

# Summary of Changes to the 2009 CoC NOFA Competition

## July 15, 2009—Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness Meeting



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On July 13, 2009 HUD released an 18-page notice titled “*Notice of Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Opportunity to Register and Other Information for Electronic Application Submission for Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs,*” regarding the Continuum of Care NOFA registration process. The notice had three sections: *Important Information, CoC Registration process, and Major Changes to the CoC competition for 2009.* The actual HUD Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) was not released as part of this announcement. Below is a summary of the important information dispersed by HUD.

### Registration, Deadlines, and Release of the NOFA:

- HUD will hold a broadcast regarding the CoC registration process on July 15, 2009. In order to be eligible to submit an application in the FY2009 Homeless Assistance competition, CoCs must register in e-snaps, prior to the beginning of the 2009 CoC competition. The CoC registration process will begin no earlier than July 21, 2009, and close no earlier than August 31, 2009 at 4pm ET.
- The 2009 CoC NOFA will be published separately in the Federal Register no earlier than August 15, 2009.
- HUD will evaluate CoCs on the following criteria (criteria have not changed from 2008): CoC Housing, Services, and Structure; Homeless Needs and Data Collection; CoC Strategic Planning; CoC Performance; and, Housing Emphasis.

### Major Changes to 2009 CoC NOFA Competition:

1. HUD has modified the selection process so that eligible SHP and S+C renewal projects will be awarded as quickly as possible. New projects will be awarded, after the project threshold review and the scoring of the project application and the CoC application have been completed. A project application will be required for new and renewal projects; however, for renewal projects, applicants will only be verifying basic project and budget information, selecting grant term request, and certifying request of renewal.
2. CoCs in Hold Harmless Need (HHN) status will not be able to reallocate funds to new projects. New project applications to be submitted must be projects that will be funded with permanent housing bonus funds. HUD reserves the right to allow Hold Harmless Need Reallocation in future competitions.
3. The calculation of housing emphasis and leveraging for the CoC score will be calculated using only new project requests.
4. The Samaritan Bonus Initiative will be replaced with a Permanent Housing Bonus. CoCs will be able to use funds for homeless disabled individuals and families or for chronically homeless individuals. As creating new permanent housing beds for chronically homeless individuals is still a HUD priority, HUD strongly encourages CoCs to use at

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least a portion of available bonus funds to create a project that will exclusively serve the chronically homeless.

5. HUD encourages all projects to utilize Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and any HUD-managed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) programs as a source of leveraging. CoCs that identify coordination with NSP and any HUD-managed ARRA programs may receive extra points during the CoC application review process.
6. As part of the CoC application, CoCs will be required to address how they are participating in the new Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP), as indicated in the substantial amendment to the Consolidated Plan.
7. As a reminder, HUD will assess, as part of the project review process, applicant eligibility, capacity, and quality. This review also considers an applicant's spending history on current homeless assistance grants, if applicable. HUD expects that grantees should be making draw-downs at least quarterly. HUD will be looking at this for both new project applications and as a condition of renewal awards.
8. As a reminder, up to 8 percent of a S+C grant may be used for eligible incurred administrative costs associated with administration of housing assistance. These funds must be drawn down at least quarterly.
9. Applicants for the S+C program will only be permitted to apply for 100 percent of the FMR and will no longer be permitted to request any amount that is greater or less than the local Fair Market Rent (FMR).
10. In recognition of the advantages of merging one or more existing CoCs into a new merged, larger CoC, HUD has adopted a new CoC Hold Harmless Merger policy for calculating Final Pro Rata Need that ensures CoCs will not lose Final Pro Rata Need by merging.
11. The Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan is a statutory form that must be submitted as part of the application. New this year, CoCs will be responsible for attaching the certification for all projects, new and renewal, that are requesting funding to the CoC portion of the application. CoCs will attach a signed form for each jurisdiction that includes the list of all associated new and renewal projects.