

# Special CoC NOFO Informational Webinar

NC Balance of State CoC

August 8, 2022

11 AM



**NC COALITION** to  
**HOMELESSNESS** end

# Welcome

## Reminders

Lines are muted.

We will unmute the line during Q&A pauses.

The chat box is available to use anytime.

We will record today's webinar.



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# Agenda

- Intro to the Special CoC NOFO
- Plan to serve people experiencing homelessness with severe service needs
- Eligible projects and thresholds
- Competition timeline





# Intro to the Special CoC NOFO

# HUD released a Special NOFO to address unsheltered and rural homelessness.

HUD released a Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to address unsheltered and rural homelessness on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

- Unsheltered set-aside: \$14,843,764 – Full CoC-wide 79-county geographic coverage
- Rural set-aside: \$10,478,984 – 55 designated rural counties
- Grant terms: 3 years
- CoC funding that follows the CoC Interim Rule and eligible for renewal
- Final application due 10/20

# Unprecedented NOFO to address people with experiencing homelessness with severe service needs.

## Purpose:

*Through this Special NOFO, HUD will award funding to communities to implement coordinated approaches – grounded in Housing First and public health principles – to reduce the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness, and improve services engagement, health outcomes, & housing stability among highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families.*

## HUD Priorities:

- Reduce unsheltered homelessness
- Reduce unsheltered homelessness and the number of people with severe service needs in rural areas
- Coordinate services with a broad array of stakeholders including systems outside the homeless sector
- Advance equity
- Use a Housing First approach





# Plan to Serve People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs



# Under this NOFO, the CoC must approve a plan to serve people experiencing homelessness with severe service needs.

All applicants must design projects that adhere to the CoC's Plan to Serve People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.

Per HUD, severe service needs means any combination of the following factors:

- Facing significant challenges or functional impairments including any physical, mental, development, or behavioral health disabilities which require a significant level of support to maintain permanent housing
- High utilization of crisis or emergency services to meet basic needs
- Currently living in an unsheltered situation or having a history of living unsheltered
- Experiencing a vulnerability to illness or death
- Having a repeated risk of continued or repeated homelessness
- Having a vulnerability to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking, or sex work

# The CoC approved its Plan to Serve People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs on 08/02.

The draft plan document has been posted to the website.

<https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/files/a07ccb8e/plan-to-serve-severe-service-needs-draft-3.pdf>

Agencies should read the entire document prior to beginning any applications. Staff suggest focusing on Section E, which defines how the CoC will use the Special CoC NOFO funding.

# Both set-asides require the CoC to produce a Plan for Serving People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.

Section	Progress	Responsible Party
Leveraging Housing Resources	Initial phases	CoC staff
Leveraging Healthcare Resources	Initial phases	CoC staff
CoCs current strategy to identify, shelter, and house individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current street outreach strategy</li> <li>• Current strategy to provide immediate low-barrier shelter for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness</li> <li>• Current strategy to provide low-barrier permanent housing for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness</li> </ul>	Draft complete Draft complete Draft complete	CE Leads/UACs CE Leads/UACs CE Leads/UACs
Updating the CoCs strategy to identify, shelter, and house individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness with data and performance	Draft complete	CoC/HMIS staff

UACs: Regional Unsheltered Access Coordinators





# Both set-asides require the CoC to produce a Plan for Serving People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.

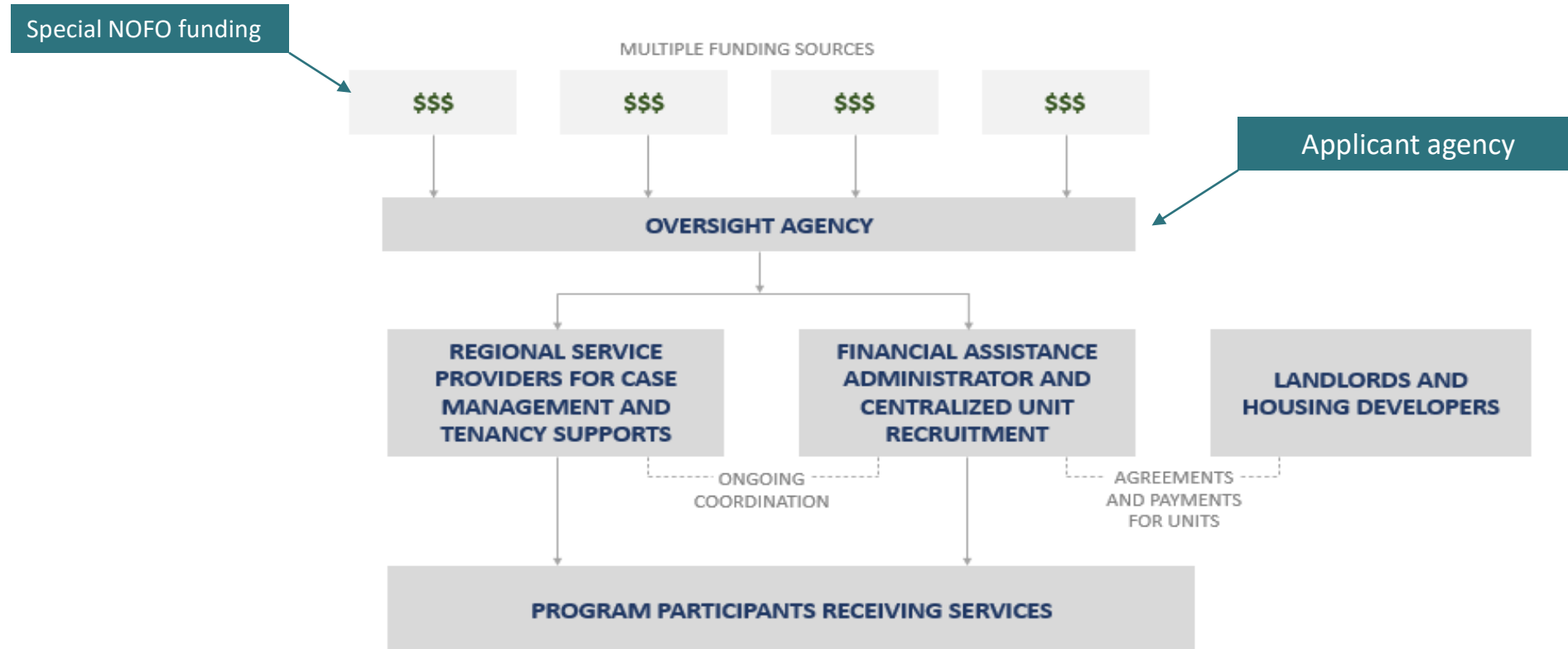
Section	Progress	Responsible Party
* Identify and prioritize HHs experiencing or with histories of unsheltered homelessness.	Review phase	LEAC/FPS/ Steering Committee
Involving People with Lived Expertise in Decision-Making	Review phase	LEAC
Supporting underserved communities and supporting equitable community development	Draft complete	CoC/HMIS staff

\* Area of focus for applicants

LEAC: Lived Expertise Advisory Council  
 FPS: Funding and Performance Subcommittee



# CoC staff propose using a centralized approach in our plan to ensure widest coverage and to build capacity.



# Oversight Agency Roles

Under this concept, the Oversight Agency would:

- Administer all grants funded under the Special NOFO
  - Reporting
  - Drawdowns from HUD's reimbursement system
  - Project budget line items (such as rental assistance) to maximize households served
  - Make decisions from which grants to pull funding for contract agencies and participant households
  - Ensure match requirements met
- Contract with a centralized agency to serve as the Financial Assistance Coordinator
- Contract with Regional Service Providers
- Provide oversight to contracted agencies to ensure compliance and adherence to best practices



# Financial Assistance Coordinator Roles

Under this concept, the Financial Assistance Coordinator would:

- Contract with the Oversight Agency to find and pay for units
- Engage landlords and property owners across all 79 counties and pool units ready for use as needed
- Work closely with contracted Regional Service Providers to ensure prioritized households connect with units and landlords
- Quickly and regularly pay for units to secure units and on the household's behalf (ideally within 24 hours)
  - Deposits
  - Monthly rent
  - Utilities
  - Other eligible expenses

# Regional Service Providers Roles

Under this concept, the Regional Service Providers would:

- Contract with the Oversight Agency to perform services in a Regional Committee geographic area
- Provide street outreach and engagement of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Connect people to emergency shelter, including non-congregate shelter
- Assess people living unsheltered for CE and provide case management until housed
- Work closely with the Financial Assistance Coordinator to assist households procure identified units
- Provide housing stabilization and tenancy support services once housed

# Services provided through Special NOFO funding will follow best practices.

All services provided through projects funded through the Special NOFO must adhere to three key best practices:

- Harm Reduction
- Housing First
- Trauma-Informed Care



# Harm reduction is a key intervention for people with severe service needs.

Harm reduction engages vulnerable populations often reticent to seek or accept assistance.

- Take a non-judgmental approach
- Provides opportunities for services and housing without requirements
- Honors people's choices
- Fosters the development of trusting relationships
- Offers encouragement and alternatives to harmful behaviors

# Housing First pairs closely with Harm Reduction to engage hard-to-serve populations.

Housing First dispenses away with arbitrary programmatic requirements to ensure meaningful engagement that leads to permanent housing.

- Honors people's choices
- Eliminates requirements for entry (sobriety, mental health treatment, income)
- Eliminates participation requirements once housed (sobriety, med compliance, services)
- Moves people into housing first and then provides them the services they want/need
- Provides encouragement but doesn't require

# Trauma-informed care impacts people's ability and motivation to seek supportive services.

Most people experiencing homelessness have at least one but often multiple traumatic events prior to their first homeless event.

Trauma-informed ensures that a person:

- Feels safe
- Has control over their choices
- Plays a significant role in planning their services
- Trust, as much as possible, the process and the person with which they work
- Identifies their strengths to feel empowered





# Eligibility and Thresholds

Under the approved plan, the CoC is only accepting applications from entities to serve as the Oversight Agency.

Under the plan concept, the Oversight Agency must apply for projects that cover all areas eligible under each set aside:

- Unsheltered set-aside: all 79 NC Balance of CoC counties
- Rural set-aside: 55 designated rural counties

Applications submitted with different coverage areas will not meet CoC threshold or scored.

# The CoC has defined specific project types eligible for application under the Special NOFO.

Agencies may apply for the following project types:

- PH: Permanent Supportive Housing
- PH: Rapid Rehousing
- SSO-Street Outreach
- SSO-Other
- CoC Planning (Collaborative Applicant Only)

All PH projects will:

- Target households experiencing or having histories of unsheltered homelessness
- Ensure 75% of participants enter from a place not meant for human habitation or have a history of unsheltered homelessness



# Unsheltered Set-Aside

Applications under the Unsheltered Set-Aside can:

- Serve only Categories 1 and 4 of HUD's homeless definition
  - Literal homelessness in places not meant for human habitation, shelter, or in an institution for less than 90 days and experienced literal homelessness the night before entry
  - Households fleeing domestic violence, stalking, or human trafficking
- Serve all 79 counties in the NC BoS CoC

# Rural Set-Aside

Applications under the Rural Set Aside can:

- Serve only Categories 1 and 4 of HUD's homeless definition
  - Literal homelessness in places not meant for human habitation, shelter, or in an institution for less than 90 days and experienced literal homelessness the night before entry
  - Households fleeing domestic violence, stalking, or human trafficking
- Serve the 55 designated rural counties
  - Anson, Beaufort, Bertie, Bladen, Camden, Carteret, Caswell, Cherokee, Chowan, Clay, Columbus, Currituck, Dare, Franklin, Gates, Graham, Granville, Greene, Halifax, Harnett, Hertford, Hyde, Jackson, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, McDowell, Macon, Madison, Martin, Montgomery, Moore, Northampton, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, person, Polk, Richmond, Robeson, Rutherford, Sampson, Scotland, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Swain, Transylvania, Tyrrell, Vance, Warren, Washington, Wilson, Yadkin
- Additional eligible activities for rural set-aside projects:
  - Up to 6-months of rent/utility arrears after 2 months of nonpayment or rent to prevent eviction or loss of utility service for program participants residing in PH
  - Short-term emergency shelter in hotels/motels (**Required for all SSO projects**)
  - Repairs to make a unit habitable, limited at \$10,000 per structure
  - Capacity-building activities that maintain or improve skills of staff
  - Emergency food and clothing assistance



# What does this mean for service providers who would like to apply for these funds?

The CoC is not accepting applications from service providers in this competition.

Once awarded, the Oversight Agency, in conjunction with CoC staff, will run a Request for Proposals process to choose Regional Service Providers.

- Regional Service Providers will be needed to provide services to people experiencing homelessness with severe service needs including street outreach, case management, system navigation, and tenancy supports.
- Regional Service Providers contracted with the Oversight Agency will be expected to serve all counties within one of the 13 Regional Committees.
- The Oversight Agency may contract with multiple Regional Service Providers to provide different types of services (e.g. street outreach vs. tenancy supports).





# Competition Timeline

# Special NOFO competition instructions and scorecard will be released today!

All materials related to the Special CoC NOFO will be posted to the NCCEH website at <https://www.ncceh.org/bos/special-coc-nofo/>.

Competition instructions and scorecard will be posted today. Staff will send communication to CoC stakeholders this afternoon.

# Competition Timeline

Task	Deadline
Special NOFO Informational Webinar	08/08
Publish instructions and scorecard – send communication to CoC	08/08
Project Review Committee orientation webinar	08/18 at 10 AM
Application Deadline	09/02 at 6 PM
Application Scoring Process	09/05-09/09
Project Review Committee Ranking Option Meeting	09/15 at 1 PM
Special Steering Committee Ranking Lists Approval	09/20 at 10:30 AM
Applicant Notifications	09/20
Appeals Due	09/22 at 12 PM
Project Review Committee Appeal Meeting (tentative)	09/23 at 11 AM
Special Steering Committee Appeals Meeting (tentative)	09/27 at 10:30 AM
Post Special CoC NOFO Application	10/14
Submit Special CoC NOFO Application	10/18
Special CoC NOFO Application Due Date	10/20 at 8 PM

# Resources

Special CoC NOFO: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=341301>

CoC Interim Rule: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2033/hearth-coc-program-interim-rule/>

HUD Special CoC Information Webpage: <https://bit.ly/3BFAVUz>

NC Balance of State CoC Plan to Serve People Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs:

<https://www.ncceh.org/media/files/files/a07ccb8e/plan-to-serve-severe-service-needs-draft-3.pdf>





# Questions?



**NCCEH**

# Thank you!

If you have any questions, please reach out to staff!

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