

OVERVIEW OF HUD HOMELESS and OTHER PROGRAMS

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“If I have the belief that I can do it,
I shall surely acquire the capacity to do it even if I may not have it at the beginning.”

Mahatma Gandhi

HUD HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

1. The U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) governs McKinney-Vento Act funding that is distributed to local and state governments. HUD’s mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.
2. Created by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act in 1987, and amended later to the McKinney-Vento Act, as the primary source of federal funding for programs serving people experiencing homelessness.
3. HUD homeless assistance programs broken down into two main categories*:
 - a) **Formula**- noncompetitive grants awarded through the Consolidated Plan process.
 - b) **Competitive**- part of the annual HUD Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Availability application to fund Supportive Housing & Shelter Plus Care Programs.
**Additional homeless programs are funded by HUD and other federal agencies.*
4. The Homeless Emergency & Rapid Transition to Housing (**HEARTH**) Act made significant changes to the McKinney-Vento Act with implementation to begin with the 2011 NOFA.

FORMULA HOMELESS PROGRAMS

1. **Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG)** provides basic shelter and essential supportive services including limited prevention services to people experiencing homelessness.
 - a) Formula-funded to entitlement cities and states
 - b) Funds used for operations, essential supportive services, and grant administration.
2. **Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)**
 - a) Funds to prevent at risk individuals and families from becoming homeless.
 - b) Assist persons experiencing homeless to be quickly stabilized and re-housed.
 - c) Funds used for financial assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services, data collection and evaluation, and administration.

CONTINUUM OF CARE-FUNDED COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS

1. Programs funded under the **Continuum of Care (CoC)** umbrella include:
 - a) Supportive Housing Program (SHP);
 - b) Shelter Plus Care Program (S+C); and
 - c) Section 8/SRO Moderate Rehabilitation Program.
2. The HEARTH Act will consolidate SHP, S+C and Mod Rehab/SRO into a single CoC Program offering more flexibility in the use of funds to address homelessness. HEARTH will create a uniform 25% cash match commitment from all CoC program applicants.

TYPES OF HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

- Rental Subsidies can be:
 - a) Project-Based = fixed rental subsidy attached to specific building.
 - b) Tenant-Based = mobile rental subsidy attached to person who selects housing unit.
 - c) Sponsor-Based = rental subsidy attached to non-profit sponsor who owns/leases.
- Supportive Services assist individuals and families to improve stability through increased income and self-sufficiency.
- Operating Costs fund project expenses needed to operate supportive housing.
- Administrative funds used for overhead and general management of project.
- Capital Grants and Loans used toward purchase, renovation or construction of building.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM (SHP)

1. Provides housing and related supportive services to assist people moving from homelessness to stability and permanent housing;
2. Collaborates with persons experiencing homelessness to meet three primary goals:
 - a) Support individual well-being and housing stability;
 - b) Expand income and life skills; and
 - c) Strengthen choice and self-determination.
3. Eligible grant applicants are States, units of local government, other governmental entities such as Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), and private nonprofits.

The Supportive Housing Program features six program components:

- I. Transitional Housing = temporary supportive housing with a stay of up to 24 months.
- II. Permanent Housing for Persons with Disabilities = long-term housing with supportive services.
- III. Supportive Services Only = support/outreach to assist in the transition to housing.
- IV. Safe Havens = supportive housing that serves hard-to-reach homeless persons with severe mental illness and other debilitating behavioral conditions who are on the street and have been unable or unwilling to participate in housing or supportive services.
- V. Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) = a data collection software designed to capture information over time on the characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness in a project and throughout the Continuum of Care.
- VI. Innovative Supportive Housing = a sensible model project that may be replicated elsewhere and demonstrates a distinctly different approach from other components.

SHELTER PLUS CARE PROGRAM (S+C)

1. The purpose of the Shelter Plus Care (S+C) Program is to provide rental assistance in connection with supportive services through a variety of permanent housing choices, accompanied by a range of supportive services funded through other sources.
2. S+C beneficiaries are hard to serve individuals with disabilities who are experiencing homelessness and their families. Individuals primarily include those who have a serious mental illness, chronic alcohol and/or drug disorders, and HIV/AIDS or related diseases.
3. To maintain housing assistance, S+C recipients must actively participate in an Individual Service Plan through collaboration of supportive services with a provider agency.
4. Eligible grant applicants may be States, local government units, and PHAs.
5. A variety of rental subsidy choices through the following:
 - a) Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TRA);
 - b) Sponsor-Based Rental Assistance (SRA);
 - c) Project-Based Rental Assistance (PRA); and
 - d) Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program for Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Dwellings.

CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC)

A CoC is a collaborative funding and planning approach to assist communities in providing a full range [continuum] of outreach, prevention, emergency, transitional, permanent supportive housing and other services to address homelessness.

HUD also refers to the group of consumers, service providers, housing providers/developers, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders involved in the decision-making processes as the “Continuum of Care.”

CoCs may apply for HUD CoC program funding through the annual **Notice of Funding Availability** (NOFA) application that includes:

1. Registration and a Grants Inventory Worksheet;
2. An Exhibit I with CoC structure, objectives, goals, HMIS activities, and more.
3. Exhibit II’s for each grant renewal, as well as bonus project, in the CoC.

CoC Primary Decision-Making Group is the entity defined in the NOFA as the official body representing a community plan that organizes and delivers housing and services to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness. Tasks of the CoC may include:

Advocacy and awareness of homelessness;

1. Establishing roles and responsibilities of the CoC including group process to govern and conduct business (agendas, meeting facilitation, committees, etc.);
2. Establishing strategic plans and coordination with other planning efforts;
3. Maintaining goals, objectives and action steps;
4. Collaborating with Mainstream Housing and Service Programs.
5. Increasing membership participation of varied stake-holders, including consumers;
6. Supporting local homeless/housing coalitions, also known as “regional CoCs”;
7. Collaborating with systems of care to address needs of consumers and providers;
8. Conducting broad project monitoring and rating and review based on CoC priorities;
9. Approving the final CoC NOFA application submission;
10. Designating a **CoC Lead Agency** to assist in the management of some CoC activities;
11. Ensuring CoC data collections efforts are completed through direct oversight or coordination with a **HMIS Lead Agency**.

In addition to supporting the Primary-Decision-Making Group on several of the above activities, the **CoC Lead Agency** may also collaborate in:

1. Managing annual HUD CoC NOFA homeless assistance application;
2. Coordinating Annual Homeless Point-in-Time Count and Housing Inventory Chart;
3. Ensuring HUD Program and CoC Compliance;
4. Providing grant and financial management;
5. Assessing performance of projects and providers;
6. Offering technical assistance to project sponsors and other CoC stakeholders;
7. Organizing report requirements to HUD and other entities.

HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

HMIS is the information system designated by a CoC to process Protected Personal Information (PPI) and other data in order to create an unduplicated accounting of homelessness within the CoC. The HMIS may provide other functions beyond unduplicated accounting such as:

1. Locally administered, electronic data collection system that stores longitudinal person-level information about persons who access the homeless service system.
2. Streamline intake, helps coordinate case management.
3. Measure individual household and project performance.
4. Produce reports for funders, boards and other stakeholders.
5. Increase understanding of the extent and scope of homelessness, informing systems design and policy decisions.

Protected Personal Information (PPI): Information about a client: (1) whose identity is apparent from the information or can reasonably be ascertained from the information; or (2) whose identity can, taking into account any methods reasonably likely to be used, be learned by linking the information with other available information or by otherwise manipulating the information.

Processing: An operation or set of operations performed on PPI, whether or not by automated means, including but not limited to collection, maintenance, use, disclosure, transmission and destruction of the PPI.

End User (or User): An employee, volunteer, affiliate, associate, and any other individual acting on behalf of a Provider Agency or HMIS Lead Agency who uses or enters data in the HMIS or another administrative database from which data are periodically uploaded to the HMIS.

HMIS Software Solution Provider: An organization that sells, licenses, donates, builds or otherwise supplies the HMIS user interface, application functionality and database.

HMIS Vendor: A contractor who is paid to provide services for the operation of a CoCs HMIS. A HMIS vendor includes the HMIS software solution provider, web server host, and data warehouse provider, as well as a provider of other contracted information technology or support.

HMIS Lead Agency: A CoC-designated organization that may operate the HMIS on its behalf.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT (PIT)

1. A one-night count of sheltered and unsheltered adults, children and unaccompanied youth who meet the HUD-definition of homelessness and precariously housed to help understand the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness.
2. PIT/HIC included in the CoC NOFA to determine need, progress, and funding.
3. Regional CoCs/Coalitions, statewide organizations and other stakeholders play a critical role in conducting the PIT count.

HOUSING INVENTORY CHART (HIC)

1. The HIC is designed to accurately reflect each Continuum of Care's capacity to house homeless and formerly homeless persons, in addition to people served through HPRP.
2. The HIC is a complete inventory of HPRP, emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing beds available in the CoC.
3. The inventory should include all HUD-funded beds, as well as non-HUD funded programs that provide housing to homeless and formerly homeless persons.
4. Programs that should be counted: shelters, transitional and permanent supportive housing for the homeless, and faith-based/private organization homeless networks.
5. Programs that should not be counted: Sect. 8 Housing Choice Vouchers or Project-Based; market-rate units; hospitals, psychiatric facilities, treatment centers, nursing homes or other medical facilities; jails, prisons, detention facilities or related transitional housing and programs; foster care home, group homes and other non-homeless beds.

HOMELESS EMERGENCY & RAPID TRANSITION TO HOUSING (HEARTH) Act: 2009 brought new legislation into law that amends/enhances the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:

1. Promoting community-wide commitment to prevent and end homelessness.
2. Enhancing utilization of HMIS for reporting and performance measures.
3. Focusing on performance, measures and outcomes of individuals, households and CoCs.
4. Increasing funds and attention to the prevention of homelessness.
5. Quickly re-house persons experiencing homelessness to minimize trauma/dislocation.
6. Enhancing access to mainstream resources (housing, SSDI/SSI, Food Stamps, TANF, etc).
7. Optimize self-sufficiency, life skills and stability to reduce return to homelessness.
8. Change HUD definition of homelessness and chronic homelessness.
9. Consolidate HUD's competitive grant programs (SHP, S+C and Mod Rehab/SRO).
10. Coordinate plans: Consolidated Plan, 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, Public Housing Authority Plans, Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness, Discharge Plans.
11. Strengthen systems of care through strong community, state and federal partnerships.
12. Simplify cash match and leveraging requirements to 25% for all projects.
13. Create a Rural Housing Stability Program to address the needs of rural areas.
14. Increasing project administrative funding to 10%, formerly 5%.
15. New administrative funding, up to 3%, to CoCs with a Unified Funding Agency.

OTHER FEDERAL TARGETED PROGRAMS

EHCY = Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program ensures that homeless students have equal access to the same free, appropriate, public education (including public preschool) to meet the same challenging state content and student performance standards.

RHYP = Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs encompass many programs that assist youth transitioning to stability and housing including the: Basic Center Program, Transitional Living Program, Street Outreach Program, and the National Runaway Switchboard.

FVPSA = U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services-Family Violence Prevention and Services Program provides primary federal funding to emergency shelter and assistance for victims of domestic violence and dependents.

OVW = U.S. Dept. of Justice-Office on Violence Against Women Programs, as part of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), assist communities to end domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and provide victims with protection and services needed to pursue safe and healthy lives, while holding offenders accountable for their acts of violence.

HCH = Health Care for the Homeless Program is a multi-disciplinary approach to deliver care to homeless clients through aggressive street outreach, emergency and primary health services, mental health and substance abuse services, case management, and client advocacy with an emphasis on coordinating with other community health providers and social service agencies.

PATH = U.S. Dept. of HHS/Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration-Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness Program provides community-based outreach and a wide-range of supportive services for people with serious mental illness, including those with co-occurring substance use disorders, to assist in accessing housing. HHS/SAMHSA provides additional grants for supportive services to address substance abuse & mental illness.

HUD-HOPWA = Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS provides housing assistance combined with comprehensive supportive services through community-wide partnerships.

HUD-VASH = Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing combines a HUD Housing Choice Voucher rental subsidy for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services.

HUD-FUP = Family Unification Program provides tenant-based housing choice voucher subsidies, through a PHA and public child welfare agency, to families for whom the lack of adequate housing is a primary factor in the separation, or threat of imminent separation, of children from their families or in the prevention of reunifying the children with their families.

FEDERAL MAINSTREAM HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS

HUD-PHA = Public Housing Authorities provide safe, affordable rental housing and/or rental assistance for eligible low-income families, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Rental subsidies may be: tenant-based Housing Choice Vouchers, project-based subsidies, homeowner opportunities, public housing projects, and more. Each PHA has the discretion to establish preferences to reflect needs in its own community.

Section 811 = supportive housing designated for people with disabilities and low income.

Section 202 = supportive housing designated for seniors with low incomes.

HUD-HOME Investment Partnerships Program = provides formula grants to States and localities, often used in partnership with local nonprofit groups, to fund a wide range of activities that build, buy, and/or rehabilitate affordable housing for rent or homeownership or provide direct rental assistance to low-income people including grants, direct loans, rental assistance, security deposits, loan guarantees or other forms of credit enhancement.

CDBG = HUD Community Development Block Grant to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. HUD determines the annual appropriation by using a formula comprised of community need, including the extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing, and population growth lag in relationship to other metropolitan areas. Grantees must develop and implement plans to encourage citizen participation.

CSBG = U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services-Community Services Block Grant is a formula grant, typically to Community Action Agencies and related agencies, that assist in the provision of supportive services to assist low-income individuals and families to become self-sufficient including childcare, employment, education, emergency services, health care, housing, nutrition, transportation, youth development, community participation and more.

USDA-RD = Rural Development Housing Programs support individuals & communities through: Guaranteed Home/Repair Loans, Water/Waste Grants, Multi-Family Housing Preservation, etc.

HUD-NSP = Neighborhood Stabilization Program provides assistance to stabilize communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment through the purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed and abandoned homes and residential properties.

SSBG = U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services-Social Services Block Grant funds enable each State to promote individual and family self-sufficiency through preventing abuse or exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interest, or preserving or reuniting families; preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home-based care or other forms of less intensive care; and/or securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals in institutions.

LIST OF OTHER RELATED DEFINITIONS AND PROGRAMS

AHAR (Annual Homeless Assessment Report): HUD's annual report to Congress on the nature and extent of homelessness nationwide. The report details yearly homelessness counts, demographics, trends, and service usage; reports are compared and contrasted to data collected for previous years, helping to determine if homelessness is increasing or decreasing.

APR (Annual Performance Report): A reporting tool that HUD uses to track program progress and accomplishments of HUD homeless assistance and HPRP Programs on an annual basis.

HUD (Housing and Urban Development): A Federal organization aiming to increase homeownership, support community development and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination. (HUD.gov)

NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability): includes important information on program priorities, general requirements, funding levels, and contacts for each program.

PIT (Point in Time): Homelessness-related data reported on a single night during the year

TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families): Money set aside to give assistance to families in danger of becoming homeless. This money can be used for such things as back rental or utility payments, deposits, rent and utilities. This money is specific for preventing homelessness.

Victim Service Provider: A nonprofit or non-governmental organization including rape crisis centers, battered women's shelters, domestic violence transitional housing programs, and other programs whose primary mission is to provide services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Information in this document came from the following sources:

- HUD/Cloudburst Group: November 2010 Conference materials
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