

**Orange County
Continuum of Care**

**Request for Proposals (RFP) for
Special Notice of Funding
Opportunity (NOFO) to Address
Unsheltered Homelessness**

Release Date

August 9, 2022

Submission Deadline

September 7, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. (PDT)

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to Address Unsheltered Homelessness.

On June 22, 2022, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the Continuum of Care (CoC) Supplemental to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness (Special NOFO)¹, a first-of-its-kind package of resources to address unsheltered homelessness and homeless encampments, including funds set aside specifically to address homelessness in rural communities.

Through this Special NOFO, HUD is making available approximately \$322 million to the CoC Program nationally (\$267.5 million for Unsheltered Homeless Set Aside and \$54.5 million available for the Rural Set Aside). HUD will award funding to communities to implement coordinated approaches -- grounded in Housing First and public health principles -- to reduce the prevalence of unsheltered homelessness, and improve services engagement, health outcomes, and housing stability among highly vulnerable unsheltered individuals and families. The Special NOFO establishes the funding criteria for communities nationwide to provide housing and services to populations experiencing unsheltered homelessness, specifically those with severe service needs². The Special NOFO will exclusively fund only new projects that enhance data collection for identifying those most in need and tailor solutions to meet the needs of people with severe service needs.

The Special NOFO outlines HUD's Homeless Policy and Program Priorities, including the following that apply to the Orange County CoC: connecting highly vulnerable populations experiencing unsheltered homelessness to health and housing resources; involving a broad array of stakeholders in the CoC's efforts to reduce homelessness for individuals and families with severe service needs; advancing equity to address the needs of underserved communities³ and populations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness; and utilizing a Housing First approach throughout the CoC.

In Orange County, the CoC Board is the group of community stakeholders that sets local priorities for the CoC Program funding. As a result, the CoC Board, in collaboration with the County of Orange's (County) Office of Care Coordination as the Administrative Entity, have set forth the following RFP for the Special

¹ Special NOFO: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO/supplemental

² "Severe service needs" means any combination of the following factors: facing significant challenges or functional impairments, including any physical, mental, developmental or behavioral health disabilities regardless of the type of disability, which require a significant level of support in order to maintain permanent housing (this factor focuses on the level of support needed and is not based on disability type); high utilization of crisis or emergency services to meet basic needs, including but not limited to emergency rooms, jails, and psychiatric facilities; currently living in an unsheltered situation or having a history of living in an unsheltered situation; experiencing a vulnerability to illness or death; having a risk of continued or repeated homelessness; and having a vulnerability to victimization, including physical assault, trafficking or sex work.

³ "Underserved communities" include populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life. These communities include Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and other persons of color; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

NOFO and will evaluate submittals to ensure the most competitive application is put forth to HUD consistent with HUD guidance and Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act regulations. The Orange County CoC will begin solicitations of new Projects in response to the Special NOFO that follow a Housing First approach and focus on providing supportive services to underserved communities and individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness with severe service needs.

SPECIAL NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS – FUNDING AND PROJECT TYPES

The Orange County CoC is eligible to apply for **\$19,846,82** funding during the Special NOFO, through the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside funding outlined within the Special NOFO Application process. The Orange County CoC is not eligible to apply for the Rural Set Aside. The grant term for projects under this Special NOFO will be three (3) years, including the CoC Planning costs.

Eligible project types under the Special NOFO include Permanent Housing: Rapid Rehousing (RRH) or Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing – Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH and PH-RRH), Supportive Services Only (SSO), SSO – Coordinated Entry System (SSO-CES) and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Only the CES Lead and HMIS Lead for the CoC are able to submit project proposals for CES or HMIS funding respectively in response to the RFP and the Special NOFO.

Further, the Orange County CoC has determined it will only solicit Request for Proposals for the below project types. Generally, eligible costs under the regular CoC competition apply in the Special NOFO, as detailed in 24 CFR 578.37 through 578.63. However, projects applying for funders under the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside may not request funds for acquisition, rehabilitation, or new construction. The Orange County CoC and HUD will reject any request for ineligible costs and will reject any projects that request funds for acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation. All proposed services must be new, and proposed project funding cannot replace other existing funding sources. The Special NOFO must be dedicated to individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness.

Rapid Rehousing

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) is a model of housing assistance that is designed to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. RRH assistance is time-limited, individualized, and flexible. RRH projects funded under the Special NOFO competition must follow Housing First principles and participate in the Coordinated Entry System (CES). For more information on RRH project type see 24 CFR 578.3.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) means permanent housing in which supportive services are provided to assist persons experiencing homelessness with a disability to live independently. PSH provides permanent housing in the form of community-based housing without a designated length of

stay, the program participant must be the tenant on a lease for a term of at least one year, which is renewable for terms that are a minimum of one month long and is terminable only for cause. PSH projects funded under the Special NOFO competition must follow Housing First principles and participate in the CES. For more information on PSH project type see 24 CFR 578.3.

Joint TH and PH-RRH

The Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Housing – Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH and PH-RRH) component project combines two existing program components—transitional housing and permanent housing—rapid rehousing—in a single project to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Joint TH and PH-RRH should prioritize those with the highest needs using an evidence-based approach designed to provide stable housing and services that, to the greatest extent possible, move the participant towards self-sufficiency and independence. Program participants may only receive up to 24-months of total assistance. For more information about Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects, see Section III.C.2.g of the Special NOFO or 24 CFR 578.3.

When a program participant is enrolled in a Joint TH and PH-RRH component project, the recipient or subrecipient must be able to provide both components, including the units supported by the transitional housing component and the tenant-based rental assistance and services provided through the PH-RRH component, to all participants. A program participant may choose to receive only the transitional housing unit, or the assistance provided through the PH-RRH component, but the recipient or subrecipient must make both types of assistance available. Additionally, if CoC Program funds are not being requested for both TH and PH-RRH units, the project application must still describe the number of TH and PH-RRH units that will be utilized by the project, if selected for conditional award, and provide details in the project description of how TH and PH-RRH assistance will be provided.

Supportive Services Only

The Supportive Services Only (SSO) component includes projects that allow recipients to provide supportive services—such as conducting outreach to sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons and families and providing referrals to other housing or other necessary services—to families and individuals experiencing homelessness. The recipient may only assist program participants for whom the recipient or subrecipient of the funds is not providing housing or housing assistance. As indicated in Section V.B.3.e., all SSO projects must follow a Housing First approach as defined in Section III.C.2.e.

Additional detail on the requirements for each type of new project that may be funded through this Request for Proposals are detailed in the table below.

Category	PH-RRH	Joint TH and PH-RRH	SSO
Eligible Applicants	Non-profits, government entities, public housing authorities		
Eligible Participants	Individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness		

Eligible Activities/ Expenses (24 CFR 578.43 - 578.63)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term Rental Assistance (6-12 months) • Support Services • HMIS • Project Administrative Costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term Rental Assistance (up to 24 months) • Leasing of a structure or unit • Operating Costs • Support Services • HMIS • Project Administrative Costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Assessment of Service Needs • Assistance with moving costs • Case Management • Childcare • Education services • Employment Assistance and Job Training • Food • Housing Search and Navigation • Legal Services • Life Skills Training • Mental Health Services • Outpatient Health Services • Outreach • Substance Use Treatment • Transportation • Utility Deposits • Provision of Services
Support Services	Grant funds may be used for any supportive service listed as eligible under 578.53		
Grant Term	Only three (3) year grant terms will be considered, to maximize available funding.		
Timeliness	Program funds must be obligated by September 30, 2023. Applicants must start programs in a timely manner.		
Match	25% of total grant request. Leasing funds do not have to be matched. Match can be cash or in-kind and must be spent on eligible project costs.		
HMIS	Must agree to participate in the Orange County Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or comparable database.		
Coordinated Entry	Must agree to participate in Orange County Coordinated Entry System.		
Housing First Model	Must operate a Housing First Model.		

PROPOSAL MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

HUD Threshold Requirements

The Special NOFO requires all project applicants to meet Threshold Requirements as listed in Section V.C.3.

- a. **Ineligible Applicants.** HUD will not consider a project application from an ineligible project applicant.
- b. **Project Eligibility Threshold.** HUD will review all projects to determine if they meet the following eligibility threshold requirements on a pass/fail standard. If HUD determines that the applicable standards are not met for a project, the project will be rejected.
 1. Project applicants and potential subrecipients must meet the eligibility requirements of the CoC Program as described in 24 CFR part 578 and provide evidence of eligibility required in the applications.
 2. Project applicants and subrecipients must demonstrate the financial and management capacity and experience to carry out the projects as detailed in the project application and to administer Federal funds.
 3. Project applicants must submit the required certifications as specified in the Special NOFO.
 4. The population to be served must meet program eligibility requirements as described in Section II.B.4 of the Special NOFO, and the project application must clearly establish eligibility of project applicants.
 5. Project applicants must agree to participate in a local HMIS System. However, in accordance with Section 407 of the Act, any victim service provider that is an applicant must not disclose, for purposes of HMIS, any personal identifying information about any client. Victim service providers must use a comparable database that meets the needs of the local HMIS.
 6. Project applicants must demonstrate operational integrity with the Housing First model of project implementation.
- c. **Project Quality Threshold.** HUD will review all new project applications to determine if they meet the following project quality threshold requirement. As indicated on pages 25 to 30 of the Special NOFO, HUD will assess all new projects for the following minimum project quality threshold requirements. Additionally, the housing and services proposed must be appropriate for its components, program participants and the community.

1. Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Rehousing Proposal Requirements

As indicated on pages 25 and 26 of the Special NOFO, Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Rehousing component project applications must receive at least 4 out of the 5 points available for this project type. Projects that do not receive at least 4 points will be rejected.

- i. The type of housing proposed, including the number and configuration of units, fit the needs of the program participants. (1 point)
- ii. The type of supportive services that will be offered to program participants will ensure successful retention in or help to obtain permanent housing, including all supportive services regardless of funding source. (1 point)

- iii. The proposed project has a specific plan for ensuring program participants will be individually assisted to obtain the benefits of mainstream health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible to apply, and which meet the needs of program participants. (1 point)
- iv. Program participants are assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs. This may be demonstrated by a project that provides the participant with some type of transportation to access needed services, safety planning, case management, housing that meets accessibility related needs and additional assistance to ensure retention of permanent housing. (1 point)
- v. The proposed project is consistent with the plan described by the CoC in response to Section VII.B.4 of the Special NOFO. (1 point)

2. Joint TH and PH-RRH Proposal Requirements

As indicated on pages 26 and 27 of the Special NOFO, new Joint TH and PH-RRH component project applications must receive at least 4 out of 6 points available for this project type. Projects that do not receive at least 4 points will be rejected.

- i. The type of housing proposed, including the number and configuration of units, will fit the needs of the program participants. (1 point)
- ii. The proposed project will provide enough rapid rehousing assistance to ensure that at any given time a program participant may move from transitional housing to permanent housing. This may be demonstrated by identifying a budget that has twice as many resources for the rapid rehousing portion of the project than the TH portion, by having twice as many PH-RRH units at a point in time as TH units, or by demonstrating that the budget and units are appropriate for the population being served by the project. (1 point)
- iii. The type of the supportive services that will be offered to program participants will ensure successful retention or help to obtain permanent housing. (1 point)
- iv. The proposed project has a specific plan to coordinate and integrate with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs and ensure that program participants are assisted to obtain benefits from the mainstream programs for which they are eligible to apply and which meet the needs of the program participants. (1 point)
- v. Program participants are assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs. This may be demonstrated by a project that provides the participant with some type of transportation to access needed services, safety planning, case management and additional assistance to ensure retention of permanent housing. (1 point)
- vi. The proposed project is consistent with the plan described by the CoC in response to Section VII.B.4 of the Special NOFO. (1 point)

3. SSO – Not Including SSO Projects for Coordinated Entry

As indicated on page 28 of the Special NOFO, SSO project applications must receive 4 out of 6 points available for this project type:

- i. The proposed project has a strategy for providing supportive services to those with the highest service needs, including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services. (1 point)

- ii. Program participants are assisted to obtain and maintain permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs. (1 point)
- iii. The proposed project has a specific plan for ensuring program participants will be individually assisted to obtain the benefits of mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which they are eligible to apply and which meet the needs of the program participants. (1 point).
- iv. The project proposed will participate in coordinated entry. (2 points)
- v. The proposed project is consistent with the plan described by the CoC in response to Section VII.B.4 of this Special NOFO. (1 point)

RFP REVIEW, SCORING AND SELECTION PROCESS

Review Process

Applicants responding to this RFP must submit materials as described in this solicitation. **Applications that are late, incomplete, or substantially deficient will not be advanced to the Project Review Panel for scoring.** All applications will be reviewed to ensure they meet HUD threshold requirements and project quality threshold standards. Any correctable deficiencies will be identified, and selected applicants will have the opportunity to submit corrected documents before the final CoC application is submitted to HUD.

The Orange County CoC will convene an unbiased Project Review Panel to review each project that passes the technical and threshold review. Any member of the CoC who is making an application or is affiliated with an organization/agency that is making an application will not participate in the review and ranking process or otherwise influence those that are ranking the applications.

The Project Review Panel will receive the applications and scoring instructions in advance of the meeting. The Project Review Panel will hold one meeting to review and average their scores and arrive at a decision about which projects to fund. Should there be a need for clarification, the Project Review Panel may call in high performing/scoring applicants for a Question-and-Answer Session. This session is at the discretion of the Project Review Panel. In keeping with HUD requirements, the Project Review Panel will also assign a ranked order to all projects that will be funded. They will also recommend which project/s should be submitted in response to the Special NOFO. The Project Review Panel may also recommend that projects either increase or decrease their funding request to maximize the use of available funds.

The final ranking of new projects as determined by the Project Review Panel will be recommended to the Special NOFO Ad Hoc Committee to determine their order on the Project Priority Listing submitted to HUD. The final Project Priority list will be approved by the CoC Board (with review of the Special NOFO Ad Hoc). Applicants will be notified of the results no later than October 5, 2022. Any projects not selected for funding may appeal the decision by following the CoC's appeal process. Placement on the Project Priority List does not guarantee funding, as HUD will review and assess all new project applications for threshold compliance and project quality.

Applicants conditionally selected for funding by HUD will be required to provide additional information in the form of a technical submission within 30 days of notification by HUD of the project's conditional approval.

Appeal Process

The CoC Board approves applications for ranking and funding recommendations to HUD. That ranking decision is communicated to all applicants by email. In all cases, the Appeals Committee has the final authority on appeals decisions.

A formal appeal must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. two (2) business days after the CoC Board decision. The appeal document must consist of a short, written statement (no longer than two pages) of the agency’s appeal of the decision addressing the flaw in methodology or in the process used in the decision. The overall performance measurements or data are not a basis for an appeal. The statement can be in the form of a letter or a memo from an individual authorized to represent the agency (i.e., Executive Director). The appeal must be transmitted by email to Zulima Lundy (ZLundy@ochca.com) and Felicia Boehringer (FBoehringer@ochca.com).

The Appeals Panel will be selected from the CoC Board or its designees. The membership of the Appeals Panel will have no conflict of interest in serving. The Appeal Panel will conduct an in person or telephone meeting with a representative(s) of the agency/collaborative who filed the appeal to discuss it, if needed. The Appeal Panel will inform appealing agencies of its decision. In all cases, the appeals panel has the final authority on appeals decisions.

Scoring Criteria

All projects will be scored on a 100-point scale using the following criteria:

	Criterion	Points	Description of basis for assigning points
1	CoC Participation	Up to 10 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant has demonstrated participation and involvement in the Orange County CoC and core activities of the CoC, such as Point In Time Count and Housing Inventory Count. • Applicant participates in the local HMIS and completes timely and curate data submissions, as requested. • Applicant participates in the local CES.
2	Capacity of Applicant and Partners	Up to 10 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past and current relevant experience in providing housing and services related to those in this solicitation, including evaluation of current and similar project types. • Past and current relevant experience in effectively utilizing federal funds and performing the activities proposed in the application,
3	Applicant Service Experience and Approach	Up to 20 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant has demonstrated experience in working with target population to quickly secure housing, make connections to supportive services, and promote housing stability. • Applicant described service delivery approach for serving people with severe service needs. • Applicant described service delivery approach to serving underserved communities. • Applicant described data driven approach to service delivery.

4	Involving Persons with Lived Experience	Up to 10 Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant has a member on the Board of Director's with current and/or past experience of homelessness. • Applicant ensures perspectives of people with lived experience of homelessness are meaningfully and intentionally integrated into the decision-making process. • Applicant practices meaningful involvement of people with lived experience in the delivery of services.
5	Proposed Project - Service Plan and Supportive Services	Up to 25 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed project, including service plan and supportive services, is appropriate for the household type and/or subpopulation • Proposed project includes strategies to assist participants to obtain and remain in permanent housing, increase their employment and/or income and maximize their ability to live independently. • Proposed project will implement a Housing First, client-centered approach and evidence-based practices in program operations. In order to receive full points, applicants must clearly describe the evidence-informed practices that the project will use in its policies, procedures and operations. • Proposed project will have tailored approach to serve people with severe service needs and underserved communities. • Proposed project will aim to leverage housing resources and/or healthcare resources.
6	Outcomes	Up to 10 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed performance outcomes (not outputs) that will be achieved by the project and how data will be used to measure those outcomes and determine success. • Proposed performance outcomes should focus on participants housing placement and permanent housing retention, as well as improved quality of life, rather than just measuring the amount or types of services provided (not outputs).
7	Project Readiness	Up to 5 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated schedule for the proposed project to begin operations, including housing services and supportive service activities. Full points will be given to projects that can begin soon after the grant is awarded.
8	Budget and Match	Up to 10 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget is reasonable for type of project proposed, total number of households and participants to be served and clearly articulated. • Applicant is able to provide the required match of at least 25% is included and documented. • Applicant is able to demonstrate how leveraged housing resources and/or health care resources contribute to the overall budget of the project proposed.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

The RFP process will be a thorough review of an agency's (1) capacity to administer a CoC homeless service project in the Orange County CoC, (2) experience in administering similar programs as indicated in the Threshold Requirements for Agency Section of the RFP, and (3) project proposal for eligible project type (PSH, RRH, Joint TH and PH-RRH and/or SSO), and determination of how it meets HUD's Policy and Program Priorities as indicated in the Special NOFO.

The Request for Proposals process will include a comprehensive review of the following:

1. Threshold Requirements for Agency
2. Technical Requirements
3. Document Presentation Requirements
4. Required Documents

Threshold Requirements for Agency

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for Special NOFO Projects will require all applicant agencies to meet the below Threshold Requirements:

1. Applicant must be an eligible entity.
2. Applicant must have financial and management capacity to carry out the project.
3. Applicant must show experience in providing services related those in this RFP.
4. Applicant must submit required certifications and documentation.
5. Applicant must commit to participate in HMIS and CES.
6. Applicant must complete and timely submit the proposal in response to the RFP.

Technical Requirements

1. One (1) printed original with signatures and three (3) complete copies in binders with clearly marked tab dividers for all exhibits, attachments, and supporting documents. Clearly marked original and copies.
2. One (1) electronic copy via DropBox of the Request for Proposals Submittal – exhibits, attachments, and supporting documents – to be organized and separated per Document Presentation Requirements.

Document Presentation Requirements

1. No late submissions will be accepted.
2. Clearly identify which version is the original and which is the copy on the cover page of the submittal.
3. Tab dividers must be clearly labeled between each exhibit and attachment.
4. All exhibits and attachments must be numbered separately within tab dividers in accordance with the Document Checklist.
5. Most recent documentation must be submitted for each exhibit and/or attachment.
6. Do not leave any blank responses without an explanation (e.g., if the question is not applicable, indicate N/A).

7. All documents with a signature block must be signed by the authorized officer(s).
8. All required documents must be included in the submission.
9. All supporting documents must be legible.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents must be submitted.

- **Documents Checklist**
- **Cover Letter** (signed by Authorized Signatory)
- **Exhibit 1: Lead Agency Information Form**
 - **Attachment 1:** Organizational Chart – include Board of Director’s body as it relates to the entire organization
 - **Attachment 2:** Board of Directors’ Roster² and Resolution authorizing submittal of the new project application in response to the CoC Special NOFO competition process
 - **Attachment 3:** State Certificate of Status³
 - **Attachment 4:** Agency’s Code of Conduct
 - **Attachment 5:** 501(c)3 Certification, if applicable
- **Exhibit 2: Financial Assessment**
 - **Attachment 6:** Two most recent agency financial audits by a certified public accountant (CPA).
 - **Attachment 7:** Two most recent single audits, previously known as the OMB Circular A-133, if applicable.
- **Exhibit 3: Orange County Continuum of Care Participation**
- **Exhibit 4: Terms and Conditions**
- **Exhibit 5: Related Services Experience and Approach**
 - **Attachment 8:** HMIS Project Performance Report for all of agency’s current project types
- **Exhibit 6: Strategy for Involving Persons with Lived Experience**
- **Exhibit 7: Project Information Form**
 - **Attachment 9:** Certification of Consistency in the Consolidated Plan
 - **Attachment 10:** Environmental Information – Limited Scope Environmental Review Form **or** Environmental review of Categorical Excluded not Subject to Section 58.5
 - **Attachment 11:** In-Kind Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - **Attachment 12:** 25% Match Documentation Letters
 - **Attachment 13:** Document(s) supporting Housing First Model for proposed project type
 - **Attachment 14:** Housing Resources Leveraging Commitment(s)
 - **Attachment 15:** Health Care Resource Leveraging Formal Agreement
- **HUD CoC Project Application (e-snaps)**

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Orange County Continuum of Care Participation (Exhibit 3)

The Exhibit captures information related to the applicant agency's participation and involvement in the Orange County CoC and overall engagement in the homeless service system, including HMIS and CES requirements.

Terms and Conditions (Exhibit 4)

The Exhibit outlines the terms and conditions of the RFP for the Special NOFO, as well as outlines the applicant agency's understanding of the Orange County CoC's requirements if and when the proposed project is awarded by HUD. The Exhibit is to be signed by the person preparing the proposal in response to the RFP and by the Chief Executive Officer or Executive Director of the agency.

Related Services Experience and Approach (Exhibit 5)

The Exhibit captures information on the applicant agency's current and relevant experience in providing similar services, operating similar programs and addressing the needs of the target population. The Exhibit includes questions specific to the Super NOFO and HUD's priorities related to addressing unsheltered homelessness, serving people with severe service needs and underserved communities. Answers provided in this exhibit should demonstrate the applicant agency's deep understanding of evidenced-based principles and strategies to operate the proposed project as described in the RFP and the Super NOFO.

Project Information Form (Exhibit 7)

The Exhibit captures information on the proposed project to ensure that project design meets the needs of the target population as outlined in the RFP and the Special NOFO, as well as evaluates how the proposed project will operate within the Orange County CoC and improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness with severe service needs and/or underserved communities. The Exhibit also captures information on leveraged housing and health care resources and how these will be used in the ongoing operations of the project and service delivery that best meets the needs of the population.

Additionally, it includes a Housing First Model Assessment given HUD's requirement that projects types funded through the Special NOFO operate utilizing a Housing First approach to increase access to housing options for households that often face multiple barriers to housing. The Housing First is a model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold). Joint TH and PH-RRH and SSO projects can be considered to be using a housing first model for the purposes of the Special NOFO, if they operate with low-barriers, work to quickly move people into permanent housing, do not require participation in supportive services, and, for transitional housing projects, do not require any preconditions for moving into the transitional housing (e.g., sobriety or minimum income threshold).

Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan (Attachment 9)

Each agency must submit a Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan (form HUD-2991), in which a local jurisdiction certifies that the proposed activities or projects are consistent with the jurisdiction's HUD-approved Consolidated Plan. The certification must be made in accordance with the provisions of the consolidated plan regulations at 24 CFR part 91, subpart F. Form HUD-2991 must be

completed and dated between June 22, 2022, and October 20, 2022, or date of submission, whichever one is the earliest date.

Environmental Reviews (Attachment 10)

The Environmental Review is required by HUD to ensure the project does not negatively impact the surrounding environment and that the property itself will not have adverse environmental or health effects on occupants. All CoC Program assistance is subject to environmental review by a responsible entity under HUD regulation 24 CFR part 59, the National Environmental Policy Act and applicable related Federal environmental authorities. Conditional selection of projects under the CoC Homeless Assistance competition is subject to the environmental review requirements of 24 CFR 582.230, and 882.804(c) as applicable.

The County of Orange will perform the Environment Review and once approved, will present the applicant agency with an environmental clearance letter. This environmental clearance letter is addressed per project and will be valid for the next five (5) calendar years from the day dated and may be submitted in lieu of the Environmental Review Forms.

The recipient, its project partners, and their contractors may not acquire, rehabilitate, convert, lease, repair, dispose of, demolish, or construct property for a project under this Special NOFO, or commit or expend HUD or local funds for such eligible activities under the Special NOFO, until the responsible entity (as defined by 24 CFR 58.2(a)(7)) has completed the environmental review procedures required by 24 CFR Part 58 and the environmental certification and Request for Release of Funds have been approved or HUD has performed an environmental review under 24 CFR Part 50 and the recipient has received HUD approval of the property. HUD will not release grant funds if the recipient or any other party commits grant funds before the recipient submits and HUD approves its Request for Release of Funds, where such submission is required (page 31 of the Special NOFO).

Financial Commitment (Attachments 11 and 12)

All eligible funding costs, except leasing, must be matched with no less than 25% cash or in-kind contribution. No match is required for leasing activities in the budget. The match requirements apply to project administration funds, along with the traditional expenses (operations, rental assistance, supportive services, and HMIS). Match must be met on an annual basis. HUD requires match letters to be submitted with the e-snaps application and should be included in the RFP Submittal.

For in-kind match, the applicant agency may use the value of property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to the project, provided that, if the recipient or sub-recipient had to pay for such items with grant funds, the costs would have been eligible. If third party services are to be used as match, the third-party service provider that will deliver the services must enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) before the grant is executed documenting that the third party will provide such services and value towards the project. HUD requires Match letters to be submitted with the e-snaps Application and should be included in the RFP Submittal.

TIMELINE AND DUE DATES

Please review the key dates and deadlines of the RFP for Special NOFO process:

Activity	Dates
HUD released Special NOFO to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness	June 22, 2022
Office of Care Coordination release of the RFP for Special NOFO for new projects	August 9, 2022
Bidders Conference on RFP for Special NOFO via WebEx Meeting Link: https://ocgov.webex.com/ocgov/j.php?MTID=mea3b78017d76c76cd0bd0bca7f31f285 Meeting access code: 2468 005 0266 Meeting password: cocNOFO Join by phone: +1-213-306-3065 United States Toll (Los Angeles)	August 17, 2022, at 9 am
Technical Assistance Office Hours via Webex. Contact Felicia Boehringer at FBoehringer@ochca.com to schedule an appointment.	August 29, 2022, to September 1, 2022
Question and Answer Period Ends	September 1, 2022, at 5:00 pm (PDT)
Deadline for Agencies to submit new project RFP applications to the Office of Care Coordination	September 7, 2022, at 12:00 pm (PDT)
Deadline for the Office of Care Coordination to notify all agencies concerned regarding project acceptance, rejection or reduction by the Orange County CoC	October 5, 2022
Office of Care Coordination to post consolidated application for Special NOFO on webpage	October 18, 2022
HUD submission deadline for Special NOFO	October 20, 2022

SUBMITTAL

It is the sole responsibility of the Agency to ensure that delivery is made prior to the due date and time. The Special NOFO Project Application including all Exhibits and Attachments in response to the RFP must be hand delivered by 12:00 pm PDT on September 7, 2022, electronically via DropBox, and also printed binder submissions to:

County Executive Office
Attention: Felicia Boehringer
405 W. 5th Street, Suite 685
Santa Ana, CA 92701
(714) 834-4454
FBoehringer@ochca.com

RIGHT OF ORANGE COUNTY CONTINUUM OF CARE TO WAIVE IRREGULARITIES

The Orange County CoC reserves the right to:

1. Withdraw this solicitation at any time without prior notice and, furthermore, makes no representation that any contract occurs and that funds will be awarded by HUD to any respondent to this solicitation.
2. Waive any irregularities in the RFP process and to reject any and all submissions not in the best interest of the CoC.
3. Request additional information and material. In addition, once released, the application from HUD may require and warrant the request of supplemental material.
4. Not select grants proposed by agencies that have exhibited serious capacity issues in prior grants, including performance and financial problems, HMIS participation, or unresolved monitoring issues, or based on the best interest of the entire CoC Application. HUD will review applications and make the final funding decision.
5. Retain all submitted applications. Selection or rejection of an application does not affect these rights.

FURTHER QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Office of Care Coordination is available to answer questions on the RFP for the Special NOFO, application deadlines, process, training, or to provide copies of application materials specific to the Orange County CoC. For further questions or technical assistance, please email the Office of Care Coordination at CareCoordination@ochca.com and Carbon Copy (Cc) Felicia Boehringer (FBoehringer@ochca.com) and Zulima Lundy (ZLundy@ochca.com).

Specific questions regarding your HUD grant amount, HUD guidelines and etc., should be directed to your local HUD field office representative. **Please DO NOT contact the HUD office regarding Orange County's local application deadlines or process**, as the Office of Care Coordination is available to answer those questions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Agencies will be required to comply with terms set forth by the CoC and HUD. In addition, all applicants are strongly advised to review all applicable terms, conditions, and federal requirements. It is strongly recommended that you obtain, and review information related to the Continuum of Care Program, the CoC Interim Rule, and the HEARTH Act Regulations, along with any other related documents prior to completion of this RFP. In addition, HUD will provide updates via their website at https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/specialCoCNOFO.