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: NJ-506 - Jersey City, Bayonne/Hudson County CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Hudson County

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency

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	Yes
2.	Rural Homelessness Set Aside	No

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.	08/22/2022

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).	Yes

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)?	Yes
2.	Did your CoC inform the applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced?	Yes
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.	09/30/2022

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.	09/30/2022

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. The CoC evaluates System Performance measures on a quarterly basis. The Hudson CoC data analyst created a dashboard to look at recidivism among prevention clients. To further understand the risk factors for this population, the CoC analyzed HMIS data evaluating common factors and connected with providers to obtain feedback. Factors identified through this process included lack of relationship with family/friends or breakup of relationship with family/friends, criminal history, unexpected expense or loss of employment. These factors are considered in the CEP vulnerability assessment to ensure households at higher risk are connected to appropriate services quickly.

2. Strategies include: 1. comprehensive outreach - the CoC has partnered with the courts to ensure all clients receiving an eviction notice are also provided a list of prevention assistance services available through the County's Welfare office; 2. Increase accessibility - the CoC has developed a single application process to apply for prevention services. Developed to facilitate the administration of various streams of COVID funding in the region, the CoC created an online pre-screening portal for households to submit their initial request for prevention assistance. The County Welfare office reviews all requests and identifies the prevention resources applicants are eligible for. The applicant information is then forwarded on to the appropriate agency administering the resource to complete the enrollment process.

3. The Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development is the entity responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategies related to reducing first time homelessness.

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. The CoC has adopted the HUD Notice CPD 16-11 & the Coordinated Entry Program (CEP) prioritizes households with the longest lengths of homelessness. The CoC has also prioritized creating new PH opportunities, including reallocating TH to RRH & PSH, securing state vouchers for the chronically homeless, securing mainstream vouchers and partnering with PHAs on EHV and other voucher opportunities to quickly move clients into housing and reducing the number of clients aging into chronicity. The CoC has also implemented FUSE programs targeting high utilizers of jails and hospital systems in the region. The CoC has found this population often has long histories of homelessness. All PH programs in the region, including LIHTC set aside units, must agree to obtain referrals through the CEP. Since 2018, the CoC has increased PSH & RRH beds by 46% (333 new beds). CoC outreach teams focus on connecting unsheltered households with the CEP and work closely with them to obtain the documents necessary to access PH. The CoC has also developed a housing navigator program to strengthen relationships with landlords and identify units to shorten the time between housing program enrollment and housing move-in dates. Finally, the CoC utilizes a housing first approach with reduced barriers to program entry and focus on connection to and stabilization in housing to help clients move into housing quickly and reduce their length of homelessness.

2. The CEP completes a full HMIS intake and assessment with all clients, including extensive questions regarding homeless history and length of time homeless. Households identified with the longest histories of homelessness and highest vulnerabilities are prioritized for services, RRH & PSH programs. CEP case managers work with clients to collect documents necessary to complete housing applications. Outreach teams work closely with CEP to maintain engagement with unsheltered clients with the longest histories of homelessness.

3. The Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development is the entity responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategies related to reducing LOT homeless.

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. The Coordinated Entry Program (CEP) has been effective in increasing the rate of PH exits by prioritizing the most vulnerable but also providing households with lower vulnerabilities case management & referral services to connect them with market rate & other subsidized units as well as short term RRH. The CoC requires all new CoC & non-CoC PH programs to use CEP for referrals. The CoC has increased the number of new PH & RRH beds by 333 beds since 2018 (a 46% increase). This includes all CoC funded PH & over 20 non-CoC funded housing programs. The CoC participated in a statewide challenge to connect 100 households to state & local EHV in 100 days & successfully submitted over 200 vouchers in that timeframe. In 2020, the CoC funded a housing navigator program through ESG-CV funds to help build relationships with landlords & identify new units to integrate into the system by pairing with vouchers and/or serving as naturally occurring affordable units. The CoC has worked with the shelter system to pivot towards a Housing First framework. All shelters work with clients on housing plans as soon as they enter & connect households to employment supports & benefits with the goal of obtaining PH without the use of subsidy.

2. To increase the rate of clients retaining or exiting to PH, the CoC has prioritized funding low barrier, housing first programs. HCAEH reviews program outcomes on a regular basis & evaluates program exits looking at discharge rates, destination & reason for discharge. During monitoring, programs are evaluated to determine the level of services provided, their ability to prevent clients from getting evicted & ensuring standard leases are in place that don't contain service participation stipulations impacting tenancy. When problematic performance arises, the HCAEH works with programs to identify a path to improvement. The HCAEH has & continues to provide training for providers on best practices & is working with providers to increase Medicaid billing & partnership with other community supports to expand the current services focused on housing retention. Additionally, through the Housing Navigator program, landlords are able to reach out to the housing navigator & program case manager to help mitigate any issues with clients before they lead to possible evictions.

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 Hudson Community Development (HCD) data analyst uses Power BI & HMIS data to evaluate recidivism for the Hudson CoC. Through this dashboard, the CoC is able to evaluate returns to homelessness on a programmatic & system level by determining which clients were in permanent housing, or were discharged to PH placement and then returned to the system through an emergency shelter, outreach or Coordinated Entry Program (CEP). While this method is used on a systemic level, to determine program effectiveness and risk factors for recidivism, at the programmatic level, all programs conduct a consumer lookup in HMIS to determine if a client has been in the system prior to their program entry. This is especially true for CEP who utilizes this information to inform the services and referrals for the client moving forward.

2. The HCAEH prioritizes programs that function with a true housing first framework. Monitoring is used to evaluate a program's level of recidivism and services provided to clients to prevent returns to homelessness. PH projects are expected to provide landlord mediation services, high quality case management and engage supports such as legal services, health care services and other supports to help clients maintain stability. The CoC annually reviews program implementation to ensure barriers to program retention are reduced/addressed. When necessary, the CoC may reallocate program funding if grantees are not capable of meeting the service and performance standards. The CoC offers training on best practices in serving vulnerable and hard to engage clients. The CEP prioritizes clients with multiple episodes of homelessness. CEP contacts and works with PH providers to understand the level of service available in programs to ensure appropriate referrals are made based on clients' needs. When necessary and appropriate, the CoC has facilitated transfers between programs to ensure clients are provided the level of service necessary to support housing retention.

3. The Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development is the entity responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategies related to reducing returns to homelessness.

| | 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. One of the HCAEH goals is promoting self-sufficiency. As such, all providers have an employment focus in their programs. This includes in-house job placement or vocational specialist to assist clients with resume writing, mock interviews and job readiness. Programs provide budget evaluation supports to determine the level of employment needed as well as educational and trade options to ensure households are not limited to minimum wage job prospects that won't support their household's costs. Many providers in the region host job fairs & open houses at their facilities. These providers also connect clients to both the Hudson County and Jersey City One Stop Career Centers. The CoC supports this work by sharing information about upcoming job fairs.

2. To further the provider partnership with employment organizations the HCD is working to create a more formalized partnership with the Workforce Development Board (WDB). The WDB offers a variety of programs which many CoC providers assist their clients in accessing. Some of the specialized programs currently utilized include: Vocational Rehab Services (DVRS) for persons with disabling conditions. DVRS offers career counseling, supported employment, employment related evaluations to identify career paths and specialized services to assist clients in maintaining employment such as counseling to address the anxiety and stress of a new employment setting, training & bilingual services. WDB offers veteran specific services to help vets access employment opportunities that meet the skills they developed in service, training for new fields and connection to jobs with a veteran priority. Specialized services for ex-offenders include assistance with obtaining IDs, federal bonding, on job training, connection to expungement resources and referrals to labor demand jobs that are open to employing ex-offenders. The HCAEH will work with WDB to tailor existing programs and identify new services to help persons experiencing homelessness access and maintain employment.

3. The Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development is the entity responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategies related to increasing employment income.

	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.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Upon entry to all housing programs, including CEP, all clients identify any income sources, including non-employment cash income that they currently have. From this, all providers ensure they are connected to any sources they may be eligible for, including unemployment, SSI/D, general assistance, TANF, etc, as well as non-cash benefits that could help offset their current expenses such as SNAP and Medicaid. Caseworkers will assist clients in obtaining documentation for eligibility and will attend appointments at the local Wel Office with them if needed. Once benefits are obtained, if any recertifications or continuing efforts are needed, caseworkers will work with clients individually to ensure they are meeting all requirements so they do not lose the benefit.

2. As the County Welfare agency is an active member of the HCAEH, it has done a significant amount of work to ensure clients are able to access non-employment cash sources. Welfare staff provide technical assistance to community partners on how clients apply for benefits and what benefits clients may be eligible for. To combat client's transportation barriers, welfare caseworkers are mobile throughout the community and can do assessments for eligibility and applications at partner locations, including the CEP, a one stop career center, and municipal court to connect with clients at risk of homelessness. Many Welfare workers are bilingual and accommodations can be made for anyone having specific needs due to a disability.

3. As the CoC Lead, the HCD is the entity responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.

2B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

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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)	Nonexistent	No	No
13.	Law Enforcement	No	No	No
14.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	No	Yes
15.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	No	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	No	No	No
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	No	Yes
24.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	No	No	No
26.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	No	No	No
28.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Substance Abuse Advocates	No	No	No
30.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	No	No
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)			
33.	Child Welfare Agency	Yes	No	Yes
34.				

	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)

1. The Hudson CoC is organized as the Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness (HCAEH) & hosts open bi-monthly meetings. Dates & times for all meetings are posted on the County's website & through the HCAEH mailing list which includes over 300 community contacts. HCAEH meetings are also promoted at other community meetings to encourage new membership. Diverse stakeholders are invited to join & invitations are emailed for every meeting. When HCAEH is working on specific initiatives, outreach will be done to engage appropriate stakeholders. As HCAEH strives to have active participation, the only requirement to become a voting member is attendance of at least 4 of the last 6 meetings. Once an agency or individual has reached this requirement, the lead reaches out to determine their interest in becoming a voting member.

2. All HCAEH communications & information is available in electronic format & HCAEH staff are able to accommodate any requests for alternate formatting to accommodate for disabilities. The CoC periodically checks to ensure all electronic communication is formatted to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities through the website, email & communication & document formatting. Since hosting meetings via Zoom, meetings can also have closed captioning turned on for any member.

3. The CoC has standing members that participate in the CoC meetings and work groups that have experienced homelessness. To increase their participation, the CoC recently held a number of focus groups, reviewing some of the racial equity work being done in the community, as well as the barriers and strategies outlined in the unsheltered NOFO plan. Through these focus groups participants were made aware of the opportunity to continue their participation at the ongoing CoC meetings as well as ongoing focus groups that are held by providers on a biweekly basis.

4. The CoC actively recruits specific stakeholders to help ensure the needs of those experiencing homelessness can be addressed. Currently the HCAEH has providers that focus on serving the Latinx population, which makes up a large portion of parts of the CoC's region, as well as LGBTQ+ focused organizations. The HCAEH will continue to have an open process and invite agencies representing culturally specific communities.

	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. The HCAEH hosts bi-monthly meetings which are open to the public and advertised on the County's website and through the HCAEH mailing list which includes over 300 community contacts. This list is used for all meeting reminders, funding notifications and service information. HCAEH meetings are used to share information related to accomplishments, data, continuing efforts and feedback. Participants are encouraged to ask questions throughout and to bring issues/discussions during the open agenda item at the end of every meeting. Additionally, there are subcommittees that meet on a bi-monthly basis that focus on specific activities & subpopulations. All meetings are open and allow the CoC to engage providers who have a specific focus. Lastly, the HCAEH has a Consumer Advisory Board and representatives on the HCAEH Executive Committee to obtain input from persons with lived experience.

2. To supplement meetings and gather a larger base for input, the HCAEH uses electronic surveys to complete needs and priority assessments. Surveys are also completed with current and former consumers for implementation input.

3. The HCAEH uses all information gathered to shape the work of the HCAEH. In the FY2022 competition, input regarding housing type priorities was collected and used in the CoC's ranking of new projects. The HCAEH is also currently working to develop recommendations and strategies to address the system's racial equity barriers identified by focus groups of persons with lived experience. Recommendations will be implemented with assistance from the HCAEH Consumer Advisory Committee.

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. On 8/22/22 the CoC Lead released the local request for proposal for projects interested in applying for unsheltered NOFO CoC funds. An information/pre-bid meeting was held on 7/14/22 to review the local selection process, funding priorities, scoring criteria and application process. On 8/22/22, the local application was opened on the portal, an email announcement was sent via the HCAEH mailing list, and the announcement was posted on the Hudson County Website.

2. Funding specifications were emailed and posted with the opportunity announcement stating that "Any nonprofit organization, state or local government and instrumentalities of local government may apply for new CoC funding, even if they haven't received funding in the past. Any agency with technical assistance questions should reach out, in writing to CoC lead staff", with email provided. This is done with every RFP to ensure any new provider has all information needed for a successful application.

3. The funding specifications and email notification indicated that all project applications needed to be submitted online. Agencies were provided information on requesting a waiver if an online submission was not possible.

4. Project scorecards and the HCAEH Monitoring and evaluation policies and procedures were included in the email announcement,
website posting, and were available on the application platform to be referenced by all agencies interested in applying for funding. The CoC lead was also available to explain the process to anyone who had questions.

5. The funding announcement notes that any agency or individual that needs technical assistance can reach out to the CoC Lead. The lead will provide a waiver, if needed, to submit an application outside of the portal, or to further explain the CoC and process. The CoC works to ensure all materials including website, emails and electronic documents are formatted to improve access for persons with disabilities.

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:

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2C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	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	Nonexistent
2.	Head Start Program	No
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)	Nonexistent
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	No
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 County of Hudson and City of Jersey City are the only direct ESG recipients in the CoC's areas and together they chair the HCAEH. ESG/CoC program staff from both entities participate in each jurisdiction's application and review committee for funding allocations for ESG & CoC. This coordination allows for funding decisions that best utilize the different funding sources available. This was true for ESG-CV allocation as well, with both recipients consulting the other and CoC staff on the best utilization of funds. The State of NJ also provides ESG funds within the CoC area and requires HCAEH approval, through letters of support, for all ESG priority projects.

2. The Jersey City & Hudson County recipients are leaders of the HCAEH Performance and Evaluation Committee and so both set performance standards and continuously evaluate programs using HMIS data & other sources. These reviews are included by both recipients when evaluating ongoing funding. The performance review also includes State funded ESG programs for programmatic data as well as how these programs impact the full system, ensuring only well performing projects are recommended for funding.

3/4. As chairs of the CoC, both Hudson County and Jersey City are aware of the work, needs and priorities of the CoC and ensure this information is reflected in the goals of the Consolidated Plan. In addition, Hudson County works closely through the Homeless Trust Fund Committee, with the other jurisdictions responsible for completing Consolidated Plans. Through these meetings and partnerships, homeless data, including PIT, needs & priorities are provided. Additionally, Hudson County provides the State with comments during public comment periods to ensure local needs and priorities related to homelessness are included in their statewide plans.

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)

The HCAEH currently has an MOU with the Essex Regional Educational Services Commission (ERESC), which is the LEA contracted with the State of NJ under the McKinney Vento Grant. The ERESC works with the school districts and liaisons within the CoC's jurisdiction to ensure that homeless youth have access to free, appropriate education and services. Through this partnership, the HCAEH provides training to local school districts and liaisons to give insight on the specifics on the vulnerabilities of homeless families as well as the structure and assistance available through the CoC such as the coordinated entry process, resources available etc. The ERESC provides training to homeless shelters and service providers to ensure an understanding of the service that homeless youth are eligible for through McKinney-Vento resources. They also provide assistance if needed when coordinating with local liaisons for clients. The ERESC will also refer families in need of housing to the Hudson County CoC and ongoing information/resources sharing is conducted regularly. The most recent liaison training took place 10/7/21 and the most recent shelter training took place 8/17/22. Specific resources were recently shared with homeless providers from ERESC regarding after school services, tutoring, emotional and social workshops, and school supply distributions.

HCAEH providers and the CoC lead also participate in the meetings of the Hudson County Children's Interagency Coordinating Council, which has membership of many of the school districts/liaisons and focuses on a variety of service needs and issues related to youth, including homelessness. Lastly, North Hudson Community Action Corp, who is a Head Start and Early Head Start provider, is an active member of the HCAEH and is a CoC funded agency. NHCAC makes these services available and known to the providers in the community, enabling connection for families in need.

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)

In 2016, the HCAEH updated its overall CoC Policies and Procedures to ensure all agencies were appropriately informing clients about their ability to access education services and that agencies had staff that were knowledgeable about the services available. The policies that were implemented required all CoC funded providers to designate a staff person as their agency's "Youth Advocate" who was responsible for making sure that:

1. All school-aged youth remain enrolled in school during periods of homelessness and/or during the transition into permanent housing;

2. All Youth Advocates inform homeless families of their children's educational rights under the McKinney-Vento Act and connect children with community services, including early childhood programs such as Head Start;

3. All Youth Advocates connect homeless families to their LEA McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison or other designated staff person identified by the LEA; and

4. As mentioned above, to keep all youth advocates at provider agencies informed on available services, the CoC coordinates with the County's LEA to conduct an annual training. The 2021 training took place on November 8, 2021.

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	Yes

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 Hudson County Welfare agency (CWA) is an active member of the HCAEH & HCAEH Executive Board and attends HCAEH meetings & subcommittees, at which they provide up to date information on mainstream resources available. HCAEH meetings are also attended by mental health and healthcare providers that share information regarding programming, initiatives & services. The CoC will use the HCAEH listserv to share information regarding available mainstream resources as available from meetings or directly from providers. This results in at least bimonthly dissemination of service information to over 300 contacts. The most recent HCAEH meeting on 8/17/22 featured presentations from the CWA regarding mainstream benefits programs, eligibility and the process for supporting people with completing applications for assistance and obtaining appointments.

2/3. HCAEH membership includes a number of healthcare and mental health providers who provide information about their services and referral process at each HCAEH meeting. The CoC has two Federally Qualified Health Centers that conduct specific homeless outreach to assist with healthcare enrollment and service access, including a mobile team that coordinates directly with local shelters. All CoC providers work with clients to make sure they are connected with all benefits they are eligible for and services that have been identified as a need. Caseworkers assist with scheduling appointments and obtaining proper health services, with the aim of getting all clients on a regular schedule to assist in preventing longer term concerns. On a larger scale, the CoC lead is working with providers on billing Medicaid for housing related services. To date, two of the largest housing providers utilize Medicaid billing to offset their CoC service funding.

4. The CoC shares information regarding the SOAR program with all providers in the community. So far, 4 major providers in the community have staff who have completed the SOAR certification program.

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?	No

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	1B-1. Local Compe...	10/17/2022
1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes	1B-2. Local Compe...	10/17/2022
1B-3. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes	1B-3. Notificatio...	10/17/2022
1B-3a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes	1B-3a. Notificati...	10/17/2022
1B-4. Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application	Yes		
3A-1. CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs	No		
3B-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment	No	P-1. Leveraging ...	10/17/2022
P-1a. PHA Commitment	No	P-1a. PHA Commit...	10/17/2022
P-3. Healthcare Leveraging Commitment	No	P-3. Healthcare ...	10/17/2022
P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter	No	P-9c. Lived Exper...	10/17/2022
Plan. CoC Plan	Yes	Plan. CoC Plan	10/17/2022

Attachment Details

Document Description: 1B-1. Local Competition Announcement

Attachment Details

Document Description: 1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool

Attachment Details

Document Description: 1B-3. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced

Attachment Details

Document Description: 1B-3a. Notification of Projects Accepted

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description: P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: P-1a. PHA Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: P-3. Healthcare Leveraging Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter

Attachment Details

Document Description: Plan. CoC Plan

Submission Summary

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

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

1B-1. Local Competition Announcement

Hudson County Application Platform

CoC Unsheltered NOFO - Hudson County

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is providing an opportunity for communities to apply for funding to address unsheltered homelessness. This funding is specifically designed to support outreach, services, and permanent housing opportunities for individuals and families living on the streets or within the current shelter system.

Complete one application per project you are requesting funding for. For further instructions, funding details, and application scorecard, please see links below:

Unsheltered NOFO Hudson CoC Funding Specifications

Unsheltered Application Scorecard

HCAEH Monitoring and Evaluation Policies and Procedures

APPLY

Opens

Aug 22 2022 04:00 PM (EDT)

Deadline

Sep 16 2022 04:00 PM (EDT)

THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS

CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness Scoresheet

Agency Name: _____

Project Name: _____

Project Type: _____

Threshold Review

Review Items	Response
1. Is Project an eligible HUD Component under the CoC Supplemental NOFO?	
2. Do Applicants agree to become a member of the HCAEH?	
3. Do Applicants agree to participate in Coordinated Entry?	
4. Do Applicants agree to participate in HMIS or a comparable database for Domestic Violence	
5. Does Applicant have any outstanding federal debt	
6. Does Applicant have any outstanding civil rights matters	

Target Population - All Points awarded in this section are Bonus Points	Response	Possible Score	Bonus Points
1. Does project dedicate or prioritize services/beds for Seniors?		5	0
1. Does project dedicate or prioritize services/beds for Individuals with companion animals?		3	0
1. Does project dedicate or prioritize services/beds for Undocumented persons?		3	0
1. Does project dedicate or prioritize services/beds for Non-English Speakers?		3	0
1. Does project dedicate or prioritize services/beds for Families/Unique Households?		3	0

Target Activities - All Points awarded in this section are Bonus Points	Response	Possible Score	Bonus Points
1. Permanent Supportive Housing within Master Leasing or similar arrangement		5	0
2. Integrated medical services provided in the field		4	0
3. Outreach (expansion/extended hours; expanded capacity; new outreach supports)		5	0
4. Drop-in Centers (expanded hours, services and capacity)		5	0
5. Document gathering services		4	0
6. Transportation services integrated into project		4	0

Housing First Identification - Maximum 15 points	Response	Possible Score	Score
1. Does the project identify as low barrier based on eligibility criteria?		5	0
2. Does the project ensure participants are not terminated by using a housing first approach?		5	0
2. Does the project services and policies reflect housing first approach?		5	0

Racial Equity and Consumer Input - Maximum 13 points	Possible Score	Score
1. Agency is making efforts to address racial equity - full points would be awarded for agency's who staff reflect minority populations and populations they are serving and they are utilizing multiple strategies to address racial disparities.	5	

Subject: CoC Unsheltered Special NOFO – Local Application Now Open
Date: Monday, August 22, 2022 at 4:04:08 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Naomi Lesnewski <nlesnewski@hcnj.us>
To: Kelly, Taiisa <tkelly@monarchhousing.org>

THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

CoC Unsheltered Special NOFO – Local Application Now Open

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is providing an opportunity for communities to apply for funding to address unsheltered homelessness. This funding is specifically designed to support outreach, services, and permanent housing opportunities for individuals and families living on the streets or within the current shelter system.

The Local Application for the Unsheltered Special NOFO is now open. Please visit the following link to apply:
https://hudsoncounty.smapply.io/prog/coc_unsheltered_nofo_-_hudson_county

The application closes Friday, September 16th at 4 PM.

Any nonprofit organization, state or local government and instrumentalities of local government may apply for new CoC funding, even if they haven't received funding in the past. Any agency with technical assistance questions should reach out, in writing to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us

Please remember, receiving funding approval through the local process does not guarantee an agency will receive funding, all final funding comes directly from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development based on the CoC's full submission.

Unsheltered NOFO Hudson CoC Funding Specifications

Unsheltered Application Scorecard

HCAEH Monitoring and Evaluation Policies and Procedures

1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool
1. Funding Announcement
2. Application
3. Scorecard

THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS

CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address
Unsheltered Homelessness Funding
Specifications for New Projects

Available Funds

The Continuum of Care is a collaborative of relevant and interested organizations and stakeholders whose purpose is to coordinate the housing and service programs available to the homeless and at-risk populations within Hudson County. This includes applying for funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care program.

Through the FY2022 HUD CoC Supplemental Unsheltered NOFO Competition, the Hudson County CoC is eligible to apply for an estimated total of $9,340,988 for new projects that work towards the goal of reducing and ending unsheltered homelessness. Specifications for eligible project submissions are outlined below. Please make sure that you review all information below before submitting an application.

Additional information regarding the competition and CoC program regulations can be reviewed in the CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness and the CoC Interim Rules which are linked to below:

https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=341301

https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/coc-supplemental-nofo-to-address-unsheltered-rural-homelessness/

https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramInterimRule_FormattedVersion.pdf

Application Process

- Any agency seeking to apply for new funding MUST complete an application in SMApply by 4pm on Friday, September 16th, 2022. The SMApply application may be accessed through the following link: https://hudsoncounty.smapply.io

- If an agency intends to apply for multiple projects, separate applications must be submitted for each.

- Any nonprofit organization, state or local government and instrumentalities of local government may apply for new CoC funding, even if they haven't received funding in the past. Any agency with technical assistance questions should reach out, in writing to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us

- As this is a competitive process, the HCAEH will be seeking recommendations from HCAEH members regarding priority subpopulations and project types that are needed, and all project submissions will be reviewed by the performance and evaluation committee. Final funding approval will be made by the Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness Executive Board. All policies and procedures around CoC funding can be found through the SMApply application and the County's website.

- All agencies that receive funding approval from this local process must then submit an application in esnaps to be included in the final submission to HUD.

- **Please remember, receiving funding approval through the local process does not guarantee an agency will receive funding, all final funding comes directly from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development based on the CoC's full submission.**

Funding Priorities:

The Hudson County CoC engaged community stakeholders to help identify the needs around supporting persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the region. A funding priority survey was sent to the full CoC contact list to solicit feedback. In addition, the CoC Lead Agency hosted several listening sessions with persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness as well as community providers closely connected to supporting those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Through this community feedback, the following funding priorities have been established for the local review of project applications seeking funding through the CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness.

Priority Services/Projects/Activities

1. Permanent supportive housing – flexible supportive housing opportunities that reduce the barriers to program entry. High priority for PSH programs structured as master leasing arrangements.

2. Integrated Medical services – For persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness, medical needs arise more often. For many, accessing medical care in established facilities can be challenging. Projects capable of coordinating medical outreach services to be provided in the community through street outreach or drop-in centers are a high priority.

3. Extended Outreach Hours – Persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness may required continued support in accessing services and basic needs outside of the traditional 9 – 5 business hours. Projects capable of providing outreach supports outside of typical business hours are a high priority.

4. Extended/Overnight Drop-in Center hours – drop in centers often provide a safe space to rest and connect with community services for unsheltered persons who may otherwise remain disengaged from community supports. Projects capable of providing drop-in center services outside of typical business hours are a high priority.

5. Document gathering and maintenance support - Many programs designed to support

individuals and families experiencing homelessness require ID and other documentation to begin the enrollment process. Often people experiencing unsheltered homelessness have challenges with obtaining and keeping safe the documents necessary for program access. Projects capable of providing support in securing key eligibility documents and providing safe storage options are a high priority.

6. Transportation to and from services – Various types of supports for persons experiencing homelessness are located throughout Hudson County. For those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, transportation to and from the various services can be challenging to secure. For those with mobility challenges, getting to services and appointments can be difficult even when they are within "walking distance". Programs capable of addressing transportation needs of the population to be served in order to support access to services are a high priority.

Priority Program Service Delivery Models/Approaches

1. Housing First (as identified by HUD): 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 should help reduce the length of time people experience homelessness. Projects 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.

2. Harm Reduction: Harm reduction is an approach that emphasizes engaging directly with people who use drugs to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission, improve the physical, mental, and social wellbeing of those served, and offer low-threshold options for accessing substance use disorder treatment and other health care services.

3. Co-location of services: Persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness often must navigate a broad geographic area to secure services typically without the support of transportation. Securing the needed services can be especially challenging when individuals are responsible for securing and producing paperwork from a variety of agencies/programs in order to start the enrollment process in other services. For those with transportation issues and/or mobility challenges, this can be an impossible system to successfully navigate. In keeping with the Housing First framework, programs capable of co-locating multiple services in one geographic space or application process are a high priority.

4. Open and frequent communication of status/progress: Persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness are often in a stressful situation filled with uncertainty, anxiety and fear. Accessing supports that fully explain all the resources available, identify the steps in the process to secure those resources and provide regular updates on the status of applications can help alleviate some of those fears and anxieties. Programs that have a balanced approach to communication and updates are a high priority.

5. Trauma informed & client centered services: Trauma informed care is an approach to service provision that recognizes the existence and impacts of trauma on persons seeking assistance and promotes healing and recovery while working to minimize practices and services that may re-traumatize individuals. Trauma informed programs recognize the various manifestations of trauma and work to create a supportive environment that is accessible and appropriate to individual needs working to minimize any potential barriers. The guiding principles of trauma informed services are: Safety, Choice, Collaboration, Trustworthiness and Empowerment.

Priority Populations

1. Seniors

2. Non-English speakers

3. Undocumented persons

4. Households with companion animals

5. Families/unique household compositions

Eligible Project Applications:

<u>New Bonus Project Funding:</u>
For the CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness, the CoC can apply for up to $9,340,988 in funding for new projects.This funding is for use over a 3-year period with an estimated $3,113,662 available each year. Eligible projects that will be accepted for Hudson County include:

- Permanent supportive housing projects
- Rapid rehousing projects
- Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing projects
- Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry
- Supportive Services Only – Outreach
- Supportive Services Only – Other Services
- Dedicated HMIS Project for costs that are carried out by the HMIS Lead. *Note only the current HMIS lead may apply for these funds.

If your agency is interested in applying for this funding source, please be sure you understand both the project type, and eligible population for the project as is required under this funding source. Also, please ensure the application that is submitted does not exceed the allowable amount the CoC can apply for.

Any questions on project types or eligible populations can be directed in writing, to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us

Definitions:

- Chronically Homeless – for an individual to be considered chronically homeless they must:
  1) Have a disabling condition;
  2) Live in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; AND
  3) Have been homeless and living in one or more of these locations continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months

  For a family to be considered chronically homeless, the head of household must meet the definition above.

- Coordinated Entry - The coordinated entry system provides a streamlined approach to assess and serve clients who are seeking homeless services. Coordinated Entry assesses all clients who are literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness to determine level of vulnerability, appropriateness and eligibility for all permanent housing programs and opportunities throughout the County. The agency then assists the clients in completing eligibility documentation and providing completed referrals for all housing programs.

- Homeless – The definition for projects funded under the CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness has been modified by HUD to include the following groups only:
  1) 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.
      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** – *only if the household was on the street, in emergency shelter, or in an institution for less than 90 days and their location prior to institutional stay was the street or emergency shelter*, 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) An individual or family who:
      i. Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, 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;

    ii.   Has no other residence; and

    iii.   Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing

- <u>Permanent Supportive Housing</u> – Permanent Supportive Housing provides long term housing assistance and subsidy through either rental assistance for individual permanent housing units in the community, or through operating funds for a single permanent housing structure. All permanent supportive housing programs connect households to both housing and services to ensure continued stability. PSH programs are prioritized for the most chronically homeless and service intensive households.

- <u>Rapid Rehousing</u> – Rapid Rehousing provides temporary, up to two years, worth of rental assistance and services to connect families and individuals with permanent housing and services, focused around employment, to enable households to maintain the housing unit in the community after assistance has ended. RRH is prioritized for households with lower housing barriers and may be able to obtain sufficient income to maintain their own permanent housing.

- <u>Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing</u> – The new joint Transitional/Rapid Rehousing project component always families to move immediately into transitional housing to provide housing for families while they seek an affordable, appropriate housing in the community where they will transfer over to the rapid rehousing portion of the program. This project type may be prioritized for families with some higher initial barriers to housing that still have the ability to maintain their own unit once stabilized.

- <u>Unaccompanied Youth –</u> Any family or individual where the head of household is under the age of 25, and are not in a household with anyone 25 or older.

   As note, under this NOFO, any youth-serving provider funded under this NOFO may serve unaccompanied youth aged 24 and under (or families headed by youth aged 24 and under) who have an unsafe primary nighttime residence and no safe alternative to that residence.

Complete one application per project you are requesting funding for. For further instructions, funding details and application scorecard, please see links below:

Unsheltered NOFO Hudson CoC Funding Specifications

Unsheltered Application Scorecard

HCAEH Monitoring and Evaluation Policies and Procedures

Organization and Contact Information:

Organization Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Website:	
UEI Number	
Program Contact:	
Contact Email Address:	
Contact's Phone Number:	
Project Name:	

If part of program services will be performed by a subrecipient who will receive funding from this HUD grant, please list the subrecipient information below

Organization Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Website:	
Program Contact:	
Contact Email Address:	
Contact's Phone Number:	
Total amount HUD funds allocated to subrecipient	

New Project Component Types:
☐ Permanent Supportive Housing
☐ Rapid Rehousing
☐ Joint TH/RRH
☐ SSO – Coordinated Entry
☐ SSO – Street Outreach
☐ SSO - Other Services

☐ HMIS

Brief Program Description (one sentence describing program services):

Threshold Review:

1. CoC funding requires that all projects utilize the CoC's Coordinated Assessment and Entry System. If awarded, does or will your project accept referrals from the Coordinated Assessment Agency, Garden State Community Development Corporation?
   - ☐ Yes, program does or will accept referrals from CEP
   - ☐ No, program does not accept referrals from CEP

2. Is your agency currently, or will your agency become, a member of the Hudson County Alliance toEnd Homelessness if awarded?
   - ☐ Yes, our agency is, or will become a member of the HCAEH
   - ☐ No our agency is not, or will not become a member of the HCAEH

3. Is your agency currently using, or will your agency agree to participate in the Homeless Management Information System or a comparable database for programs focusing on victims of domestic violence?
   - ☐ Yes, our agency is using or will utilize HMIS and/or a comparable database
   - ☐ No our agency is not using, or will not utilize HMIS and/or a comparable database

4. Does your agency have any outstanding delinquent federal debt
   - ☐ Yes, agency does have outstanding delinquent federal debt
   - ☐ No, agency does not have outstanding delinquent federal debt

5. Does your agency have any outstanding civil rights matters
   - ☐ Yes, agency has outstanding civil rights matters
   - ☐ No, agency does not have outstanding civil rights matters

Agency Experience

1. **Organizational Experience and Capacity of Applicant/Sponsor** – Provide a description of the agency's experience providing the type of housing and/or services to the proposed population. The description should include the agency's housing philosophy.
2. Based on existing programs your agency operates that are serving the target population or are providing services/housing similar to what is proposed in this application, please describe the program outcomes in the areas listed below.

Program description (name, services provided, target population)	
Average length of time from program referral to enrollment	
% of clients securing or maintaining permanent housing	
Average length of time to secure permanent housing for those clients experiencing homelessness	
% of clients connected & enrolled in shelter	
% of clients connected & enrolled in other community services	
% of clients returning to homelessness after exit to permanent housing	
% of clients securing documentation that did not have documentation at program entry	
% of clients connected to mainstream benefits that did not have benefits at program entry	

% of clients connected to employment or other income that did not have income at program entry	
% of clients leaving program due to disagreement with rule, not completing program, or leaving earlier than expected	

Project Details

1. Describe the gap or need your proposed project fills.

2. **Project Description** – Provide a description of the proposed program including the following: Project objectives; target population; how target population will be identified, engaged & served; how the project fills the identified gap; primary project activities and service delivery approach
If requesting a new project under HMIS, please identify how the new funding will expand the current HMIS functionality.

3. Identify the target population(s) for the proposed project:
   a. Chronically Homeless
   b. Veterans
   c. Chronic Substance Abuse
   d. HIV/AIDS
   e. Mentally Ill
   f. Domestic Violence
   g. Physical Disability
   h. Developmental Disability
   i. Youth
   j. Seniors
   k. Families
   l. Individuals
   m. Unsheltered
   n. Sheltered
   o. Other _____
   p. N/A – Project Serves all subpopulation

4. Describe your service delivery model. Include information about evidence based or best practices to be used and how these approaches meet the unique service needs of the target population.

5. Select all the criteria that your project **DOES screen out** clients based upon:

   a. Having too little income
   b. Active or history of substance abuse
   c. Having a criminal record with exceptions for state-mandated restrictions
   d. History of domestic violence (e.g. lack of a protective order, period of separation fromabuser, or law enforcement involvement)
   e. None of the above, project is a low barrier program

6. Select all the criteria that **DOES lead to a client's termination**:
   a. Failure to participate in supportive services
   b. Failure to make progress on a service plan
   c. Loss of income or failure to improve income
   d. Being a victim of domestic violence
   e. Use or abuse of alcohol and/or drugs
   f. Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found in the project'sgeographic area
   g. None of the above, project utilizes a housing first model

7. For any criteria that you checked off as screening out or leading to termination, explain why that criteria is in place and how you will ensure your project is still implementing a housing first model while implementing this criterion.

8. Describe how the program services, policies and procedures fit within a Housing First framework.

9. Explain how the program will assist all clients to identify, apply for and obtain benefits under mainstream health and social services programs for which they are eligible.

10. Describe how the proposed project will support program participants in connecting to employment and/or increasing their income.

11. Please describe your existing partnerships within the community and how your agency will leverage these partnerships for the proposed projects. Describe how the proposed project will connect participants to additional community resources and reduce barriers to program entry for participants.

12. Describe the proposed project's implementation plan. Identify the implementation milestones and target timeframe for completion.

Project Milestones	**Days** from Execution of Grant Agreement
	Project
Begin hiring staff or expending funds	
Begin program participant enrollment	
Program participants occupy leased or rental assistance units or structure(s), or supportiveservices begin	
Leased or rental assistance units or structure,and supportive services near 100% capacity	
Closing on purchase of land, structure(s), orexecution of structure lease	
Start rehabilitation	
Complete rehabilitation	
Start new construction	
Complete new construction	

Racial Equity and Consumer Input Strategies

1. Describe the diversity of your agency's staff and how they reflect minority populations and the population you are serving? Does your agency board or leadership include any persons with lived experience of homelessness?

2. Describe how your agency uses input from persons with lived experience of homelessness to adjust its service delivery method, program administration or policy development.

3. Identify whether your agency is using any of the strategies below to address racial disparities:

Strategy	Yes or No
The Agency management and decision-making bodies are representative of the population served by the program.	
The agency has identified steps it will take to help the board of directors & decision-making bodies better reflect the population served by the program.	
The agency is establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the organization.	
The agency is training and educating staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness.	
The agency has reviewed internal policies and procedures with an equity lens and has a plan for developing and implementing equitable policies that do not impose undue barriers.	
The agency is collecting data and/or reviewing HMIS to better understand the pattern of program use for underserved populations such as people of different races and ethnicities, or LGBTQIA community, in its program.	
The agency has communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups.	
The agency has a pathway to hire persons with lived experience of homelessness at various levels of program and agency administration	

4. Describe how your program will be able to deliver the services in a manner that is culturally and linguistically competent and reflects the needs of the minority populations served.

5. Describe how your program will meet the accessibility needs of the target population and the specific supports available for persons with disabling conditions.

Outcomes & Accountability

1. Describe the projects' primary goals and specific outcome metrics to be measured

2. How will data be used to measure progress towards achieving stated goals? Identify what data will be collected, how it will be collected, the types of analysis to be completed and how often, and how that data will inform program implementation.

3. Describe how program outcomes will be communicated within the project, the agency, and the community. What will be communicated, how often and with whom?

THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered Homelessness Scoresheet

Agency Name: _____

Project Name: _____

Project Type: _____

Threshold Review

Review Items	Response
1. Is Project an eligible HUD Component under the CoC Supplemental NOFO?	
2. Do Applicants agree to become a member of the HCAEH?	
3. Do Applicants agree to participate in Coordinated Entry?	
4. Do Applicants agree to participate in HMIS or a comparable database for Domestic Violence	
5. Does Applicant have any outstanding federal debt	
6. Does Applicant have any outstanding civil rights matters	

Target Population - All Points awarded in this section are Bonus Points	Response	Possible Score	Bonus Points
1. Does project dedicate or prioritize services/beds for Seniors?		5	0
1. Does project dedicate or prioritize services/beds for Individuals with companion animals?		3	0
1. Does project dedicate or prioritize services/beds for Undocumented persons?		3	0
1. Does project dedicate or prioritize services/beds for Non-English Speakers?		3	0
1. Does project dedicate or prioritize services/beds for Families/Unique Households?		3	0

Target Activities - All Points awarded in this section are Bonus Points	Response	Possible Score	Bonus Points
1. Permanent Supportive Housing within Master Leasing or similar arrangement		5	0
2. Integrated medical services provided in the field		4	0
3. Outreach (expansion/extended hours; expanded capacity; new outreach supports)		5	0
4. Drop-in Centers (expanded hours, services and capacity)		5	0
5. Document gathering services		4	0
6. Transportation services integrated into project		4	0

Housing First Identification - Maximum 15 points	Response	Possible Score	Score
1. Does the project identify as low barrier based on eligibility criteria?		5	0
2. Does the project ensure participants are not terminated by using a housing first approach?		5	0
2. Does the project services and policies reflect housing first approach?		5	0

Racial Equity and Consumer Input - Maximum 13 points	Possible Score	Score
1. Agency is making efforts to address racial equity - full points would be awarded for agency's who staff reflect minority populations and populations they are serving and they are utilizing multiple strategies to address racial disparities.	5	

2. Agency works to incorporate input of persons with lived experience of homelessness - full points would be awarded for agency's who leadership and/or agency board include persons with lived experience of homelessness and have a clear process for using input from persons with lived experience in service delivery and project administration.	5	
3. Agency is able to deliver services in a manner that is culturally and linguistically competent and reflects the needs of the minority populations it serves.	3	

Budget Reasonableness - Maximum 10 points	Possible Score	Score
1. Budget items correlate with program design, goals and performance	5	
2. Project's cost effectiveness - per household cost is less than average (up to 5 points), per household is comparable to average (up to 3 points), per household cost is more than average (1	5	

Overall Application - Maximum 5 points	Possible Score	Score
1. Timeliness, organization and detail of application and budget	5	

Project Description - Maximum 30 points	Possible Score	Score
1. Applicant Provides a complete and concise description that addresses the entire scope of the proposed project. In order to receive full points, the narrative must address the entire scope of the project, including a clear picture of the community/target population(s) to be served, the plan for addressing the identified needs/issues of the CoC community/target population(s), and projected outcome(s)	10	
2. Project includes integration of healthcare services within the community for program	5	
3. Project incorporates harm reduction services and/or approach	4	
4. Project describes appropriate co-location of services accessible to target population and fitting	3	
5. Project has a clear and reasonable plan for communication and follow up with program	3	
6. Program services and policies reflect a trauma informed approach	5	

Rapid Implementation - Maximum 10 points	Possible Score	Score
1. Applicant demonstrates a plan for rapid implementation of the program; the project narrative	6	

Leveraging Healthcare and Housing Resources – Maximum 10 points	Possible Score	Score
Applicant has match documentation indicating at least 25% of service funding will support healthcare related services funded through Medicaid and/or provided through a healthcare	5	
Applicant has match documentation indicating at least 25% of housing vouchers associated with the program are provided through funding other than CoC or ESG funds.	5	

Organizational Experience - Maximum 36 points	Possible Score	Score
1. Applicant provides A) depth and breadth of experience providing housing services to the homeless; and B) Depth and breadth of experience providing supportive services to the homeless	10	
2. Applicant has current partnerships with relevant community partners and demonstrates how they will leverage these partnerships for the proposed project.	5	
3. Current programs connect at least 50% of participants to permanent housing	4	
4. Current programs connect 50% of participants to shelter	3	
5. current programs connect 70% of participants to community services	3	
6. 10% or less of program clients returned to homelessness after exit to PH within 6 - 12 months	3	
7. 60% of program participants successfully secured identification and other eligibility documentation through program services.	3	

	Possible Score	Score
8. 60% of program participants were successfully connected to mainstream benefits and/or income through program services	3	
9. Less than 10% of program participants exited program due to non-compliance, disagreement with rules, not completing program or exiting program early	3	

Outcomes & Accountability	Possible Score	Score
1. Program goals are in line with community plan to reduce unsheltered homelessness.	8	
1. Program metrics include goal of connecting 50% of participants to permanent housing or shelter services	5	
3. Program metrics include 70% of program participants without documentation at program entry successfully secure IDs and other eligibility documents within 8 months of program enrollment.	5	
4. Quality improvement plan for the program includes a feedback loop with persons with lived experience of homelessness	3	
5. Program accountability includes report out to advisory boards and other decision making bodies that include persons with lived experience of homelessness who have influence on program policy and implementation	3	

Scoring Category	Possible Score	Total Score	Percentage
Housing First	15	0	0.0%
Racial Equity	13	0	0.0%
Budget Reasonableness	10	0	0.0%
Overall Application	5	0	0.0%
Project Description	30	0	0.0%
Rapid Implementation	6	0	0.0%
Leveraging Healthcare and Housing Resources	10	0	0.0%
Organizational Experience	37	0	0.0%
Outcomes and Accountability	24	0	0.0%
Bonus Points	n/a	0	
Final Application Score	**150**	**0**	**0.0%**

Signature & Date of Completer _____

1B-3 Projects Rejected/Reduced-Notification Outside of *e-snaps*

Subject:	FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO Funding Notification
Date:	Friday, September 30, 2022 at 2:43:37 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From:	Naomi Lesnewski
To:	'Samantha Howard'
CC:	Maeve McCullough, Ravensbergen, Katelyn
Priority:	High

Attachments: BEOF Prevention funding notification.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the funding notification regarding your application, **BEOF Prevention**, that was submitted for FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO funding. This notification includes your scores, and if approved, your ranking and budget. The full final ranking will be posted to the County's website in the coming days. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Additionally, I would like to meet with you and your grant writer sometime over the next couple of weeks to discuss an upcoming funding opportunity that would be appropriate for this project.

Best,
Naomi

Naomi Lesnewski (she, her, hers)

Program Director

Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development

830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Phone: 201.369.4520

Division Website

This email was scanned by Bitdefender

September 30, 2022

Samantha Howard
Executive Director
Bayonne Economic Opportunity Foundation
555 Kennedy Blvd.
Bayonne, NJ 07002

Re: 2022 Unsheltered NOFO Submission

Dear Ms. Howard;

Thank you for submitting an application to the Hudson County Continuum of Care for the FY2022 HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. The Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness Review Committee, empowered by the HCAEH Executive Board, reviewed all project submissions, and made final funding determinations on September 29th, 2022. Please be advised that your agency was not awarded funding for your Unsheltered Homelessness project application.

The Committee did not take this decision lightly and the decision was based on the following:

- The project scope of services is not eligible under the Unsheltered NOFO

Rank	Score	Project Name	Requested Funding	Approved Funding
N/A	51%	Unsheltered Homelessness	$410,132	$0

We appreciate the time and effort you have put into this application. If your agency wishes to appeal this decision, a written appeal letter must be submitted to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us no later than close of business, **Friday, October 7th**. Appeals must show:

- The score you have received is not reflective of the application information provided; or
- Bias and/or unfairness in the application review process

Upon receipt, the appeal will be reviewed, and you will be notified within a week of the final funding decision.

Thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Sincerely,

Naomi Lesnewski
Chair, Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness

Subject:	FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO Funding Notification
Date:	Friday, September 30, 2022 at 2:42:46 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From:	Naomi Lesnewski
To:	'Keith Dent'
CC:	Ravensbergen, Katelyn, Maeve McCullough
Priority:	High

Attachments: Haven SSO funding notification.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the funding notification regarding your application, **Haven Supportive Services**, that was submitted for FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO funding. This notification includes your scores, and if approved, your ranking and budget. The full final ranking will be posted to the County's website in the coming days. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Best,
Naomi

Naomi Lesnewski (she, her, hers)

Program Director

Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development

830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Phone: 201.369.4520

Division Website

This email was scanned by Bitdefender

September 30, 2022

Keith Dent
Haven Adolescent Community Respite Center
13 Roosevelt Ave.
Jersey City, NJ 07304

Re: 2022 Unsheltered NOFO Submission

Dear Mr. Dent;

Thank you for submitting an application to the Hudson Continuum of Care for the FY2022 HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. The Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness Review Committee, empowered by the HCAEH Executive Board, reviewed all project submissions, and made final funding determinations on September 29th, 2022. Please be advised that your agency was not awarded funding for your Haven Teen Homeless Project application.

The Committee did not take this decision lightly and the decision was based on the following:
- The project scope of services is not eligible under the Unsheltered NOFO

Rank	Score	Project Name	Requested Funding	Approved Funding
N/A	58%	Haven Teen Homeless Project	$88,880	$0

We appreciate the time and effort you have put into this application. If your agency wishes to appeal this decision, a written appeal letter must be submitted to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us no later than close of business, **Friday, October 7th**. Appeals must show:

- The score you have received is not reflective of the application information provided; or
- Bias and/or unfairness in the application review process

Upon receipt, the appeal will be reviewed, and you will be notified within a week of the final funding decision.

Thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Sincerely,

Naomi Lesnewski
Chair, Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness

1B-3a Projects Accepted-Notification Outside of *e-snaps*

Subject:	FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO Funding Notification
Date:	Friday, September 30, 2022 at 2:42:47 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From:	Naomi Lesnewski
To:	Carol Mori, 'Susan Milan'
CC:	Ravensbergen, Katelyn, Maeve McCullough
Priority:	High

Attachments: GSCDC Outreach funding notification.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the funding notification regarding your application, **GSCDC Outreach Expansion**, that was submitted for FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO funding. This notification includes your scores, and if approved, your ranking and budget. The full final ranking will be posted to the County's website in the coming days. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Best,
Naomi

Naomi Lesnewski (she, her, hers)

Program Director

Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development

830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Phone: 201.369.4520

Division Website

This email was scanned by Bitdefender

September 30, 2022

Carol Mori
Executive Director
Garden State Community Development Corporation
1901 West Street
Union City, NJ 07087

Re: 2022 Unsheltered NOFO Submission

Dear Ms. Mori;

Thank you for submitting an application to the Hudson Continuum of Care for the FY2022 HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. The Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness Review Committee, empowered by the HCAEH Executive Board, reviewed all project submissions, and made final funding determinations on September 29th, 2022. Please be advised your project was recommended for funding. Your final score, ranking, and approved funding amount are as follows:

Rank	Score	Project	Requested Amount	Approved Annual Amount	Approved 3 Year Amount
1	89.3%	GSCDC Street Outreach Expansion with Medically Integrated Services	$443,073	$443,073	$1,329,219

Congratulations on the selection of your project for funding. At this time, you should begin completing your application for approved projects through the HUD CoC grant portal e-snaps. Please be aware that the following requirements and deadlines will be in effect for the FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO application cycle:

- Project's e-snaps applications must match the approved funding amount listed above
- Applications must be completed in their entirety in the e-snaps system
- Once applications have been completed, DO NOT hit the submit button in the system
- Applicants must email a PDF copy (by exporting project applications as a PDF) of the completed application to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us and Katelyn Ravensbergen at kravensbergen@monarchhousing.org for review
- Applicants may only hit submit once the application has been reviewed and approved by Monarch

- **All applicants must submit PDF copies of their application to Katelyn by October 11th, 2022**

You may access the e-snaps website at the following location:
https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf

HUD FY2022 CoC Supplemental NOFO on Unsheltered Homelessness Competition page:
https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/

If your agency wishes to appeal this decision, a written appeal letter must be submitted to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us no later than close of business, **Friday, October 7th**. Appeals must show:

- The score you have received is not reflective of the application information provided; or
- Bias and/or unfairness in the application review process

Upon receipt, the appeal will be reviewed and you will be notified within a week of the final funding decision.

Thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Sincerely,

Naomi Lesnewski
Chair, Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness

Subject:	FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO Funding Notification
Date:	Friday, September 30, 2022 at 2:42:52 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From:	Naomi Lesnewski
To:	Victor Luna, 'Pamela Baker', 'Pamela McCrory', Joan Farkas
CC:	Maeve McCullough, Ravensbergen, Katelyn
Priority:	High
Attachments:	CSP PSH funding notification.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the funding notification regarding your application, **CSP Unsheltered PSH**, that was submitted for FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO funding. This notification includes your scores, and if approved, your ranking and budget. The full final ranking will be posted to the County's website in the coming days. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Best,
Naomi

Naomi Lesnewski (she, her, hers)

Program Director

Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development

830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Phone: 201.369.4520

Division Website

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THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

September 30, 2022

Victor Luna
Chief Executive Officer
Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey
11 Spring Street
Freehold, NJ 07728

Re: 2022 Unsheltered NOFO Submission

Dear Mr. Luna:

Thank you for submitting an application to the Hudson Continuum of Care for the FY2022
HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. The Hudson
County Alliance to End Homelessness Review Committee, empowered by the HCAEH
Executive Board, reviewed all project submissions and made final funding determinations
on September 29th, 2022. Please be advised that your project was recommended for funding.
Your final score, ranking and approved funding amount are as follows:

Rank	Score	Project	Requested Amount	Approved Annual Amount	Approved 3 Year Amount
2	86.3%	Hudson CSPNJ Unsheltered PSH	$539,990	$1,094,670	$3,284,010

Congratulations on the selection of your project for funding. Please note, the approved
annual amount is higher than what was originally requested due to additional funding
being available once all eligible projects were approved. The decision to increase your
project was based on the community's need for additional permanent supportive housing
units.

At this time, you should begin completing your application for approved projects through
the HUD CoC grant portal e-snaps. Please be aware that the following requirements and
deadlines will be in effect for the FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO application cycle:

- Project's e-snaps applications must match the approved funding amount listed
  above
- Applications must be completed in their entirety in the e-snaps system
- Once applications have been completed, DO NOT hit the submit button in the system

- Applicants must email a PDF copy (by exporting project applications as a PDF) of the completed application to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us and Katelyn Ravensbergen at kravensbergen@monarchhousing.org for review
- Applicants may only hit submit once the application has been reviewed and approved by Monarch
- **All applicants must submit PDF copies of their application to Katelyn by October 11th, 2022**

You may access the e-snaps website at the following location:
https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf

HUD FY2022 CoC Supplemental NOFO on Unsheltered Homelessness Competition page:
https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/

If your agency wishes to appeal this decision, a written appeal letter must be submitted to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us no later than close of business, **Friday, October 7th**. Appeals must show:

- The score you have received is not reflective of the application information provided; or
- Bias and/or unfairness in the application review process

Upon receipt, the appeal will be reviewed and you will be notified within a week of the final funding decision.

Thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Sincerely,

Naomi Lesnewski
Chair, Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness

Subject:	FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO Funding Notification
Date:	Friday, September 30, 2022 at 2:42:54 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From:	Naomi Lesnewski
To:	'Susan Milan', Carol Mori
CC:	Ravensbergen, Katelyn, Maeve McCullough
Priority:	High

Attachments: GSCDC Drop In Expansion funding notification.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the funding notification regarding your application, **GSCDC Drop-In Expansion**, that was submitted for FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO funding. This notification includes your scores, and if approved, your ranking and budget. The full final ranking will be posted to the County's website in the coming days. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Best,
Naomi

Naomi Lesnewski (she, her, hers)

Program Director

Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development

830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Phone: 201.369.4520

Division Website

This email was scanned by Bitdefender

September 30, 2022

Carol Mori
Executive Director
Garden State Community Development Corporation
1901 West Street
Union City, NJ 07087

Re: 2022 Unsheltered NOFO Submission

Dear Ms. Mori;

Thank you for submitting an application to the Hudson Continuum of Care for the FY2022 HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. The Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness Review Committee, empowered by the HCAEH Executive Board, reviewed all project submissions, and made final funding determinations on September 29th, 2022. Please be advised your project was recommended for funding. Your final score, ranking, and approved funding amount are as follows:

Rank	Score	Project	Requested Amount	Approved Annual Amount	Approved 3 Year Amount
3	85.5%	GSCDC Drop-in Center Expansion Program	$459,950	$459,950	$1,379,850

Congratulations on the selection of your project for funding. At this time, you should begin completing your application for approved projects through the HUD CoC grant portal e-snaps. Please be aware that the following requirements and deadlines will be in effect for the FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO application cycle:

- Project's e-snaps applications must match the approved funding amount listed above
- Applications must be completed in their entirety in the e-snaps system
- Once applications have been completed, DO NOT hit the submit button in the system
- Applicants must email a PDF copy (by exporting project applications as a PDF) of the completed application to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us and Katelyn Ravensbergen at kravensbergen@monarchhousing.org for review
- Applicants may only hit submit once the application has been reviewed and approved by Monarch

- **All applicants must submit PDF copies of their application to Katelyn by October 11th, 2022**

You may access the e-snaps website at the following location: https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf

HUD FY2022 CoC Supplemental NOFO on Unsheltered Homelessness Competition page: https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/

If your agency wishes to appeal this decision, a written appeal letter must be submitted to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us no later than close of business, **Friday, October 7th**. Appeals must show:

- The score you have received is not reflective of the application information provided; or
- Bias and/or unfairness in the application review process

Upon receipt, the appeal will be reviewed and you will be notified within a week of the final funding decision.

Thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Sincerely,

Naomi Lesnewski
Chair, Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness

Subject:	FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO Funding Notification
Date:	Friday, September 30, 2022 at 2:43:08 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From:	Naomi Lesnewski
To:	Victor Luna, 'Pamela Baker', 'Pamela McCrory', Joan Farkas
CC:	Maeve McCullough, Ravensbergen, Katelyn
Priority:	High
Attachments:	CSP Outreach funding notification.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the funding notification regarding your application, **CSP Outreach**, that was submitted for FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO funding. This notification includes your scores, and if approved, your ranking and budget. The full final ranking will be posted to the County's website in the coming days. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Best,
Naomi

Naomi Lesnewski (she, her, hers)

Program Director

Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development

830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Phone: 201.369.4520

Division Website

This email was scanned by Bitdefender

September 30, 2022

Victor Luna
Chief Executive Officer
Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey
11 Spring Street
Freehold, NJ 07728

Re: 2022 Unsheltered NOFO Submission

Dear Mr. Luna:

Thank you for submitting an application to the Hudson Continuum of Care for the FY2022 HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. The Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness Review Committee, empowered by the HCAEH Executive Board, reviewed all project submissions, and made final funding determinations on September 29th, 2022. Please be advised that your project was recommended for funding. Your final score, ranking and approved funding amount are as follows:

Rank	Score	Project	Requested Amount	Approved Annual Amount	Approved 3 Year Amount
4	82.8%	Hudson CSPNJ Unsheltered Outreach Services	$332,050	$332,050	$996,150

Congratulations on the selection of your project for funding. At this time, you should begin completing your application for approved projects through the HUD CoC grant portal e-snaps. Please be aware that the following requirements and deadlines will be in effect for the FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO application cycle:

- Project's e-snaps applications must match the approved funding amount listed above
- Applications must be completed in their entirety in the e-snaps system
- Once applications have been completed, DO NOT hit the submit button in the system
- Applicants must email a PDF copy (by exporting project applications as a PDF) of the completed application to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us and Katelyn Ravensbergen at kravensbergen@monarchhousing.org for review
- Applicants may only hit submit once the application has been reviewed and

approved by Monarch

- **All applicants must submit PDF copies of their application to Katelyn by October 11th, 2022**

You may access the e-snaps website at the following location:
https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf

HUD FY2022 CoC Supplemental NOFO on Unsheltered Homelessness Competition page:
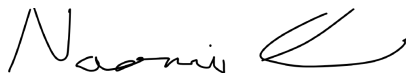https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/

If your agency wishes to appeal this decision, a written appeal letter must be submitted to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us no later than close of business, **Friday, October 7th**. Appeals must show:

- The score you have received is not reflective of the application information provided; or
- Bias and/or unfairness in the application review process

Upon receipt, the appeal will be reviewed and you will be notified within a week of the final funding decision.

Thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Sincerely,

Naomi Lesnewski
Chair, Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness

Subject:	FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO Funding Notification
Date:	Friday, September 30, 2022 at 2:43:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From:	Naomi Lesnewski
To:	Marks, Claudia, Westervelt, John, 'mbiancheri@ccannj.org'
CC:	Maeve McCullough, Ravensbergen, Katelyn
Priority:	High

Attachments: CCAN PSH funding notification.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the funding notification regarding your application, **CCAN St. Lucy's Apartments**, that was submitted for FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO funding. This notification includes your scores, and if approved, your ranking and budget. The full final ranking will be posted to the County's website in the coming days. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Best,
Naomi

Naomi Lesnewski (she, her, hers)

Program Director

Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development

830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Phone: 201.369.4520

Division Website

This email was scanned by Bitdefender

THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

September 30, 2022

John Westervelt
President
Domus Corporation
590 North 7th Street
Newark, NJ 07107

Re: 2022 Unsheltered NOFO Submission

Dear Mr. Westervelt:

Thank you for submitting an application to the Hudson Continuum of Care for the FY2022
HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. The Hudson
County Alliance to End Homelessness Review Committee, empowered by the HCAEH
Executive Board, reviewed all project submissions, and made final funding determinations
on September 29th, 2022. Please be advised that your project was recommended for funding.
Your final score, ranking and approved funding amount are as follows:

Rank	Score	Project	Requested Amount	Approved Annual Amount	Approved 3 Year Amount
5	82.5%	The Apartments at St. Lucy's Rental Assistance and Supportive Services	$296,154	$426,834	$1,280,502

Congratulations on the selection of your project for funding. Please note that while funding
was approved, two adjustments need to be made to your project application. First, per CoC
regulations, "leasing funds may not be used to lease units or structures owned by the
recipient, subrecipient, their parent organization(s), or any other related organization(s)".
For this reason, this project should be submitted as a project based rental assistance
program. With this adjustment, all rental assistance projects must submit their applications
using the current Fair Market Rent for the area. Your approved amount has been adjusted
to accommodate for that change.

At this time, you should begin completing your application for approved projects through
the HUD CoC grant portal e-snaps. Please be aware that the following requirements and
deadlines will be in effect for the FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO application cycle:

- Project's e-snaps applications must match the approved funding amount listed above
- Applications must be completed in their entirety in the e-snaps system
- Once applications have been completed, DO NOT hit the submit button in the system
- Applicants must email a PDF copy (by exporting project applications as a PDF) of the completed application to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us and Katelyn Ravensbergen at kravensbergen@monarchhousing.org for review
- Applicants may only hit submit once the application has been reviewed and approved by Monarch
- **All applicants must submit PDF copies of their application to Katelyn by October 11th, 2022**

You may access the e-snaps website at the following location:
https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf

HUD FY2022 CoC Supplemental NOFO on Unsheltered Homelessness Competition page:
https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/

If your agency wishes to appeal this decision, a written appeal letter must be submitted to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us no later than close of business, **Friday, October 7th**. Appeals must show:

- The score you have received is not reflective of the application information provided; or
- Bias and/or unfairness in the application review process

Upon receipt, the appeal will be reviewed and you will be notified within a week of the final funding decision.

Thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Sincerely,

Naomi Lesnewski
Chair, Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness

Subject:	FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO Funding Notification
Date:	Friday, September 30, 2022 at 2:42:54 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From:	Naomi Lesnewski
To:	Carol Mori, 'Susan Milan'
CC:	Ravensbergen, Katelyn, Maeve McCullough
Priority:	High

Attachments: GSCDC CEP Expansion funding notification.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the funding notification regarding your application, **GSCDC CEP Expansion**, that was submitted for FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO funding. This notification includes your scores, and if approved, your ranking and budget. The full final ranking will be posted to the County's website in the coming days. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Best,
Naomi

Naomi Lesnewski (she, her, hers)

Program Director

Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development

830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Phone: 201.369.4520

Division Website

This email was scanned by Bitdefender

THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

September 30, 2022

Carol Mori
Executive Director
Garden State Community Development Corporation
1901 West Street
Union City, NJ 07087

Re: 2022 Unsheltered NOFO Submission

Dear Ms. Mori;

Thank you for submitting an application to the Hudson Continuum of Care for the FY2022 HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. The Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness Review Committee, empowered by the HCAEH Executive Board, reviewed all project submissions, and made final funding determinations on September 29th, 2022. Please be advised your project was recommended for funding. Your final score, ranking, and approved funding amount are as follows:

Rank	Score	Project	Requested Amount	Approved Annual Amount	Approved 3 Year Amount
6	87.4%	GSCDC CEP Case Management	$90,585	$90,585	$271,755

Congratulations on the selection of your project for funding. At this time, you should begin completing your application for approved projects through the HUD CoC grant portal e-snaps. Please be aware that the following requirements and deadlines will be in effect for the FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO application cycle:

- Project's e-snaps applications must match the approved funding amount listed above
- Applications must be completed in their entirety in the e-snaps system
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- Applicants may only hit submit once the application has been reviewed and approved by Monarch

- **All applicants must submit PDF copies of their application to Katelyn by October 11th, 2022**

You may access the e-snaps website at the following location:
https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf

HUD FY2022 CoC Supplemental NOFO on Unsheltered Homelessness Competition page:
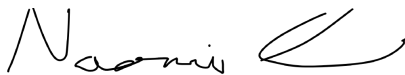https://www.hudexchange.info/news/coc-program-supplemental-nofo-address-unsheltered-and-rural-homelessness/

If your agency wishes to appeal this decision, a written appeal letter must be submitted to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us no later than close of business, **Friday, October 7th**. Appeals must show:

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- Bias and/or unfairness in the application review process

Upon receipt, the appeal will be reviewed and you will be notified within a week of the final funding decision.

Thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Sincerely,

Naomi Lesnewski
Chair, Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness

Subject:	FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO Funding Notification
Date:	Friday, September 30, 2022 at 2:43:04 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From:	Naomi Lesnewski
To:	Victor Luna, 'Pamela Baker', 'Pamela McCrory', Joan Farkas
CC:	Ravensbergen, Katelyn, Maeve McCullough
Priority:	High

Attachments: CSP PHA SSO fundinig notification.pdf

Good Afternoon,

Attached please find the funding notification regarding your application, **CSP PHA Support Services**, that was submitted for FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO funding. This notification includes your scores, and if approved, your ranking and budget. The full final ranking will be posted to the County's website in the coming days. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions and thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Best,
Naomi

Naomi Lesnewski (she, her, hers)

Program Director

Hudson County Division of Housing & Community Development

830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A

Jersey City, NJ 07306

Phone: 201.369.4520

Division Website

This email was scanned by Bitdefender

THE HUDSON COUNTY ALLIANCE
TO END HOMELESSNESS

September 30, 2022

Victor Luna
Chief Executive Officer
Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey
11 Spring Street
Freehold, NJ 07728

Re: 2022 Unsheltered NOFO Submission

Dear Mr. Luna:

Thank you for submitting an application to the Hudson Continuum of Care for the FY2022 HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. The Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness Review Committee, empowered by the HCAEH Executive Board, reviewed all project submissions, and made final funding determinations on September 29th, 2022. Please be advised your project was recommended for funding. Your final score, ranking, and approved funding amount are as follows:

Rank	Score	Project	Requested Amount	Approved Annual Amount	Approved 3 Year Amount
7	84.6%	CSP PHA Supportive Services	$266,500	$266,500	$799,500

Congratulations on the selection of your project for funding. At this time, you should begin completing your application for approved projects through the HUD CoC grant portal e-snaps. Please be aware that the following requirements and deadlines will be in effect for the FY2022 Unsheltered NOFO application cycle:

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- Applicants may only hit submit once the application has been reviewed and approved by Monarch

- **All applicants must submit PDF copies of their application to Katelyn by October 11th, 2022**

You may access the e-snaps website at the following location:
https://esnaps.hud.gov/grantium/frontOffice.jsf

HUD FY2022 CoC Supplemental NOFO on Unsheltered Homelessness Competition page:
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If your agency wishes to appeal this decision, a written appeal letter must be submitted to Naomi Lesnewski at nlesnewski@hcnj.us no later than close of business, **Friday, October 7th**. Appeals must show:

- The score you have received is not reflective of the application information provided; or
- Bias and/or unfairness in the application review process

Upon receipt, the appeal will be reviewed and you will be notified within a week of the final funding decision.

Thank you for your continued work serving those experiencing homelessness in Hudson County.

Sincerely,

Naomi Lesnewski
Chair, Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness

P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment
1. North Bergen PHA
2. Guttenberg PHA

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BERGEN

IN THE *County of Hudson* • 6121 Grand Avenue • North Bergen, New Jersey 07047
Phone: (201) 868-8605 • Fax: (201) 295-3098 • www.northbergenhousing.com

Naomi Lesnewski, CoC Lead
830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Dear Ms. Lesnewski,

This letter serves as a commitment of Section 8 available through the Housing Choice Voucher Program to the Unsheltered Special NOFO program. The North Bergen Housing Authority is committed to supporting the Unsheltered Special NOFO program and working closely with the Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness (HCAEH). A total of 5 vouchers will be committed to the Unsheltered Special NOFO program. These vouchers will be available beginning January 15, 2023. These vouchers will be filled through the CoC coordinated entry process utilizing the same priorities as the additional vouchers in the Unsheltered Special NOFO program.

We look forward to partnering with the HCAEH on this project and working closely to create housing opportunities for County residents experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,

Gerald Sanzari,
Executive Director
North Bergen Housing Authority

GERALD J. SANZARI
Executive Director

EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

October 13, 2022

Naomi Lesnewski, CoC Lead
830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Dear Ms. Lesnewski,

This letter serves as a commitment of Tenant Based Vouchers available through the GHA Section 8 Program to the Unsheltered Special NOFO program. The Guttenberg Housing Authority is committed to supporting the Unsheltered Special NOFO program and working closely with the Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness (HCAEH). A total of 3 vouchers will be committed to the Unsheltered Special NOFO program. These vouchers will be available beginning January 2023. These vouchers will be filled through the CoC coordinated entry process utilizing the same priorities as the additional vouchers in the Unsheltered Special NOFO program.

We look forward to partnering with the HCAEH on this project and working closely to create housing opportunities for County residents experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,

Ruddys Andrade
Executive Director

P-1a. PHA Commitment
1. NJ Department of Community Affairs PHA
2. North Bergen PHA
3. Guttenberg PHA

Naomi Lesnewski
NJ-506 - Jersey City, Bayonne/Hudson County CoC
830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5B
Jersey City, NJ 07306
nlesnewski@hcnj.us

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear CoC Lead:

This letter serves as a commitment that the STATE OF NJ DEPT. OF COMM. AFFAIRS PHA (PHA NJ912) intends to apply for Stability Vouchers authorized under the Consolidation Appropriations Act of 2021.

The STATE OF NJ DEPT. OF COMM. AFFAIRS PHA intends to apply for the maximum number of vouchers, based on HUD's relative need formula, that uses estimates of households experiencing or at risk of homeless by geography. These vouchers will be administered in coordination with the NJ-506 - Jersey City, Bayonne/Hudson County CoC. The STATE OF NJ DEPT. OF COMM. AFFAIRS PHA will work with the CoC to develop a prioritization plan and fill the vouchers through the coordinated entry process of NJ-506 - Jersey City, Bayonne/Hudson County CoC.

The STATE OF NJ DEPT. OF COMM. AFFAIRS PHA will also partner with NJ-506 - Jersey City, Bayonne/Hudson County CoC to pair these vouchers with CoC funded supportive services.

We look forward to partnering with NJ-506 - Jersey City, Bayonne/Hudson County CoC on this project to create housing opportunities for New Jersey residents experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,

Janel Winter
Assistant Commissioner
Department of Community Affairs

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH BERGEN

IN THE *County of Hudson* • 6121 Grand Avenue • North Bergen, New Jersey 07047
Phone: (201) 868-8605 • Fax: (201) 295-3098 • www.northbergenhousing.com

Naomi Lesnewski, CoC Lead
830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Dear Ms. Lesnewski,

This letter serves as a commitment that the North Bergen Housing Authority intends to apply for Stability Vouchers authorized under the Consolidation Appropriations Act of 2021. The North Bergen Housing Authority anticipates receiving about 20 vouchers. These vouchers will be administered in coordination with the Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness (HCAEH). The North Bergen Housing Authority will work with the CoC to develop a prioritization plan and fill the vouchers through the coordinated entry process of the HCAEH. The North Bergen Housing Authority will also partner with the HCAEH to pair these vouchers with CoC funded supportive services.

We look forward to partnering with the HCAEH on this project to create housing opportunities for Hudson County residents experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,

Gerald Sanzari,
Executive Director
North Bergen Housing Authority

October 13, 2022

Naomi Lesnewski, CoC Lead
830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Dear Ms. Lesnewski,

This letter serves as a commitment that the Guttenberg Houing Authority intends to apply for Stability Vouchers authorized under the Consolidation Appropriations Act of 2021. These vouchers will be administered in coordination with the Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness (HCAEH). The Guttenberg Housing Authority will work with the CoC to develop a prioritization plan and fill the vouchers through the coordinated entry process of the HCAEH. The Guttenberg Housing Authority will also partner with the HCAEH to pair these vouchers with CoC funded supportive services.

We look forward to partnering with the HCAEH on this project to create housing opportunities for Hudson County residents experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,

Ruddys Andrade
Executive Director

P-3. Leveraging Healthcare Resources - New PSH/RRH Project Healthcare Leveraging Commitment

ALLIANCE
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE, INC.

October 12, 2022

Naomi Lesnewski
Chair, Hudson County Alliance to End Homelessness
830 Bergen Avenue, Suite 5A
Jersey City, NJ 07306

Re: 2022 Hudson County Unsheltered NOFO Submission

Dear Ms. Lesnewski:

On behalf of Alliance Community Healthcare Inc., I am pleased to support the Hudson County Continuum of Care in the submission of the FY2022 Unsheltered Set Aside NOFO. We recognize the importance of providing primary healthcare inclusive of primary, oral, specialty and behavioral health services to clients who have experienced unsheltered homelessness as they obtain permanent housing. This letter serves as a commitment of Alliance Community Healthcare Inc. to provide the following services to clients residing in both the CSPNJ and DOMUS Permanent Supportive Housing Programs being submitted through the CoC's Unsheltered NOFO submission.

- Annual physical examinations ($175)
- Primary medical care/urgent care ($150)
- Oral Healthcare ($150 for general plus costs of outside lab fees)
- Mental Health Services ($125)
- Care Coordination for Chronic Medical Conditions ($75 per visit)
- Transportation to and from medical appointments (based on need and mileage)

All services listed above will be made available to 52 clients residing in the voucher programs committed to the Unsheltered NOFO programs leading to a total service commitment of $257,500 annually, and $772,500 over a 3-year period. All services will be made available to clients upon enrollment in their permanent housing program.

We look forward to working together to implement this important initiative for the most vulnerable residents in Hudson County.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Cintron
Marilyn Cintron
Chief Executive Officer
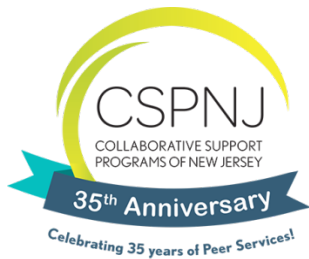
Annemarie C. Uebbing
Director, Community Planning and Development Office, Newark
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
One Newark Center, 13th Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102

September 20, 2022

RE: Health Care Leverage Commitment: $75,000 – 3 year commitment
        Hudson County CSPNJ PSH 2022 New CoC Project
        HUD Unsheltered Homeless Set Aside Project

Dear Ms. Uebbing,

On behalf of Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey, Inc. (CSPNJ), I am confirming our commitment to provide mental health services for eligible clients by billing Medicaid, leveraging healthcare resources to help households that are experiencing homelessness. The healthcare resource will be provided continuously throughout the term of the grant as eligible clients are identified. CSPNJ confirms that eligibility for program participants will be based on CoC program fair housing requirements and not restricted by Medicaid eligibility.

CSPNJ is a Statewide not-for-profit statewide Behavioral Health Agency licensed to provide supportive housing and respite home services by the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services and is a licensed Medicaid provider for Community Support Services (CSS). The average hourly rate for these services is $110.00 for Medicaid Community Services based on CSPNJ's contract with the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). We estimate the 3 year $75,000.00 of the match/leverage for the Hudson CSPNJ Unsheltered PSH Project will be from Medicaid for Community Support Services. CSPNJ will maintain and make available for inspection records documenting the service hours provided and any other documentation required.

We look forward to working with the Passaic County Continuum of Care and the CoC Coordinated Entry process to provide supportive housing to the tenants in the Hudson CSPNJ Unsheltered Permanent Housing 2022 project. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 732-780-1175.

Sincerely,

Victor M. Luna
Chief Executive Officer

CSPNJ
COLLABORATIVE SUPPORT
PROGRAMS OF NEW JERSEY

35th Anniversary
Celebrating 35 years of Peer Services!
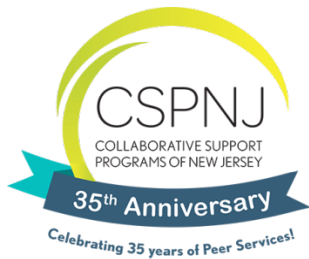
ADMINISTRATION
11 SPRING ST. FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

VICTOR LUNA
Chief Executive Officer

Annemarie C. Uebbing
Director, Community Planning and Development Office, Newark
US Department of Housing and Urban Development
One Newark Center, 13th Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102

September 20, 2022

RE: Match Commitment: $822,000 – 3 year commitment
        Hudson County CSPNJ PSH 2022 New CoC Project
        HUD Unsheltered Homeless Set Aside Project

Dear Ms. Uebbing,

On behalf of Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey, Inc. (CSPNJ), I am confirming our commitment to provide a minimum of $822,000 3 year cash and in-kind services, for the 37 tenants in the proposed new Unsheltered PSH project for Hudson County. In compliance with the Continuum of Care Program Regulations regarding required supportive services Match Sources and Uses, Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey Division of Supportive Services unconditionally commits to providing supportive services, including case management and eligible supportive housing services under Program Regulations. Further these services will be provided by professionally trained staff, including staff licensed and/or supervised by trained clinical professionals (e.g.: LSW, LCSW, LPC, LMFT, CADC, LCADC, LACC and Peer Wellness Coach). The hourly rate for these services is $110.00 based on CSPNJ's contract with the NJ Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The services to be provided through non-federal sources include case management, enrollment in mainstream services, linkage and referral to community resources such as primary and acute care health care, legal services, education and employment training and financial services. In addition, all of the individuals receiving supportive services from CSPNJ will also be invited to participate in ongoing activities at the CSPNJ Community Wellness Center in Jersey City, Hudson County.

CSPNJ is a New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services licensed Community Support Services (CSS) Medicaid provider and licensed Supportive Housing Services provider. CSPNJ will maintain and make available for inspection records documenting the service hours provided and any other documentation required.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 732-780-1175.

Sincerely,

Victor M. Luna
Chief Executive Officer

P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter

October 5, 2022

Naomi Lesnewski
Hudson County CoC, Lead Agency

The Hudson County Community Consultant Committee has reviewed the Hudson County Continuum of Care plan to address unsheltered homelessness. As residents in the CoC region who are currently experiencing homelessness and understand the challenges in our system, we are in support of the CoC's efforts to increase resources to end street homelessness. We thank the CoC for its commitment to hearing from people directly impacted by homelessness and implementing a process in which the Community Consultant Committee can identify funding priorities, system gaps and recommendations for the CoC Plan to Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness.

We have reviewed the draft plan and selected projects in response to the HUD CoC Supplemental NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness. We are in support of the proposed plan to reduce unsheltered homelessness and the projects selected. We look forward to monitoring the progress of this work and continuing to partner with the Hudson County CoC on efforts to end homelessness in the region.

Hudson County Community Consultant Committee

1 GEORGE TALBOTT

DONASTEWA

Evan Ardine

SAMSON RABUTSI.

Chelsea Reyes

Jen Williams

DAV. drobinson

Samuel Perez

Arcadio Quiter

Cheryl Miguel Quiter

P-1C. Landlord Recruitment:

1. <u>Current Strategy</u> – Traditionally in Hudson County, individual projects were responsible for recruiting landlords for their clients. To improve this process in the past 2 years, Hudson County has implemented a housing navigation program that is operated by Collaborative Support Programs of New Jersey (CSPNJ). CSPNJ identifies landlords within the community through a variety of techniques including responding to ads, identifying management and leasing companies, word of mouth and driving through neighborhoods looking for "for rent" signs. Through this process CSPNJ has connected with 41 landlords. Upon connecting with landlords, housing navigation staff explain voucher program guidelines and review the service supports that accompany tenants. CSPNJ also offers support to landlords serving as a 24/7 support line and mediator when issues arise. The Housing Navigation program is connected to the Coordinated Entry system so that when a client is referred for a housing voucher, they are offered the housing navigation support to identify units. Prospective tenants from the coordinated entry list may choose the level of support they use from the housing navigation program with the option of simply receiving a list of landlords that have been vetted to full supports including assistance with completing applications, support in identifying housing needs and geographic regions, staff support in visiting units and completing walk throughs and support in reviewing the lease to ensure favorable terms. Hudson County is a rapidly gentrifying region with challenges locating affordable housing and apartments that fit within the HUD FMR requirements for vouchers. Through the Housing Navigation program, the CoC has been able to secure apartments in 8 of the county's 12 municipalities.

2. <u>New Practices</u> - The Housing Navigation program has successfully assisted 119 tenants in securing new apartments since its program inception 2 years ago. During COVID, to accommodate restrictions on in person visits to units, the CSPNJ Housing Navigation team started a process where staff go to the units equipped with a camera or phone to enable virtual tours of the prospective units. Through this process, tenants maintained choice in selecting units appropriate to their household needs while also maintaining household safety. While many providers in the CoC were performing landlord recruitment independently, since implementing the housing navigation program there is a better understanding of the barriers that clients face in finding units, and what strategies are more effective in recruiting landlords and advocating for clients. There has also been a decrease in the length of time it is taking clients who work with the navigator to find housing.

3. <u>Data to Improve Recruitment</u> - The CoC will work to continuously improve the housing navigation supports as a way of expediting placement in permanent housing. The CoC will utilize HMIS data to evaluate length of time from program enrollment to housing placement. The CoC will also review the use of housing navigation services by clients referred from the housing prioritization list to identify any disparities in access, placement rates or length of time to placement. All of these items will be reviewed in whole and disaggregated by race and ethnicity. In addition to this HMIS data on program outcomes, the CoC will also review the Housing Navigation program information on the number of participating landlords. This review will look at the geographic disparity in securing new landlords, the rate of adding new

landlords to the list and a review of the landlord requested services each quarter to identify gaps in the program offerings.

P-3.a Current Street Outreach Strategy

1. Outreach Team Coordination - There are three agencies throughout the CoC that are responsible for street outreach. The main street outreach provider, GSCDC, covers all of Hudson County & focuses on areas with the highest concentration of unsheltered homelessness. MASSH, the PATH provider for the County, focuses on clients with a mental illness and the County's largest municipality, Jersey City, has implemented a JC specific outreach team focusing on areas with high unsheltered numbers within JC. To ensure coordination, the outreach teams utilize HMIS and have clients sign consent forms so each team knows what other providers they are working with. All clients are also connected with coordinated entry who can identify which teams and providers they are working with and provide referrals for permanent housing.

2. Outreach Frequency - GSCDC outreach occurs 7 days a week with both day and night shifts. MASSH, conducts outreach 2-3 times a week at known locations throughout the County. The JC team is out during the day Monday - Friday. Between all the outreach teams 100% of Hudson County, the CoC's geographic area, is covered by street outreach.

3. Exit Strategies - All outreach is coordinated & tailored to those who are the most vulnerable and service-resistant, specifically targeting encampments and locations identified with advocates, police, hospitals and public transit. Outreach teams adjust their times and locations to engage those that are transient and work to develop relationships and foster effective engagement with service-resistant clients to promote acceptance of shelter and services. If shelter is refused, connection will still be made to CEP and clients will be prioritized for permanent housing opportunities. Because GSCDC is a provider for both outreach and CEP, outreach staff coordinate with CEP to identify which unsheltered clients have engaged in the system and those that may be eligible for PSH. Both outreach and CEP work to meet the client where they are and do not force program engagement to continue to provide case management or connection to PH. Using these strategies, 92% of clients who's discharge destination from outreach is known, was discharged to a permanent housing placement.

4. Engagement Based on Need and Culture - Outreach teams are trained in providing strengths-based case management support. Staff utilize motivational interviewing techniques to engage unsheltered individuals and work with them to develop client directed plans for exiting unsheltered homelessness and connecting to housing. Outreach teams provide trauma-informed supports to unsheltered individuals to create safe spaces for true engagement without judgement. The outreach teams engage service resistant unsheltered persons using evidence-based practices rooted in Harm Reduction, Trauma Informed Care and Motivational Interviewing techniques. The harm reduction model of engagement is designed to meet individuals where they are. It promotes incremental changes and has proven to be very effective when serving this population. The service delivery approach is nonthreatening, non-judgmental, and non-coercive, and the tasks undertaken are designed to be achievable. This service delivery model also includes utilizing people with lived experience on the outreach team. Staff worked to develop trusting relationships and foster effective engagement with service resistant unsheltered homeless consumers in order to promote the acceptance of services. Cultural and ethnic competencies are prioritized. The drop-in centers along with the outreach teams include peer leadership. CSPNJ, one of the drop-in center providers, is a peer led agency which fully integrates persons with lived experience in staff, board of directors and stakeholder affiliated peer organizations. The community wellness center operated by CSPNJ serves as one of three primary drop-in centers in

the region is and peer-run with a focus on addressing homelessness and mental health supports for individuals accessing the facility. All outreach teams in the community work to hire a diverse staff that reflects the population served based on race, ethnicity, primary language and LGBTQ+ association among other characteristics.

5. <u>Connection to Permanent Housing</u> - Once outreach teams have engaged individuals, the next step includes completing the Coordinated Entry assessment. Assessment information is entered into HMIS to ensure unsheltered individuals are immediately included on the Housing Prioritization list. The CE team prioritizes the most vulnerable households for housing opportunities that arise. The prioritization order includes: chronic homeless status, length of time homeless, unsheltered location. Once connected to the CE prioritization list, outreach teams work to connect unsheltered individuals to identification and mainstream benefits. Outreach teams in coordination with CE staff work to secure all documentation necessary for PH voucher applications/programs. This work begins prior to a specific referral being in place to expedite the process once a housing opportunity has been identified. Using these strategies, 92% of clients discharged from outreach that have a known discharge location were discharged to permanent housing.

6. <u>Hiring Persons with Lived Experience</u> - There are 3 outreach teams operational within the CoC geographic region. In addition to the 3 outreach teams, there are 3 drop-in centers available to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness open M – F 8am-4pm. The CSPNJ outreach team and drop-in center is a peer run program with staff including people who have experienced homelessness, mental health issues and unsheltered homelessness. CSPNJ is an organization created by peer users of mental health services and has maintained its role as a peer led agency with 50% of staff having experienced homelessness or utilizing mental health services in the community. GSCDC, a second outreach and drop-in center provider, also has peer case management support within the outreach teams and drop-in center staffing with 40% of outreach staff having experience homelessness

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

1. <u>Current Strategy -</u> The CoC has 18 emergency shelter programs operating in the region including congregate facility-based programs, non-congregate shelter, voucher-based programs, seasonal warming centers, family shelters, individual shelters and domestic violence shelter. The warming center program and 178 beds of individual shelters provide low-barrier access for people experiencing homelessness in the region. These shelters have minimum requirements for admission and will accept clients even if they are actively under the influence of drugs/alcohol, have a criminal background, don't have connection to benefits or a program that will pay for their stay. While these programs connect clients to mainstream benefits and coordinated entry to move them into housing as quickly as possible, there are no shelter stay limits set, as the goal of these low barrier programs, especially in the winter, is to ensure that anyone that needs shelter is able to access it.

2. <u>Current System Performance</u> - Over a 12-month period between 9/1/21 and 8/31/22 the emergency shelters in the region had 7,482 admissions (including repeat/duplicate entries). Overall, about 36.8% of the shelter admissions were from people who reported being on the street prior to program entry. For the designated low barrier shelters in the region, about 53% of the admissions were from persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

3. <u>New Practices</u> - In response to COVID, the CoC created non-congregate COVID overflow shelter placements specifically for those households for which a congregate setting was not appropriate. These shelter beds were provided to persons who were exposed to or had been diagnosed with covid, and persons at increased risk for covid. For individuals that tested positive for COVID-19, the County contracted with the FQHC to open a step down shelter. This arrangement allowed clients to access medical care shelter and safe space to quarantine until they did not have symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. Upon negative tests, clients were transitioned to the regular shelter system enabling the CoC to keep the number of positive cases among unsheltered persons relatively low. This has built a stronger collaboration with the FQHC which continues today, but also highlighted the need for more integration of medical services into the shelter system as this can be a barrier for some unsheltered clients. To help address this need, the CoC coordinates with the FQHC for regular testing, screening and health services for clients accessing shelter services within the system and has also contracted with them to provide medical services to clients accessing the County's warming center to ensure everyone is able to obtain safe shelter while still receiving services during the winter months.

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

1. <u>Current Strategy</u> - The CoC has transitioned all permanent supportive housing programs serving people experiencing homelessness to a Housing First framework. Projects are required to reduce barriers to program entry and do not prohibit enrollment based on the amount of income, history of or active substance use, having a criminal background or history of victimization. Projects offer case management services that are client driven and attend to the primary focus of securing and stabilizing in housing. Additionally, CoC funded PSH programs reduce requirements to support program retention and do not terminate households for failure to participate in services, failure to progress in services, loss of income or other activities not covered in the lease. All PH programs are required to fill vacancies through the coordinated entry system which prioritizes the most vulnerable households in the CoC. The CoC has also created specialized programs to attend to specific needs of highly vulnerable households. The Housing First program is a FUSE initiative that targeted chronically homeless clients who were cycling in and out of the jail. Clients were connected with a permanent supportive housing voucher and ongoing supportive services to help them maintain their housing. The program currently has 50 clients who have been in housing for longer than 4 years. After the success of that program, a similar program was developed targeting 25 high utilizers of the homeless system and the local hospital. The CoC monitors all projects to ensure continued compliance with housing first. Monitoring includes: review of program admissions to ensure all referrals are from CE, review of referrals denied, review of services provided to help the tenant acquire housing and maintain housing, review of reason for program discharge, and review of client lease agreements and program rules to ensure consistency with housing first principles. The current CoC strategy to reduce unsheltered homelessness prioritizes the creation of new permanent housing opportunities (PSH and RRH) that are low barrier and operate within a housing first framework to quickly connect people experiencing homelessness to housing. These resources are and will continue to be integrated into a larger service system through the Coordinated Entry system. The new

beds requesting unsheltered NOFO funding as well as the beds leveraged through the stability vouchers and program set asides will follow the same standards of housing first and utilization of the coordinated entry system to fill vacancies.

2. <u>Current Strategy Outcomes</u> - Over the last 12 months the CoC has successfully moved 437 households into permanent housing. 51% of those households were people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. 53% of the households connected to PH opportunities had vulnerability scores of 25 or lower, with the lower the score the higher the vulnerability. The CoC has utilized the Housing Navigator to expedite placement in new units once a voucher has been secured. Once individuals are placed in housing, the PSH programs work with them to create service plans uniquely tailored to their needs moving at their desired speed. The integration of trauma informed supports provided by peer case managers has helped the PSH programs maintain long-term stability with clients residing in PSH over the last year having an average length of stay of 6 years for clients, with only 6 clients exiting to homelessness.

3. <u>Evidence Supporting Strategy</u> - Housing First is an evidence-based practice proven effective in ending homelessness. Since moving all funded projects to this strategy in 2015 the CoC has increased the placement rate of households experiencing homelessness into permanent supportive housing and rapid rehousing. Prior to adoption of the Housing First framework, about 280 households entered permanent housing in a given year, 18% of which were persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness.   Upon adoption of the housing first framework, the CoC has increased the number of households exiting to PH with 437 households moving into permanent housing in the most recent year, 51% being households experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The recidivism rate for persons exiting to permanent housing has also decreased since the adoption of housing first, with the recidivism rate being 29% in 2014 decreasing to 17% in 2021. This work has also been supported by a focus on increasing the number of beds available to household experiencing homelessness. Since 2014 the CoC has increased the number of PSH and RRH beds by almost 200% growing from 355 beds in 2014 to 1,050 beds in 2022.

4. <u>New Practices</u> - Over the last three years the CoC has worked on demonstrating the effectiveness of the coordinated entry system to encourage non-required permanent housing partners to utilize coordinated entry to fill set aside units and housing authority vouchers. Through this work, the CoC has been able to take advantage of Mainstream Voucher, EHV Vouchers and Low-Income Tax Credit Set Aside units to house some of the most vulnerable clients in Hudson County. This process has also helped identify the best strategies and incentives that can be provided to housing authorities and other partners who decide to work with the CoC, which has proven successful, with four housing authorities seeking Stability Vouchers for Hudson County CoC. Additionally, over the years the CoC has implemented more specific monitoring questions and performance standards to get a better understanding of whether funded projects are truly implementing housing first programs. This process has highlighted some projects that need additional training as well as the need for defining what quality case management looks like in the community.

<u>P-4 Updating the CoC's Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness with Data and Performance</u>

1a. <u>Using Data to Improve Street Outreach</u> - The CoC will work to continually improve outreach services to ensure engagement and successful connection of households experiencing unsheltered homelessness to supports, shelter and permanent housing. Drawing from focus group feedback, all system projects will be required to implement and demonstrate the provision of trauma informed services and update their staffing to include case workers and peer support who have experienced homelessness. The CoC will draw from the following areas to review program success and identify areas for improvement:

    i. Program performance via HMIS data - Outreach projects will continue to collect data at initial engagement on the individual characteristics (age, race, ethnicity, gender), special needs, history of homelessness and connection to benefits and income. For each encounter programs will capture services provided, barriers to enrollment, referrals made, and results of encounters. The CoC will evaluate outreach programs on an annual basis using these data points to determine project performance with regards to connection to coordinated entry, level of housing related services provided, level of shelter connection services provided, % of households connected to benefits and income, % of household connected to identification, length of time for engagement/discharge. The CoC will also cross reference outreach data with other HMIS entering program types to understand connection rates to coordinated entry, shelter, and permanent housing. Household characteristic data will be used to identify emerging trends in who experiences unsheltered homelessness in the region which will be used to inform modifications in service delivery.

    ii. Feedback from focus groups – the CoC Lead Agency will work with the Community Consultant Advisory Board to facilitate quarterly focus groups with people who have recently experienced unsheltered homelessness. The focus group sessions will include a facilitated conversation around the services provided, quality of services, program barrier, gaps in current services available and general recommendations for system improvements. In addition to the CoC facilitated focus groups, each outreach agency will be required to hold focus groups with clientele connecting with people who have recently or are currently going through outreach services. Information from the focus groups will be used to inform program adjustments, identify new policies, identify training needs, and identify new resources that need to be added to the system. Each project is expected to go through this internal review while the CoC conducts a system review that will inform improvements in outreach activities.

    iii. Project monitoring – Each outreach program will be monitored by the CoC on an annual basis. The project monitoring will include a review of program policies and protocols, client and program files, and interviews with program staff. The CoC will evaluate compliance with CoC and HUD program requirements, financial management of the program, and adherence to best practices such as creating a trauma informed environment, utilizing motivational interviewing and providing a strengths-based case management support.

1b. <u>Connection to Coordinated Entry and HMIS</u> - Street outreach programs will continue to connect individuals engaged to the coordinated entry system. Upon engagement of an individual, the outreach team will connect the person to the Coordinated Entry program

operated by Garden State CDC (GSCDC) for assessment and placement on the prioritization list. Individuals will be connected to GSCDC CE staff either through the outreach worker contacting the mobile CE staff to coordinate meeting at an agreed upon location and time, or the outreach team will coordinate an appointment and transportation to the GSCDC drop-in center for completion of the CE assessment. Feedback from the community consultants identified the need for immediate connection to coordinated entry for unsheltered clients, including after hours. Through this initiative, an after-hours and weekend coordinated entry staff member will be hired to ensure no one who is willing to meet with coordinated entry is missed due to office hours. Outreach staff will record all encounters in HMIS and identify the service progress at each encounter including reporting on referral to CE and connection to CE. Once connected to CE staff, the individual will be assessed and the CE staff will enter that data in HMIS.

1c. Incorporating New Partners - The CoC has identified healthcare as a significant need through focus group sessions with community consultants experiencing unsheltered homelessness and discussion with service providers in the region. In response to these identified gaps, the CoC will fund outreach expansion projects that will incorporate medical staff into outreach teams that are connected to FQHCs and Health systems in the region. Additionally, the CoC along with the outreach teams will coordinate quarterly meetings with municipal officials including police, community development, business districts and elected officials to update on progress towards engaging and placing persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness as well as identify opportunities for new partnerships and programs to speed progress and/or address emerging challenges.

2a. Using Data to Improve Shelter - The CoC strives to ensure shelters within the region are accessible to all persons experiencing homelessness. While shelters are not required to only accept referrals for placement from coordinated entry, they are highly encouraged to ensure low barrier access for households with high vulnerabilities. The CoC will provide training and support to shelters to implement low barrier services in the community. The CoC will also provide support to shelters to ensure provision of trauma informed services and work with agencies to build program staffing that includes people who have previously experienced homelessness. Shelter programs will be monitored to support performance improvements in the following ways:

  i. HMIS Data review – Shelters are required to enter information about all persons served through an intake and discharge record. The CoC will review the vulnerability scores of persons in the shelter to determine the accessibility of the program to highly vulnerable households. Additionally, the CoC will review average length of stay, discharge destinations and reason for discharge disaggregated by vulnerability score and race. Finally, the CoC will review the number of referrals sent through coordinated entry looking at the percent admitted in comparison to the percent denied as well as the overall percent of admissions from people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This information will be reviewed on an annual basis to highlight areas of focus for further exploration of shelter barriers.

  ii. Feedback from Focus Groups – The CoC will conduct quarterly focus group sessions with people who have recently accessed shelter services to examine the quality of care provided. The CoC will work with the Community Consultant Advisory Board to facilitate these sessions to elicit honest feedback about ways to improve shelter services

within the region. The feedback from these sessions may inform the trainings offered, new or enhance CoC policies, updated program protocols, identification of new resources/services needed and shelter program funding. In addition to the CoC run focus groups, the CoC will encourage all shelter programs to facilitate their own internal focus group sessions. The Community Consultant Advisory Board may provide guidance on administering focus groups to ensure a safe space for open and honest feedback.

iii. Project Monitoring – The CoC will partner with the entitlement jurisdictions in the areas as well as with other local funding sources to establish a standard monitoring process for shelters in the region. The monitoring will include a review of program policies and procedures, program and client files, financial management, and interviews with key staff. As part of the monitoring process, the CoC will evaluate the level of trauma informed supports offered, and use of other best practices such as motivational interviewing, strengths-based case management and other approaches to actively support clients in connecting to benefits, services and housing.

2b. Using Data to Expand Shelter - As determined through the above identified shelter review process, the CoC will evaluate whether the existing shelter services sufficiently provide low barrier access to highly vulnerable households including those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The CoC will review HMIS data and feedback from focus groups to determine if expansions are necessary in the number of low barrier shelter beds in the region. The CoC will review the total number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in relation to the total number of low barrier shelter beds (adjusted based on average length of stay) available within a 12-month period. The CoC will also look at the total number of unsheltered referrals to shelter that were denied in relation to the total number of referrals submitted to identify the gap in service request versus service availability. With this information the CoC may work with additional shelter programs to transition their beds to low-barrier shelter or may explore the provision of non-congregate shelter options.

2c. New Practices - The CoC saw tremendous success with the non-congregate shelters that were stood up in response to COVID over the last 2 years. The CoC partners with a local hotel and provided XX rooms for non-congregate shelter to persons with COVID or at increased risk. While no new projects under this NOFO will specifically expand or continue the non-congregate sheltering program implemented during COVID, the CoC is exploring the ability to use HOME-ARP funding to develop a non-congregate shelter, including a set aside of beds that have medical services available for clients who have medical needs that traditional shelter cannot provide, but do not need to be hospitalized.

3a. Using Data to Improve Permanent Housing - The CoC will work with permanent housing programs to ensure access and support for households experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The CoC will review HMIS data to evaluate the rate of admission of unsheltered households, length of time from enrollment to household move in, and rate of referral approval/rejection. In addition to the HMIS data, the CoC will also monitor program policies, procedures, and protocols for admission to determine if there are barriers to access not evident through the HMIS data. The CoC will also speak with focus groups on a quarterly basis to understand challenges with program access and determine if additional changes are necessary to PH operations to improve access. Additionally, the CoC will

ensure all PH providers are training their staff on best practices in authentic engagement including trauma informed care, motivational interviewing, strengths-based case management and engagement techniques (facilitated by persons who have experienced homelessness). These measures will assist the PH programs in creating a welcoming environment that works to eliminate barriers and foster empowerment.

3b. <u>Using Data to Expand Permanent Housing</u> - The CoC will review HMIS data regarding the rate of housing exits for unsheltered households, average length of homelessness, average length of time to placement and the rate of households entering unsheltered homelessness to understand if the current supply of PH opportunities is sufficient to meet the need. This data will inform the number of new housing opportunities that need to be created to outpace the number of people entering unsheltered homelessness so the CoC can position itself to end unsheltered homelessness. This evaluation will be done on an annual basis to refine the CoC efforts to expand PH opportunities for unsheltered households. Focus group sessions with persons currently experiencing unsheltered homelessness and those who have been housed, will be held to understand the type of housing opportunities that need to be created to add to the system. These discussions will focus on the unique features of PSH programs that most adequately address household needs, service approaches that need to be expanded, and program structures that will most quickly and effectively support people in housing stability. The CoC will leverage the success in placing clients in the non-CoC funded units leveraged in this submission to encourage additional set-asides and preferences to increase stock available to persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The CoC will build a housing expansion plan from this data and will work with community partners to create these new opportunities.

<u>P-5 Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness</u>

1. <u>Use of NOFO Resources</u> - The CoC has identified several areas in need of improvement to enhance efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness. Through conversations with people who have experienced unsheltered homelessness in the region the primary areas of focus include: establishing better rapport with unsheltered persons, expanding the hours of access, providing targeted supports for document collection and housing search and placement, and improving trauma informed service provision. The projects selected for funding include expansion of outreach services to support extended hours and peer staff as well as the provision of medical services within the outreach teams. Funding has also been provided for expansion of the drop-in center program to ensure longer hours of access as an alternative point of entry into the system. The CoC has also provided additional funding to expand coordinated entry staffing to accommodate and target assessment services to the unsheltered population through provision of on call staff responding to outreach team referrals. Finally, the CoC has directed resources towards new permanent supportive housing programs that will target people experiencing unsheltered homelessness as well as a new service only program that will enable existing permanent supportive housing providers to pair services with non-CoC funded vouchers that traditionally do not have comprehensive supportive services attached, increasing the stock of permanent supportive housing units for clients with high vulnerabilities.

2. Adopting Processes to Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness - As part of the plan to reduce unsheltered homelessness the CoC will engage in extensive review of existing program policies and procedures to ensure accessibility for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. This will include a review of emergency shelter eligibility requirements and protocols as well as permanent supportive housing programs eligibility and protocols to ensure unintended barriers are not in place for persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. All programs funded under this unsheltered NOFO will work with the CoC and community consultant focus groups to establish program eligibility requirements and protocols in an effort to ensure maximum access and reduced program barriers. The CoC has set aside funding through this unsheltered NOFO to cover cost related to expansion of the coordinated entry system. The new project will provide resources for assessment specialists that will target the unsheltered population working through the drop-in centers and directly with outreach teams to complete assessments of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The assessment staff will be available during evening and weekend hours and will provide for on call supports so that the persons identified by outreach and community partners may be assessed immediately upon engagement reducing the risk of loss of contact when referred to assessment specialists during business hours.

3. Utilizing Outreach for Housing Connection - Funding through this NOFO will support the expansion of outreach teams to provide services in the evening and weekend hours as well as the enhancement of outreach staff to include peer specialists and a registered nurse. The expansion of the team to include peer specialists and medical supports will better equip teams to build connections to persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The outreach teams will focus on supporting unsheltered persons in securing documents needed for housing, connecting them to the coordinated entry assessment team and providing support in the housing search and placement process.. Once the coordinated entry staff has identified a possible housing opportunity for individuals, the outreach team will work closely with the housing navigation program and the coordinated entry program to ensure unsheltered individuals have the supports necessary to quickly move through the housing application search and placement process. This may include providing assistance with completing applications, providing supports in collecting necessary documents, and explaining the process for accessing housing. The CoC will build a stronger connection to housing opportunities through the expansion of housing programs targeting unsheltered populations.

4a. Increased Access to Identification - In conversation with focus groups of people who have experienced unsheltered homelessness, many individuals indicated that they did not have access to identification and the process of obtaining an ID could be very difficult to navigate.. As IDs are incredibly important for accessing services, the County (through CDBG funding) has funded a program targeted at households experiencing homelessness to assist in obtaining birth certificates and photo IDs. Information about this program will be shared more widely and clients will be connected to this program through outreach teams and coordinated entry staff. Additionally, staff will be SOAR trained and will utilize connections to the County Welfare Office to expedite copies of identification on file that can be used for accessing services.

4b. Access to Housing Navigation Services - Persons identified as experiencing unsheltered homelessness will be immediately connected to the coordinated entry system through the on

call coordinated entry staff. Once connected to the coordinated entry system, these individuals will be prioritized for housing especially those units dedicated to persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness. All persons referred to housing opportunities identified by the coordinated entry system will be simultaneously referred to the housing navigation program in the community. Persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness will be given priority for housing navigation services. The housing navigation team will support individuals referred in the housing search and placement process through the following services: identification of units meeting household needs, support and completing applications, assistance in walking through the unit, negotiating with landlords, completing all documentation to secure vouchers and finalize the lease. Given the unique needs of persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness, the housing navigation team will provide enhanced services such as transportation to and from units, covering application fees, and virtual viewing of potential apartments if transportation proves to be difficult.

4c. <u>Access to Healthcare and Other Supportive Services</u> - The outreach programs selected for funding through this unsheltered NOFO process include the addition of medical staff directly on the outreach team. . Each outreach team will include new nursing staff that can provide general medical care such as wound care, testing, vaccine provision, medication management, and health system navigation services should people need to address identified health care needs within a larger health system setting. Additionally, the drop-in centers within the community have health services that are available on a regular basis such as testing for COVID and HIV and vaccines such as COVID vaccine and flu shots. All drop-in centers also provide space for community partners to meet with clients on site to provide services. Partners include LGBTQ+ agencies and mental health providers.

<u>P-6 Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Decision Making – Meaningful Outreach</u>

1. <u>Meaningful Outreach Efforts</u> - The CoC has worked to engage people who have had lived experience of homelessness in the planning process through a variety of methods over the last two years. This has included outreach to service providers working directly with people who have experienced homelessness including outreach teams, shelters, permanent supportive housing programs and drop-in centers. Each of these programs were asked to provide referrals of people they work with who might be interested in participating in focus groups designed to understand how to improve system services. Flyers were created for these focus groups and provided to programs for display within their offices. Persons experiencing homelessness could work through their case manager or complete a self-referral online to be connected to the focus group sessions. The CoC also organized focus group sessions at drop-in centers within the community. Community providers were notified of the scheduled focus group times in advance so they could inform potentially interested individuals of the upcoming sessions. In addition, during each appointed session time focus group facilitators invited anyone utilizing the drop-in services that day to attend the session. Through these methods the CoC was able to hold multiple focus groups over the last year with participation from 30 individuals. All focus group members received a $50 visa gift card and were given the opportunity to sign up for participation in future focus groups. For each successive focus group all individuals who previously signed up were contacted via e-mail or phone according to the contact provided at the time of the initial focus group

session. After completion of these successful focus groups, the CoC began hosting weekly focus groups with the drop in center staff in addition to bimonthly sessions that will focus specifically on system issues that members could weigh in on.

2. Integration Into CoC Decision-making - The focus group sessions were facilitated by a non-conflicted third-party partner and offered participants and opportunity to provide anonymous feedback about system challenges and areas for improvement. Each session focused on a particular aspect of the system planning process such as funding priorities, program policies, system needs or access issues, etc. These sessions included a facilitated conversation on the particular planning issue and included an opportunity for participants to share their thoughts on how to improve system services and to identify gaps or areas that are not working as intended. Feedback from these focus groups were shared with the executive committee and community stakeholders. The CoC lead took feedback from these focus groups to formulate funding priorities for this unsheltered NOFO as well as the plan to reduce unsheltered homelessness. Specific strategies were developed directly from the feedback provided by the focus groups. This information was shared with the focus groups for additional review and feedback before finalizing the community strategies. Moving forward, the CoC will continue hosting focus groups to ensure all new projects and initiatives are in line with what is needed from the perspective of people with lived experience. Additionally, focus group members will be given the ability to become a formal member of the Executive Committee and Performance and Evaluation Committee if they are interested.

3. Involvement of Persons with Lived Experience at the Project Level - The CoC encourages all agencies providing services and supports to persons experiencing homelessness to integrate a feedback loop with persons utilizing their programs. Examples may include client satisfaction surveys, program focus groups, or hiring staff who have experienced homelessness. The CoC evaluates projects integration of persons with lived experience through the monitoring process. Monitoring questions include: how the CoC collects input from program participants, how they incorporate that input through program policies and how their staff and board represent the clients they are serving and include persons with lived experience. Agencies that demonstrate a strong integration of voices of people who have experienced homelessness into the planning and program implementation process receive higher points on the CoC monitoring tool. As an outgrowth of the unsheltered plan, the CoC is exploring more ways to provide support to persons who have experienced homelessness that might be interested in participating in the field as service providing staff or planning staff and is identifying what training can be offered to help bridge the staffing gap for community agencies.

P-7 Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Community Development

1. Current Strategy to Identify Underserved Populations - The CoC works with outreach teams, local law enforcement, hospital partners, and the faith-based community partners to understand which groups may be experiencing unsheltered homelessness but not accessing the system's services. This information is compared against HMIS data collected from outreach teams, the drop-in centers, and coordinated entry to identify the severity of the gap

in access for the identified subpopulations. This data is shared with focus groups of people who have experienced homelessness to corroborate the need in the identified populations. The CoC reviews underserved population data on an annual basis to determine if there are emerging populations that require specific service strategies to encourage engagement.

2. Underserved Communities Current Interactions - Some of the underserved populations that have been identified within the CoC include undocumented persons, non-English speakers, seniors, and clients with pets. Many within these groups will access drop-in center services and free supports provided through mobile outreach but will not engage in shelters or permanent housing due to a belief that the system cannot support their needs. The faith-based community and peers are the primary ways these individuals use to determine if it is worthwhile to engage.

3. Current Strategy to Serve those not Previously Served – The CoC is working on a number of strategies to engage different subpopulations that have been less likely to engage in services in the past. For undocumented clients, the CoC is partnering with agencies who have flexible funding such as Catholic Charities and justice support agencies that may be able to serve undocumented clients. For non-English speakers, the CoC is working to provide expanded supports through hiring of staff that are bilingual in English and Spanish as well as expanding the use of translation services that can be accessed by all programs. For seniors, the CoC has engaged the county's Office on Aging to ensure all providers are aware of senior specific services and housing that are available throughout the County. For clients that are seeking services with pets, agencies have applied for foundation funding to provide emergency placements. Providers have also advocated with the State to increase the allowed rate for hotel stays which would enable agencies to partner with hotels that allow pets and could accommodate these households.