

# Multnomah County 2022 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition

## New or Expanded Project

## Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs as of August 11, 2022

### Q. When are new project pre-applications due?

A. New or expanded project pre-applications are due **August 23, 2022**. Pre-application materials are available on the JOHS Continuum of Care 2022 New Projects website.

### Q. When should I start working on my e-snaps applications?

A. Draft renewal project e-snaps applications are due on August 31, 2022.

New project e-snaps applications are due on September 15, 2022, but won't be notified about project selection until September 13, 2022. Because new project *e-snaps* applications are due so soon after notification of selection, new project applicants are strongly encouraged to start their *e-snaps* applications *well before* the notification of selection has been issued.

At the CoC Funding Competition webinar on August 11, 2022, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) staff stated that *e-snaps* applications should be available "in the next few days."

We expect HUD to issue a 2022 New Project Guidance document with shortcuts to resources and *e-snaps* tips and tricks, but it has not been released yet. In the meantime, prospective applicants may find these *e-snaps* resources helpful:

- Homebase's [2022 CoC NOFO Technical Assistance Handbook for Applicants](#). See, specifically, the discussion of "Completing an Application in HUD's Web-Based Application System: e-snaps," starting on page 30.
- HUD's [e-snaps 101 Toolkit](#).
- [E-SNAPS Guidance](#) - A Zip file containing eight documents on using e-snaps.

**Q. How much funding is available for new projects?**

A. HUD posted its [CoC Program Competition funding estimates](#) on Thursday, August 11, 2022. The Multnomah CoC is eligible to apply for \$1,389,177 in CoC Bonus funding, and \$715,918 in Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus funding. If a renewal project chooses not to apply, or if a project is reduced or reallocated by the CAC, there may be additional funding available for new projects beyond the bonus funding amounts. Please see the JOHS [Continuum of Care 2022 New Projects](#) website for detailed information about applying for this funding.

**Q. HUD is encouraging projects to partner with housing, health and service agencies. Is there support available to help organizations find agencies to partner with?**

A. Yes. CoCs may receive up to 7 points in the HUD CoC funding competition if the CoC Priority Listing includes at least one new permanent supportive housing (PSH) or rapid rehousing (RRH) project application created through the CoC Bonus that uses housing subsidies or subsidized housing units funded through sources other than the CoC or ESG funds. The full 7 points will be awarded if at least 25% of the units (PSH) or participants (RRH) will be supported with non-CoC funded housing. Likewise, CoCs may receive up to 7 points if the CoC Priority Listing includes at least one new PSH or RRH project application created through the CoC Bonus that uses health care resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Again, the health care services must be equal in value to at least 25% of the funding being requested by the project.

JOHS strongly encourages new project applicants to consider ways to receive 25% of their funding or support from one of these sources. JOHS may be able to assist interested applicants in connecting with potential health care and housing partners. Applicants interested in pursuing either of these opportunities should communicate their intentions with the JOHS as soon as possible by emailing Alyssa Plessner at [alyssa.plessner@multco.us](mailto:alyssa.plessner@multco.us).

**Q. What's typical – dividing the award between a few large projects, or many small projects?**

A. The size of new projects that are funded varies depending on the amount of funding available, the number and size of new projects proposed, and the degree to which new projects meet local and federal funding priorities. Last year, the review panel recommended that the approximately \$1.3 million in available CoC Bonus funding be divided between two proposed projects – one funded at approximate \$266,000, and the other at approximately \$1.09 million. Neither project, however, ultimately scored high

enough in the national competition to secure funding. For the 2021 DV Bonus funds, the panel likewise recommended that the approximately \$1.2 million in available funding be divided between two projects – one funded at \$800,000 and the other at approximately \$400,000. Both new DV Bonus projects secured funding in the national competition.

When two or more projects are funded, it can be helpful if each project is scalable. This allows the Collaborative Application Committee maximum flexibility in balancing the needs of each project with available funding. For more information on new project funding requirements and priorities, please see the materials available on JOHS' [2022 Continuum of Care Funding Opportunity New Projects website](#).

**Q. If you have two projects that are similar, what's more strategic – expanding an existing project, or proposing a new project?**

From a scoring perspective, there is no difference between an expansion proposal and a new project proposal. There are other considerations, however, that may favor expansion over starting a new project. Expansion means you don't have to track multiple budgets, you have more flexibility in budgeting and spending overall, and you only have to submit one Annual Performance Report. Nonetheless, there are also good reasons a program might choose to propose a new project instead of an expansion. For example, if the program wants to deploy a different program model, serve a different subpopulation, or create a new site for housing, it may be easier to administer and monitor the activity as a new project. Programs that are trying to decide between expansion or a new project are encouraged to reach out to JOHS staff to discuss their projects. Please contact Alyssa Plessner at [alyssa.plessner@multco.us](mailto:alyssa.plessner@multco.us).

**Q. Is it better for new/smaller organizations to partner with larger/more experienced organizations when they apply? Does it even make sense for a small organization to apply?**

With this year's particularly compressed application timeline, small and newer organizations may be hard-pressed to meet all of the submission requirements in a timely manner. Partnering with a larger, more experienced organization can be a smart strategy to navigate the process more easily. However, smaller and newer organizations are welcome and encouraged to apply on their own. Regardless of who submits an application, all new and expanded projects are reviewed based on the threshold requirements and HUD and local priorities established for such projects. For details about these requirements and priorities, please see the materials available on JOHS' [2022 Continuum of Care Funding Opportunity New Projects website](#).

**Q. The 2022 Solicitation to Apply for New or Expanded Permanent Housing Projects states that the “Highest priority will be given to proposals in the following categories: 1) projects that address housing and service needs of a community of color overrepresented in the homeless population, 2) projects that address housing and service needs of LGBTQ people of color or 3) projects that address the housing and service needs of individuals identifying as women.” People or communities of color is mentioned in the first two items in this list, but not in the third item. Is it a priority for projects that address the housing and service needs of individuals identifying as women that the individuals also be people of color?**

A. JOHS recognizes the compounding impacts of intersectionality for people at risk of or experiencing homelessness and will value and prioritize projects that address housing and service needs across intersectionalities.

**Q. Do funded projects have to use the Multnomah County CoC’s coordinated access system? If so, how does that work? Is there a way to prioritize the organization’s existing clients for the housing or services funded through this competition?**

A. If funded, projects must participate in the Multnomah County CoC’s coordinated access system. Coordinated access is the way that organizations, service providers, County and city agencies coordinate the care and support for individuals and households moving out of homelessness into transitional and permanent housing. Generally, providers must agree to take clients based on the referrals and prioritization established by the coordinated access process and cannot prefer or prioritize their own clients. It is also important to note that funding for new or expanded projects generally may not be used as a source of funds to supplant (replace) existing funding for services that are already being offered. Existing clients should be served through existing resources, unless they otherwise qualify and are prioritized for services through the coordinated access system. See [this website](#) for more information on the coordinated access system.

**Q. I’ve heard that it’s possible to use funding from this competition for capital costs. However, the 2022 Solicitation to Apply for New or Expanded Permanent Housing Projects states that “The CAC also seeks projects that include renewable activities with a 1-year grant term, as opposed to nonrenewable activities and/or longer grant terms in order to maximize the renewal value of the grant. Renewable activities that are eligible for a 1-year grant term include supportive services, rental assistance, leasing and operating, and admin.**

**Projects requesting funding for capital costs (i.e. new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation) are not renewable and are not eligible for a 1-year grant term, and therefore generally not prioritized through this solicitation.” Does this mean that we should not bother applying for these funds if our plan is to use them for capital costs?**

A. Capital projects generally are not a local priority for CoC Bonus or DV Bonus funds, for strategic reasons. This funding can be better used to meet the immediate needs of people at risk of or experiencing homelessness in our community during the 3-5 years it typically takes to complete the acquisition and construction/rehab periods of a project. It is better to use other funds for capital costs and then seek CoC Bonus or DV Bonus funds to support operating costs when a project is ready to be placed in service.