Before Starting the CoC Application

You must submit all three of the following parts in order for us to consider your Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application,
2. the CoC Priority Listing, and
3. all the CoC's project applications that were either approved and ranked, or rejected.

 As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The FY 2024 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2024 CoC Application Detailed Instructions which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachment are provided.

 Your CoC Must Approve the Consolidated Application before You Submit It
 - 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the CoC Consolidated Application for the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition on behalf of your CoC.
 - 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit the Consolidated Application into e-snaps.

Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions
 Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

 Attachments
 Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You Must Upload an Attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed–including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.
 - Attachments must match the questions they are associated with–if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.
 - We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
   - 24 CFR part 578;
   - FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
   - Section 3 Resources;
   - PHA Crosswalk; and
   - Frequently Asked Questions

1A-1. CoC Name and Number: MD-505 - Baltimore County CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community Development

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: Baltimore County DHCD

1B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
  - 24 CFR part 578;
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  - PHA Crosswalk; and
   - Frequently Asked Questions

1B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.1.a.(1), V.B.1.e., V.B.1f., and V.B.1.p.	

	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024:	
1.	select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted–including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC's coordinated entry system; or	
2.	select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC's geographic area:	

	Organization/Person	Participated in CoC Meetings	Voted, Including Electing CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC's Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
9.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes

17.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Other Victim Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other: (limit 50 characters)			
34.	Public Library	Yes	Yes	Yes
35.	Workforce Development Partners	Yes	Yes	Yes

1B-1a.	Experience Promoting Racial Equity.	
	NOFO Section III.B.3.c.	

Describe in the field below your CoC's experience in effectively addressing the needs of underserved communities, particularly Black and Brown communities, who are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Our CoC has received assistance from a HUD TA provider to develop focus groups which will allow us to better understand the needs of underserved communities. The focus group is being organized by the Racial Equity committee in partnership with the Coordinated Entry Committee. Many organizations within the CoC are led by people of color and due to the overrepresentation of people of color within our homeless population those organizations serve people from Black and Brown communities. The Lead Agency has received feedback from the leader of an organization about how to more equitably reach members of the Black community who may not be aware of how to access CoC services through our Coordinated Entry system. We have taken that feedback and as a CoC worked to better address the needs of the Black community by expanding how we advertise our Coordinated Entry point of access and who we target with that advertising. We plan to focus on building relationships with predominately Black and Brown churches in the coming year so that as trusted institutions within overrepresented communities, they can help facilitate connecting people with services offered by the CoC. Based on our HMIS data and the need we have in the community, we know that self-identified immigrant community members are not utilizing our Coordinated Entry, therefore successful recruitment of an immigrant serving/advocacy group to serve on our CoC Gov. Board was a priority for us this last year.

| 1B-2. | Open Invitation for New Members. | |
| | NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(2) | |

		Describe in the field below how your CoC:
	1.	communicated a transparent invitation process annually (e.g., communicated to the public on the CoC's website) to solicit new members to join the CoC;
	2.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
	3.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in your CoC's geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Our CoC utilized the County Government website to update members of the public on how to participate in our CoC work and announce meetings. As a lead agency, we have presented at partner resource fairs, provider meetings and public community meetings where homelessness was discussed to solicit new membership and make connections for our work. We invited subject matter experts to attend our regular full CoC membership meetings as well as committee meetings. Anyone may join our email contact list by notifying the lead agency and we share a weekly CoC update, similar to a newsletter that shares resources, reminders and requests of the general membership. The email is encouraged to be shared with others so they can be aware of resources shared and the work of the CoC.

2. People with disabilities can access communication our CoC provides by contacting the lead agency using the contacts provided on the County Webpage to be added to our weekly email list. Our CoC conducts meetings virtually and has the ability to utilize TTY, TTD and other messaging apps to ensure our meetings and content are accessible to those with hearing impairment. We continue to adhere to ADA laws. Our CoC members voted for meetings to remain virtual after the pandemic. Recordings are shared with members following each meeting by email. We also have the ability to include closed captioning during the meeting and when sharing meeting recordings with attendees. If the CoC votes to return to in-person meetings, we will ensure accessibility, including access from public transportation, is a primary factor in choosing locations.

3. Our CoC upholds the value of diverse voices in the work we do and continuously strives to encourage leaders of organizations serving diverse populations to join and participate in our meetings. Outreach providers consistently attend meetings and are vocal participants in our CoC discussions as are all of our provider agencies. We are consistently recruiting and inviting organizations and members of the community that represent differing and diverse voices. Finally, our providers that interface regularly with those experiencing homelessness are asked to invite consumers to our CoC meetings.

1B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(3)	

		Describe in the field below how your CoC:
	1.	solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness, or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;
	2.	communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information;
	3.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
	4.	took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Members of the lead agency have attended trainings and conferences to hear additional opinions on ending homelessness. The Baltimore County CoC solicits opinions from a representative body comprised of the following organizations: for-profit and non-profit, affordable housing developer, faith-based, public, private and community organizations, state and local government, individuals with lived experiences of homelessness, homeless service providers, advocates, public schools, Coordinated Entry (CE), public libraries. Most of these groups are also represented on the CoC's Governance Board. The full CoC is invited to various trainings as well as the regular meetings with community partners. The lead agency interacts with members of the public who raise concerns, questions and give feedback regarding evidence of homelessness in their communities. The lead agency meets with stakeholders who have an interest in ending homelessness such as our local schools and libraries.

2. The Lead Agency has attended public community meetings to discuss what the CoC is doing to address homelessness in Baltimore County. Throughout the year, the CoC lead agency has attended a number of public input sessions, offered by the County Executive to solicit feedback on budget spending and other areas of concern such as homelessness. The CoC lead also presented at all Police Precinct Community meetings to discuss homeless services offered by the CoC.

3. The Baltimore County Webpage has recently been updated to include a CoC specific page. This allows the CoC to post public meetings, recordings of meetings and public announcements such as the NOFO. When notices are posted on the county webpage, they are reviewed to ensure the language is accessible and that the layout is readable for individuals with reading devices.

4. The information gathered through these public meetings and hearings as well as the open dialogue during our CoC meetings will continue to inform the priorities and work of our CoC and informs what is included in our CoC grant agreements. We have been dedicated to capturing real-time feedback on our newly expanded Coord. Entry (CE) process. Feedback from direct service providers is shared during bi-weekly CE by name list meetings to ensure dialogue remains open and system adjustments can be made expeditiously.

	1B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Awarded CoC Program Funding.	
		NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(4)	

		Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:
	1.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;
	2.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications–the process;
	3.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and

	4.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Our lead agency (LA) publicly posted the instructions for applying for CoC Program funding on the County webpage and informed all CoC members of the NOFO, including those not currently receiving CoC funding. This was shared via email listserve and posted publicly on the LA's webpage. On 8/29/24, our CoC held an open meeting to the public including all CoC members, attendees and other partners to provide an overview of funding available through the FY24 and FY25 NOFO and that the competition was open and accepting project applications which was posted publicly to the LA webpage. During this meeting directions were provided to renewal and new applicants. Incorporating feedback from partners, we added more instructions for new providers to encourage them to apply for funding. One new applicant submitted an email of intent to apply for funds, but then decided not to follow through on the application.

2. During the 8/29/24 overview meeting, project applicants were informed they needed to submit a letter of intent to apply for funds by 9/6/24. After submitting the letter, all applications were due in eSNAPS by 9/27/24. The LA offered to meet with new applicants interested in applying and provided TA for those who were unfamiliar with eSNAPS. The LA also provided four set office hours to provide technical assistance.

3. After project applications are submitted by providers, each application was reviewed and scored by two members of the Rating and Ranking (R&R) Committee. The average between both scores received by the R&R reviewers determined which applications would be included in the final application to HUD. The R&R Committee policy was posted to the CoCs website and shared with applicants when final scores were sent. All applications were rated using a standard either renewal or new application rating form which looked at objective criteria, timely draws, and system performance measures among other criteria.

4. In addition to the overview meeting held virtually on 8/29/24, slides and a recording of the meeting were posted on our LA's website for those who could not attend. All deadlines were posted to the LA's website and weekly emails to all CoC members encouraged them to check the website for updates. Our CoC can utilize TTY, TTD, and other messaging apps for our hearing-impaired members and will continue to adhere to all ADA laws. Everything posted online is in a format that can be read by those with a reading device, making it accessible.

1C. Coordination and Engagement

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
  - 24 CFR part 578;
    - FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
  - Section 3 Resources;
  - PHA Crosswalk; and
    - Frequently Asked Questions

	1C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations.	
		NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	

		In the chart below:	
	1.	select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC's coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or	
	2.	select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC's geographic area.	

	Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects	Coordinates with the Planning or Operations of Projects?
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Yes
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Nonexistent
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.	Workforce Development Partners	Yes

1C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	

	In the chart below select yes or no to indicate whether your CoC:	

1.	Consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG Program funds?	Yes
2.	Provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area?	Yes
3.	Ensured local homelessness information is communicated and addressed in the Consolidated Plan updates?	Yes
4.	Coordinated with ESG recipients in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients?	Yes

1C-3.	Ensuring Families are not Separated.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.c.	

	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ensures emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH) do not deny admission or separate family members regardless of each family member's self-reported sexual orientation and gender identity:	

1.	Conducted mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated?	Yes
2.	Conducted optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure family members are not separated?	Yes
3.	Worked with CoC and ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients?	Yes
4.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within your CoC's geographic area that might be out of compliance and took steps to work directly with those facilities to bring them into compliance?	Yes
5.	Sought assistance from HUD by submitting questions or requesting technical assistance to resolve noncompliance by service providers?	No

1C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:	

1.	Youth Education Provider	Yes
2.	State Education Agency (SEA)	Yes
3.	Local Education Agency (LEA)	Yes
4.	School Districts	Yes

1C-4a.	Formal Partnerships with Youth Education Providers, SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

| Describe in the field below the formal partnerships your CoC has with at least one of the entities where you responded yes in question 1C-4. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Baltimore County CoC has had a long-standing relationship with the Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS). The CoC's Governance Charter has had a seat set aside from a representative from BCPS from its inception. The representative has actively assisted in crafting policies related to students and the school system in our CoC's Standard Operating Policy and Procedure document. These policies are required to be followed across providers in Baltimore County. The county McKinney Vento Coordinator (MVC) coordinated the work of all school social workers and school pupil personnel workers (PPWs) in the schools. Shelter providers work closely with PPWs and the MVC to ensure families entering shelter with school-aged children receive continuity in educational services while in shelter and during their housing search. The CoC partners with the University of Maryland and the Youth Coalition to facilitate an annual count of all school aged children and those 18-24 that meet the McKinney Vento definition of homeless or at risk of homelessness.

1C-4b.	Informing Individuals and Families Who Have Recently Begun Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

| Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC uses to inform individuals and families who have recently begun experiencing homelessness of their eligibility for educational services. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Baltimore County Coordinated Entry (CE) has updated its policies in the last year to make it standard practice that when families with school-aged children call, they are affirmatively informed of their children's education rights without needing to ask about them. The McKinney Vento Coordinator (MVC) works closely with staff at family emergency shelters to ensure they are aware of their rights to educational services and how to access them. The CoC Governance Board passed a Standard Operating Policies (SOP) document with input from the MVC on how school staff coordinate with families and providers to ensure educational services are provided. The SOP dictates that all grantees and sub-grantees and homeless service providers must ensure continuity of education services for all school aged children in their care. Family shelter providers work with the school homeless liaison or pupil personnel worker through the school to facilitate what is required to maintain access to their education and transportation to school. Baltimore county Public Schools has an MOU with Head Start to ensure children are enrolled in Head Start.

1C-4c.	Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

| Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC has written formal agreements or partnerships with the listed providers of early childhood services: |

		MOU/MOA	Other Formal Agreement
1.	Birth to 3 years	No	Yes
2.	Child Care and Development Fund	No	Yes
3.	Early Childhood Providers	No	Yes
4.	Early Head Start	No	Yes
5.	Federal Home Visiting Program–(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV)	No	Yes
6.	Head Start	No	Yes
7.	Healthy Start	No	Yes
8.	Public Pre-K	No	Yes
9.	Tribal Home Visiting Program	No	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)		
10.			

	1C-5.	Addressing Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking–Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers.
		NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

In the chart below select yes or no for the organizations your CoC collaborates with:

	Organizations	
1.	State Domestic Violence Coalitions	Yes
2.	State Sexual Assault Coalitions	Yes
3.	Anti-trafficking Service Providers	Yes
	Other Organizations that Help this Population (limit 500 characters)	
4.		

	1C-5a.	Collaborating with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers to Address Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
		NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations that you selected yes to in Question 1C-5 to:
1.	update CoC-wide policies; and
2.	ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC's geographic area are trauma-informed and can meet the needs of survivors.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC Governance Charter sets aside a seat on the Governance Board so at least one member of a Domestic Violence survivor serving organization is represented and provides input on CoC-wide policies. The Domestic Violence Coordinated Entry (DVCE) representative serves on the Coordinated Entry committee and is assisting the committee in developing procedures for allowing survivors of DV to be added to the by-name-list for PSH while maintaining confidentiality. Updates to the CoC Standard Operating Policy document have been reviewed and updated by the county DV representatives on the Board and leaders of the DVCE, to reflect trauma informed language and considerations.

2. A DV provider within the CoC conducted a mandatory Trauma Informed Care (TIC) training for CoC providers. This training provided basic instructions on how to provide TIC and information about working with DV survivors who may have entered the homeless system outside of a DV specific provider. Staff throughout the CoC use tools and skills such as being certified in Mental Health First AID and certified case managers which provide additional TIC tools. The DVCE system responds to callers in need of emergency housing and shelter as a result of Domestic Violence; DV related calls are referred to DVCE from Coordinated Entry (CE). The Family Crisis Center (FCC) is the lead DV provider and lead on the DVCE. Another agency, TurnAround is the primary lead responsible for responding to all trafficking cases in the county and is very involved in our CoC and are strong advocates and resources for our provider and client communities.

	1C-5b.	Implemented Safety Planning, Confidentiality Protocols in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry to Address the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
		NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

		Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry addresses the needs of DV survivors by including:
	1.	safety planning protocols; and
	2.	confidentiality protocols.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The Domestic Violence Coordinated Entry (DVCE) parallel system's triage tool includes a danger assessment, a validated measure to assess risk for domestic violence homicide and prioritizes emergency sheltering based on that risk. The goal of the initial assessment is to establish safety, ensure callers are engaged in safety planning and are offered follow-up by an advocate to further address their safety. The DVCE implemented a centralized assessment and referral process for all participating victim service providers to have a streamlined pathway to help their client's access housing resources. Case managers and advocates at four participating victim service agencies were trained to assess housing needs in varied environments such as court accompaniment for protective orders, support groups, helplines, and other common contexts to encounter housing vulnerabilities due to victimization. Members of the coordinated entry team work closely with the DV providers to honor our approved emergency transfer policy to ensure clients are safe, regardless of project location.

2. Case managers in victim serving providers as well as non-DV providers, work closely with Coordinated Entry staff and the DV provider lead agency staff to ensure all staff review confidentiality policies on an annual basis. All DVCE staff are trained on confidentiality protocols and are required to sign a confidentiality agreement upon hiring. Staff review a confidentiality disclosure agreement with all callers at the start of every call. Prior to sharing any personally identifying information, informed consent is received from the client per VAWA requirements. Our CoC SOP included HMIS policies that outline steps the CoC follows for any potential Personal Identifying Information (PII) data breach. Our DVCE provider is currently working with the Coordinated Entry committee to create protocols ensure confidentiality as DV survivors join the CoC's by-name-list for PSH.

1C-5c.	Coordinated Annual Training on Best Practices to Address the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

In the chart below, indicate how your CoC facilitates training for project staff and coordinated entry staff that addresses best practices on safety planning and confidentiality protocols:

		Project Staff	Coordinated Entry Staff
1.	Training Occurs at least annually?	Yes	Yes
2.	Incorporates Trauma Informed best practices?	Yes	Yes
3.	Incorporates Survivor-Centered best practices?	Yes	Yes
4.	Identifies and assesses survivors' individual safety needs?	Yes	Yes
5.	Enhances and supports collaboration with DV organizations?	Yes	Yes
6.	Ensures survivors' rights, voices, and perspectives are incorporated?	Yes	Yes
	Other? (limit 500 characters)		
7.			

** **

1C-5d.	Implemented VAWA-Required Written Emergency Transfer Plan Policies and Procedures for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.		
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.		

	Describe in the field below:	
1.	whether your CoC's written policies and procedures include an emergency transfer plan;	
2.	how your CoC informs all households seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance about their rights to an emergency transfer;	
3.	what your CoC requires households to do to request emergency transfers; and	
4.	what your CoC does in response to households requesting emergency transfers.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC's Standard Operating Policy (SOP) document has a section on VAWA requirements for CoC funded programs. The VAWA portion includes information on who qualifies for an emergency transfer plan and the process for providers to follow when an emergency transfer plan is requested. All providers, both DV and non-DV are expected to follow the policies in the SOP.

2. The SOP states that providers throughout the CoC must provide each household they assist with the Notice of Occupancy Rights, which includes VAWA protections including the right to an emergency transfer. Providers are expected to ensure households are aware of the process for an emergency transfer when their rights are being explained.

3. The process for individuals to request emergency transfers starts with a written request being made to their case managers, who gathers all the information to report to the case management team manager. The manager works in conjunction with the program director and housing specialist reestablish safety and stability. This is outlined in the CoC SOP and all providers received training on this.

 4. The CoC's DVCE lead has an established process and pathway that identifies how individuals are able to request the transfer, who the request is sent to and the steps that are taken after the request is made. When emergency transfer requests are made, depending on where individuals are they can be brought back into shelter, where they would then be placed back into the housing search, for new housing. Some individuals are placed in hotels and reassessed for housing needs. All providers must maintain records of all emergency transfer requests and their outcomes for five years. This process is outlined in the COC SOP and Coordinated Entry works with DVCE to successfully execute and emergency transfer when necessary.

1C-5e.	Facilitating Safe Access to Housing and Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.		
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.		

Describe in the field below how your CoC ensures households experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have safe access to all of the housing and services available within your CoC's geographic area.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

In order to ensure safe access to housing and services, the DVCE has implemented a centralized assessment and referral process for all participating victim service providers. This allows for a streamlined pathway to help their clients access housing resources. Staff received training on referral submissions to the DVCE for a client's assessment for bridge housing, such as TH, RRH or PSH. The DVCE provider is currently serving on the CoC's Coordinated Entry committee to create a process for DV survivors to be added to the by-name-list for PSH while maintaining confidentiality. This will ensure survivors have access to the same resources as other populations while protecting their right to confidentiality. A DVCE Housing Specialist meets with each client to discuss housing resources based on needs, goals, program eligibility and connects them to all resources via a VAWA compliant referral. Our CoC and DVCE service providers have worked collaboratively to establish processes that improve the DVCE system for all who are serviced within the system.

	1C-5f.	Identifying and Removing Barriers for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
		NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

		Describe in the field below how your CoC ensures survivors receive safe housing and services by:
	1.	identifying barriers specific to survivors; and
	2.	working to remove those barriers.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC works closely with our DVCE lead Family Crisis Center (FCC) and other providers to identify barriers for survivors of domestic violence to obtain safe housing. DVCE providers conduct assessments, such as Housing Barrier Assessment, Danger Assessment, and various other self-report assessments to be able to forecast barriers survivors may face when searching for housing.

2. Case management services are offered to provide survivors with additional resources to address barriers to obtaining housing. In areas where the CoC has identified barriers specific to survivors, such as the lack of access to PSH due to an inability to join the by-name-list without compromising confidentiality, the CoC is actively working with DV providers and other stakeholders on the Coordinated Entry committee to remove these barriers while maintaining survivors' rights.

1C-6.		Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+–Anti-Discrimination Policy and Equal Access Trainings.	
		NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

1.	Did your CoC implement a written CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination?	Yes
2.	Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access Final Rule)?	Yes
3.	Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs (Gender Identity Final Rule)?	Yes

1C-6a.	Anti-Discrimination Policy–Updating Policies–Assisting Providers–Evaluating Compliance–Addressing Noncompliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC regularly collaborates with LGBTQ+ and other organizations to update its CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy, as necessary to ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed and able to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and families;
2.	how your CoC assisted housing and services providers in developing project-level anti-discrimination policies that are consistent with the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy;
3.	your CoC's process for evaluating compliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies; and
4.	your CoC's process for addressing noncompliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Our CoC has identified an agency that specializes in LGBTQ+ healthcare and advocacy who we have contacted to invite to join the CoC and provide input on our system's anti-discrimination policies. While our CoC has not received grievances regarding the Equal Access Rule/anti-discrimination policy, we are affirmatively working to ensure provider staff are familiar with the requirements and are versed in how to follow the policy to prevent discrimination. We offer annual equal access training to all providers.

2. The lead agency and DHCD grant teams require copies and verification from all funded organizations that they have anti-discrimination policies in place to receive funding. The CoC Standard Operating Policies (SOP) document provides guidance as to the CoC standard for anti-discrimination policies at the provider level. Provider level policies are reviewed during grantee monitoring visits. The CoC has received anti-discrimination training during a meeting on Fair Housing practices. The Governance Board reviews the SOP document including anti-discrimination policies to ensure they are up to date.

3. The CoC has a policy to receive any concerns from clients or staff about unfair treatment, termination or refusal of admission to programs. Grievances are presented to the oversight entity of each shelter for follow up and additional education or training. Grievances are discussed during monitoring visits of each funded provider. If the grievance process or monitoring visit find an issue in provider policy or practice that requires adjusting, the agency with funding oversight for that program refers to the CoC SOP document to ensure the provider policy meet outlined requirements.

4. In accordance with the SOP, any provider found to be acting in violation of the Anti-Discrimination policy will first be notified of the violation by the funding agency in writing and given a specific timeframe to rectify the situation. If the issue requires an update to the provider's policy, that will be provided in writing by the funding agency with a co-signature by a member of the CoC Governance Board. The organization will be required to update their policy within 30-45 days and will be required to share that updated policy with the funding agency. If the policy change is not addressed within the set timeframe, the provider may lose their voting privileges on the CoC Governance Board or their individual member voting privileges on the CoC general membership.

1C-7.	Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC's Geographic Area–New Admissions–General/Limited Preference–Moving On Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

You must upload the PHA Homeless Preference\PHA Moving On Preference attachment(s) to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
Enter information in the chart below for the two largest PHAs highlighted in gray on the current CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report or the two PHAs your CoC has a working relationship with–if there is only one PHA in your CoC's geographic area, provide information on the one:

Public Housing Agency Name	Enter the Percent of New Admissions into Public Housing or Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2023 who were experiencing homelessness at entry	Does the PHA have a General or Limited Homeless Preference?	Does the PHA have a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On?
Baltimore County Office of Housing (MD-033)		No	No
Housing Authority Of Baltimore City	0%		

You must enter information for at least 1 row in question 1C-7.

1C-7a.	Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences with PHAs.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	steps your CoC has taken, with the two largest PHAs within your CoC's geographic area or the two PHAs your CoC has working relationships with, to adopt a homeless admission preference–if your CoC only has one PHA within its geographic area, you may respond for the one; or
2.	state that your CoC has not worked with the PHAs in its geographic area to adopt a homeless admission preference.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. CoC MD-505 only works with the Baltimore County Office of Housing, although the Baltimore City Housing Authority is listed on the Crosswalk. The CoC's Governance Board has a seat reserved for a representative from the PHA which has been filled with the goal of advocating for a homeless admission preference.

Unfortunately, our PHA is not enrolled in the Moving to Work program, so they attribute our challenges to include homeless preferences in our voucher administrative plan to that. They are willing to create homeless set-asides for existing voucher programs and to create homeless preferences but have not had the staffing time available to update the administrative plan. However, the success we've had with the EHV's, VASH, FUP and FYI voucher programs has created the political will necessary to keep the effort moving along to that ultimate goal. We are very proud of the work we have done in collaboration with our PHA and our providers to house some of the most vulnerable and long-standing homeless households with EHVs. We know there is more to do.

2. Not applicable, the Baltimore County CoC has worked with the PHA in its geographic area to adopt a homeless admission preference.

1C-7b.	Moving On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers.	
	Not Scored–For Information Only	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate affordable housing providers in your CoC's jurisdiction that your recipients use to move program participants to other subsidized housing:

1.	Multifamily assisted housing owners		Yes
2.	PHA		Yes
3.	Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments		Yes
4.	Local low-income housing programs		Yes
	Other (limit 150 characters)		
5.	Senior Housing with Project Based Vouchers		Yes

1C-7c.	Include Units from PHA Administered Programs in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

In the chart below, indicate if your CoC includes units from the following PHA programs in your CoC's coordinated entry process:	

1.	Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)	Yes
2.	Family Unification Program (FUP)	Yes
3.	Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)	No
4.	HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	Yes
5.	Mainstream Vouchers	No
6.	Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers	No
7.	Public Housing	No
8.	Other Units from PHAs:	

1C-7d.	Submitting CoC and PHA Joint Applications for Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

1.	Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a competitive joint application(s) for funding or jointly implement a competitive project serving individuals or families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other programs)?	Yes
		Program Funding Source
2.	Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement.	EHV, FUP, FYI

1C-7e.	Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV).	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

| | Did your CoC coordinate with any PHA to apply for or implement funding provided for Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to homelessness, including vouchers provided through the American Rescue Plan? | Yes |

1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
  - 24 CFR part 578;
    - FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
  - Section 3 Resources;
  - PHA Crosswalk; and
    - Frequently Asked Questions

1D-1.	Preventing People Transitioning from Public Systems from Experiencing Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.h.	

| | Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the public systems listed to ensure persons who have resided in them longer than 90 days are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs. | |

1.	Prisons/Jails?	Yes
2.	Health Care Facilities?	Yes
3.	Residential Care Facilities?	Yes
4.	Foster Care?	Yes

1D-2.	Housing First–Lowering Barriers to Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

1.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition.	10
2.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.	0
3.	This number is a calculation of the percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, SSO non-Coordinated Entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	0%

1D-2a.	Project Evaluation for Housing First Compliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

You must upload the Housing First Evaluation attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC evaluates every project–where the applicant checks Housing First on their project application–to determine if they are using a Housing First approach;	
2.	the list of factors and performance indicators your CoC uses during its evaluation;	
3.	how your CoC regularly evaluates projects outside of your local CoC competition to ensure the projects are using a Housing First approach; and	
4.	what your CoC has done to improve fidelity to Housing First.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. As part of the CoC NOFO application, the lead agency (LA) required applicants to answer supplemental questions about their compliance in and ability to address barriers to Housing First (H1). Responses were scored by the rating and ranking (R&R) committee using a rubric which ensured R&R was objective in their scoring. Additionally, the LA monitors funded projects across all funding streams. We utilize the required monitoring tools dictated by CoC or ESG regulations or utilize a state funding tool that follows the same standards. As part of every monitoring, the CoC reviews policies and procedures for each project as well as client case files and case notes to ensure all required standards are met.

2. During the R&R process, scoring includes APR factors such as percentage of participants with zero income at entry, clients served with two or more disabling conditions, clients prior location not meant for human habitation and a commitment to take referrals from coordinated entry (CE). The supplemental questions for project applicants ask what policies they have in place to remove barriers to housing and when they were enacted.

3. Understanding of and compliance with H1 is verified through grantee monitoring as well as provider or client refusals that may arise during the referral process from CE. When the LA monitors programs we ensure projects do not require sobriety or the commitment to be substance free, do not require medication for mental health, do not require participation in religious services, among other criteria. We ensure projects uphold client identification of gender or sexual identity and family composition without requiring proof and that families are not split up. All requirements are outlined in detail in our CoC Standard Operating Policies (SOP) guide. All funded projects are required to accept blind referrals from CE, per their grant agreements. Additional discussion happens during the bi-weekly PH, convened by the CE team and LA. If providers of RRH or PSH are violating H1 principals, they are discussed and serve as a case study for other providers.

4. As CoC Lead, we regularly provide TA to providers to improve fidelity to H1. Over the last year as we have shifted our permanent housing referrals to a by-name list of the most vulnerable clients in our system, we have worked with providers to ensure they are not allowing barriers of lack of income, substance use or a criminal record prevent clients from being housed.

1D-3.	Street Outreach–Data–Reaching People Least Likely to Request Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.j.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC tailored its street outreach to people experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Our CoC has two funded street outreach teams and in the last year hired a Homeless Outreach Response Coordinator to help tailor street outreach to people least likely to request assistance who we were missing in previous years. We have partnered with people with lived experience of homelessness, faith-based organizations, human services organizations, public schools, landlords, public library staff, public works departments, public transit authorities, health care workers, local businesses, first responders and law enforcement to build out the street outreach strategy. The Lead Agency has been in talks with the local health department to send their mobile unit to hot spots to provide health care to unsheltered people.

The Standard Operating Policy (SOP) document created a streamline policy that allows street outreach teams to refer unsheltered homeless people into shelter outside of the formal Coordinated Entry (CE) hours. If someone calls CE and refuses shelter, they are referred to a street outreach provider so they can be offered other assistance they may accept.

If someone refuses to work with one team, the other is sent to offer services. Outreach providers use language translation tools to communicate with those with language, vision or hearing impairment, to remove barriers to accepting services.

1D-4.	Strategies to Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.k.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate your CoC's strategies to prevent the criminalization of homelessness in your CoC's geographic area:

	Your CoC's Strategies	Engaged/Educated Legislators and Policymakers	Implemented Laws/Policies/Practices that Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness
1.	Increase utilization of co-responder responses or social services-led responses over law enforcement responses to people experiencing homelessness?	Yes	Yes
2.	Minimize use of law enforcement to enforce bans on public sleeping, public camping, or carrying out basic life functions in public places?	Yes	Yes
3.	Avoid imposing criminal sanctions, including fines, fees, and incarceration for public sleeping, public camping, and carrying out basic life functions in public places?	Yes	Yes
4.	Other:(limit 500 characters)		

1D-5.		Rapid Rehousing–RRH Beds as Reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) or Longitudinal Data from HMIS.	
		NOFO Section V.B.1.l.	

		HIC Longitudinal HMIS Data	2023	2024
	Enter the total number of RRH beds available to serve all populations as reported in the HIC or the number of households served per longitudinal HMIS data, e.g., APR.	HIC	146	111

1D-6.	Mainstream Benefits–CoC Annual Training of Project Staff.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m.	

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains program staff annually on the following mainstream benefits available for program participants within your CoC's geographic area:

	Mainstream Benefits	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	No
2.	SSI–Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	SSDI–Social Security Disability Insurance	Yes
4.	TANF–Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	No
5.	Substance Use Disorder Programs	Yes
6.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
7.	Other (limit 150 characters)	
	SOAR	Yes

1D-6a.	Information and Training on Mainstream Benefits and Other Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	works with projects to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including those that provide substance use disorder treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services, including Medicaid; and
2.	promotes SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC partners with the local Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) to provide local substance use disorder (SUD) treatment sites with information about the homeless services system and to bring SUD resources to the CoC. The CoC collaborates with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance and receiving services. The CoC partners with Harm Reduction providers on our PIT and in our response to the unsheltered. The county Health Dept. Has a shelter nurse program that offers a nurse in each of our largest single and family shelters, that connect people in shelter with health services. The outreach teams coordinate healthcare referrals to Health Care For the Homeless, until the person has formal coverage. Several healthcare providers attend our CoC meetings. The CoC has started a new health care partnership committee which includes local hospitals to discuss challenges they might have in discharging clients with no housing. CE has taken hospital feedback and built out a direct line option for social work staff at hospitals to use to bypass the normal CE wait times, to reduce the numbers of those being discharged to homelessness.

2. Case managers throughout our CoC are SOAR certified, to help expedite SSI/SSDI applications and increase rates of approval. Both street outreach providers have access to or employ a full-time SOAR certified case manager. The lead agency has advertised opportunities for more agencies to have staff SOAR trained through the state Department of Health. The CoC consistently promotes and aids with the effective utilization of Medicaid and other benefits connecting individuals and families to DSS, Department of Health and Department of Aging.

	ID-7.	Partnerships with Public Health Agencies–Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent the Spread of Infectious Diseases.	
		NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	

		Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to develop CoC-wide policies and procedures that:
	1.	respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and
	2.	prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC has created policies to respond to infectious disease outbreaks in our Standard Operating Policy (SOP) document. The SOP mandates that the Lead Agency and all providers will follow the guidance of the Baltimore County Department of Health for containment policies as they develop. During COVID the CoC and provider agencies met weekly to discuss the changing public health response and partnered closely with our County Public Health agency to create thresholds for capacity and safe service delivery that met the evolving need. This is a model the CoC would follow in case of any other infectious disease outbreaks. The CoC is a member of the County Health Improvement Coalition, which builds relationships between providers and departments to ensure open communication in case of any outbreaks.

2. The Baltimore County Health Department is the lead for our county response to any infectious disease outbreak. Both the County Health Department and Coordinated Entry team are both affiliated with the County Department of Health and Human Services, so coordination of prevention of infectious disease outbreaks has been built into our system. Shelter providers continue to set aside beds in our congregate shelters for quarantine and recovery to prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.

ID-7a.	Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	

		Describe in the field below how your CoC:
	1.	effectively shared information related to public health measures and homelessness; and
	2.	facilitated communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers to ensure street outreach providers and shelter and housing providers are equipped to prevent or limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, our health department and CoC providers have held regular meetings. These meetings have involved discussions about best practices for topics such as containing infectious diseases and blood borne pathogens. Collaboration between the Health Department and the CoC has continued beyond the pandemic and we have continued to share information with providers about the Health Department's public health measures. As the Health Department has shared resources on public health concerns, the CoC has shared those with all providers.

2. The lead agency sends out weekly emails to all providers including street outreach, shelter and housing providers, which include any information related to Health Department recommendations for infectious disease protocols. Coordinated Entry provides regular updates on infectious disease outbreaks occurring in shelters and current shelter capacity. Representatives from the Health Department, shelter and outreach providers are active participants in numerous committees as well as our monthly Governance Board meetings.

1D-8.	Coordinated Entry Standard Processes.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:
1.	can serve everybody regardless of where they are located within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	uses a standardized assessment process to achieve fair, equitable, and equal access to housing and services within your CoC;
3.	collects personal information in a trauma-informed way; and
4.	is updated at least annually using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The Coordinated Entry (CE) system covers the entire CoC geographic area of Baltimore County. The CE phone number is widely published at government offices such as social services and the library including that the CE hotline assists people with a range of shelters, housing programs and supportive services. CE answers 1,500-2,000 calls monthly from those seeking referrals to all emergency services for people at risk of or who are experiencing homelessness. To improve access, the CoC approved a policy which allows the two funded outreach teams to serve as points of entry for CE, outside of the traditional hours CE offers the hotline.

2. Our CoC lead and CE team have worked closely with the HMIS lead over the last year to update the CE assessment process and prioritization for shelter and permanent housing. The CE team uses a standardized set of questions for assessment, prioritization and referral to permanent housing and then a secondary set of standardized questions for emergency shelter. Referral and prioritization for PSH and RRH focus on length of time homeless, disability and chronicity to determine vulnerability. Under this assessment, higher scores indicate higher vulnerability and prioritization for services. Referrals to shelter, RRH and PSH are all completed in HMIS and sent from the CE team lead to each provider with a vacant bed or unit. The CE team lead holds a bi-weekly case conference to review the by name list (BNL) to refer to open RRH and PSH slots. This ensures referrals are made in a transparent manner and that vacancies are filled in a timely manner and according to our CoC CE Policies.

3. The standardized assessment has been evaluated by providers, CE and the HMIS team to find more person centered and trauma informed ways to collect personal information. Questions that were deemed unnecessary were removed to lessen the burden on people seeking services and avoid re-traumatization in the assessment.

4. The Coordinated Entry committee has been working to invite people with lived experience of our CE system to join the committee and provide feedback on the assessment. CE has worked with participating projects to review policies around the intake assessment. Feedback from providers led to an updated streamline bed policy that clarifies the process for street outreach teams to immediately refer unsheltered clients to shelter outside of CE hours of operation. The CE process will be reviewed at least annually along with the SOP.

1D-8a.	Coordinated Entry–Program Participant-Centered Approach.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:
1.	reaches people who are least likely to apply for homeless assistance in the absence of special outreach;
2.	prioritizes people most in need of assistance;
3.	ensures people most in need of assistance receive permanent housing in a timely manner, consistent with their needs and preferences; and
4.	takes steps to reduce burdens on people seeking assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC approved a streamline bed policy so street outreach teams can act as a point of entry for our system for people who are least likely to apply for assistance on their own. This policy was the result of conversations between CE, shelters and both our street outreach teams to make the process work for providers and for the clients receiving services.

2. In July 2023, the CoC enacted a major change in how CE prioritizes people most in need of assistance by completing a vulnerability score that asks about factors that would cause that person to be more vulnerable if they remain unhoused. Over the last year, as we have referred and housed many of the most vulnerable people on the by-name list, we have revised who is prioritized to ensure we are steadily housing people in our system. The most vulnerable people are measured by a vulnerability score which factors in disability, length of time homeless, family status, age and chronicity for RRH and PSH through CE.

3. As stated above, our CoC changed how people are prioritized to receive permanent housing to focus on those in most need of assistance. To ensure people are being moved into housing quickly, we established the bi-weekly case conference that includes the street outreach teams, shelter providers and housing providers so client preference and obstacles can be discussed in a transparent manner. These meetings are used as a place to have a multidisciplinary approach to removing barriers to the referred clients' housing preference. During the meetings, the CoC Lead regularly encourages providers to meet outside of the BNL meeting as well to quickly make progress towards clients being housed.

4. As part of a trauma informed approach, our CoC has evaluated the questions asked as part of our housing assessment to ensure we are only asking what is necessary for a vulnerability score and to house the client. We have removed questions which were previously part of the assessment that were not essential to meeting the client's needs. To remove language as a barrier, for callers to CE who do not speak English, CE utilizes other DSS staff who speak various languages to reduce the burden on the caller. The CoC's Healthcare Partnerships committee is beginning to connect with hospitals to remove barriers to receiving CoC services for people being discharged from hospitals.

| | 1D-8b. | Coordinated Entry–Informing Program Participants about Their Rights and Remedies–Reporting Violations. | |
| | | NOFO Section V.B.1.o. | |

		Describe in the field below how your CoC through its coordinated entry:
	1.	affirmatively markets housing and services provided within the CoC's geographic area and ensures it reaches all persons experiencing homelessness;
	2.	informs program participants of their rights and remedies available under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws; and
	3.	reports any conditions or actions that impede fair housing choice for current or prospective program participants to the jurisdiction(s) responsible for certifying consistency with the Consolidated Plan.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC has worked with community partners to affirmatively advertise available services and that referrals to those services are made through Coordinated Entry (CE). Flyers for CE have been sent to community centers, faith-based locations, public libraries and government offices open to the public among other locations. For people who call in, the CoC uses its CE system to inform all people who request assistance what programs they are eligible for. CE conducts an assessment with all callers to identify which programs best fit the needs disclosed and will affirmatively inform the person which programs they qualify for.

2. If clients report that they face any legal barriers to housing or believe they have been discriminated against, CE provides them with resources to legal representation and Baltimore County Human Rights Commission to investigate the situation. While clients are provided with information about their rights, they are also referred to the Homeless Prevention Program to find solutions to any housing rights violations that would result in homelessness. Law firms which provide pro bono representation in housing discrimination lawsuits have been presented to CoC committees and that information has been disseminated to providers through the CoC email list serve to ensure all providers are aware of recourse available to victims of housing discrimination.

3. The CoC received training on Fair Housing practices in which providers were made aware that any actions which impede fair housing should be reported to the Baltimore County Human Rights Commission. When any actions or conditions are reported, the reported situation will be investigated by the Commission. CE and any other providers who are made aware of housing discrimination encourage clients to report this both to the Human Rights Commission and to seek legal representation available if the client is comfortable doing so.

1D-9.	Advancing Racial Equity in Homelessness–Conducting Assessment.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

1.	Has your CoC conducted a racial disparities assessment in the last 3 years?	Yes
2.	Enter the date your CoC conducted its latest assessment for racial disparities.	03/21/2023

1D-9a.	Using Data to Determine if Racial Disparities Exist in Your CoC's Provision or Outcomes of CoC Program-Funded Homeless Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

	Describe in the field below:	
1.	the data your CoC used to analyze whether any racial disparities are present in your CoC's provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance; and	

2.	how your CoC analyzed the data to determine whether any racial disparities are present in your CoC's provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC used quantitative data from Stella-P and the PIT count to analyze racial disparities. The CoC's racial disparities committee is currently designing focus groups to collect qualitative data from people with lived experience in our CoC to better understand their perspective of racial disparities in our system.

2. According to the CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool, our census data shows Baltimore County's population breakdown is 61% white and 29% African American, with other races making up the difference. However, according to our PIT data, 51% of our homeless population is African American (AA), while 45% of our homeless population is white. Our latest assessment for racial disparities conducted on 3/21/23 shows 24% of our shelter population is white, 70% are AA and the remaining identified as "other races". Therefore, we do have an even higher overrepresentation of African American people in our shelter system. PSH clients are 34% white and 61% African American. Street outreach's clients are 49% white and 41% African American. We are encouraged to see that 77% of our RRH placements this year identified as AA, but we need to dig deeper into our PSH placements and also examine overall success rates in permanent housing broken down by race. From our Stella-P data, we can see that the average number of days for all households is 143. The average number of days for AA clients within our system is 148 while for white clients the average is 142. When we breakdown our exits to permanent destinations, our overall rate is 36% while our AA population exits at 41% and white population exits at 36%.

1D-9b.	Implemented Strategies to Prevent or Eliminate Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the strategies your CoC is using to prevent or eliminate racial disparities.

1.	Are your CoC's board and decisionmaking bodies representative of the population served in the CoC?	Yes
2.	Did your CoC identify steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC?	Yes
3.	Is your CoC expanding outreach in your CoC's geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups?	Yes
4.	Does your CoC have communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups?	Yes
5.	Is your CoC training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness?	Yes
6.	Is your CoC establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector?	Yes
7.	Does your CoC have staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness?	Yes
8.	Is your CoC educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national nonprofit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity?	Yes
9.	Did your CoC review its coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness?	Yes

10.	Is your CoC collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system?		Yes
11.	Is your CoC conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness?		Yes
	Other:(limit 500 characters)		
12.			

1D-9c.	Plan for Ongoing Evaluation of System-level Processes, Policies, and Procedures for Racial Equity.		
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.		

Describe in the field below your CoC's plan for ongoing evaluation of system-level processes, policies, and procedures for racial equity.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Racial disparities have been a focus for the CoC over the last 3 years and will continue in the coming year. As the CoC has expanded its Coordinated Entry (CE) system, it has done so with addressing disparities in mind. Baltimore County CoC was chosen to participate in NAEH's mini-lab series focused on equitable CE systems. We have removed questions from our CE assessment that have created disparities in the referral process. All projects across our CoC accept referrals from CE without pre-conditions.

The racial disparities committee is developing a focus group to collect qualitative data to better understand how people with lived experience in our system experience disparities. The committee is receiving assistance from a HUD TA provider who is helping craft the focus group and assisting our CoC to address the disparities identified in the outcomes of homeless assistance. All grantees of Baltimore County must verify in their grant agreements that they comply with all federal and state regulations prohibiting discrimination on the basis of protected classes. Providers are asked supplemental questions in their CoC about how they understand and address racial disparities within their work and the CoC as a whole. Below are some examples included in this year's application:

Prologue follows internal policies and procedures that were created to ensure they serve individuals through an equity lens. Catholic Charities provides a web based training with the intended purpose of allowing staff to explore inherent bias and how they can show up in collaborating with vulnerable communities. Associated Catholic Charities, Inc also has a Diversity and Equity and Inclusion Committee which ensures that staff development trainings, policies, and community partnerships are approached from an awareness that biases toward marginalized communities, including LGBTQA+, are addressed and brought to the forefront.

1D-9d.	Plan for Using Data to Track Progress on Preventing or Eliminating Racial Disparities.		
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.		

	Describe in the field below:
1.	the measures your CoC plans to use to continuously track progress on preventing or eliminating racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and

	2.	the tools your CoC plans to use to continuously track progress on preventing or eliminating racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Our CoC plans to measure racial disparities by looking at outcomes tracked through our HMIS data. We have made numerous changes within the last year to how we refer the most vulnerable in our CoC to permanent housing and plan to compare data from before the change with data after the change. We hope to use some of the qualitative data from our racial disparity committee's upcoming focus groups with people with lived experience to develop measurements on progress towards preventing and eliminating racial disparities from our CoC.

2. Our CoC uses the CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool (version 3.0) and Stella-P to track our data on racial disparities and compare that information with the trends we see in our HMIS data. We will also partnered with a HUD TA provider who is assisting our racial disparities committee in developing a qualitative study to help us understand our data better.

1D-10.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking–CoC's Outreach Efforts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below your CoC's outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decisionmaking processes.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has engaged in targeted outreach to involve more people with lived experience in the decision-making processes. The CoC Governance Board has set aside two seats for people with lived experience. When those seats have been vacant, the Lead Agency has sent out emails to all providers informing them, asking that they encourage clients to apply for the vacancies. The Governance Board passed a revised payment policy within the last year so people with lived experience who serve on the Board, committees or assist with projects such as the PIT Count are paid for their time. Providers are encouraged to invite clients to become involved in committees throughout the CoC, so that people with lived experience are involved throughout the CoC as policies and decisions are being made.

1D-10a.	Active CoC Participation of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

You must upload the Lived Experience Support Letter attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
Enter in the chart below the number of people with lived experience who currently participate in your CoC under the four categories listed:

	Level of Active Participation	Number of People with Lived Experience Within the Last 7 Years or Current Program Participant	Number of People with Lived Experience Coming from Unsheltered Situations
1.	Routinely included in the decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	3	1
2.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	3	1
3.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's local competition rating factors.	1	1
4.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's coordinated entry process.	3	1

1D-10b.	Professional Development and Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC or CoC membership organizations provide professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has partnered with the National Coalition for the Homeless to connect Persons with Lived Experience of Homelessness to their Lived Experience Training Academy (LETA). This course provides training for people with lived experience in how to effectively advocate for themselves and their communities. LETA builds skills necessary for people with lived experience to advocate for systems change within the CoC. This skills-based training is particularly crucial as we as a CoC are asking our individuals with lived experience to assist us in making changes to our systems. This professional development helps people with lived experience within our CoC to better advocate for the changes they know will help others who are currently in our systems. LETA provides a certificate and stipend for completing the course, allowing for further employment opportunities as the individuals who go through the course learn the skills to assist our CoC to better serve others. Many of the individual providers within our CoC hire people with lived experience as staff and in leadership positions. They have people with lived experience on their Boards and taking part in policy decisions on the provider level.

1D-10c.	Routinely Gathering Feedback and Addressing Challenges of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;
2.	how often your CoC gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;
3.	how your CoC gathers feedback from people who received assistance through the CoC Program or ESG Program;
4.	how often your CoC gathers feedback from people who have received assistance through the CoC Program or ESG Program; and
5.	steps your CoC has taken to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Our CoC Governance Board charter mandates that at least two seats be set aside for people with lived experience. Initially only one seat was set aside, however we received feedback that one seat was not sufficient and the Board expanded to a second seat with discussions for more members with lived experience to join. We have put work into establishing a specific person with lived experience committee in our CoC. All committees have begun to recruit at least one person with lived experience as a member. This will place people with lived experience into positions to discuss and vote on decisions within the CoC. The CoC's policy committee which meets monthly is mandated to have at least one person with lived experience as a member to ensure people with lived experience are setting policies which impact them. The CoC worked with our state partners in the last year to solicit input anonymously from shelter residents about their experience in shelters.

2. The CoC Governance Board and committees with people with lived experience meet monthly.

3. In the past year, our CoC has established two Governance Board seats for members with lived experience as voting members. These members are paid for their time on the Board through a state grant. With input from our state partner and people with lived experience, we set the payment rate low enough to not impact benefits while also providing a per diem to assist with access to CoC meetings. During Governance Board meetings, our members with lived experience are encouraged to join in discussions and provide their unique insights.

4. The CoC Governance Board and committees with people with lived experience meet monthly.

5. Within the last year, the Board's one person with lived experience championed the need for more representation of people with lived experience. The Board voted to set aside a second seat for a person with lived experience. There were questions raised about the wage approved to pay participating consumers and how that would impact their monthly entitlements/benefits. As a result, we set the policy to pay people with lived experience at a rate that does not negatively impact benefits. For more specific concerns, we have connected members with community resources to get their questions answered about taxes and tax forms. The lead agency works closely to respond to all grievances raised by those who have engaged with any provider and/or the coordinated entry system to address their concerns.

1D-11.	Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.		
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.		

	Describe in the field below at least two steps your CoC has taken in the past 12 months to engage city, county, or state governments that represent your CoC's geographic area regarding the following:	
1.	reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; and	
2.	reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. In March 2016, Baltimore County (BC) entered into a Voluntary Conciliation Agreement (VCA) with HUD. The agreement requires BC to create 1,000 affordable units (at/below 60% AMI), 150 of those must be at/below 30% AMI and must be completed by 2028. BC also established a Housing Opportunities Fund (HOF) and the county has contributed $16 mill. To the fund, up to $30 mill. Over 10 years to fund the development of affordable housing in the county. BC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is county Public Housing Agency (PHA) as well as the CoC Lead Agency (LA). BC DHCD has made significant progress on building an affordable housing pipeline and make progress towards the VCA goals. Two projects are anticipated to start this fall.

2) In August, 2024 the CoC LA issued a request for applications (RFA) that included all sources for housing capital (including HOME-ARP funding) and outlined the units still needed to meet VCA goals in an effort to secure remaining housing deals for the HOF. In September 2024, the CoC Governance Board submitted a letter of support to the state housing finance agency, for their plan to create a 15% Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) threshold requirement for all new projects funded with Maryland's Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) that funds the majority of affordable housing development statewide. BC DHCD worked closely with a PSH developer to rezone a parcel of land, so they could apply for state LIHTC. The CoC Governance Board recruited a leading affordable housing developer, owner/operator, to join the Board. He is an active member of the landlord engagement committee and is helping to develop PSH and RRH talking points for landlords, to engage more landlords to participate. Additionally, the Deputy Director of our Public Housing Auth is an active member on our Vet. Committee, focused on VASH Voucher utilization.

1E. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
  - 24 CFR part 578;
   - FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
  - Section 3 Resources;
  - PHA Crosswalk; and
   - Frequently Asked Questions

1E-1.	Web Posting of Advance Public Notice of Your CoC's Local Competition Deadline, Scoring and Rating Criteria.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a. and 2.g.	

1.	Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for New Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC's local competition.	08/28/2024
2.	Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for Renewal Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC's local competition.	08/28/2024

1E-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. We use the response to this question and the response in Question 1E-2a along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC's eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., 2.d., and 2.e.	

You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected project applications during your local competition:

1.	Established total points available for each project application type.	Yes
2.	At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH).	Yes
3.	At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness).	Yes
4.	Provided points for projects that addressed specific severe barriers to housing and services.	Yes
5.	Used data from comparable databases to score projects submitted by victim service providers.	Yes

6.	Provided points for projects based on the degree the projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.	Yes

1E-2a.	Scored Project Forms for One Project from Your CoC's Local Competition. We use the response to this question and Question 1E-2. along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC's eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.	

You must upload the Scored Forms for One Project attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
Complete the chart below to provide details of your CoC's local competition:

1.	What were the maximum number of points available for the renewal project form(s)?	92
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	13
3.	What renewal project type did most applicants use?	PH-PSH

1E-2b.	Addressing Severe Barriers in the Local Project Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.d.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding each project that has successfully housed program participants in permanent housing;
2.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding how long it takes to house people in permanent housing;
3.	how your CoC considered the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities experienced by program participants preventing rapid placement in permanent housing or the ability to maintain permanent housing when your CoC ranked and selected projects; and
4.	the severe barriers your CoC considered.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Scoring for PH Renewal Projects, was based on HMIS APR data for the most recent project year and four supplemental questions. The APR data scored included bed utilization rates, the number of clients that exited or maintained permanent housing and the number of clients who were able to increase their income over time. Points were given if the project received referrals from a place not meant for human habitation. Supplemental questions asked applicants to discuss barriers to participation faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, how they remove barriers to housing first practices, protect against discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation, and incorporate People with Lived Experience in their work.

2. As of 7/1/23, our CoC implemented a by name list (BNL) for referrals to PH through our Coord. Entry (CE) system. We hold bi-weekly case conferences (CC's) and as part of that of that BNL CC, we include a referral report that shows the date the referral was made to fill the housing vacancy and the date the provider accepted the referral. Data from this report along with housing move in dates are reviewed. We also will be including this metric in HMIS so we can track it. We will be able to track this metric for the entire system with HMIS. If a provider takes longer to house people in PH than our policy allows, we review this data and hold CCs with the provider to find needs they may have to ensure the housing process is as efficient.

3. The severity of needs and vulnerabilities the CoC considered when reviewing and ranking projects for this year's competition included questions about the percentage of those with zero income at program start and the number of individuals entering the project form a place not meant for human habitation. The CoC has engaged in an analysis of those currently living in our PSH to determine what assistance is needed to move people to other housing when they are ready. We have added a member of the Housing Office which handles our vouchers to the Governance Board to begin of a conversation around how to set aside vouchers for people who are ready to leave PSH with a voucher to open new slots.

4. Our Rating and Ranking policy allows for SSO projects to be automatically placed in tier 1 due to the benefit they provide to the entire CoC and outcomes of an SSO project cannot be quantified in the same manner as PH projects.

	1E-3.	Advancing Racial Equity through Participation of Over-Represented Populations in the Local Competition Review and Ranking Process.	
		NOFO Section V.B.2.e.	

		Describe in the field below:
	1.	how your CoC used input from persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, to determine the rating factors used to review project applications;
	2.	how your CoC included persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population in the review, selection, and ranking process; and
	3.	how your CoC rated and ranked projects based on the degree that proposed projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and steps the projects took or will take to eliminate the identified barriers.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. 50 percent of our 10 person rating and ranking committee this year were people of color. Prior to receiving the projects to rank, the lead agency led a meeting to review the rating and ranking policies. This was a chance to review the policies as approved and also to gather feedback from members who had served previously. Feedback was included in updated policies and score sheets.

2. We reached out to over 250 members of our CoC general membership as well as various homeless affinity and advocacy groups to recruit our R&R Committee. As stated above, 50 percent of our rating and ranking committee this year were people of color. One person with lived experience from our CoC was invited to join the committee and be paid for their time and had committed, however was ultimately unable to join. They received the rating and ranking policy and were asked for their input in the process. Our committee members represented various ages and positions across our CoC.

3. Our rating and ranking policy ensures that our CoC Supportive services Only (SSO) projects (street outreach and DV Coordinated Entry) are automatically placed in our Tier 1 ranking due to the benefit they both provide to our entire CoC and significant access each provide to our system, without any barrier. Both provide services to those living unsheltered and prioritize those with the highest barriers and perhaps the least access to services with the highest needs. All other projects needed to answer supplemental questions which were scored as part of the rating and ranking process. Those questions asked about how the project would eliminate multiple barriers, faced by those who are over-represented in the homelessness population. To earn full points on the supplemental questions, specific examples of policies, initiatives and practices were required.

1E-4.	Reallocation–Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

		Describe in the field below:
	1.	your CoC's reallocation process, including how your CoC determined which projects are candidates for reallocation because they are low performing or less needed;
	2.	whether your CoC identified any low performing or less needed projects through the process described in element 1 of this question during your CoC's local competition this year;
	3.	whether your CoC reallocated any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year; and
	4.	why your CoC did not reallocate low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year, if applicable.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The Baltimore County CoC has two processes for reallocation; voluntary and involuntary. The voluntary process allows a project to inform the Lead Agency they elect to end their grant. The involuntary process involves the process to be initiated by CoC Lead Agency/CoC Grantee or initiated by the CoC Governance Board because a project is low performing through quarterly data tracking, monthly spending reports, through an annual monitoring visit or client grievance. The policy outlines steps that take place once non-compliance is confirmed that the grantee is informed and placed on a performance improvement plan with specific deliverables and dates, to be achieved within the program year. Technical assistance is provided throughout. If full compliance can be achieved, no action is taken, but if the project non-compliant or does not spend, The CoC Lead Agency will inform the CoC Gov. Board that the grant will be reallocated. At this point, the process is the same for the voluntary and involuntary process. The CoC will issue an RFP to choose a different COC eligible project and provider. If time does not allow for that, the CoC lead agency may choose a new provider. The new provider will be shared with the CoC Gov. Board and the newly selected provider will submit a grant application through the county grants review process.

2. The CoC did not identify any low performing projects for reallocation this year.

3. The CoC did not reallocate any low performing projects during the competition this year.

4. The reallocation policy was approved by the Governance Board, after the window of time to allow for reallocation within the program year. However, all FFY23 CoC projects have received monthly spending and programmatic monitoring, and the majority have so far received an in-person annual monitoring visit as well.

1E-4a.	Reallocation Between FY 2019 and FY 2024.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

| | Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2019 and FY 2024? | No |

1E-5.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

1.	Did your CoC reject any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
2.	Did your CoC reduce funding for any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
3.	Did your CoC inform applicants why your CoC rejected or reduced their project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No

4.	If you selected Yes for element 1 or element 2 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2024, 06/27/2024, and 06/28/2024, then you must enter 06/28/2024.	

1E-5a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New and Renewal Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2024, 06/27/2024, and 06/28/2024, then you must enter 06/28/2024.	10/15/2024

1E-5b.	Local Competition Selection Results for All Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Selection Results attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Does your attachment include: 1. Project Names; 2. Project Scores; 3. Project Status–Accepted, Rejected, Reduced Reallocated, Fully Reallocated; 4. Project Rank; 5. Amount Requested from HUD; and 6. Reallocated Funds +/-.	Yes

1E-5c.	Web Posting of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application 2 Days Before CoC Program Competition Application Submission Deadline.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g. and 24 CFR 578.95.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC posted the CoC-approved Consolidated Application on the CoC's website or partner's website–which included: 1. the CoC Application; and 2. Priority Listings for Reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.	10/25/2024

1E-5d.	Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders by Email that the CoC-Approved Consolidated Application is Posted on Website.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified community members and key stakeholders that the CoC-approved Consolidated Application was posted on your CoC's website or partner's website.	10/25/2024

2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
  - 24 CFR part 578;
   - FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
  - Section 3 Resources;
  - PHA Crosswalk; and
   - Frequently Asked Questions

2A-1.	HMIS Vendor.	
	Not Scored–For Information Only	

	Enter the name of the HMIS Vendor your CoC is currently using.	Wellsky

2A-2.	HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.	
	Not Scored–For Information Only	

	Select from dropdown menu your CoC's HMIS coverage area.	Single CoC

2A-3.	HIC Data Submission in HDX.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.a.	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 HIC data into HDX.	05/09/2024

2A-4.	Comparable Databases for DV Providers–CoC and HMIS Lead Supporting Data Collection and Data Submission by Victim Service Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.b.	

	In the field below:	
1.	describe actions your CoC and HMIS Lead have taken to ensure DV housing and service providers in your CoC collect data in HMIS comparable databases; and	
2.	state whether DV housing and service providers in your CoC are using a HUD-compliant comparable database–compliant with the FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The COC and HMIS lead work directly with DV providers, regularly to ensure data is collected in the Apricot (HMIS comparable database). The Family Crisis Center (FCC) is the CoC's lead DV provider in the county, in partnership with one other. FCC manages the DV Coordinated Entry (DVCE) as well. All DV providers enter data into Apricot. The HMIS lead works with all DV providers to ensure data requirements are understood and followed. Our HMIS lead conducts periodic reviews of APR's submitted in SAGE to confirm data quality. The CoC and HMIS lead maintain a close relationship with FCC and has supported their submission of SAGE data reports and FCC consistently provides aggregate data upon request, PIT data, HIC Data, they have Policies and Procedures for the DV coordinated entry.

2. Apricot is the DV comparable database and it is partially compliant for Permanent Housing programs, the CoC and HMIS lead identified that Apricot was not fully compliant with the 2022 HMIS data standards, due to an issue with the vendor. To be in compliance, FCC paid for a software upgrade (including training costs), and are now able to run HUD compliant APR's. While FCC has paid for this upgrade in the system, not all providers have done so and the HMIS lead works with all DV providers to ensure data requirements are understood and followed. Our HMIS lead conducts periodic reviews of APR's submitted in SAGE to confirm data quality and to rectify data quality issues quickly and to update data workflows in accordance with our HMIS data standards and governance policies. The CoC and HMIS lead maintain a close relationship with all DV providers and has supported their submission of SAGE data reports.

2A-5.	Bed Coverage Rate—Using HIC, HMIS Data—CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.c. and V.B.7.	

Using the 2024 HDX Competition Report we issued your CoC, enter data in the chart below by project type:

Project Type	Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current Non-VSP Beds [Column F of HDX Report]	Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current VSP Beds [Column K of HDX Report]	Total Year-Round, Current, HMIS Beds and VSP Beds in an HMIS Comparable Database [Column M of HDX Report]	HMIS and Comparable Database Coverage Rate [Column O of HDX Report]
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	578	31	609	100.00%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	0	0	0	0.00%
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	0	0	0	0.00%
4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	111	0	111	100.00%
5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	578	0	578	44.98%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	0	0	0	0.00%

	2A-5a.	Partial Credit for Bed Coverage Rates at or Below 84.99 for Any Project Type in Question 2A-5.	
		NOFO Section V.B.3.c.	

		For each project type with a bed coverage rate that is at or below 84.99 percent in question 2A-5, describe:
	1.	steps your CoC will take over the next 12 months to increase the bed coverage rate to at least 85 percent for that project type; and
	2.	how your CoC will implement the steps described to increase bed coverage to at least 85 percent.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The percentage for our PSH beds are so low because more than 50% of our CoC PSH is through our VASH vouchers. Those units are not being entered into HMIS by our VA or PHA partners, but both partners attend our bi- weekly ending veteran homelessness committee and they provide real time updates that our HMIS data analyst enters into HMIS by hand. We will continue to work with both partners to get the information uploaded into HMIS, we are also exploring the option of using the VA HOMES database report upload. This will provide move in data for all VASH recipients. We have been in contact with our local VA office to discuss incentives for their case managers to begin inputting data into HMIS.

2. We plan to rectify this data upload by obtaining a copy of the HOMES report data set from our VA partners and then work with HMIS vendor to build out capability within HMIS, obtain an estimate from Wellsky vendor for the cost for the upload into HMIS, and follow the steps outlined in the HUD Guidance: https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/HMIS-HOMES-Data-Transfer-Commonly-Asked-Questions.pdf

	2A-6.	Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX 2.0.	
		NOFO Section V.B.3.d.	
		You must upload your CoC's FY 2024 HDX Competition Report to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

Did your CoC submit at least two usable LSA data files to HUD in HDX 2.0 by January 24, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST?	Yes

2B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
  - 24 CFR part 578;
   - FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
  - Section 3 Resources;
  - PHA Crosswalk; and
   - Frequently Asked Questions

2B-1.	PIT Count Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2024 PIT count.	01/22/2024

2B-2.	PIT Count Data–HDX Submission Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 PIT count data in HDX.	05/09/2024

2B-3.	PIT Count–Effectively Counting Youth in Your CoC's Most Recent Unsheltered PIT Count.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.b.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	engaged unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations in your CoC's most recent PIT count planning process;	
2.	worked with unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations to select locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified during your CoC's most recent PIT count planning process; and	
3.	included youth experiencing homelessness as counters during your CoC's most recent unsheltered PIT count.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Our 2024 PIT count was a collaborative planning effort with Prologue, our primary street Outreach provider, who also serves as the Unaccompanied Homeless Youth Outreach provider with two specific outreach workers that focus on engaging unsheltered youth. They also receive state HSP funding to provide youth RRH services.

2. Prologue identified "hot spots" for our unsheltered count and their youth homeless outreach staff focused on areas they know Unaccompanied Homeless Youth (UHY) to be. Additionally, we worked with Prologue to review and update our PIT count survey tool to ask questions that gathered data that more accurately assessed unsheltered youth and households with youth included. The questions were also revised to more accurately collect data about unsheltered households that were not traditional mother/father with children, but also non-related households that could have included non- related/guardian households. The organization of the tool was improved to better document how those being counted defined their family and the ages of each family member. Finally, we did ensure every person surveying unsheltered people was trained on and had a copy of the HUD Comprehensive PIT Count Youth Survey tool so if/when they did encounter UHY they knew how to survey them. Outside of the January PIT count, Baltimore County participates in a spring YOUTH REACH count in partnership with the county public schools to document and survey all school- aged youth who are experiencing or who are at risk of becoming homeless.

3. Youth were recruited to participate, but due to the count being held on a Monday during the school year, it was not feasible for youth to volunteer for the actual count. We plan to prioritize incorporating youth with lived experience of homelessness into our PIT count in the upcoming year.

2B-4.	PIT Count–Methodology Change–CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.a and V.B.7.c.	

	In the field below:
1.	describe any changes your CoC made to your sheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;
2.	describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;
3.	describe whether your CoC's PIT count was affected by people displaced either from a natural disaster or seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance who recently arrived in your CoCs' geographic; and
4.	describe how the changes affected your CoC's PIT count results; or
5.	state "Not Applicable" if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2024.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. For the 2024 sheltered PIT count, our CoC followed the same basic procedure as previous years, pulling shelter data from HMIS for the night of the count using the PIT Extrapolation Tool. FCC, our DV Coordinated Entry provider submitted their and other DV provider shelter data using the PIT Self Calculating Tool. We revised our survey tool with a trauma informed lens, only collecting data required by HUD.

2. For the 2024 PIT unsheltered count, our CoC revamped our survey tool with a trauma informed lense, only asking the questions required by HUD. Historically we conducted our PIT count during one day from the morning through the afternoon, however this last year, we conducted the PIT count after sunset and after the night of the count conducted two days of service-based location counting.

3. Baltimore County had not experienced any natural disasters leading up to the PIT Count and had no notable influx of people seeking services from outside of our CoC's geographic area.

4. Our PIT data showed lower unsheltered homelessness in 2024 than in previous years. We believe some of the changes may account for this. Our street outreach teams primarily provide services during the day, and so moving the count to the evening meant that they were going to hot spots outside of their usual times and missed people as a result. However, we also were able to count some people at service-based locations who were not previously in our system.

5. We did conduct an unsheltered count with changes to the methodology in 2024.

2C. System Performance

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
  - 24 CFR part 578;
    - FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
  - Section 3 Resources;
  - PHA Crosswalk; and
    - Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	Reducing the Number of First Time Homeless–Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b.	

	In the field below:
1.	describe how your CoC determined the risk factors to identify persons experiencing homelessness for the first time;
2.	describe your CoC's strategies to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Our System Performance Measures (SPM) data indicates a slight decline in people experiencing homelessness for the first time between FY22 and FY23. Risk factors we found included, history of arrears, prior evictions, loss of job, need for workforce development training/support to change sectors, other monthly bills such as medical or childcare that impacted ability to pay rent consistently. We also identified households that came back more than once for assistance with arrears and were unable to resolve and pay their rent consistently once employment was secured.

2. In the last year, our CoC has shifted the way Coordinated Entry (CE) assesses for vulnerability related to those facing homelessness, especially those at risk for the first time. We use the HMIS data standards 3.917 to collect homeless history to assess everyone coming through CE. The CoC worked with HUD TA to revamp our CE assessment tool. The CoC has utilized state dollars to establish a homeless prevention program (HPP) and worked with CE to assess and refer those households most vulnerable to becoming homeless for the first time. The HPP was just established in July 2024, so it is too early to present data from the program. They will work with households to prevent homelessness by identifying supports needed to retain housing through non-cash transfers.

3. The CoC Governance Board is responsible setting policy priorities and establishing policy strategy to address first time homelessness. The Governance Board will work closely with CE and the HMIS team to make data driven decisions and policy recommendations for the CoC as a whole.

2C-1a.	Impact of Displaced Persons on Number of First Time Homeless.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b	

	Was your CoC's Number of First Time Homeless [metric 5.2] affected by the number of persons seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance displaced due to:	

1.	natural disasters?	No
2.	having recently arrived in your CoC's geographic area?	No

2C-2.	Reducing Length of Time Homeless–CoC's Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.c.	

	In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
2.	describe how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and	
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. According to our SPM data, the average length of time (LOT) someone experienced homelessness in ES, SH and TH went up by 9 days between FY22 and FY23. The CoC has worked closely with our shelter providers to utilize funding sources targeted to those in shelter, to help them move out quickly. Use of RRH funding and short term move out funds have been helpful to get people moved out of shelter. CE assesses all callers for emergency shelter and permanent housing programs (RRH and PSH) as well as the homeless prevention program (HPP) and other services. This ensures households receive services faster and don't sit in shelter waiting to be referred, therefore reducing the overall LOT in shelter. The CoC has adopted and been trained in a CoC Standard Operating Policies (SOP) document that details expectations of all project types and the case management and services that must be offered. The CoC data committee has established a quarterly SPM score card by project type to show how shelters are moving people out of shelter.

2. Our CoC worked closely with HUD TA and members of our CoC to develop updated CE prioritization criteria for our RRH and PSH. This was implemented in July 2023. The CoC chose longest LOT homeless, disability (chronicity) and number of disabling conditions as criteria to develop a By Name List (BNL). The CoC updated our referral policy and we hold bi-weekly case conferences, led by our CE team to review the BNL (updated in real time), sorted first, are those who have been homeless the longest. Throughout the year, we have updated criteria including families with multiple episodes of homelessness and elderly participants. We discuss their needs and refer them to RRH and PSH. This has been a new practice for our CoC, but we acknowledged the need to get the most vulnerable with the longest tenures of homelessness, permanently housed.

3. This is a shared responsibility between the CoC Governance Board (GB) and CE. The GB updates the CE prioritization and referral policy. Then it is the role of the CE team, HMIS lead and providers working with those who have been homeless the longest to make referrals and house clients who are referred for PH. The CE team executes the policy set by the CoC GB, by holding bi-weekly case conferences, utilizing a dependable BNL produced by the HMIS lead and then during the regular case conferences, providers advocate for their most chronic clients to be placed into housing.

2C-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention –CoC's Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.d.	

	In the field below:
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
2.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Between FY22 and FY23 our successful exits to permanent housing increased from 47% to 49%. Finding affordable housing for households leaving shelter has been the primary barrier to successful housing exits. Forging positive relationships with landlords with affordable housing continues to be a primary focus for our landlord engagement committee. The committee began meeting with landlords to identify barriers to accepting program participants as tenants and find incentives the CoC can provide. The CoC received a state innovation grant to expand the existing referral to supported employment/workforce job developer services for those staying in shelter to increase their income. We have been coupling the RRH assistance with this referral so those exiting shelter will be able to find employment faster. Finally, the CoC Standard Operating Policies (SOP) document includes shelter case management (CM) standards for meeting with people in shelter and the Lead Agency provided training on this document. This will encourage case managers to meet with clients more frequently to clear housing hurdles such as poor credit, rental history, and other issues more quickly. There is also more consistent accountability for clients who refuse to meet with their CMs and refuse housing options.

2. Our CoC has seen a consistent 98% successful exits and retention in permanent housing from FY22 to FY23. While we want to see improvement, we are encouraged by this high retention and exit rate. Starting in July 2023, we shifted in our prioritization so more vulnerable clients are referred to PH and have adopted the CoC SOP that outlines the required supportive services necessary to keep people housed. We have communicated the increased needs for clients placed into PH through our bi-weekly BNL case conferences. This has drastically improved our communication across providers, with the shared goal of improving our retention rate. With a CoC Governance Board member from the Office of Housing, we will begin discussions around how to set aside vouchers for people who are ready to move on from the supports with PSH, but still need a voucher to remain housed. This Move-On Strategy will be crucial in improving our successful exit rate.

3. Our CoC Coordinated Entry team lead is primarily responsible for this as they facilitate referrals to PH. Responsibility is also shared by the CoC Lead agency through our monitoring of the PH funded projects to ensure the CoC SOP standards are met.

2C-4.	Reducing Returns to Homelessness–CoC's Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.e.	

	In the field below:
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2.	describe your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate that individuals and families return to homelessness; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Between FY22 and FY23, the rate that those leaving shelter returned to homelessness increased to 16% after 6 months and has remained at 3% after 12 months. Those leaving shelter and returned to homelessness between 13 and 24 months, has remained at 3%. Our CoC identifies households returning to homelessness in a few ways, first it is asked for as part of the Coordinated Entry (CE) assessment. It is also a factor tracked in the PH by name list (BNL) used by CE for PH case conferencing as well as the bi-weekly veteran BNL case conferencing. The list that is used to lead discussion and dictate referral order shows if the person was previously housed in Baltimore County, by which provider, and the last housing move in date.

2. As a result of the increase in returns to homelessness after 6 months, the CoC evaluated how we measure vulnerability for PH referrals. The Governance Board approved expanding the referrals to PH to include families with repeated episodes of homelessness. We anticipate this added level of support for families who have returned to homelessness should lower our rates in the coming year. We surmise that the 16% return to homelessness after 6 months following placement could be due to increasing rental costs that clients are unable to sustain. As part of referrals to RRH, we have incorporated referrals to Baltimore County's Department of Employment and Workforce Development. We also worked with our RRH providers to ensure they are all following the CoC standard operating policies (SOP) for person centered case management and budgeting and better assessing how much rental assistance and case management support each household will need. With the training on the CoC SOP, RRH providers are now working consistently with each household to understand what level of support they will need to reach self-sufficiency and meeting them where their need is. While this approach might cost more RRH funding in the short term, we anticipate it leading to more sustained housing outcomes.

3. This work is owned by our CoC as a whole. The CoC Governance Board is tasked with setting the policy to meet best practices, to ensure funding is sustained so providers can support clients for the time needed. This practice is verified by the Coordinated Entry team lead during the BNL case conferences to learn what obstacles clients placed into housing are facing and making program connections with providers, in real time to ensure clients stay housed.

2C-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–CoC's Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	

	In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to access employment cash sources;	
2.	describe how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their employment cash income; and	
3.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase income from employment.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Between FY22 and FY23, the percent of leavers increased earned income rose from 6% to 8%. Our CoC works closely with Baltimore County's Department of Employment and Workforce Development (DEWD) to increase access to employment cash. The Lead Agency shares DEWD resources with all CoC providers so they can make referrals to employment specialists, training programs and general employment education programs. The CoC has engaged in discussions with DEWD to expand the formal relationships it has to include more service providers. All providers have been trained in the Standard Operating Policy (SOP) document which identifies increasing income as a key performance metric. All supportive services are required to include referrals to employment and job training.

2. The CoC works closely with DEWD to foster referrals to employment specialists. DEWD has historically strong relationships with two of our shelters and our RRH programs where referrals are routinely made. Four days a week, DEWD has an employment specialist in our CoC's two largest shelters to be more accessible to people who might not otherwise engage with employment assistance. DEWD has presented at full CoC membership meetings to provide information about how to refer clients for employment assistance and to build relationships with the providers who will make those referrals.

3. The CoC Lead Agency is responsible for fostering the relationships between DEWD and individual CoC providers. The Governance Board is responsible for the policies that service providers must follow to ensure all program participants are being offered employment services.

2C-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income—CoC's Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	

	In the field below:
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to access non-employment cash income; and
2.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC's strategy is to increase non-employment cash income by linking individuals and families to benefit specialists while in programs. The CoC encourages all providers to have case management staff that are SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) certified. This is discussed regularly during the bi-weekly permanent housing by name list (BNL) case conference because the focus for client referrals, are those with numerous barriers impacting their ability to secure traditional employment, so securing mainstream benefits is what will allow the person to sustain PSH once referred. The CoC has a Mainstream Benefits committee, who partners DSS and offers a mainstream benefits fair, 2-3 times throughout the year. We have other county partners and service providers present regularly during our CoC meetings so those working with clients directly are aware of how to get people matched up with necessary benefits and support. Increasing benefits is a metric tracked on monthly and quarterly program performance reports "scorecards" so providers can see how they are meeting this metric regularly.

2. Responsibility for this strategy is a partnership between the CoC Governance Board with input from the Mainstream Benefits committee as well as the MD Dept. Of Health, Behavioral Health division because they oversee SOAR for the county as well as providers working with clients who qualify for mainstream benefits.

3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
  - 24 CFR part 578;
    - FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
  - Section 3 Resources;
  - PHA Crosswalk; and
   - Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Housing Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.a.	
	You must upload the Housing Leveraging Commitment attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses housing subsidies or subsidized housing units which are not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	No

3A-2.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Healthcare Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.b.	
	You must upload the Healthcare Formal Agreements attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	No

3A-3.	Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.6.a. and V.B.6.b.	

If you selected yes to questions 3A-1. or 3A-2., use the list feature icon to enter information about each project application you intend for HUD to evaluate to determine if they meet the criteria.

Project Name	Project Type	Rank Number	Leverage Type
This list contains no items			

3B. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
  - 24 CFR part 578;
   - FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
  - Section 3 Resources;
  - PHA Crosswalk; and
   - Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

	Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project application requesting $200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction?	No

3B-2.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

	If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below actions CoC Program-funded project applicants will take to comply with:
1.	Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u); and
2.	HUD's implementing rules at 24 CFR part 75 to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very-low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very-low-income persons.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Not applicable.

3C. Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
  - 24 CFR part 578;
   - FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
  - Section 3 Resources;
  - PHA Crosswalk; and
   - Frequently Asked Questions

	3C-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serve Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
		NOFO Section V.F.	

		Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?	No

	3C-2.	Cost Effectiveness of Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
		NOFO Section V.F.	

		You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
		If you answered yes to question 3C-1, describe in the field below:
	1.	how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and
	2.	how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Not applicable.

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants for New DV Bonus Funding

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
  - 24 CFR part 578;
   - FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
  - Section 3 Resources;
  - PHA Crosswalk; and
   - Frequently Asked Questions

4A-1.	New DV Bonus Project Applicants.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.j.	

Did your CoC submit one or more new project applications for DV Bonus Funding?	No
Applicant Name	
This list contains no items	

4B. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

We have provided the following guidance to help you successfully upload attachments and get maximum points:

	1.	You must include a Document Description for each attachment you upload; if you do not, the Submission Summary screen will display a red X indicating the submission is incomplete.
	2.	You must upload an attachment for each document listed where 'Required?' is 'Yes'.
	3.	We prefer that you use PDF files, though other file types are supported–please only use zip files if necessary. Converting electronic files to PDF, rather than printing documents and scanning them, often produces higher quality images. Many systems allow you to create PDF files as a Print option. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you should consult your IT Support or search for information on Google or YouTube.
	4.	Attachments must match the questions they are associated with.
	5.	Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed–including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process.
	6.	If you cannot read the attachment, it is likely we cannot read it either.
		. We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).
		. We must be able to read everything you want us to consider in any attachment.
	7.	After you upload each attachment, use the Download feature to access and check the attachment to ensure it matches the required Document Type and to ensure it contains all pages you intend to include.
	8.	Only use the "Other" attachment option to meet an attachment requirement that is not otherwise listed in these detailed instructions.

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1C-7. PHA Homeless Preference	No		
1C-7. PHA Moving On Preference	No		
1D-10a. Lived Experience Support Letter	Yes		
1D-2a. Housing First Evaluation	Yes		
1E-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes		
1E-2a. Scored Forms for One Project	Yes		
1E-5. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes		
1E-5a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes		
1E-5b. Local Competition Selection Results	Yes		
1E-5c. Web Posting–CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes		
1E-5d. Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes		

2A-6. HUD's Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) Competition Report	Yes		
3A-1a. Housing Leveraging Commitments	No		
3A-2a. Healthcare Formal Agreements	No		
3C-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
Other	No		

Attachment Details

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Submission Summary

Ensure that the Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	10/23/2024
1B. Inclusive Structure	10/23/2024
1C. Coordination and Engagement	10/23/2024
1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd	10/23/2024
1E. Project Review/Ranking	10/23/2024
2A. HMIS Implementation	10/23/2024
2B. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count	10/23/2024
2C. System Performance	10/23/2024
3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare	10/23/2024
3B. Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs	10/23/2024
3C. Serving Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes	10/23/2024

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants	10/23/2024
4B. Attachments Screen	Please Complete
Submission Summary	No Input Required