**FY 2021 OK-504 Continuum of Care**

 **Notice Of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

 **OK-504 Norman/Cleveland County CoC is able to apply for $435,254**

**Current Renewals available to apply this funding cycle**:

HOPE Community Services: $136,497

Food & Shelter: $127,640

Thunderbird Clubhouse: $75,916

Central Oklahoma Community Mental Health: $27,651

Catholic Charities (Women’s Sanctuary): $67,550

**NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)**

NOFO is announced by HUD.

The NOFO “dropped” on **August 18, 2021**. This starts the clock on application deadlines. Deadline to submit all applications is **November 16, 2021** by **8:00pm EST**.

**163 total points available.**

[READ MORE FROM HUD](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition)

**Attend an Applicant Information Session**

Let us know your intent to participate

OK-504 CoC agencies that are interested in applying for new and renewal projects in the 2021 CoC competition are asked to submit an Intent to Apply. It is mandatory that all agencies wanting to apply for CoC funding complete an Intent to Apply this year to the Collaborative Applicant **NLT August 31, 2021.**

It is mandatory the person(s) completing your CoC Competition Project Application attend the FY 2021 CoC Competition Info Session on **September 1, 2021 from 2:00-3:00 P.M.**

**DATES AND DEADLINES**

The following is a list of important dates and deadlines for this year’s Continuum of Care NOFO.

**DEADLINES ARE BASED UPON HUD’S ANTICIPATED DATES AND DEADLINES AND ARE THEREFORE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR UPDATES!**

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**Deadlines**

**August 31, 2021**: all agencies wanting to apply for CoC funding complete an Intent to Apply this year to the Collaborative Applicant **NLT August 31, 2021.**

**September 1, 2021 (Zoom format) from 2-3:00 P.M.**: It is mandatory the person(s) completing your CoC Competition Project Application attend the FY21 CoC Competition Info Session. Requesting Full Board participation.

**October 15, 2021** All applications are due to the Collaborative Applicant 30 days prior to the deadline. Apps will be forwarded immediately to Rank/Review Committee.

**October 18, 2021 (In-Person, safely spaced out)**: **Rank/Review Committee** Meets to review all applications and go over Scoring Sheets. Time/Location TBD.

**October 22, 2021** (**In-Person, safely spaced out)**: **Rank/Review Committee** meets to edit/score applications. Time/Location TBD.

**October 25, 2021**: Apps are returned to Applicants for final editing and preparation to submit. Applicant **DO NOT SUBMIT** at this time.

**November 1, 2021**: **Letter to CoC Applicants Applications** CoC Notification to Project Applicants. The CoC is required to notify, in writing outside of e-snaps, all project applicants who submitted their project applications to the CoC by the CoC-established deadline whether their project application(s) will be accepted and ranked on the CoC Priority Listing, rejected, or reduced by the CoC no later than 15 days of the FY 2021 application deadline which is November 1, 2021. Where a project application is being rejected or reduced, the CoC must indicate the reason(s) for the rejection or reduction. CoCs that fail to provide rejection or reduction notification to a project applicant that submits its project application within the local competition deadline will receive 0 points.

**November 4, 2021**: **ALL** Applicants present final application to the Executive Board and can submit immediately after presentation. Each applicant presents their Renewal, New, and or Bonus app; Collaborative Applicant presents the Consolidated Application, Planning Application, and Priority Listing with final Project Ranking.

All applicants may access the cocnofo@hud.gov for questions about the NOFO, competition, and applications e-snaps@hud.gov for questions about e-snaps technical issues any time prior to **8:00 PM EST Deadline**, on the application submission deadline date for FY 2021 funds.

Applicants that are experiencing technical difficulty should contact the AAQ immediately for assistance and document their attempts to obtain assistance to the Collaborative Applicant (CA). Please do not contact the CA for technical difficulties, as this will delay the application process. HUD strongly encourages CoCs to allow ample time to resolve any technical difficulties that might be encountered during the submission of the application to HUD.

Each year the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) releases a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) which outlines the requirements and deadlines of the Continuum of Care Program competition.

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of:

* Ending homelessness;
* Providing funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness;
* Promoting access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families;
* Optimizing self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

**Priorities for FY 2021 Competition**

Identify areas of weakness and improve

•Gain points wherever possible. Maximum points available for this year: **163**

•Given the number of potential changes to be implemented, allow adequate time for CoC Board input

•Maximize the CoC ’s chances to preserve existing projects and obtain new funding

•New project scores are directly tied to the CoC ’s score

Background: Performance Evaluation Methodology HUD’s NOFO Policy Priorities & “Program Concepts”

* HUD expects CoCs to evaluate and score all projects as part of the application planning process
* Beyond general performance areas to be measured, HUD gives local communities latitude regarding what, and how, to measure and score
* Each NOFO suggests areas for measurement, but does not require specific outcomes to be measured
* Specific policy priorities and program concepts outlined in a given NOFO (e.g., racial equity, Moving On, employment advancement) do not necessarily have to be evaluated locally; however, HUD will score CoCs on those priorities in other parts of the Consolidated Application NOFO Policy Priorities & “Program Concepts” FY 2021
* CoC Program Performance Evaluation Overview

**FY 2021 OK-504 Continuum of Care**

**Review, Rating and Ranking Policy and Procedure**

1. **Background:**

Annually, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) holds a national competition for Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Funds. This competition brings funds into the OK-504 CoC to provide housing and services to individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. HUD released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FY 2021 CoC Program competition on August 18, 2021. The City of Norman is the Collaborative Applicant for the OK-504 Continuum of Care, and is the lead agency responsible for completing and submitting the Consolidated Application for funding on behalf the CoC.

The Consolidated Application consists of CoC Application, Priority Listing, and Project Applications. For the FY 2021 competition, new projects may be created through reallocation and/or permanent housing bonus projects; CoC’s may apply for bonus projects up to **5 percent** of the CoC’s FPRN, or **$21,762** ($22,308) for the following types of new projects: DV Projects: 15% of Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) ($446,156) $66,923.

Through reallocation or bonus funding, CoC’s may create the new projects as defined by the FY 2021 Coordination with Housing and Healthcare Bonus Points–Sections II.B.4. and VII.B.6. To comply with the FY 2021 Appropriations Act, HUD is providing an incentive through bonus points for CoCs to submit at least one new permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing project that demonstrates coordination between housing providers and healthcare organizations through reallocation or the CoC Bonus. To receive maximum available points, CoCs must submit at least one new PH-PSH or PHRRH project demonstrating coordination with housing providers and healthcare organizations.

 All proposed projects must align with HUD’s Policy Priorities as determined in the HUD Continuum of Care NOFO.

**II. HUD's Homeless Policy and Program Priorities**

**A. Policy Priorities.**

This section provides additional context regarding the selection criteria and is included here to help applicants better understand how the selection criteria support the goal of ending homelessness:

1. Ending homelessness for all persons. To end homelessness, CoCs should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness. CoCs should measure their performance based on local data that consider the challenges faced by all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area (e.g., veterans, youth, families, or those experiencing chronic homelessness). CoCs should have a comprehensive outreach strategy in place to identify and continuously engage all unsheltered individuals and families. Additionally, CoCs should use local data to determine the characteristics of individuals and families with the highest needs and longest experiences of homelessness to develop housing and supportive services tailored to their needs. Finally, CoC’s should use the reallocation process to create new projects that improve their overall performance and better respond to their needs.

 2. Creating a systemic response to homelessness. CoC’s should be using system performance measures such as the average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, and rates of exit to permanent housing destinations to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, CoC’s should use their Coordinated Entry process to promote participant choice, coordinate homeless assistance and mainstream housing and services to ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance quickly, and make homelessness assistance open, inclusive, and transparent.

3. Strategically allocating and using resources. Using cost, performance, and outcome data, CoC’s should improve how resources are utilized to end homelessness. CoC’s should review project quality, performance, and cost effectiveness. HUD also encourages CoC’s to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness. CoC’s should also work to develop partnerships with Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) to work toward helping CoC Program participants’ exit permanent supportive housing through Housing Choice Vouchers and other available housing options Finally; CoC’s should review all projects eligible for renewal in FY 2021 to determine their effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness, including cost effectiveness.

4. Use a Housing First approach. Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. CoC Program funded projects should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and the CoC should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness. Additionally, CoC’s should engage landlords and property owners, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service method.

 **III. Review, Rating and Ranking Policy**

All HUD CoC Program Renewal and New projects must be reviewed, scored and ranked annually in preparation for the HUD CoC Collaborative Application submission. All projects must be ranked by priority based on performance and within the threshold outlined in the HUD Continuum of Care NOFO. See below for ranking procedure for both renewal and new projects.

CoCs are required to design and implement a collaborative process for their application for the CoC Program Competition. HUD has been strongly encouraging (and incentivizing) CoCs to use objective, performance-based scoring criteria and selection priorities to determine which projects will be submitted to HUD as part of the CoC’s application.

To help CoCs enhance their abilities to use objective, performance-based scoring criteria for their local competitions, HUD has developed this [Rate and Ranking Tool](https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5292/project-rating-and-ranking-tool/?utm_source=HUD+Exchange+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=c42f80c62d-HUD+Releases+Rating+and+Ranking+Tool+-+7%2F13%2F17&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f32b935a5f-c42f80c62d-18487745) that our CoC Board has adopted to use for our local CoC Competition.

**Full Ranking sheets will become available to applicants shortly. If you have not already done so, send the Collaborative Applicant a copy of your most current APR. Failure to do so may delay your application from scoring and final Rank/Review.**

In order to be considered, all projects must pass the Threshold Criteria that included:

(1) Application materials were received by the deadline,

(2) the Project is consistent with the CoC Funding Priorities, Community Plan to End Homelessness and the Consolidated Plans for the entire jurisdictional area the CoC serves,

(3) the agency does not have any outstanding HUD monitoring and/or OIG Audit findings, and

(4) the Project complies with the request of the CoC interim rule (24 CFR part 578), including, but not limited to accepting referrals from the Coordinated Entry System (CES), participation in the annual Point in Time Count, Housing Inventory, and HUD CoC & ESG Committee in addition to an active SAMS registration and DUNS number and participation in the CoC HMIS (or equivalent data management system for Domestic Violence Providers Only).

The Review/Rank Committee’s primary responsibility is to

(1) Objectively review, rate, and rank all new and renewal project applications and agency presentations

(2) Submit ranking recommendation of project priority for Tier 1 and Tier 2, and

 (3) Committee Chair of the Rank/Review Committee must report to OK-504 Collaborative Applicant for final ranking decision. Each renewal project application includes a Performance Scorecard that is factored into the final overall score of each application and considered for ranking position.

 **1. Renewal Projects**:

a. The Data Committee will review the objective Project Performance that measures 12 months of performance via the most recent APR. For the annual NOFO process, the Review/Rank Committee will set a minimum performance score for project applicants’ performance score for the HUD Continuum of Care NOFO.

b. If renewal projects meet or exceed the minimum performance score (65%), then the renewal project will be prioritized in project ranking before any additional new projects that submitted and approved.

c. If a Renewal project falls below the minimum performance threshold, then a new project may be ranked higher than the renewal project based on scoring and ability to serve target populations.

d. If Renewal project performance is below the set performance minimum or there are other justifications for ranking the project lower based (history of not expending 100% of funding, etc), the renewal project will be ranked accordingly and provided technical assistance from CoC staff to improve lower performance and/or discuss voluntary reallocation of the project funding (or part of project funding). See CoC Reallocation policy and procedure for additional information on voluntary vs. involuntary reallocation.

**2. New Projects (Bonus and Reallocation)**

a. All New projects will be ranked lower than Renewal projects who meet or exceed threshold performance, unless it is determined the project meets both HUD priorities and local needs by improving the CoC’s outcomes and reducing homelessness more effectively than a renewal project(s).

**3. Policy for Reallocation**

a**.** Reallocation is when a CoC shifts funds in whole or part from existing eligible renewal projects to create one or more new projects without decreasing the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). New projects created through reallocation must meet the requirements outlined in the annual NOFA. The Rank and Review committee may review funds from renewal projects for reallocation if renewal projects have:

* Low bed utilization rates
* A history of returning high percentages of project funds (≥15%) to HUD
* A history of serving ineligible clients
* Underperformed on APR goals without reasonable cause (indicated in monitoring reports)
* Continue to manage project models that are low priority for the CoC and/or HUD

Renewal project applicants who have a portion of their proposed budget decreased or rejected by the CoC will receive notification by letter from the CoC at least 15 days before the final submission of the consolidated application. Rejected projects will also be notified at least 15 days before the final submission of the Consolidated Application.

 All proposed projects must align with HUD’s Policy Priorities as determined in the HUD Continuum of Care NOFO.

**Procedure:**

**IV. Scoring Instructions and Components:**

Scoring Instructions used to measure performance and capacity using objective scoring criteria, including the HEARTH Performance Measures. The Review/Rank Committee is designated by the OK-504(CoC Board) to review and score all local project applications. Both renewals and new projects are scored according to the following categories:

• Renewal Projects: existing renewing projects that have operated for a full 12-month period

• First Time Renewal Projects: renewing projects that have not yet begun operating or have begun operating, but not yet completed a full 12-month period; and

 • New Projects: bonus or projects created through reallocation

In order to be considered, all projects must pass the Threshold Criteria that included:

(1) Application materials were received by the deadline,

(2) the Project is consistent with the CoC Funding Priorities, Community Plan to End Homelessness and the Consolidated Plans for the entire jurisdictional area the CoC serves,

(3) the agency does not have any outstanding HUD monitoring and/or OIG Audit findings, and

(4) the Project complies with the request of the CoC interim rule (24 CFR part 578), including, but not limited to accepting referrals from the Coordinated Entry System (CES), participation in the annual Point in Time Count, Housing Inventory, and HUD CoC & ESG Committee in addition to an active SAMS registration and DUNS number and participation in the CoC HMIS (or equivalent data management system for Domestic Violence Providers Only).

The Review/Rank Committee’s primary responsibility is to

(1) Objectively review, rate, and rank all new and renewal project applications and agency presentations

(2) Submit ranking recommendation of project priority for Tier 1 and Tier 2, and

 (3) Committee Chair must report to OK-504 Collaborative Applicant for final ranking decision. Each renewal project application includes a Performance Scorecard that is factored into the final overall score of each application and considered for ranking position.

**Renewal Project Scoring Components:**

• Must meet Threshold Component ensured compliance with HUD organizational recommendations and HMIS implementation

• 65% Performance Scorecard measured system performance measures, alignment with Housing First, and data timeliness and quality.

 • 35% Project Narrative Component assessed project’s compliance with best practices to end homelessness such as client choice, housing type and services match client need, transit access, access to healthcare, availability of services to increase income, timely eLOCCS drawdowns, and participation in community planning.

**First Time Renewal Projects OR New Project Scoring Components:**

• Must meet Threshold Component ensured compliance with HUD organizational recommendations and HMIS implementation

• 100% Project Narrative Component assessed project’s compliance with best practices to end homelessness such as client choice, housing type and services match client need, transit access, access to healthcare, availability of services to increase participant income, LOCCS drawdowns, and participation in community planning.

**Project Ranking and Approval:**

The Review/Rank Chair presents ranking recommendations to the OK-504 Collaborative Applicant (CA). The CA approves the final project priority ranking recommendation and has the discretion to amend the recommendation made by the Review/Rank Committee no more than 15 days prior to the application deadline which is November 2, 2021.

**Threshold Review**

Project applicant and subrecipient eligibility, capacity, and quality. Information will be reviewed to determine whether project applicants and subrecipients meet the eligibility and capacity thresholds, and whether the project applications meet the eligibility and project quality thresholds as outlined in the NOFO.

**V. Project Ranking Appeals Process:**

The CoC must notify project applicants, in writing outside of e-snaps, of any rejected FY 2021 project applications no later than 15 days before the application deadline to allow any eligible project applicant(s) that attempted to participate in the CoC’s planning process and believe they were denied the right to participate in the CoC process in a reasonable manner time to appeal the CoC’s decision to HUD as a Solo Applicant (see HUD’s Homeless Policy and Program Priorities) of the FY 2021 CoC Program Competition NOFO for more information on Solo Applicants.

*Eligible Appeals.* The application of any applicant agency which a) is unranked, or b) receives decreased funding (e.g. projects receiving reallocated renewal funds) may appeal.

* Applicants that have been found not to meet the threshold requirements are not eligible for an appeal.
* Appeals cannot be based upon the judgment of the Review Subcommittee.

Applicants may appeal if they can:

* Prove their score is not reflective of the application information provided; or
* Describe bias or unfairness in the process, which warrants the appeal.

Should two or more project component types receive the same score, they will be ranked in order of their score for: Housing First, Low barrier entry, Subpopulation, and HMIS performance.

**VI. Additional Information:** Organizations will be required to comply with the terms set forth by the Norman/Cleveland County CoC, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In addition, all applicants are strongly advised to review all applicable Terms and Conditions, Federal Requirements, and the Glossary of Terms. It is strongly recommended that you obtain and review information related to the Continuum of Care Program, the CoC Interim Rule, and the HEARTH Act Regulations, along with any other related documents prior to completion of this Application. In addition, HUD will provide updates via their Homeless Exchange Resource website, <https://www.hudexchange.info/>

**Accessing Project Application in e-snaps:**

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/FY-2021-Accessing-the-Project-Application.pdf>

**Renewal Navigational Guides:**

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/FY-2021-Renewal-Project-Application-Navigational-Guide.pdf>

**Project Application Detailed Instructions**:

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/FY-2021-Renewal-Project-Application-Detailed-Instructions.pdf>

Additional Information can be found here:

<https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc>