



FY 2015 CoC Program Competition

CoC Ranking & Funding Priorities Recommendations Survey

Overview

As described in the [CoC's Process for Project Review, Reallocation, Selection & Ranking](#), recommendations from the CoC are a key component to the overall strategic resource allocation decision making process in the 2015 CoC competition. The CoC Board's Evaluation Panel will rely on CoC Recommendations to inform their decisions related to funding priorities, reallocation, ranking and tiering. For more information about the 2015 CoC competition and HUD's Policy Priorities, please reference the [CoC's NOFA Overview & Application Process](#) document.

This survey is being distributed to active members of the CoC (organizations and individuals who have been present at 50% or more of CoC meetings in the past 12 months). Each active CoC organization may submit one response to the survey. The survey is designed to gather data from active CoC members on preferences related to funding priorities, reallocation, and ranking strategy. Results from the survey will be compiled and presented to the CoC Board's Evaluation Panel for consideration as part of their decision making process.

Respondents must identify themselves on the form so CoC staff can ensure that each active organization only submits one response. However, individual responses will not be presented in an identified manner. In other words, when publishing aggregate results of the survey, no one agency or individual's responses will be identified.

Summary of Existing Projects

Please review the Project Workbook sent with this survey to better understand the types of projects currently supported by Cambridge CoC Program funds. The Project Workbook includes a listing of the CoC's current inventory, project descriptions, and a worksheet you can use to test different ranking strategies. It is intended to provide information and tools to help you respond to the survey. You do not need to return the Workbook with your survey response.

RECOMMENDATIONS SURVEY

Respondent Name (Individual respondents should enter your name, and agency respondents should enter the name of your organization).

Funding Priorities

1. The Cambridge CoC has several important funding goals, but the competitive nature of this year's competition requires that these goals be prioritized. Based on your opinion of importance relative to housing and service needs in Cambridge, please rank the following items in order of priority, with 1 being the highest priority.

_____ Expand funding for Permanent Housing projects.

_____ Preserve funding for existing Permanent Housing projects.

_____ Preserve funding for existing residential projects (Transitional and Permanent) that are physically located in Cambridge.

_____ Expand funding for the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) so the CoC can better track and report performance as mandated by HUD.

_____ Expand funding for the Coordinated Access system so the CoC can implement a robust system that meets HUD's requirements and works well for our community.

_____ Preserve funding for existing Supportive Service projects that help the CoC meet HUD performance goals.

_____ Other (Please describe if you include it in your ranking):

2. If the CoC receives proposals for Permanent Housing Bonus projects, what project types should be prioritized for funding? Please select all that apply.
- Permanent Supportive Housing projects for Chronically Homeless individuals.
- Rapid Rehousing Projects for homeless individuals and/or families, including unaccompanied youth and households fleeing domestic violence.
3. HUD's funding priorities place Permanent Housing (PH), HMIS and Coordinated Access projects above Transitional Housing (TH) and Supportive Services Only (SSO) projects. Please indicate the order of priority you would assign to the different project types in the CoC, with 1 being the highest priority. Additional detail about the different types of TH and SSO projects in the CoC's inventory has been added to allow respondents to precisely indicate priorities.
- _____ Permanent Housing
- _____ HMIS
- _____ Coordinated Access
- _____ Transitional Housing for households fleeing domestic violence
- _____ Transitional Housing for individuals living with HIV/AIDS
- _____ Transitional Housing for individuals recovering from substance abuse
- _____ Supportive Services – field-based (mobile) case management
- _____ Supportive Services – housing search and stabilization
- _____ Supportive Services – legal services
- _____ Supportive Services – representative payee
- _____ Supportive Services – street outreach

Reallocation

Please reference the [2015 CoC NOFA](#), the CoC's [Process for Project Review, Reallocation, Selection & Ranking](#), and the CoC's [NOFA Overview & Application Process](#) document for information about Reallocation in the 2015 CoC Program Competition.

4. The 2015 NOFA offers CoCs a rare opportunity to increase funding for Coordinated Access and HMIS, both of which are critical to the CoC's capacity to comply with HUD regulations and performance standards, and to use data to improve outcomes for clients. Current funding is not sufficient to meet new requirements, which will likely impact the CoC's capacity to compete for limited HUD funding in future competitions.

The Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP), the CoC's Collaborative Applicant and HMIS Lead, recommends expanding funding for Coordinated Access and HMIS through reallocation. Specifically, DHSP recommends that funds identified through Reallocation Assessments be dedicated to HMIS and Coordinated Access projects. Please indicate your preferences related to this recommendation.

- Agree with the recommendation to dedicate reallocation funds to HMIS and Coordinated Access projects.
- Disagree with the recommendation to dedicate reallocation funds to HMIS and Coordinated Access projects.
- If you disagree with the recommendation, please select one of the following:
- Funds identified through Reallocation Assessments should be dedicated to Permanent Housing Expansion projects instead of HMIS or Coordinated Access projects.
- Funds identified through Reallocation Assessments should not be reallocated in this year's competition.

5. Several of the Cambridge CoC's existing SSO projects provide services and/or functions that could potentially be incorporated into an expanded Coordinated Access project, a project type that HUD prioritizes higher than SSO projects. In your opinion, what projects, if any, should be considered for full or partial reallocation into an expanded Coordinated Access project.

- Supportive Services – field-based (mobile) case management
- Supportive Services – housing search and stabilization
- Supportive Services – legal services
- Supportive Services – representative payee
- Supportive Services – street outreach
- None of the above

If your agency operates any of the above SSO project types, please describe your level of interest in exploring reallocation options.

Ranking Strategy

6. The amount of funding that must be ranked in Tier 2 depends on how much, if any, Permanent Housing Bonus funding is included in the CoC's application. PH Bonus project(s) must be ranked with all other renewal projects, which means that if the CoC applies for Bonus funding, the amount of funding that must be ranked in Tier 2 increases in accordance with the amount of Bonus funds applied for. If the CoC applies for a Permanent Housing Bonus project for \$250,000 and ranks it in Tier 1, it will push \$250,000 of renewal projects into Tier 2. Please indicate your preference for how the CoC should approach the opportunity for PH Bonus funds. Please select only one option.

- The CoC should not include any applications for PH Bonus funds in the submission to HUD.
- The CoC should apply for PH Bonus funds, and should rank the project(s) in Tier 2.
- The CoC should apply for PH Bonus funds, and should rank the project(s) in Tier 1.
- The CoC should apply for PH Bonus funds, should create 2 separate Bonus project applications, and rank one in Tier 1 and the second in Tier 2.
- Other (Please describe):

7. SSO and TH projects ranked in Tier 2 will have a high risk of nonrenewal given HUD's Tier 2 scoring methodology. However, ranking these project types in Tier 1 would push PH renewals into Tier 2, subsequently putting PH projects at risk of nonrenewal. Given this information, what SSO and TH projects, if any, should be ranked in Tier 1? In other words, should any of the following projects be "protected" by being ranked in Tier 1, knowing that the protection will come at the expense of risking PH renewals in Tier 2? You may select more than one project.

- SSO – CASCAP: Fiduciary Services
- SSO – CASPAR: First Step Street Outreach
- SSO – Eliot CHS: First Step Street Outreach Mental Health Expansion
- SSO – HomeStart: Field-Based Case Management
- SSO – HomeStart: Housing Resource Team
- SSO – Shelter Legal Services: CLASP Legal Assistance Project
- TH – AIDS Action: ETP for Men with HIV/AIDS
- TH – AIDS Action: ETP for Women with HIV/AIDS
- TH – CASPAR: GROW House (for women recovering from substance abuse)
- TH – North Charles: Bridge Program (for men recovering from substance abuse)
- TH – Transition House: Transitional Living Program (for households fleeing domestic violence)
- None of the above

8. Please use this space to record additional thoughts, ideas, and/or feedback related to CoC strategy for reallocation, ranking, and funding priorities.

Thank you for your honest feedback and recommendations related to these difficult strategic resource allocation decisions.