

## 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 2023 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2023 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 2023 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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

**1A-1. CoC Name and Number:** FL-603 - Ft Myers, Cape Coral/Lee County CoC

**1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name:** Lee County Board of County Commissioners

**1A-3. CoC Designation:** CA

**1A-4. HMIS Lead:** Lee County Board of County Commissioners

## 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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
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- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>1B-1.</b>	<b>Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.</b>	
	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, 2022 to April 30, 2023:	
	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	No
5.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	No
7.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	No
8.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
9.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	No
12.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	No

16.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	No
17.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	No
18.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	No
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	No
24.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	No
25.	Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	No
28.	Other Victim Service Organizations	No	No	No
29.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	No	No	No
30.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	No	No	No
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	No	No	No
33.	Youth Service Providers	No	No	No
	Other: (limit 50 characters)			
34.				
35.				

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

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 the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The Executive Director of the Lee County Homeless Coalition and the CoC Program Manager actively solicit new members following an assessment of subgroups/agencies that are not represented or are underrepresented within the CoC general membership. Nomination and selection to the CoC Governing Board occurs following a similar assessment of underrepresented subgroups, as well as from active, regular participation in General CoC meetings. Solicitation for new members is made annually via email distributions, and posted on the lead agency and homeless coalition websites.

2. Meeting announcements, agendas and minutes posted online comply with ADA standards to enhance and encourage persons with disabilities to participate. Meetings are virtual via a “Zoom” or Teams meeting platforms with links to join posted publicly on the Homeless Coalition website, and provide real time transcription and “chat boxes” to encourage dialog. All documents published are OCR to allow for persons with disabilities to use screen readers and other aids. All published documents contain language offering translation or alternative formats.

3. Individuals experiencing homeless are identified and encouraged to participate in the CoC through targeted outreach. The CoC Governing Board has at multiple members that provide thier lived experience of homelessness, and multiple funded agencies have persons with lived experience represented within their organization, including as board members and as employees. Multiple peer specialists regularly solicit feedback from persons who are homeless and presents that information to CoC leadership through participation in the CoC Governing Board and through one on one meetings. The CoC also has a lived experience working group which meets at least quarterly to provide input for planning. To address equity and engage culturally diverse stakeholders, the CoC General and Governing Board members are regularly reminded to solicit participation from groups underrepresented within the CoC. The CoC conducts and annual review of racial and ethic disparities, including within Board membership, and is actively working to recruit members from underrepresented population groups.

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. All CoC actions, including planning for funding and development of new activities are presented to the CoC Governing Board and CoC General Membership. The CoC General membership meets monthly and is consulted during the creation of new projects. The CoC Governing Board is consulted for all new funding uses, including HOME, ESG, HOME-ARP funds, and State funding received to address homelessness. The meetings of the lived experience group are reviewed to the Board, and persons with lived experience of homelessness are encouraged to participate in the decision making process.

2. Public input is gathered from the public during quarterly public meetings through a Board of County Commissioners Advisory Committee. The committee membership includes representatives from low income neighborhoods, local businesses, the United Way, the Department of Children and Families, and advocates for persons who are homeless. All new funding applications and receipts of funding to address homelessness are presented during BoCC meetings. The public is invited to comment on these items during each meeting, as well as present on items of concern to them. The CoC manages a Facebook page and data dashboards which are posted on the lead agency webpage to ensure that performance data and the most up to date CoC related information is shared with the public.

3. Meeting announcements, agendas and minutes posted online comply with ADA standards to enhance and encourage persons with disabilities to participate. Meetings are virtual via a “Zoom” or Teams meeting platforms, with links to join posted publicly on the Homeless Coalition website, and provide real time transcription and “chat boxes” to encourage dialog. All documents published are OCR to allow for persons with disabilities to use screen readers and other aids. All published documents contain language offering translation or alternative formats.

4. All information gathered during public outreach efforts are used in planning and making improvements to activities to address homelessness. As an example, a concern repeatedly raised by the public during the monthly public CoC General membership meeting was the need to update the community’s coordinated entry system. Those recommendations prompted the first annual focus group open to the public to recommend improvements to Coordinated Entry. The result of the meeting was a detailed report that addressed the concerns raised by the public in the General Membership

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.
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**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Notice of the local competition opening was sent via direct email to nonprofit organizations that have registered for the lead agencies mailing address. In addition, the local request for applications was distributed to other local funders such as the United Way and the Community Foundation, for distribution to their stakeholders. The request for applications was also posted on the lead agency website, and distributed by the Homeless Coalition. The Performance Evaluation and Ranking Committee (PERC), a subcommittee of the CoC Governing Board, reviews all applications that are submitted, regardless of their current funding status. Saving Souls, Inc., a local nonprofit, applied for CoC funds for the first time in 2023.

2. Instructions related to the request for applications were included in the application package which was posted on the Lead Agency's public website and distributed via email. Renewal applications were solicited by the lead agency by email, and all applications are received directly via email to the grants analyst at the Lead Agency.

3. The PERC reviews all new and renewal projects in accordance with the most recent CoC Ranking and Reallocation policies, and the current year ranking tool. All project applications that are submitted prior to the local deadline are reviewed by the PERC, so long as they are submitted by an eligible non-profit applicant. Eligible applicants must be a 501c3, have provided services for a minimum of 12 months prior to application, and must not be on the SAM.org list of debarred agencies. The ranking tool, ranking policies and procedures, and scoring rubric is included in the request for application documents and sent via direct email to all renewal applicants.

4. Meeting announcements, agendas and minutes posted online comply with ADA standards to enhance and encourage persons with disabilities to participate. Meetings are virtual via a "Zoom" or Teams meeting platforms, with links to join posted publicly on the Homeless Coalition website, and provide real time transcription and "chat boxes" to encourage dialog. All documents published are OCR to allow for persons with disabilities to use screen readers and other aids. All published documents contain language offering translation or alternative formats.

## 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:

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  - 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)	Yes
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)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	



18.		
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1C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	

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

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Lee County Human and Veteran Services is the lead agency for the CoC and the entitlement grantee for ESG, ESG RUSH, and ESG-CV funds. HVS sought input from the CoC Governing Board, the General Membership, community stakeholders, and the public when planning for and allocating all ESG-related funds. Consultations take place during regular meetings and public hearings, as well as via direct emails.

2. The Performance Evaluation and Ranking Committee (PERC), a subcommittee of the CoC Governing Board, reviewed all funding applications for ESG-CV and ESG-RUSH funds and made recommendations to the CoC Governing Board for project selection. The Governing Board also votes on allocation of regular annual ESG allocations. The selected uses for all ESG funds were presented to the Board of County Commissioners during a public meeting.

3. PIT and HIC data are provided to the staff responsible for completed the Con Plan as soon as it is made available.

4. The CoC Governing Board is consulted prior to the submission of all Annual Action and Consolidated Plans. Staff that manage the CoC lead agency responsibilities regularly consult with staff that are responsible for managing the responsibilities of the Consolidate Planning process. Because HVS serves as the lead agency for both processes, consultation is constantly occurring.

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:
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1.	Conducted mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated.	No
2.	Conducted optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated.	No
3.	Worked with 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 CoC has formal partnerships with the Early Learning Coalition and Lee County School District. Contracts for funding exist between Lee County Human and Veteran Services and the local Early Learning Coalition (ELC). The County provides funding to support the operations of the Coalition to provide pre-K, VPK, and infant-to-3 childcare for families who are low income or experiencing homelessness. All CoC funded RRH providers have executed partnership referral agreements with ELC through the Homeless Coalition. These agreements facilitate the streamlined and free childcare placements for families that are experiencing homelessness and enrolled in RRH programs. Street outreach teams also utilize this process for persons who may not yet be referred to housing programs, but who are still in need of childcare. The CoC regularly engages the Lee County School District to assess needs, and ensure that all CoC resources are made available to students who are homeless. The CoC recently connected the school district's homeless liaison staff to HMIS. Those staff are now completing housing needs assessments with students and their families who are experiencing category 1 or 4 homelessness. The CoC also partnered with the school district to provide onsite tutoring, on demand transportation, and other services to families who were enrolled in the CoC's joint component family transition collaborative project, which was funded with County General funds. The MOU between the CoC and the School District ensures that the School Board will participate in CoC meetings, planning, PIT counts, HMIS, and Coordinated Entry. School district staff have worked under this framework to collaborate with the CoC on sharing resources for students experiencing homelessness, and ensuring that CoC resources are made available to all students and their families who qualify.

1C-4b.	Informing Individuals and Families 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 become homeless of their eligibility for educational services.
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(limit 2,500 characters)

All Lee County CoC service providers must have written policies in place which ensure that individuals and families who become homeless are informed of their eligibility for and receive access to educational services. These policies should detail how homeless families with children will be informed of and referred to the Lee County School Districts homeless students program, A.C.C.E.S.S. Such policies should also include information for all homeless individuals and families regarding local technical schools and universities, which may offer programs and assistance for persons who are homeless. Additionally, programs that specifically serve families with children must have a staff person designated as the education liaison that will ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to the A.C.C.E.S.S. program, as well as Healthy Start and Head Start, if applicable. The CoC regularly engages the Lee County School District to assess needs, and ensure that all CoC resources are made available to students who are homeless. The CoC has a written policy and agreement with the school district to provide onsite tutoring, on demand transportation, and other services to families who were enrolled in the CoC's joint component Family Transition Collaborative projects, which were funded with County General funds.

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	No	No
3.	Early Childhood Providers	No	Yes
4.	Early Head Start	No	No
5.	Federal Home Visiting Program–(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV)	No	No
6.	Head Start	No	No
7.	Healthy Start	No	Yes
8.	Public Pre-K	Yes	No
9.	Tribal Home Visiting Program	No	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)		
10.	School Board of Lee County	Yes	Yes

1C-5.	Addressing Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors–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	No
2.	state sexual assault coalitions	No
3.	other organizations that help this population	Yes

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

Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations indicated 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)

1. Representatives from the local Victim Service Provider, (ACT), The CoC Collaborative Applicant/ESG Recipient (HVS) and the recipient of ESG and CoC-DV Funds (CCDOV) have been meeting monthly to update CoC-wide policies related to the needs of survivors, and the resources being leveraged to serve them. The groups listed above have planned an access policy that focuses on safety, but ensures survivors have access to resources dedicated for that population, as well as other CoC funds for which they are eligible. ACT, HVS, and CCDOV are all represented on the CoC Governing Board, which updated CoC policy on these resources within the last year.

2. Trauma informed care is emphasized as a best practice throughout the CoC, and this year the CoC hosted a full day training on Trauma informed care and Trauma informed organizations, which was well attended throughout the community. Lee County operates a 24/7 Coordinated Entry Call line, and call takers were able to attend Trauma Informed Care training organized by the lead agency. The CoC also meets biweekly to facilitate connections to housing services, including both those programs specifically designated to survivors of domestic violence and those programs for which survivors are eligible but not specifically designated.

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

Describe in the field below how your CoC coordinates to provide training for:

1.	project staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma-informed, victim-centered) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually); and
2.	Coordinated Entry staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma informed care) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually).

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. CoC Project staff is trained on best practices and safety protocols directly related to serving survivors of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking. The CoC hosts annual CoC wide-training on Trauma informed care, which in 2023 was a full-day training hosted by the Florida Housing Coalition. All staff using HMIS must receive at least annual training, which includes planning protocols for data associated with survivors of domestic violence. Current programming at Catholic Charities provides trauma informed and client centered approaches to provide tailored services to survivors of human trafficking, as well as survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. CoC staff is also provided access to motivational interviewing and mental health first aid training.

2. Coordinated entry staff attends the training on serving survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, including the full day Trauma informed care training described in (1), and must receive at least annual HMIS training, which includes planning protocols for data belonging to survivors of domestic violence. CoC staff is also provided access to motivational interviewing and mental health first aid training.

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

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Lee County CoC's Coordinated Entry System prioritizes the safety and confidentiality of individuals fleeing domestic violence by allowing individuals to confidentially access the system by phone, 24/7. Referrals made as a result of each client's contact with CE are made using each client's system ID only without contact information, or any identifying information. (Eg. CardID 734-DV). Unencrypted communications which include the client's name, phone number, or any other identifying information are prohibited. Per VAWA and local policies, ACT, the local domestic violence shelter/VSP, does not enter data into HMIS, and clients seeking access to those programs are instructed to contact them directly. The CoC plan to serve individuals fleeing domestic violence includes a strategy to limit exposure of client data to only the staff that needs to access it. While Lee County has greatly increased the number of outreach partners who can accept referrals from CE, only a limited number of those receive DV referrals from the coordinated entry system. Those outreach partners specialize in the needs of victims of domestic violence and are able to make safe, appropriate referrals.

2. All data is collected in accordance with Lee County CoC's Privacy Policy, which must be clearly posted in all caseworkers offices throughout the CoC. The policy outlines how and when client's data will be shared, if at all, and guarantees that clients will be able to access, correct, or file a complaint regarding their data. The CoC's Written Standards and Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures includes the emergency transfer and other provisions as required by VAWA. Lee County and other local CoC, HOME or ESG funded housing providers allow tenants who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the tenant's current unit to another unit. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The ability of Lee County and other applicable housing providers to honor such request for tenants currently receiving assistance, however, may depend upon a preliminary determination that the tenant is or has been a victim of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, and on whether Lee County or other applicable housing providers has another dwelling unit that is available and is safe to offer the tenant for temporary or more

1C-5d.	Used De-identified Aggregate Data to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	the de-identified aggregate data source(s) your CoC used for data on survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and	
2.	how your CoC uses the de-identified aggregate data described in element 1 of this question to evaluate how to best meet the specialized needs related to domestic violence and homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Data to assess the needs of DV survivors is sourced from Lee County's HMIS and from the local VSP, Abuse Counseling and Treatment (ACT), which maintains data in a comparable database.

2. De-identified, aggregate data from both data sources is shared regularly to evaluate the magnitude of need in the community. Individuals and families are asked if they are fleeing or are survivors of domestic violence when they enter the Coordinated Entry System and aggregate data is regularly reviewed by the Data Committee of the CoC. The number of survivors the CoC is currently serving is the number of unduplicated individuals who either indicated on their housing needs assessment that they were the survivors of domestic violence or who are active in another CoC program and indicated that they are survivors of domestic violence. De-identified aggregate data from ACT is also regularly received and reviewed by the CoC to evaluate need.

**&nbsp;**

1C-5e.	Implemented Emergency Transfer Plan Policies and Procedures for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC communicates to all individuals and families seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance:	
1.	whether your CoC has policies and procedures that include an emergency transfer plan;	
2.	the process for individuals and families to request an emergency transfer; and	
3.	the process your CoC uses to respond to individuals' and families' emergency transfer requests.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**



1. The CoC's written standards outline VAWA requirements for all service providers. The polices require that each covered housing provider produce a detailed emergency transfer plan, which ensures that a tenant receiving rental assistance through or residing in a unit subsidized under a covered housing program who is a survivor of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking qualifies for an emergency transfer within the criteria stated in 24 CFR 5.2005 (e)(2). Lee County's Emergency Transfer plan, encompasses all CoC, Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and HOME funded programs. All covered housing providers must maintain records on emergency transfers requested under 24 CFR 5.2005(e). Data must include the outcomes of each request, and must be provided to Lee County upon request.

2. The CoC's written standards require that covered housing providers produce their emergency transfer plan, and that it must at minimum detail how program participants can confidentially contact their case manager and request an emergency transfer. Per those standards, the plan must guarantee that individuals and families may request an emergency transfer either from the Program Staff, or from the Lead agency. A request form is provided to all program participants, but a request may be made without completing that specific form.

3. Lee County or other applicable housing providers will act as quickly as possible to move a tenant who is a survivor of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to another unit, subject to availability and safety of a unit. If a tenant reasonably believes a proposed transfer would not be safe, the tenant may request a transfer to a different unit. If Lee County or other applicable housing providers have no safe and available units for which a tenant who needs an emergency transfer is eligible, Lee County or other applicable housing providers will assist the tenant in identifying other housing providers who may have safe and available units to which the tenant could move. At the tenant's request, Lee County or other applicable housing providers will also assist tenants in contacting the local organizations offering assistance to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

1C-5f.	Access to Housing 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:	
1.	ensures that survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have safe access to all of the housing and services available within the CoC's geographic area; and
2.	proactively identifies systemic barriers within your homeless response system that create barriers to safely house and provide services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC collaborates closely with VSPs to ensure that CoC services are well advertised and known to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Individuals and families fleeing domestic violence are advised that they may reach out to the Coordinated Entry System to be prioritized for housing services, and call takers regularly make appropriate referrals to supportive services in the geographic area. The local VSP and other providers who serve survivors participate in the CoC General membership and CoC Governing Board, which sets policies ensuring that survivors have access to all housing and services available within the CoC's geographic. The annual focus group on Coordinated Entry specifically prioritized the needs of survivors in its recommendations to the Governing Board, and the recommendation that survivors be actively prioritized for all CoC housing resources was adopted by the Governing Board.

2. A working group comprised of staff from the Lead Agency, the local VSP, and the subrecipient for DV-RRH funding meets monthly to coordinate on DV-RRH funding specifically, and survivor planning generally. Staff at the subrecipient agency may facilitate referrals to all CoC housing resources, in addition to designated DV-RRH beds. The CoC has committed to an annual focus group to address systemic barriers in the Coordinated Entry process, including the needs of survivors.

1C-5g.	Ensuring Survivors With a Range of Lived Expertise Participate in Developing CoC-Wide Policy and Programs.	
NOFO Section V.B.1.e.		
Describe in the field below how your CoC:		
1.	ensured survivors with a range of lived expertise are involved in the development of your CoC-wide policy and programs; and	
2.	accounted for the unique and complex needs of survivors.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC actively seeks input from survivors in developing CoC-wide policies. Points were awarded in the local process for agencies who actively engage persons with lived experience of homelessness, including survivors, including board membership, engagement in program design, and paid staff positions. Staff at these partner agencies have integrated the experience and expertise of survivors in program planning, including the development of a referral process that is secure and accessible. While the DV-RRH program awarded in the previous year's competition has not yet received the actual funding, staff will provide surveys to program participants to gather feedback from survivors, which will be incorporated into the CoC's overall policies.

2. The needs of survivors are addressed collaboratively at the CoC and program level. The working group addressing the needs of survivors and planning for the implementation of DV-RRH funds has developed a safe and accessible plan to ensure access to survivor-specific resources, as well as all other housing resources in the CoC. The local VSP (which cannot access HMIS) may make direct referrals to staff at the DV-RRH subrecipient, who may, in those cases, facilitate data entry in HMIS only to the extent required and with the written consent of the client. Staff at the DV-RRH recipient is diverse, provides services in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole, has lived experience of homelessness, and has a detailed plan to provide safe communication and referrals for clients who are survivors of domestic violence.

1C-6.	Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+--Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training.	
	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 Lee County CoC operates all programs and the Coordinated Entry system in accordance with all federal statutes, and all CoC programs are required to abide by the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policies in the CoC Written Standards. The founder of Visuality Inc., an advocacy group for the LGBTQ+ community, serves on the CoC governing board, which approved the updates to the written standards in 2023.

2. Lee County CoC requires service providers to practice a person-centered model that incorporates participant choice and inclusion of all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in Lee County, including veterans, youth, and families with children, individual adults, seniors, survivors of domestic violence, and LGBTQ+ individuals and families. All CoC and ESG funded service providers must ensure that all persons have fair and equal access to the Coordinated Entry process and all forms of assistance regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sex, familial status, religious preference, disability type, or amount of disability, gender identity, perceived gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, or perceived sexual orientation. Additionally, service providers must maintain compliance with the HEARTH Act's involuntary family separation provision, which ensures that emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH) providers within the CoC do not deny admission to or separate any family members from other members of their family based on age, sex, marital status, gender, gender identity, perceived gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability, when entering shelter or housing. Lead agency staff conducts annual monitoring of all CoC and ESG funded programs and provides support as needed.

3. Adoption of the CoC's anti-discrimination policies are mandatory for all funded agencies, and the implementation of anti-discrimination policies is evaluated during monitoring visits.

4. If the CoC is notified or otherwise becomes aware of non-compliance with these policies by a partner agency, the agency is contacted and given the opportunity to correct the non-compliance. Failure to correct any noncompliance is reflected in the agency's monitoring report, and negatively affects future funding applications, including renewal 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 and Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2022 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?
The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers	18%	Yes-Both	No
Lee County Housing Authority	68%	Yes-Both	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)

Both the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers (HACFM) and Lee County Housing Authority (LCHA) have a public housing and HCV preference for persons who are homeless. In addition, the CoC signed an MOU with HACFM for the administration of mainstream vouchers, as well as for Emergency Housing Vouchers. The CoC and Coordinated Entry Systems are being used to provide referrals and documentation for both mainstream and EHV's. Since the implementation of EHV's, HACFM has been participating in case conferencing meetings and is beginning to increase their engagement with the CoC and Coordinated Entry System. Two CoC funded providers also work directly with the housing authorities for the administration of VASH vouchers. The PHAs regularly accept referrals from RRH providers, who use HCV and Mainstream vouchers as a primary move-on strategy for clients with severe service needs who are in need of long term rental subsidies. The CoC continues to work with the PHAs to encourage participation in CE and HMIS.

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	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)	
5.		

<b>1C-7c.</b>	<b>Include Units from PHA Administered Programs in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry.</b>	
	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)	No
3.	Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)	No
4.	HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	Yes
5.	Mainstream Vouchers	No
6.	Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers	No
7.	Public Housing	Yes
8.	Other Units from PHAs:	

<b>1C-7d.</b>	<b>Submitting CoC and PHA Joint Applications for Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness.</b>	
	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)?	Yes
		<b>Program Funding Source</b>
2.	Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement.	Mainstream Vouchers and EHV

<b>1C-7e.</b>	<b>Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV).</b>	
	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
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<b>1C-7e.1.</b>	<b>List of PHAs with Active MOUs to Administer the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program.</b>	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Does your CoC have an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any PHA to administer the EHV Program?	Yes
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	If you select yes to question 1C-7e.1., you must use the list feature below to enter the name of every PHA your CoC has an active MOU with to administer the Emergency Housing Voucher Program.	
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<b>PHA</b>
The Housing Autho...

## 1C-7e.1. List of PHAs with MOUs

**Name of PHA:** The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers



## 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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1D-1.	Discharge Planning Coordination.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.h.	

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

1. Foster Care	Yes
2. Health Care	Yes
3. Mental Health Care	Yes
4. Correctional Facilities	Yes

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 2023 CoC Program Competition.	10
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 2023 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.	10
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 2023 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; and
3.	how your CoC regularly evaluates projects outside of your local CoC competition to ensure the projects are using a Housing First approach.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The Continuum of Care (CoC) consistently assesses the implementation of the Housing First approach by all funded service providers. The Coordinated Entry coordinator conducts follow-up procedures for every referral made to these providers. In cases where referrals are declined, the follow-up process involves a comprehensive review of the case and an assessment of whether the Housing First principles were adhered to. If it is determined that a funded provider rejected a referral for reasons unrelated to Housing First practices, the referral cannot be reassigned, and the provider is obligated to accept it. In 2023, the Governing Board also approved an RRH discharge policy that requires providers to notify CoC staff in the advance of discharging clients who have not achieved long term housing stability to ensure that the discharge does not violate the CoC's Housing First rules.

2. The CoC assesses the severity of need associated with referrals accepted by funded providers. The assessment seeks to ensure that providers are accepting clients with the most pressing service needs, including individuals with eviction records, legal challenges, no source of income, or other potential obstacles to securing housing. During the annual funding competition, severity of need plays a crucial role in determining the overall score and ranking of renewal projects.

3. The Performance Evaluation and Ranking Committee convenes quarterly, in coordination with the Data Committee, to evaluate the performance of each funded project, with a particular focus on their adherence to Housing First practices. When either the committee or Coordinated Entry staff identify that an agency's practices deviate from Housing First principles, the CoC manager and Deputy Director of the lead agency arrange a one-on-one discussion with the leadership of the underperforming agency. This meeting serves to inform them of the current situation and serves as a reminder of the Housing First requirements established within the CoC. This practice has been highly effective in ensuring that providers accept all referrals and prioritize the Housing First approach.

1D-3.	Street Outreach—Scope.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.j.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	your CoC's street outreach efforts, including the methods it uses to ensure all persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness are identified and engaged;
2.	whether your CoC's Street Outreach covers 100 percent of the CoC's geographic area;
3.	how often your CoC conducts street outreach; and
4.	how your CoC tailored its street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC has continued to increase street outreach efforts since 2020 by expanding staff through funding under the American Rescue Plan Act and local funding. The CoC has continued to operate Housing Outreach & Treatment (HOT) teams in partnership with the Lead Agency, Centerstone (behavioral health), and local law enforcement agencies. The CoC lead agency now has seven full time street outreach staff, one emergency medical services coordinator that engages with high utilizers of emergency services, and one mobility coordinator that provides connections to transportation opportunities and addresses the needs of persons with disabilities.

2. Although the vast majority of outreach activities are performed by dedicated outreach professionals specializing in serving people experiencing homelessness, partnerships with local law enforcement has made it possible to access 100% of the geographic area if necessary, including gated communities or areas that are geographically difficult to access. Outreach staff are assigned geographic areas, and have recently collaborated with Lee County Code Enforcement to accept referrals from and conduct outreach with their field staff who may encounter individuals experiencing homelessness on their inspection routes.

3. Street outreach & HOT teams conduct street outreach at least 5 days per week & are available approximately 10 hours per day. HOT team & street outreach staff also conduct targeted outreach events when encampments are identified, and weekend events as needed in the event of severe weather. These events are triggered at the request of the public, local businesses, outreach staff, public officials, and community stakeholders who identify a potential encampment. When such space is identified, the stakeholder contacts the lead agency, who then organizes a team for an event aimed at connecting individuals in encampments with shelter, housing, & resources.

4. Targeted encampment outreach events & the lead agency's dedicated staff aim to engage those who are least likely to request assistance. The EMS coordinator engages persons who are frequent users of EMS services & connects them to housing & primary medical care. The mobility coordinator engages persons who frequent public transit stations & connects them to housing & resources. Connections to translation services for persons with limited English proficiency, as well as services accommodating visually impaired persons are available as needed

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

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate strategies your CoC implemented to ensure homelessness is not criminalized and to reverse existing criminalization policies in your CoC's geographic area:

	Your CoC's Strategies	Ensure Homelessness is not Criminalized	Reverse Existing Criminalization Policies
1.	Engaged/educated local policymakers	Yes	No
2.	Engaged/educated law enforcement	Yes	No
3.	Engaged/educated local business leaders	Yes	No
4.	Implemented community wide plans	Yes	No
5.	Other:(limit 500 characters)		

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	2022	2023
	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	540	360

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)	

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. systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, SSDI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;

2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services; and
3.	works with projects to promote SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The Co-Lead agency of the CoC annually updates, prints, and widely distributes a pocket community resource guide that provides up to date information on how project staff and persons experiencing homelessness can access mainstream resources. The CoC’s resource committee contacts new and existing organizations listed in the guide to ensure that the information in the guide is up to date, accurate, and complete. Thousands of pocket guides are distributed for free throughout the county and published on the Homeless Coalition website. Updates related to mainstream resources are also shared during weekly case conferencing meetings with project staff. The CoC general membership meeting also includes spotlight agency presentations each month where all CoC agency and direct service staff receive updates regarding new supportive services and programs available within the CoC.

2. The CoC collaborates directly with the local hospital to discuss particular high need cases as well as explore options for improving referrals and collaboration between the systems. Staff from local substance abuse and mental health treatment providers are integrated into every aspect of the continuum. Centerstone, a local behavioral health provider, partners closely with street outreach and is a contracted partner for Housing Outreach and Treatment (street outreach) teams in the CoC. The Center for Progress and Excellence, another local behavioral health provider, manages the local individual emergency shelter, as well as staff’s the Coordinated Entry line after hours in coordination with their Mobile Crisis Line. Salus Care, the CoC’s largest behavioral health provider, coordinates directly with the CoC for CSU discharges, outpatient service referrals and provides Medication Assisted Therapy, CSU, outpatient, in patient, sober living, 28-day transitional living, and support groups.

3. The CoC collaborates closely with the PATH funded outreach staff who connect individuals to SOAR benefits. All RRH staff at the lead agency are SOAR certified, as well as many direct services staff at partner agencies. Two CoC partners have dedicated SOAR programs, which can serve clients directly or through a referral from another partner agency.

1D-7.	Increasing Capacity for Non-Congregate Sheltering.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC is increasing its capacity to provide non-congregate sheltering.
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**(limit 2,500 characters)**

Since 2021, the Lee County Board of County Commissioners has provided over \$3MM dollars to fund Non-congregate sheltering for persons experiencing homelessness. One non-congregate sheltering program Family Transition Collaborative (FTC), served 83 households comprised of 240 individuals in 2022. The project is a partnership with a local hotel, Centerstone, a local behavioral health provider, Catholic Charities, to provide RRH, Healthy Start, the Lee County School District, and Lee County Human and Veteran Services. The program provides behavioral health services, case management, job search assistance, job fairs, tutoring, educational assistance, and a variety of other community resources on site at a local hotel where all of the families stay while they in the non-congregate sheltering portion of the program. Catholic Charities and Centerstone conduct joint intakes with the clients to ensure that their housing plan begins the moment they enter the hotel. Catholic Charities provides housing service and placement assistance, rental assistance, supportive services and case management for up to 12 months after the household exits the hotel to rapid re-housing.

The lead agency is actively collaborating with FEMA and the Florida Department of Emergency Management, both of which provide non-congregate sheltering to hundreds of individuals and families in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian, to facilitate exits from NCS and prevent exits to homelessness. Lead agency staff and disaster case management staff meet weekly to ensure that NCS leads to positive outcomes and prevents homelessness.

ID-8.	Partnerships with Public Health Agencies–Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent Spread of Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to:	
1.	develop CoC-wide policies and procedures to respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and	
2.	prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, an unwavering commitment to monitoring has persisted. While the immediate crisis has abated, the robust monitoring system established during the pandemic remains in effect. Collaborative efforts with key stakeholders, including Lee Health, the local hospital system, and the Lee County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), have sustained a comprehensive protocol for the management infectious disease outbreaks. In response to the evolving landscape, strategies have adapted accordingly. Continued close collaboration with Lee Health and the local Department of Health (DOH) ensures that monitoring efforts extend beyond the pandemic era. This entails regular health assessments and a proactive stance in identifying emerging health concerns among program participants.

2. The CoC has established a highly effective collaboration with state and local public health agencies to proactively prevent infectious disease outbreaks among individuals experiencing homelessness. In response to recent outbreaks of Malaria and Zika in our region, Outreach staff initiated the distribution of insect repellent as a preventive measure. This proactive approach aims to reduce the risk of vector-borne diseases among the homeless population and is a result of close coordination and information sharing between our CoC and public health agencies.

<b>ID-8a.</b>	<b>Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
	1.	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. During the pandemic, the lead agency conducted a thorough Covid-19 assessment to identify high-risk individuals. Although Covid-19 is now less of a concern, the CoC continues to monitor public health issues. The CoC continues to collaborate closely with the local hospital in a working group, enhancing healthcare provision and promoting information sharing on infectious disease outbreaks among program participants. To address recent Zika and Malaria outbreaks, the CoC has included the distribution of insect repellent as a public health measure, reinforcing the commitment to sharing crucial information. Additionally, a strong partnership with the Department of Health (DOH) remains to ensure the latest infectious disease updates and guidelines reach the network of homeless service providers and program participants.

2. Beyond the pandemic, the CoC sustains a valuable partnership with the DOH, facilitating communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers. This collaboration ensures that street outreach providers and shelter and housing providers can effectively prevent and manage infectious disease outbreaks among program participants. The semi-annual homeless service days offer essential vaccinations for Flu, Covid, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, and other preventable diseases. These efforts are supported by our trusted partner, the local federally qualified health center, Family Health Centers. In response to heightened Zika and malaria risks, the CoC introduced insect repellent distribution, enhancing the collective efforts to protect program participants. The commitment to communication remains strong. The CoC actively collaborate with homeless shelters, providing education, vaccinations, and connections to primary care services.

1D-9.	Centralized or Coordinated Entry System–Assessment Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:	
1.	covers 100 percent of your CoC's geographic area;	
2.	uses a standardized assessment process; and	
3.	is updated regularly using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry.	

(limit 2,500 characters)



1. The CoC utilizes a 24/7 telephone intake line in addition to satellite access points throughout the County that ensures 100% geographic coverage. The Coordinated Entry System (CE) is advertised community-wide as the only way to access CoC funded housing services. Durable rack cards with contact information for CE, the mobile crisis unit, and the day center are printed in English and Spanish and distributed widely by all service providers and outreach staff to ensure that clients know how to access the system.

2. Households accessing the Coordinated Entry system who choose to access housing services complete a standardized Housing Needs Assessment and Vulnerability Assessment. In 2023, the CoC Governing Board voted unanimously to begin a process to move away from the VI-SPDAT in favor of a locally developed tool that will prioritize individuals and families who are most in need of assistance. The new vulnerability assessment will be voted on by the Governing Board in early 2024, and will be constantly monitored for equity and efficacy.

3. The CoC has committed to conducting an annual focus group on the Coordinated Entry assessment and referral process. The meeting is open to the public and attendance by participating projects and program participants is encouraged. The first annual meeting occurred in 2023, and an anonymous survey of participants showed that 37.9% had lived experience of homelessness. The CoC Governing Board and project staff are informed by participant satisfaction surveys, and participant feedback is constantly incorporated into process design.

1D-9a.	Program Participant-Centered Approach to Centralized or Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

	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 preferences; and
4.	takes steps to reduce burdens on people using coordinated entry.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC engages and offers to assist those who have historically been least likely to apply for services. Since 2019, Lee County has operated a CE phone line which allowed individuals located far from physical access points to apply. The geographic coverage is supplemented with language support and translation services. Clients who reach out to CE who need translation services can access the system 24/7 by phone, where translation services are available as needed. Rack cards advertising CE are widely distributed in Spanish for persons with limited English proficiency.

2. The CoC uses a dynamic vulnerability assessment that prioritizes clients according to standards developed with the input of a diverse group of community partners. In 2023, The CoC Governing Board voted to begin the development/implementation of a new vulnerability assessment. The prioritization process currently utilizes elements of the VISPDAT as part of a holistic process that considers chronicity, tri-morbidity, abuse, trauma, and other factors identified by the community. The first annual focus group on the coordinated Entry process made recommendations to the Board, which were adopted, to refocus prioritization to better serve survivors of domestic violence, among other vulnerable populations.

3. Vacancies in housing programs are immediately reported to CE staff, and matching clients are referred to housing programs within one week of each vacancy. A warm handoff between outreach staff and housing case management ensures a smooth transition for the client into housing. Additionally, clients can and regularly do request to work with specific agencies and program types, and weekly case conferencing meetings review referrals to ensure timeliness and client choice remain central to the process.

4. The CoC has sought to reduce burdens on people using CE through progressive engagement, digital collaboration, and coordinated follow through. Clients reaching out to CE are only asked to provide the information needed to serve the person's immediate needs at that time, however, the digital framework started in 2019 allows information collected on a client's behalf to remain accessible to CE Partners in HMIS (with consent, renewed annually and revocable upon request). Client data collected on behalf of those experiencing persistent homelessness remains available indefinitely (contingent on annual consent), reducing re-traumatization.

1D-9b.	Informing Program Participant about Rights and Remedies through Centralized or Coordinated Entry—Reporting Violations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC through its centralized or 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 operates a 24/7 Coordinated Entry phone line that can provide information and referrals to housing and services in the CoC. The program is monitored for compliance with the CoC’s written anti-discrimination policies and procedures to ensure that services are made available regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, familial status, or disability. Coordinated Entry is also made accessible by street outreach, as well as site-based community partners, all of whom must comply with the CoC’s written policies. Rack cards advertising CE are widely distributed in Spanish for persons with limited English proficiency.

2. All program participants are informed of their rights and remedies as required by the CoC’s written standards. The Lead agency website provides all relevant policies and procedures, including details of the rights and remedies available to participants. The CoC requires that participants in partner agency programs be provided access to all written policies and procedures at program entry.

3. The CoC Lead Agency is also responsible for the Consolidated plan, as well as any reporting any conditions or action that impede fair housing. Compliance with the fair housing act is mandatory for all participating projects, and Lead Agency staff conducts annual monitoring of all funded programs to ensure compliance.

1D-10.	Advancing Racial Equity in Homelessness—Conducting Assessment.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

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.	09/11/2023

1D-10a.	Process for Analyzing Racial Disparities—Identified Racial Disparities in Provision or Outcomes of Homeless Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	your CoC’s process for analyzing whether any racial disparities are present in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and
2.	what racial disparities your CoC identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Lee County's strategic plan commits to regularly gathering and evaluating data to understand racial and ethnic trends in homelessness within the Continuum. The lead agency of the CoC produces an annual racial disparities report which analyzes several indicators, including whether and to what extent different groups experience homelessness at disproportionate rates, whether different groups disproportionately receive assistance from the CoC, and whether different groups have better or worse outcomes correlating to race.

2. The 2023 Racial Disparities Report found that Black/AA individuals were slightly overrepresented in the provision of services relative to the total population of Black/AA individuals who had contacted Coordinated Entry. The report also found that Black/AA individuals had notably higher exits to permanent destinations than White individuals. The report also identified lower engagement and provision of services to Hispanic/Latino(a)(x) individuals than the PIT population.

1D-10b.	Implemented Strategies that Address Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the strategies your CoC is using to address any racial disparities.

1.	The CoC's board and decisionmaking bodies are representative of the population served in the CoC.	Yes
2.	The CoC has identified steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC.	Yes
3.	The CoC is expanding outreach in geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups.	Yes
4.	The CoC has communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups.	Yes
5.	The CoC is training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness.	Yes
6.	The CoC is establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector.	Yes
7.	The CoC has staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness.	Yes
8.	The CoC is 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.	The CoC reviewed coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes
10.	The CoC is collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system.	Yes
11.	The CoC is conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes
	Other:(limit 500 characters)	
12.	The CoC has devoted funding to allow staff to attend conferences hosted by NAEH, NCHSDC, and others where racial equity has been a major focus.	Yes

1D-10c.	Implemented Strategies that Address Known Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below the steps your CoC is taking to address the disparities identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

The annual racial disparities study conducted by the CoC demonstrated that minority populations were represented at a higher rate in the homeless population than those same groups in general census data. Statistically, the group most overrepresented in Lee County's population experiencing homelessness was Black/AA persons, who made up 8.1% of the census population, 39.3% of those contacting Coordinated Entry for Housing services, and 42.77% of persons enrolled in CoC rapid rehousing programs in 2022. Higher participation rates in those programs is the result of deliberate funding decisions made by the COC Governing Board. In years past, recognizing that CE data showed that families with children experiencing homelessness were disproportionately headed by Black/AA individuals, the Board prioritized a family RRH program to receive a significant portion of the CoC's funding. As that funding source is not being renewed, the Governing Board in 2023 accepted the recommendation of a diverse focus group of community partners that included participants from racial/ethnic groups overrepresented in the homeless population and many persons with lived experience of homelessness: to prioritize families with children for placement in housing programs and ensure the CoC prioritization process focuses on equity and serving the most vulnerable.

1D-10d.	Tracked Progress on Preventing or Eliminating Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below:

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 1. | the measures your CoC has in place to track progress on preventing or eliminating disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and |
| 2. | the tools your CoC uses.   |

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Lee County CoC compiles and reviews a racial equity report on an annual basis. The report investigates several indicators, including: a. What racial and ethnic groups are overrepresented in the homeless population compared to Census data, and to what extent. b. Whether any racial or ethnic groups are under-represented in CE, compared to PIT data c. Whether the assessment tools used to prioritize individuals and families for housing services show bias toward any group. d. Whether any racial or ethnic groups are under-represented in the provision of housing services. This year's report also examined disparities in outcomes including whether any statistically significant differences in System Performance Measures (e.g. returns to homelessness) correlate to race/ethnicity

2. CoC Lead Agency staff has locally developed an equity assessment and produces a detailed report on an annual basis. The report is informed by publicly available sources including census data, as well as aggregate data from the community's HMIS.

1D-11.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking–CoC’s Outreach Efforts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

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 decision making processes.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

Lee County CoC engages individuals with lived experiences of homelessness through targeted outreach and constant engagement. While the CoC regularly announced its intent to involve persons with lived experience of homelessness through public meetings, the CoC had far more success reaching out to individuals with lived experience who were involved in the provision of homeless services or engaged in advocacy and asking those individuals to participate in the process of leadership. The targeted outreach strategy has resulted in increases in representation for persons with lived experience on the Governing Board, the formation of a standing lived experience committee, and participation on CoC subcommittees among individuals with lived experience of homelessness. The local CoC Ranking process awards points to agencies who effectively involve persons with lived experience in board membership, employment, and program development. Additionally, the CoC ensures that those with lived experience of homelessness are consulted in the development of local policies. An anonymous survey of participants in the community’s first annual Coordinated Entry focus group showed that 37.9% of participants had lived experience of homelessness.

1D-11a.	Active CoC Participation of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

You must upload the Letter Signed by Working Group 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.	Included in the decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	7	2
2.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	7	1
3.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC’s local competition rating factors.	7	0
4.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC’s coordinated entry process.	1	0

1D-11b.	Professional Development and Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

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)**

Several CoC-funded agencies have employed staff with lived experience of homelessness, and agencies that can show a track record of doing so receive points on funding applications submitted to the CoC. Approved projects generally include funding for staff training and professional development, and the CoC encourages partner agencies to offer those opportunities to staff with lived experience.

1D-11c.	Routinely Gathering Feedback and Addressing Challenges of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC routinely gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;
2.	how your CoC routinely gathers feedback from people who have received assistance through the CoC or ESG Programs; and
3.	the steps your CoC has taken to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC routinely gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness through public engagement, satisfaction surveys, outreach, and through the CoC's 24/7 Coordinated Entry phone line, which provides the opportunity for constant feedback from people experiencing homelessness in addition to the provision of services. Lead agency staff is constantly improving the CE process based on the feedback of clients, and feedback from clients is presented to the CoC Governing Board on a regular basis.

2. Lee County CoC provides a client satisfaction survey to all clients who receive CoC and ESG funded housing services, and surveys are reviewed by the CoC Governing Board. The CoC has also established a working group of individuals with lived experiences of homelessness to provide feedback on system processes.

3. Input from the Lived Experience working group and from other individuals who received remains crucial to CoC planning efforts. Client experience mirrored aggregate data collected from the coordinated entry system, which showed rapidly increasing engagement resulting in challenges related to the availability of outreach staff. In response to the challenges raised, the CoC has continued to increase the number of outreach workers on staff, including outreach staff with lived experience of homelessness to improve service delivery. The CoC Governing Board also adopted the recommendations of a diverse community focus group comprised largely of individuals with lived experience of homelessness to address the needs of families and survivors of domestic violence experiencing homelessness.

1D-12.	Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.t.	
	Describe in the field below at least 2 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)**

1-2 Staff from the Lead Agency of the CoC meets biweekly with the Department of Community Development to discuss challenges related to housing, including affordable housing development. These meetings focus on the need for affordable housing as an urgent community need, and regulatory barriers are constantly examined and addressed.

Staff from the Lead agency also participates as a member of the newly formed Guiding Team of the Southwest Florida Stable and Attainable Housing Coalition, which takes a regional approach in advocating for the reform of zoning and land use policies, as well as the reduction regulatory barriers to housing development and the improvement of access to funding for affordable housing development.



## 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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1E-1.	<b>Web Posting of Your CoC’s Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice.</b> NOFO Section V.B.2.a. and 2.g. You must upload the Web Posting of Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	
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1.	Enter your CoC’s local competition submission deadline date for New Project applicants to submit their project applications to your CoC—meaning the date your CoC published the deadline.	08/25/2023
2.	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for Renewal Project applicants to submit their project applications to your CoC’s local competition—meaning the date your CoC published the deadline.	08/25/2023

1E-2.	<b>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.</b> 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:	
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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.	No
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.	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.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.	

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)?	100
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	8
3.	What renewal project type did most applicants use?	PH-PSH

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

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.	considerations your CoC gave to projects that provide housing and services to the hardest to serve populations that could result in lower performance levels but are projects your CoC needs in its geographic area.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. All participating projects that successfully housed program participants were required to record information on all program participants in HMIS. Data quality was reviewed quarterly by the Data Committee of the CoC, and projects that failed to meet data quality thresholds were required to take corrective action. The Data Committee compiled and submitted aggregate participant data in the form of project report cards to the Performance Evaluation and Ranking Committee (PERC), which prioritized programs for renewal.

2. Participating projects were required to enter a project start date and a resident move in date for all individuals or heads of household in funded programs. The length of time between those two data points was averaged for all program participants in all programs and compared with all other CoC housing programs.

3. The PERC analyzed data from the community's By Name List to gauge the relative need for permanent supportive housing. By name list data shows a significant number of clients whose severity of need suggests that permanent supportive housing may be more appropriate intervention than rapid rehousing. Rapid rehousing programs reported longer than desired lengths of time between project start and move in, due largely to high rental costs and the inability to execute master leases. Based on those considerations, the PERC prioritized PSH projects for funding.

4. In addition to performance metrics, CoC renewal projects were graded on difficulty of cases assigned in consideration of service to those hardest to serve, as measured by average scores on the community's vulnerability assessment. Eight out of a possible 100 points could be awarded if the participants scores averaged above 10 points, with partial points available for lower averages. Programs would receive no points in this category if the average score for all clients was below 6, and were penalized if clients did not complete a vulnerability assessment in HMIS prior to program entry. In 2023, the CoC Governing Board voted unanimously to begin the process of creating or adopting a new assessment process. While severity of need will remain a priority for CoC housing programs, the methodology is expected to change in the next year.

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 the 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 to which their project has 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.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. The CoC Governing Board reviews, provides input, and votes to approves the funding criteria used by the Performance Evaluation and Ranking Committee. Census data shows that Black/AA persons are overrepresented in the homeless population in FL-603. Black/AA individuals make up 8.1% of the total population but 30% of the CoC Governing Board.
  
2. The Performance Evaluation and Ranking Committee (PERC) solicited input from the general public, the general membership of the Homeless Coalition, and the CoC Governing Board, which included individuals from groups over-represented in the homeless population and persons with lived experience, in the project approval process. 25% of the PERC members that evaluated new project applications identified as Black/AA,
  
3. New projects applications received up to 10/100 points toward selection by demonstrating that the proposed project identified barriers to participation faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homeless population, and demonstrated steps the project would take to eliminate the identified barriers.

<b>1E-4.</b>	<b>Reallocation–Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.</b>	
	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 Ranking and Reallocation Policies guide determinations regarding reallocation. Projects are reallocated based performance in categories including returns to homelessness, length of time to housing move-in, housing first, HMIS data quality, and Active CoC membership. Providers may choose to voluntarily have funds reallocated, or members of the Performance Evaluation and Ranking Committee (PERC) may, based on program performance, vote to involuntarily reallocate funds.
2. The PERC evaluated the Performance of all Projects that had completed one year of activities, and based on performance did not elect to involuntarily reallocate any funding.
3. The CoC did not reallocate any projects during the local competition this year.
4. The PERC determined that reallocation was not in the best interest of clients served in the CoC. Program performance of the reviewed projects were acceptable based on local standards and the Ranking Policies and Procedures, and the PERC recognized that the need for the selected project types was more severe than ever. The PERC recommended that the Coordinated Entry SSO project be renewed, which has provided 24/7 and 100% geographic access to housing throughout the community. The PERC also recognized that because the Governing Board, based on the recommendations of a diverse group of stakeholders including many with lived experience of homelessness, had recommended that rapid rehousing resources be focused on the needs of families and survivors of domestic violence, the need for PSH projects targeted to individuals with severe service needs requires significant Permanent supportive housing resources.

1E-4a.	Reallocation Between FY 2018 and FY 2023.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

	Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2018 and FY 2023?	Yes
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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?	Yes
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 06/26/2023, 06/27/2023, and 06/28/2023, then you must enter 06/28/2023.	09/01/2023

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 06/26/2023, 06/27/2023, and 06/28/2023, then you must enter 06/28/2023.	09/01/2023
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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 accepted or rejected status; 4. Project Rank–if accepted; 5. Requested Funding Amounts; and 6. Reallocated funds.	Yes
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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.	09/26/2023
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1E-5d.	Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders 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.	09/26/2023
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## 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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 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.	Bell Data Systems
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2A-2.	HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Select from dropdown menu your CoC’s HMIS coverage area.	Single CoC
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2A-3.	HIC Data Submission in HDX.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.a.	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2023 HIC data into HDX.	04/28/2023
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2A-4.	Comparable Database 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;	
2.	state whether DV housing and service providers in your CoC are using a HUD-compliant comparable database—compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards; and	

3. state whether your CoC's HMIS is compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Data to assess the needs of DV survivors is sourced from Lee County's HMIS and a comparable database. Per VAWA and local policies, ACT, the local domestic violence shelter, does not enter data into HMIS, but does maintain a comparable database. Clients seeking access to those programs are instructed to contact them directly. The ACT Abuse Shelter provides de-identified and deduplicated data for the purposes of the HIC and PIT count annually from their HMIS-comparable database.

2. ACT, the local domestic violence shelter, maintains a comparable database that is compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS data standards.

3. The CoC's HMIS is compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS data standards

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

Enter 2023 HIC and HMIS data in the chart below by project type:

Project Type	Total Year-Round Beds in 2023 HIC	Total Year-Round Beds in HIC Operated by Victim Service Providers	Total Year-Round Beds in HMIS	HMIS Year-Round Bed Coverage Rate
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	366	95	173	63.84%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	0	0	0	
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	0	0	0	
4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	360	0	360	100.00%
5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	310	0	68	21.94%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	65	0	0	0.00%

<b>2A-5a.</b>	<b>Partial Credit for Bed Coverage Rates at or Below 84.99 for Any Project Type in Question 2A-5.</b>	
	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)



The bed coverage rate for Permanent Supportive Housing was affected by to HUD VASH vouchers that are administered by the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers but not entered into HMIS. The CoC has actively been pursuing the engagement of the PHAs in the Coordinated Entry and HMIS systems. While the PHAs have so far declined this opportunity the CoC will continue to encourage participation. Lee County CoC has successfully collaborated with the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers on the distribution of Emergency Housing Vouchers to qualified candidates from the Coordinated Entry system.

None of emergency shelter beds dedicated for DV are participating in HMIS because those beds are provided by a victim services provider, that is prohibited from participating in HMIS. In addition, the local Rescue Mission reports beds for the HIC, but does not participate in HMIS due to limited staff capacity. The Lead Agency continues to work with local housing authorities and victim service providers to improve bed coverage rates in Housing Inventory Counts moving forward.

<b>2A-6.</b>	<b>Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX 2.0.</b>	
	<b>NOFO Section V.B.3.d.</b>	
	<b>You must upload your CoC's FY 2023 HDX Competition Report to the 4B. Attachments Screen.</b>	

<b>Did your CoC submit at least two usable LSA data files to HUD in HDX 2.0 by February 28, 2023, 8 p.m. EST?</b>	<b>Yes</b>
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## 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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>2B-1.</b>	<b>PIT Count Date.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2023 PIT count.	01/25/2023
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<b>2B-2.</b>	<b>PIT Count Data–HDX Submission Date.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2023 PIT count data in HDX.	04/28/2023
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<b>2B-3.</b>	<b>PIT Count–Effectively Counting Youth in Your CoC’s Most Recent Unsheltered PIT Count.</b>	
	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. Lee County has developed and maintains a strong working relationship with Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) School of Social Work, which provides peer-to-peer support during the annual PIT Count. FGCU advertises the event internally to drive volunteerism and engagement on campus. HMIS Staff works with Oasis, the local youth shelter, to plan for the incorporation of youth shelter data into the PIT.
2. FGCU students, especially volunteers from the School of Social Work are especially adept at engaging and involving homeless you in the PIT Count, and serve as front-line staff during the event. FGCU's campus police force also engages with individuals experiencing homelessness on or near campus, including homeless youth.
3. The PIT 2023 Count was conducted at several satellite sites, and incorporated data from the Oasis Youth Shelter, which serves young persons experiencing homelessness in Lee County.

<b>2B-4.</b>	<b>PIT Count–Methodology Change–CoC Merger Bonus Points.</b>	
	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 2022 and 2023, if applicable;	
	2. describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2022 and 2023, if applicable; and	
	3. describe how the changes affected your CoC's PIT count results; or	
	4. state "Not Applicable" if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2023.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Local shelters in the CoC returned to normal service levels following the pandemic. The Fort Myers Rescue Mission, which does not participate in Lee County's HMIS, served more individuals than usual during the 2023 PIT count. This year's count also included individuals from our Veteran EHA program.
  
2. In 2023, Lee County intensified its efforts to recruit a larger number of volunteers for the PIT count compared to previous years. This bolstered volunteer base enabled broader geographic coverage, enhancing our understanding of homelessness in the region. Additionally, for the first time, we were able to incorporate data from the local jail in our count.
  
3. The aforementioned changes resulted in a more precise representation of the CoC's PIT counts of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. It is also important to emphasize how the aftermath of Hurricane Ian significantly contributed to the rise in unsheltered homelessness in Lee County, with many families and individuals still residing in emergency shelters. Many families and individuals were still in emergency shelters or transitional housing, which may have contributed to the overall numbers of homeless individuals in the area. Concurrently, surging rent rates in the county have posed immense challenges for low-income individuals and families trying to secure housing. Enhanced methodology and intensified outreach have furnished a clearer and broader view of the homelessness crisis. Furthermore, the relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions has amplified the demand for resources, leading to the identification of more homeless individuals.

## 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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>2C-1.</b>	<b>Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless–Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.</b>	
	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. The CoC compiled data obtained during Coordinated Entry assessments completed between 1/1/2023 and 7/31/2023. Over this period there were a total of 961 assessment narratives completed by people contacting coordinated entry and reporting that they were homeless for the first time. From these, the CoC used formulas to calculate the top risk factors leading to homelessness. The CoC determined that the largest contributing factors to first time homelessness during that time were mental health issues (reported in 38.7% of first-time homeless cases), incarceration (41.2%), and domestic violence (15.2%).

2. Lee County emphasizes the need for diversion at all points of the homeless response system, but especially so in cases where individuals and families have become homeless for the first time. CE call takers and frontline staff were offered diversion training that focused on strengths and connecting individuals with lighter touch resources that can quickly resolve first time homelessness. Lee County Human and Veteran Services also operates a prevention program that prioritizes individuals who have become homeless for the first time, and those who have received eviction notices. While not funded directly by the CoC, CE staff are trained on the qualification criteria and can facilitate referrals to that program, preventing individuals from becoming homeless for the first time.

3. The CoC Governing Board is responsible for setting strategies for reduce the number of households that begin homeless for the first time, and addresses the goal of making homelessness rare in the Strategic Plan. The Program Manager of the Family Impact Unit within HVS is responsible for oversight of the prevention program.

<b>2C-1a.</b>	<b>Impact of Displaced Persons on Number of First Time Homeless.</b>	
	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 CoCs' geographic area?	No

<b>2C-2.</b>	<b>Length of Time Homeless—CoC's Strategy to Reduce.</b>	
	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. Lee County's strategic plan commits to a holistic approach to streamlining and expanding services to reduce the length of time individuals remain homeless. Initiatives include:  
 a) Expanding and retooling street outreach to quickly engage, assess and refer individuals experiencing homelessness, especially those less likely to engage with services independently  
 b) Collaborating with Law Enforcement to launch initiatives diverting chronically homeless individuals from the justice system to permanent housing  
 c) Identifying and removing barriers from housing and emergency shelter programs  
 d) Expanding CoC funded housing resources and access to affordable housing system-wide

2. Every individual entered into Lee County's Coordinated Entry system is assessed for the length of time they have been homeless, and chronically homeless individuals are given priority for housing resources, regardless of barriers. Additionally, Lee County has established and continues to expand permanent supportive housing resources for individuals with severe service needs experiencing homelessness

3. The CoC Governing Board is responsible for setting policy related to the length of time individuals and families remain homeless, and addresses the goal of making homelessness brief in the Strategic Plan. The Program Manager of the Homeless Impact Unit within HVS is responsible for oversight of CoC operations."

2C-3.	Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations/Retention of Permanent Housing—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. Lee County has continued to work with the two emergency shelter projects to reduce barriers to entry and improve the rate of exits to permanent housing. Staff at both emergency shelters have the ability to perform the assessment portion of the coordinated entry system, which qualifies candidates for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing, and shelter staff participates on case conferencing calls to collaborate on challenging cases, address common issues, share resources, facilitate warm hand offs from shelter to housing, and develop long term strategies to support their clients' housing sustainability. Emergency shelter staff also facilitates job searches, access to on-site healthcare and mental healthcare, SOAR applications, and other supportive services. The CoC has also facilitated training on best practices such as motivational interviewing and trauma informed care which improve outcomes. The group has been working collaboratively with the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers to transition clients from Rapid Rehousing to Emergency Housing Vouchers and Section 8 vouchers.

2. Permanent housing projects in Lee County feature a low rate of exits to Homelessness, and performance improved from FY 21 to 22. The CoC continues to improve that metric by connecting permanent housing clients to supportive services, including an on-site SOAR specialists, on-site mental health counseling, and other supportive services. The proposed CoC-Bonus Project has secured commitments to provide recovery services to all program participants who seek them, and has a housing commitment to fund 25% of the proposed beds.

3. The CoC Governing Board is responsible for setting CoC-wide policies relating to the operation of funded programs, and addresses the goal of making homelessness one-time in the Strategic Plan. The Program Manager of the Homeless Impact Unit within HVS is responsible for oversight of CoC operations.

<b>2C-4.</b>	<b>Returns to Homelessness—CoC's Strategy to Reduce Rate.</b>	
	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 of additional returns to homelessness; and	
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**



1. The CoC regularly gathers and reviews data to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness. A return to homelessness is identified when a client exits an HMIS program to a negative housing destination, or when a client exits to a positive housing destination but subsequently enters another HMIS program indicating a homeless status at program entry. The CoC Governing Board also approved a CoC-wide Rapid Rehousing Discharge Policy, which establishes baseline requirements for documentation and notification for any project discharges. Providers are required by this policy to notify Lead Agency Staff before discharging any individual or family who may return to homelessness.

2. The CoC seeks to make homelessness a one-time experience by  
 a) Using data to identify risk factors for returns to homelessness and educating the design of housing programs that provide comprehensive supportive services  
 b) Developing service solutions that are focused on building community based support networks and increasing economic mobility  
 c) Implementing and monitoring a move-on strategy with affordable housing providers, including the Public Housing Authority, Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) development, multifamily assisted housing owners, and other local low-income housing programs.

CoC policy now requires that Lead Agency Staff be notified by the RRH provider if any individual or family is exiting the program (due to reaching the maximum number of months of assistance for example) who may return to homelessness.

3. The CoC Governing Board is responsible for setting policy to reduce returns to homelessness, and addresses the goal of making homelessness a one-time experience in the Strategic Plan. The Coordinated Entry Coordinator and Homeless Impact Manager at the CoC Lead Agency are responsible for continually monitoring return to homelessness data and failed housing referrals.

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 CoC’s strategic plan seeks to improve access to employment cash sources through initiatives including:
  - a) expand community partnerships between business and education communities
  - b) Increase education, training, and vocational experiences for individuals to improve employability and self-sufficiency.
  - c) Facilitate community partnerships to identify and secure funding for expanding education and training programs that lead to employment.
  - d) Engage the business community to provide on-the-job training, internships, and mentoring programs leading to employment.
  - e) Ensure that literacy programs are made accessible and relevant to children, adults, and families.
  - f) Expand low literacy and English as a Second language programs for youth and adults within the environment of the learner.
  - g) Improve employment opportunities and outcomes for individuals transitioning to independence.
  - h) Expand full-time, part-time, and short-term employment opportunities to meet immediate self-sustaining wage-earning needs, and increase the number of supportive employment programs.
  - i) Improve communication and resources to help people find and maintain gainful employment.

2. The CoC has longstanding relationships with several agencies that offer job training, readiness, and placement assistance including Grace Church, which hosts a regular 'second chance job and resource fair', Goodwill's Job-Link, and Veteran-specific programs offered through the VA. Lee County CoC consistently collaborates with these partner agencies, and provides referrals to existing clients to increase cash income.

3. The CoC Governing Board is responsible for setting policy to engage and maintain relationships with partners that will increase clients employment income, and lays out the strategy in the Strategic Plan. The Family Impact Manager and Homeless Impact Manager at the CoC Lead Agency are responsible for ensuring that information related to employment fairs, job opportunities and job training opportunities are distributed to case management staff and clients.

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. The CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources and non-employment cash includes connections and referrals to a wide network of resources, which are vetted by the Resource Committee of the CoC and published annually on the Homeless Coalition website and distributed by thousands of printed copies. Coordinated Entry staff screen for the presence of non-cash income at the "front door" of the Coordinated Entry system and regularly make referrals to established partner agencies that can assist clients with increasing non-employment cash income. Staff at Community Cooperative regularly assist clients with SNAP benefits, and staff at the Continuum's Homeless Resource Day Center can assist with SOAR applications (both of which accept CE referrals, as well as walk ins). All housing case managers at the co-lead agency, Lee County Department of Human and Veteran Services, are SOAR certified, and clients in all permanent supportive housing programs in the CoC have access to a SOAR specialist on site. All CoC partner agencies share connections to supportive services focused on non-employment cash income on weekly case conferencing meetings.

2. The CoC Governing Board is responsible for setting policy to engage and maintain relationships with partners that will increase clients non-cash income, and lays out the strategy in the Strategic Plan. The Family Impact, Homeless Impact, and Community Impact Managers are responsible for ensuring that clients are referred to and served by SOAR case management staff, and the SOAR subrecipient.

### 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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>3A-1.</b>	<b>New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Housing Resources.</b>	
	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?	Yes
--	--	-----

<b>3A-2.</b>	<b>New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Healthcare Resources.</b>	
	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?	Yes
--	--	-----

<b>3A-3.</b>	<b>Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.</b>	
	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
CCDOV CoC Bonus	PH-RRH	1	Both

### **3A-3. List of Projects.**

1. What is the name of the new project? CCDOV CoC Bonus

2. Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): FTXXZCN4B753

3. Select the new project type: PH-RRH

4. Enter the rank number of the project on your CoC's Priority Listing: 1

5. Select the type of leverage: Both

### 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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

<b>3B-1.</b>	<b>Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	

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

<b>3B-2.</b>	<b>Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.</b>	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	

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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 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 Serving 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.	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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

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

Did your CoC submit one or more new project applications for DV Bonus Funding?	Yes
--	-----

4A-1a.	DV Bonus Project Types.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the type(s) of new DV Bonus project(s) your CoC included in its FY 2023 Priority Listing.
---

	Project Type	
1.	SSO Coordinated Entry	No
2.	PH-RRH or Joint TH and PH-RRH Component	Yes

**You must click "Save" after selecting Yes for element 1 SSO Coordinated Entry to view questions 4A-2, 4A-2a. and 4A-2b.**

4A-3.	Assessing Need for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects in Your CoC's Geographic Area.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(c)	

1.	Enter the number of survivors that need housing or services:	379
2.	Enter the number of survivors your CoC is currently serving:	63
3.	Unmet Need:	316



4A-3a.	How Your CoC Calculated Local Need for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(c)		
Describe in the field below:		
1.	how your CoC calculated the number of DV survivors needing housing or services in question 4A-3 element 1 and element 2; and	
2.	the data source (e.g., comparable databases, other administrative data, external data source, HMIS for non-DV projects); or	
3.	if your CoC is unable to meet the needs of all survivors please explain in your response all barriers to meeting those needs.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The number of survivors that need housing or services is the number of clients who are currently active in the Coordinated Entry System who reported as survivors of domestic violence during their intake plus the number of clients reported by our local domestic violence shelter through their comparable database. The number of survivors the CoC is currently serving is the number of distinct clients who are currently active in a RRH or PSH program that indicated that they were survivors of domestic violence at program entry.
2. Data for 4A-3 element 1 was collected from the HMIS and the local domestic violence shelter's comparable database. Data for 4A-3 element 2 was collected from HMIS data only.
3. Lee County CoC's 2022 application for DV Bonus projects was accepted, but the start date for the project is after the deadline to submit this application. The project is expected to begin to fill a significant need for survivors in the CoC, and the CoC is submitting a second application to provide more housing opportunities for survivors of domestic violence. Lee County has also been unable to secure additional shelter space of any kind, (with the exception of disaster shelter in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian), despite apparent need, but collaboration with the community's VSP continues to improve.

4A-3b.	Information About Unique Project Applicants and Their Experience in Housing Placement and Housing Retention for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)		
Use the list feature icon to enter information on each unique project applicant applying for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus projects—only enter project applicant information once, regardless of how many DV Bonus projects that applicant is applying for.		

<b>Applicant Name</b>
Catholic Charitie...

## Project Applicants Applying for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH DV Bonus Projects

<b>4A-3b.</b>	<b>Information About Unique Project Applicants and Their Experience in Housing Placement and Housing Retention for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.</b>	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(d)	

Enter information in the chart below on the project applicant applying for one or more New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects included on your CoC's FY 2023 Priority Listing for New Projects:

1.	Applicant Name	Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice
2.	Project Name	Catholic Charities Domestic Violence RRH
3.	Project Rank on the Priority Listing	1
4.	Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)	FTXXZCN4B753
5.	Amount Requested	\$377,319
6.	Rate of Housing Placement of DV Survivors—Percentage	91%
7.	Rate of Housing Retention of DV Survivors—Percentage	84%

<b>4A-3b.1.</b>	<b>Applicant Experience in Housing Placement and Retention for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.</b>	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)	

For the rate of housing placement and rate of housing retention of DV survivors reported in question 4B-3b., describe in the field below:

1.	how the project applicant calculated both rates;
2.	whether the rates accounts for exits to safe housing destinations; and
3.	the data source (e.g., comparable databases, other administrative data, external data source, HMIS for non-DV projects).

**(limit 1,500 characters)**

1. The Rate of Housing Placement of DV Survivors–Percentage is the number of heads of household in HMIS programs operated by the funded agency who indicated that they were DV survivors who were successfully housed divided by the total number of DV survivors who were entered into the program. The Rate of Housing Retention of DV Survivors–Percentage is the number of heads of household in HMIS programs operated by the funded agency who indicated that they were DV survivors who were successfully housed and either remain in the program or exited to a positive destination, divided by the total number of DV survivors who were successfully housed by the program. It should be noted that the agency received all referrals for their programs through coordinated entry, and that clients were selected from the CE system by CE staff based on severity of need.

2. The rates above account for exits to safe housing destinations.

3. The data source is the CoC's HMIS.

<b>4A-3c.</b>	<b>Applicant Experience in Providing Housing to DV Survivor for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.</b>	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)	

Describe in the field below how the project applicant:	
1.	ensured DV survivors experiencing homelessness were quickly moved into safe affordable housing;
2.	prioritized survivors—you must address the process the project applicant used, e.g., Coordinated Entry, prioritization list, CoC's emergency transfer plan, etc.;
3.	determined which supportive services survivors needed;
4.	connected survivors to supportive services; and
5.	moved clients from assisted housing to housing they could sustain—address housing stability after the housing subsidy ends.

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

1. Catholic Charities (CCDOV) has proven experience quickly moving DV survivors into safe, affordable housing. During 2022 and 2023, CCDOV successfully housed 32 households whose heads of household indicated they were survivors through various rapid rehousing programs not specifically designated for survivors. Applicants were selected by the community's CE system based on severity of need, and applicants generally had very severe service needs. Despite those difficulties, and rapidly soaring rents, CCDOV placed DV survivors in safe affordable housing within 45 days in a majority of instances.

2. CCDOV has not had DV-specific funding in Lee County that has started as of the submission deadline for this NOFO, and all referrals to funded programs have come through CE based on severity of need. CCDOV has also executed an MOU with Abuse Counseling & Treatment Inc. (ACT), the local VSP and has prepared a safe referral process.

3. Case Managers individualize the way services are delivered in recognition that people are experts in their own lives. Programs incorporate national best practices including; Housing First, Client Choice, and Critical Time Intervention. CCDOV's firm belief is that people need necessities, like food and housing, before attending less critical things like budgeting, education, or job hunting. In working with clients, case managers prioritize client choice to determine locations that are convenient for them, are safe, have access to public transportation and are close to employment. CCDOV uses SOAR trained case managers to ensure that eligible clients receive all benefits for which they are entitled.

4. CCDOV Housing Case Management staff use strength-based, voluntary, and trauma-informed care approaches. Participation in services has been voluntary and not a condition of housing or receiving other services. CCDOV clients have been aided through ancillary services (SNAP, Food Pantry, etc.). A variety of supportive services are provided including benefit application, legal assistance, medical care, dental care, mental health/substance abuse treatment, and others.

5. CCDOV has a proven track record of connecting clients toward self sustainability. Despite serving households referred though CE with severe service needs, 84% of households housed by CCDOV whose heads of household identified as survivors of domestic violence exited to permanent destinations or remain in stable housing in the program.

4A-3d.	Applicant Experience in Ensuring DV Survivor Safety for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)	

Describe in the field below examples of how the project applicant ensured the safety and confidentiality of DV survivors experiencing homelessness by:	
1.	taking steps to ensure privacy/confidentiality during the intake and interview process to minimize potential coercion of survivors;
2.	making determinations and placements into safe housing;
3.	keeping information and locations confidential;
4.	training staff on safety and confidentiality policies and practices; and

5.	taking security measures for units (congregate or scattered site), that support survivors' physical safety and location confidentiality.
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**(limit 2,500 characters)**

CCDOV will ensure that survivors of domestic violence are moved quickly into safe, affordable housing. CCDOV will work with the local VSP, ACT to receive referrals for individuals and families leaving DV shelters who are in need of longer-term housing. Once a referral is received case managers will respond within 24 hours to meet with the client and work on securing housing. CCDOV will work closely with ACT to ensure a smooth transition and hand off for case management between agencies. CCDOV has extensive experience in providing housing and other services to survivors of human trafficking who are sometimes also survivors of domestic violence. CCDOV clients are often referred by law enforcement and take great care to understand the safety and security concerns of clients fleeing unsafe situations. Staff that are dedicated to this project will develop safety plans together with the survivor based on the survivor's goals and not solely on the professional opinion of the staff. There are many safety protocols in place. Staff is trained in trauma informed care approaches that focus on individualized services and plans, understanding "survival mode" behaviors and also in respecting client confidentiality and safety. CCDOV will work closely with partner agencies and domestic violence service provider ACT to incorporate any additional safety planning training. The project will provide housing in scattered sites and will ensure that clients feel safe in identified locations. Locations will be known only to staff working with the clients. Client intakes are conducted in private spaces with provisions made to ensure that conversations are confidential. All CCDOV staff are trained in respecting client confidentiality. CCDOV's Regional Director is a certified DV and SA advocate with direct experience at the local DV shelter. CCDOV's Case Management staff is trained in Trauma Informed Care. They work with clients on safety planning and developing emergency supports. These programs undergo regular monitoring and evaluation from the funder, Department of Justice Office of Victims of Crime staff and external evaluators. Catholic Charities will also work closely with domestic violence provider ACT to review safety protocols.

4A-3d.1.	Applicant Experience in Evaluating Their Ability to Ensure DV Survivor Safety for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)

Describe in the field below how the project has evaluated its ability to ensure the safety of DV survivors the project served in the project, including any areas identified for improvement during the course of the proposed project.
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**(limit 2,500 characters)**

CCDOV has a history of providing trauma informed case management in its program aiding survivors of human trafficking. Case managers work with clients to establish participants' strengths for a strengths-based housing-first approach which allows clients to determine and work toward goals and aspirations that they identify. CCDOV's staff is highly diverse, and representative of the community served. Over half of CCDOV staff are from African American or Hispanic backgrounds. Almost all case management staff is bilingual in Spanish and some staff are bilingual in Haitian Creole, Ukrainian and Russian. The agency has protocols and policies in place to ensure nondiscrimination and equal access including clients rights and client grievance policies . CCDOV Case Managers are trained to adhere to five principles in the provision of trauma informed care, these are awareness, safety, trustworthiness, empowerment and inclusiveness.

4A-3e.	Applicant Experience in Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Approaches for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)	

Describe in the field below examples of the project applicant's experience using trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches to meet needs of DV survivors by:

1.	prioritizing placement and stabilization in permanent housing consistent with the program participants' wishes and stated needs;
2.	establishing and maintaining an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions are based on equality and minimize power differentials;
3.	providing program participants access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing program participants with information on the effects of trauma;
4.	emphasizing program participants' strengths, e.g., strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans worked towards survivor-defined goals and aspirations;
5.	centering on cultural responsiveness and inclusivity, e.g., training on equal access, cultural competence, nondiscrimination, language access, improving services to be culturally responsive, accessible, and trauma-informed;
6.	providing a variety of opportunities for connection for program participants, e.g., groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs; and
7.	offering support for survivor parenting, e.g., trauma-informed parenting classes, childcare, connections to legal services.

(limit 5,000 characters)

CCDOV has a history of providing trauma informed case management in its program aiding survivors of human trafficking. Case managers work with clients to establish participants' strengths for a strengths-based housing-first approach which allows clients to determine and work toward goals and aspirations that they identify. CCDOV's staff is highly diverse, and representative of the community served. Over half of CCDOV staff are from African American or Hispanic backgrounds. Almost all case management staff is bilingual in Spanish and some staff are bilingual in Haitian Creole, Ukrainian and Russian. The agency has protocols and policies in place to ensure nondiscrimination and equal access including clients rights and client grievance policies . CCDOV Case Managers are trained to adhere to five principles in the provision of trauma informed care, these are awareness, safety, trustworthiness, empowerment and inclusiveness.

4A-3f.	<b>Applicant Experience in Meeting Service Needs of DV Survivors for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.</b>	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)	

Describe in the field below examples of supportive services the project provided to domestic violence survivors while quickly moving them into permanent housing and addressing their safety needs.

**(limit 5,000 characters)**

In addition to securing safe housing, CCDOV will provide intensive case management to all clients coming through the program. It is expected that most clients will be referred by ACT. CCDOV will coordinate with ACT to ensure that clients are smoothly transitioned between the two agencies and that any additional community supports needed are in place. CCDOV has a robust mental health program which offers in person and remote access to bilingual mental health counselors. These services will be provided free of charge to program clients. For both medical needs and health insurance needs, Case Managers will refer clients and provide soft hand offs to Family Health Services. An MOU with Family Health Services for program referrals is pending. CCDOV Case Managers will work closely with appropriate staff from Family Health Services to ensure that program clients gain access to needed medical care and health coverage access. For job training and job placement resources, clients will be referred to Career Source, <https://careersourcesouthwestflorida.com/>. Case workers will provide clients with guidance and follow up to make sure that clients can access these free resources. In working with clients, case managers will prioritize client choice to determine locations that are convenient for them, are safe, have access to public transportation (if needed) and are close to employment. Every effort will be made to secure housing for participants in geographic areas of preference. The program will also provide Critical Time Intervention (CTI) as an early intervention designed to prevent recurrent homelessness. The CTI approach to case management focuses on strengthening an individual's long-term ties to services, family, and friends combined with significant post program follow-up to ensure ongoing stability and success retaining permanent housing. Client centered and CTI case management are the current, widely accepted best practices in case management. CCDOV will use SOAR trained case managers to ensure that clients who are eligible can receive all benefits for which they are entitled. The majority of CCDOV staff in Lee County are Hispanic or African American. Hispanic staff is bilingual in Spanish. This cultural competency leads to greater trust and better outcomes for clients. Clients complete CCDOV's RRH intake forms including program participant agreement and guidelines, establishing a monthly budget, review of tenant history and current credit concerns, and determining what portion of rent clients will pay when housing is secured. Services are offered in a client-centered manner with clients actively participating in developing their own stability plans. Stability plans are reviewed throughout service provision to assess and identify where progress has been made and to develop additional strategies to overcome new barriers and/or changing priorities. Case managers meet with clients regularly to provide direct 1:1 assistance, review progress toward meeting stated goals, and make referrals to other community agencies. Clients can voluntarily determine that they no longer want to participate in services and program staff then work with them to develop an exit plan. Once a client has successfully discharged from the program, at a minimum, staff will attempt to conduct 3 follow-up phone interviews to assess the client's progress/stability and, if applicable, discuss any issues or concerns. If the client is struggling, or in need of additional supports, staff will continue to provide information and referrals, or directly connect them to the appropriate agencies that are able to assist in maintaining permanent housing. CCDOV case managers will work closely with their counterparts at Goodwill Industries to connect clients to employment readiness, job search and job retention needs. In addition, Catholic Charities regularly refers clients from its various programs in Lee County to other services providers including; ACT, Gulfcoast Legal Service the Literacy Council and others with whom the agency has worked over a number of years.



Examples of other services which clients will be connected with include; free mental health services, food pantry services, after school care, SNAP benefits, senior support services, housing counseling and other important stabilization services. Overall, the intent will be to help participants build a strong community-based network outside of the program. It is important to note that some existing CCDOV services (e.g., behavioral health, food pantry, SNAP, after school care care) will be available to program participants long after exiting the program since CCDOV already provides these on an ongoing basis at no cost.

4A-3g.	Plan for Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Practices for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(e)	

Describe in the field below examples of how the new project(s) will:

1.	prioritize placement and stabilization in permanent housing consistent with the program participants' wishes and stated needs;
2.	establish and maintaining an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions are based on equality and minimize power differentials;
3.	provide program participants access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing program participants with information on the effects of trauma;
4.	emphasize program participants' strengths—for example, strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans work towards survivor-defined goals and aspirations;
5.	center on cultural responsiveness and inclusivity, e.g., training on equal access, cultural competence, nondiscrimination, language access, improving services to be culturally responsive, accessible, and trauma-informed;
6.	provide a variety of opportunities for connection for program participants, e.g., groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs; and
7.	offer support for survivor parenting, e.g., trauma-informed parenting classes, childcare, connections to legal services.

(limit 5,000 characters)

1. CCDOVs approach is grounded in housing choice as a valuable component for successfully housing persons who are homeless. Therefore, every effort will be made to secure housing for participants in areas where clients may already have positive support networks in place (e.g., family, friends, childcare, etc.) to the extent that these considerations do not conflict with safety concerns.
2. CCDOV Housing Case Management staff use strength-based, voluntary, and trauma-informed care approaches with clients to work with clients through each step of assisting them in securing housing and self-sufficiency. A Voluntary Services approach is used which is based on the notion that participation in services should be voluntary and not a condition of housing or receiving other services. Case Managers individualize the way services are delivered in recognition that people are experts in their own lives. Goals are developed, but each participant defines success. Procedures are developed to be non-intrusive into people's lives, invite participants to have input about services in which they'll participate and information they will share, provide clear, consistent information about program expectations, rely on natural consequences as the best teacher and acknowledge that even though we are considered experts in the field, we don't know what's best for everyone. Case management is consistent with a harm reduction philosophy and offered in a non-judgmental fashion from a client-centered perspective. Services are offered in a client centered manner with clients actively participating in developing their own stability plans. Stability plans are reviewed throughout service provision to assess and identify where progress has been made and to develop additional strategies to overcome new barriers and/or changing priorities. Case managers meet with clients regularly to provide direct 1:1 assistance, review progress toward meeting stated goals, and make referrals to other community agencies. Clients can voluntarily determine that they no longer want to participate in services and program staff then work with them to develop an exit plan.
3. CCDOV's Case Management staff is trained in Trauma Informed Care. Trauma-informed advocacy takes "good advocacy" a step further by incorporating an understanding of the effects of trauma on staff, survivors, organizations, and communities. Staff emphasize that trauma can stem from experiences that occur over a lifetime, including childhood, intergenerational, community, system induced, historical, political, and immigration-related trauma. Client-centered programming is critical to ensure DV survivors engage in services and work toward housing permanency.
4. Case managers work with clients to establish participants' strengths for a strengths-based housing-first approach which allows clients to determine and work toward goals and aspirations that they identify. The program will also provide Critical Time Intervention (CTI) as an early intervention designed to prevent recurrent homelessness. The CTI approach to case management focuses on strengthening an individual's long-term ties to services, family, and friends combined with significant post program follow-up to ensure ongoing stability and success retaining permanent housing.
5. CCDOV has consistently maintained a commitment to reducing barriers and challenges for all clients. The agency prioritizes the employment of culturally diverse employees that meet the varied needs of our community. CCDOV offers services in English, Spanish, Creole, Ukrainian and Russian. This diversity facilitates service delivery and ensures that community members who do not speak English as their first language can still access services. Through RRH and Anti-Human Trafficking programs, CCDOV has assisted survivors in obtaining transitional housing, immigration assistance (foreign born survivors of Domestic Violence are eligible for U-Visas) case management that in turn

addresses barriers on multiple levels. The majority of CCDOV staff in Lee County are Hispanic or African American. Hispanic staff is bilingual in Spanish. This cultural competency leads to greater trust and better outcomes for clients.

6. Case managers meet with clients regularly to provide direct 1:1 assistance, review progress toward meeting stated goals, and make referrals to other community agencies. The intensity and duration of case management may increase or lessen depending on participant progress towards securing additional supports. Overall, the intent will be to help participants build a strong community-based network outside of the program. It is important to note that some existing CCDOV services (e.g., behavioral health, food pantry, SNAP, after school care care) will be available to program participants long after exiting the program since CCDOV already provides these on an ongoing basis at no cost.

7. CCDoV regularly refers to afterschool programs and Gulfcoast Legal Services.

4A-3h.	Involving Survivors in Policy and Program Development, Operations, and Evaluation of New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(f)	
	Describe in the field below how the new project will involve survivors:	
1.	with a range of lived expertise; and	
2.	in policy and program development throughout the project's operation.	

**(limit 2,500 characters)**

CCDOV strives to engage people with lived domestic violence experience as well as traditionally marginalized populations throughout various levels of planning and implementation of program development. Currently the region 2 advisory board has a member that has identified as a survivor of DV. The staff is an inclusive group of case managers that represent various populations: African American, Latina and LGBTQ+. In addition, CCDOV's staff is representative of the community served due to African American and Hispanic backgrounds. Almost all staff is bilingual in Spanish. CCDOV's Regional Director is a certified DV and SA advocate with direct experience at the local DV shelter.

## 4B. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

We have provided the following guidance to help you successfully upload attachments and get maximum points:

1. You must include a Document Description for each attachment you upload; if you do not, the Submission Summary screen will display a red X indicating the submission is incomplete.
2. You must upload an attachment for each document listed where 'Required?' is 'Yes'.
3. We prefer that you use PDF files, though other file types are supported—please only use zip files if necessary. Converting electronic files to PDF, rather than printing documents and scanning them, often produces higher quality images. Many systems allow you to create PDF files as a Print option. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you should consult your IT Support or search for information on Google or YouTube.
4. Attachments must match the questions they are associated with.
5. Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process.
6. If you cannot read the attachment, it is likely we cannot read it either.
  - . We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).
  - . We must be able to read everything you want us to consider in any attachment.
7. After you upload each attachment, use the Download feature to access and check the attachment to ensure it matches the required Document Type and to ensure it contains all pages you intend to include.
8. Only use the "Other" attachment option to meet an attachment requirement that is not otherwise listed in these detailed instructions.

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1C-7. PHA Homeless Preference	No		
1C-7. PHA Moving On Preference	No		
1D-11a. Letter Signed by Working Group	Yes		
1D-2a. Housing First Evaluation	Yes		
1E-1. Web Posting of Local Competition Deadline	Yes		
1E-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes		
1E-2a. Scored Forms for One Project	Yes		
1E-5. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes		
1E-5a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes		
1E-5b. Local Competition Selection Results	Yes		
1E-5c. Web Posting—CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes		

1E-5d. Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes		
2A-6. HUD's Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) Competition Report	Yes		
3A-1a. Housing Leveraging Commitments	No		
3A-2a. Healthcare Formal Agreements	No		
3C-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
Other	No		

## Attachment Details

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## Submission Summary

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

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	09/18/2023
1B. Inclusive Structure	09/26/2023
1C. Coordination and Engagement	09/26/2023
1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd	09/26/2023
1E. Project Review/Ranking	09/26/2023
2A. HMIS Implementation	09/26/2023
2B. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count	09/26/2023
2C. System Performance	09/26/2023
3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare	09/26/2023
3B. Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs	09/26/2023
3C. Serving Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes	09/26/2023

<b>4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants</b>	09/26/2023
<b>4B. Attachments Screen</b>	Please Complete
<b>Submission Summary</b>	No Input Required