

Notice of Funding Opportunity
2021 Knoxville-Knox County Continuum of Care
(TN-502)

August 30, 2021

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development has released its 2021 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoC NOFO), which is a nation-wide competition for funding to support certain homelessness-related housing, services and other related resources. Cities and localized regions across the country form collaborative “Continuum of Care” bodies to facilitate coordinated applications for this funding. Knoxville and Knox County Tennessee have one such CoC body, in the form of the Knoxville-Knox County Coalition for the Homeless. The City of Knoxville’s Office on Homelessness has been designated as this CoC’s “Collaborative Applicant” for the purposes of directly coordinating the application submission process.

HUD’s 2021 CoC NOFO includes deadlines for submitting a collaborative application package as well as other procedural deadlines required to carry out the collaborative process prior to the final submission deadline. The Knoxville-Knox County CoC will seek to meet or exceed HUD’s required deadlines in order to carry out an open and fair application process. The Knoxville Knox County CoC’s 2021 timeline will therefore include local deadlines that may occur **before** HUD’s required deadlines. Applicants seeking inclusion in the 2021 Knoxville-Knox County CoC Collaborative Application will be required to meet the local process timelines and deadlines. Those dates, along with information and requirements for participating in the CoC application process will be published on the City of Knoxville’s Office on Homelessness webpage (www.knoxvilletn.gov/homelessness), and will also be shared via email and other means of notice.

Anyone considering applying for these funds should first read HUD’s NOFO and accompanying rules and regulations for the CoC program and application. All potential applicants must refer to HUD’s CoC NOFO and related information to understand the programs, process, and to access the online application. These rules and regulations are very specific and fairly complicated. Do not wait until the last minute to review and understand these rules. Although the local Collaborative Applicant (listed below) is available to help with this process, ***it is the responsibility of each project applicant to review and fully understand these program rules and regulations.*** HUD’s info is available at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2021-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/> .

The 2021 CoC application for Knoxville-Knox County will consist of a number of applications to renew funding to continue existing activities, and may also include new applications to fund eligible activities as described below and in the HUD NOFO. Any funding awarded to those agency and program-specific applications as a result of this process will be awarded and contracted directly between HUD and the recipient agency. Those funds do not flow through the City of Knoxville’s budget. All applications potentially included in the Knoxville-Knox County collaborative application will be subject to a review and ranking process as required in the HUD NOFO.

Knoxville/Knox County’s anticipated “Preliminary Pro Rata Need”: \$1,901,261. This is the total funding amount that HUD anticipates could be sought for funding in Knoxville-Knox County, Tennessee. Of that,

\$1,419,125 is anticipated to be sought for renewal of current, existing CoC projects in Knoxville-Knox County, Tennessee.

Although most CoC funding is generally expected to be used to renew existing programs, there are some competitive opportunities to win funding for new programs. The details of how these opportunities are awarded can be found in HUD's CoC regulations and in the 2021 HUD CoC funding announcement available at the link above. We have attempted to summarize those opportunities as they impact our local process here, with the understanding that HUD's information is where the rules are set.

A timeline for the local CoC process will also be published on the Office on Homelessness website at www.knoxvilletn.gov/homelessness. This timeline may be revised and updated during the process, so all potential applicants should check back regularly to assure they are aware of current deadlines and requirements.

Opportunities for potential new CoC funding for Knoxville-Knox County Tennessee in 2021:

a. CoC Bonus. Anticipated available funding amount: \$95,063.

Applicants may seek funding for a new, eligible program. The funding amount is generated based on our local potential amount for renewal funding. CoC Bonus funding is highly competitive nation-wide, and is contingent on a number of factors, including our CoC's overall application score, the new program application's locally-ranked priority, and the eligibility and quality of the individual program application. Details on the eligible program categories are available in HUD's 2021 CoC NOFO and CoC regulations. These eligible categories are summarized here.

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH)
- Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH)
- Combined Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing (TH/PH-RRH)
- Dedicated Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for the purposes of establishing a comparable database that serves the specific requirements of a Domestic Violence (DV) program (See HUD NOFO for details)
- Social Services Only-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) – to address complications and challenges of serving the DV victim population.

b. Domestic Violence Bonus. Anticipated available funding amount: \$285,189

Funding is specifically available to create new programs to address the needs of individuals and families who are victims of domestic violence. The funding amount is generated based on our local potential amount for renewal funding. CoC Domestic Violence Bonus funding is highly competitive nation-wide, and is contingent on a number of factors, including our CoC's overall application score, the new program application's locally-ranked priority, and the eligibility and quality of the individual program application. Details on the eligible program categories are available in HUD's 2021 CoC NOFO and CoC regulations. These eligible categories are summarized here. Eligible categories:

- Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH)

- Combined Transitional Housing/Rapid Rehousing (TH/PH-RRH)
- Social Services Only-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) – to address complications and challenges of serving the DV victim population.

If interested in new opportunities, please contact the CoC's designated Collaborative Applicant (Michael Dunthorn mdunthorn@knoxvilletn.gov) as soon as possible. New funding is highly competitive and is not guaranteed. New applicants to CoC funding are encouraged to seek this funding, along with current partners experienced in the CoC process. While this process is competitive, it is also a collaboration at the local level. Inclusion of individual agencies' applications in the Knoxville-Knox County CoC application package will be decided during the ranking process at the end of the local process. It is always possible that some applicants seeking funding ultimately may not be selected for inclusion in the final package, or will be ranked at the bottom of those that are included. We will work to carry out a fair process within the guidelines established by HUD, but inclusion and ranking position in the package submitted to HUD is not guaranteed, nor is funding from HUD guaranteed at the end of the process.