

# Boston Continuum of Care 2021 Competition Reallocation Policy

Based on the CoC 2021 Competition HUD NOFO, the Boston CoC is seeking funds from reallocated projects to:

- Create new or expand Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Projects for chronically homeless (CH) households or for those eligible for Dedicated Plus
- Create or expand Rapid Rehousing (RRH) programs; dedicated to individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- Create or expand Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH-RRH) projects
- Create new or add capacity to CoC CES through the SSO-CE component

## Process to Reallocate Existing CoC Resources:

The City of Boston issued a publicly advertised Request for Proposals on September 27, 2021, to solicit project applications from existing CoC providers that wish to voluntarily reallocate funds to create one, or more, of the project types described above and in HUD's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY'21 CoC Competition.

Applications for new PSH, RRH, Joint TH-RRH, and SSO-CE projects will be rated and ranked according to the Boston CoC 2021 Competition Review, Rating and Ranking and Selection Criteria and Process

## Total Annual Renewal Demand

1. Boston's Annual Renewal Demand: **\$37,680,639**
2. Tier 1 is equal to 100% of ARD minus non-competitive YHDP renewals (\$2,719,104): **\$34,961,535**
3. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the maximum amount of reallocation, CoC Bonus and DV Bonus allocated to the Boston CoC

## HUD Tier 1 and Tier 2 Selection Process

Tier 1 - HUD will select projects that are ranked in Tier 1 based on CoC score, beginning with the highest scoring to the lowest scoring CoC (all Tier 1 projects are likely to be funded by HUD).

Tier 2- HUD will select projects that are prioritized in Tier 2, all projects in Tier 2 will be scored based on the following criteria:

- I. up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score received on the CoC Application,
- II. up to 40 points for CoC ranking of the project,
- III. up to 10 points for commitment to operating a Housing First/low barrier program model

## **Boston CoC FY21 Competition Project Review, Rating, and Selection Criteria**

The CoC uses several methods to monitor the project performance of program recipients, including desk review monitoring, on-site DND monitoring, Annual Performance Report (APR) review, HMIS, CAS warehouse data, Racial Equity Dashboard data, and System Performance data review.

Sponsors are required to invoice monthly, which is reviewed to ensure eligibility of activities, expenditure rates and administrative capacity.

Annual Performance Reports (APR) are also reviewed for project utilization rates, success in accessing mainstream benefits, permanent housing destination data and recapture rates of unobligated funds.

HMIS, CAS, Core Demographics / Racial Equity dashboard data and System Performance Measurement (SPM) data is analyzed to ensure project and agency participation and quality. The majority of the monitoring, scoring and ranking criteria are based on this data. The criteria include, but are not limited to the following data:

- Destination of exits from RRH and PSH program
- Length of stay/retention of PH in PSH and RRH programs
- Returns to homelessness
- Increased earned income through employment
- Increased overall income (include mainstream benefits)
- HMIS project data quality
- Program focus on serving vulnerable populations
- Cost effectiveness of program
- Commitment to leveraging other healthcare resources
- Commitment to leveraging other permanent supportive housing funded units
- Collecting, assessing, and analyzing data on racial disparities within the system

CoC staff maintains an on-site monitoring schedule, which includes review of client records, in addition to feedback on performance concerns that may have presented through APRs, invoicing or other means. During the COVID-19 public health emergency, CoC staff relied on remote review of invoices and APRs to identify areas that required additional support. DND staff was also available to provider agencies during the pandemic, in a remote setting, to address any immediate concerns with program operations, staffing and any budget concerns.

The CoC staff triages visits based on risk, new providers, and/or large programs may be more likely to be selected for on-site monitoring by staff. The CoC also offers on-demand technical assistance to ensure providers have adequate systems and information necessary to effectively manage the programs.

### **Tier 1 Projects**

Projects will be placed in Tier 1 in order of priority:

#### **Tier 1 - Priority One**

CoC technology and infrastructure projects: a.) HMIS dedicated projects that are funded to: increase CoC staff capacity, fund the projected increased cost of HMIS software, secure additional software licenses for federal, state and local partners and customizations in order to interface with the Coordinated Access system. b.) SSO-CE projects that are funded to develop or operate a centralized or coordinated assessment system.

#### **Tier 1 – Priority Two**

Renewal PSH Projects that directly fund support services for chronic and/ or Dedicated Plus in housing, leasing and rental assistance costs and meet HUD threshold criteria, and are then scored by the CoC renewal scoring tool based heavily on system/project performance data

#### **Tier 1 - Priority Three**

New RRH and New Joint TH-RRH projects funded through DV-Bonus funding that directly support survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking and are scored by the CoC New Project Scoring tool.

### **Tier 1 –Priority Four**

Renewal RRH projects that directly support homeless individuals, families and unaccompanied youth with rapid rehousing assistance and meet HUD threshold criteria, and are then scored by the CoC renewal scoring tool based heavily on system / project performance data.

### **Tier 2 Projects**

Projects will be placed in Tier 2 in order of priority:

**Tier 2- Priority One:** RenewalRRH projects as described above. Given the Tier 1 limit, a portion of renewal RRH projects will fall into Tier 2 based on rank from the scoring tool. It is anticipated that one of these projects will be the CoC’s “straddle project” where a portion of the project funding falls within Tier 1 and the balance is at the top of Tier 2.

**Tier 2- Priority Two:** (New PSH or PSH Expansion created through CoC Bonus and / or Reallocation ) these projects will be ranked with the new project scoring tool and placed below renewing projects that fall within Tier 2.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) renewal and replacement project applications will be reviewed for threshold requirements, and if pass, will be renewed and/or replaced non-competitively and submitted through the CoCs application to HUD

Initially projects (new and renewal) will be reviewed to ensure they meet HUD threshold requirements. All projects will be ranked by score using the CoC public scoring tools (new and renewal). The scoring tools weigh heavily on system performance measurements and data outcomes. The score will be made up of the following criteria:

1. Consistency with HUD objectives regarding past project performance as it relates to HUD and CoC system performance measurements- including but not limited to; exits to PH, length of stay in PSH, increased income employment and mainstream benefits. *(Scoring source- APRs, SPM, and HMIS)*
2. Project level HMIS data quality- include: percentage of bed coverage in HMIS, percent of null and unknown data fields. *(Scoring source- HMIS)*
3. Financial Management of project-include: agency audit findings, project invoicing, and project cost effectiveness. *(Scoring source from APR, monthly invoicing and monitoring data)*
4. Project utilization rates- include: rates of returned funds, utilization at PIT count and average throughout the year, and target population. *(Scoring source- HMIS, LSA, PIT report, SPM, and HIC report)*
5. Alignment with CoC, and HUD, policy priorities-include: serving sub-populations most at risk of/or experiencing long-term homelessness, projects that operate a housing first/low barriers model, projects serving populations with severe needs and who have high barriers to housing, project participation in CES, and projects who serve households who have been homeless for the longest length of time, and project and system level racial equity assessment data *(Scoring source- APRs, HMIS, SPM, CAS warehouse data, Core Demographics / racial equity dashboard data and Project Applications)*

