

2016

Trenton/Mercer Continuum of Care

**Notice of Intent to Apply (NOIA)
For
U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development (HUD)
Fiscal Year 2016 Continuum of
Care (CoC) Program**

RENEWAL & NEW APPLICANTS

The NOIA including all required documentation must be received by
June 10, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

BACKGROUND

Each fiscal year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issues a Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) to provide communities with funding to assist homeless individuals and families with housing and supportive services to achieve long-term stability and end the cycle of homelessness. It is expected that the NOFA will be release early this summer, with a deadline of approximately 60 days after the release. To allow time for the local review and decision-making process, the City is publishing this Notice of Intent to Apply in advance of the NOFA. The City reserves the right to publish additional information subject to the NOFA publication.

A single, consolidated CoC Program application will be submitted by the City of all selected projects in Trenton/Mercer County. Funding will be derived from HUD FY16 allocation and is subject to funding availability under the NOFA. The City reserves the right to request that applicant organizations submit adjusted projects budgets based on the amount of available funding indicated by HUD. HUD will review the Consolidate Application and make the final award determination.

PROCESS

The Trenton/Mercer CoC will be accepting applications for:

- Renewal Projects
- Multi-year Projects that expire in FY2017
- New Projects that will provide Rapid Re-housing for homeless individuals, families and youth

APPLICANTS MUST USE THE APPROPRIATE APPLICATION FOR THE PROJECT THAT THEY ARE APPLYING FOR AND CAREFULLY READ THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR EACH PROJECT TYPE.

DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted to the City by **Friday, June 10, 2016 by 12:00 p.m.** Attached is the application for Renewal and New Projects. (Late applications will not be accepted). Applications must be submitted ELECTRONICALLY to: Vernett Sherrill, Grant Administrator, City of Trenton, Department of Health and Human Services vsherrill@trentonnj.org and a copy to Marygrace Billek at mbillek@mercercounty.org.

Notice of Intent to Apply for **Renewal** Projects

HUD Fiscal Year 2016 CoC Program

INTRODUCTION

As the Collaborative Applicant for the Trenton/Mercer Continuum of Care, the City of Trenton is requiring agencies interested in renewing projects for funding in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fiscal Year 2016 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Consolidated Application to submit a renewal application for each project.

Renewal applicants are required to complete this application by answering all questions and providing the required documentation. The Evaluation Committee, selected from the CoC Executive Membership will review the applications and the Ranking and Review Tool (see attached). Projects will be scored and ranked through the local CoC process.

The amount of funding to be available is estimated to be approximately \$3.5 million which is based on the amount of currently funded projects seeking renewal funding. The actual amount of funding available through reallocation and bonuses are unknown at this time.

The CoC reserves the right not to renew grants that have exhibited serious capacity issues in prior grants (including performance and financial problems); do not sufficiently participate in HMIS; have unresolved monitoring issues; or do not meet the priorities of the Continuum of Care.

THE NOIA IS REQUIRED FOR ALL RENEWAL PROJECTS AND A SEPARATE APPLICATION IS NEEDED FOR EACH PROJECT. The submission of an application is the first step in a competitive, yet collaborative, application process. Information should be provided based on the FY14 projects.

PROJECT RATING PROCESS

Upon receipt of your agency's application, a Performance Outcome's Report Card will be generated from HMIS data by the Systems Monitor for review and evaluation by the CoC Evaluation Team. Attached is a copy of the Performance Measures. For questions regarding HMIS data, please contact Joanne Locke, System Monitor at jlocke@merceralliance.org.

Renewal projects will be required to use the following:

- Coordinated Assessment System (s)
- New Chronically Homeless Definition
- Housing First-philosophy and model when appropriate

New Chronically Homeless Definition

Under the Department of Housing and Urban Development's [new definition](#), a chronically homeless individual is someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years (must be a cumulative of 12 months), and has a disability. A family with an adult member who meets this description would also be considered chronically homeless.

The [Final Rule on Defining “Chronically Homeless”](#) went into effect for the CoC Program on January 4, 2016 and HUD expected Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) providers to begin using it for all new admissions as of January 16, 2016. This means, beginning January 16, 2016, any PSH projects required to serve persons that are chronically homeless (either dedicated or prioritized) may only accept new program participants that meet this definition. Dedicated permanent supportive housing is that which is targeted exclusively to the chronically homeless (unless there are no chronically homeless persons within the geographic area, as described in [FAQ 1895](#)). These beds are reported as dedicated to the chronically homeless in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). Prioritized permanent supportive housing is that which is not specifically targeted for the chronically homeless but is prioritized for use by this population as beds become available through turnover. Recipients of CoC Program-funded permanent supportive housing that is either dedicated or prioritized are required to serve the chronically homeless in at least as many beds as indicated in the most recent grant application. These are the projects that are required to document a household’s status as chronically homeless before filling a dedicated or prioritized vacancy.

Please note that the definition of chronically homeless established by this final rule does not apply retroactively to program participants who were admitted to a CoC Program-funded permanent supportive housing program *prior* to January 16, 2016. This includes both households that are already housed as well as those that were admitted and enrolled into a permanent supportive housing program but who have not yet located a suitable unit. Persons that were on a waiting list prior to January 16, 2016 but who have not yet been enrolled into a permanent supportive housing program will have eligibility assessed at the point in which they are enrolled into a program and will be required to meet the definition of chronically homeless included in the final rule.

Housing First is a model of housing assistance that is offered without preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold) or service participation requirements and rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing are primary goals. Research shows that it is effective for the chronically homeless with mental health and substance abuse disorders, resulting in fewer inpatient stays and less expensive intervention than other approaches. PSH projects should use a Housing First approach in the design of the program

Notice of Intent to Apply for *NEW* Projects

HUD Fiscal 2016 CoC Program

New Projects

The Trenton/Mercer CoC is seeking applications for NEW PROJECTS for Rapid Re-housing projects for homeless individuals, families and youth. Under HEARTH, Rapid Re-Housing projects are considered permanent housing.

Funding

FY2016 funding for the CoC Program is currently unknown and funding is based on availability. The actual amount of funding available through reallocation and bonuses is unknown at this time. Budgets may reflect estimated costs for rental assistance, supportive services, operating and administration. Applications should include all costs associated with operating a project for the intended target population.

Rapid Re-Housing is a model of housing assistance that is designed to assist the homeless, with or without disabilities, move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. Rapid re-housing assistance is time-limited, individualized, and flexible, and is designed to complement and enhance homeless system performance and the performance of other homeless projects. Rapid re-housing (RRH) assistance aims to help individuals or families who are homeless move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing through a combination of rental assistance and supportive services.

While it can be use for any homeless person, preliminary evidence indicates that it can be particularly effective for households with children. Rapid re-housing for families must serve households with children living on the streets or in emergency shelter.

Using the centralized or coordinated assessment system, an initial evaluation must be conducted for each individual or family seeking RRH assistance in order to determine:

Eligibility

The eligibility for each individual or family seeking assistance is based on the individual's or family's living situation.

To receive **CoC rapid re-housing (CoC-RRH)** assistance, though, individuals and families may be defined as homeless under any of the four categories included in the Homeless Definition Final Rule:

- Literally homeless (Category 1).
- Imminently losing their primary night-time residence (Category 2).
- Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age or families with children and youth who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition but who are defined as homeless under another Federal statute and meet additional specified criteria

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- (Category 3). **Note:** For CoC-RRH assistance to be provided to persons defined as homeless under Category 3, the project must be located within the geographic area of a CoC that has received HUD approval to serve this population.
- Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions (Category 4).

For the homeless youth, please see the definition attachment and for more information on RRH for homeless youth click on: <https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/resources-for-homeless-youth/rrh-models-for-homeless-youth/>

Need

The amount and type of assistance needed for the individual or family to (re)gain stability in permanent housing.

The CoC Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) may impose additional eligibility requirements not reflected in the regulation. Projects funded to carry out RRH assistance under the CoC program must follow both CoC Program NOFA and regulatory requirements

The reader should refer to the webinar on Determining and Documenting Homeless and At-Risk Status, Income, and Disability for more detail on how to determine and document housing status for RRH assistance.

Eligible Costs Summary

Rental Assistance

- Short-term rental assistance (up to 3 months)
- Medium-term rental assistance (4-12 months-according to Trenton/Mercer CoC Policies)
- Tenant-based rental assistance only

Tenant-based rental assistance (TBRA) enables program participants to locate housing of their choice in the private rental market. If a program participant later moves to another suitable unit, he or she may apply the rental assistance to the new unit. Even with the TBRA model, sub-recipients may require program participants to live within a particular geographic area or in a specific structure for the first year and in a specific area for the remainder of their period of participation as per HUD 24 CFR part 578.51(c).

Eligible Costs

Financial assistance (eligible under rental assistance)

- Security deposits (up to 2 months)
- First and last month's rent
- Property damage

Supportive Services

- Case management
- Child care
- Education services

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- Employment assistance and job training
- Food
- Housing search and counseling services including mediation, credit repair, and payment of rental application fee
- Legal services
- Life skills training
- Mental health services
- Moving costs
- Outpatient health services
- Outreach services
- Substance abuse treatment services
- Transportation
- Utility deposits

Projects must be located within a CoC that has received HUD approval to serve this category. For more information about receiving HUD approval, please read: **Notice on Limitation on Use of Funds to Serve Persons Defined as Homeless Under Other Federal Laws**

For more information on the final HUD definition on homelessness and the CoC, please view the HUD Homeless Resource Exchange website at www.hudexchange.info