

Before Starting the Special CoC Application

You must submit both of the following parts in order for us to consider your Special NOFO Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application, and
2. the CoC Priority Listing.

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

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

1. The Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The Special NOFO Continuum of Care (CoC) Application Detailed Instructions for Collaborative Applicants 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.

CoC Approval is Required before You Submit Your CoC's Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application 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 the [Specific Attachment Name] attachment to the 4A. 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

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1A-1. CoC Name and Number: MN-511 - Southwest Minnesota CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: Institute for Community Alliances

1A-5.	New Projects	
	Complete the chart below by indicating which funding opportunity(ies) your CoC applying for projects under. A CoC may apply for funding under both set asides; however, projects funded through the rural set aside may only be used in rural areas, as defined in the Special NOFO.	
1.	Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside	No
2.	Rural Homelessness Set Aside	Yes

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

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1B-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for project application submission for your CoC's local competition.	08/04/2022

1B-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.a.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected new project applications during your CoC's 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).	No

1B-3.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
1.	Did your CoC reject or reduce any project application(s)?	No
2.	Did your CoC inform the applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced?	No
3.	If you selected yes, for element 1 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, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	

1B-3a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	09/29/2022

1B-4.	Web Posting of the CoC-Approved Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC posted its Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or affiliate’s website—which included: 1. the CoC Application, and 2. Priority Listings.	

You must enter a date in question 1B-4.

2A. System Performance

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2A-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors.	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.b.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC determined which risk factors your CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;	
	2. how your CoC addresses 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 or to end homelessness for individuals and families.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Processes used to identify risk factors for first-time homelessness include having MN's Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (HPAP) providers on the CoC's Governing Board where they can provide the CoC data on causes of housing crises. The HPAP program covers the CoC's entire geography and totals \$465,965/year for 2021 - 2022 in this CoC's entire geography. Data from the HPAP grant is reviewed and discussed at least quarterly at the CoC's Homeless and Hunger Task Force subcommittee meeting. This CoC Coordinator and the CoC Governing Board chair attend these meetings. These data reveals to us the most common risk factors for homelessness is insufficient or lost income. Also on the CoC Governing Board is the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership which provides foreclosure assistance in all 18 of this CoC's counties. The most recent Minnesota Homeless Study, a project of the Wilder Foundation, found that most common reasons that adults reported leaving their last housing were: eviction or not having their lease renewed (39%) and being unable to afford rent or house payments (38%). These statewide data are consistent with our local findings. Based on this our CoC works to secure as many homelessness prevention resources as possible to prevent first-time homelessness in our CoC.

2. Prevention is done first by advertising (in English, Spanish, and Somali) that the CoC's Coordinated Entry System is for either "homeless or about to become homeless." Public advertising is done by radio, newspapers, and hundreds of flyers in the CoC's restaurants, food shelves, laundry mats etc. Agencies, including hospitals, foster care, mental health and corrections, are kept informed of Coordinated Entry intake sites where prevention assistance is offered. DV programs, mental health programs, and substance abuse programs all direct those at risk for homelessness to the CoC's intake points for prevention and diversion assistance. The same is true for Workforce Centers, which assist those unemployed, and county human service offices, which serve those seeking emergency assistance, SNAP and TANF.

3. The CoC Coordinator, working closely with the Homeless Prevention Assistance Program grantee, sub-grantees, and the grant's oversight committee (the CoC's Homeless and Hunger Task Force) are responsible for reducing first-time homelessness in this CoC's entire geography.

2A-2.	Length of Time Homeless--Strategy to Reduce. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.c.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
	2. 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. The CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless includes: having a well-advertised Coordinated Entry system covering the CoC's entire geography; advertising the system in Spanish and Somali and offering services in these languages; using Housing First for all RRH and PSH programs; developing and maintaining trusting relationships with local landlords (since much of our RRH and PSH is scattered-site), having a landlord risk mitigation fund to help landlords be more willing to rent to those experiencing homelessness with imperfect criminal, credit and housing histories; prioritizing our Chronic and Family PSH programs in the CoC's ranking process; using a CoC-approved Prioritization Policy that prioritizes chronic homeless and those with longest lengths of time homeless; providing presentations to community groups and School Homeless Liaisons about CoC resources and Coordinated Entry; having a CoC-wide non-discrimination policy; providing ongoing Coordinated Entry, HMIS, Domestic Violence, and Trauma-Informed Care trainings to CoC staff; continually monitoring grant performance and considering reallocation of funds based on performance and need data; and effectively using diversion and problem solving as the first response in addressing those who enter our homelessness response system.

2. This CoC identifies individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless through its HMIS-based common assessment tool which collects data on length of time homeless and chronic homelessness status. Priority Lists, showing length of time homeless and chronic homelessness status, are shared, with client consent, at least weekly and reviewed in CoC-wide online/phone case management and referral meetings. Length of time homeless is used as a prioritizing factor in our CoC's Coordinated Entry System.

3. This CoC Coordinator, working in collaboration with the CoC / Coordinated Entry Governing Board, is responsible for the strategy to rapidly rehouse individuals and families with children and to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless. This process has led to the CoC being recognized by HUD and USICH in 2019 as the fourth Continuum of Care in the U.S. to have ended chronic homelessness.

2A-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.d.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC will increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in:	
	1. emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and	
	2. permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC's strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in ES, SH, TH and RRH exit to permanent housing destinations include: improvement of the quantity and quality of our landlord/property management relationships through individualized outreach; growing our Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund; expanding our Section 8 "Move Up" program to more HRAs; growing our collaboration with PHAs to maximize use of HUD's new Emergency Housing Vouchers; outreach and collaboration to local PHAs and HRAs to bring in to our CoC as many new HUD Stability Vouchers as possible, increasing outreach to and collaboration with cities, employers and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership regarding development and rehabilitation of affordable, low-barrier housing units; continuing to outreach with state senators and representatives in our region to advocate for housing bonding dollars, employing high-performing, well-trained case managers; growing our collaboration with our CoC's six "Careerforce" centers to increase client earned income and the ability to pay rent without assistance; and continuing to reallocate money from underperforming grants to fund more and higher-performing PSH-RRH and PSH grants.

2. The CoC's strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in PH projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations, includes: increasing emphasis on connecting clients to the resources that make employment possible (e.g. transportation, child-care, physical and mental health care, and training in job search, application, and interviewing skills); improving our case manager training through partnership with a statewide initiative to offer the best trainings on topics such as successful tenancy, motivational interviewing, landlord tenant law, and VAWA law, all topics that can help clients retain permanent housing; and, having officially ended Veteran and Chronic homelessness, building and promoting a community-wide campaign to finish ending youth and family homelessness with buy-in from developers, landlords, property managers, and local and state government to contribute to this common goal.

2A-4.	Returns to Homelessness—CoC's Strategy to Reduce Rate. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.e.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2.	your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate of additional returns 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. The CoC identifies common traits of individuals and persons in families who return to homelessness via the Minnesota Monthly Dashboard provided by our state HMIS lead. It includes a monthly snapshots of four system performance measures: Measure 3 (total clients served), Measure 2 (returns to homelessness from exits to permanent housing), Measure 5 (persons newly experiencing homelessness), and Measure 7 (exits to permanent housing). We can work with our state HMIS lead, the Institute for Community Alliances, to get more detailed data about returns to homelessness. APRs, which are reviewed by this CoC before submission, also inform the CoC of clients returning to homelessness. By looking at data in APR Q23c: Exit Destination, the CoC can see which projects, if any, a having participants exit to temporary destinations. Projects with participants exiting to temporary destinations can be offered ideas and assistance in lowering or eliminating exits to temporary destinations. The CoC monitors and updates the Coordinated Entry Priority List at least weekly and flags clients who have returned to homelessness or have a history of returning to homelessness after leaving previous housing program anywhere in the state. We are able to use data and case notes on the factors that led to the return so that it will not be repeated for them or others.

2. The CoC's strategy to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness includes: working with cities and developers to add affordable, low-barrier rental units; reviewing project-level 'returns to homelessness' HMIS report data and considering lower-performing projects for technical assistance and/or reallocation; continuing to fund and use high-performing, well-trained case managers; having staff continue to assist clients in finding employment, unearned income, transportation and all resources to maximize their housing stability; continuing to refine our CE System so as to match clients with housing where they will be most successful; continuing to use statewide HMIS data sharing to track returns to homelessness, and reasons for such returns; and increasing recruitment and training of landlords to minimize evictions and maximize collaboration.

3. The CoC Coordinator, working with the CoC's Governing Board and Project Performance and Review Committee, is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy for reducing returns to homelessness for individuals and persons in families in our 18 county CoC.

2A-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase employment cash sources;	
2.	how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their 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. The CoC's strategy to increase employment cash sources is first having all case managers consult with clients upon entry regarding income and helping those able to work form a plan to increase employment income, and connecting those unable to work to resources (e.g. treatment, mental health care) that might bring them to employability. Case Managers help clients connect to any childcare and transportation that are needed prior to employment. Next, in 2019 this CoC Coordinator led a statewide Economic Advancement Workgroup. The group created an Income Advancement Referral Decision Chart that helps intake, assessment, and case management workers guide clients to, whenever possible, jobs for the unemployed and better-paying jobs for the employed. The group also created a Coordinated Entry Income Planning Checklist which has helped this CoC to systematically identify at what points in the CE process clients will be helped with getting the best employment possible and which staff are responsible for ensuring this happens. This CoC has MN "CareerForce" staff attend CoC meetings and annually do a presentation on their employment resources. "CareerForce," run by The MN Department of Employment and Economic Development, is a business-led network of private, public and nonprofit partners throughout MN committed to helping individuals start, advance or change their career and helping employers attract, develop and retain talent. There are "CareerForce" centers in the six largest cities in this CoC.

2. Regarding mainstream employment organizations, this CoC has large employers with ongoing job availability often providing worker transportation (e.g. JBS Pork, Schwan Foods, Turkey Valley Farms, Jennie-O Turkey, Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center, temporary agencies, etc.). Our agencies are kept informed of these employment opportunities and job fairs and connect clients to them.

3. The CoC Coordinator, working with the CoC's Governing Board and full CoC, is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase income from employment.

2A-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income-Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase non-employment cash income;	
	2. your CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources; and	
	3. 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 to increase non-employment cash income is:

- Having all grantees continuing to work with clients upon entry and throughout program participation regarding increasing income;
- Having three people with lived experience of homelessness involved in our CoC. These members who have gone through the process of increasing non-employment income can help inform our system's efforts to increase non-employment income and offer guidance to CoC program participants in this regard;
- Working with the Central Minnesota Jobs and Training SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) program for clients in our 18 counties;
- Offering an annual training on how to help disabled clients get connected to help in applying for SSI/SSDI;
- Having SW MN Careerforce staff annually present to the CoC regarding their resources. While Careerforce is primarily focused on helping people increase their employment income, they can also help with non-employment income by assisting people to file for unemployment;
- Having on our CoC website an Income Advancement Referral Decision Chart that helps intake, assessment, and case management staff guide clients to non-employment cash income;
- Having all Case Managers and clients being able to access to MN's Disability Benefits 101 website which is a clearinghouse for benefit information. If answers cannot be found on the site, the site offers a phone number, live chat and email where one can receive guidance from an expert about accessing non-employment cash sources;

2. This CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources is:

- Having case managers, working with county human service workers, assist clients in applying for potential cash benefits, such as MN General Assistance or the MN Family Investment Program (Minnesota's TANF equivalent) or accessing disability insurance, pension, child support, or alimony;
- Having staff that can provide services in English, Spanish, Somali, the three most common languages in the region and;
- Referring all veterans to Veteran Service Officers and/or the MN Assistance Council for Veterans to assist in accessing veteran pensions and other benefits.

3. The CoC Coordinator, working with the CoC's Governing Board, is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy for increasing non-employment cash income.

2B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Sections VII.B.3.a.(1)	

In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022:

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 of CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC's Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Agencies serving survivors of human trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	CoC-Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Disability Advocates	No	No	Yes
7.	Disability Service Organizations	No	No	No
8.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	No	No	No
10.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Hospital(s)	No	No	No
12.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Yes	No	Yes
13.	Law Enforcement	Yes	No	No
14.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) Advocates	No	No	No
15.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Nonexistent	No	No
16.	Local Government Staff/Officials	No	No	No
17.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	No	No
18.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

20.	Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Nonexistent	No	No
21.	Non-CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Nonexistent	No	No
23.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Nonexistent	No	No
24.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	No	No	No
25.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	No	Yes
26.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	No	No
28.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	No	Yes
30.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	No	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)			
33.	State HMIS System Administrator	Yes	Yes	Yes
34.	Community Action Agencies	Yes	Yes	Yes

2B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(2), V.B.3.g.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	communicated the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2.	ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;
3.	conducted outreach to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join your CoC; and
4.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC's Invitation Process starts with an announcement at the beginning of January in the regions four largest newspapers: "The Southwest Minnesota Continuum of Care is our region's 18-county homelessness response system planning group. We meet monthly online. Our first 2022 meeting will be on Thursday, January 13 from 10 – 12. For joining information, email Justin Vorbach: justinv@swmhp.org."

Also each January customized invitations are emailed to law enforcement, substance abuse service organizations, county social workers, and school homeless liaisons. These groups are invited to participate in the CoC process, come to the January annual meeting (and future meetings) and assist with the Point in Time homelessness count. These invitations, combined with the ability to join meetings via phone and GoToMeeting has led to 55 different people attending CoC meetings in 2022.

2. All CoC Agendas and Minutes are provided in Microsoft Word format which allows for text enlargement for those with visual impairment. At meetings, all agenda topic are announced before discussed for those unable to read. Attendance can be in-person, online or via phone. The CoC coordinator has provided rides to CoC meetings to a person with lived expertise of homelessness who is unable to drive.

3. With technical assistance help, in 2022 we have done targeted outreach to people with current or former lived expertise of homelessness. The experts are offered \$50/hour to participate in the CoC. In 2022 we have grown from one to three people with expertise participating in our CoC.

4. In the last two years this CoC has increased collaboration with the Lower Sioux Indian Community on homelessness prevention and assistance projects. This CoC Coordinator has also done targeted outreach to the other tribal community in our CoC, the Upper Sioux Community. The new shelter / transitional housing program of the Upper Sioux Community has been added to our CoC's Housing Inventory Chart and users of that program are now included in the Point in Time count. Also in the last two years, Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES) has become part of the CoC's shelter response system. Their shelter program has been added to our Housing Inventory Chart.

In 2022 we have done targeted outreach to people with current or former lived expertise of homelessness who are Black, Indigenous or of Color to join and contribute to our CoC.

2B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.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; and
3.	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. In addition to monthly CoC meetings, three CoC subcommittees also meet and this CoC Coordinator participates. One meeting is the monthly regional Adult Mental Health Consortium, one is the monthly regional Homelessness and Hunger Task Force and one is the quarterly Community Concerns meeting for one of our largest counties. These groups include membership from a variety of agencies listed in section 1B-1 above. The subcommittee meetings feature CoC updates, data sharing, and an opportunity for attendees to share opinions regarding preventing and ending local homelessness. Also, this CoC provides funds to pay for persons with lived expertise of homelessness to participate in CoC meetings. CoC participation by people with lived experience of homelessness has doubled in the past year.

Additionally, the MN Interagency Council on Homelessness hosts weekly online meetings for homelessness response providers. This CoC coordinator attends these which are a forum for MN agencies to share best practices regarding strategies and resources for addressing homelessness. Once a month this forum features a period where lived-experience experts share experiences and opinions on system improvements with the webinar audience. Also, all Minnesota CoC Coordinators and the Minnesota Tribal Collaborative leaders meet online monthly to share opinions and best practices. Finally, this CoC Coordinator and CoC members attend trainings hosted by a variety state and federal public and private agencies related to improving our homelessness response system.

2. The CoC regularly sends out information about regional homelessness statistics and group accomplishments via email and press releases. Furthermore, 94 area stakeholders from a diverse variety of public and private agencies receive regular emails from this CoC Coordinator and are invited to contribute opinions via online surveys, open meetings, phone and email. Also, the CoC's subcommittee meetings feature CoC updates, data sharing, grant opportunities and time for attendees to share opinions regarding preventing and ending area homelessness.

3. As a result of information gathered at public meetings and forums in the past year, this CoC has: (1) increased participation and input from people with lived expertise of homelessness, (2) engaged in an ongoing effort to increase system-wide racial equity and accountability, (3) placed a greater emphasis on trauma-informed services, and (4) become more data-driven.

2B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(4)	

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

5.	how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats.
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(limit 2,500 characters)

1. On August 4, 2022 this CoC Coordinator sent an email that described the supplemental unsheltered and rural NOFO, eligible applicants, eligible project participants, eligible costs, total funds available, esnaps and local deadlines. The email went to the 94 people (representing 56 agencies) on the CoC's email list. The same message was posted on the CoC's public website.
2. Regarding new applicants, the announcement contained the following text: "Eligible project applicants for this Special NOFO are found at 24 CFR 578.15 and the Act and include nonprofit organizations, states, local governments, instrumentalities of state and local governments, Indian Tribes and TDHEs (as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing and Self Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103). Public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100, are eligible without limitation or exclusion."
3. Regarding the process, the announcement went on to provide a link to Detailed Instructions for New Project Applications and state, "All project applicants must ensure their organization has a Code of Conduct that complies with the requirements of 2 CFR part 200 and is on file with HUD at [link]. E-snaps online application system must be used. Click HERE for links to Get Started in e-snaps, Navigating e-snaps, and Apply for Project Funds. e-snaps Project Application Navigational Guide. CoC Deadlines: By FRI AUG 12 Noon: Contact Justin Vorbach (justinv@swmhp.org or 507.530.2942) and indicate if you plan to apply for these funds. WED SEP 7 Noon: Grant draft applications due. Email pdfs to justinv@swmhp.org."
4. Regarding decisions on which applications to submit, the announcement stated, "Required HUD national competition application requirements for all projects: Complete, correct, and consistent Project Application, with complete and current Applicant Profile; HUD required forms and attachments." The announcement also stated that "Local Applications will be scored and ranked using the SW MN CoC's FY2022 SW MN CoC Grant Scoring Form for Project Ranking" with a link to the Grant Scoring Form for Project Ranking. A list of internal deadlines for project grant submissions was provided.
5. For individuals with disabilities, the announcement began, "If you need assistance with this announcement or with applying due to disability, contact Justin Vorbach, SW MN CoC Coordinator at justinv@swmhp.org or (507) 530-2942."

2C. Coordination / Engagement—with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.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 Planning or Operations of Projects
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Yes
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Nonexistent
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)	No
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Yes
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Nonexistent
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Yes
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Nonexistent
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Nonexistent
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	No
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Nonexistent
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		

2C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG funds;
2.	participated in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients;
3.	provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area; and
4.	provided information to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions to address homelessness within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The MN Department of Human Services (DHS) administered non-entitlement ESG-CV funds in two rounds, ESG-CV1 and ESG-CV2, via a competitive RFP processes. ESG-CV1 was targeted for street outreach and emergency shelters for needs unique to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to publication of an RFP for ESG-CV2 funds, DHS staff met with providers and community members in non-entitlement areas, including this CoC, to discuss ESG-CV funds prioritization. ESG-CV2 resources were awarded for emergency shelter, prevention, and rapid rehousing. This CoC received \$704,638 in CV1 shelter funds and \$955,000 in CV2 RRH funds. CoC CV total = \$1,659,638.

Additionally, the MN DHS administered non-entitlement ESG funds through a competitive RFP process in the spring of 2021. DHS had meetings with CoCs to gather input, including input on scoring proposals. CoCs offered meaningful and important input into the allocation of ESG funds in their regions.

2. Regarding participation in the evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients, the State's competitive Request for Proposal process for ESG funds includes representative(s) from each CoC who participate in the evaluation of ESG applications for funding. This review process, along with additional RFP meetings, provides an opportunity for meaningful CoC input in the allocation of ESG funds in each region.

3. The state's Continuum of Care regions use their HMIS State System Administrator (Institute for Community Alliances - ICA) to collect and report annual Point in Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count data (HIC) for all regions in the State. In coordination with the ICA, each CoC region provided PIT and HIC data to the State. The PIT and HIC for each CoC are publically available and were incorporated into the most recent Consolidated Plan.

4. The Consolidated Plan consultation process for FFY2022-2026 was extensive and included participation in a variety of ways from each CoC and their members. HIC and PIT data, along with local homeless information (such as market housing trends, rental and transportation barriers) was provided by CoC members through public hearings, written comments, and directly to State staff who regularly attend CoC meeting across the state. This information is incorporated in the throughout the Consolidated Plan's Needs Assessment and Market Analysis sections. The data was also a frequent source of discussion at public Consolidated Plan hearings.

2C-3.	Discharge Planning Coordination. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.c.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the systems of care 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.	Foster Care	Yes
2.	Health Care	Yes
3.	Mental Health Care	Yes
4.	Correctional Facilities	Yes

2C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts. (All Applicants)
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.

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

1.	Youth Education Provider	No
2.	State Education Agency (SEA)	Yes
3.	Local Education Agency (LEA)	No
4.	School Districts	Yes

2C-4a.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts–Formal Partnerships. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC collaborates with the entities checked in Question 2C-4; and
2.	the formal partnerships your CoC has with the entities checked in Question 2C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The ten Minnesota CoCs, including this one, have entered into a Collaboration Agreement with our SEA, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). The Southwest Minnesota CoC has a signed MOU with Marshall Public Schools, one of our CoC's largest districts.

2. For the statewide agreement, some of what MDE agrees to is to:

- Annually provide training to CoC Coordinators on how to access and use MDE aggregate public data on youth experiencing homelessness in Districts and Schools.
- Annually provide to CoC Coordinators a list of trainings offered to District and School Homeless Liaisons.
- Annually provide to District and School Homeless Liaisons a list of CoC Coordinators with contact information sortable by county and encourage Liaisons to collaborate with their CoC.
- Annually provide to CoC Coordinators a spreadsheet of School Homeless Liaisons with contact information sortable by CoC region.
- Twice annually, have an MDE representative will attend the monthly state CoC Coordinator meeting.
- Encourage District and School homeless liaisons to work with their CoC to provide relevant input on the PIT Count.

Some things each Continuum of Care Coordinators agrees to is to:

- By October 1 each year, provide MDE a current list of CoC contacts.
- By October 1 of each year, provide information on how to become members of a CoC to District and School Homeless Liaisons.
- Provide clear information about date, time and agenda of agreed upon collaboration meetings;
- Provide information to MDE and Districts and Schools on the local homeless response system through virtual or in person training sessions.
- Share with MDE information regarding homeless counts managed by the CoC.
- Provide educational opportunities to homeless programs within the CoC regions on policies and procedures relevant to serving homeless children and youth; examples include: housing, shelter, prevention, outreach, and support services.

For the SW MN CoC MOU with the Marshall school district, so of what the districts agrees to is to provide are:

- Transportation to and from school
- Enrollment assistance
- Referrals to Coordinated Entry for access to prevention, shelter or supportive housing assistance.

Some of what the CoC agrees to provide are:

- Assistance accessing Coordinated Entry
- Access to prevention funding and services
- Assistance accessing mainstream resources such as MFIP, Emergency Assistance, General Assistance.

2C-4b.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for educational services

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has adopted the following policies and procedures to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for education services:

"Families with Children Policies

All homeless assistance projects within the SW MN COC region that serve households with children (shelter, transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing) will be expected to comply with the following policies:

- i. Inform families of the name and contact information of the School Homeless Liaison for their school district. Work with the school homeless liaisons on the following items.
- ii. Ensure that all homeless families are informed that their children are able to maintain enrollment in the same school despite address changes caused by homelessness, per the federal HUD legislation.
- iii. Advocate for families with their school district to ensure that transportation is arranged (as needed).
- iv. Track school attendance for all children served within your program and help families to resolve any barriers that are contributing to the absences (as needed).
- v. Assist families in developing education related goals for all family members when completing housing goal plans.
- vi. Ensure that all family members are connected to relevant educational resources in the community.
- vii. Encourage and assist families with children ages 3-5 to apply for the Head Start Program and provide referrals to agencies that offer Head Start.

With exceptions for program eligibility requirements, SW MN CoC programs prohibit the denial of admission to or separation of any family members from other family members based on age, sex, gender or disability when entering shelter or housing."

A list of the CoC's current School Homeless Liaisons, sorted by county, with their contact information is available to case managers and clients on the CoC's website. The CoC Coordinator and state homeless education coordinator provide an online training to this CoC's School Homeless Liaisons at the beginning of every school year. The training is held at 3:30 to accommodate those liaisons who teach during the school day.

2C-5.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Training of Project Staff. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

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

	Mainstream Resource	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI—Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
4.	Substance Abuse Programs	Yes
5.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
6.	Other	

You must select a response for elements 1 through 6 in question 2C-5.

2C-5a.	Mainstream Resources—CoC Collaboration with Project Staff Regarding Healthcare Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1.	systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance;
3.	provides assistance to project staff with the effective use of Medicaid and other benefits; and
4.	works with projects to promote SOAR certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC systematically keeps program staff up-to-date regarding mainstream resources available for persons experiencing homelessness through monthly, statewide online trainings offered by the MN Department of Human Services and annual trainings offered specifically to our CoC by local MN "Careerforce" Centers. Additionally, any announcements about mainstream benefit trainings available, whether online or in-person, are emailed to the CoC's listserv and announced at CoC meetings. County social workers participate in CoC subcommittee meetings and can act as consultants regarding mainstream resources. Dissemination of information about mainstream and other resources is done: in person by county social workers who attend meetings and accept clients combined application for SNAP, TANF, and Public Health Insurance; a formerly homeless governing board member with experience navigating the system; and a website run by the MN Department of Human Services called Disability Benefits 101.
2. At intake, clients are connected to MNSURE navigators who provide help with enrollment in a variety of health plans including MN Care, Medicaid and private. In most cases, these navigators are available at the community action agencies that are the CoC's Coordinated Entry points. Navigators help clients connect to health insurance and use benefits by finding clinics that take the insurance.
3. Several Coordinated Entry staff are trained MNSure Navigators, trained on Medical Assistance (Medicaid) and how people sign up and renew their enrollment in the program. These staff regularly meet with partner organizations either through individual meetings or as part of collaborative groups where sharing about Medicaid updates is a key component.
4. For many years we had SOAR staff able to help clients with SSI/SSDI applications across our geography. In the fall of 2021 the person who offered these services in most of our counties left her job and the agency with the SOAR grant, the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council, decided not to renew the program. We have informed all of the 55 agencies represented on our CoC's email list of the opportunity to become SOAR grantees and assist those experiencing homelessness in applying for SSI/SSDI. So far no agencies have applied. We continue to have Central Minnesota Jobs and Training offering SOAR services in four of our counties and two of those counties are the most populous in our Continuum of Care.

3A. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs—New Projects. (Rural Set Aside Only).	
	Special NOFO Section VII.A.	
If the answer to the question below is yes, you must upload the CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.		
Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project(s) under the Rural Set Aside for housing rehabilitation or new construction costs?		No

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

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
	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

3B-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
	You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	If you answered yes to question 3B-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)

4A. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

		Please read 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 and reduces file size. 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.	Open attachments once uploaded to ensure they are the correct attachment for the required Document Type.	
Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1B-1. Local Competition Announcement	Yes	Local Competition...	10/07/2022
1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes	Local Competition...	10/07/2022
1B-3. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes	Notification of P...	10/07/2022
1B-3a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes	Notification of P...	10/07/2022
1B-4. Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application	Yes		
3A-1. CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs	No		
3B-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment	No	Leveraging Housin...	10/14/2022
P-1a. PHA Commitment	No	PHA Commitment	10/07/2022
P-3. Healthcare Leveraging Commitment	No	Healthcare Levera...	10/07/2022
P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter	No	Lived Experience ...	10/07/2022
Plan. CoC Plan	Yes	CoC Plan	10/14/2022

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Deadline

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Scoring Tool

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Projects Accepted

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description: Leveraging Housing Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: PHA Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: Healthcare Leveraging Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: Lived Experience Support Letter

Attachment Details

Document Description: CoC Plan

Submission Summary

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

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	10/07/2022
1B. Project Review, Ranking and Selection	Please Complete
2A. System Performance	09/29/2022
2B. Coordination and Engagement	09/29/2022
2C. Coordination and Engagement–Con't.	09/30/2022
3A. New Projects With Rehab/New Construction	No Input Required
3B. Homelessness by Other Federal Statutes	08/24/2022
4A. Attachments Screen	Please Complete
Submission Summary	No Input Required

SW MN CoC Special NOFO Project Scoring Form 2022

(HMIS only project applications will automatically be ranked first)

Applicant:		Project:	
Evaluation Criteria	Point Scale	Data Source / Range	Points
HMIS Data Quality in Universal Data Elements, All Agency Grants using HMIS (VSPs excluded)	$\geq 98\%$ = 10 pts 90 - 97% = 5 pts $\leq 89\%$ = 0 pts	HMIS / (7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022)	
Project Provides HUD CoC Grants in Counties with No HUD CoC Grants	Yes = 5 pts, No = 0 points	Application	
Agency fully participates in CoC's Coordinated Entry System	Yes = 5 pts, No = 0 points	HMIS / (7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022)	
Project Aims to Serve those with most severe service needs	Permanent Housing Projects = 10 points Rapid Rehousing Projects = 5 points Transitional Housing = 0 points	Application	
Project Application Describes a Commitment to a Housing First Approach	Yes = 5 pts, No = 0 points	Application	
Total Points:			
Total Points divided by total potential points			



Housing & Redevelopment Authority of Chippewa and Yellow Medicine Counties

Cathy Jakobs, Executive Director
cathy@hra.chippewa.mn

• 629 N 11th St / Suite 10 / Montevideo MN / 56265 • Phone (320) 269-6414 • Fax (320) 269-3369

October 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

The Chippewa County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is interested in administering at least four new Stability Vouchers. These four Stability Vouchers will be used in collaboration with Prairie Five Community Action Council Inc. in a permanent supportive housing (PSH) project which they are applying for via the "Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Special NOFO)." Prairie Five is applying for leasing dollars for four PSH units and the Chippewa County HRA will dedicate four Stability Voucher to the project. Prairie Five's Special NOFO application is requesting service dollars to support project participants in all eight units.

Screening for all eight units in the project will be done via the Southwest Minnesota CoC's Coordinated Entry System. This system prioritizes those experiencing HUD Category One and Four homelessness with the highest service needs. Documentation of participant project eligibility will be done by Prairie Five.

We look forward to collaborating with Prairie Five on this project that will help reduce homelessness in our region.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Jakobs".

Cathy Jakobs
Executive Director
Chippewa County/Yellow Medicine County HRA



Collaboration Agreement between the Southwest Minnesota Continuum of Care (SW MN CoC) and Project Turnabout

Background

The SW MN CoC is a regional planning group working to prevent and end homelessness. Currently the CoC's member agencies provide 123 shelter beds, 25 transitional housing beds, 97 rapid rehousing beds and 145 permanent supportive housing beds to those facing homelessness in 18 counties of southwest Minnesota. The SW MN CoC also provides the area's coordinated entry system. This system provides entry points, common assessment, shared data and housing referrals across the region.

Since 1970, Project Turnabout has been providing an ever-growing range of quality treatment. Its recovery services offer real hope for a brighter future to people who are suffering from addiction to drugs, alcohol or gambling. Project Turnabout is the largest provider of both inpatient and outpatient recovery services in the region and has programs in Granite Falls, Willmar, Marshall and Redwood Falls.

Expectations of Parties

The Southwest Minnesota Continuum of Care will:

- Provide an intake, assessment and referral process for those about to become homeless or experiencing homelessness in Southwest Minnesota.
- Operate seven units of permanent supportive housing to those disabled and experiencing homelessness via a Willmar-based project operated by United Community Action Partnership. Proposed project grant dates are 11/1/2023 – 10/31/2024.
- Operate eight units of Permanent Supportive Housing to those disabled and experiencing homelessness via a Montevideo-based project operated by Prairie Five Community Action. Project grant dates are 7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024
- Assist all participants in these housing programs to apply for any and all health insurance for which they are eligible.

Project Turnabout will:

- Provide access to its services for all program participants from the aforementioned housing programs who qualify and choose those services.

The per person value of Project Turnabout services before insurance are as follows:

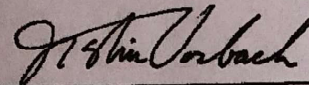
- Inpatient: ~\$200 per night
- Outpatient: ~\$50 per day

Signatures

I, the Authorized Representative, acknowledge by signing below that I have reviewed and accept this agreement.

Southwest Minnesota Continuum of Care

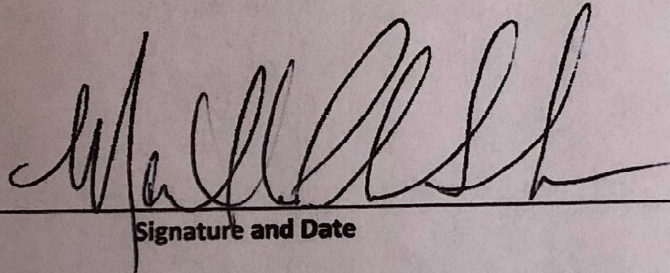
Justin Vorbach / Coordinator



September 19, 2022

Signature and Date

Project Turnabout



9/19/22

Marti Paulson / CEO

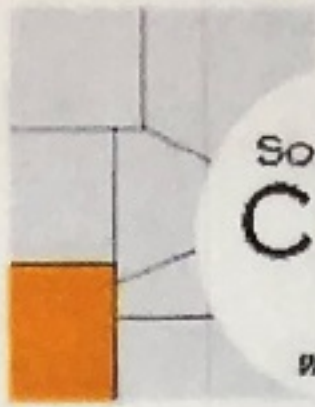
Signature and Date

Substance Abuse Treatment Potential Annual Value for Prairie Five Permanent Supportive Housing Program: "P5 Special NOFO PSH FY2022"

Inpatient: 8 potential adult clients x 30 days x \$200/day = \$48,000 total

Outpatient: 8 potential adult clients x 30 sessions x \$50/session = \$12,000

Total annual value of Substance Abuse Treatment is \$60,000 which is 59% of the total annual value of the Prairie Five Permanent Supportive Housing Program: "P5 Special NOFO PSH FY2022" (\$101,548).



SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA

CONTINUUM OF CARE

working together to end homelessness

October 7, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the undersigned, are members of the Southwest Minnesota Continuum of Care (MN-511) Persons with Lived Expertise of Homelessness Sub-committee. We support the priorities for serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness with severe service needs in the CoC's geographic area outlined in the Special NOFO CoC Application and the Project Applications. We support the submission of the following project applications: FY22 Special PSH Expansion, FY22 Special RRH Expansion, P5 Special NOFO PSH FY2022, P5 Special NOFO RRH FY2022, and MN HMIS Southwest Rural FY22.

Respectfully,

Scott Wyatt, Lyon County Minnesota

S. M. Wyatt

Cheryl Baumann, Swift County Minnesota

Cheryl Baumann

Christina Wateland, Willmar Minnesota

Christina Wateland

Southwest Minnesota CoC (MN-511) Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

Introduction

The Southwest Minnesota CoC has achieved much in the last 14 years: more than tripling our homelessness response system housing inventory (147 → 493 beds), implementing our Coordinated Entry System, ending Veteran Homelessness and ending Chronic Homelessness. Our more recent initiatives include improving our landlord relationships (both in quality and quantity), maintenance and improvement of our collaborations with public safety across our 18 counties to improve our identification of and assistance to those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, increasing authentic leadership from persons with lived experience of homelessness and addressing system disparities linked to race, ethnicity, LGBTQ status or disability. The responses below describe our current and future plans.

P-1c. Landlord Recruitment

1. The CoC's strategy to recruit landlords and units for tenant-based rental assistance is multi-faceted. Since 2008, we have increased by 900% the number of scattered-site PSH beds on our Housing Inventory Chart, going from 25 to 250. One way we have grown our landlord relationships is through collaborations with large property management companies on supportive housing units. Minnesota Housing Finance Agency offers incentives in annual Low Income Housing Tax Credit competitions for projects that include at least four units of permanent supportive housing for long-term homeless individuals and families. This incentive has helped our CoC add 32 units of permanent supportive housing across seven developments in our CoC. 16 of these units are at four developments that have been managed by large regional property management companies. One collaborating company, Lloyd Management, manages hundreds of multifamily, affordable apartments in twelve of our CoC's Cities. Another collaborating company, Van Binsbergen and Associates, has hundreds of affordable units in multifamily developments in 25 of our CoC's cities. The collaborating service agencies for these units include the Southwestern Mental Health Center and United Community Action Partnership (UCAP). Successful partnering with these companies on set-aside permanent supportive housing units has led to successful partnering with them on for our CoC's 270 scattered site units. Another large property management company, Lifestyle Inc, which manages units in seven of our counties, sends this CoC coordinator each month a listing of affordable and subsidized unit vacancies which I share via the CoC email list.

Another part of our landlord recruitment is a spreadsheet of 274 rental properties, across our 18 counties with contact information for each. This roster includes large property management companies and small "Mom and Pop" landlords. We have used this data to do a mailing to all of landlords and property managers to describe the work of the CoC and to offer an online orientation to our work. We have built partnerships and encouraged them to use www.housinglink.org as a centralized clearinghouse for vacancy postings. The mission of HousingLink is "Connecting people to affordable rental homes,

increasing choice and access for all." They operate an award-winning website where anyone can search for affordable rental housing vacancies and waiting list openings throughout all of Minnesota. Landlords and property managers use the website to advertise their rental housing openings for free. Staff at human service agencies in Minnesota use Housing Link's resources to help their clients overcome barriers to their housing search, and to answer questions about subsidized housing programs in Minnesota. In 2021, over 1,000 units in our CoC were posted on the site and nearly 2,000 searches were done in our CoC.

Other ways our CoC has been successful in increasing our landlord pool is through excellent customer service and follow through. Our service providers keep their promises to work closely with their scattered-site program participants to make sure they are following their leases and paying their rent portions in full and on time. Our providers respond quickly to contact from landlords regarding concerns. Our service providers also work closely with their agency finance departments to make sure that agency portions of rent are paid in full and on time. This allows landlords to continue to work with us and creates good word of mouth communication with other landlords regarding our programs.

Furthermore, in recent years we received grant funding from the Southwest Initiative Foundation to create a landlord risk mitigation fund. This essentially provides a \$500 insurance bond for landlords who fear that a high-barrier client might have departure expenses that exceed the damage and security deposit amounts. The program has helped those experiencing homelessness in our region to access units that they otherwise would not have been able to access.

Finally, for some of the programs working with our highest barrier clients, our HUD grantees have engaged in master leasing with landlords. This has put all of the responsibility of lease compliance onto the grantee, rather than the program participant, and allowed us to partner with landlords who otherwise would not be interested. Working closely with clients, our service agencies have maintained positive landlord relationships and positive regard in our communities.

2. Our strategy has worked well across our entire 18-county geography. For years we have had multiple service providers working with scattered site vouchers that can be used in all 18 of our counties. We have had very strong permanent housing retention performance. We also work closely with all the HRAs and PHAs in our region, having them share program vacancies each month which then get shared with the CoC. Similarly, we receive monthly from the HUD field office a list of all vacant units with HUD subsidized rents and this gets shared with the CoC email list.

New practices in recruiting landlords have emerged from the COVID pandemic. In the fall of 2020, Minnesota Housing created the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program

(CHAP) for Minnesotan who had fallen behind on their rent as a result of the impact of the pandemic. Two of our largest CoC agencies, UCAP, which administers hundreds of scattered site vouchers, and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership became administrators of the funds. This led to staff interactions with hundreds of regional landlords. The professionalism of our staff members' interactions in administering of the funds led to an increase in regional landlords having positive collaborations with our agencies and increased likelihood of them working with us in the future. In 2021, a similar outcome took place when Rent Help MN was implemented statewide and UCAP contracted to help guide people to the program and help them apply. Positive, helpful interactions with landlords via these programs has built our CoC's relationships with them and helped to mitigate the financial challenges that landlords have faced during our state's COVID eviction moratorium.

3. Our CoC intends to create a more data driven system to continue to grow and improve our landlord collaboration. We will continue to promote to landlords the use of www.housinglink.org as a free place for all vacancies to be posted. We will research and consider use of existing software related to managing landlord relationships and vacancies (e.g. Padmission). To the landlord data roster mentioned above, we will pursue adding fields to track positive vs. negative client interactions and outcomes with the landlord, which agencies have worked with the landlord, how many units have subsidized rent and what are the eligibility requirements for those subsidized units.

P-3.a Current Street Outreach Strategy

Before addressing this CoC's current street outreach strategy, I will provide some context. Over the course of my life I have lived in Seattle, San Diego, Baltimore, and Boston and lived near Washington D.C. and Los Angeles. In all of these cities, I have seen the many encampments of varying sizes of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. From 2001 – 2004 I did street outreach, both daytime and overnight, to those experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Boston, Massachusetts as a Pine Street Inn employee. Boston has an area of about 90 square miles and during overnight outreach van shifts we would encounter 50 to 250 people living outdoors, depending on the temperature. The Southwest Minnesota Continuum of Care is 12,000 square miles and the most unsheltered homelessness we have documented on a single night is 29 people. These data indicate that this CoC has 133 times more area than the City of Boston and only about 11% of Boston's unsheltered homeless population. Per square mile, Boston has roughly 1,125 times more people experiencing unsheltered homelessness than the Southwest Minnesota Continuum of Care. Our unsheltered homelessness consists one to two people per thousand square miles. I preface my description to this CoC's street outreach strategy with this information from my personal experience to show that urban street outreach and rural street outreach are much different phenomena and need much different strategic responses.

1. Our CoC's homelessness outreach consists of a Lutheran Social Services (LSS) team in our largest city (Willmar MN, population 22,000), outreach via advertising and public safety patrols. The LSS street outreach team provides services to youth experiencing

homelessness and runaway youth up to age 24. The team assists in obtaining shelter and transitional housing. They also Coordinated Entry assessments for longer-term RRH and PSH. They provide a positive adult presence on the streets, offering counseling services, basic needs support and access to community resources. Services are confidential and non-judgmental. If they encounter those living in places not meant for human habitation who are not youth, they will still assist them in connecting to assistance.

Our advertising consists of radio ads describing that those seeking help with homelessness can call 211 or visit www.swmnhousinghelp.org to find the homelessness response system entry point in our CoC based on their county, age and situation. These radio ads are broadcast from our four largest cities and all 18 of our counties are in range of these radio stations. The same information is published regularly in the four newspapers with the highest circulations in our CoC. Finally, flyers and posters with information on how to access the homelessness response system are posted in all of our 18 counties at food shelves, free community meals, laundromats, gas stations, thrift stores, county human services offices, libraries and other places where people facing homelessness might see them. In 13 of our 18 counties, if people call seeking help after business hours, the outgoing message provides an emergency shelter hotline that can be called 24/7/365. For those fleeing domestic violence, a 24/7/365 shelter hotline is also available.

The final component of our street outreach is collaboration with our CoC's police and sheriffs' departments. These public safety officers are familiar with our coordinated entry points and shelter hotline numbers. They do not treat those experiencing unsheltered homelessness as criminals but rather as people needing safety, since there is no evidence that criminalizing homelessness helps to end homelessness. Since these departments are perennially patrolling our region, they can connect those experiencing unsheltered homelessness with shelter based on client choice.

2. The LSS Youth Homelessness Street Outreach Team does daytime outreach in Willmar Minnesota one to two times per week. Our well-advertised 211 and www.swmnhousinghelp.org and shelter hotline resources are available at any time. Our police and sheriff's officers are patrolling our streets and highways and available at all times.
3. Since 2008, our CoC's shelter capacity has grown by 273%, going from 33 beds to 123. Our Continuum has developed to quickly move those experiencing homelessness to stability through a variety of paths that include resolution with family or friends, employment assistance, mainstream benefit application assistance, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, subsidized housing, and housing choice vouchers. Since 2008, our CoC's bed capacity in ES, TH and PSH has grown from 147 to 493, a 235% increase. Each year we help hundreds of people in exiting homelessness in the most efficient ways possible. In 2017 our CoC became the first in Minnesota to declare and end to Veteran homelessness and in 2019 became the fourth in the United States to declare and end to chronic homelessness, both of which reveal a high-performing homelessness response system.

4. Typically, those individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness are the most vulnerable among those whom our system serves. That they are outdoors or living in their cars or tents means that they have no family or friends who will take them in, lack the income to pay for a low cost motel room, and/or have mental or chemical health situations that make them reluctant to enter shelter. These are the people whom our street outreach, advertising and public safety system try to target. Coming to an agency is not required to do a coordinated entry assessment, and, if necessary, people can access hotel-based shelter rooms without meeting in person with CoC agency staff. Once sheltered, we can build trust with those seeking help and expedite their returns to housing.

Our coordinated entry flyers and posters have information in English, Spanish and Somali, the three most used languages used in our region. We have CoC-agency staff that speak a total of seven languages and match those in need with staff from their culture to offer the best culturally appropriate strategies to address their needs.

5. Our homelessness outreach quickly connects those facing unsheltered homelessness to coordinated entry assessment. Assessments can be done and entered into HMIS the same day as a person asks for help. The person will appear on the CoC's Priority List the following day. At least weekly the CoC assessors and housing agencies meet online to match those in homelessness with housing solutions based on client choice, program eligibility and our CoC Prioritization Policy. In some cases people are housed within days of asking for help. Our most recent system performance measures show a median length of time homeless of 28 days.
6. Currently we have people with lived experience of homelessness working at an agency and paid to be on our Persons with Lived Experience CoC Subcommittee, but no one with lived experience doing street outreach.

P-3.c Current Strategy to Provide Immediate Access to Low Barrier Permanent Housing for Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

1. This CoC's current strategy to provide immediate access to low-barrier permanent housing for those experiencing unsheltered homelessness has proven successful for many years. Part of this strategy is a high-functioning coordinated entry system. The entry points for those facing homelessness provide assistance for prevention, diversion and shelter. The common assessment and addition of individuals and families to the priority list can in nearly all cases be done immediately. It can even be done by phone since our CoC covers large distances and those in need often do not have access to transportation. The priority list is monitored and updated at least weekly, and every Monday an online meeting among assessors and housing program staff takes place. Our CoC Coordinated Entry Policy prioritizes the unsheltered, those experiencing chronic homelessness and families with minor children. Things like sobriety or mental health treatment are not required for shelter or housing. All referrals are based eligibility, prioritization, and client choice. Often the agency doing the assessment, providing the shelter, and providing the housing program is the same agency and those in need are able to work with the same staff person as they move from homelessness to permanent housing. This

makes the process more efficient and client-centered as they do not need to establish relationships with myriad staffs across multiple agencies.

This CoC works closely with the many Public Housing Authorities and Housing Redevelopment Authorities across our 18 counties to leverage housing resources. This Coordinator receives monthly updates regarding Public Housing Units and Housing Choice Vouchers from these agencies and shares them with CoC stakeholders for consideration for those currently experiencing homelessness and those ready to move on from transitional and permanent supportive housing programs. All participants in these programs are assisted in applying for Section 8 vouchers. If they are able to transition to Section 8 vouchers they can still continue to receive supportive services. In 2019, this CoC established a “Move On” policy with the Worthington Housing Redevelopment Authority where those in PSH programs are prioritized for the next Section 8 voucher if they are stable and feel ready to continue with rental assistance without ongoing services. In 2021, this CoC entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the two HRAs who were eligible to receive the new Emergency Housing Vouchers. This brought in 32 new housing vouchers for those facing homelessness in our region. In this Special Rural Competition we have a new agency applying to bring permanent supportive housing in one of the more rural counties in our CoC. This agency, Prairie Five Community Action, is partnering with the Chippewa County HRA to double the number of units in the project by applying for new Stability Vouchers. Through our close collaborations with our many PHAs and HRAs, this CoC is able to leverage a great number of housing units and vouchers to maximize resources for our homelessness response system.

2. The CoCs current strategy performs very well at providing low-barrier and culturally appropriate permanent housing to those who have histories of unsheltered homelessness. As described above, we use a Housing First Approach across our shelter and housing continuum. We offer landlords a risk mitigation fund which helps those in need gain access to apartments that they otherwise be denied.

Regarding culturally appropriate permanent housing, those who call 211 for information are connected to a statewide call center staffed 24/7 by trained Community Resource Specialists who can speak English, Spanish, Somali, Hmong and Russian. Our CoC’s agencies have staff who are Hispanic, Somali, Karen, and Arabic and speak those languages. We also have staff that speak Swahili and Bavara. Having staff from these cultures, prevent languages impediments for those facing homelessness and allows them to be matched with help that is sensitive to their cultural needs and choices.

3. The evidence showing the success of our CoC’s is: (1) being recognized in 2019 as the fourth CoC in the United States to have ended chronic homelessness; (2) having a current by-name Priority List with six unsheltered households (made up of nine adults and one child), 13 households in shelter (made up of 15 adults and eight children), only two of these households are experiencing chronic homelessness, and zero of these households have any veterans.

4. New practices the CoC has implemented across its geographic area in the past three years and include a Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund, Emergency Housing Vouchers, a 24/7 shelter hotline in 13 of our 18 counties, improvements to our DVRRH referral process and the transfer of a HUD grant and a state supportive services grant to a different grantee agency.

The lessons learned from the landlord risk mitigation fund is that it has helped some households get housed and these households have not yet had to pay any money from this fund so it continues to be fully available. Our new emergency housing vouchers have helped over two dozen individuals and families facing homelessness to become housed. Our 24/7 shelter hotline has made it easier for public safety officers and hospitals to get people into hotel shelter rooms outside of normal business hours. Our improved DVRRH referral process has meant less paperwork for those in need and for DV agency staff. Finally, the transfer of a HUD grant to a different agency has helped our coordinated entry system to become more integrated.

P-5. Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness

1. This CoC's strategy for ensuring that resources provided under this Special NOFO will reduce unsheltered homelessness will be made manifest in the following ways. Firstly, Prairie Five Community Action Council is applying for the first time to be a HUD grantee. They are the primary homelessness response agency in five of our lesser-populated counties (Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Swift, Lac qui Parle and Big Stone). To date, they have only been able to assist those facing homelessness in their counties with state-funded prevention, shelter (two hotel rooms), transitional housing (three units) and rapid rehousing (one unit). The only permanent supportive housing that was available in their counties was part of a 15-household scattered-site HUD PSH project. This grant was seldom used in Prairie Five Counties. If Prairie Five's Special Rural NOFO grants are funded, eight units of permanent supportive housing and six units of rapid rehousing will be added to their area. Additionally, in this year's regular NOFO, Prairie Five has applied to add another five units of rapid rehousing through reallocated CoC funds. Prior to this year, this agency has not shown interest in applying for HUD funds which left the homelessness response in their area under resourced for both units and supportive services. If their two Special Rural NOFO and one Regular NOFO projects are funded by HUD, they will have the capacity to bring unsheltered homelessness, and perhaps all homelessness, to functional zero in their five counties.

The same is true of United Community Action Agency which is the primary homelessness response agency in the other 13 counties in our CoC. They have applied in this Special Rural NOFO to add seven units of permanent supportive housing and seven units of rapid rehousing. Additionally, via reallocation in this year's Regular CoC NOFO, they have applied to add another five units of rapid rehousing to their service area. These units, if funded and in combination with Prairie Five's, could likely bring unsheltered homelessness, and perhaps all homelessness, in our entire CoC to functional zero.

2. All of our CoC's housing programs for those experiencing homelessness use a low-barrier, Housing First approach. All can also access our CoC's Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund. Some of our programs use master leasing to make it easier for hard-to-house participants to access units. Additionally, our CoC's Prioritization Policy and Process moves those experiencing chronic and unsheltered homelessness to the top of the list. Our CoC also uses dynamic prioritization, a process where all available housing resources for persons experiencing homeless in the CoC are flexibly and immediately offered to the individuals who need them most acutely in that moment, regardless of whether the individuals might be better-served in the future by a type of program not presently available to them. With these policies and processes combined, we are able to quickly house individuals and families facing chronic and unsheltered homelessness.
3. As described in section P-3a above, our street outreach consists of a street outreach team in our largest city, partnerships with police and sheriff's offices, newspaper, radio and community advertising and a collaboration with our statewide United Way 211 phone assistance system. We also train our school homeless liaisons on how to connect to our coordinated entry system. This outreach system provides clear instruction in multiple languages on how those who are unsheltered in our CoC can quickly connect to shelter, basic needs, and assessment for housing outcomes that meet their needs and preferences.
4. Our CoC has taken and continues to take additional steps to ensure that people who are unsheltered or have histories of unsheltered homelessness can access housing and other resources in the community. First we heighten awareness of the reality of homelessness in our rural counties. Often the public don't think there is homelessness in our area because encampments are very rare and our shelters are mostly hotel-based and not visible as shelters for homelessness. We heighten awareness through press releases about our Point in Time Count data. Also, in 2019 we worked with a Twin Cities non-profit to create and perform a play called "Prairie Homeless Companion." This show was performed in our four largest cities and over 300 people attended. Our CoC also got positive community recognition in 2019 when an event was held to recognize our having ended chronic homelessness. The Lieutenant Governor and a number of state agency commissioners and local media brought attention to the event and accomplishment. Our radio and newspaper ads let all community members know how to get help for themselves, their friends and family, or strangers who might approach them seeking help. Homelessness is a community-wide issue that requires a community-wide response. We aim to inform the entire community, not just those experiencing homelessness, on how to access our homelessness response system.

Once identified, those in need are referred to a "one stop" access point. We have distinct victim service provider agencies act as coordinated entry points for those fleeing domestic violence. All others go to an entry point (at least one per county) that can offer prevention, diversion, shelter, housing assessment, and in-house referral to MN Sure (health insurance) Navigators. Our access points can quickly connect those in need to Public Housing, Section 8 Housing, Affordable Housing Search, Food Assistance, Employment Assistance, Mental Health Assistance, Addiction Detoxification Assistance, Veteran Assistance and Legal Aid.

**P-6. Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Decision Making–
Meaningful Outreach**

1. For the last fifteen years this CoC has worked to have people with lived experience of homelessness engaged in our work. We have always been able to offer and provide compensation to them for their time committed to CoC work. For most of the last 15 years we have had participation of someone with lived experience of homelessness in the work of this CoC. The primary way we have reached out is through CoC agency staff individually letting current clients know of the opportunity. Another way has been an Annual Meeting announcement in our CoC's four largest newspapers. This announcement describes the mission of the CoC, the date and time of our annual meeting, and contact information for this CoC Coordinator. Until 2022, our goal, which we met, was to have one person with lived experience (PWLE) on our CoC's Governing Board. This year we have significantly increased our efforts to have PWLEs engaged in our work. In April, three CoC members formed a working group regarding engagement of people with lived experience in our work. This opportunity came from HUD's 2022 Spring Community Workshops. The group consisted of a person with lived experience, a staff person from a victim service provider agency, and this CoC Coordinator. This group worked over three months with Maseta Dorley, a consultant with ICF and herself a person with lived experience. Over the course of this process our CoC was able to reimagine CoC leadership with authentic engagement with people with lived expertise and move beyond tokenism. From our state CoC planning grant which began on July 1 we budgeted money to pay people with lived experience \$50/hour to join our meetings. We added a second person with lived experience to our CoC in June and he has attended every monthly meeting since. He is a Veteran with lived experience of unsheltered homelessness. In July this CoC Coordinator communicated with another current program participant who wants to join our subcommittee of persons with lived experience. The lived experience expert who has been on our CoC Governing Board for the last five years, and who oversees a supportive housing program at our largest CoC agency, has identified two more current program participants with lived experience to join our PWLE subcommittee, one of whom is Black. Our PWLE subcommittee plans to meet monthly and report to the CoC Governing Board.
2. Since our CoC formed a Governing Board ten years ago, one person with lived experience is considered part of the Governing Board, regardless of attendance. All other Governing Board agencies must attend at least 50% of meetings in a calendar year to continue on the Governing Board in the following year. The PWLE in this role for the last five years, Cheryl, is involved in voting decisions before the Board. She also participates in our CoC's Homeless and Hunger Subcommittee and now our Lived Experience Experts Subcommittee. Also on our Lived Experience Subcommittee and a full CoC meeting contributor is Scott, a Veteran with lived experience of unsheltered homelessness.
3. Scott was part of the project scoring and ranking committee for our 2022 regular NOFO project applications and this Special Rural NOFO project applications. Everyone who goes through our coordinated entry system is provided a post-assessment receipt which provides information on how to give feedback on the Coordinated Entry Process and/or

file a complaint. We are growing our PWLE Subcommittee to five persons, three of whom are currently participants in a supportive housing project of our CoC and the other an employee running a supportive housing program. These four people are paid by the CoC or a CoC-agency and can provide agency and project level feedback regarding service delivery.

P-7. Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Community Development. (Required for Rural Set Aside)

1. In January 2022, this CoC formed a Racial Equity Accountability Program (REAP) Leadership team of six people. On the team are representatives from two victim service providers, two from a community action agency, one from a youth service agency, and the last person is this CoC Coordinator. Of the six on the team, one is Hispanic and one is African American.

Our REAP team has collected, sorted, and analyzed the quantitative data regarding racial disparities in provision or outcomes within our homelessness response system. We used the following sources for our data:

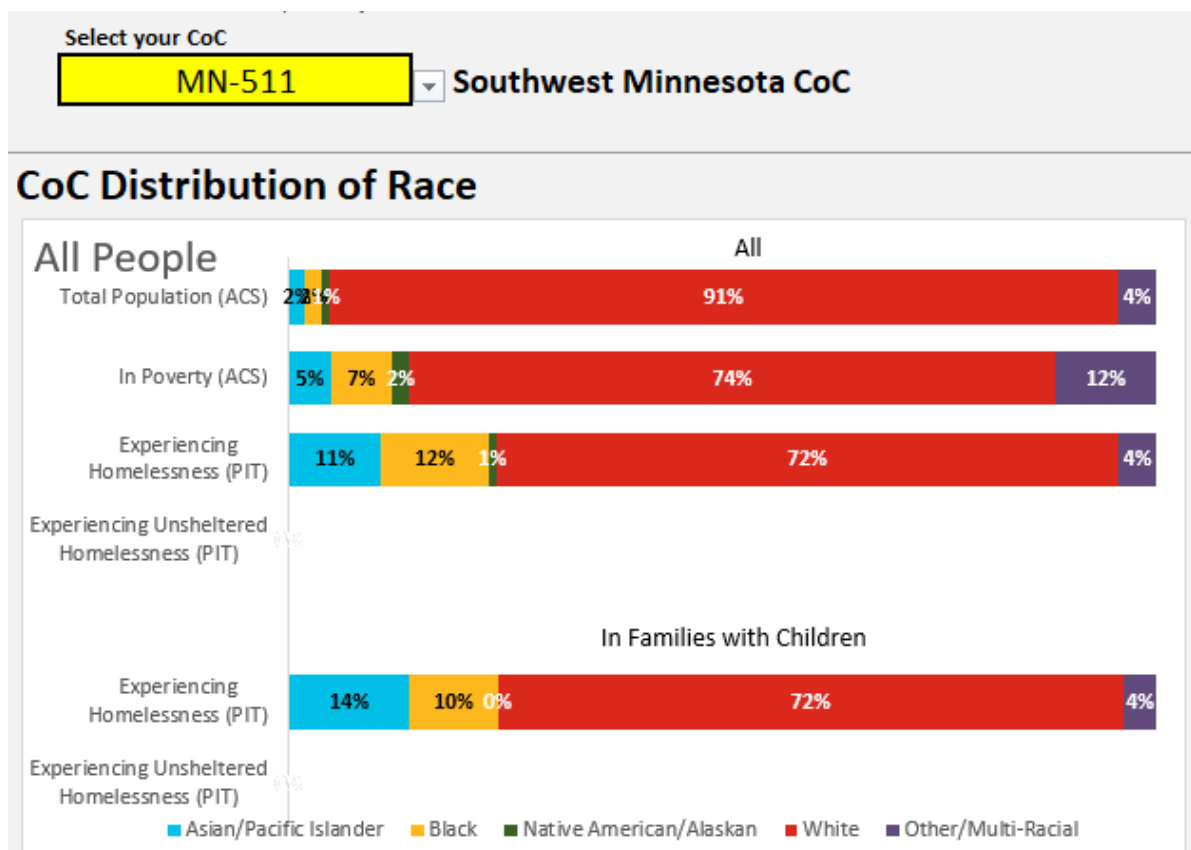
- HUD's CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool
- A Racial Equity Accountability Project Quantitative Data Collection Tool created by our state HMIS lead.
- Race and ethnicity distributions for households served in different project types, available in Stella P.

Our REAP team has studied the currently available data and plans to continue to analyze these data as they are updated. We will analyze project level race and ethnicity data on service and outcomes more frequently, since it is available in real time. Our REAP team is also beginning a process of collection and analysis of qualitative data. Data will be collected via conversations and surveys with those who have entered an experienced our homelessness response system. We now have an HMIS report that lists the initials and HMIS profile number of every non-White and/or Hispanic program participant in our CoC, their contact information, their case manager's name and their case manager's contact information. This outreach is intended to be used to collect information on the experience of non-White and/or Hispanic participants who have first-hand experience of our homelessness response system and housing programs. The goal of qualitative and quantitative data collection and review is to reduce and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in need and outcomes and to improve the experience of people of color who are served by us.

This CoC coordinator has done outreach to the regional PFLAG chapter, knowing that national data show that LGBTQ+ persons, especially youth, are disparately overrepresented among the homeless population. PFLAG is working to make sure that all people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer are not only valued by society, but take pride in and value themselves. They do this through peer-to-peer support, educating people on the issues that are important to the community, and advocating for inclusive policies and laws.

Another underserved group overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness are those with mental health disabilities. We work to serve those with mental health disabilities as well as we possibly can. The Southwestern Mental Health Center and the Southwest Minnesota Adult Mental Health Consortium (SMAMHC) are members of our CoC's Governing Board. The SMAMHC Governing Board is one of our subcommittees.

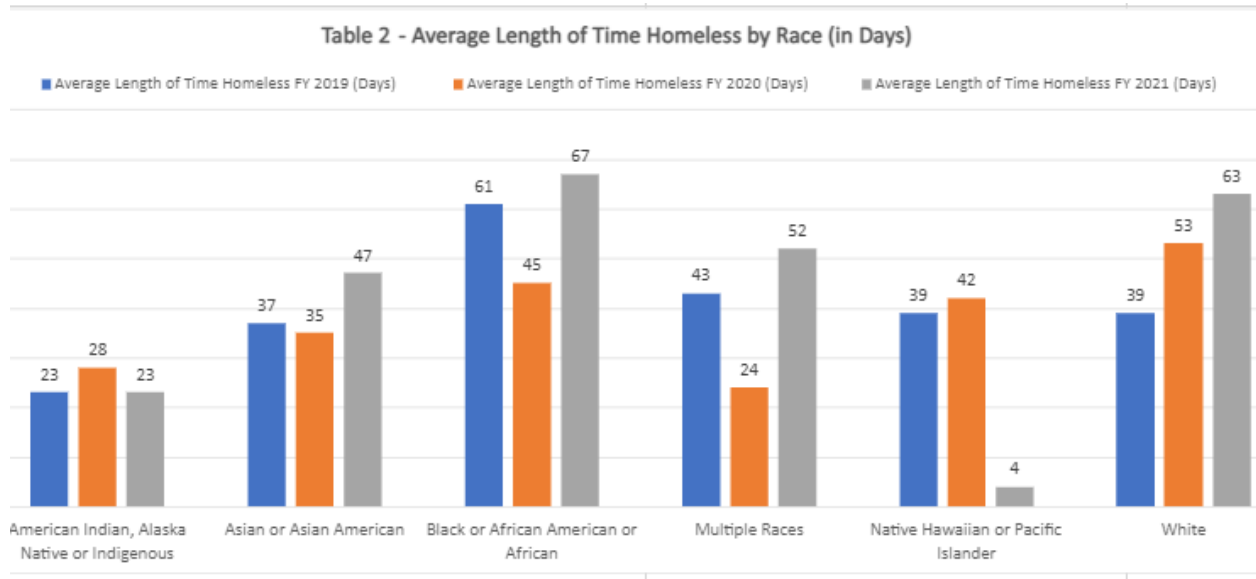
2. Here is a graphic representation of from our HUD CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool showing racial distribution of our total population, those in poverty and those experiencing homelessness. Data is from this CoC's 2021 PIT count.



The most prevalent racial and ethnic groups that our CoC serves are Hispanic, Black, Somali, Hmong and White. The advertising of our homelessness response / Coordinated Entry System is provided in English, Spanish and Somali. Whether someone in need calls 211 or one of our system entry point agencies, they are able to be connected to someone who speaks English, Spanish, Hmong or Somali. They are able to discuss and receive assistance in their own language related to prevention, diversion, shelter, transitional housing, rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing as well as connections to all the other needs that often are involved in homelessness: food, clothing, transportation, legal aid, health care, treatment, etc.

Regarding who is underserved in our CoC, we know from the graphs above that people of color are overrepresented among those experiencing poverty and homelessness. Our new Racial Equity Accountability Project Quantitative Data Collection Tool now allows us to review how our system responds and if there are racial and ethnic disparities related to outcomes like length of time homeless, exit destinations, returns to homelessness and prioritization.

Here is a sample graph from this report regard length of time homeless based on race:



These data reveal a correlation between race and length of time homeless in our system's response to homelessness, with Blacks averaging the longest lengths of time homeless in our CoC. This is an issue that our REAP team will study and soon make recommendations regarding so that there are not disparities in length of time homeless based on race.

3. Our CoC is engaged in an effort to focus on removing outcome disparities via the work of our six-member Racial Equity Accountability Program. We will continue to serve other populations overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness: those with mental health disabilities through the involvement of our mental health agencies and the LGBTQ+ population via our outreach to PFLAG.

This is a work in progress where we now have quantitative data and will be collecting input in the last quarter of 2022 from BIPOC clients regarding their experiences with our system and opinions on how to make it more positive, equitable and culturally appropriate. After collecting input from BIPOC clients we will expand our data collection feedback to those with mental health disabilities and those who have identified themselves publicly as LGBTQ.

Conclusion

The Southwest Minnesota Continuum of Care has grown and strengthened a great deal since it began decades ago. It is now a robust and collaborative system comprised of the following: community action agencies, county human service agencies, PHAs and HRAs, Youth Service Agencies, Victim Service Providers, Public Safety Departments, Veteran Services Officers and Veteran Service Agencies, HMIS Administrators, State Human Service and Housing Agencies, Faith Communities, Mental Health Providers, Persons with Lived Expertise, Housing Developers, Addiction Recovery Providers, School Homeless Liaisons, etc. We have built a strong, responsive and successful homelessness response and accomplished much. Our current efforts to continue to build our landlord relationships with landlords and public safety departments, to strengthen authentic leadership from persons with lived expertise and to reduce system disparities will be successful. New HUD funding via this Special Rural NOFO has the potential to bring all homelessness in our CoC to functional zero.

Before Starting the Project Listings for the CoC Priority Listing

The CoC Consolidated Application requires TWO submissions. Both this Project Priority Listing AND the CoC Application MUST be completed and submitted prior to the submission deadline stated in the Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Special NOFO.

The CoC Priority Listing includes:

- Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside New Project Listing – lists all new project applications applying for funding through the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside that were approved and ranked or rejected by the CoC.
- Rural Set Aside Project Listing – lists all new project applications applying for funding through the Rural Set Aside that were approved and ranked or rejected by the CoC.
- UFA Costs Project Listing – applicable and only visible for Collaborative Applicants that were designated as a Unified Funding Agency (UFA) during the FY 2022 CoC Program Registration process. Only 1 UFA Costs project application is permitted and must be submitted by the Collaborative Applicant. The UFA project must be ranked amongst projects submitted on the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside New Project Listing.
- CoC Planning Project Listing – Only 1 CoC planning project is permitted per CoC and must be submitted by the Collaborative Applicant. The CoC Planning project must be ranked amongst projects submitted on the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside New Project Listing.
- HUD-2991, Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan – Collaborative Applicants must attach an accurately completed, signed, and dated HUD-2991.

Things to Remember:

- All projects must be approved and ranked or rejected on the Project Listings. This includes funding for CoC Planning and UFA Costs, which must be ranked amongst projects submitted on the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside New Project Listing.
- Collaborative Applicants are responsible for ensuring all project applications accurately appear on the Project Listings and there are no project applications missing from one or more Project Listings.
- If a project application(s) is rejected by the CoC, the Collaborative Applicant must notify the project applicant(s) no later than 15 days before the CoC Program Competition application deadline outside of e-snaps and include the reason for rejection.
- For each project application rejected by the CoC the Collaborative Applicant must select the reason for the rejection from the dropdown provided.
- If the Collaborative Applicant needs to amend a project application for any reason after ranking has been completed, the ranking of other projects will not be affected; however, the Collaborative Applicant MUST ensure the amended project is returned to the applicable Project Listing AND re-rank the project application BEFORE submitting the CoC Priority Listing to HUD in e-snaps.

Additional training resources are available online on HUD's website.
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

Instructions:

For guidance on completing this form, please reference the Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Special NOFO Competition Priority Listing Detailed Instructions and Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness Special NOFO Competition Priority Listing Navigational Guide on HUD's website.
https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition.

Collaborative Applicant Name: Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership

Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside Listing

Instructions:

Prior to starting the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside Project Listing, review the CoC Priority Listing Detailed Instructions and CoC Priority Listing Navigational Guide available on HUD's website.

To upload all project applications submitted to this Project Listing, click the "Update List" button. This process may take a few minutes based upon the number of new projects submitted by project applicant(s) to your CoC in the e-snaps system. You may update each of the Project Listings simultaneously. To review a project on the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside Project Listing, click on the magnifying glass next to each project to view project details. To view the actual project application, click on the orange folder. If you identify errors in the project application(s), you can send the application back to the project applicant to make the necessary changes by clicking the amend icon. It is your sole responsibility for ensuring all amended projects are resubmitted, approved and ranked or rejected on this project listing BEFORE submitting the CoC Priority Listing in e-snaps.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition.

Project Name	Date Submitted	Comp Type	Applicant Name	Budget Amount	Grant Term	Rank	PSH/RRH	Expansion
This list contains no items								

Rural Set Aside Listing

Instructions:

Prior to starting the Rural Set Aside Project Listing, review the CoC Priority Listing Detailed Instructions and CoC Priority Listing Navigational Guide available on HUD's website.

To upload all project applications submitted to this Project Listing, click the "Update List" button. This process may take a few minutes based upon the number of new projects submitted by project applicant(s) to your CoC in the e-snaps system. You may update each of the Project Listings simultaneously. To review a project on the Rural Set Aside Project Listing, click on the magnifying glass next to each project to view project details. To view the actual project application, click on the orange folder. If you identify errors in the project application(s), you can send the application back to the project applicant to make the necessary changes by clicking the amend icon. It is your sole responsibility for ensuring all amended projects are resubmitted, approved and ranked or rejected on this project listing BEFORE submitting the CoC Priority Listing in e-snaps.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition.

Project Name	Date Submitted	Grant Term	Applicant Name	Budget Amount	Rank	PSH/RRH	Comp Type
MN HMIS Southwest...	2022-09-19 18:07:...	3 Years	Institute for Com...	\$29,039	1		HMIS
P5 SPEC NOFO RRH ...	2022-10-14 10:55:...	3 Years	Prairie Five CAC,...	\$297,504	4	RRH	PH
P5 SPEC NOFO PSH ...	2022-10-14 10:39:...	3 Years	Prairie Five CAC,...	\$304,644	2	PSH	PH
FY22 Special RRH ...	2022-10-14 15:13:...	3 Years	United Community ...	\$358,246	5	RRH	PH
FY22 Special PSH ...	2022-10-14 16:07:...	3 Years	United Community ...	\$470,552	3	PSH	PH

Continuum of Care (CoC) Planning Project Listing

Instructions:

Prior to starting the CoC Planning Project Listing, review the CoC Priority Listing Detailed Instructions and CoC Priority Listing Navigational Guide available on HUD's website.

To upload the CoC planning project application submitted to this Project Listing, click the ""Update List"" button. This process may take a few minutes while the project is located in the e-snaps system. You may update each of the Project Listings simultaneously. To review the CoC Planning Project Listing, click on the magnifying glass next to view the project details. To view the actual project application, click on the orange folder. If you identify errors in the project application, you can send the application back to the project applicant to make necessary changes by clicking the amend icon. It is your sole responsibility for ensuring all amended projects are resubmitted, approved and ranked or rejected on this project listing BEFORE submitting the CoC Priority Listing in e-snaps.

Only one CoC planning project application can be submitted and only by the Collaborative Applicant designated by the CoC which must match the Collaborative Applicant information on the CoC Applicant Profile.

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition.

Project Name	Date Submitted	Grant Term	Applicant Name	Budget Amount	Accepted?	Rank
This list contains no items						

Funding Summary

Instructions

This page provides the total budget summaries for each of the project listings after the you approved, ranked; or rejected project applications. You must review this page to ensure the totals for each of the categories is accurate. The "Total CoC Request" indicates the total funding request amount your CoC's Collaborative Applicant will submit to HUD for funding consideration. As stated previously, only 1 UFA Cost project application (for UFA designated Collaborative Applicants only) and only 1 CoC Planning project application can be submitted and only the Collaborative Applicant designated by the CoC is eligible to request these funds..

Title	Total Amount
Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside	\$0
Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside - Rejected Amount	\$0
Rural Set Aside	\$1,459,985
Rural Set Aside - Rejected Amount	\$0
CoC Planning Amount	\$0
Total CoC Request Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside	\$0
Total CoC Request Rural Set Aside	\$1,459,985
TOTAL CoC REQUEST	\$1,459,985

Attachments

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan (HUD-2991)	Yes	HUD-2991, Certifi...	10/05/2022
FY 2022 Rank Tool (optional)	No		
Other	No		
Priority Listing	No		

Attachment Details

Document Description: HUD-2991, Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Submission Summary

WARNING: The FY2022 Special NOFO Consolidated Application requires 2 submissions. Both this Project Priority Listing AND the CoC Consolidated Application MUST be submitted.

WARNING: The FY2022 Special NOFO Consolidated Application requires 2 submissions. Both this Project Priority Listing AND the CoC Consolidated Application MUST be submitted.

Page	Last Updated
Before Starting	No Input Required
1A. Identification	09/19/2022
2A. Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside New Project Listing	No Input Required
2B. Rural Set Aside Project Listing	10/14/2022
2D. CoC Planning Project Listing	No Input Required
Funding Summary	No Input Required
Attachments	10/05/2022
Submission Summary	No Input Required

**U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development**

**Certification of Consistency
Plan with the Consolidated
Plan for the Continuum of
Care Program Competition**

I certify the proposed activities included in the Continuum of Care (CoC) project application(s) is consistent with the jurisdiction's currently approved Consolidated Plan.

Applicant Name: Southwest Minnesota Continuum of Care - MN-511

Project Name: MN HMIS Southwest Rural FY22, FY22 Special PSH Expansion, FY22 Special RRH Expansion, P5 Special NOFO PSH FY2022, P5 Special NOFO RRH FY2022

Location of the Project: Big Stone, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Meeker, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Renville, Rock, Swift and Yellow Medicine Counties

Name of

Certifying Jurisdiction: State of Minnesota, Department of Human Services

Certifying Official

of the Jurisdiction Name: Annie Wells

Title: Homeless Assistance Program Grant Manager

Signature: 

Date: 10/4/2022

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 3.0 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, completing the form, attaching a list of projects if submitting one form per jurisdiction, obtaining local jurisdiction's signature, and uploading to the electronic e-snaps CoC Consolidated Application. This agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection information unless that collection displays a valid OMB control number.

Privacy Act Statement. This form does not collect SSN information. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is authorized to collect all the information required by this form under 24 CFR part 91, 24 CFR Part 578, and is authorized by the McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by S. 896 The Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 11371 et seq.).

HUD considers the completion of this form, including the local jurisdiction(s) authorizing official's signature, as confirmation the project application(s) proposed activities submitted to HUD in the CoC Program Competition are consistent with the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan and, if the project applicant is a state or unit of local government, that the jurisdiction is following its Consolidated Plan per the requirement of 24 CFR part 91. Failure to either submit one form per project or one form with a listing of project information for each field (i.e., name of applicant, name of project, location of project) will result in a technical deficiency notification that must be corrected within the number of days designated by HUD, and further failure to provide missing or incomplete information will result in project application removal from the review process and rejection in the competitive process.