC’s strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness;	
2.	describe your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness; and	
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC identifies individuals & families who return to homelessness by analyzing quantitative data [i.e., HMIS and Coordinated Entry (CE)] & qualitative information (i.e., through CE case conferencing). System Performance Measures and LSA (Stella) data identify trends related to returns to homelessness, w/ a specific emphasis on assessing racial disparities in this data. The Regional Racial Justice Advisory Committee and CE Committee utilize this data to assess potential variables influencing returns to homelessness. The CE Committee will continue to work with the HMIS Lead to conduct deeper dives into SPM and CE data, assessing commonalities of those who return to homelessness, including sources of income, disabling conditions, race and cause of homelessness. The CoC also identifies persons who return to homelessness through CE assessment and case conferencing. The CE assessment form asks about prior episodes of homelessness. During CE case conferencing, case managers discuss common barriers to remaining housed. This conferencing supports subsequent successful placement of households by addressing common needs among those who return to homelessness & specific needs of the individual households being rehoused. Trends/common factors related to returns to homelessness will be reported by the CE and HMIS leads bi-monthly to the CoC Board and Membership and will be used to influence edits to the CE tool to better prioritize housing & assistance.

2) The CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate of returns to homelessness is to continue fostering strong collaborations w/ systems partners, including eviction prevention providers, education & workforce development agencies, the local Dept. of Social Services, health/behavioral healthcare agencies, & DV providers. For example, outreach & shelter programs work to link clients to resources & create ongoing service plans and support that will continue once clients are stably housed. These collaborations focus on developing linkages & resources to provide uninterrupted support to households that are identified as at risk of returning to homelessness. Specific needs of households that have returned to homelessness are addressed through CE case conferencing, allowing for provider collaboration around the most effective housing & service plan to propose to the household.

3) Overseeing these strategies are the Systems and CE Advisory Committees, which report to the Board.

2C-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–CoC’s Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	

In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC’s strategy to access employment cash sources;
2.	describe how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their employment cash income; and
3.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to increase income from employment.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC's strategy to increase employment income is to a) educate providers on NYS benefits regulations relative to earned employment cash income through ongoing dialogue w/ local Departments of Social Services (DSS); & b) foster systems-level engagement w/ employers & mainstream employment orgs. Specifically, the CoC educates providers on NYS benefits by fostering regular dialogue between County DSSs & CoC providers on benefits regs. This increases provider, & in turn client, understanding of opportunities to maintain necessary benefits (e.g., TANF, SNAP, SSI/SSDI) while increasing employment. 2) The CoC also increases access to employment by partnering w/ mainstream employment agencies. The CoC makes direct referrals to agencies that provide free employment/education training, including: Albany Community Action Program (ACAP) – which program participants are screened for as part of filling out the CE tool, Albany County Career Central & One Stop Employment Center. The CoC also connects clients utilizing ARPA prevention funds to Hudson Valley Community College's Educational Opportunity Center. Several CoC agencies offer similar opportunities for their clients & prioritize hiring people with lived experience of homelessness, creating opportunities for employment income for those utilizing services. For example, a local shelter & housing provider (IPH) offers employment opportunities through the Albany Ambassadors employment initiative, partnering with local theaters & business improvement districts where Ambassadors are paid to provide hospitality services to theater patrons & visitors to the downtown area. Through partnerships with the agencies mentioned above, the CoC has identified characteristics/qualifications of clients in CoC programs which may indicate the likelihood of their being successful in workforce agencies' programs (including self-identification of readiness/desire for educational/employment training programs); developed a formal, direct referral process; & will create a communication mechanism between PSH case managers & workforce agency staff regarding client progress. Moving forward, the CoC & workforce agencies will assess progress on increased income on an annual basis, utilizing this information to make programmatic improvements. 3) The Systems Committees & CE Advisory Committee, which report to the Board, are responsible for overseeing these strategies to increase income from employment.

2C-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income–CoC's Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to access non-employment cash income; and	
2.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash income (NECI) for project participants is to foster systems level engagement with NECI providers; promote benefits info & regulatory updates to shelter and housing providers; and increase access to NECI through sharing of resources and inclusion of partners from healthcare, legal system, and other providers that intersect with homeless services, providing knowledge to refer clients to appropriate sources for NECI. The CoC has developed systems-level coordination between the Dept. of Social Services (DSS) & shelter and housing providers. DSS connects clients w/ necessary benefits (e.g., TANF, SNAP, rent & utility assistance). Shelter and housing providers advocate on households' behalf to access all available NECI through DSS. At CoC Membership & Board meetings, DSS provides regular updates on changes to benefits regulations or staffing structure, allowing for shelter & housing providers to efficiently work with clients to increase NECI. The CoC shares resources bi-monthly related to benefits, SOAR training, and agency updates via an email newsletter, website updates, & at membership meetings. These resources provide shelter & housing providers w/ necessary updates on qualifications and steps for accessing benefits, which is in turn shared w/ clients. The CoC's strategy to increase access to NECI sources includes promoting access to income providers and training on best practices (e.g., SOAR). The CoC promotes access to income providers (e.g., DSS) by promoting materials on accessing benefits at DSS, as well as clients' rights in accessing benefits. The DSS Commissioner sits on the CoC's Board & DSS staff actively participate in committees, allowing for direct communication about changes impacting access to DSS services. The CoC encourages member agencies to access trainings hosted by the regional SOAR TA provider, resulting in an increase in staff attending SOAR trainings & ensuring that clients throughout the community have access to SOAR-trained case managers working to increase access to SSI/SSDI. 2) The Systems Committee has workgroups related to discharge planning & service gaps in the CoC. Conversations at these meetings include how & where clients can access NECI, making agencies that do not provide direct homeless services better able to refer clients to resources. The CoC Systems Committee is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.

3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Housing Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.a.	
	You must upload the Housing Leveraging Commitment attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses housing subsidies or subsidized housing units which are not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	Yes
--	--	-----

3A-2.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Healthcare Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.b.	
	You must upload the Healthcare Formal Agreements attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	Yes
--	--	-----

3A-3.	Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.6.a. and V.B.6.b.	

If you selected yes to questions 3A-1. or 3A-2., use the list feature icon to enter information about each project application you intend for HUD to evaluate to determine if they meet the criteria.

Project Name	Project Type	Rank Number	Leverage Type
UFA 503 IOV Trans...	Joint TH-RRH	30	Both
UFA 503 Damien Ce...	PH-PSH	31	Housing

3A-3. List of Projects.

1. What is the name of the new project? UFA 503 IOV Transitional & Rapid Rehousing for LGB TGNC (2023)
2. Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): LXNGE7LJSNM1
3. Select the new project type: Joint TH-RRH
4. Enter the rank number of the project on your CoC's Priority Listing: 30
5. Select the type of leverage: Both

3A-3. List of Projects.

1. What is the name of the new project? UFA 503 Damien Center LGBTQ Affirming Housing Program
2. Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): LXNGE7LJSNM1
3. Select the new project type: PH-PSH
4. Enter the rank number of the project on your CoC's Priority Listing: 31
5. Select the type of leverage: Housing

3B. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	

Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project application requesting \$200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction?	No
--	----

3B-2.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	

If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below actions CoC Program-funded project applicants will take to comply with:

1.	Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u); and
2.	HUD’s implementing rules at 24 CFR part 75 to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very-low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very-low-income persons.

(limit 2,500 characters)

N/A

3C. Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3C-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

	Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?	No
--	--	----

3C-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

If you answered yes to question 3C-1, describe in the field below:

1.	how 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 in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and
2.	how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.

(limit 2,500 characters)

N/A

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants for New DV Bonus Funding

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

4A-1.	New DV Bonus Project Applications.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.	

	Did your CoC submit one or more new project applications for DV Bonus Funding?	No
Applicant Name		
This list contains no items		

Attachment Details

Document Description: PHA Homeless Preference

Attachment Details

Document Description: PHA Moving On Preference

Attachment Details

Document Description: Letter Signed by Working Group

Attachment Details

Document Description: Housing First Evaluation

Attachment Details

Document Description: Web Posting of Local Competition Deadline

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Scoring Tool

Attachment Details

Document Description: Scored Forms for One Project

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Projects Accepted

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Selection Results

Attachment Details

Document Description: Web Posting- CoC Approved Consolidated Application

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application

Attachment Details

Document Description: HUD's Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) Competition Report

Attachment Details

Document Description: Housing Leveraging Commitments

Attachment Details

Document Description: Healthcare Formal Agreements

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Submission Summary

Ensure that the Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	07/27/2023
1B. Inclusive Structure	09/20/2023
1C. Coordination and Engagement	09/21/2023
1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd	09/21/2023
1E. Project Review/Ranking	09/22/2023
2A. HMIS Implementation	09/20/2023
2B. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count	09/20/2023
2C. System Performance	09/20/2023
3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare	09/20/2023
3B. Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs	09/20/2023
3C. Serving Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes	09/20/2023

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants	09/20/2023
4B. Attachments Screen	09/26/2023
Submission Summary	No Input Required