



## Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Special Unsheltered NOFO)

**New York City Continuum of Care (NYC CoC)**

### **Local Competition: Introduction and Instructions**

**Application Submission Deadline: September 14, 2022 by 5:00 PM EST**

**CoC Decisions Announced (inclusion/rejection in CoC submission): October 3, 2022**

[Read the Special Unsheltered NOFO](#)

[Additional HUD Resources](#)

## Key Information

Local Competition Timeframe	Start: August 17, 2022 End: September 14, 2022 at 5:00 PM EST
Bidder's Conference/Information Session for Prospective Applicants	August 31, 2022, 11am-12pm (zoom link to be posted on <a href="#">Special Unsheltered NOFO webpage</a> )
CoC Special Unsheltered NOFO contacts	<a href="mailto:schreiberadam@dss.nyc.gov">schreiberadam@dss.nyc.gov</a> and <a href="mailto:slaterama@dss.nyc.gov">slaterama@dss.nyc.gov</a>
Anticipated contract term	The initial contract term is three years, beginning sometime in the second half of 2023. <b>After the initial three-year contract term, we expect that awarded contracts will be renewed through the annual Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) competition.</b>
Maximum funding available to entire NYC CoC	\$20,000,000 annually (\$60,000,000 over initial three-year term)
Eligible project types	Permanent Supportive Housing Rapid Re-housing Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-housing Supportive Services Only (Coordinated Entry) Supportive Services Only (other than Coordinated Entry) HMIS* Planning*
Eligible project applicants	Not-for-profit organizations and government agencies in good standing with city, state, and federal governments
Eligible service recipients	Individuals and families experiencing homelessness under federal definitions 1 and 4 ( <a href="#">24 CFR 578.3</a> ), <b>with a preference for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness and/or with severe unmet service needs.</b>

\*Only available for designated CoC lead agency

## Special Unsheltered NOFO Overview

The [2022 Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness](#) (Special Unsheltered NOFO) was released by HUD on June 22, 2022. The purpose of this Special Unsheltered NOFO is to target efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness, particularly in communities with very high levels of unsheltered homelessness and homelessness in rural areas. Nationally, \$54.5 million is available only for projects that serve rural areas and \$267.5 million is available for projects as part of the

Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside. This NOFO will assist CoCs in reducing homelessness among people with severe service needs, especially people with histories of unsheltered homelessness.

The New York City Continuum of Care (NYC CoC) is eligible to apply for a maximum of \$60,000,000, which, if awarded, will be distributed over an initial grant term of three years.

Through this Special Unsheltered NOFO, HUD will award funding to communities to implement coordinated approaches -- grounded in Housing First and public health principles -- to reduce the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness, and improve service engagement, health outcomes, and housing stability among highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families. HUD expects applicant communities to partner with health and housing agencies to leverage mainstream housing and healthcare resources.

## HUD Policy Priorities

The priorities below represent those that specifically apply to CoCs applying for the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside.

### **1. Unsheltered Homelessness**

Unsheltered homelessness is continuing to rise in many areas of the country and recent analysis of homelessness data shows that people experiencing unsheltered homelessness report significantly greater health challenges and experiences of trauma and violence than their sheltered peers. These challenges often begin before they lose their housing. This NOFO supports this highly vulnerable population by supporting CoCs in their efforts to identify people living in unsheltered situations, including encampments, and connects them with health and housing resources.

### **2. Involving a Broad Array of Stakeholders in the CoC's Efforts to Reduce Homelessness**

Ending homelessness cannot be achieved by homeless service organizations alone. It requires coordination with a variety of other stakeholders, including affordable housing developers, mainstream service providers, the business community, victim service providers, political leaders, and healthcare providers. This NOFO supports and encourages CoCs to invite a variety of stakeholders to develop and implement a CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.

### **3. Advancing Equity**

In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color as well as individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities are substantially

overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address equity within CoCs through identifying and addressing the needs of subpopulations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness, such as the populations identified above, and other populations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness. CoCs should be reviewing their strategies to support and serve underserved communities in their geographic area, identify barriers that led to any disparities in communities being served, and take steps to eliminate these barriers. This includes, in conjunction with people experiencing homelessness, reviewing local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address disparities affecting underserved communities experiencing homelessness.

#### **4. Using a Housing First Approach**

Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. Projects funded under this NOFO should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and the CoC should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness as well as ensure projects are correctly implementing a Housing First approach. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt service delivery methods that respond to the preferences and needs of the individual or family presenting for assistance.

### **Local Priorities**

Applicants should consider the following local priorities in developing ideas for new projects. These priorities reflect identified local needs raised in a series of stakeholder meetings and speak to unique opportunities presented through this Special Unsheltered NOFO, including our ability to apply for SSO projects not allowed through the annual CoC Program NOFO.

#### **1. Leveraging healthcare and housing partnerships**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to explore ways of maximizing use of existing healthcare and housing resources in design of new projects. Leveraging existing healthcare and housing resources helps to ensure collaboration across the systems that serve homeless New Yorkers and will increase the competitiveness of our collective submission to HUD.

## **2. Supporting rapid transition to permanent housing**

In alignment with Housing First principles, applicants are strongly encouraged to design new projects that will support a rapid transition to permanent housing without unnecessary barriers or preconditions. We acknowledge that our current system presents many challenges to rapid placement in permanent housing and encourage applicants to consider creative service models that accelerate that transition for homeless clients.

## **3. Serving those with the highest needs**

This Special Unsheltered NOFO provides a unique opportunity to fund new projects targeted towards the most vulnerable in our community, many of whom currently cycle through service systems and institutions without achieving positive housing and health outcomes. We encourage applicants to develop project approaches that will address gaps in our existing system and engage those with the most severe service needs.

We encourage projects that will focus on solutions and services for the following subpopulations among those experiencing homelessness:

- Persons with complex medical needs, including substance abuse
- Unsheltered persons who are resistant to current shelter options
- Persons who are cycling between shelter, streets, subways, jails and hospitals

## **4. Involving persons with lived experience**

For this Special Unsheltered NOFO, we strongly encourage projects to develop a plan to involve individuals and families with lived experience of homelessness in the delivery of services. This may take many forms, including employment opportunities in the project for persons with lived experience, participation in an advisory committee or an organization's Board of Directors, and providing opportunities for project participants to share feedback and contribute to project implementation. It is important that persons with lived experience are compensated for their time, energy, and expertise. ([more information here](#))

## **5. Client-centered support across existing silos**

Stakeholder conversations, including with persons with lived experience, have made clear that many existing programs operate within silos. Persons experiencing homelessness must manage a complex patchwork of requirements and services across programs, which can lead to service gaps and conflicting goals. For SSO projects in particular, we encourage

a client-centered approach that can engage and support clients across existing silos as they pursue and transition into stable housing.

**6. Alignment with existing strategies**

We believe that successful projects will employ creative approaches to unsheltered homelessness in NYC that complement existing systems while avoiding service duplication. To that end, we encourage applicants to consider how their projects will coordinate with existing services and programs to maximize the impact of potential HUD funding.

## Application Process

Local competition begins, application is released	August 17, 2022
Bidder’s Conference/Information Session for Prospective Applicants	August 31, 2022, 11am-12pm (zoom link to be posted on <a href="#">Special Unsheltered NOFO webpage</a> )
Deadline for application submission	September 14, 2022 at 5:00 PM EST
Notification of inclusion in CoC Application submission to HUD or rejection	October 3, 2022
Conditionally selected projects enter applications into e-snaps	October 3-14, 2022
NYC CoC collaborative application final submission to HUD (includes CoC application and new project applications)	October 20, 2022
Anticipated HUD notification or funding decisions	Early 2023
Anticipated contract start date for awarded projects	Late 2023

## Bidder’s Conference and Questions

A bidders’ conference/information session for prospective applicants will be held on 8/31/22, via a virtual meeting platform. Registration information will be posted on the CoC [Special Unsheltered NOFO webpage](#). Attendance is recommended but not mandatory. Attendees may attend through video or phone. The bidders’ conference will be recorded, and the recording will be available on the [Special Unsheltered NOFO webpage](#).

Interested parties can submit questions regarding this funding opportunity to [nyc.coc@dss.nyc.gov](mailto:nyc.coc@dss.nyc.gov). Responses to questions will be compiled and shared publicly. The identity of the individuals who ask questions will be kept confidential.

## Application Submission

To apply for new projects, applicants must complete and submit a separate fillable PDF application form for each project for which they choose to apply. Applicants can apply for a single project or multiple projects.

Applicants will electronically submit their application in pdf form via email by **September 14, 2022 at 5:00 PM EST**. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for award. When electronically submitting the application for each project, applicants must use the following naming convention:

- Organization name\_Project Type\_Special\_Unsheltered\_NOFO\_Date
- For example, "Homerise\_SSO\_Special\_Unsheltered\_NOFO\_09142022.pdf."

Applications should be emailed to the NYC CoC email ([nyc.coc@dss.nyc.gov](mailto:nyc.coc@dss.nyc.gov)) using the following subject line:

- Special Unsheltered NOFO New Project Application\_ (Name of Organization)

Fillable PDF application forms for each project are available on the CoC [Special Unsheltered NOFO webpage](#).

## Announcement of CoC Decision

HUD requires that all CoCs conduct a fair and impartial review and selection process to determine which project applications to submit to HUD for funding consideration. All projects that are ultimately submitted to HUD must be ranked and the cumulative funding request cannot exceed the maximum allowable amount for the CoC (for NYC, \$60,000,000 total or \$20,000,000/yr).

Following the new project application submission deadline of 9/14/22, the CoC will convene a New Project Review Committee that will review and score all submitted applications. This committee will include a broad range of stakeholders including CoC staff at the Department of Social Services, non-profit service providers, coalition representatives, and persons with lived experience of homelessness.

On October 3, 2022 the CoC will notify all applicants as to whether their project application will be included or not in the CoC's submission to HUD. The CoC has the discretion to request that an

applicant modify the amount of funding requested to maximize available funding. The CoC will communicate any such requests on the same date.

On October 18, the CoC will post the complete Collaborative Application materials to the CoC website, including the CoC Application and New Project Ranking.

## HUD Funding Decision

HUD has not announced when Special Unsheltered NOFO funding decisions will be announced. Based on previous HUD funding competitions, we expect the announcement to be made in early 2023.

## Contract Start for Awarded Projects

If the NYC CoC receives funding through this Special Unsheltered NOFO, we anticipate that HUD will execute new project grant agreements in calendar year 2023. Project start dates will vary depending on the needs of individual projects but should be no later than 12/31/23.

## Eligible Applicants

Criteria for applicant eligibility include:

- Eligible project applicants are nonprofit organizations, state government, local governments, and instrumentalities of state and local governments. (For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants or to be sub-recipients of grant funds)
- Applications shall only be considered from project applicants in good standing with the state and federal government, which means that the applicant does not have any open monitoring or unresolved audit findings, or outstanding obligation to the government that is in arrears or for which a payment schedule has not been agreed upon.
- For applicants with past or current CoC-funded projects, any of the following must be resolved or adequately addressed in the application:
  - history of slow expenditure of grant funds,
  - history of serving ineligible program participants,
  - expending funds on ineligible costs,
  - failing to expend funds within statutorily established timeframes,
  - returning a grant to HUD without reallocating to the NYC CoC or defaulting on a prior grant



## Eligible Service Recipients

Projects funded through this NOFO must serve clients who are literally homeless or fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, as defined in [24 CFR 578.3](#).

### 1. Individuals and families who are literally homeless

*Literally Homeless* means:

a. An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

(i) An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground; **or**

(ii) An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, State, or local government programs for low-income individuals); **or**

(iii) An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

### 2. Individuals or families who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence

Any individual or family who:

- a. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence; **and**
- b. Has no other residence; **and**
- c. Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

## Eligible Project Types

Eligible project types for this Special Unsheltered NOFO include the following:

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Rapid Re-housing (RRH)
- Joint Transitional - Rapid-Rehousing (TH-RRH)
- Supportive Services Only
  - Street outreach or other
  - Coordinated Entry

For a detailed overview of eligible project types, including eligible costs, limitations, and additional resources, see the Special Unsheltered NOFO Local Competition *Appendix*.