



SC UPSTATE COC (SC-501) REVIEW, SCORE, & RANKING PROCESS

Performance Scoring Policy

Applications for New and Renewal Projects will undergo a threshold review to ensure compliance with the HEARTH Act, the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and the local CoC Request for Applications. Any new or renewal project not meeting the threshold requirement will not be further reviewed and will not be considered for funding. Renewal projects have previously passed Housing and Urban Development (HUD) threshold review and only in very exceptional cases of changed HUD policies or program changes will be at risk of not passing the threshold review.

The Upstate CoC makes available and accepts comment on the scoring standards for renewal projects from the public and full membership of the CoC, and annually reviewed at CoC meetings. The HUD CoC Project Rating and Ranking Tool, with feedback incorporated through the CoC Grants Subcommittee, is utilized in the local NOFA solicitation. While ranking recommendations are made by this committee, the Independent Ranking Committee makes all final recommendations on projects ranking.

Scoring of Renewal Projects is tabulated by the Upstate CoC HMIS staff using the HUD CoC Project Rating and Ranking Tool amended with feedback from the CoC Grants Subcommittee; the tool is largely based on prior year performance on HUD-approved System Performance Measures, project costs, project alignment with Housing First and the applicant’s ability to spend the previous year’s award.

Description of Rating Factor	Applies to	Factor/Goal	Max Points
Performance Measure			
Average days from project entry to move-in	RRH, PSH	15 days	20
Retention in or exits to Permanent Housing (PH)	RRH, PSH, TH	90%	25
Returns to Homelessness	RRH, PSH, TH	15%	15
New or increased earned income for stayers	RRH, PSH, TH	8%	2.5
New or increased non-employment income for stayers	RRH, PSH, TH	10%	2.5
New or increased earned income for leavers	RRH, PSH, TH	8%	2.5
New or increased non-employment income for leavers	RRH, PSH, TH	10%	2.5
Serve High Need Populations			
Assessment Score for Participants indicates PSH	RRH, PSH, TH	95%	20



Project Effectiveness			
Project has reasonable costs (within local averages per positive housing exit for project type)	RRH, PSH, TH	Yes*	20
95% of project referrals received through Coordinate Entry	RRH, PSH, TH	95%	10
Housing First/Low Barrier Implementation	RRH, PSH, TH	Yes	10
Other and Local Criteria			
CoC Monitoring Score	RRH, PSH, TH	Yes**	10

Partial Points:

Description of Rating Factor	Applies to	Factor/Goal	Max Points
Performance Measure			
Average days from project entry to move-in	RRH, PSH	180 days	15
Retention in or exits to Permanent Housing (PH)	RRH, PSH, TH	85%	20
Returns to Homelessness	RRH, PSH, TH	25%	10
New or increased earned income for stayers	RRH, PSH, TH	5%	1.5
New or increased non-employment income for stayers	RRH, PSH, TH	7%	1.5
New or increased earned income for leavers	RRH, PSH, TH	5%	1.5
New or increased non-employment income for leavers	RRH, PSH, TH	7%	1.5
Serve High Need Populations			
Assessment Score for Participants indicates PSH	RRH, PSH, TH	85%	15
Project Effectiveness			
Project has reasonable costs (within local averages per positive housing exit for project type)	RRH, PSH, TH	Yes*	20
95% of project referrals received through Coordinate Entry	RRH, PSH, TH	95%	5



Housing First/Low Barrier Implementation	RRH, PSH, TH	Commitment to Housing First in application	10
Other and Local Criteria			
CoC Monitoring Score	RRH, PSH, TH	Yes**	N/A

*Project did not lapse more than 10% of its funding for two consecutive years, or partial reallocation was provided as part of the local competition

**Project is not on Performance Improvement or Corrective Action Plan following monitoring

The Upstate CoC Advisory Council appoints an Independent Ranking Committee of subject matter experts who do not receive CoC funding to review, rate and rank all applications, including Reallocation, Expansion and Bonus Project applications. All renewal and expansion projects are subject to the scoring as outlined above. New projects without performance data are required to complete a questionnaire detailing the following:

- experience working with the proposed population
- experience in providing housing programs similar to the type proposed in the application
- experience implementing housing-first
- experience in effectively utilizing federal funds
- established performance measures that meet HUD, HEARTH and CoC established benchmarks

The Independent Ranking Committee utilizes a scoring rubric to inform the selection of conditional sub-recipients. The committee has the discretion to select one or more applications for the amount available for New Projects.

Ranking Policy

HUD requires Collaborative Applicants to rank all projects in two tiers. Tier 1 is defined by HUD in the NOFA as a percent of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) approved by HUD on the final HUD-approved Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW). Tier 1 projects are traditionally protected from HUD cuts. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's ARD plus any amount available for bonus (including the Domestic Violence Bonus) as described in the HUD NOFA. Tier 2 projects must compete nationally for funding.



Renewal projects will be scored and ranked according to the HUD CoC Project Rating and Ranking Tool amended with feedback provided by the CoC Independent Ranking Committee, alignment with Housing First and prior year spending of grant funds, except for Coordinated Entry projects, First Time Renewals including Expansion projects, Change of Project Sponsor or Consolidated projects funded as part of the NOFO competition that have not been in operation for at least one year. These projects will be placed at the bottom of Tier 1 ahead of any Renewal Projects who ranked in Tier 2 and New Projects unless otherwise instructed in the USHUD CoC NOFO.

Projects that are deemed essential to the CoC but which would be at risk of losing funding if placed in Tier 2, will be ranked at the bottom of Tier 1. This includes: Joint component Transitional Housing with Rapid Re-Housing (joint TH and PH:RRH) projects.

Tier 2: Project components will be organized to best maximize the CoC Consolidated Application Overall Score.

Projects will be ranked as follows:

- Renewal Project applications ranked according to HUD CoC Project Rating and Ranking Tool (Tier 1 and 2)
- Projects funded as part of the NOFO competition that have not been in operation for at least one year including Expansion, Change of Project Sponsor and Consolidation Projects (Tier 1)
- First Time Renewal Projects (Tier 1)
- New reallocation, Expansion and Bonus Project applications ranked according to New Project scores that emphasize the HUD priorities outlined in the NOFO (Tier 2)

The Planning Project is not ranked.

Re-Allocation Policy

Any funds reallocated as part of recapturing unspent funds, voluntary or involuntary reallocation will be made available for reallocation to create new projects during the local solicitation process.

Unspent Funds

Projects that are not fully expending or underspending their grant awards are subject to the reallocation process. Projects that have underspent their award by 10% may be reduced and those funds will go to reallocation for New Project(s). A one-year grace period may be extended by the Upstate CoC Advisory Council to providers who appeal proposed reallocation with a plan that demonstrates that the grant's expenditure will be improved in the current program year. Projects that have under-expended more than 10% of their award in two consecutive program years, without reallocation during the



previous year, will have their funding reduced through reallocation in the CoC NOFO competition. The Homeless Trust will recapture 80% of unspent funds after making allowances for vacancies.

Voluntary Re-Allocation

As part of the local solicitation for inclusion in the HUD CoC collaborative application, providers are strongly encouraged to reallocate projects that are not spending their full award, under utilizing beds, under performing and/or not in alignment with Housing First principles and practices. Such reallocated funds are pooled for reallocation to New Projects. The competitive process for New Projects provides bonus points as an incentive to providers offering to reallocate their entire project funds to create a New Project addressing CoC priorities.

Involuntary Re-Allocation (Unconditional v Conditional Renewal)

Projects with poor performance, not spending their full award, under utilizing beds, not in alignment with Housing First principles and practices, not serving the intended population or with significant, unresolved findings are subject to involuntary reallocation.

The Upstate CoC has established a threshold for unconditional renewal. Projects who score below 50 points of the weighted ranking score will be placed on corrective action and may be ranked in Tier 2. All projects submitting full renewal applications meeting threshold and scored above the threshold are approved for renewal without conditions.

Projects scoring below the threshold will be asked to develop a plan to address performance issues by next year's competition (Performance Improvement Plan), or to voluntarily give up award money to be reallocated to a New Project. If problems continue, projects may be reallocated in the following cycle. Applicants may appeal the decision and the appeal must be considered by the Upstate CoC Advisory Council.

Determination of any conditions to renewal will be made at least 45 days ahead of the NOFO due date. Any required Performance Improvement Plans or plan that demonstrates that the grant's expenditure will be improved as part of a reallocation appeal must be submitted for approval at least 30 days ahead of the NOFO due date, so that a final determination can be made as to whether the project goes forward for renewal. A final list of Renewal Projects will be presented to the CoC Advisory Council and posted on the Upstate CoC website at www.upstatecoc.org.