FY2024 New CoC Applicant Webinar
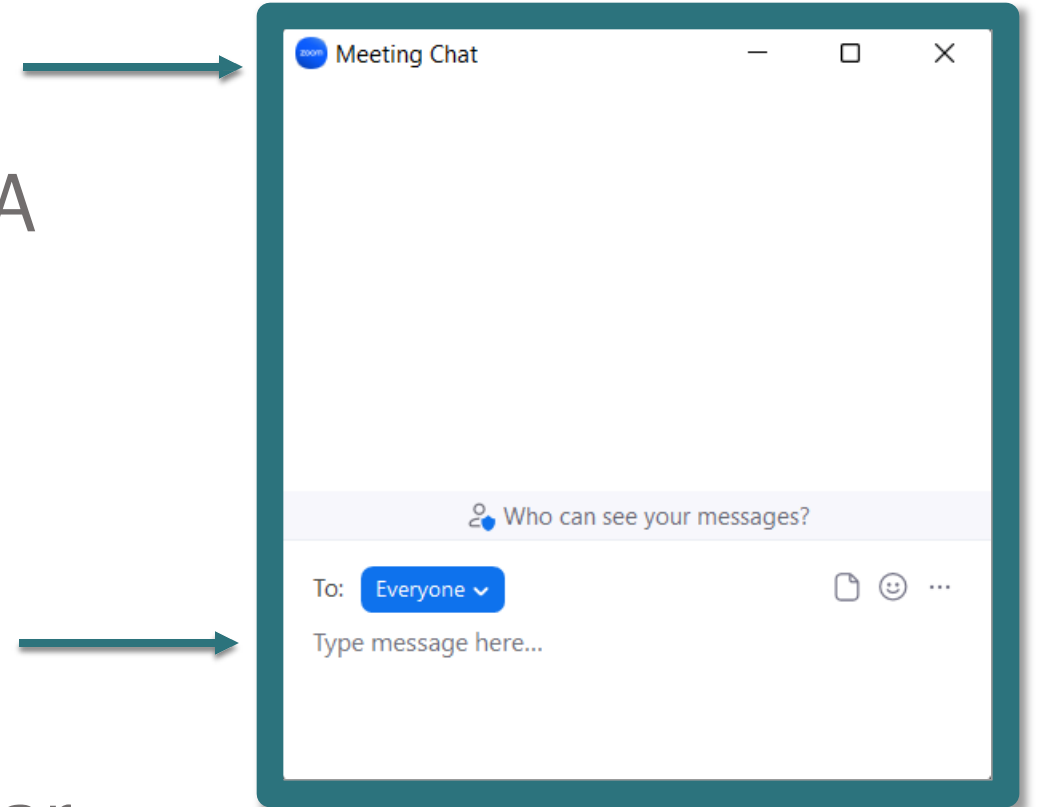
March 13, 2024

2 PM

Welcome

Reminders

Your line is muted.

We will unmute the line during Q&A pauses.

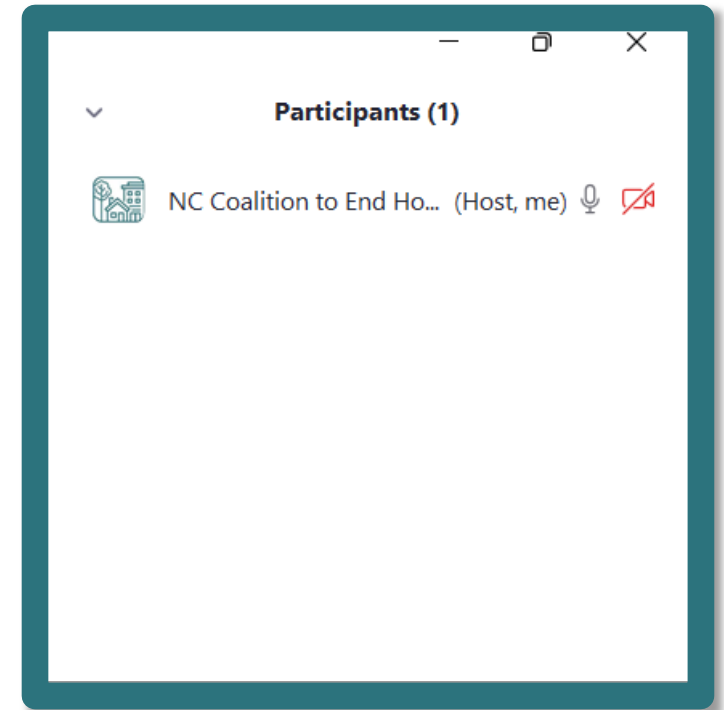The chat box is available to use anytime.
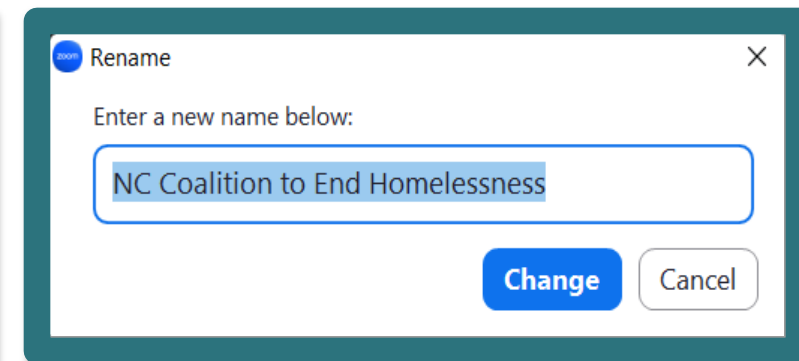
We will be recording today's webinar.

Attendance

- We will not conduct Roll Call today.

- Participants should enter their full names, so we know who we're talking to today!

1

Participants (1)

NC Coalition to End Ho... (Host, me)

How to change your screen name:

2

Participants (1)

NC Coalition to En...

Edit Profile Picture

Rename

Rename

Enter a new name below:

NC Coalition to End Homelessness

Change   Cancel
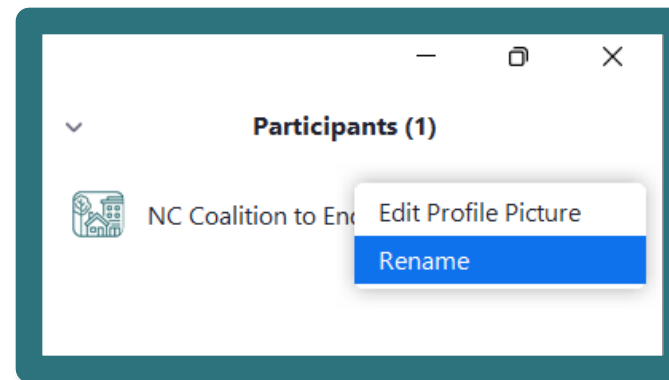
FY2024 New CoC Applicant Webinar

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Agenda

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- CoC Program eligible activities
- Overview of NC BoS CoC application process
- Thresholds for applying
- Standards applicants should meet
- Next steps

CoC Program Eligible Activities

HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) & CoC define the activities for which agencies can apply.

The NOFO & the NC BoS CoC narrow eligibility

Supportive Services Only (SSO) – CE (renewal & DV Bonus only)

Rapid Rehousing

Permanent Supportive Housing

Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing (DV Bonus only)

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The NC BoS CoC sets funding priorities for new CoC projects.

FY2023 CoC Program Funding Priorities

- Ensure essential infrastructure elements are in place, including HMIS & coordinated entry

- Ensure adequate coverage of permanent supportive housing across the CoC

- Increase the availability of rapid rehousing

- Ensure CoC funding is being used well, including potentially re-allocating some funding from projects that have patterns of low spending or poor performance

Funding priorities document: https://www.ncceh.org/files/13037/

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NC BoS CoC Application Overview

Step 1: Intent to Apply will be posted today.

Agencies interested in applying for CoC Program funds are required to fill out an Intent to Apply form

- Form will be posted at: http://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/

- Intent to Apply open until 2 weeks after NOFO release

- Staff will verify submission eligibility

- Staff encourage new applicants to schedule a follow up call to discuss new projects

Step 2: Read the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) once released

The CoC Program NOFO officially opens the competition & defines the rules. The NOFO sets:

- Timelines

- Priorities/Scoring

- Final Funding Allocation/Tiering

- Potential projects

- CoC & project applicant requirements

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Step 3: New applicants must meet two deadlines for submitting materials.

New applicants have two deadlines for which they must submit materials.

- First deadline: Threshold materials & forms

- Second deadline: Application & supporting forms

- Deadlines are a <u>threshold</u> for new applicants!

- Instructions will be released soon after the NOFO is published by HUD. CoC competition materials will be posted at: http://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/

Step 4: The Project Review Committee will review & score application materials.

New project scorecard:

- General application

- Program design

- Scope of services

- Organizational capacity

- Project performance

- Agency's relationship to the community

- Application deadlines and documentation

Review the FY2024 new project scorecard at: https://bit.ly/3PiG8rw

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Reality check . . .

How long will it take to write the application?

What are the chances of being funded?

Thresholds

Applications must meet thresholds to be included in the final submission.

The NC BoS CoC considers some items so important that they will determine whether an application continues in the competition or not. These are called thresholds.

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Housing First

Resources

- National Alliance to End Homelessness Housing First Fact Sheet: http://bit.ly/3xkIBby
- USICH Housing First Checklist: https://bit.ly/3SBMrXS

PSH projects must be dedicated for individuals & families experiencing chronic homelessness.

Find HUD's definition of chronic homelessness here:
https://bit.ly/3wpH6va

Applicants must already be operating an Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Program RRH project in good standing or operating a RRH project with another funding source that adheres to the RRH written standards.

Nonprofit in operation for 3 years

Commit to entering data into HMIS

Fully participate in coordinated entry

Present project to Regional Committee(s)

On-time application & documents

* Not an exhaustive list of thresholds – see the FY2024 new project scorecard
   posted at: https://bit.ly/3PiG8rw

Standards

Applicants should meet standards set by the NC BoS CoC.

The NC BoS CoC believes some items should be met by all CoC Program projects. When projects do not meet these items in the application, it triggers further review to gather information. These items are called Standards.

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Key Elements of PSH

All new PSH projects should meet the 9 Key Elements of PSH!

1. Leases or rental agreements do not have any provisions that would not be found in leases held by someone who does not have a disability.

2. Participation in services is *voluntary* & tenants cannot be evicted for rejecting services.

3. House rules, if any, are similar to those found in housing for people who do not have disabilities & do not restrict visitors or otherwise interfere with a life in the community.

Key Elements of PSH

4. Housing is not time limited, & the lease is renewable at tenants' & owners' options.

5. Tenants have choices in the support services that they receive. They are asked about their choices & can choose from a range of services, & different tenants receive different types of services based on their needs & preferences.

6. As needs change over time, tenants can receive more intensive or less intensive support services without losing their homes.

Key Elements of PSH

7. Before moving into permanent housing, tenants are asked about their housing preferences & are offered the same range of choices as are available to others at their income level in the same housing market.

8. Support services promoting recovery are designed to help tenants choose, get, & keep housing. In all forms of PSH, the staff helps tenants establish a household, meet the obligation of tenancy (such as paying rent on time), & get along with neighbors.

9. The provision of housing & the provision of support services are distinct.

SAMHSA's Key Elements of PSH: http://bit.ly/2AL0m6N

Rapid Rehousing Benchmarks & Program Standards

All new RRH projects should meet 15 RRH Benchmarks and Program Standards!

1. *Core Program Standard: Housing Identification*
    a. Program designates staff whose responsibility is to identify & recruit landlords & encourage them to rent to homeless households served by the program. Staff have the knowledge, skills, & agency resources to: understand landlords' perspectives, understand landlord & tenant rights & responsibilities, & negotiate landlord supports. A program may have dedicated staff for whom this is the primary responsibility. If a program does not have a dedicated staff person who performs this function, case manager job descriptions must include responsibilities including landlord recruitment & negotiation & at least some of the program's case managers must be trained in this specialized skill set to perform the recruitment function effectively.

Rapid Rehousing Benchmarks & Program Standards

1. *Core Program Standard: Housing Identification*
    b. Program has written policies & procedures for landlord recruitment activities, including screening out potential landlord partners who have a history of poor compliance with their legal responsibilities & fair housing practices.
    c. Program offers a standard, basic level of support to all landlords who lease to program participants. This support is detailed in a written policy distributed to landlords. Programs can negotiate additional supports, as needed, on a case-by-case basis.
    d. Program has a written policy requiring staff to explain to participants basic landlord-tenant rights & responsibilities & the requirements of their specific lease.

Rapid Rehousing Benchmarks & Program Standards

2. *Core Program Standard: Rent and Move-In Assistance*
    a. Program staff are trained on regulatory requirements of all RRH funding streams & on the ethical use & application of a program's financial assistance policies, including, but not limited to, initial & ongoing eligibility criteria, program requirements, & assistance maximums. Program has a routine way to onboard new staff & to keep staff regularly updated on changing regulations &/or program policies.
    b. Program has clearly defined policies & procedures for determining the amount of financial assistance provided to a participant, as well as defined & objective standards for when case management & financial assistance should continue & end. Guidelines are flexible enough to respond to the varied & changing needs of program participants with zero income.

Rapid Rehousing Benchmarks & Program Standards

2. *Core Program Standard: Rent and Move-In Assistance*
   c. A progressive approach is used to determine the duration & amount of rental assistance. Financial assistance is not a standard "package" & is flexible enough to adjust to households' unique needs & resources, especially as participants' financial circumstances or housing costs change. Policies detailing this progressive approach include clear & fair decision guidelines & processes for reassessment for the continuation & amount of financial assistance. Policies & procedures also detail when and how RRH assistance is used as a bridge to a permanent subsidy or PSH placement.

Rapid Rehousing Benchmarks & Program Standards

3. *Core Program Standard: RRH Case Management and Services*
   a. Except where dictated by the funder, program participants direct when, where, & how often case management meetings occur. Meetings occur in a participant's home &/or location of the participant's choosing whenever possible.
   b. When case management & service compliance is not mandated by federal or state regulation, services offered by a program have voluntary participation.
   c. Program has clearly defined relationships with employment & income programs that it can connect program participants to when appropriate.
   d. Program has clearly defined policies & objective standards for when case management should continue & end. These guidelines are flexible enough to respond to the varied & changing needs of program participants. In instances where cases are continued outside of these defined policies & objective standards, there is a review & approval process.

Rapid Rehousing Benchmarks & Program Standards

4. *Core Program Standard: Program Philosophy and Design*
   a. Program staff are trained on the principles of Housing First & oriented to the basic program philosophy of RRH. Program has a routine of onboarding new staff that includes training on Housing First & RRH principles.
   b. Program has well-defined & written screening processes that use consistent & transparent decision criteria designed to "predict" long-term stability other than willingness to engage the program & work on a self-directed housing plan.
   c. Eligibility criteria for the program do not include a period of sobriety, a commitment to participation in treatment, or any other criteria designed to "predict" long-term housing stability other than willingness to engage the program & work on a self-directed housing plan.
   d. Leases for program participants are legally binding, written leases. Leases with additional requirements, such as drug testing or program participation, are not allowed.

Rapid Rehousing Benchmarks & Program Standards

RRH Benchmarks and Program Standards: http://bit.ly/2EGDWYv

Other Important Standards

Agency mission & prior experience

Community Need Statement

Subpopulations

Staff capacity

Coordinated entry knowledge & participation

Other Important Standards

Targeting housing for people with the longest histories of homelessness

75% attendance at Regional Committee meetings

25% match

Anti-Discrimination Policy adherence

* Not an exhaustive list of standards – see the FY2024 new scorecard posted at: https://bit.ly/3PiG8rw

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Familiarize yourself with CoC Program competition materials
  - http://www.ncceh.org/bos/currentcocapplication/
- Design a best practice program – get started early!
- Submit an Intent to Apply
- Set up esnaps user account
- SAM registration/Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
- Collaborate with regional partners to identify needs; present to the Regional Committee; begin building project match & leverage
- Talk to staff & ask questions

So, when will the competition begin?

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Wrap Up

Any questions?

Keep in touch
   bos@ncceh.org
   919.755.4393