

HUD/CoC FY2019 NOFA: MA-506 Worcester City and County Continuum of Care Requests for Proposals (RFP) for New Project Applications

The Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance, Inc., Lead Agency of the MA-506 Worcester City and County Continuum of Care, is seeking New Project proposals from Worcester County providers of services and housing. The Worcester City and County CoC has not established a maximum request limit for New Project applications for FY2019; but anticipates that approximately \$347,000.00 will be available for a new Permanent Housing project serving Chronically Homeless Individuals and a new program to serve victims of Domestic Violence at approximately \$500,000.00.

All New Project Applications will be scored and ranked using the FY2019 Application Review, Scoring and Ranking Criteria and then presented for review by the CoC Board for a final recommendation vote. Notification will be provided to all New and Renewal project applicants. The FY2019 Project Application Review, Scoring and Ranking Criteria reaffirms the Worcester City and County CoC's continuing commitment to ending homelessness in our community.

Those interested in submitting a New Project Application are strongly encouraged to review the FY2019 HUD/CoC NOFA: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2019-CoC-Program-Competition-NOFA.pdf>

Refer to NOFA Section II/HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities and Program Highlights to help applicants better understand how the selection criteria support the goal of ending homelessness.

The following types of new projects will be considered:

- A)** Permanent Housing/Permanent Supportive Housing project(s) which will serve chronically homeless individuals (Note that all beds must be Chronically Homeless-Dedicated only).
- B)** Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus, including:
 - 1. Permanent Housing/Rapid Rehousing
 - 2. Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing/Rapid Rehousing
 - 3. Supportive Services Only-Coordinated Entry

Note: The only persons who may be served in projects funded through the DV Bonus are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who meet the definition of homeless in paragraph 4) of 24 CFR 578.3. Additionally, all projects funded through DV Bonus must adopt a housing first approach.

Project Type Descriptions: For complete descriptions and additional information, review the FY2019 HUD/CoC NOFA at <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2019-CoC-Program-Competition-NOFA.pdf>

Definitions: Following is a partial list of definitions related to the FY2019 HUD/CoC NOFA:

For complete definitions and concepts contained in the FY2019 NOFA, review Section III. C. Continuum of Care Program Requirements of the NOFA/Definitions and Concepts.

- A)** Homeless is defined as: An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:
1. An individual or family with a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
 2. An individual or family living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals); or
 3. An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

B) Chronically homeless is defined as:

1. Chronically homeless individuals are defined to mean a homeless individual with a disability who lives either in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter, or in an institutional care facility if the individual has been living in the facility for fewer than 90 days and had been living in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter immediately before entering the institutional care facility.

In order to meet the “chronically homeless” definition, the individual also must have been living as described above continuously for at least 12 months, or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the combined occasions total a length of time of at least 12 months. Each period separating the occasions must include at least 7 nights of living in a situation other than a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in a safe haven.

2. Chronically homeless families are families with adult heads of household who meet the definition of a chronically homeless individual. If there is no adult in the family, the family would still be considered chronically homeless if a minor head

of household meets all the criteria of a chronically homeless individual. A chronically homeless family includes those whose composition has fluctuated while the head of household has been homeless.

- C) DedicatedPLUS is a permanent supportive housing project where 100 percent of the beds are dedicated to serve individuals, households with children and unaccompanied youth that at intake meet one of the following categories:**
1. experiencing chronic homelessness as defined in 24 CFR 578.3;
 2. residing in a transitional housing project that will be eliminated and meets the definition of chronically homeless in effect at the time in which the individual or family entered the transitional housing project;
 3. residing in a place not meant for human habitation, emergency shelter, or Safe Haven and had been admitted and enrolled in a permanent housing project within the last year but were unable to maintain a housing placement and met the definition of chronic homeless as defined by 24 CFR 578.3 prior to entering the project;
 4. residing in transitional housing funded by a Joint TH and PH-RRH component project and who were experiencing chronic homelessness as defined at 24 CFR 578.3;
 5. residing and has resided in a place not meant for human habitation, Safe Haven, or emergency shelter for at least 12 months in the last three years, but has not done so on four separate occasions and the individual or head of household meet the definition of 'homeless individual with a disability; or
 6. receiving assistance through a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)-funded homeless assistance program and met one of the above criteria at initial intake to the VA's homeless assistance system.

Preference will be given to Project proposals as follows:

- That prioritize persons with the highest needs and longest histories of homelessness
- That are Low Barrier at entry and for retention
- Use a Housing First Approach
- Serve clients throughout Worcester County
- Whose type, scale, and location of housing that fits the needs of the program participants
- Whose type and scale of the supportive services fit the needs of the program participants—this includes all supportive services, regardless of funding source.
- That have a specific plan for ensuring program participants will be individually assisted to obtain the benefits of the mainstream health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible to apply meets the needs of the program participants.
- That have a specific plan for ensuring program participants are assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs.

- Where proposed program participants come from the street or other locations not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, safe havens, or fleeing domestic violence.
- That document the need for the project in the CoC using data from national, state or local sources and other information.

All entities considering submitting New Project Applications, either CoC Bonus or DV Bonus, should carefully review the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Continuum of Care Program Competition from HUD, available at: <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2019-CoC-Program-Competition-NOFA.pdf>

Project Applicants must be private, not-for-profit, agencies, states, local governments and instrumentalities of state and local governments. Public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100, are eligible without limitation or exclusion. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants or to be sub-recipients of grant funds.

Project Eligibility Threshold Requirements

The Worcester City and County CoC will perform a threshold review of all submitted projects applications. ***Each project must meet the following minimum standards:***

- A)** The project applicant must meet the eligibility requirements of the CoC Program as described in 24 CFR part 578 and provide evidence of eligibility required in the application (e.g., nonprofit documentation).
- B)** The project applicant must demonstrate the financial and management capacity and experience to carry out the project as detailed in the project application and to administer Federal funds. Demonstrating capacity may include a description of the applicant/sub-recipient experience with similar projects and with successful administration of SHP, S+C, or CoC Program funds for renewing projects or other Federal funds.
- C)** The project applicant must submit the required certifications as specified in this NOFA.
- D)** The population to be served must meet program eligibility requirements as described in the Act.

HUD will review all projects to determine if they met specific eligibility threshold requirements on a pass/fail standard. Locally, applications will be scored on whether they meet or exceed threshold criteria. Refer to Section V/Eligibility Information, Part C.3/Threshold Requirements for complete details.

New project applicants are required to provide notice to Jim Cruickshank at jcruickshank@cmhaonline.org **no later than August 9, 2019 at 5:00 PM** of the intent to submit a new application and must include the following information:

- 1) Name of Entity
- 2) Name of Project
- 3) Type of Project
- 4) Full Contact information of lead staff person who will be completing the application through *eSNAPS*.

Within 24 hours of notification, the new project application will be set up in *eSNAPS* and ready for entry of application information.

New project applicants must open the new project application, fill in application information, and upload ALL required supporting documents **no later than August 23, 2019 at 5:00 PM.**

A New Project Bidder's Conference is scheduled for **August 5, 2019 from 2:00 – 3:00 PM** at CMHA, 6 Institute Road, Worcester, MA 01609 and all interested parties are encouraged to attend.

If you are not able to participate in this Bidder's Conference, individual Technical Assistance will be provided. Please contact Jim Cruickshank at 774-243-3834 or jcruickshank@cmhaonline.org for more information.

Inquiries regarding the RFP may be directed to Grace Carmark at the CMHA 508-752-5519 ext. 104 or by email to gcarmark@cmhaonline.org.

The FY2019 NOFA can be reviewed at:

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2019-CoC-Program-Competition-NOFA.pdf>