

## Before Starting the Special CoC Application

You must submit both of the following parts in order for us to consider your Special NOFO Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application, and
2. the CoC Priority Listing.

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

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

1. The Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The Special NOFO Continuum of Care (CoC) Application Detailed Instructions for Collaborative Applicants 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.

CoC Approval is Required before You Submit Your CoC's Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application 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 the [Specific Attachment Name] attachment to the 4A. 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

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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**1A-1. CoC Name and Number:** MT-500 - Montana Statewide CoC

**1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name:** Montana Continuum of Care Coalition

**1A-3. CoC Designation:** CA

**1A-4. HMIS Lead:** Pathways MISI

1A-5. New Projects	
Complete the chart below by indicating which funding opportunity(ies) your CoC applying for projects under. A CoC may apply for funding under both set asides; however, projects funded through the rural set aside may only be used in rural areas, as defined in the Special NOFO.	
1.	Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside
2.	Rural Homelessness Set Aside

## 1B. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1B-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for project application submission for your CoC's local competition.	09/20/2022

1B-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.a.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected new project applications during your CoC's 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).	No

1B-3.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
1.	Did your CoC reject or reduce any project application(s)?	No
2.	Did your CoC inform the applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced?	No
3.	If you selected yes, for element 1 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, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	

1B-3a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	10/05/2022
1B-4.	Web Posting of the CoC-Approved Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC posted its Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on the CoC's website or affiliate's website—which included: 1. the CoC Application, and 2. Priority Listings.	10/17/2022

## 2A. System Performance

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2A-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors.	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.b.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC determined which risk factors your CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;	
	2. how your CoC addresses 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 or to end homelessness for individuals and families.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)Principal risk factors from national literature were compared to MT CES & PIT data to identify the following risk factors: lack of affordable housing, income, health, escaping violence & racial inequities. 2) The publicly accessible, webbased CoC data dashboard ensures that relevant data are easily available & fully transparent. It tracks, for example, system inflow data & coordinated entry diversion outcomes by Local Coordinated Entry (CES) Zones & cost. The CoC provides diversion training to CES stakeholders to support a problem-solving approach to assist those at risk of homelessness. CES connects at-risk households to affordable housing, workforce services, & other mainstream benefits & services. The CoC is working w/MT Legal Services on strategies to provide more legal & landlord mediation services. The CoC is working to expand affordable housing options via a coalition promoting state funded tax credits & through advocacy for homeless set-asides/preferences when awarding federal tax credits. A participation agreement w/the MT Dept of Labor ensures that WIOA adopts “most vulnerable” policies that prioritize education, training and employment for the most vulnerable populations including those households most at-risk of becoming homeless. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) are frontline providers of bundled prevention services and the CoC is partnering with them to approach providers of Labor, Medicaid, Housing, Mental Health and others, to implement more systematic approaches to accessing mainstream services and adopting more common assessment and prioritization tools. With training and supports from the CoC in partnership with CSH, front door providers are offering new and more intense diversion services to help people at risk of becoming homeless to explore and secure alternative housing arrangements and access services to stabilize in housing. The CoC has implemented continuous quality improvement (CQI) strategies led by a CQI subcommittee for its YHDP projects, including: a publicly accessible, web-based data dashboard; grantee roundtables to discuss data and plan strategies to improve performance; focus groups with project participants to identify opportunities to improve; data-driven oversight of projects (e.g. monthly data reports & baseline data comparison); and quarterly reports shared with the YAB & YHDP Executive Committee. The YHDP CQI initiative serves as a model to expand across the CoC 3) David O’Leary, Director MT CoC

2A-2.	Length of Time Homeless–Strategy to Reduce. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.c.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
	2. 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) Time from entry to move-in is a scored factor in renewal evaluation & ranking. The CoC data dashboard ensures that relevant data are easily available & fully transparent (tracks median days to housing by exit destination, CES Zone, provider, & Veteran/ Chronic status & average days to housing by gender, race, sexual orientation, & prior living situation). Other strategies used to reduce length of homelessness include a significant expansion of outreach to identify, assertively engage & rapidly assess the most vulnerable people. This expansion is enabling outreach workers to build rapport with clients reluctant to engage in services who would otherwise have remained homeless long-term. HMIS tracks the Length of Time from project entry to housing placement in all CES participating programs, & the CoC is using these data to identify opportunities to expedite the process. Through a Strategic Planning initiative funded by the MT Healthcare Foundation & facilitated by CSH, the CoC is expanding the use of housing navigators to reduce the time it takes to gather necessary documents & find viable units. That initiative is also advancing a CoC-wide Housing Problem- Solving Approach by providing training on rapid exit strategies for case managers. The training is helping them to use a strengths-based, housing-focused case management approach & to provide light touch services to house persons that will not likely be prioritized for RRH or PSH. 2)The CoC identifies & houses those with the longest lengths of homelessness as follows: the CES common assessment tool scores households based on length of time homeless, statewide CES standards & local prioritization policies establish people experiencing chronic homelessness as the highest priority. Housing Navigators & case managers are assigned to assist with housing search and move-in. The CoC has implemented continuous quality improvement (CQI) strategies led by a CQI subcommittee for its YHDP projects, including: a publicly accessible, web-based data dashboard; grantee roundtables to discuss data and plan strategies to improve performance; focus groups with project participants to identify opportunities to improve; data-driven oversight of projects (e.g. monthly data reports & baseline data comparison); and quarterly reports shared with the YAB & YHDP Executive Committee. The YHDP CQI initiative serves as a model to expand across the CoC. 3)David O'Leary, Director MT CoC

2A-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.d.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC will increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in:	
1.	emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and	
2.	permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. % of exits to PH is a scored factor in renewal evaluation & ranking. The webbased CoC data dashboard ensures that relevant data are easily available & fully transparent. It tracks, for example, exit destinations by Coordinated Entry Zone, provider, Veteran and Chronic Status, gender, race, sexual orientation & prior living situation. The CoC's is increasing exits to PH from ES, TH, & RRH (CoC has no SH) by expanding the use of housing navigators (HNs) & providing HNs & case managers w/training & supports. This strategy will advance use of a strengths-based, housing-focused case management approach & an effective light-touch model to house persons not prioritized for RRH or PSH. The CoC w/MT Dept of Commerce (DoC): has provided refresher training on the use of the an app, which inventories & matches renters with landlords; & is assessing options to improve connections w/property managers. 2) Retention in PH is a scored factor in renewal evaluation & ranking. To promote retention in & exits to PH the CoC is working with PHAs to secure "Moving-on" preferences & set-asides. The CoC is also working to expand affordable housing, thereby increasing exit options, e.g., working w/state partners to: submit joint applications for subsidized housing; secure state affordable housing tax credits & obtain homeless set-asides/preferences when awarding federal tax credits. To increase PH retention, the CoC is: collaborating w/the MT Medicaid Waiver program to enhance tenancy supports; working w/PSH providers on a service model that builds client trust, improves engagement, increases retention & reduces exits to homelessness; working with Community Mental Health Centers to monitor clients for signs of change & expedite delivery of case management, clinical, & recovery services; & working with MT Legal Services to expand legal and landlord mediation services to prevent negative exits. The CoC has implemented continuous quality improvement (CQI) for its YHDP projects, including: a publicly accessible, web-based data dashboard; grantee roundtables to discuss data and plan strategies to improve performance; focus groups with project participants to identify opportunities to improve; data-driven oversight of projects (e.g. monthly data reports & baseline data comparison); and quarterly reports shared with the YAB & YHDP Executive Committee. The YHDP CQI initiative serves as a model to expand across the CoC 3)David O'Leary, Director MT CoC

2A-4.	Returns to Homelessness—CoC's Strategy to Reduce Rate. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.e.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness;	
2.	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 uses detailed reports from HMIS to identify returnees and monitor returns on a quarterly basis. These reports show high return rates from ESG and SSVF programs and provide useful information about client characteristics (e.g., rates of disability and chronic homelessness). Local Coordinated Entry (CES) zones also identify returning households and assess reasons for unstable exits. 2)To reduce returns, the CoC conducts Medicaid-HMIS data matches and looks specifically at returnees to ensure that they are enrolled in Medicaid and SSI. The CoC also provides returnee data to the 7 FUSE (Frequent Users Systems Engagement) communities to facilitate prioritization of high need returnees for supportive housing. The CoC also shares data on returns with its Innovative Accelerator Initiative team. This initiative is increasing housing and tenancy supports by updating and expanding Medicaid waivers. In addition, through a Strategic Planning initiative funded by the MT Healthcare Foundation and facilitated by CSH, the CoC is establishing action steps to reduce returns from ESG and SSVF projects and among non-disabled people. In addition, the CoC provides diversion training to local CES stakeholders to support a problem-solving approach that assists returning households and prevents them from re-entering the system. The CoC data dashboard tracks system inflow data & coordinated entry diversion outcomes by Local Coordinated Entry (CES) Zones & cost. CES is working to reduce returns by connecting these households to affordable housing, workforce services, and other mainstream benefits & services. The CoC is also working with MT Legal Services on strategies to provide more legal and landlord mediation services to prevent returns. The CoC has implemented continuous quality improvement (CQI) strategies led by a CQI subcommittee for its YHDP projects, including: a publicly accessible, web-based data dashboard; grantee roundtables to discuss data and plan strategies to improve performance; focus groups with project participants to identify opportunities to improve; data-driven oversight of projects (e.g. monthly data reports & baseline data comparison); and quarterly reports shared with the YAB & YHDP Executive Committee. The YHDP CQI initiative serves as a model to expand across the CoC 3) David O'Leary, Director MT CoC

2A-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase employment cash sources;
2.	how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their 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)

1) The CoC uses an employment income metric to rate & rank projects. MT Dept of Labor (DOL) & CoC have a Participation Agreement to enhance coordination & increase incomes of persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) & RRH/PSH participants. A DOL rep is on the CoC board, & the agreement includes: data sharing, access to WIOA for youth, developing a cross referral process, cross training between job services & local CoCs, & targeting employment services to PEH w/the highest needs. Via the Innovative Accelerator Program, the CoC is working w/State partners to broaden Medicaid tenancy supports to ensure enrollment in mainstream employment services. Trainings on inclusive hiring/hiring for lived experience held in 2022 support efforts to hire program participants. YAB provides opportunities for young PEH to build employment skills, e.g. training on & experience in facilitation & grantwriting. The CoC has implemented continuous quality improvement (CQI) strategies for its YHDP projects, including: a publicly accessible, web-based data dashboard; grantee roundtables to discuss data and plan strategies to improve performance (e.g., employment income); focus groups w/project participants to identify opportunities to improve; data-driven oversight of projects (e.g. monthly data reports & baseline data comparison); & quarterly reports shared with the YAB & YHDP Executive Committee. 2) Mainstream employment organizations, such as Community Action Partnership, Opportunities Inc. and Kalispell/Flathead Job Services, are local CoC members & active participants in efforts to increase employment income. Local Coord Entry zones are assessing employment needs & connecting applicants quickly to mainstream employment organizations (e.g., Job Services of MT, Vocational Rehab, and Express Employment). The Ravalli County CoC is represented on the Community Management Team of their Workforce Development System, which facilitates coordination with mainstream employment organizations. The Billings CoC has Job Services of MT participating in on-site case management at shelter. Local CoCs have implemented Family Self-Sufficiency & the Supported Employment & Education Program (SEP). SEP staff partner with local education, Job Service, Vocation Rehabilitation, university, etc. to identify hiring needs & connect clients to mainstream employment services. The YHDP CQI initiative serves as a model to expand across the CoC 3) David O'Leary, Director MT CoC

2A-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income—Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase non-employment cash income;	
	2. your CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources; and	

	3. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.
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(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC uses a non-employment cash income metric to rate & rank projects. The CoC analyzes HMIS data to identify opportunities to increase nonemployment cash income among participants. Analysis revealed that only 33% of PSH and 16% of RRH clients that have significant disabling conditions are receiving SSI or SSDI income & only 9% of all likely eligible RRH clients are enrolled in TANF; for PSH, it's 5%. Through it's 2-year strategic planning initiative, the CoC has prioritized efforts to expand an existing SOAR program and is developing an action plan for increasing SSI/DI income. To increase access and enrollment in TANF (in addition to SNAPs & WIC) the MT CoC is partnering with the MT DPHHS Division of Human and Community Services, which administers these three programs, to provide training specifically to CoC grantees on how to assist clients to use a single application for these programs. Local CoCs and Coordinated Entry zones provide training and information to CoC projects to help ensure receipt of cash benefits. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in each community are very active in their local CoCs and assist other programs to increase participants' benefit income. Strategies to improve access to non-employment income include: grantee surveys capturing # of referrals made, followed-up and enrolled & barriers to successful enrollments; coupled with HMIS data analysis on increases in these income categories at assessment and exit for the same reporting periods captured in the surveys. This information is used to shape action plans through the CoC's strategic planning process and inform discussions with DPHHS on resolving enrollment barriers. The CoC has implemented continuous quality improvement (CQI) strategies for its YHDP projects, including: a publicly accessible, webbased data dashboard; grantee roundtables to discuss data and plan strategies to improve performance; focus groups w/project participants to identify opportunities to improve; data-driven oversight of projects (e.g. monthly data reports & baseline data comparison); & quarterly reports shared with the YAB & YHDP Executive Committee. The YHDP CQI initiative serves as a model to expand across the CoC 2) David O'Leary, Director MT CoC

## 2B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Sections VII.B.3.a.(1)	

In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022:

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 of CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC's Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Agencies serving survivors of human trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	CoC-Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Yes	No	No
13.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

20.	Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	Non-CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)			
33.				
34.				

By selecting "other" you must identify what "other" is.

2B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(2), V.B.3.g.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	communicated the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2.	ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;
3.	conducted outreach to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join your CoC; and
4.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

The MT CoC communicates the invitation process to solicit new members at least monthly. All emails to the CoC list & notices posted to partner websites contain a link for becoming a new member. The CoC website features a membership notice & application. New members are also solicited during the statewide conference & via membership meeting announcements 2x annually. The YAB has a Facebook page to recruit new members. Ten local CoCs covering each MT planning district also constantly recruit new members. 2)The CoC website indicates that all materials are available in accessible electronic formats. The CoC has made web-based training on digital accessibility available to all CoC funded project staff and local CoCs. The CoC has also distributed written guidance on creating accessible electronic documents. The CoC is implementing a plan to ensure accessible communication, (e.g., use of TRS phone service, assessing/remediating accessibility issues on the CoC's website & in electronic communications/documents). 3) The Statewide CoC Coordinator has had several discussions with representatives of the Blackfeet Nation and Chippewa Cree tribes encouraging them to become CoC members and to apply for funds. The CoC also successfully recruited Transvisible MT, an organization serving transgender, non-binary, and two-spirit Montanans and the Montana Gender Alliance to serve on the YHDP Executive Committee. Local CoCs outreach to organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness to encourage them to join their local CoC. For example, the NW MT CoC invited the Glacier Queer Alliance (GQA) to participate in CoC & CES meetings, & they are partnering w/the local CoC to better serve LGBTQ+ identified people. Targeted outreach has also resulted in the following organizations participating in their local CoCs: All Nations Health Center, Native American Wellness Center, Summit Independent Living Center, 406 Pride, Native American Development Corporation, & Billings Urban Indian Health Center. Helena Indian Alliance & MT Racial Equity Project are members of the Statewide CoC. Montana is predominantly white/not Latinx. Native Americans are by far the most significant nonwhite population. Local & Statewide CoC member organizations serve all populations & where organizations serving culturally specific communities exist, efforts to invite them to participate in the CoC continue.

2B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.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; and
3.	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) Ten local CoCs cover each of MT's planning districts & solicit & consider input from stakeholders including PWLEH, individuals & organizations from the housing, health, education, employment, DV, food insecurity, advocacy, philanthropy, faith, business, government & non-profit sectors. Input is also solicited & considered thru the YAB, CoC Board & membership, the Grants Review Panel, HMIS Committee meetings, & breakout sessions at conferences. Ten CoC Board members are chosen by local CoCs, four are elected at-large & six are recruited/appointed by the board president to ensure representation of critically needed subpopulations, e.g. youth, mental health, veterans, etc.. The CoC participates in many different statewide meetings and public hearings that solicit stakeholder input, e.g., on Consolidated Plan, TANF and Medicaid expansion. United Ways are the local CoC leads in 3 planning districts & involve a diverse range of community-based member organizations in their local CoCs. The Statewide CoC convened a 2-day strategic planning event to get input from local CoCs & other stakeholders on topics, including centering the voices of people w/lived experience, diversifying the Board, enhancing Tribal partner engagement, & enhancing project outcomes tracking 2) Meeting dates, locations, agendas & minutes are posted on the CoC's website & announced through the CoC's email list. Information is typically conveyed through written documents, e.g., briefing memos, agendas, white papers, proposed changes to policies/structures, & bulletins on legislative & executive branch policy matters. Such information is discussed by & input obtained from the YAB, Board, Local CoCs, and Committees via in-person meetings, video conferences, emails and phone calls. 3) The CoC and YAB Coordinators and Local CoC Board reps compile and synthesize stakeholder feedback from emails, calls, hearings & meetings & present the input to the Board. The CoC Coordinator drafts proposals for Board consideration based on that feedback. The Board meets at least quarterly to discuss options, determine what additional input is necessary and ultimately vote on CoC matters. Based on feedback from strategic planning, the CoC established strategic priorities w/target dates & is implementing its strategic plan.

2B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(4)	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:
1.	that your CoC's local competition was open and accepting project applications;
2.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;
3.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications;
4.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and
5.	how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats.

(limit 2,500 characters)

- 1)The CoC notified the public that the FY 2022 NOFO competition was open, applications were being accepted in 4 ways:
  - A notice was posted on 8/9/22 to the MT CoC website announcing the opening and that project applications were being accepted.
  - An email notice with the same information was sent on 8/9/22 to the CoC mailing list of more than 175 contacts, including all homeless providers across the state and other potentially interested stakeholders that have not previously received CoC funding.
  - The local CoC's were able and encouraged to distribute the same information at local meetings and local networks throughout their communities.
  - The announcements distributed by email and posted to the CoC's website stated that the competition was open to new projects.
- 2)Each announcement contained links to instructions, including submission deadline and application instructions.
- 3)Each announcement contained a link to the scoring criteria used by the Grants Review Panel to select project applications for inclusion in the CoC's Consolidated Application.
- 4)The public notification was posted to the CoC website, which indicates that all materials are available in accessible electronic formats. Web-based training on digital accessibility is available to local CoCs.



## 2C. Coordination / Engagement—with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	<b>Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. (All Applicants)</b> Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.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 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)	No
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.		

2C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG 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 Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The CoC consults with the MT Dept of Health and Human Services (DPHHS) on planning & allocation decisions regarding ESG & ESG-CV funds. DPHHS is the ESG recipient, a founding member of the MT CoC & has worked with the CoC to establish the following strategies to ensure constant consultation among DPHHS, the ESG Administrator, ESG subrecipients and the CoC: a) The DPHHS ESG bureau contracts with and funds staffing for the MT CoC but stipulates that this person report to the CoC board and not the bureau. b) The MT CoC staff person provides part-time staffing to the community action agencies' (CAA) state association which are the ESG subrecipients. c) The DPHHS bureau chief is also a MT CoC Board member along with 4 CAA agency directors. Examples of consultation include: the CoC worked with a CAA subrecipient of ESG funds to increase their ESG utilization rate & consulted on the decision to reallocate those funds to agencies with higher needs. The CoC also consulted on a change from use of ESG for one-time, shallow subsidies for families to prioritizing based on vulnerability and highest needs, as determined by the CoC's CES and prioritization policies. CoC coordinated EHV MOU with 2 PHAs that prioritized unstably housing RRH households, including ESG-CV, for referrals 2) The CoC reviews the DPHHS HUD ESG CAPER for project performance, utilization, resource targeting, data quality, and costs per household and provides feedback to DPHHS. DPHHS/CoC conduct bi-monthly CoC & ESG RRH conference calls that include review of RRH project performance data & System Performance Measure updates and assessments, and the CoC leads a performance review session during the annual DPHHS ESG Roundtable meetings. 3)The CoC provides the state Con Plan office and 3 entitlement areas' Con Plan offices with the CoC's annual PIT, HIC and needs assessment data relevant to their jurisdictions. 4) The CoC provided information to DPHHS and jointly writes sections of the state Consolidated Plan to address homelessness.

2C-3.	Discharge Planning Coordination. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.c.

	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

2C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.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

2C-4a.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts–Formal Partnerships. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC collaborates with the entities checked in Question 2C-4; and
2.	the formal partnerships your CoC has with the entities checked in Question 2C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

MT CoC written policies & procedures codify partnerships with SEA/LEA/school districts/youth education providers by requiring every grantee agency & encouraging all other homeless services providers to adopt 9 measures. These ensure that participants are informed of their educational rights & that children are enrolled in school & connected to services (e.g., early childhood education, Head Start, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act & the McKinney-Vento education services). These measures include designating a staff person who will: maintain a current list of local contacts for these programs, the local homeless education liaisons for all school districts, & the State Coordinator of Education of Homeless Children; contact each of these programs to request and receive a briefing on their programs; establish a working-relationship with the contacts; develop processes for coordinating services to clients; within 72 hours of project entry, contact the local LEA to arrange a briefing w/the family about all available education programs, coordinate assistance for enrollment & transportation to the school of origin or the local school, & make referrals to educational services; follow-up w/the family within 3 days of contacting the local homeless education liaison to ensure the child has been enrolled in school; & contact the SEA to request further assistance if needed. The Statewide CoC's written Monitoring Guide includes a standard that assesses if the grantee has: designated such a staff person to fulfill these & other responsibilities; and adopted written policies & procedures that require such coordination with the LEA/ SEA/school district/youth education providers. The Statewide CoC's written Monitoring Guide also includes a monitoring standard that assesses subrecipient agreements to ensure inclusion of the requirements for subrecipients to: establish the required educational policies and procedures; & to designate a staff person to fulfill the responsibilities to coordinate with the LEA, SEA & school districts, & youth education providers described above. Membership in the SW MT CoC for the local school district and Head Start provider are codified in writing. Membership in the NW MT CoC for the local school district homelessness liaison and youth education providers (e.g., the Early Childhood Coalition of Flathead Valley, Glacier Boys and Girls Club) are codified in writing.

2C-4b.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

MT CoC Policies and Procedures require every grantee agency and encourages all other homeless services providers to adopt 9 measures ensuring a staff person informs project participants of the Educational Rights of Students and connects them directly with a local school liaison. An agency must designate a staff person who will:

1. Ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to the appropriate services in the community, including early childhood education, Head Start, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the McKinney-Vento education services.
2. Maintain a current list of local contacts for the programs listed above as well as the local homeless education liaisons.
3. Request and receive briefings, establish working-relationships and develop processes for coordinating services to clients from these programs.
4. Provide training and update staff essential in coordinating educational assurances.
5. Determine if any children are not currently enrolled in school at intake.
6. Provide all families with a written summary of the Educational Rights of Students in Homeless Situations.
7. Within 72 hours of intake, contact the local LEA to arrange for a briefing with the family about all available education programs, coordinate assistance for enrollment and transportation to either the school of origin or the local school, and make referrals to health, mental health, dental and other services.
8. Follow-up with the family within 3 days of contacting the local homeless education liaison to ensure child has been enrolled in school.
9. If enrollment is not completed or problems are preventing enrollment, contact the State LEL in the Office of Public Instruction to request further assistance.

The Statewide CoC's written Monitoring Guide includes a standard that assesses if the grantee has designated such a staff person to fulfill these responsibilities and if subrecipient agreements codify the requirement to designate such a staff person.

2C-5.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Training of Project Staff. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

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

	Mainstream Resource	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI—Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
4.	Substance Abuse Programs	Yes
5.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
6.	Other	No

2C-5a.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Collaboration with Project Staff Regarding Healthcare Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

	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, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance;
3.	provides assistance to project staff with the effective use of Medicaid and other benefits; and
4.	works with projects to promote SOAR certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1)The statewide CoC provides local CoCs & grantees with mainstream benefits updates from state & federal agencies. Local Offices of Public Assistance (OPAs) are active participants in local CoC meetings, provide guidance on enrollment in their programs & assist local CoC providers to troubleshoot barriers to enrollment. Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in each community are also TANF operators, including TANF employment and training programs. Many CAAs are also CoC grant recipients and are very active in their local CoC meetings assisting other programs to effectively use mainstream benefits. The MT Department of Public Health & Human Services (DPHHS), which administers SNAP, TANF, WIC, Medicaid, Healthy MT Kids, health insurance marketplace tax credits, childcare assistance, LIEAP, etc. held office hours at the statewide Housing Conference. 2) The Statewide CoC has partnered with a foundation on an HMIS data integration project to facilitate Medicaid enrollment. Health insurance navigators assist with health insurance enrollment. CoC providers coordinate with SHIP counselors to assist in applying for & navigating health insurance. Examples from Local CoCs include: Yellowstone County CoC is working with the Unified Health Command & Substance Abuse Connect Coalitions; multiple healthcare organizations participate in Missoula CoC general meetings, case conferencing, and oversight committee meetings to provide guidance on and ensure access to their services; the Helena CoC collaborates with nearly every healthcare, substance use disorder (SUD) & mental health (MH) care provider in their area and ensures access during weekly case conferencing calls; through the FUSE initiative at a local hospital the Helena CoC is working with medical, SUD & MH providers to impact social determinants of health; NW MT CoC members include the local health officer, behavioral health office, MH providers, hospital, & SUD clinics, & through weekly CES meetings these partners are problem solving roadblocks to access 3) Missoula CoC collaborates with Partnership Health Center to train new staff on SOAR. NW MT CoC is working to enhance the number of SOAR certified staff beyond those they currently have at CAP, PATH, and VOA. Helena CoC has identified multiple SOAR certified workers, refers to them during case conferencing, and does trainings/updates for new staff on SOAR.

### 3A. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs—New Projects. (Rural Set Aside Only).	
	Special NOFO Section VII.A.	
If the answer to the question below is yes, you must upload the CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.		
Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project(s) under the Rural Set Aside for housing rehabilitation or new construction costs?		Yes

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

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
	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

3B-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
	You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	If you answered yes to question 3B-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)



## 4A. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

Please read the following guidance to help you successfully upload attachments and get maximum points:			
1. You must include a Document Description for each attachment you upload; if you do not, the Submission Summary screen will display a red X indicating the submission is incomplete.			
2. You must upload an attachment for each document listed where 'Required?' is 'Yes'			
3. We prefer that you use PDF files, though other file types are supported—please only use zip files if necessary. Converting electronic files to PDF, rather than printing documents and scanning them, often produces higher quality images and reduces file size. Many systems allow you to create PDF files as a Print Option. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you should consult your IT Support or search for information on Google or YouTube.			
4. Attachments must match the questions they are associated with.			
5. Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process.			
6. If you cannot read the attachment, it is likely we cannot read it either. - 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). - We must be able to read everything you want us to consider in any attachment.			
7. Open attachments once uploaded to ensure they are the correct attachment for the required Document Type.			
Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1B-1. Local Competition Announcement	Yes	Notice of Funding...	10/13/2022
1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes	Local Competition...	10/13/2022
1B-3. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes	Notification of P...	10/13/2022
1B-3a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes	Notification of P...	10/13/2022
1B-4. Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application	Yes	Application and P...	10/17/2022
3A-1. CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs	No	Letters of Suppor...	10/14/2022
3B-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment	No		
P-1a. PHA Commitment	No		
P-3. Healthcare Leveraging Commitment	No	Healthcare Letter	10/18/2022
P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter	No	Letter of Support	10/18/2022
Plan. CoC Plan	Yes	MT-500 Plan	10/17/2022

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Notice of Funding Announcement

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Local Competition Scoring Tool

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Notification of Projects Rejected or Reduced

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Notification of Projects Accepted

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Application and Priority Listing Posted

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Letters of Support for Capitol Projects

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:**

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:**

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:**

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Healthcare Letter

## **Attachment Details**

**Document Description:** Letter of Support

## Attachment Details

**Document Description:** MT-500 Plan

## Submission Summary

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

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	10/13/2022
1B. Project Review, Ranking and Selection	10/17/2022
2A. System Performance	10/14/2022
2B. Coordination and Engagement	10/14/2022
2C. Coordination and Engagement–Con't.	10/14/2022
3A. New Projects With Rehab/New Construction	No Input Required
3B. Homelessness by Other Federal Statutes	10/14/2022
4A. Attachments Screen	10/18/2022
Submission Summary	No Input Required



Housing Assistance

Youth Homelessness ▾

Board Meetings

Latest Updates

Contact

## UPDATES

### HUD Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity

August 22, 2022

On June 22, 2022, HUD announced it is making \$322 million in competitive funding available to communities to address unsheltered and rural homelessness through a Special CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity. To apply, CoCs will need to demonstrate a comprehensive community approach to reduce homelessness among people experiencing homelessness with severe service needs, especially those with histories of unsheltered homelessness. Funding is available for permanent housing, street outreach efforts...

[Read More](#)





Housing Assistance

Youth Homelessness

Board Meetings

Latest Updates

Contact

# HUD Supplemental Notice Of Funding Opportunity

Posted on August 22, 2022 in NOFO (Grants)

On June 22, 2022, HUD announced it is making \$322 million in competitive funding available to communities to address unsheltered and rural homelessness through a Special CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity. To apply, CoCs will need to demonstrate a comprehensive community approach to reduce homelessness among people experiencing homelessness with severe service needs, especially those with histories of unsheltered homelessness. Funding is available for permanent housing, street outreach efforts and other supportive services, and HMIS

The Montana Continuum of Care is seeking project applicants for funding via HUD's Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness

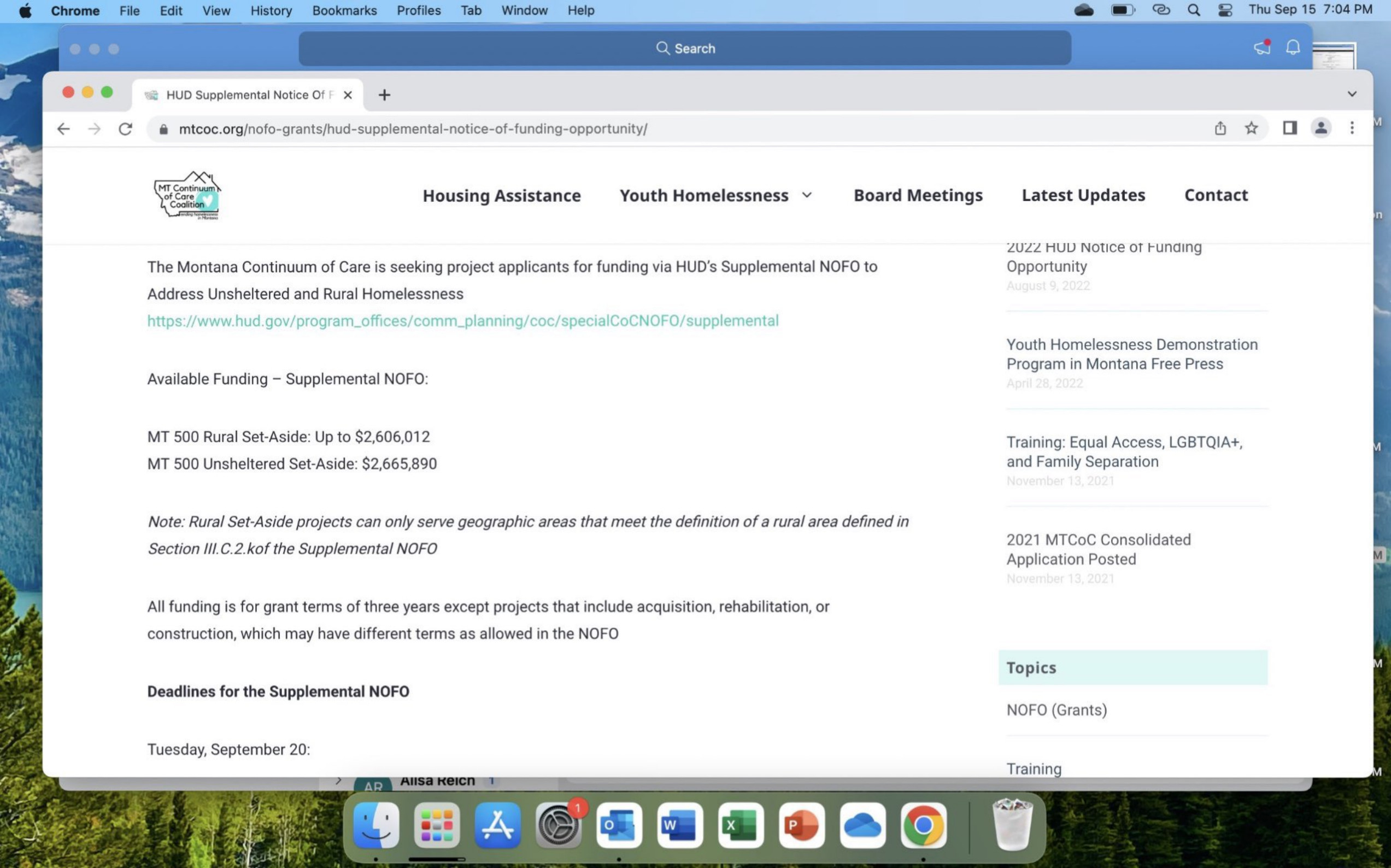
[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO/supplemental](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO/supplemental)

## Latest Updates

HUD Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity  
August 22, 2022

2022 HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity  
August 9, 2022

Youth Homelessness Demonstration



Housing Assistance

Youth Homelessness

Board Meetings

Latest Updates

Contact

The Montana Continuum of Care is seeking project applicants for funding via HUD's Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness

[https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO/supplemental](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO/supplemental)

Available Funding – Supplemental NOFO:

MT 500 Rural Set-Aside: Up to \$2,606,012

MT 500 Unsheltered Set-Aside: \$2,665,890

*Note: Rural Set-Aside projects can only serve geographic areas that meet the definition of a rural area defined in Section III.C.2.k of the Supplemental NOFO*

All funding is for grant terms of three years except projects that include acquisition, rehabilitation, or construction, which may have different terms as allowed in the NOFO

### Deadlines for the Supplemental NOFO

Tuesday, September 20:

2022 HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity  
August 9, 2022

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program in Montana Free Press  
April 28, 2022

Training: Equal Access, LGBTQIA+, and Family Separation  
November 13, 2021

2021 MTCoc Consolidated Application Posted  
November 13, 2021

### Topics

NOFO (Grants)

Training





Housing Assistance

Youth Homelessness

Board Meetings

Latest Updates

Contact

### Deadlines for the Supplemental NOFO

Tuesday, September 20:

Project applications due in HUD's eSNAPS application system (email PDF version of your project application to [david@mtcoc.org](mailto:david@mtcoc.org) )

Supplemental Applications due to [david@mtcoc.org](mailto:david@mtcoc.org)

[HUD-Unsheltered-and-Rural-Supplemental-Application](#) Download

[HUD-Unsheltered-and-Rural-NOFO-Scoring-and-Ranking-Criteria](#) Download

NOFO (Grants)

Training

Uncategorized



#### Info

Montana Continuum Of Care Coalition  
David O'Leary, Executive Director

#### Updates

HUD Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity

#### Links

2021 Local CoC Coordinators

## MT 500 New and First-Time Renewal Project Scoring Criteria

Organization				
Project Name				
Project Type				
Population Served				
Date of Review				
SUPPLIMENTAL NOFO PROJECT SCORING CRITERIA				
CRITERIA	UN-SHELTERED	RURAL	DATA SOURCE	SCORE
Describe experience in effectively utilizing federal funds and performing the activities proposed in the application and describe the basic organization and management structure of the applicant including evidence of an adequate financial accounting system	10	10	Application 2b.1	
Describe the basic organization and management structure of the applicant including evidence of an adequate financial accounting system	5	5	Application 2b.3	
Will applicant meet Housing first and Low Barrier Approaches	5	5	Application 3b.5	
Describe the scope of the project	5	5	Application 3b.1	
Describe how participants will be assisted to rapidly obtain and remain in permanent housing	10	10	Application 4a.2	
Describe how clients will be assisted to increase earned income, other unearned income and access mainstream services to maximize ability to live independently	5	5	Application 4a.3	N/A
<b>Non-capital Projects:</b> Project is cost effective (comparing projected cost per person to average for similar type program). <b>Capital Projects (Rural ONLY):</b> Projected Milestones	10	10	Application 6j & Supplemental Application	

Non-DV = Non-Domestic Violence Projects/DV = Domestic Violence Project Applicants

MT 500 New and First-Time Renewal Project Scoring Criteria

Serving High Needs Population: Identify subpopulations that will be served	10	10	Supplemental Application Q8	
Coordinated Entry. Indicate what percent of enrollments your agency will commit to coming from the coordinated entry system	5	5	Supplemental Application Q9	
Needs & Gaps Analysis. Identify what gap in your local Needs & Gaps Assessment your project fills or how this project reflects your local needs and gaps assessment	5	5	Supplemental Application Q10	
Addressing inequities to housing access	5	5	Supplemental Application Q11	
Integrating culturally specific or culturally responsive programming	5	5	Supplemental Application Q12	
Describe how your project will leverage and integrate existing housing resources to best meet participant need	10	10	Supplemental Application Q13	
Describe how your project will leverage and integrate healthcare services and resources to meet participant need	10	10	Supplemental Application Q14	
<b>TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE</b>	100	100	<b>PROJECT SCORE</b>	

# Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness 2022

## Supplemental Application:

### Deadline Dates

- HUD Project Application 1<sup>st</sup> Submission into eSNAPS – September 20 (e-mail PDF version of your project application to david@mtcoc.org)
- Supplemental CoC application information due – September 20 (e-mail to david@mtcoc.org)

### Sources of Scoring Criteria Information

Project applications will be scored on information from 3 different sources as noted in the table below:

1. “Application” refers to question numbers in the HUD eSNAPS application.
2. Prepared tables (e.g. from PIT or cost effectiveness)
3. Supplemental Application. Additional information highlighted in yellow is provided in the Supplemental Application on page 2.

Supplemental NOFO Project Scoring Criteria		
	Criteria	Source
1	Describe the experience in effectively utilizing federal funds and performing the activities proposed in the application and describe the basic organization and management structure of the applicant including evidence of an adequate financial accounting system.	Application 2B.1
2	Describe the basic organization and management structure of the applicant including evidence of an adequate financial accounting system.	Application 2B.3
3	Will applicant meet Housing First and Low Barrier approaches	Application 3B.5
4	Describe the scope of the project.	Application 3B.1
5	Describe how participants will be assisted to rapidly obtain and remain in permanent housing	Application 4A.2
6	Describe how clients will be assisted to increase earned income, other unearned income and access mainstream services to maximize ability to live independently.	Application 4A.3
7	<b>Non-capital Projects:</b> Project is cost effective (comparing projected cost per person to average for similar type program). <b>Capital Projects (Rural ONLY):</b> Projected Milestones	Application 6J & Supplemental Application
8	Serving High Needs Population: Identify subpopulations that will be served.	Supplemental Application
9	Coordinated Entry	Supplemental Application
10	Needs & Gaps Analysis	Supplemental Application
11	Addressing inequities to housing access	Supplemental Application
12	Integrating culturally specific or culturally responsive programming	Supplemental Application
13	Integrating existing housing resources to best meet participant need	Supplemental Application
14	Integrating healthcare services and resources to meet participant need	Supplemental Application
15	Describe how you project aligns with the statewide consolidated plan on addressing unsheltered and rural homelessness	Supplemental Application



## SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION QUESTIONS

### Question 7 – Non-capital Projects ONLY: Project is cost effective (projected cost per person to average for similar type program)

This criterion applies Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing projects or the RRH part only of a joint TH/RRH project.

For PSH or RRH projects, the year-long budget will come from eSNAPS application Q. 6J. The applicant will further provide in the supplemental application the following:

1. The estimated number of persons to be served during their first year operating period.

For first-time renewals can choose between using information from the original application or providing the following:

1. The beginning and end dates for the longest operating period possible.
2. The amount of budget expended for period being reported.
3. The total number of persons served during this period.

### Question 7 – Capital Projects ONLY: Projected Milestones

Provide projected timelines for the following:

1. Months from grant execution to completion of Acquisition, Rehabilitation, or New Construction.
2. Days from completion of Acquisition, Rehabilitation, or New Construction to house first participant.
3. Days from completion of Acquisition, Rehabilitation, or New Construction for facility to be near 100% occupancy.

### Question 8 - Serving High Needs Population

Supplemental Application: Identify any of the following subpopulations that your project will serve.

	Yes	No
Low or no income (low income is 30% or < of AMI)		
More than 1 disability		
Escaping violence or history of victimization		
Criminal History (with exceptions for state mandates)		
Chronically Homeless		

### Question 9 - Coordinated Entry

Supplemental Application: Indicate what percent of enrollments your agency will commit to coming from the coordinated entry system.

### Question 10 - Needs & Gaps Analysis

Supplemental Application. Identify what gap in your local Needs and Gaps Assessment your project fills or how this project reflects your local assessment.

**Question 11 - Addressing Inequities to Housing Access**

What are inequities to accessing housing in your service area and what actions steps is your program taking to address them? If your organization does not currently address inequities to accessing housing, what is your plan to do so in the future? (Suggested word count: 100-250 words):

**Question 12 - Integrating Culturally Specific or Culturally Responsive Programming \***

How does your program integrate culturally specific and/or culturally responsive programming? If your program does not currently integrate culturally specific and/or culturally responsive programming, what is your plan to do so in the future? (Suggested word count: 100-250 words):

**Question 13 - Integrating Existing Housing Resources**

How does your program integrate and leverage existing housing resources to best meet participant need and promote housing stability? (Suggested word count: 250 words):

**Question 14 – Integrating Healthcare Services and Resources**

How does your program integrate and leverage healthcare services in resources to meet participant need and promote positive outcomes? (Suggested word count: 250 words):

\*Culturally Responsive Care Definition: Cultural responsiveness means being open to new ideas that may conflict with the ideas, beliefs, and values of your own culture, and being able to see these differences as equal...It means being respectful of everyone's backgrounds, beliefs, values, customs, knowledge, lifestyle, and social behaviors. It helps you provide culturally appropriate care and support, so people are empowered to manage their own health. Cultural responsiveness involves continuous learning, self-exploration, and reflection. It draws on several concepts, including cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, and cultural competence Cultural responsiveness is important for all social and cultural groups, including:

- Indigenous and tribally enrolled people
- People from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Refugees or displaced migrants
- People at all life stages, including end of life
- People with different abilities
- Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex Asexual Two Spirit (LGBTQIAS2+ people)

MT-500 FY2022 Supplemental NOFO Project Rankings			
Rural Set-Aside Projects			
Rank	Applicant – Project Name	Amount Requested	Score
1	Opportunities Inc Rural Set Aside Project Application FY2022	\$161,451	69.75
2	Human Resources Development Council district XII Action Inc PSH Construction	\$764,000	77.25
3	Northwest Montana Human Resources CAPNM Unsheltered Rural PSH	\$369,852	69.5
4	Northwest Montana Human Resources CAPNM Rural Set Aside (Capitol)	\$500,000	68
5	United Way of Lewis and Clark Area United Way Unsheltered Outreach Program	\$985,752	59.75
Unsheltered Set-Aside Projects			
1	NeighborWorks Great Falls Batz Building PSH	\$538,190	68.25
2	United Way of Yellowstone County Yellowstone County CoC Supplemental	\$969,600	72.25
3	Helena Housing Authority Helena Housing Authority PSH Unsheltered Set Aside FY2022	\$637,153`	72

Approved by the Board of Directors on October 3, 2022

SCORING SCALE - SUPPLEMENTAL NOFO PROJECTS 2022

		RURAL	JNSHELTERED
Q1	Describe experience in effectively utilizing federal funds	10	10
	Excellent - 7 to 10 points		
	Good - 4 to 6 points		
	Fair - 2 to 3 points		
	Poor - 0 to 1 points		
Q2	Describe the basic organization and management structure	5	5
	Excellent - 5 points		
	Good - 3 to 4 points		
	Fair - 2 points		
	Poor - 0 to 1 point		
Q3	Will applicant meet Housing first and Low Barrier Approaches	5	5
	Yes - 5 points		
	No - 0 points		
Q4	Describe the scope of the project	5	5
	Excellent - 5 points		
	Good - 3 to 4 points		
	Fair - 2 points		
	Poor - 0 to 1 point		
Q5	Describe how participants will be assisted to rapidly obtain and remain in permanent housing	10	10
	Excellent - 7 to 10 points		
	Good - 4 to 6 points		
	Fair - 2 to 3 points		
	Poor - 0 to 1 points		
	N/A - Scored at 6 points if question is not applicable		
Q6	Describe how clients will be assisted to increase earned income, other unearned income and access mainstream services to services to maximize ability to live independently	5	5
	*Not on Project Applications		
	Excellent - 5 points		
	Good - 3 to 4 points		
	Fair - 2 points		
	Poor - 0 to 1 point		
	N/A - Scored at 3 points if question is not applicable		



<b>Q7</b>	<b>Non-Capitol Projects</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
	Project is cost effective (comparing projected cost per person (for similar type of program)		
	100% average cost or less - 10 points		
	101 to 110% - 8 points		
	111 to 120% - 6 points		
	121 to 130% - 4 points		
	131 to 140% - 2 points		
	141% or more - 0 points		
<b>Q7</b>	<b>Capitol Projects - Project Milestones</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>N/A</b>
	<b>a. Months from grant execution to project completion</b>	<b>5</b>	
	Less than 6 months - 5 points		
	7- to 12 months - 3 points		
	13 to 18 months - 2 points		
	19 months or longer - 0 points		
	<b>b. Days from project completion to house first participant</b>	<b>3</b>	
	30 days or less - 3 points		
	31 to 60 days - 2 points		
	61 days or longer - 0 points		
	<b>c. Days from completion for facility to be near 100% occupied</b>	<b>2</b>	
	c. Less than 90 days - 2 points		
	91 to 120 days - 1 point		
	121 days or longer - 0 points		
<b>Q8</b>	<b>Serving High Barrier Populations</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>
	a. Serving Chronically Homeless		
	b. Having little or no income (use 30% of AMI)		
	c. Number of persons with more than 1 disability		
	d. Having a criminal history with state mandated exceptions		
	e. History of domestic violence		
	All five served	10	10
	4 served	8	8
	3 served	6	6
	2 served	4	4
	1 served	2	2
	0	0	0

Q9	Coordinated Entry	5	5
	What percent of enrollments your agency will commit to coming from		
	the coordinated entry system		
	100%	5	5
	81 to 99%	4	4
	71 to 80%	3	3
	61 to 70%	2	2
	51 to 60%	1	1
	Less than 50%	0	0
Q10	Needs & Gaps Analysis.	5	5
	Excellent - 5 points		
	Good - 3 to 4 points		
	Fair - 2 points		
	Poor - 0 to 1 point		
Q11	Addressing Inequities to Housing Access	5	5
	Excellent - 5 points		
	Good - 3 to 4 points		
	Fair - 2 points		
	Poor - 0 to 1 point		
Q12	Integrating culturally Specific or Culturally Responsive Programming	5	5
	Excellent - 5 points		
	Good - 3 to 4 points		
	Fair - 2 points		
	Poor - 0 to 1 point		
Q13	Describe how your project will leverage and integrate existing housing resources to best meet participant need	10	10
	Excellent - 7 to 10 points		
	Good - 4 to 6 points		
	Fair - 2 to 3 points		
	Poor - 0 to 1 points		

[illegible]

## **Statement:**

**No projects were rejected or reduced in the scoring and ranking of projects for MT-500**

## RURAL

APPLICANT	PROJECT NAME	SCORE	RANK	AWARD AMOUNT	STATUS
Opportunities Inc	Rural Set Aside Project Application FY2022	69.75	1	\$161,451	Accepted
Human Resources Council, District XII	Action Inc PSH Construction	77.25	2	\$764,000	Accepted
Northwest Montana Human Resources Inc.	CAPNM Unsheltered Rural PSH	69.5	3	\$369,852	Accepted
Northwest Montana Human Resources Inc.	CAPNM Rural Set Aside	68	4	\$500,000	Accepted
United Way of Lewis and Clark Area	United Way Unsheltered Outreach Program	59.75	5	\$985,752	Accepted

## UNSHELTERED

NeighborWorks Great Falls	Baatz Building PSH	68.25	1	\$538,190	Accepted
United Way of Yellowstone County	Yellowstone County CoC Supplemental	72.25	2	\$969,600	Accepted
Helena Housing Authority	Helena Housing Authority PSH Set Aside FY2022	72	3	\$637,153	Accepted

GRANTS INCLUDED IN THE FY2022 SUPPLEMENTAL CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION THAT ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE RANKED

Montana Continuum of Care Coalition	MT-500 Unsheltered Set-Aside Planning Grant 2022	N/A	N/A	\$64,350	Accepted
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# The Montana Continuum Of Care FY2022 HUD Supplemental NOFO Application

Posted on October 17, 2022 in NOFO (Grants)

## PDF Version

Applicant: Montana Statewide CoC MT-500  
Project: MT-500 CoC Registration FY 2022 COC\_REG\_2022\_192258

### Before Starting the Special CoC Application

You must submit both of the following parts in order for us to consider your Special NOFO Consolidated Application complete:  
1. the CoC Application, and

## Latest Updates

Priority Listing are posted in accordance with HUD requirements  
October 17, 2022

The Montana Continuum of Care FY2022 HUD Supplemental NOFO Application  
October 17, 2022

Montana Continuum of Care FY 2022 Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Project Rankings  
October 5, 2022





# Priority Listing Are Posted In Accordance With HUD Requirements

Posted on October 17, 2022 in NOFO (Grants)

## PDF Version



### Latest Updates

Priority Listing are posted in accordance with HUD requirements  
October 17, 2022

The Montana Continuum of Care FY2022 HUD Supplemental NOFO Application  
October 17, 2022

Montana Continuum of Care FY 2022 Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Project Rankings  
October 5, 2022



September 16, 2022

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Special Needs Assistance

On behalf of the Montana Continuum of Care, I am writing to affirm the application being submitted by Action Inc. under the Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness supports goals in the Montana State Plan. The proposal to construct four units of permanent supportive housing is in alignment with the goals of the Plan and will help meet a priority of creating dedicated units to serve chronically homeless. Additionally, it supports meeting a goal to improve social determinants of health for homeless by integrating housing and healthcare services.

Action Inc. has detailed to the Coc how it will implement Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) and the implementing rules of 24 CFR, part 75, to provide employment and training opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low and very low-income persons.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David O'Leary", is positioned above the printed name and title.

David O'Leary  
Executive Director







October 9, 2022

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Special Needs Assistance

On behalf of the Montana Continuum of Care, I am writing to affirm the application being submitted by Northwest Montana Human Resources Inc. under the Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness supports goals in the Montana State Plan. The proposal to construct seventeen units of permanent supportive housing is in alignment with the goals of the Plan and will help meet a priority of creating dedicated units to serve chronically homeless. Additionally, it supports meeting a goal to improve social determinants of health for homeless by integrating housing and healthcare services.

Northwest Montana Human Resources Inc. has detailed to the Statewide CoC how it will implement Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u) and the implementing rules of 24 CFR, part 75, to provide employment and training opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low and very low-income persons.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David O'Leary", is positioned above the printed name.

David O'Leary  
Executive Director





# Department of Public Health and Human Services

Human and Community Services Division ♦ Intergovernmental Human Services Bureau

PO Box 202956 ♦ Helena, MT 59620

Fax: (406) 444-2547 ♦ <https://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd>

Greg Gianforte, Governor

Charles T. Brereton, Director

October 17, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) supports the Montana Continuum of Care (CoC) (MT-500) Consolidated Application for the 2022 Supplemental Competition to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. These grant funds will enhance the capacity to solve unsheltered homelessness by connecting vulnerable individuals and families to housing, healthcare, and supportive services.

Through numerous programs, Montana DPHHS provides access to treatment, recovery, or supportive services for program participants who meet eligibility criteria and choose those services in the proposed Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects which have been submitted as part of the MT-500 Consolidated Application for the 2022 Supplemental Competition to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness.

Sincerely,

Sara Loewen  
Intergovernmental Human Services Bureau Chief,  
Human and Community Services Division, MT DPHHS

October 10, 2022

To Whom It May Concern at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development:

This letter serves to show our support for the Montana Continuum of Care (CoC) application for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) supplemental funding including the Montana CoC Plan to Serve People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.

Our group, the Montana CoC Leadership Council, supports the Priority Listing and the Project Applications submitted by the Montana CoC in response to the 2022 Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (SNOFO) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. We encourage HUD to consider funding these innovative programs across our state.

Our participation in the newly formed Montana CoC Leadership Council confirms we participated in a workgroup composed of people with lived experience of homelessness and provided input into the plan submitted as part of the application. We are excited to participate in this process and inform the work of the Montana CoC.

The Leadership Council participated in the grants review panel in accordance with the Continuum's Conflict-of-Interest policy. We support the use of Continuum of Care SNOFO Program funds to support programs for rural and unsheltered set-aside projects as outlined in their applications and ranking.

These projects are critically needed in Montana to help end homelessness among people with Severe Service Needs. We urge HUD to award the funding requested by Montana CoC for these important projects.

Sincerely,

Montana CoC Leadership Council  
Dani Mayeaux, Youth Action Board  
Ashlie Wise, Youth Action Board  
Lynne Staigmiller, Great Falls Rescue Mission  
Kari Boiter, Yellowstone County Continuum of Care

Delete Archive Move Flag Mark Unread Sync Send to OneNote ...

Re: Leadership Council letter of support

Navigation icons: back, forward, search



Dani Mayeaux <danimayeaux@gmail.com>

Friday, October 14, 2022 at 6:34 PM

To: Katie McLain; Cc: ashlie wise; Kari Boiter; lynne.staigmiller@gfrm.org; David O'Leary

Looks good to me! you can put my name!

On Fri, Oct 14, 2022 at 1:58 PM Katie McLain <katiemclain@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi all -

Attached please find a draft letter of support for the CoC Supplemental funding application from the Leadership Council.

If you are ok with the language in it and are able to digitally sign it please let me know. If you have no means of signing it/scanning it but still support the letter you can email me back confirming you support the letter and that will work for a signature.

Any questions/suggestions please let me know!

Thanks,  
Katie

Katie McLain  
[katiemclain@gmail.com](mailto:katiemclain@gmail.com)  
c. 406-223-0112

Re: Leadership Council letter of support - Inbox • david@mtcoc.org

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Re: Leadership Council letter of support

← ↶ →

Yesterday at 12:25 PM



○ Kari Boiter <kariboiter@gmail.com>

To: Dani Mayeaux; Cc: Katie McLain; ashlie wise; lynne.staigmiller@gfrm.org; ○ David O'Leary

This looks fine to me as well. Feel free to use my name and/or send a DocuSign version or something similar for an electronic signature if needed.

Sincerely,

*Kari Boiter*

Kari Boiter (she/her/hers)  
President, Board of Directors  
Yellowstone County Continuum of Care  
Phone: (406) 544-9164  
Email: [kariboiter@gmail.com](mailto:kariboiter@gmail.com)

On Fri, Oct 14, 2022 at 6:34 PM Dani Mayeaux <[danimayeaux@gmail.com](mailto:danimayeaux@gmail.com)> wrote:

Looks good to me! you can put my name!

On Fri, Oct 14, 2022 at 1:58 PM Katie McLain <[katiemclain@gmail.com](mailto:katiemclain@gmail.com)> wrote:

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Any questions/suggestions please let me know!

Thanks,  
Katie

Katie McLain



Re: Leadership Council letter of support - Inbox - david@mtcoc.org

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Re: Leadership Council letter of support

← ↶ ↷

Today at 3:38 PM



○ Lynne Staigmiller <lynne.staigmiller@gfrescuemission.org>

To: Kari Boiter; Cc: Dani Mayeaux; Katie McLain; ashlie wise; lynne.staigmiller@gfrm.org; ○ David O'Leary

The draft looks good to me!

On Sun, Oct 16, 2022 at 12:25 PM Kari Boiter <[kariboiter@gmail.com](mailto:kariboiter@gmail.com)> wrote:

This looks fine to me as well. Feel free to use my name and/or send a DocuSign version or something similar for an electronic signature if needed.

Sincerely,

*Kari Boiter*

Kari Boiter (she/her/hers)  
President, Board of Directors  
Yellowstone County Continuum of Care  
Phone: (406) 544-9164  
Email: [kariboiter@gmail.com](mailto:kariboiter@gmail.com)

On Fri, Oct 14, 2022 at 6:34 PM Dani Mayeaux <[danimayeaux@gmail.com](mailto:danimayeaux@gmail.com)> wrote:

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Any questions/suggestions please let me know!

Thanks.

Fwd: Leadership Council letter of support - Inbox • david@mtcoc.org

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Fwd: Leadership Council letter of support

← ↶ ↷

Yesterday at 9:32 PM



○ ashlie wise <ashlie.marie406@gmail.com>

To: ○ David O'Leary

----- Forwarded message -----

From: ashlie wise <ashlie.marie406@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Oct 17, 2022 at 9:03 PM

Subject: Re: Leadership Council letter of support

To: Katie McLain <katiemclain@gmail.com>

Yes that looks great Katie!

On Fri, Oct 14, 2022 at 1:58 PM Katie McLain <katiemclain@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi all -

Attached please find a draft letter of support for the CoC Supplemental funding application from the Leadership Council.

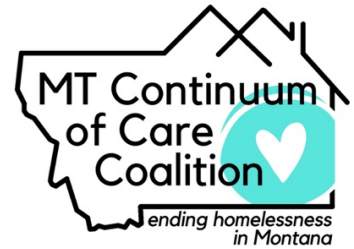
If you are ok with the language in it and are able to digitally sign it please let me know. If you have no means of signing it/scanning it but still support the letter you can email me back confirming you support the letter and that will work for a signature.

Any questions/suggestions please let me know!

Thanks,  
Katie

**Katie McLain**  
[katiemclain@gmail.com](mailto:katiemclain@gmail.com)  
c. 406-223-0112

--  
Ashlie Wise  
Montana Youth Action Board Member  
Pronouns: she/her/hers  
[Click here](#) to learn more about the Youth Action Board



## **Montana CoC Comprehensive Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs**

### **About**

The Montana Continuum of Care (CoC) Coalition, one of only five statewide CoCs in the contiguous U.S., is responsible for local, regional, and statewide coordination of housing and services for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The MT CoC has regional committees that coordinate and manage their homeless resources through a system known as Coordinated Entry (CE). The goal of CE is to ensure that all people experiencing homelessness have fair and equal access and are quickly identified, assessed for, referred, and connected to housing assistance based on their needs. Our goal as a statewide CoC is to identify the number of households in Montana most in need of housing and services support and to locate and refer those households to new permanent housing opportunities.

### **Vision for Comprehensive Plan**

This plan serves to address the requirement of the supplemental funding application (FR-6500-N-25S) to show how the Montana CoC is planning to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness with severe service needs. The resources used for developing this plan include coordinated entry prioritization policies, which are developed within each referral zone (or local CoC) based on local needs and resources; CoC application surveys, which included responses from the 10 local CoC organizations statewide; and strategic planning docs developed by the state CoC in October of 2021. The Montana CoC is in a stage of transition with a new Executive Director and a board working towards improved coordination at the state level. The development of this comprehensive plan offers a chance to evaluate the operations and functionality of the CoC across the state, to develop new approaches to our work, and to revamp existing efforts for a stronger and more efficient CoC.

### **P1. Leveraging Housing Resources**

#### **P-1a. Development of New Units and Creation of Housing Opportunities–Leveraging Housing.**

The Montana CoC is working to increase the number of permanent housing units available to persons experiencing homelessness by working with partners across the state. Our applicants



demonstrate the creation of new units and housing opportunities in their individual project applications. Some examples include

**P-1b. Development of New Units and Creation of Housing Opportunities–PHA Commitment.**

**P-1c. Landlord Recruitment.**

While we do not have a specific CoC-wide strategy for landlord recruitment across the state, we have dynamic engagement at the local level. Examples include improvement of landlord rapport created by housing navigators in the Kalispell area. Their local CES and CAPNM Housing Navigators have worked diligently with a group of landlords and property owners in order to eliminate any inequity in access to housing for many individuals and households. Rapport was built up in a way that the landlords or property owner would give priority to any client referred, regardless of background, status, or demographic. Landlords are part of the Community Health Improvement Plan and Tri-County Housing Task Force in the Helena area, working on all areas of housing from homelessness to permanent housing.

**P-2. Leveraging Healthcare Resources–New PSH/RRH Project.**

See letter of commitment from Montana DPHHS in section 4A.

**P-3. Current Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness.**

**P-3.a Current Street Outreach Strategy.**

The Montana COC has street outreach provided through shelters, SSVF, PATH & Coordinated Entry (CES) that identifies & engages people living unsheltered. CES outreach teams strengthen coordination among existing & new outreach projects, e.g., Missoula provides best practices & coordination to help teams meet unique needs (e.g., Transition Aged Youth) & has a Mobile Support Team dispatched through 911 to respond to behavioral health crises. Ravalli County outreach visits local campgrounds & coordinates with the US Forest Service to identify & engage people on forest lands & in campgrounds. Bozeman has a street outreach program that uses peer support and partners with police & drop-in/warming/mental health centers to enhance safety & connections to housing & services. The Salvation Army, Good Samaritan Ministries, local churches, veterans' groups & youth programs also provide street outreach. Shelters in the 5 largest cities provide street outreach covering 88% of the targeted areas. SSVF outreach now covers 55 of the state's 56 counties. The PATH program has outreach programs in 3 counties covering 55% of the state's homeless populations. 100% of the CoC's geographic area is covered.

Outreach occurs daily in the 5 largest cities & at least weekly in the more remote areas. Outreach workers use motivation building strategies to engage those least likely to seek services and help them to accept assistance. Coordinated Entry standards provide that the first person to make contact is responsible for maintaining & documenting contact, & for engagement & rapport building. Personal and repeated contact ensures effective outreach for those least likely to request assistance. The CoC is implementing a plan to ensure accessible communication, (e.g., use of TRS phone service & assessing/remediating accessibility issues on the CoC's website & in electronic communications/documents). Our local CoCs assess & provide access for people with LEP, including multi-lingual outreach & translated materials; conduct outreach at organizations serving high concentrations of racial/ethnic/religious minorities, and/or people with disabilities. The CoC's monitoring program evaluates compliance with HUD requirements on affirmatively furthering fair housing. The CoC Scorecard evaluates the extent to which Local CoCs are taking actions to ensure Affirmative Outreach that furthers fair housing, including to persons with limited English proficiency.

**P-3.b. Current Strategy to Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Shelter and Temporary Housing for Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness.**

**P-3.b.1** The Montana CoC's expansive geographic area requires localized approaches to provide access to low barrier shelter and temporary housing. Most of the available shelter beds are available only in larger, urban communities across the state.

The statewide CoC has prioritized increasing access to low barrier shelter and temporary housing. The CoC's Consolidated Application for the Supplemental NOFO includes projects that align with this priority.

**P-3.b.2** The Montana CoC does not have sufficient temporary shelter for those experiencing homeless in communities across the state. Some local CoC's have expanded access to low barrier shelter. Billings successfully operated a seasonal shelter during the winter of 2021-2022 and is working to operate this shelter on a year-round basis. Other communities have used available resources for emergency motel stays in areas where there are no shelter beds available.

**P-3.b.3** The Montana CoC began efforts to expand outreach and engagement in the rural areas of the state that remain unserved by the CoC. Due to the pandemic and a transition in leadership these efforts were for a time curtailed. Under new leadership these efforts have resumed in earnest. Special attention is being given to the state's tribal communities.

**P-3.c Current Strategy to Provide Immediate Access to Low Barrier Permanent Housing for Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness.**

The Montana CoC requires all projects to use a Housing First approach. The CoC evaluates Housing First implementation as follows. The CoC's Scorecard is used to evaluate and rank all projects. All projects may admit only applicants referred via Coordinated Entry & may not reject eligible applicants due to criminal history, substance use, lack of income, poor credit, eviction history, reluctance to engage in services or other barriers. The Coordinated Entry System assesses whether projects are adhering to Housing First commitments.

The CoC uses the following factors/performance indicators when evaluating compliance with HF: days from project entry to move-in to ensure prioritization of rapid housing placement; extent to which projects actually serve households with multiple barriers such as little or no income and criminal history; housing stabilization outcomes, such as retention in permanent housing; and efforts by the local CoC to reinforce the Housing First approach and continually reduce barriers to project entry. Coordinated Entry monitors referrals & exits to ensure that eligible applicants are admitted, housed, and stabilized promptly and not exited for impermissible reasons. The CoC's monitoring program evaluates project compliance with Housing First commitments by reviewing leases/occupancy agreements, policies, participant handbooks, case notes, etc. to ensure that participation in services is voluntary and that participants are not terminated due to substance use, reluctance to engage in services or treatment, lack of progress on goals or other impermissible reasons. Failure to adhere to Housing First commitments results in a finding. The monitoring team makes specific recommendations to correct the finding. If subsequent monitoring indicates that a project is unable or unwilling to make the necessary changes, the project could risk being reallocated.

**P-4. Updating the CoC's Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness with Data and Performance.**

**P-4.1** Street Outreach is centered within the CoC's urban centers. To expand outreach and improve system performance, the Montana CoC is planning a CES Assessment in 2023 to evaluate the effectiveness of the coordinated entry system. One goal is to identify more quickly those who are unsheltered. Additionally, projects included in the CoC's Consolidated Application include added staff for outreach and engagement. The CoC will provide training for these workers to ensure they will be effective in connecting those with high barriers to needed services. The CoC will also evaluate whether those identified through outreach are connected to CE, and programs best suited to meet their individual need. Using HMIS the CoC will evaluate the outcomes for those with severe services needs through all stages of engagement: initial contact via outreach, CE assessment and program exit.

**P-4.2** Using performance data to expand access to low-barrier housing, the CoC will identify training needs throughout the state to ensure staff are trained in trauma-informed and person-centered care, and in the principals of housing first and harm reduction. The CoC will also expand outreach to rural and tribal areas. Those experiencing homelessness in these areas are less likely to access needed services. Performance data will be used to identify possible opportunities for reallocation to expand or establish services in these areas, providing local options that align with client need.

**P-4.3** The Montana CoC will expand rapid access to housing for those experiencing homelessness who are unsheltered by increasing the number of PSH units available. The CoC's Consolidated Application includes 4 PSH Projects representing 4 communities throughout the state. The Baatz Building PSH project adds 30 beds in a community currently underserved by the CoC. The CoC will also expand partnerships with local PHA's to better connect CoC providers to households with HCVs and other mainstream resources to assist them in finding and maintaining housing that best meets their individual need.

**P-5. Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness.**

Our local CoCs are prioritizing households experiencing or with histories of unsheltered homelessness. Many applicants at the local level are focusing on the success they have found with the use of case managers for the FUSE (Frequent Users of Systems Engagement) program. Funding for more case managers that can work with people with the highest needs in our communities will help them access the resources they need to become healthy and housed.

**P-6. Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Decision Making—Meaningful Outreach.**

Six out of ten local CoCs have representation from people with lived experience all of which do the following:

- provide input that is incorporated in the local planning process.
- review and recommend revisions to local policies addressing homelessness related to coordinated entry, services, and housing; participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups; and
- are included in the development or revision of CoC's local competition rating factors and in decision making factors for the local CoC.

Specific examples of how local CoCs conduct outreach to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decision-making processes follow:

“We continue to work locally to establish an advisory group of folks with lived expertise as a sub- group of our local CoC. To date, we have had a hard time finding someone to lead that effort and dedicate time to bringing lived experts into power. We have had successes with one-off engagement efforts; for instance, a small group of staff focused on equity within our CES held focus groups with lived experts who are Black and Brown to gather insights about their experiences access housing resources. We do not have a sustainable funding source locally to reimburse lived experts, which creates a barrier to engagement because we want to be sure to adequately compensate folx for their time and expertise.”

“A Homeless Advisory Committee meets monthly and is facilitated by a CoC partner. The Committee meets at the local emergency shelter to create good access. The Committee works on issues facing the homeless and reports come back to the CoC monthly.”

“HRDC uses an "in-reach" approach to find and engage those with lived experience. Reaching out to individuals who were guests at the Warming Center or are living in HRDC rental assistance properties.”

The State CoC recently formed the Montana CoC Leadership Council to give voice to families, youth, and individuals experiencing homelessness to better meet their needs and improve their quality of life through effective and meaningful programming and policy of the Montana CoC. The board of the council is composed of individuals who are currently experiencing or formerly experienced homelessness. The work of the board is focused on advocacy, programming, and policy for the Montana CoC.

Members participated in the Grants Review process in accordance with the Continuum’s Conflict-of-Interest policy and attended meetings of the Scorecard Committee and Board as observers as they reviewed and voted to approve the project selection and ranking. In the long term, the Leadership Council will continue to serve as advisors to the Continuum’s Board of Directors. The council’s involvement will serve to guide the board in program improvement, policy development, strategic planning. As members of the CoC, members of the Leadership Council will be able to actively participate in the process of project ranking and selection in accordance with the Continuum’s Conflict-of-Interest policy, as well as having opportunities to serve on various CoC committees. The primary goal of the Leadership Council is to bring people with lived experience of homelessness into the decision-making process of the Continuum of Care. We are working towards a make-up of having one representative from each of the state’s local CoCs (10 members) and as of this submission there are 4 members representing Missoula, Kalispell, Great Falls, and Billings.

**P-6a. Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Decision Making– Letter of Support from Working Group Comprised of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.**

See letter of endorsement from Montana Continuum of Care Leadership Council in section 4A.

**P-7. Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Community Development.**

The Montana CoC is centering equity in this comprehensive plan as a means to address barriers to entry. We note that most minority groups are overrepresented in the homelessness system and generally experience homelessness at higher rates than White people. We also acknowledge the overrepresentation of those experiencing homeless of other communities such as LGBTQ+ and recognize the importance of analysis of the legacy of systemic racial and identify discrimination.

Our approach to centering equity in our work starts with addressing some of our areas for improvement as a statewide CoC including incorporating the Native American community into CoC discussions and decision making, including people with lived experience at a higher capacity, and expanding our outreach beyond our urban centers.

The Montana CoC is working with our local CoCs to bring programs that target inequities. The folks most adversely affected by these inequities are disabled, fixed-to-no income folks. Housing is Healthcare, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Youth Homeless Demonstration Project and Shelter Plus are all programs that were brought into the communities we serve in order to provide low-income folks experiencing housing instability with the appropriate support needed to obtain and/or maintain housing.

Existing work at the local CoC level includes efforts to serve culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities) and have them participate in the local CoC. Examples include participation on housing coalitions from diverse groups representing and serving these communities. One specific example from Billings is that one of their partners is home to 406 Pride, which is the region's only LGBTQ+ outreach and support organization. They also have representation from the Native American Development Corporation, and rely heavily on data, experiences and outcomes from partners in public health. There is also a representative of the Billings Urban Indian Health Center within their membership.

One goal of this strategic plan is to convene focus groups of people with lived experience - including representation from minority groups, LGBTI+ representation, formerly incarcerated - to determine what kind of supports would work for them (or did work for them). One of these focus groups is our Leadership Council that is built off of the work of our local CoCs. The Leadership Council's vision is to give voice to families, youth, and individuals experiencing

homelessness to better meet their needs and improve their quality of life through effective and meaningful programming and policy of the Montana CoC.

### **Current Strategies**

The following are the MT CoC strategies for conducting coordinated and comprehensive outreach, providing access to low barrier shelter and other temporary accommodations, and providing immediate access to low barrier permanent housing. Program examples follow.

#### *Prioritization*

The Montana Statewide Coordinated Entry System prioritizes households experiencing homelessness within the CoC's geographic area for referral to housing and services. This prioritization is based on project type for Transitional Housing (TH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and veteran services. Access to Emergency Shelter (ES) is not prioritized based on severity of service need or vulnerability, allowing for an immediate crisis response.

Regional CES implementations (Local CoCs) prioritize people for housing based on assessed needs and vulnerabilities, using prioritization tools created to address local homeless population needs with available resources. If there is a tie, a discrepancy or further objective information is needed, these issues should be introduced and discussed during case conferencing.

For the period of the Coronavirus pandemic, Local CoCs place the highest priority on rehousing people with the highest vulnerability to COVID-19 as defined by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), waiving current prioritization processes when necessary to house people with the highest COVID-19 vulnerability first.

Examples from local CoCs are as follows:

*Billings, MT:* The Billings CoC -CES process prioritizes households experiencing homelessness within the CoC's geographic area for referral to housing and services. The Billings CoC CES has adopted a prioritization policy based on project type for Transitional Housing (TH)/Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Homeless Youth Demonstration projects and Veteran services. Billings CoC-CES utilizes the by-name list pulled from HMIS to prioritize households for available housing resources.

Priority is given to families or individuals scoring a 10 or higher on the MAP Assessment, and any other family assessed if their score is not accurately reflected to match case management information of their situation. All verified Veterans and Youth/Young Adults eligible for YHDP services are made a priority along with those identified as experiencing Domestic Violence.

Special priority was added to the process in early 2021 to meet the needs of those most vulnerable (Age or chronic health conditions) for COVID-19 pandemic response.

*Missoula, MT:* The MCES Prioritization Policy ensures that scarce housing resources are targeted to those who are the most vulnerable by utilizing household data collected via the MCES Assessment process, local service utilization data, and evidence-based practice research. The Prioritization Policy was adapted to include new Matching to Appropriate Placement (MAP) Assessment, implemented July 12th, 2021. Update As of February 1st, 2022, VI-SPDAT Scores will no longer be honored on the MCES Prioritization. Update As of August 1, 2022, the MCES Priority will consider the aggregate MAP score rather than distilling it into Mental Health/Physical Health/Tri-morbidity. Substance Use will still receive an additional point.

### **Program Examples**

*Montana Emergency Rental Assistance Program* - Expanding the capacity of the MT CoC to identify and prioritize households experiencing homelessness for housing and services will further the goals of its Montana state department partners, specifically the Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) and the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) more effectively. Currently, both departments are tasked with deploying emergency rental assistance (ERAP) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and additional CoC capacity will increase the efficiency and impact of targeting the rental assistance toward Montana households with the greatest level of need. The MT CoC can also assist with the assessment and application processes for rental assistance.

*HOME-ARP* - Additionally, in 2022 MDOC is tasked with deploying \$11.4M in federal HOME-ARP funding to create new housing for Montanans experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This is an important opportunity for the state of Montana to significantly increase its supportive housing capacity, and units dedicated to those experiencing homelessness. Not only is the state required to consult with CoCs in the HOME-ARP guidance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), partnership with the MT CoC will also be critical for MDOC to understand the regional level of need and allocation priorities for the funding. The MT CoC will need to increase its capacity to partner more directly with MDOC and to provide the training/capacity-building needed for housing and service providers in the coming years with HOME-ARP units coming online to ensure that the housing and services meet quality standards. The MT CoC's increased capacity will benefit MDOC and importantly, the tenants that will ultimately end up in the permanent housing units. Fortunately, non-profit operating and capacity building activities are an allowable use of HOME-ARP funds and with the CoC leadership transition, the timing aligns well for the state to capitalize on this partnership opportunity.



*Medicaid 1115 Waiver Implementation (aka HEART Waiver)*- In late 2021, DPHHS submitted the Healing and Ending Addiction through Recovery and Treatment (HEART) Waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The HEART Waiver is undergoing CMS review currently but is expected to be approved and implementation activities will begin in 2022. The MT CoC is a relevant and critical partner because this Waiver includes an expanded set of Medicaid-eligible services (pre-tenancy and tenancy supports) for those experiencing homelessness with a behavioral health condition and/or substance use disorder. This population in particular experiences some of the longest histories of homelessness, often meeting the criteria for chronic homelessness, and can be difficult for service providers to engage in housing and services. However, led by the MT CoC, the regional CE sites are tasked with identifying, engaging with, and keeping a by-name list of a similar target population that will be eligible for pre-tenancy and tenancy supports through the HEART waiver. With the high overlap in priority target populations, DPHHS will need to directly partner with the MT CoC to ensure that they are able to actively engage, enroll, and provide services to those newly eligible for pre-tenancy and tenancy support services. This will also require training for Medicaid providers that will be delivering housing-related services for the first time. With additional capacity, the MT CoC can support DPHHS in these efforts.