

RANK AND REVIEW PROCEDURES

Southeast Alabama Coalition for the Homeless
Continuum of Care AL-508
Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry, and Houston County, Alabama

Background

Each year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) makes resources available to communities through a national competition for its Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Programs. SEACH is the lead agency (Collaborative Applicant) responsible for preparing a consolidated application to submit to HUD for all AL-508 eligible projects. The community application for funding is done under the guiding framework of the federal HEARTH Act and related regulations and directives from HUD. There are 3 primary components to the application:

1. Community-wide project performance;
2. Renewal grants; and
3. New projects to include bonus (*pending the availability of funding & community performance*)

Additionally, HUD strongly encourages communities to reallocate lower-performing programs to higher-performing projects.

Performance Scoring

All applications for new and renewal projects are reviewed for threshold to ensure compliance with the HEARTH Act, and the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Any new or renewal project not meeting the threshold requirements will not be considered for funding.

Threshold Requirements

Coordinated Entry Participation: The project participated or intends to participate in coordinated entry in compliance with the CoC's Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures and HUD's Coordinated Entry Notice.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Participation: The project participated or intends to participate in the local HMIS System or comparable database for DV Agencies.

Housing First and/or Low Barrier Implementation: The project is, or intends to be, designed and implemented using Housing First principles including: no preconditions or barriers to entry except as required by funding sources, and provision of necessary supports to maintain housing and prevent a return to homelessness.

Documented, secured minimum match: Applicant has match commitments that satisfy CoC Program Rule requirements for source and amount.

Project has reasonable costs per permanent housing exit as defined locally: Cost per permanent housing exit can be determined by dividing total project costs by the number of permanent housing exits. These costs can be averaged across all projects within a project type to determine the average cost per permanent housing exit for the community for that project type. The CoC can use this information to define a reasonable cost locally.

Project is financially feasible: Project has funding commitments equal to or exceeding project budget.

Applicant is active CoC Participant: Applicant participation in CoC Board and committee meetings and meets CoC requirements for member in good standing.

Application is complete and data are consistent: All required information is completed and all required attachments are provided. Data provided in response to different questions match.

Acceptable organizational audit/financial review: Applicant's audit or financial review does not contain findings or other indications of financial or accounting problems.

Ranking Policies & Ranking Order

These Ranking Policies are consistent with HUD's policy priorities and aligns with local priorities and needs:

1. HUD's policy priorities:
 - Ending homelessness for all persons
 - Create a systemic response to end homelessness
 - Strategically allocate and use resources
 - Use a housing first approach
2. HMIS and Coordinated Entry projects will be listed in Tier I because they are required elements of our CoC system.
3. Renewal projects will be ranked in Tier I according to HUD priority listing of permanent housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and transitional housing in that order, unless there are justifications for ranking the project lower, such as poor performance or a failure to meet HUD priorities or local needs.
4. Renewal projects will be given preference over new projects, unless the Review and Ranking Committee determines the project meets both HUD priorities and local needs by improving the CoC's outcomes and reducing homelessness more effectively than renewal projects.
5. In the event that two or more projects of the same type received the same project score, the following tie-breaking criteria will be applied to aid in the ranking of projects when no other distinguishing data and/or information is available:
 - Projects will be rescored and ranked according to the Housing Outcomes.
 - Projects will be ranked according to the initial score received for Total Income and financial feasibility.

Notification

All project applicants will receive an email indicating their ranking and Tier placement a maximum of 15 days prior to completing NOFO submission. Ranking will also be posted on the [SEACH website](#) and will be emailed to all Wiregrass CoC Board members.