

**Outline of Overarching Policy Priorities Highlighted in FY 2023 NOFO
Annual Competition**

HUD Strategic Goals:

The Strategic Goals section provides additional context regarding the selection criteria found in section V.B. of the HUD NOFO and is included here to help applicants better understand how the selection criteria supports the goal of ending homelessness:

1. *Ending homelessness for all persons.*

In 2022, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) presented All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness to the President and Congress. The plan is built around six pillars: three foundations—equity, data and evidence, and collaboration—and three solutions—housing and supports, crisis response, and prevention. The work funded through this NOFO will support the actions and strategies proposed within the pillars.

- a. Identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness
- b. Measure their performance based on local data that consider the challenges faced by all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area, including:
 - i. Veterans
 - ii. Youth
 - iii. Families
 - iv. Chronically homeless
 - v. People with disabilities, including those living with HIV/AIDS
- c. CoCs should partner with housing, health care, and supportive services providers to expand housing options, such as permanent supportive housing, housing subsidies, and rapid rehousing
- d. Use local data to determine the characteristics of individuals and families with the highest needs and longest experiences of homelessness to develop housing and supportive services tailored to their needs

2. *Use a Housing First approach.*

- a. Prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions
- b. CoC Program funded projects should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and CoCs should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness
- c. CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to identify housing units available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods
- d. HUD encourages CoCs to assess how well Housing First approaches are being implemented in their communities

3. *Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness.* In recent years, the number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness has risen significantly, including a rising number of encampments in many communities across the country.

- a. People living unsheltered have extremely high rates of physical and mental illness and substance use disorders
- b. CoCs should explore all available resources, including CoC and ESG funded assistance, housing subsidies, and supportive services to provide permanent housing options for people who are unsheltered.

- c. CoCs should work with law enforcement and their state and local governments to eliminate policies and practices that criminalize homelessness.
4. *Improving System Performance.*
- a. Use system performance measures (e.g., average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, rates of exit to permanent housing destinations) to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness
 - b. Use Coordinated Entry process to promote participant choice, coordinate homeless assistance and mainstream housing, and services to ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance quickly, and make homelessness assistance open, inclusive, and transparent
 - c. Review all projects eligible for renewal in FY 2022 to determine their effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness, including cost-effectiveness
 - d. CoCs should also look for opportunities to implement continuous quality improvement and other process improvement strategies.
5. *Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies.*
- a. Using cost performance and outcome data, CoCs should improve how all available resources are utilized to end homelessness.
 - b. Especially important as the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan have provided significant new resources to help end homelessness.
 - c. HUD encourages CoCs to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness and should:
 - i. Work closely with public and private healthcare organizations and assist program participants to receive primary care, receive housing-related services, and obtain medical insurance to address healthcare needs. This includes developing close partnerships with public health agencies to analyze data and design approaches that reduce homelessness, improve the health of people experiencing homelessness, and prevent and address disease outbreaks, including HIV/AIDS.
 - ii. Partner closely with PHAs and state and local housing organizations to utilize coordinated entry, develop housing units, and provide housing subsidies to people experiencing homelessness. These partnerships can also help CoC Program participants exit permanent supportive housing through Housing Choice Vouchers and other available housing options. CoCs and PHAs should especially work together to implement targeted programs such as Emergency Housing Vouchers, HUD-VASH, Mainstream Vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP) Vouchers, and other housing voucher programs targeted to people experiencing homelessness. CoCs should coordinate with their state and local housing agencies on the utilization of new HOME program resources provided through the Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program (HOME ARP) that was created through the American Rescue Plan;
6. *Racial Equity.*
- a. In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population
 - b. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address racial equity within CoCs
 - c. Responses to preventing and ending homelessness should address racial inequities to ensure successful outcomes for all persons experiencing homelessness using proven approaches, such as:
 - i. Developing a coordinated community response created in partnership with a racially diverse set of stakeholders and people experiencing homelessness
 - ii. Partnering with organizations with experience serving underserved populations

- d. CoCs should review local policies, procedures, and processes with attention to identifying barriers that result in racial disparities, and taking steps to eliminate barriers to improve racial equity and to address disparities.
7. *Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals.*
 - a. Discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation manifests differently for different individuals and often overlaps with other forms of prohibited discrimination
 - b. CoCs should address the needs of LGBTQ+, transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary individuals and families in their planning processes
 - c. Additionally, when considering which projects to select in their local competition to be included in their application to HUD, CoCs should ensure privacy, respect, safety, and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation in projects
 - d. CoCs should also consider partnering with organizations with expertise in serving LGBTQ+ populations
 8. *Persons with Lived Experience.*
 - a. HUD **expects** CoCs to include people with lived homeless experience in their local planning and decision-making process
 - b. People with lived experience should determine how local policies may need to be revised and updated to improve the effectiveness of homelessness assistance programs, including participating in planning and oversight activities and developing local competition processes
 - c. CoC leaders and stakeholders should prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed
 9. *Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.*
 - a. The lack of affordable housing is the main driver of homelessness. CoCs play a critical role in educating local leaders and stakeholders about the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing and the specific consequences of the continued lack of affordable housing
 - b. CoCs should be communicating with jurisdiction leaders, including for the development of Consolidated Plans, about the harmful effects of the lack of affordable housing, and they should engage local leaders about steps such as zoning and land use reform that would increase the supply of affordable housing
 - c. This FY 2023 CoC NOFO awards points to CoCs that take steps to engage local leaders about increasing affordable housing supply

HUD Strategic Goals

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Strategic Plan sets the direction and focus of our programs and staff to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality, affordable homes for all. The HUD NOFO supports [HUD's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years \(FY\) 2022-2026](#) to accomplish HUD's mission and vision. Each of the five goals in the [Strategic Plan](#) include what HUD hopes to accomplish, the strategies to accomplish those objectives, and the indicators of success.

HUD will pursue two overarching priorities focused on increasing equity and improving customer experience across all HUD programs. Five strategic goals and several objectives undergird the Plan; however, the follow goals are applicable to this NOFO:

Applicable Goals and Objectives from HUD's Strategic Plan

1. **Strategic Goal 1: Support Underserved Communities**
Fortify support for underserved communities and support equitable community development for all people.
2. **Strategic Goal 2: Ensure Access to and Increase the Production of Affordable Housing**

HUD updates to priorities from 2022 highlighted yellow.

Ensure housing demand is matched by adequate production of new homes and equitable access to housing opportunities for all people.

3. Strategic Goal 3: Promote Homeownership

Promote homeownership opportunities, equitable access to credit for purchase and improvements, and wealth-building in underserved communities.

4. Strategic Goal 4: Advance Sustainable Communities

Advance sustainable communities by strengthening climate resilience and energy efficiency, promoting environmental justice, and recognizing housing's role as essential to health.

You are expected to align your application to the applicable strategic goals and objectives. Use the information in this section to describe in your application the specific goals, objectives, and measures that your project is expected to help accomplish. If your project is selected for funding, you are also expected to establish a plan to track progress related to those goals, objectives, and measures. HUD will monitor compliance with the goals, objectives, and measures in your project.