

Rensselaer County Homeless Services Collaborative

New/DV Bonus Project RFP 2024 (Reallocation, New Bonus, and/or DV Bonus Projects)

Please note: if your project is selected to move forward in applying for New CoC funding, you will need to submit an application in Esnaps. If your project is selected to move forward in applying for DV Bonus CoC funding, you will need to submit an application in Esnaps and work with the Collaborative Applicant to fill out the DV Bonus section of the CoC Application. Being selected through the Rank & Review process does not guarantee funding; rather it allows the project to apply for CoC funding to HUD, which is a competitive process.

- **The RCHSC Board has decided to prioritize bonus funding to adequately fund HMIS as an essential element of CoC infrastructure.**

Project Information

Applicant/Agency Name: _____

Agency Point of Contact: _____

Proposed Project Name: _____

Please check the box of the project type you are applying for:

a. New/Reallocated Projects Only

- Permanent Supportive Housing that is either Dedicated PLUS OR has 100% of beds dedicated to persons experiencing chronic homelessness.
- Permanent Housing-Rapid Rehousing
- Joint TH and PH-RRH (project must be housing first)

b. DV Bonus Projects Only

- Rapid Rehousing (PH RRH) projects that demonstrate trauma informed, victim centered approaches - minimum \$50,000 per project (must be housing first)
- Joint TH and PH RRH component projects that demonstrate trauma informed, victim centered approaches - minimum \$50,000 per project (must be housing first)

3. Is the agency applying as a current CoC funded grantee?

MAX 13 Points

Yes - 5 pts No - 10 pts

a. If yes, are there any unresolved monitoring or audit findings from HUD or the CoC?

Yes - 0 pts No - 3 pts

4. Within the past CoC contract year, what percentage of funds have you returned to HUD for all CoC-funded projects? Please attach your last year of eLOCCS closeout. ***Waived for non-Coc funded applicants**

% of funds returned: _____

0% = 5pts; >20% = 3pts; >50% = 0pts

5. Is your agency an active participant in the RCHSC Coordinated Entry program as evidence by at least 75% participation in the Housing Review Team, Prevention Review Team and CE Committee? (Participation to be verified by CE lead) **MAX 5 Points**

Yes – 5 pts No - 0 pts

a. If no, is your agency willing to become an active participant in the RCHSC Coordinated Entry program?

Yes – 3 pts No - 0 pts

6. HMIS Participation

MAX 3 Points

a. New/Reallocated Projects Only

i. Is your agency an active participant in the HMIS or Comparable System?

Yes – 3 pts No - 0 pts

ii. If no, is your agency willing and able to become an active participant in the HMIS System?

- 3 pts if agency details how HMIS implementation will be accomplished.

b. DV Bonus Projects Only

i. Does your agency currently report in a DV system that is comparable to the HMIS system?

Yes – 3 pts No - 0 pts

ii. If not, how will you implement a comparable HMIS system for this project, for reporting purposes?

- 3 pts if agency details how comparable HMIS system implementation will be accomplished.

7. Housing First

MAX 25 Points

Housing First is a recovery-oriented approach to end homelessness by rapidly housing individuals **without** screening out or terminating consumers based on any of the criteria below. Does your project screen out or terminate consumers based on any the following?

Note: DV bonus projects must follow a Housing First approach. If you respond "Yes" to any of the following, your DV bonus project is not eligible to apply for this funding.

- Having too little or no income
- Active or history of substance abuse
- Criminal record with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions
- History of domestic violence
- Failure to participate in supportive services
- Failure to make progress on a service plan
- Loss of income or failure to improve income
- Being a victim of domestic violence
- Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found in the project's geographic area

New/Reallocated Projects Only

- Yes - 0 points No – 25 points

8. Please provide a brief project description that addresses the scope of your project. Please include the target population that will be served and the reason why this project is being proposed.

MAX 3 Points

9. What gap in services or need in the community will this project address or fill? Please provide any anecdotal or quantitative evidence of this gap and how your project would address it.

MAX 10 Points

- 2 pts for identifying local priority populations (Chronically Homeless, Youth, Veterans or Survivor or DV) served through the proposed project.
- 2 pts for identifying the service gap or need in the community
- 2 pts for detailing data/evidence of the service gap or need in the community
- 4 pts for explaining how the proposed project type (i.e. PSH, RRH) and budget (i.e. amount of support services) will support participants in maintaining housing stability.

10. How will this project reduce the average length of time homeless for project participants?

MAX 4 Points

- 4 pts if applicant describes how their project will serve those with the longest lengths of time homeless and strategies for reducing length of time homeless

11. **The CoC will receive points for successfully demonstrating that agencies are leveraging Healthcare and Housing partnerships to bolster CoC programs.** Does your agency have relationships/partnerships with any of the below?

Public/Private Healthcare Organizations

PHAs, local housing organizations, or other non-CoC/ESG funding streams

11a. If you checked Public/Private Healthcare Organizations, does your agency have a written commitment from a health care organization with the value of the commitment and the date(s) the healthcare resources will be provided (should provide services during grant term), or can you procure one before the submission of this year's CoC application? **Please include this documentation with your application to receive full points.** **MAX 10 Points**

- in the case of a substance abuse treatment or recovery provider, it will provide access to treatment or recovery services for all program participants who qualify and choose those services; or
- in the case of non-substance abuse treatment or recovery provider, the value of assistance being provided is at least an amount that is equivalent to **25 percent of the funding** being requested for the new CoC project, which will be covered by the healthcare organization.

Yes- 10 points No – 0 points

11b. If you checked PHAs, local housing organizations, or other non-CoC/ESG funding streams, will your project utilize housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG by: **providing at least 25 percent of the units** included in the project; or in the case of a rapid re-housing project, **serve at least 25 percent of the program participants** anticipated to be served by the project? **Please include this documentation with your application to receive full points.** **MAX 10 Points**

Yes- 10 points No – 0 points

12. Describe the specific plan to coordinate and integrate with other mainstream health, social services and employment programs for which program participants are eligible.

MAX 5 Points

13. Racial Equity and Barriers to Participation

MAX 10 Points

Has your project 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? What steps have you taken or will take to eliminate the identified barriers?

Some Barriers might include: language barriers, consistent access to transportation, access to the Coordinated Entry process, lack of consistent communication from provider agencies, etc.

- 4pts if the applicant describes barriers to participation faced by those over-represented in the homelessness population
- 6pts if the applicant describes tangible actions taken at the agency and/or project level to eliminate identified barriers

14. Diversity and Inclusion:

MAX 12 Points

Please tell us what your agency has done over the last year to promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) at the program and agency level. Check out the [HUD Fair Housing Toolkit](#) as a resource.

- 3 pts for providing a specific example of an action or initiative taken to promote DEI;
- 3 pt for participating in outside committees or workgroups that promote DEI in the CoC;
- 3 pts for providing a specific example of an action or initiative taken to support the LGBTQIA+ Community;
- 3 pts for providing MOUs or documentation demonstrating a formal relationship with DEI agencies and/or LGBTQIA+ service providers.

15. What proactive processes does your agency have to receive and incorporate feedback from persons with lived experience? **MAX 10 Points**

1. 2 pts if applicant specifies how often **participants** are asked for feedback about their programs and services;
2. 3 pts if applicant provides an example of feedback from a **participants** that was implemented to make a positive change in the program;
3. 2 pts if agency **employees/volunteers** people with lived experience of homelessness;
4. 3 pts if agency describes how **employees/volunteers** with lived experience are involved in decision-making and/or policy creation

16. Agency Experience

- a. New/Reallocated Projects Only:** Please provide a detailed description of the agency's experience in administering projects dedicated to serving an underserved population (i.e. your target population). **MAX 20 Points**

- 5 pts for detailing past experience serving and underserved population
- 4 points for explaining how you have connected clients to supportive services necessary to maintain stable housing.
- 4 points for detailing other funding sources the agency uses/has used in the past to serve HUD-Defined Homeless populations.
- 3 points for describing how the program will establish and maintain an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions with clients are based on equality and minimize power differentials;
- 4 points if you describe how your program will place emphasis on program participants' strengths, e.g., strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans include assessments of program participants strengths and works towards goals and aspirations

b. DV Bonus Projects Only: Please provide a detailed description of the agency's experience in administering projects dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. Please specify the name of current or past programs and note the funding sources. **MAX 20 Points**

- 4 points for past experience serving a domestic violence survivor population
- 3 points for explaining how your program fosters supports and build a network of additional supports to better provide for the multitude of needs a survivor may present with.
- 3 points for explaining how you have connected clients to supportive services necessary to maintain stable housing.
- 3 points for describing how you prioritize program participant choice which ensures the safety of your clients.
- 3 points for describing how the program will establish and maintain an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions with clients are based on equality and minimize power differentials;
- 3 points if you describe how your program will place emphasis on program participants' strengths, e.g., strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans include assessments of program participants strengths and works towards goals and aspirations
- 1 point for describing opportunities for survivors to engage with the agency and supports even after their programing ends.

New/Reallocated Projects Only:

17. Community Priorities

MAX 16 Points

The CoC consistently has people with serious mental illness and substance use diagnoses on the Coordinated Entry waitlist for longer periods of time, on average, than other population types. Those with an SMI make up 79% of the county's waitlist and those with a SUD make up 44% of the county's waitlist. These populations are on the CE priority list for over 215 days, on average, and agencies have reported that these populations have much more significant & severe service needs than other/past persons served.

Please check all services/supports that your proposed project will provide **(2 pts per service checked)**:

- Supporting and accompanying clients to apartment searches to attain housing;
- Providing dedicated case management that is offered 2x per week;
- Providing a connection to peer support services;
- Providing a connection to professional/clinical support services;
- Incorporating a move-on strategy for each client into individual service plans;
- Project will provide services to clients who may have been denied from projects previously.
- An MOU and/or linkage agreement with a SUD provider to provide substance use services (must provide attachment);
- An MOU and/or linkage agreement with a Mental Health provider to provide mental health services (must provide attachment).

Community Priorities cont.

MAX 10 Points

18. How will your project support these populations in gaining and maintaining housing and supporting them toward their goals?

- Up to 5 pts for describing how your project will address the needs of those most prevalent on the CE Waitlist
- Up to 5 pts for outlining the program model and support services that will be available for clients to assist them in their housing and personal goals.

By checking this box, I certify that I have watched the CoC Bonus Webinar

I understand that being selected to move forward in applying for CoC bonus funds does not mean that HUD will select this application for funding

19. Please provide a 12 month budget that address the entire scope of your project. (Required for review)

ACTIVITY	CoC FUNDS REQUESTED	NOTES
A. Rental Assistance (80% total budget less Admin)	\$	
B. Support Services (20% total budget less Admin)	\$	
1. Salaries	\$	
2. Benefits	\$	
3. Other	\$	
C. VAWA (New Eligible Activity)	\$	
D. Rural Costs (New Eligible Activity)	\$	
E. Operating	\$	
F. Admin	\$	
G. Total Project Costs	\$	
MATCH	AMOUNT	SOURCE
H. 25% Match Requirement	\$	

Please attach:

- 501c3 documentation
- If applicable: Formal Housing leveraging commitments (contracts, MOU with PHA, etc.)
- If applicable: Formal Healthcare leveraging commitments (MOUs, service agreements, etc.)

**Documentation Checklist & Template for New CoC Project Applicants:
Leveraging Healthcare Resources**

Background Information

Leveraging Healthcare Resources. These points are available for CoCs that apply for at least one **new** permanent supportive housing or rapid re-housing project that utilizes healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Sources of health care resources include:

- Direct contributions from a public or private health insurance provider to the project (e.g., Medicaid) and
- Provision of health care services by a private or public organization (e.g., Federally Qualified Health Centers) tailored to the program participants of the project.

Eligibility for the project must comply with HUD program and fair housing requirements. Eligibility criteria cannot be restricted by the eligibility requirements of the health care service provider.

CoCs must demonstrate through a **written commitment** from a health care organization that:

- a. in the case of a substance abuse treatment or recovery provider, it will provide access to treatment or recovery services for all program participants who qualify and choose those services; or
- b. in the case of non substance abuse treatment or recovery provider, the value of assistance being provided is at least an amount that is equivalent to **25 percent of the funding** being requested for the new CoC project, which will be covered by the healthcare organization.

Acceptable forms of commitment are formal written agreements and must include:

- the name of the project
- the value of healthcare resources
- dates the healthcare resources will be provided
- for substance abuse treatment or recovery providers, the written commitment must include all of the above and demonstrate the providers will provide access to treatment or recovery for all program participants who qualify and choose the services.

In-kind resources must be valued at the local rates consistent with the amount paid for services not supported by grant funds. CoCs can receive less than full points for demonstrating commitments less than the threshold described above.

Checklist for New CoC Project Applicants that are Leveraging Healthcare Resources

You have indicated that your proposed project will be able to **leverage healthcare resources**. You must submit to CARES (1) the below checklist and (2) a contract, letter of commitment, or other formal commitment that includes the following:

The name of the project

Project name:

Amount of assistance to be provided by the healthcare organization:

The value (dollar amount) of the healthcare commitment being provided (must be at least 25% of the total funding requested)

OR

If the partner agency is a substance abuse and/or recovery program, a guarantee that the services will be provided to all eligible participants of this project.

Calculation showing the amount of healthcare resources committed in the written commitment, and that this is at least 25% of funding requested through the proposed New CoC Project Application, OR confirm the substance abuse and/or recovery program will offer services to all eligible participants.

The date** that the services and/or committed funding will be available is on the written commitment (must run concurrently with the new project)

***Must be dated between May 1, 2024 and September 30, 2024.*

Date of healthcare commitment:

Affirmation that project eligibility for program participants in the new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project will be based on CoC Program fair housing requirements and will not be restricted by the health care service provider.

Example Documentation for New CoC Project Applicants that are Leveraging Housing Resources

Example letter excerpts from a local hospital:

“It is my pleasure to provide this letter of support to the *<project name (should match New CoC Project Application name)>* for funds on behalf of *<X agency in X city>*. The relationship between *<X healthcare program and X agency>* was designed to address the medical needs of individuals regardless of insurance, schedules or treatment compliance. We are excited about the possibilities to continue to support *<X agency through proposed project>*.

We commit to this collaboration for the *<proposed project>* starting in *<proposed project start date>* and will review and renew the commitment annually. *<The estimated value of the collaboration is established at \$30,000 per year* to provide medical consultation OR if working with substance abuse provider state the healthcare agency will serve all households in the housing program>*.

**Note: ensure this is at least 25% of the total funds requested by the proposed New CoC Project Application.*

Template of documentation

Partnering Healthcare Agency Letterhead

Date (must be between X and X)

Agency Contact

Agency Name

Address

City, NY, Zip

RE: *<Health Care>* Commitment

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of support to the submitted application for funds on behalf of *<X agency in X city>*.

The relationship between *<X healthcare program>* and *<X agency>* was designed to *<insert brief explanation of the partnership and services provided>*.

We are excited about the possibilities to continue to support *<X agency through proposed project (should match New CoC Project Application name)>*.

We commit to this collaboration for the proposed project starting in *<proposed project start date>* and will review and renew the commitment *annually*. The estimated value of the collaboration is established at *<dollar amount>* per year to provide *<X service>*.

OR

We commit to this collaboration for the proposed project starting in *<proposed project start date>* and will review and renew the commitment *annually*. As a *<substance abuse and/or recovery program>*, we guarantee that the services we provide in partnership with *<X agency>* will be available to all eligible participants of this project.

Sincerely,

Partner Agency Representative

Representative Title

Checklist for New CoC Project Applicants that are Leveraging Healthcare Resources

You have indicated that your proposed project will be able to **leverage healthcare resources**.

***You must submit to CARES (1) the below checklist and (2) a contract, letter of commitment, or other formal commitment that includes the following:**

- The name of the project

Project name:

Amount of assistance to be provided by the healthcare organization:

- The value (dollar amount) of the healthcare commitment being provided (must be at least 25% of the total funding requested)

OR

- If the partner agency is a substance abuse and/or recovery program, a guarantee that the services will be provided to all eligible participants of this project. Evaluation cost \$200 per person

Calculation showing the amount of healthcare resources committed in the written commitment, and that this is at least 25% of funding requested through the proposed New CoC Project Application, OR confirm the substance abuse and/or recovery program will offer services to all eligible participants.

- The date** that the services and/or committed funding will be available is on the written commitment (must run concurrently with the new project)

***Must be dated between May 1, 2024 and September 30, 2024.*

Date of healthcare commitment:

- Affirmation that project eligibility for program participants in the new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project will be based on CoC Program fair housing requirements and will not be restricted by the health care service provider.

Documentation Checklist & Template for New CoC Project Applicants: Leveraging Housing Resources

Background Information

Leveraging Housing Resources. These points are available for CoCs that apply for at least one new permanent supportive housing or rapid re-housing project that utilizes housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG programs. Housing subsidies or subsidized housing units may be funded through any of the following sources:

- Private organizations;
- State or local government, including through the use of HOME funding provided through the American Rescue Plan;
- Public Housing Agencies, including through the use of a set aside or limited preference;
- Faith-based organizations; or
- Federal programs other than the CoC or ESG programs.

CoC's will receive full (7) points by demonstrating that they have applied for at least one **new** permanent supportive housing or rapid re-housing project that utilizes housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through the CoC or ESG programs. The CoC must demonstrate that these housing units will:

(i) in the case of a permanent supportive housing project, **provide at least 25 percent of the units** included in the project (reference 4B in your new project PSH application); or (ii) in the case of a rapid re-housing project, **serve at least 25 percent of the program participants** anticipated to be served by the project (reference 5A in your new project RRH application).

CoCs must attach letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project. CoCs can receive less than full points for demonstrating commitments less than the threshold described above.

Checklist for New CoC Project Applicants that are Leveraging Housing Resources

You have indicated that your proposed project will be able to **leverage housing resources**. You must submit to CARES (1) the below checklist and (2) a contract, letter of commitment, or other formal written documents from the funding body that includes:

- Project name should be listed in the commitment documentation

Project name:

- Source of commitment should be listed in the commitment documentation (i.e. private organizations, state or local government, PHAs, faith-based organizations, federal programs other than CoC or ESG programs)

Source of Commitment:

- Amount of funding committed per the following:

PSH: the number of housing units for a PSH project that are not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs. The number of units must be at least 25% of the total units to be provided by the proposed new CoC project application for full points.

OR

RRH or TH-RRH: The number of program participants to be provided RRH or TH-RRH that is not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs. The number of program participants to be served must be at least 25% of the total participants to be served in the proposed CoC new project application for full points.

Calculation showing the amount of non-CoC/ESG resources committed in the written commitment, and that this is at least 25% of units (for PSH) or participants (for RRH) to be served through the proposed New CoC Project Application:

- The date** that the funding (outside of CoC or ESG programs) will be available is on the written commitment (should run concurrently with the new project).

****Must be dated between May 1, 2024 and September 30, 2024.**

Dates of housing commitment:

Example Documentation for New CoC Project Applicants that are Leveraging Housing Resources

Example from an ESSHI Award letter:

“On behalf of the NYS Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI) Interagency Workgroup, I am pleased to inform you that your agency has met the requirement of the conditional ESSHI award by demonstrating that the capital funds necessary to develop the proposed supportive housing project have been secured.

Therefore, this letter will serve as notification of the commitment of ESSHI funds in support of <# units to be developed (for PSH) or # participants to be served (for RRH)>* as described in application <enter name of project, which should match name of CoC New Project>. The project site will be located at XXX Your Agency Street, Your City, NY (Your County). The approved award provides \$25,000 per unit or \$650,000 annually. The ESSHI award will increase by a two (2) percent escalation factor, subject to the availability of State funds.

The projected funding need of the project is 04/01/2024. The ESSHI contract is designed to be a multi-year contract with an initial 5-year term, intended to be renewable for additional 5-year terms.”

**Note: ensure this is at least 25% of the units (for PSH) or participants (for RRH) to be served by the proposed New CoC Project Application.*

Template of documentation

Awarding Agency Letterhead

Date (must be between X and X)

Agency Contact

Agency Name

Address

City, NY, Zip

RE: <Funding Type (i.e. NYS ESSHI, HOME)> Award Commitment

Dear <Funding Type> Awardee,

This letter confirms the commitment of <Award type (i.e. PSH, RRH)> funds in the support of <number units (for PSH) or number participants (for RRH)>, to be *developed or supported* as described in the application <#Application number or other award identifier, project name (which should match name of New CoC Project)>. The project site will be located at <Agency site address, City, State, County>.

The award provides <\$Dollar Amount> per unit, or <\$Dollar Amount> annually. The project is slated to begin on <Project start date>. This contract is a _____-year contract.

Sincerely,

Funding Agency Representative

Representative Title

Checklist for New CoC Project Applicants that are Leveraging Housing Resources

You have indicated that your proposed project will be able to **leverage housing resources**.

***You must submit to CARES (1) the below checklist and (2) a contract, letter of commitment, or other formal written documents from the funding body that includes:**

Project name should be listed in the commitment documentation

Project name:

Source of commitment should be listed in the commitment documentation (i.e. private organizations, state or local government, PHAs, faith-based organizations, federal programs other than CoC or ESG programs)

Source of Commitment:

Amount of funding committed per the following:

PSH: the number of housing units for a PSH project that are not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs. The number of units must be at least 25% of the total units to be provided by the proposed new CoC project application for full points.

OR

RRH or TH-RRH: The number of program participants to be provided RRH or TH-RRH that is not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs. The number of program participants to be served must be at least 25% of the total participants to be served in the proposed CoC new project application for full points.

Calculation showing the amount of non-CoC/ESG resources committed in the written commitment, and that this is at least 25% of units (for PSH) or participants (for RRH) to be served through the proposed New CoC Project Application:

The date** that the funding (outside of CoC or ESG programs) will be available is on the written commitment (should run concurrently with the new project).

****Must dated between May 1, 2024 and September 30, 2024.**

Dates of housing commitment: