

## **Balance of State CoC Written Standards Notes on Approved Updates (5/22/24)**

Updates to the Balance of State CoC Written Standards approved by the Board on May 22, 2024, include:

- Updated language to replace “waivers” with “special activities” under YHDP (page 2)
- The addition of language for requirement to follow eligibility guidance for rural projects funded under the Special NOFO (page 2 and throughout the document);
  - Rural added to Street Outreach, Rapid Re-Housing, Joint TH-RRH Component, Supportive Services Only, and Permanent Supportive Housing project sections.
- Moved paragraph about assessment of project level eligibility to identify and removed barriers to the General Standards section (page 3) and removed it from each project type section
- Updated clarifying language under the VAWA Requirements (page 6)
- The addition of language for Youth Participants in CoC-funded Projects (General Section p.7 and throughout the document):
  - clarifying requirement of all CoC-funded projects to not require third-party documentation for Youth-headed households as a condition for service,
  - noting HUD’s additional allowances for youth-serving providers around safety;
- The addition of Eligibility language in each CoC Program project type sections (pages 7-8 street outreach, 9-10 emergency shelter, 12-13 RRH, 16-17 Joint TH-RRH, 21-22 SSO, & 25 PSH):
  - clarifying requirement to only serve rural counties under the Special NOFO,
  - clarifying requirement to only serve Youth under YHDP, and
  - clarifying requirement of all CoC-funded projects to not require third-party documentation for Youth-headed households, noting HUD’s additional allowances for youth-serving providers around safety.
- Under Street Outreach, the addition of a CoC recommendation that ESG-funded Street Outreach projects should operate as assessors for coordinated entry in the Balance of State CoC (page 8).
- Under Emergency Shelter, the addition of a CoC recommendation that ESG-funded Emergency Shelters should operate as assessment centers for coordinated entry in the Balance of State CoC. Victim Service Provider should assess their clients. (page 9)
- The addition of language under “Required Documentation”:
  - “e” under Category 1 throughout
    - \*Youth aged 24 and under that cannot provide third-party verification of homelessness cannot be disqualified from service in CoC-funded projects for lack of documentation”
  - Referenced Appendix V and Appendix VI that notes documentation needed when programs don’t have third-party (throughout)
  - language in each CoC Program project type sections

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- In Required Documentation sections for RRH, SSO, and PSH (also Joint TH-RRH), added information for category 2 (from Appendix V). Included language that it related to projects funded under a NOFO that allows for category 2.
- Addition of language that RRH assistance for youth in CoC RRH can be extended up to 24 months (case-by-case) (page 13);
- Cleaned up Eligibility guidance for category 4 to remove language indicating participants need to meet category 1 throughout document (to align with expansion of category 4 last year)
- Added language in Transitional Housing section regarding client contribution policy and program fees (page 11)
- Under CoC Requirements in RRH and Joint TH-RRH, added statement that Rental Assistance in CoC-funded RRH must be equitable, and the amount/duration of assistance must be client-centered and not the same for every program participant (pages 13 and 17).
- Added safety language for documentation of category 4 for youth (shelter, TH, RRH, Joint TH\_RRH, PSH):
  - When documenting category 4 for youth, the intake worker needs to ask only enough questions to know what is going on, and they should rely on the youth's own statement. If the youth indicates there is a safety risk then no further documentation of the safety risk is needed – the intake worker should simply document what the youth stated.
- The addition of a section for Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Re-Housing Component Projects (pages 16-19)
  - Includes language of expectation of TH to be short-term, not requiring participation in treatment or services, client choice, and Housing First approach
  - YHDP guidance for length of service (in TH & RRH)
  - Recommendation of a transition in place model (same unit for TH & RRH where possible)
  - Expectations on working with landlords, service provision
- Under Homeless Prevention Projects, the addition of a CoC Recommendation that ESG-funded Homeless Prevention projects must use the Balance of State Prevention and Diversion Screening Tool (page 19).
- Updates to the NOFO references for DedicatedPLUS under CoC-funded PSH within HUD's 2023 CoC Application (NOFO) (throughout the document);
- Under Permanent Supportive Housing projects, service provision section moved to CoC Requirements from recommendation to include (p. 24):
  1. In providing or arranging for housing, the project considers the needs of the individual or family experiencing homelessness.

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2. The project provides assistance in accessing suitable housing.
  3. The project may provide assistance with moving costs.
  4. The project signs occupancy agreements or leases (or subleases) with all project participants residing in housing.
  5. The project enters into an occupancy agreement or lease agreement (or sublease) with project participant for a term of at least one year, which is terminable for cause. The lease must be automatically renewable upon expiration for a minimum term of one month. Assistance may be extended as stated in 24 CFR 578.79.
  6. For projects where regulations require individuals and families residing in permanent supportive housing to pay occupancy charges or rent, occupancy charges and rent may not exceed those specified in 24 CFR 578.77.
  7. At least 90 percent of the CoC Program-funded permanent supportive housing beds that become available through turnover must be prioritized for chronically homeless individuals and families or are in projects classified as DedicatedPLUS as defined in I.B.2.b.(7) of HUD's 2023 CoC Program Competition NOFO. However, CoC-funded PSH projects that commit above this amount in a competition, are held to the higher amount.
- The addition of an Appendix, *Determining Homeless Status of Youth* (Appendix VI) (pages 37-40)