

2013 HUD Continuum of Care Program Ranking Policies

Developed by the HEARTH Funding Opportunities Task Group of
the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness

HEARTH Funding Opportunities Task Group (FOTG) Members

Lore Baker, Arturo Bendixen, Kathy Booton Wilson, David Esposito, Felix Matlock, Maura McCauley, and Richard Rowe

Eligibility

To be eligible for ranking, all projects (new and renewal) must pass all facets of the application review including:

- Projects must meet all HUD eligibility criteria, as outlined in the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Fiscal Years 2013 and 2014 Continuum of Care Program Competition;
- Projects must meet all project application deadlines, as set by the Chicago Alliance on behalf of the Chicago Planning Council to End Homelessness (Planning Council);
- Renewal projects must pass the threshold requirements and meet the submission criteria outlined in the 2012 NOFA Evaluation Instrument, as approved by the Planning Council

Projects that do not meet all of the criteria outlined above will be defunded via reallocation in 2013.

HUD Ranking Guidance

For the 2013 HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition, CoCs are required to rank projects into two tiers (Tier 1 or Tier 2). HUD has stated that they do not anticipate that the available funding will be sufficient to fund all existing programs. Therefore, Tier 1 will equal the CoC's annual renewal demand amount minus 5% and Tier 2 programs will be at risk of being defunded. For the Chicago CoC, this amount is anticipated to be set at \$54,498,561 (\$57,366,906 minus 5%). Should HUD be able to cover some Tier2 projects, HUD will do so in order of the continua national rankings.

HUD identified the following funding priorities for Tier 1 and Tier 2 for FY2013 and FY2014:

1. Renewal Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-Housing
2. New Permanent Supportive Housing for 100% Chronically Homeless Households Created through Reallocation
3. New Rapid Re-Housing Created through Reallocation
4. Renewal Transitional Housing
5. CoC Planning Costs
6. UFA Costs
7. SSO Projects for Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System
8. Renewal HMIS
9. All Other Renewal Supportive Services Only Projects
10. Any Application Not Included in the HUD-Approved GIW

Additionally, HUD stated that up to two bonus points would be awarded to CoCs where no SSO projects (excluding those awarded in FY2012 for coordinated assessment) are prioritized into Tier 1.

Chicago CoC Ranking Order

The HEARTH FOTG reviewed the HUD ranking guidance, past ranking policies, system priorities, and other factors and recommended the following ranking order for the Chicago CoC:

Tier 1
1. Renewal Permanent Supportive Housing
2. New Permanent Supportive Housing
3. Renewal Transitional Housing (Permanent Housing with Short-term Supports)
4. Renewal HMIS
5. Renewal Transitional Housing (Interim Housing)
6. Supportive Services Only
Tier 2
1. Supportive Services Only

Additional Criteria Used for Ranking

The HEARTH FOTG considered the scope of supportive services only projects within the continuum and identified the following additional criteria to be used when determining the final ranking order:

1. Projects that Serve Chronically Homeless Households
2. Projects that Conduct Street Outreach and Mobile Assessment
3. Projects that Primarily Serve Youth
4. Projects that Primarily Serve Families
5. Ensuring there is not and Uneven Geographic Distribution of Projects in Tier 2
6. Projects that Specialize in Services that Align with Plan 2.0 Priorities (Employment, Mental Health and Substance Use Services, Therapeutic Services, Domestic Violence)
7. Projects that Provide the Only Source of Services to an Existing Permanent Supportive Housing Program

Proposed Resolution

In addition to the recommendations discussed above, the HEARTH FOTG proposes the following resolution to the Chicago Planning Council on Homelessness:

Whereas the Chicago Planning Council on Homeless is reallocating over a million dollars of HUD supportive services only programs toward new permanent supportive housing projects,

Whereas the 2014 HUD CoC Program Competition may further diminish a significant portion of the remaining HUD/SSO funding in Chicago,

Whereas our permanent supportive housing and transitional housing projects will still have available to them over \$10 million in supportive service funds, of the \$57 million total HUD CoC program funds to Chicago, to use for services with their housing units,

The Hearth FOTG Committee recommends the Planning Council establish a task group to investigate and provide a June 2014 report on action strategies and alternative ways to access new service dollars for our Chicago homeless programs.