

Before Starting the CoC Application

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

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

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

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

Your CoC Must Approve the Consolidated Application before You Submit It

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

Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

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

Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You Must Upload an Attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

- Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.
- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

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

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

1A-1. CoC Name and Number: VA-603 - Alexandria CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: City of Alexandria, a municipal corporation of Virginia

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: City of Alexandria, Office of Community Services

1B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

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

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

1B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.1.a.(1), V.B.1.e., V.B.1f., and V.B.1.p.	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024:	
	1. select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted—including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC’s coordinated entry system; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC’s geographic area:	

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

17.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	No	No	No
18.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	No	No	No
19.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Other Victim Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	No	No	Yes
33.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other: (limit 50 characters)			
34.				
35.				

By selecting "other" you must identify what "other" is.

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Racial Equity Action committee (REAC) has promoted equity through training, incorporating the voice of those with lived experience, and through intentional programmatic changes. REAC’s achievements include:

- In March 2024, REAC received approval from the Governing Board to compensate the two Lived Experience Board Member positions, which had previously been unpaid. Prior to payment, the positions had high attrition, and long vacancies. Since approval, the CoC recieved five applications for one position, and there has been an increase in interest from those with lived experience to sit in on other CoC Committees, including REAC itself.
- Currently, REAC has three individuals with lived experience who contribute towards committee initiatives. Those with lived experience will are compensated for their engagement and contributions.
- REAC is creating a media campaign to address negative stigma around those experiencing homelessness. Those with lived experience volunteer to be a part of the interviews which will be videotaped, highlighting their housing journey before, during, and when applicable after homelessness. Once complete, videos will be shared with community residents and stakeholders to educate, raise awareness, and combat the negative stigma of homelessness. Those with lived experience will be compensated for their contributions.
- The City of Alexandria developed a Racial Equity Toolkit, which includes a self-assessment of racial bias along with step-by-step instructions on how to ensure new programming and initiatives retain a racial equity lens. REAC asked the Board to complete the self-assessment on racial bias to promote self-awareness and discussion at the following Board Meeting. The Board invited the Manager of Programs and Partnerships within the Office of Race and Social Equity for the City of Alexandria to facilitate the conversation, where the Board reviewed the Tool Kit, and members discussed their experience and reflections upon completing the self-assessment on racial bias.
- REAC has planned a walking tour through the City of Alexandria, in partnership with a local nonprofit called Manumission. This walking tour is through the historical part of the City, and trains participants on the intersectionality of housing, history, and race. Manumission describes their tours as a curated cultural heritage tours designed to highlight Alexandria’s extensive African American History, including both enslaved and freemen.

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.CoC membership is open to the public and requires a signature of support submitted on our “Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness Membership Form” by individuals or organizations interested in working to advance our mission in the City of Alexandria. General membership is publicly advertised biannually prior to the CoC’s Full Partnership meetings, which serves as an opportunity for interested citizens to learn more about our work and get involved.

2.CoC meetings are publicly advertised on the City’s Website and Public meeting Calendar, and on multilingual flyers including a QR Code for virtual attendance, which are displayed throughout public service facilities and community congregation spaces. The CoC also works to align public meetings with other affordable housing and service-oriented initiatives in the City, and will advertise those opportunities for public input at CoC meetings, and again highlight CoC membership at those events.

3.Membership of the more crucial community stake holders including homeless assistance organizations, formerly homeless persons, regional housing developers, public housing agencies, mental health care and medical service providers, homeless education liaisons, affordable housing advocates, veteran aid programs, culturally specific and LGBTQ+ organizations, is solicited by the CoC Nominating Committee through ongoing outreach. These groups are earmarked votes on the CoC Governing Board so as turnover is anticipated representatives from the sector with an upcoming vacant chair are proposed to the board for a vote each July. In FY24, two new representatives of color, and with lived experience in homeless assistance programs, were voted on to the CoC Governing Board.

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The CoC engages stakeholders in an integrated process, through membership to the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, and through ad-hoc initiatives, trainings, and workshops related to homeless and at-risk populations. The Partnership’s open structure encourages input from all parties involved in homeless assistance including domestic violence and youth service providers, hospitals, school social workers, non-profit housing developers, police, mental and medical healthcare providers, and formerly homeless persons, promoting diversity of perspective and experience on homeless issues.

2.At public meetings, CoC leadership crafts the agenda to solicit specific feedback on relevant issues, and empower citizens to engage in more public input opportunities, armed with information on Alexandria’s homeless services. Recent examples include the CoC’s Strategic Plan, the City’s Housing Master Plan, and the Community Health Improvement Plan.

3.CoC meetings are publicly announced via email listservs maintained by the CoC, Office of Housing, Faith Communities, and the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations, as well as posted to the CoC’s webpage, and displayed on flyers throughout the community with a QR code for virtual access. Similar news blasts accompanied by online postings are used to disseminate Full Partnership presentation materials and other CoC publications, conduct surveys of the Partnership or community, and make requests for funding proposals. All CoC meetings are held in ADA accessible public facilities and materials are made available via email.

4.The most recent example of public input solicitation has occurred at the CoC’s spring Partnership Meeting. In June 2024. A representative from the Alexandria Health Dept. engaged residents on housing conditions and policies in the City and plugged input sessions for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). As a result, the CoC adjusted some of our own client survey strategies by providing compensation to encourage response. Also, emergency shelters were identified as potential sources for community input on the CHIP, the Housing Master Plan, and other relevant initiatives that are typically beyond the scope of CoC services.

1B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Awarded CoC Program Funding.	
NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(4)		
Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:		
1.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;	
2.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications—the process;	
3.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and	
4.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. On August 23rd, 2024, the FY24 HUD-CoC Competition was announced on the CoC's webpage and broadcast via listservs maintained by the CoC, faith communities, Dept. of Housing, and the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations. The communication solicited proposals for new funding opportunities and included formatted Notices of Intent to Apply and links to HUD and local resources. New and renewing agencies were equally encouraged to apply, and all publications were posted to the CoC's webpage in PDF format. Only project types highlighted by the Gaps & Needs Committee's recommendations, those that increased housing stock, were eligible. No NOI's were submitted for HUD-CoC bonus funding opportunities in FY24. This was due to organizational capacity, and some competing opportunities due at the same time, particularly Virginia's Homeless Reduction Grant.
2. Within the NOI, agencies are asked to answer specific questions that outlined the full scope of their program including target population, number served, services provided, and proposed budget. NOI's were tailored to the project type being pursued so that questions solicited answers about the organization's application of those specific services. Organization's submitting for DV Bonus were asked to answer additional questions that required collaboration with the City's DV program.
3. The Priorities Committee, consisting of key CoC members that do not receive HUD funding, then chose the best NOI to move forward for each new funding opportunity based on the answers in the NOI's, organizational experience, and the community need addressed. Community need is determined at the end of each Fiscal Year by the CoC Gaps & Needs Committee, consisting of program administrators and CoC Board members. The Annual needs assessment is formed through regular analysis of system performance data and is broadcast to the community via listservs and posted to the CoC Webpage.
4. All documents related to the CoC Competition were distributed as PDF's via email and posted to the CoC Webpage.

1C. Coordination and Engagement

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

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

1C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	
	In the chart below:	
	1. select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC’s coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or	
	2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC’s geographic area.	

	Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects	Coordinates with the Planning or Operations of Projects?
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Yes
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Yes
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Nonexistent
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		No

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Homeless Education Liaison (HEL), who is responsible for protecting the rights and education of students experiencing homelessness within Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), is a voting member of the CoC Governing Board. In that role, she represents the Local Education Agency (LEA) and liaises with the State Education Agency (SEA) on behalf of the CoC, providing updates on the current scope of youth homelessness in the City, as well as policy changes or best practice improvements to youth education services. The HEL's office and ACPS have an MOU with the Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS) which houses the CoC's Lead Agency, the Office of Community Services (OCS), ensuring all residents with school age children who present for services are connected to the LEA.

OCS the CoC's Gaps & Needs Committee Chair have representation on Alexandria's Youth Services Coordinating Council, responsible for executing aspects of the LEA's Strategic Plan, and Alexandria's Children and Youth Master Plan. The HEL is reciprocally a member of the CoC's Gaps and Needs Committee, which manages macro-level service planning for the City's homeless residents, and she attends bi-weekly shelter case management meetings to ensure all youth in the homeless assistance system are quickly connected to the appropriate education services. This HEL of course serve households defined as homeless under federal statutes beyond those defined by HUD, so outside of HUD defined homeless programs, the HEL also coordinates services at the State, City, and private agency level for all school age children and their families who are doubled-up, unstably housed, or otherwise at risk of homelessness.

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Continuum’s current policies and procedures for securing education services for homeless persons are mandated within the emergency shelter screening process for households with children. Upon accessing Alexandria’s housing crisis response system, households with children will review all available literature on eligible education services and City schools with the coordinated entry staff, and are assisted in completing applications for transportation assistance, subsidized lunch, or other eligible services. Those assessed to be unstably housed are linked to the City’s Homeless Education Liaison (HEL), who is responsible for securing education for students experiencing housing instability within Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). Additionally, a standard educational assessment for each child in the household is included in the family’s housing stabilization plan, while ongoing school concerns are addressed by caseworkers at shelter, school social workers, and the HEL. For infants and toddlers involved in homeless assistance, referrals are made for developmental assistance and education as necessary, while children under five are triaged for mental health services and HeadStart if needed. As an entity of local government and representative of the City’s Dept. of Community and Human Services, the CoC Lead Agency in Alexandria is mandated to report unaccompanied minors or homeless youth to Child Protective Services. Education policies for this segment of the homeless population are managed via Alexandria’s Dept. of Child and Family services, though the experience for youth and children is similar in that linkage to ACPS, the HEL, and any auxiliary assistance is prioritized just after the child’s safety.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations that you selected yes to in Question 1C-5 to:

1.	update CoC-wide policies; and
2.	ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC’s geographic area are trauma-informed and can meet the needs of survivors.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Victim-centered and Trauma-informed policies are in place across the CoC to ensure security needs of Domestic Violence (DV) survivors are met at all entry points. Anyone experiencing housing crisis is assessed by the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC), who screen for safety and link to victim services before collecting any other information. Any concerns trigger a referral to the confidential 24-hour hotline for a risk and safety assessment where immediate needs are determined. Those in need of safe housing are transported to the DV Safehouse, which maintains an undisclosed address, and assigned a family service specialist to develop a safety plan, provide crisis intervention, assess immediate needs and then housing goals. Referrals to all of Alexandria’s federally funded housing programs, CoC and ESG, are maintained by the CoC Lead Agency and prioritized by metrics captured on the CoC’s Coordinated Entry Assessment. The assessment uses trauma-informed language to create quantified measures of clients’ housing barriers and homeless history, giving extra weight to DV cases. The DV Safehouse completes the same assessment, submitting non-identifiable metrics to the CoC Lead Agency so clients can be anonymously prioritized. Besides RRH, the only federally funded housing programs in the City are for Chronically Homeless persons of which there have been none experiencing DV in the past 5 years. RRH providers however maintain strong relationships with the DV shelter, which employs its own housing locator, making safe transitions to clients’ desired housing location a collaborative process that starts once safety is secured. The DV housing locator is trained in trauma-informed victim centered-services and works to maximize client choice in the search for safe housing. She also sits on the Data Committee, responsible for monitoring the effects of housing priorities and making recommendations for improvement, as well as the Housing Crisis Response Committee who implements changes to prioritization and staffs hard to solve cases.

1C-5b.	Implemented Safety Planning, Confidentiality Protocols in Your CoC’s Coordinated Entry to Address the Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC’s coordinated entry addresses the needs of DV survivors by including:	
1.	safety planning protocols; and	
2.	confidentiality protocols.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. All survivors who are in our COC’s Coordinated Entry are referred to the Domestic Violence Program or given the number to the Domestic Violence Program to engage in services. The Domestic Violence Program provides all clients with Safety planning.
2. The Domestic Violence Program is bound by confidentiality and cannot release any information without a Time-sensitive written release by the survivor.

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

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

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

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

Describe in the field below:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Within Coordinated Entry policies are guidelines for internal referrals to other Human Services within Alexandria, including to the City’s Domestic and Sexual Violence Program. Upon accessing the 311 number, or subsequently during coordinated entry screening, if a household is identified to need DV services they are immediately transferred to the 24/7 hotline and an immediate safety assessment is conducted. Shelters follow the same protocol for DV instances that occur or are reported at shelter. Households who meet the risk threshold in the DV safety assessment are transported to the confidential DV Shelter. Those that don’t may receive less intensive interventions including removing the abuser from shelter or from the household’s service plan.

2. Clients are informed of DV services at all points in coordinated entry, first through screening questions at the customer call center and coordinated entry, then again upon entry into shelter. DV program services are also advertised on flyers and business cards throughout the City in Alexandria’s top languages, and are posted in the Human Service building that houses coordinated entry, at City Shelters, and in other community spaces.

3. To request DV services any member of the household simply needs to report the incidents to any City of Alexandria employee during intake or Shelter Staff member during their stay in shelter.

4. Households that request an emergency stay at DV Shelter, whether they are currently in shelter or in the community, are immediately assessed by the Alexandria DV program. Those that meet the threshold for immediate safety concerns are transported to the confidential DV shelter.

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

Alexandria’s Domestic Violence (DV) Program provides all survivors’ services in the City, including operating the City’s DV hotline and sole DV Safehouse, and maintaining a safe and confidential coordinated entry process between the two. This includes conducting a housing barrier assessment for all survivors that present with emergency housing needs and referring to the appropriate service. To maintain objectivity, the DV Program utilizes the same housing barrier assessment as coordinated entry for traditional shelter, allowing DV Safehouse residents to be fairly prioritized for housing opportunities against all residents actively experiencing homelessness.

DV Safehouse residents appear with non-identifiable information on the CoC’s bi-weekly housing priority lists, and from there are enrolled in Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), as opportunities come available. DV clients are slightly more likely to be offered CoC housing assistance through this process than traditional shelter residents because higher-barrier clients are prioritized first, and DV experiences are one of the quantified barriers.

DV specific housing opportunities also become available, although infrequently, and are filled through a similar collaborative process between the DV Program and CoC Lead Agency. In FY23, the Alexandria CoC executed several VAWA vouchers, and referred extremely low-income residents to a tax-credited redevelopment where the property owner asked to prioritize DV survivors. The CoC maintains flexibility in its prioritization processes so that nuanced opportunities like the example above can be seized, but generally DV survivors are competing with all residents experiencing homelessness for the same housing assistance. To instead establish a micro-continuum specific to survivors would require renewable, DV-specific housing, a resource the CoC hopes to acquire through the DV bonus proposals in future applications.

1C-5f.	Identifying and Removing Barriers for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC ensures survivors receive safe housing and services by:	
1.	identifying barriers specific to survivors; and	
2.	working to remove those barriers.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Alexandria’s Domestic Violence Program employs various tools, including the Housing Barrier Assessment, to effectively identify the needs of clients and provide optimal support during their transition from shelter. Common obstacles faced by clients often include recent evictions or broken leases resulting from fleeing domestic violence situations, a lack of childcare while seeking to secure or enhance employment, and the absence of a support system due to the abuser's efforts to isolate the survivor from family and friends, necessitating the rebuilding of these relationships. The urgent need for housing remains critical, given the high turnover of new and repeat survivors seeking shelter, particularly when resources and time are constrained.

2. The Domestic Violence Program strives to address the specific barriers faced by each survivor through collaborative efforts within the organization and with partner agencies. This includes offering reduced and flexible childcare options, facilitating workforce development by recommending employers who are understanding of survivors' needs, and encouraging property owners to adopt more lenient policies regarding rental history to enhance the chances of stabilization and reduce the risk of returning to the abuser. Collaboration with a wide range of organizations to secure safe housing helps to alleviate the initial fears that survivors may have about their ability to succeed independently.

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

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

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

Describe in the field below:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC’s lead agency, the Office of Community Services, is an entity of local government, and updates its anti-discrimination policy in alignment with local, state, and federal guidelines, and leverages the appropriate community partners to solicit feedback when necessary. This includes the City’s LGBTQ+ Taskforce and Office of Race and Social Equity (RASE).
2. All CoC partners that serve persons experiencing homelessness and participate the CoC’s coordinated entry system are similarly required to maintain policy and procedure documents that meet local criteria as exemplified and reviewed by the CoC Lead Agency as changes are mandated. Organizations without current policies are assisted by the CoC Lead Agency and appropriate partners, including the City’s LGBTQ+ Taskforce, and RASE to update language and receive accompanying training.
3. The CoC reviews policy and procedure documents of federally funded programs at least annually to ensure compliance, and all other CoC organizations semi-annually, or upon changes to local, state, or federally funded mandates.
4. Organizations that have policies that are not in compliance are supplied with acceptable examples from partnering organizations and given a deadline by which alignment is required. Programs that do not have sufficient documentation of policy alignment on things such as anti-discrimination will lose points in monitoring and be less likely to receive funding during competitive community application. If non-compliance persists, it could be used as a justification to support a reallocation of a program’s local, state, or federal funding.

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

You must upload the PHA Homeless Preference\PHA Moving On Preference attachment(s) to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter information in the chart below for the two largest PHAs highlighted in gray on the current CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report or the two PHAs your CoC has a working relationship with—if there is only one PHA in your CoC’s geographic area, provide information on the one:

Public Housing Agency Name	Enter the Percent of New Admissions into Public Housing or Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2023 who were experiencing homelessness at entry	Does the PHA have a General or Limited Homeless Preference?	Does the PHA have a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On?
Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority	14%	Yes-Both	No
		No	No

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

Describe in the field below:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Over the past several years the CoC has seized collaborative opportunities between homeless services and the only local PHA, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA). Prior to 2018, ARHA's leadership was redeveloping most of their properties and drawing the spotlight of City politics, but since has helped incrementally improve affordability through partnership with the CoC.

Especially since the pandemic, ARHA leadership has proven more receptive to affordable housing advocacy and homeless preference implementation, highlighted by their active participation on the CoC Governing Board, at CoC Housing Stability Systems Committee Meetings, and with the faith-based emergency financial providers in Alexandria. As the only PHA in the City, their absence in these conversations had cast a shadow on the efforts of CoC providers and other human service commissions and organizations in Alexandria.

2. Several projects since FY21 required constant collaboration between the CoC and ARHA, and more importantly, secured federal resources for clients experiencing homelessness in Alexandria. In FY20 the CoC assisted ARHA in application for 50 Housing Choice Vouchers for Non-Elderly Disabled persons experiencing homelessness or those moving on from permanent supportive or rapid rehousing programs. In that process an MOU was crafted identifying the CoC as the authority on homeless referrals, a document the Continuum expanded on to create the MOU for Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV's). Since executing the 38 EHV's at a 98% utilization rate, the CoC has memorialized the special voucher prioritization processes within its housing prioritization standards, keeping the CoC prepared to respond to new PHA opportunities, and pass that benefit on to residents experiencing homelessness.

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

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

1.	Multifamily assisted housing owners	No
2.	PHA	Yes
3.	Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments	Yes
4.	Local low-income housing programs	Yes
	Other (limit 150 characters)	
5.		No

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

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

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

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

1.	Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a competitive joint application(s) for funding or jointly implement a competitive project serving individuals or families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other programs)?	No
		Program Funding Source
2.	Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement.	NED

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

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

1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition.	5
2.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.	5
3.	This number is a calculation of the percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, SSO non-Coordinated Entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	100%

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

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. In formal evaluation of HUD and ESG funded programs, grantees are required to respond to the same list of standards that is included in the Consolidated Application for both low-barrier and housing first policies. This includes whether programs put preconditions on services, tie services to housing, or in circumvent serving the most vulnerable. Missing any portion results in the loss of points on the CoC’s Performance Monitoring Scoring Tool, which is utilized by the CoC Priorities Committee in program ranking, and in funding reallocation decisions.

2. Beyond compliances, programs’ length of stay, permanent housing stability and recidivism rates, and income increases are scored, resulting in compounding deductions when programs are not adhering to housing first philosophies. Also taken into consideration are assessment scores at client entry, rewarding programs that are serving higher-barrier clients.

3. In monthly processes, the CoC’s Gaps and Needs Committee reviews changes to program data in the metrics listed above, and more, for all Alexandria homeless assistance programs. In that role, the Committee conducts ad-hoc program monitoring of housing first applications across the CoC regularly. Discrepancies in the execution of housing first are often highlight on an individual program basis by tracking metrics like time from referral to move in, or average housing barrier score at entry, then monitoring changes. In these instances, recommendations are issued to the Governing Board for action to be taken, and the program in question works with a committee of CoC providers towards a resolution. Record of these recommendations are also issued to the Priorities Committee to inform their funding decisions.

4. Through its By-Names-List (BNL) processes, the CoC has ensured that higher barrier clients are first in line for housing assistance supports including Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH). Programs must offer explanation when they enroll clients who are not the top priority, a practice that has sparked many conversations on the housing first philosophy, and moved one PSH provider, Sheltered Homes of Alexandria, closer to the letter of Housing First.

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

Historically the City’s homeless outreach program consisted of one full-time PATH funded employee. Alexandria is only 15 square miles so coverage of the CoC’s area was effectively managed through field visits and diligent data tracking. The PATH outreach worker sits in the Office of Community Services (OCS), the CoC Lead organization, which allows the CoC to monitor the scope of unsheltered homelessness via HMIS and leverage the data for additional resources.

In the field, the PATH Outreach workers cover the entire community at least weekly, conducting daily visits to City emergency shelters, day centers, meals programs, churches, parks, libraries, and any locations they know homeless individuals to access. She employs progressive engagement strategies with residents she meets, and with a tablet can track live services in HMIS and make direct referrals to mainstream and CoC assistance.

As an employee of OCS, the PATH worker has access to all coordinated referral within Alexandria Social Services, including connection to interpreters for most languages and sign-language, as well as resources published for non-English speakers or persons with disabilities. All Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS) assistance, including homeless outreach and housing assistance, is advertised locally on City buses and in the paper in accordance with fair housing, and all services rendered meet those standards.

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

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

	Your CoC’s Strategies	Engaged/Educated Legislators and Policymakers	Implemented Laws/Policies/Practices that Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness
1.	Increase utilization of co-responder responses or social services-led responses over law enforcement responses to people experiencing homelessness?	Yes	No
2.	Minimize use of law enforcement to enforce bans on public sleeping, public camping, or carrying out basic life functions in public places?	Yes	No
3.	Avoid imposing criminal sanctions, including fines, fees, and incarceration for public sleeping, public camping, and carrying out basic life functions in public places?	Yes	No
4.	Other:(limit 500 characters)		
		No	No

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

		HIC Longitudinal HMIS Data	2023	2024
	Enter the total number of RRH beds available to serve all populations as reported in the HIC or the number of households served per longitudinal HMIS data, e.g., APR.	HIC	110	102

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

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

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

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

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

All Alexandrians seeking assistance are triaged to the appropriate services via the Dept. of Community and Human Services' (DCHS) shared Customer Relations Team, which determines immediate need before referring clients to available programs. For homeless and non-homeless clients alike, this includes referrals to Alexandria's Public Benefits office in charge of TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, the City's Workforce Development Center (WDC), and to City SOAR workers who can expedite applications for SSI and SSDI.

1. Clients in a housing crisis that access CoC services through the walk-in process follow are provided a warm hand-off referral from the Homeless Services Assessment Center to the City's collocated Office of Public Benefits, and Dept. of Behavioral and Mental Health. Updates to mainstream services are provided to frontline staff at monthly meetings of the Housing Crisis Response Workgroup, and in more detail during annual presentations from the Office of Public Benefits. Higher level policy discussions, like Virginia's expansion of Medicaid and its effect on homeless programs, are managed by the CoC's Gaps and Need Committee.

a. The CoC also utilizes an Employment Navigator at Alexandria's WDC, whose responsibility is to liaise between those resources and homeless assistance programs, making direct referrals from shelter and outreach to SNAP-ET, the VIEW program, WIOA, and traditional employment opportunities.

2. SOAR certifications are maintained in coordination with the CoC's primary outreach worker, who serves as the Northern Virginia SOAR Lead. Emergency shelter and housing providers within the continuum are required to maintain SOAR certified staff for their clients' federal benefits and can access the DCHS call center for mainstream assistance managed by the City. These parallel processes ensure residents in crisis are connected to all mainstream assistance they are eligible for, no matter their entry point or service need.

ID-7.	Partnerships with Public Health Agencies—Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent the Spread of Infectious Diseases.	
NOFO Section V.B.1.n.		
Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to develop CoC-wide policies and procedures that:		
1.	respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and	
2.	prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic, the CoC has formalized a systemic response to infectious disease outbreak designed to secure the immediate safety of households residing in homeless assistance programs. Alexandria's CoC Lead Agency, the Office of Community Services (OCS) has a direct line of communication with the Alexandria Health Dept. (AHD) via the Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and AHD liaison. This position is responsible for disseminating public health mandates and guidelines across DCHS affiliated programs, which includes all service providers with the CoC. The DCHS-AHD liaison schedules CoC program site visits from AHD representatives to review facilities and service delivery for any safety concerns and recommends alternate strategies. The DCHS-AHD partnership also assists CoC programs with onsite testing, scheduling vaccinations, and securing regular shipments of PPEH, in addition to maintaining non-congregate emergency housing for exposed persons residing in congregate care settings.

2. AHD is in direct alignment and constant communication with the Virginia Dept. of Health (VDH) ensuring all City policies coincide with state directives. To ensure any changes to safety protocol are disseminated quickly, the DCHS-AHD liaison attends monthly Housing Stability Systems Committee meetings where CoC providers can ask questions directly, and AHD representatives meet with shelters and other congregate care providers as high-impact updates are issued.

The CoC also counts the City's largest community healthcare provider for the uninsured, Neighborhood Health, among its ranks, and leverages this organization to gain further information on public health. In this role, Neighborhood Health helps the CoC forecast healthcare needs for the population we serve and provides many of the actual services for high-barrier clients. They also serve a liaison between the CoC and Alexandria's largest, yet privately funded, hospital, INOVA-Alexandria.

ID-7a.	Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases. NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	effectively shared information related to public health measures and homelessness; and	
2.	facilitated communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers to ensure street outreach providers and shelter and housing providers are equipped to prevent or limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The CoC’s Lead Agency, the Office of Community Services (OCS), sits within Alexandria’s Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS), which created a position to liaised with City of Alexandria Health Dept. (AHD), first on COVID, and subsequently on all infectious diseases. OCS’ position within that structure ensures that all homeless assistance programs in the City, federally and privately funded, are treated akin to all congregate City facilities, receiving guidance and safety equipment directly or indirectly through AHD’s community health response.

2.AHD tours shelters and congregate housing programs to recommend the appropriate configurations in the event of community outbreak, advises staff and residents on appropriate make mandates, and distributes PPE in collaboration with DCHS biweekly to providers. The DCHS-AHD liaison attends the CoC’s Housing Stability Response regularly and AHD’s lead doctor has presented several times, to further educate providers on how to implement safety measures. In limiting spread of infectious diseases, AHD also worked with shelters and other congregate service facilities in the CoC to implement mass testing for residents, which included transportation to and from testing centers, and set aside time slot to specifically serve CoC clients.

Neighborhood Health, Alexandria’s primary community health provider, also proved to be an invaluable partner, attending Housing Stability Systems and keeping the CoC abreast on the current local status of public health. They also liaise between the CoC and the City’s largest hospital, Alexandria INOVA, to get insured clients connected, while being one primary care providers for uninsured residents in the region. Neighborhood health recently collocated services with DCHS, further bolstering those connections.

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

Describe in the field below how your CoC’s coordinated entry system:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC) is a low barrier coordinated entry point serving all of Alexandria that assesses clients for homeless service need. All residents in housing crisis are screened by HSAC to ensure consistent determination of homelessness and appropriate referral to housing. Assessments are conducted on a walk-in or scheduled basis during regular business hours, and to ensure 24-hour access, shelters accept walk-ins overnight and accommodate clients until they can receive HSAC’s standard assessment. HSAC and all City Human Services can be access via the City’s Customer Call Center, Alex-311.

2.If determined literally homeless clients are referred to shelter and their HSAC assessment, which provides a quantitative measure of housing barriers and history of homelessness before identifying an appropriate housing intervention, is uploaded into HMIS. The CoC’s outreach worker and the DV Shelter complete the same assessment on their clients, before entering them into HMIS and a non-identifiable spreadsheet, respectively. Collectively this data forms Alexandria’s pool of actively homeless clients, capable of being prioritized by need, homeless history, and other program specifics like chronic homelessness or unsheltered status. The pool is managed by the CoC Lead Agency, which adjusts prioritization policies in collaboration with shelter and housing providers to meet the changing needs of the homeless population. Currently CoC Housing programs enroll clients with the longest homeless duration and highest housing barriers first.

3.All entry points for City social services, including HSAC and Homeless Outreach, have 24/7 access to language line translators and TTY devices for the speech or hearing impaired. HSAC employs bilingual staff and maintains all program literature in the four languages. The Office of Community Services, which houses HSAC, maintains a trauma-informed, client centered approach for all services through mandated staff training.

4.HSAC client satisfaction surveys are collected annually from clients and CoC survey providers to monitor performance, identify access or service gaps, and suggest system improvements.

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The CoC’s Coordinated Entry hub, the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC) can be access through the City’s 311 number like all Alexandria Human Services, and is advertised throughout the City. Information can be found on the City website, at the local social services building, and on posted pamphlets and flyers at local churches, charities, libraries, recreation centers, parks, and other public spaces. In addition, weekly outreach efforts are conducted to support anyone unsheltered. Outreach includes everything from the provision of basic needs for residents who are not yet willing to engage in services, up to a complete coordinated entry screening in the field, and support relocating to shelter, or directly into housing.

2.When shelters reach capacity, HSAC prioritizes households for available shelter bedspace by need, considering several areas of vulnerability and producing a total score for each household. Scores are updated as households’ situations change, and vulnerabilities include homelessness, DV experience, age, and medical needs, etc. HSAC applies a similar process to prioritize residents for available CoC housing opportunities once in shelter or involved with Outreach using the National Alliance to End Homelessness’ (NAEH) Housing Barrier Assessment.

3.HSAC meets households where they are, offering screenings at the City’s social services building, by phone, or in the community. The team ensures clients feel heard, respected, and supported with their needs. While HSAC’s primary focus is to assist residents in housing crisis, they also provide referrals to clothing, food, employment, and health services. HSAC first diverts households from entering shelter, assisting with legal services to support landlord/tenant concerns, advocating to keep households in place, and providing transportation to connect with households with personal support networks. HSAC also utilizes language line to assist any households that need translation services.

4.The NAEH housing barrier assessment is review annually for compliance with any HUD-CoC data guideline changes, and for opportunities to make the assessment shorter, and questions less invasive. All questions use trauma informed language and duplicating questions in the assessment process is avoided wherever possible. Updates to the assessment are made using feedback from the HSAC Client Satisfaction Survey, and from the CoC’s Racial Equity Action Committee, made up of representatives with lived

1D-8b.	Coordinated Entry–Informing Program Participants about Their Rights and Remedies–Reporting Violations.	
--------	--	--

	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	
--	-----------------------	--

	Describe in the field below how your CoC through its coordinated entry:	
--	---	--

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The CoC’s Coordinated Entry hub, the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC) can be access through the City’s 311 number like all Alexandria Human Services, and is advertised throughout the City. Information can be found on the City website, at the local social services building, and on posted pamphlets and flyers at local churches, charities, libraries, recreation centers, parks, and other public spaces. In addition, weekly outreach efforts are conducted to support anyone unsheltered.

2.At the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC), we review multiple documents with households seeking services. This includes, but is not limited to:

- City of Alexandria Release of Information (which includes the right to revoke)
 - Notice of HMIS Data Entry and Personal Privacy (which includes the contract information for the Homeless Services Coordinator for any additional information or support)
 - Consent to Authorize HMIS Data Sharing with Contributing Organizations
- Households are informed of their rights to grant permission for their information to be shared in different systems and with providers as they see fit to best support their needs. They are also advised of the right to revoke any form of permission and how to complete that process. Every household is also provided the contact information for the Homeless Services Coordinator (HSC) who oversees HSAC, to reach out with any questions, concerns, or complaints. Households can contact the HSC at any point in the process. This includes while working with HSAC, waiting to enter a homeless service program, while in a homeless service program, and/or when leaving or having already left a homeless service program.

3.Additionally, for households in homeless service programs there are appeal and grievance procedures that can be utilized as needed. As these programs are managed by non-profit providers, each has their own process that is not overseen by HSAC. However, for any household asked to leave shelter, they are informed by shelter staff on the process to request a case staffing through HSAC. The case staffing is meeting with the household, City personnel, and shelter staff that shortens the wait time of returning to shelter and developing a plan to help with success upon returning to shelter.

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

1.	Has your CoC conducted a racial disparities assessment in the last 3 years?	Yes
2.	Enter the date your CoC conducted its latest assessment for racial disparities.	05/17/2024

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

Describe in the field below:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC's Data Committee is responsible for monitoring system performance metrics of all CoC programs monthly and overlays all outcome reports with racial demographic data. Thus, every datapoint the CoC reviews is broken out by clients' identified race and ethnicity, so that any nuances related to racial biases can be highlighted. These metrics are summated into Recommendation Reports for the CoC Governing Board that suggest policy changes based on recent quantitative data trends. The CoC also utilizes regional and national equity tools, and signs on to external initiatives when made available, including HUD's Racial Disparity Assessment, and the DC-Metro Regional Racial Equity Audit.

2. By comparing utilization trends in the Alexandria homeless assistance system to National Census data on the City, we know that Black or African American residents are overrepresented in the City's literally homeless programs. To highlight whether CoC services are exacerbating that inequity, the CoC then looks at the proportional representation in housing programs based on race, including at program enrollment, housing move-in, and program exit. To use round numbers, about 70% of Alexandria's literally homeless program residents identify as Black or African American, while only 23% of City residents represent that population. RRH enrollments, housing placements, and other permanent exits from the shelter are typically 75-80% Black or African American.

The City of Alexandria developed a Racial Equity Toolkit, which includes a self-assessment of racial bias along with step-by-step instructions on how to ensure new programming and initiatives retain a racial equity lens. The CoC's Governing Board has reviewed, used, and reflected using the Racial Equity Tool, including completing a self-assessment on racial bias.

Qualitative data related to racial disparities can be tougher to collect, but this does not prevent the CoC from employing methods like consumer satisfaction surveys and resident focus groups to highlight clients' perspective on racial disparities in homeless services.

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

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

1.	Are your CoC's board and decisionmaking bodies representative of the population served in the CoC?	Yes
2.	Did your CoC identify steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC?	Yes
3.	Is your CoC expanding outreach in your CoC's geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups?	Yes

4.	Does your CoC have communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups?	Yes
5.	Is your CoC training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness?	Yes
6.	Is your CoC establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector?	Yes
7.	Does your CoC have staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness?	Yes
8.	Is your CoC educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national nonprofit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity?	Yes
9.	Did your CoC review its coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness?	Yes
10.	Is your CoC collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system?	Yes
11.	Is your CoC conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness?	Yes
	Other:(limit 500 characters)	
12.		No

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC established a Racial Equity Action Committee (REAC), which is charged with reviewing the Strategic Plan for the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, and reviewing programs, policies, gaps, and needs of the community all through a racial equity lens. REAC reviews programs, policies, and procedures within the Strategic Plan. REAC has consulted with the Racial Equity Officer as needed for new initiatives. REAC has created a process to ensure that the voices of those with lived experience of homelessness are involved in strategic planning for the CoC, and will be compensated for their time at a rate of \$31.80 per hour.

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

Describe in the field below:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

All new initiatives, policy changes, or process adjustments that are implemented with a goal of eliminating disparities are required to have measurable outcomes and with a set target, so that the CoC Data Committee, Gaps & Needs Committee, Racial Equity Action Committee, and eventually the Governing Board, can evaluate them for efficacy. For example, a change to the CoC Assessment tool in FY21 to include race and ethnicity as a quantified housing barrier was intended to improve enrollment in CoC housing programs, particularly Rapid Rehousing (RRH) for Black and Hispanic residents. Following the change, the Data Committee closely monitored the demographics of enrollments and move-ins for all CoC housing programs and compared them to the same time period the year prior. To date, proportional representation of Black residents enrolled RRH, and moved-into housing via the program, has greatly improved since that change.

On a more macro level, progress in all metrics, including racial equity, is monitored monthly where metrics are compared to the previous month, and quarterly, and annually, where metrics are compared to the same time-period in previous years. This gives the CoC an idea of the race-equity impacts that are being felt in real time because of new mandates or initiatives, as well as long-term race-equity trends in the City that highlight some historically intractable systems promoting inequity.

Less quantifiable but no less important in this arena is progress around normalizing racial equity conversations and getting all CoC staff familiar with the terms, tools, and strategies. Measuring progress here includes counting the number of organizations that attend microaggression and unconscious bias training, adopting the GARE Racial Equity Framework, or maintain representation on the Racial Equity Action Committee (REAC). Future measures will include the number of Board Members or service organization staff that attend CoC hosted Racial Equity training, and the percentage of leadership positions in partnering organizations that are occupied by persons of color.

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC’s Outreach worker is funded by the PATH Outreach Program and draws on a wealth of experience serving residents experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and particularly single men with chronic health histories, which makes up most Alexandrians in need of outreach. The Outreach program conducts client satisfaction surveys at least annually, like all CoC participating programs, and utilizes that feedback to improve service delivery and access where applicable. The CoC’s outreach worker also serves on CoC planning and decision-making committees including the Gaps & Needs Committee, and CoC Governing Board, where she represents the voices of those that she serves in policy changes pertinent to outreach or the unsheltered population. The CoC also maintains multiple positions on its Governing Board for membership of individuals with lived experience, after adding an additional spot for lived expertise in FY21. These Board members are responsible for representing the voice of all Alexandrians experiencing housing instability in CoC policy discussions and apply a macro-level analysis to all housing assistance services including homeless outreach. Going forward, the CoC is exploring all feasible avenues to amplify the voice of persons with lived experience at every level of homeless assistance. The first step was to establish a standard compensation plan for the two Lived Experience Board Member positions. In March 2024, the Board approved \$31.80 hourly rate for those with lived experience who share their experience and engage in strategic planning programmatic change discussions. Once this was established, individuals with lived experience have expressed interest in becoming more involved in various CoC committees the CoC Racial Equity Action Committee (REAC). REAC Currently has ten members, three of which are individuals with lived experience. To learn more about REAC initiatives and accomplishments, please review 1B-1A.

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

You must upload the Lived Experience Support Letter attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter in the chart below the number of people with lived experience who currently participate in your CoC under the four categories listed:

	Level of Active Participation	Number of People with Lived Experience Within the Last 7 Years or Current Program Participant	Number of People with Lived Experience Coming from Unsheltered Situations
1.	Routinely included in the decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	5	1
2.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	5	1
3.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC’s local competition rating factors.	3	0
4.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC’s coordinated entry process.	45	5

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC is sending Board Members and CoC partners to trainings and conferences throughout the year, including the Virginia Governor’s Housing Conference (VAGHC). Those with lived experience attended last year and will be attending this year’s VAGHC to learn more about housing initiatives across the Commonwealth.

Additionally, all Alexandria CoC homeless assistance programs include employment-related eligibility requirements which participants need to abide by to continue being active and engaged in programs. Some of these requirements include maintaining / increasing income, applying for SNAP, Medicaid, and/or SSI. These individuals make daily external referrals to recruiters, employers, vocational programs, and the Alexandria Workforce Development Center (WDC), to help clients work towards their earning potential. The WDC has an Employment Navigator dedicated to assisting CoC residents in navigating the continuum of employment assistance resources in the City.

The Employment Committee is appropriately responsible for implementing all employment-based initiatives within the CoC, including hosting job fairs, standardizing pre-employment training and interview coaching, securing job vacancies for homeless clients, and generally advocating employability of the population. The CoC also maintains representation from the business community on its Governing Board who is responsible for voicing the ongoing employment concerns of the homeless services system at the board level. In FY23, the CoC’s Racial Equity Action Committee (REAC) developed a compensation plan for persons with lived experience who participate in CoC planning and decision-making. This initiative includes supervision and professional development for all compensated lived experience positions and are active members of the Governing Board, along with REAC, Strategic Planning Committee, along with the Gaps and Needs subcommittee. In FY 24, the Office of Community Services updated the Crisis Childcare program, which supports households experiencing homelessness with child care while going to work, or finding employment to increase income.

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

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The CoC maintains two Lived Experience Board Member positions on the Governing Board, which ensures a process for the two positions to be involved in strategic planning and decision-making capacity for Alexandria’s homeless service system. These members are tasked with elevating their experience to the macro-level to help influence policy change in an inclusive and equitable way. These positions are also a part of the Racial Equity Action Committee (REAC), Gaps & Needs Committee, along with the Strategic Planning committee.

2.Other opportunities for feedback from people with lived experience are at the Public Partnership Meetings every six months, which includes bringing in experts who present information and resources on topics that have been identified by those with lived experience to be useful or helpful to them. The CoC also conducts ad-hoc focus groups of residents of CoC programs, as well as at risk households in the community, to support community driven initiatives such as the CoC’s racial equity review, and the update to the CoC’s Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. In these settings, an unbiased facilitator solicits residents’ opinions and experiences about the City’s housing assistance system, and participants are compensated for their time and feedback.

3.All programs that participate in the CoC’s coordinated entry system and enter data into Alexandria’s Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) are required to collect client satisfaction surveys from program participants and submit a summation of the responses to the CoC Lead Agency during program monitoring. While this data can be limited, it provides a standard format of client feedback that can be compared across services and highlight challenging experiences that might be specific to a program or provider.

4. Annually.

5.One challenge consistently raised has been the negative stigma around homeless experiences, and the barriers it can create. In response, REAC is creating a media campaign to address negative stigma around those experiencing homelessness. Those with lived experience have volunteered to be a part of taped interviews highlighting their housing journey before. Once complete, 5-minute videos which will be shared with community residents and stakeholders to educate, raise awareness, and combat the negative stigma of those who experience homelessness. Those with lived experience will be compensated for their contributions.

1D-11.	Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	
	Describe in the field below at least two steps your CoC has taken in the past 12 months to engage city, county, or state governments that represent your CoC’s geographic area regarding the following:	
1.	reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; and	
2.	reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. In 2023, Alexandria City Council approved proposals to expand Alexandria's housing production, improve affordability, and address barriers to equitable housing access under the Zoning for Housing initiative. These actions:

- implemented zoning changes to permit historic development patterns in the future (ex: removing units per acre and min. lot size limits for multi-unit development and eliminating larger setback requirements for commercial and mixed-use buildings located near residential buildings)
- amended the Housing Master Plan to endorse use of the Residential Multi-Unit (RMF) Zone in areas planned or zoned for medium/higher density development
- implemented zoning changes to the Industrial zone to reduce barriers to the transition from industrial to mixed/residential use
- formalized City policy that new and amended Coordinated Development Districts require one-third of Bonus Density to be committed affordable units
- examined Transit Oriented Development barriers that limit increased development densities around transit stations and identified themes to guide future Small Area Plans to support such densities
- studied the City's approach to evaluating Commercial to Residential Building Conversions and formalized affordable housing policy when such projects seek additional density
- implemented reforms to Townhouse Zones, including the provision of RM Zone development rights to single-unit, two-unit, and townhouse dwellings on certain lots outside of the RM zone; establishing contextual front setback requirements for townhouse zones and for residential development in commercial zones City-wide; eliminating side yard setback requirements for lots 25 feet in width or less; and establishing a 35 percent open space requirement across all townhouse zones and for residential uses in commercial zones.
- implemented Expanding Housing Opportunities within Single-family Zones Reform whose goal is to broaden access to single-family neighborhoods

2. In 2024, the City modified when sewer tap fees have to be paid; historically they were charged prior to a project's construction. The postponement of payment has helped to reduce the amount of debt projects carry during construction, which has reduced development costs. Also in 2024, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), was awarded the HUD Pathways for Removal of Obstacles to Housing grant. In addition, as part of the City's Housing 2040 Master Plan update, examination of barrier

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

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

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

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

1.	Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for New Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC’s local competition.	08/23/2024
2.	Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for Renewal Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC’s local competition.	08/23/2024

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

You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected project applications during your local competition:

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

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

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

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

1.	What were the maximum number of points available for the renewal project form(s)?	48
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	5
3.	What renewal project type did most applicants use?	PH-PSH

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

Describe in the field below:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Alexandria’s five FY24 renewal programs have operated for years, and the CoC received no new proposal for bonus opportunities, so HMIS trend data was used to compare the programs. To measure varied HUD projects against each other, the CoC delineates target outcomes by project type in Performance & Compliance Monitoring. For example, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs are scored on clients permanent housing placement and maintenance rates, while Rapid Rehousing is only scored on housing placement. Further, the targets for maximum available points are higher for PSH than for RRH as there is little turnover in those programs, and hopefully no clients exiting to homelessness, while RRH is more concerned with quick, permanent placements, leading to some predictable attrition.

2. In monitoring and evaluation, Rapid Rehousing (RRH) programs are scored for the time between program enrollment and housing move-in, with shorter timeframes being rewarded with more points. For Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs, program utilization and the duration of program vacancies is monitored.

3. In addition to the review of client outcomes, the criteria used in ranking includes clients’ average assessment score at program entry, and those with higher averages are rewarded for serving a higher barrier population. This ensures the vulnerabilities of the varying populations in these programs are considered when the CoC must prioritize funding.

4. Vulnerabilities captured in the assessment score include Domestic Violence (DV) history, criminal history, income amounts, disabling conditions, and chronic homelessness. For special populations, the ranking process will also review the number of dedicated beds to DV or Chronic Homelessness in HDX, rewarding programs that have a higher portion of their program

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

Describe in the field below:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The CoC’s Gaps and Needs Committee is made up of representatives from all local homeless assistance programs in the City, as well as Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS) staff, and community advocates. Members of the committee identify as a multitude of races including all that are predominately represented within the population of residents experiencing homelessness, and there are two representatives with lived experience. The Committee is responsible for reviewing monthly system performance data from all homeless assistance programs and making recommendations for service or policy adjustment, and they do so with a racial equity lens. The demographic breakdowns of each program, and of outcomes within each performance metric, are tracked separately so that inequities can be spotted in real time, and adjustments can be mandated through formal recommendation to the CoC Governing Board or Priorities Committee.

2.The CoC’s Priorities Committee is an informed, unbiased body of homeless assistance and affordable housing advocates responsible for making funding decisions for the CoC during competitive funding applications, which includes the annual HUD-CoC project ranking process. The group includes 2 men and 3 women who identify as either Black or African American, or White, which make up approximately 90% of the City’s homeless population. In ranking, their decision is informed by the programs’ compliance with HUD guidelines, annual performance outcomes, and formal recommendations from the CoC’s Gaps and Needs Committee.

3.In FY24 the Priorities Committee ranked the HUD-CoC RRH program third, particularly for its high permanent housing rate as well as it’s equitable representation as a housing program that served over 80% black or African American households. That population made up about 72% of shelter residents in FY24 and has been identified as a high need by the Gaps and Needs Committee, so programs that have proven effective for those residents were prioritized.

1E-4.	Reallocation—Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	your CoC’s reallocation process, including how your CoC determined which projects are candidates for reallocation because they are low performing or less needed;	
2.	whether your CoC identified any low performing or less needed projects through the process described in element 1 of this question during your CoC’s local competition this year;	
3.	whether your CoC reallocated any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year; and	
4.	why your CoC did not reallocate low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year, if applicable.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The CoC initiates reallocation to address community need or poor performance. Both scenarios result from monthly monitoring of system performance by the Data Committee and quarterly analysis by the Gaps & Needs Committee. Data through three quarters is aggregated into the CoC Needs Assessment, which identifies service gaps and recommends funding strategies to address them, including potential reallocation. Three-quarter data also informs the annual update to the Compliance & Performance Scorecard, where the Selection Committee sets new outcome targets for ranking and may request reallocation of a low performer. Both documents are public, and the process is detailed in a document referenced in the approved CoC Charter. providers also maintain representation on the Data and Gaps and Needs Committees involving them in reallocation discussions from the start. Any redistribution of funds is facilitated by the CoC Lead through public Request for Proposal.

2.The CoC again identified technical assistance (TA) need for a perennially low performing grantee, Notabene families and singles PSH. This program serves some of the highest barrier clients in the CoC and contains the only single room PSH in the Continuum though, highlighting its continued need. Further, the program has been consistently responsive to TA as exemplified by improved client outcomes in FY24 monitoring. the clients. A new relationship was also forged between the City’s Domestic Violence shelter and Notabene during the technical assistance process that has eliminated the utilization issues which previously challenged the program’s family units.

3.CoC did not initiate reallocation in 2024 because of the strides Notabene continues to make when offered TA, and the apparent need that the program fills in the community.

4.Notabene has been the primary target of the CoC’s TA and Reallocation policy historically, but the identified issues are sufficiently addressed. Utilization of the program’s family condos was rectified in FY23 through a partnership with the DV Program, and client outcomes have gradually improved through case conferencing meetings between the program, CoC Outreach, and the HMIS data team. Most importantly though, the program provides 18 PSH beds for only about \$160k in HUD-CoC funding, which is a return that other organizations could not duplicate. Considering this and the extremely high barriers of the population, the CoC feels working with the program through TA has prov

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

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

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

1.	Did your CoC reject any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
2.	Did your CoC reduce funding for any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
3.	Did your CoC inform applicants why your CoC rejected or reduced their project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	Yes
4.	If you selected Yes for element 1 or element 2 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2024, 06/27/2024, and 06/28/2024, then you must enter 06/28/2024.	

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

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

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

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

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

	Enter the date your CoC posted the CoC-approved Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or partner’s website—which included: 1. the CoC Application; and 2. Priority Listings for Reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.	10/30/2024
--	--	------------

1E-5d.	Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders by Email that the CoC-Approved Consolidated Application is Posted on Website.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	

You must upload the Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

	Enter the date your CoC notified community members and key stakeholders that the CoC-approved Consolidated Application was posted on your CoC's website or partner's website.	10/30/2024
--	---	------------

2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 HIC data into HDX.	05/10/2024
--	---	------------

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

	In the field below:
--	---------------------

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The CoC’s Gaps & Needs Committee monitors CoC system performance metrics of HMIS programs monthly and, at the charge of the Priorities Committee in FY23, reviews comparable metrics from the City’s Domestic Violence program including hotline calls, persons served through victim accompaniment and advocacy, and the number of youths served through supportive counseling. There are still issues of the DV shelter’s safety priorities misaligning with some of the homeless system’s housing-first metrics, but as the Committee has managed to build accurate data for several years which will lead to trend analysis this year.

The DV program also hired a new housing analyst with a background an HMIS background who is further helping integrate the two systems. In FY24 the CoC sent her, and the HMIS team to the National Human Services Data Consortium conference to foster cohesion between the positions and bring improved data management skills to the DV program.

2.Data from the DV shelter is maintained in a separate confidential database, which collects data according to HUD-HMIS data standards. The DV shelter utilizes the same housing assessment as regular coordinated entry so same assessment data can be de-identified and clients can be anonymously prioritized for housing on the same By-Names-List (BNL) as all literally homeless clients or filtered for DV specific voucher opportunities. Using the same assessments allows the CoC’s data committee and others to compare relative vulnerabilities of the DV population, as well as demographic trends.

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

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

Project Type	Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current Non-VSP Beds [Column F of HDX Report]	Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current VSP Beds [Column K of HDX Report]	Total Year-Round, Current, HMIS Beds and VSP Beds in an HMIS Comparable Database [Column M of HDX Report]	HMIS and Comparable Database Coverage Rate [Column O of HDX Report]
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	147	0	147	100.00%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	0	0	0	100.00%
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	28	0	28	100.00%
4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	102	0	102	100.00%
5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	50	0	50	100.00%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	30	0	30	100.00%

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

For each project type with a bed coverage rate that is at or below 84.99 percent in question 2A-5, describe:

	1.	steps your CoC will take over the next 12 months to increase the bed coverage rate to at least 85 percent for that project type; and
	2.	how your CoC will implement the steps described to increase bed coverage to at least 85 percent.

(limit 2,500 characters)

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2024 PIT count.	01/24/2024
--	---	------------

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

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 PIT count data in HDX.	05/10/2024
--	---	------------

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

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1. | engaged unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations in your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process; |
| 2. | worked with unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations to select locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified during your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process; and |
| 3. | included youth experiencing homelessness as counters during your CoC’s most recent unsheltered PIT count. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. There are no unaccompanied youth service organizations in the CoC’s jurisdiction. To ensure these individuals are included in the regular PIT count, the CoC works closely with the Homeless Education Liaison (HEL) ahead of the survey to ensure all youth are accounted for, and emails surveys to those that aren’t.

2. In of more robust data collection during the traditional PIT Count, the CoC executes planning for a separate Youth PIT Count through the CoC Gaps & Needs Committee because members include all City homeless assistance providers as well as Alexandria City Public Schools’ (ACPS) Homeless Education Liaison. Support of ACPS was critical in that any data sourced from school-aged youth would require their Board’s approval to be made public or be used by an external group like the CoC. Beyond that, the Committee’s chair also serves on Alexandria’s Youth Services Coordinated Council (YSCC), made up of child welfare and foster care representatives, family service specialists, local non-profits, and faith organization that serve youth, allowing that group to serve as a sounding board for the proposed PIT strategy.

Dates and times for the Youth PIT Count were identified by the Gaps & Needs Committee with the help of the Homeless Education Liaison ahead of the FY22 Count, focusing on either end of the school year when families were already required to report homeless status to ACPS through mail in forms. Next, and Youth PIT specific survey was crafted and vetted by the YSCC, including at-risk youth that support the Council’s work, and strategies for dissemination were discussed. Multiple City locations including parks, libraries, business, and after school programs and events, were identified for survey locations, but Alexandria’s Homeless Education Liaison and YSCC cautioned against collecting data outside of ACPS’ typical processes, at least for the CoC’s first attempt at a Youth PIT.

3. This year, the decision was made to follow the same Youth PIT process as in FY22 and FY23 and solicit responses via the Homeless Education Liaison’s closeout survey of families at the end of the school year. Again, the CoC collected PIT data on a staggering number of unstably housed youth that are unknown to the CoC, largely because of HUD and DOE’s competing definitions of homelessness. Looking to FY24, the CoC aims to develop a trend report using Youth PIT data from the past three years to better advocate for services for the population.

2B-4.	PIT Count–Methodology Change–CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.a and V.B.7.c.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe any changes your CoC made to your sheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;	
2.	describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;	
3.	describe whether your CoC’s PIT count was affected by people displaced either from a natural disaster or seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance who recently arrived in your CoCs’ geographic; and	
4.	describe how the changes affected your CoC’s PIT count results; or	
5.	state “Not Applicable” if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2024.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

N/A

2C. System Performance

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

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

2C-1.	Reducing the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe how your CoC determined the risk factors to identify persons experiencing homelessness for the first time;	
	2. describe your CoC’s strategies to address individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and	
	3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Within the Office of Community Services (OCS) is the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC). When individuals present in housing crisis, a standard assessment is given, and the previous five years of homelessness history is recorded. This gives the CoC greater context of homeless history than HUD’s report as the data can be tied to individual demographics and outcomes produced by CoC services. To start, the assessment records factors that led to a household’s current episode of homelessness, giving the CoC a self-reported source for first time experience. Coupling this information with prevention and diversion data has proven the CoC’s best method for identifying why Alexandrians are becoming homeless for the first time.

2. As the short-term assistance provider and operator of coordinated entry, OCS is doubly concerned with preventing residents from experiencing homelessness. Most households that experience homelessness simply cannot afford a one-bedroom unit in Alexandria, showing that housing affordability remains the primary cause of first-time homelessness. To be proactive the CoC focuses on initial homelessness from specific zip codes, often with concentrations of subsidized housing, and targets prevention resources to those neighborhoods, engaging the PHA or private landlords to keep residents in housing.

3. The CoC’s Gaps and Needs committee collects this data monthly to determine the most prevalent sources of homelessness in Alexandria, and through analysis has managed to recommend more upstream interventions. OCS is also the City’s Community Action Agency and primary provider of short-term rental assistance. These services, as well as case management and housing location are offered first, and last resort referral is made to shelter. In late 2023, the CoC conducted a data-dive into instances of homelessness versus recidivism and found that most people experiencing first time homelessness enter the CoC through seasonal winter shelter, and often utilize no other services. Conversely, this population self-reports experiencing homelessness sometime in the last three years at a rate of 90%. This relationship, and the profile of winter-shelter users, is thus being further explored in FY25.

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

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

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

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

In the field below:
1. describe your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;
2. describe how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and

3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.
----	--

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Using increased and reallocated Rapid Rehousing (RRH) funds, the CoC has been using permanent housing placement to reduce the shelter length of stay. This highlights that when funds are allocated to high performing organizations who are invested in positive client outcomes, RRH is an effective method to reduce the length of stay and improve the permanent exit rate. In addition, using data-driven decision making and statistical analysis via our BNL the CoC has efficiently and effectively utilized vouchers to move people out of shelter and out of permanent supportive housing to allow long used units to come available for those in need of PSH.

2. All clients experiencing homelessness, whether entering through our Domestic Violence (DV) Shelter, Winter Shelter, Street Outreach, or coordinated entry, receive the same standard assessment that measures client's housing barriers and history of homelessness. Having the same assessment at each entry point allows for better data consistency and comparability of client responses across each access point. Bi-weekly, this data is pulled into our By Names List (BNL) by our HMIS Administrator, at which point referrals are made based on client's rank on that list. The BNL prioritizes clients based on significance of housing barrier, race, and ethnicity, and is currently being adjusted to account for length of stay in a more quantifiable way.

3. Currently the length of time homeless is displayed in an easily identifiable way on the BNL, essentially denoted by a client's entry date into our shelter programs. The list is routinely analyzed and adjusted basis by the Housing Crisis Response Committee to respond to current needs. The Gaps and Needs Committee evaluates its impact on homelessness duration and housing placement. In most circumstances, subsequent changes to BNL algorithms are made based on the recommendations illustrated by the Lead CoC Administrator in Quarterly Recommendation reports.

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

In the field below:

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. More than 50% of FY23 CoC’s housing resources fund Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and most permanent exit from homelessness do so with some sort of subsidy, so the CoC targets those programs to best influence permanent exits. During the past year specifically, the CoC executed over \$400,000 additional RRH subsidies through the Homeless Reduction Grant (HRG), and in FY25 will receive those funds again in additions to over \$200k in HOME ARPA funds. All housing placements in the CoC, including RRH, PSH, and transitional housing, are managed through biweekly by names list process ensuring those with the highest needs are served first.

2. For permanent housing retention, the CoC reviews HMIS exits from RRH and PSH programs and highlights trends, which lead to recommendations for improvement. The CoC is part of an RRH peer sharing work group in Northern VA, sponsored by the Technical Assistance Collaborative, to trade ideas on RRH best practices and improve service delivery. The current focus of that group is connecting success in RRH to subsidy durations and client income amount at entry, identifying how CoC’s can better budget for clients’ needs and ensure housing is retained once the subsidy is removed. For PSH, the Data Committee Chairs and CoC Outreach Worker attend case conferencing meetings to discuss opportunities for residents to move on and address any individual issues that be putting a client’s housing at risk.

3. Strategies for increasing housing placement and retention rates are plotted and monitored by the CoC Gaps and Needs Committee through system performance data supplied by the Data Committee. Programmatic changes, shifts in the workflow, and general implementation is managed by the Housing Crisis Response Committee.

2C-4.	Reducing Returns to Homelessness—CoC’s Strategy. NOFO Section V.B.5.e.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC’s strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness;	
2.	describe your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate that individuals and families return to homelessness; and	
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The CoC attempts to identify trends in homeless recidivism through several means. First, six and twelve-month follow-ups with homeless prevention and Rapid Rehousing clients provides an early barometer of recidivism, while deduplication from non-homeless housing assistance data highlights factors creating recidivism further upstream. Even further, the CoC’s coordinated entry assessment quantifies households’ history of homeless assistance in the past five years, taking on a broader definition of recidivism than the HUD report. Finally, in FY24 the CoC did a recidivism data-dive comparing the various methods, and interestingly found that the Winter Shelter program was artificially deflating instances of recidivism particularly on the HUD report. This appears to be due to the transient nature of the Winter Shelter population, who will self-report recent homelessness, but in another jurisdiction.

2.The CoC is aware that recidivism is too common an occurrence among residents experiencing homelessness, and thus, several strategies are being analyzed to not only better track the situation, but to prevent it as part of the mission to prevent and end homelessness. A component that has been missing in prior approaches is the application of a racial equity to recognize the systemic causes and effects of homeless recidivism within different communities. Currently, the HMIS Data Committee is in discussion with CoC case managers and the committee that oversees their services, the Housing Crisis Response Committee (HCRC), to include one or two more questions on our standard assessment that speak primarily to generational or network impoverishment.

3.Strategies for decreasing recidivism rates are plotted and monitored by the CoC Gaps and Needs Committee through system performance data supplied by the Data Committee. Programmatic changes, shifts in the workflow, and general implementation is managed by the Housing Crisis Response Committee.

2C-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income—CoC’s Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe your CoC’s strategy to access employment cash sources;	
	2. describe how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their employment cash income; and	
	3. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to increase income from employment.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1.The Alexandria CoC employs several congruent strategies to increase homeless residents’ employment income, both through mainstream employment assistance resources and through CoC specific initiatives. At the ground level, in all CoC homeless assistance programs there are employment specific staff tasked with maintaining and increasing income and employment for program participants. These individuals make daily external referrals to recruiters, employers, vocational programs, and the Alexandria Workforce Development Center (WDC), in effort to help clients work towards their earning potential.

2.At a committee level, the Employment & Income Committee is appropriately responsible for implementing all employment-based initiatives within the CoC, including hosting job fairs, standardizing pre-employment training and interview coaching, securing job vacancies for homeless clients, and generally advocating employability of the population. Outside of events the committee monitors monthly employment outcomes within the CoC and recommends improvement strategies for Governing Board Approval. The CoC also maintains representation from the business community on its Governing Board who is responsible for voicing the ongoing employment concerns of the homeless services system at the board level.

3.To specifically address this issue the CoC utilizes an Employment Navigator, a position that sits at WDC and assists CoC clients navigate the continuum of employment assistance resources in the City. The Employment Navigator has proven successful in bridging the skills gap between homeless residents and the workforce, compelling the CoC to implement some additional data tracking requirements within the program to better inform the application of the service to clients from all levels of the Continuum. In FY22, the CoC is continuing to promote access ticket-to-work programs for single homeless residents as system performance data shows SSI/SSDI remains the primary source of income for that population.

2C-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income–CoC’s Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe your CoC’s strategy to access non-employment cash income; and	
	2. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to increase non-employment cash income.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. At coordinated entry, the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC) screens clients for housing barriers, including monthly income and primary source, which informs shelter case managers in development of a housing plan. HSAC is collocated with the City's Public Benefits Office so eligible clients are immediately referred for TANF, SNAP, SSI/SSDI, and other mainstream assistance programs. Once in shelter, staff are experienced in the relationship between income and housing in the CoC's high-cost area and are keen to include housing plan goals that aim to increase client income to make housing attainable. To make that approach common practice, the CoC has implemented holistic Housing First training for all case managers, emphasizing connection to sustainable supports like cash and non-cash benefits simultaneous to the search for housing.

HUD-CoC funded programs in the Continuum are required to make SOAR certified staff available to all clients and all other programs in the CoC can equally access those services for clients that need SSI/SSDI applications expedited. The CoC's PATH outreach worker, who is also SOAR certified, is responsible for coordinating with the Northern Virginia SOAR led to secure CoC staff certifications, update training, and track progress made on the CoC's SOAR applications.

2. Alexandria's Office of Public Benefits assists CoC partners in applying Virginia's recent Medicaid expansion within their services, offering resources, contacts, and additional support to providers to ensure clients that were covered received access. That partnership continues to grow especially with federal changes to healthcare, and the CoC will continue to leverage those transitions to further improve the collaboration between benefits and homeless services.

3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3B. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

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

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

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

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

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

If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below actions CoC Program-funded project applicants will take to comply with:

1.	Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u); and
2.	HUD’s implementing rules at 24 CFR part 75 to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very-low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very-low-income persons.

(limit 2,500 characters)

N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

If you answered yes to question 3C-1, describe in the field below:

1.	how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and
2.	how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.

(limit 2,500 characters)

N/A

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

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

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

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

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