

IMPERIAL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN COLLABORATION WITH IMPERIAL VALLEY CONTINUUM OF CARE COUNCIL Local Notice of Funding Opportunity FISCAL YEAR 2024 and FISCAL YEAR 2025 CONTINUUM OF CARE PROGRAM COMPETITION POSTED: AUGUST 29, 2024



The Imperial County Department of Social Services (ICDSS), acting on behalf of the Imperial Valley Continuum of Care (IVCCC), is requesting proposals from nonprofit, tribal and local government organizations aiding homeless populations within the County of Imperial. The County of Imperial is interested in receiving project applications that meet the requirements of the Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus, Continuum of Care (CoC) Bonus, Expansion, and Reallocation Projects, as noted in the attached United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CoC Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 and Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). All project applications including applications for Renewal Projects must follow the timeline, eligibility threshold, and other requirements identified through this Local Notice of Funding Opportunity and the <u>Notice of Funding Opportunity for the FY 2024 and FY 2025 Continuum of Care Competition and the Renewal or Replacement of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program grants.</u>

Deadline:

Applicants may refer to the FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Competition Timeline for activities and deadlines provided in the Timeline/ Important Dates section of this notice. Applicants are responsible for adhering to all applicable dates on the timeline.

Organizations that wish to apply should complete a Notice of Intent to Submit an Application form no later than **September 12, 2024**, at 4:00 p.m. via email to: <u>ivcccinquiries@co.imperial.ca.us</u>.

Applicants must complete an application and upload the required attachments in e-snaps through the <u>e-snaps portal</u>. It is important that persons completing the application do **NOT** hit the "SUBMIT" button in e-snaps. Export and save the application in PDF form and submit three (3) physical copies of the application and attachments to **Mr. Les Smith, IVCCC Executive Board Chair: 225 Wake Avenue, El Centro, CA 92243** for review by Friday, September 20, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. In addition to the physical copies, include an electronic copy of the entire application and attachments in a USB. Applications posted or updated at a later date and time will not be considered. **Please attach a copy of the organizations Code of Conduct along with all applications.**

ICDSS will host a local FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Competition Workshop for interested applicants on September 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. via the following Zoom link: <u>FY 2024</u> and FY 2025 CoC Program Workshop.

Addenda to this Notice:

Please note that the County of Imperial reserves the right to issue an addendum to this notice if determines that additional clarifications are needed. Updates will be posted on the <u>IVCCC</u> website.

Background/Purpose:

HUD released the NOFO for the FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Competition on July 31, 2024, announcing the availability of approximately \$3,524,000,000, including \$52,000,000 available as DV Bonus funding. The CoC Program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit, tribal, state and local government organizations to quickly re-house homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness. The FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Competition applications are due to HUD by Wednesday, October 30, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time.

Funding Principles:

This notice adopts the IVCCC Executive Board's established funding principles to guide and prioritize grant allocation. The funding principles are as follows:

- a. Invest in programs that support Imperial County's service priorities: permanent housing, rapid re-housing, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and supportive services to end homelessness.
- b. Invest in programs that support Imperial County's homeless population priorities and align with HUD-recommended subpopulations such as veterans, youth, families, and chronically homeless individuals.
- c. Invest in programs that work towards eradicating homelessness in the region by addressing the underlying causes and lessening the negative impact on individuals, families, and community.
- d. Invest in programs that address significant service gaps among the chronically homeless and establish accountable, long-term, and sustainable results.
- e. Invest in programs that support the Housing First policy and emphasize a comprehensive, coordinated service delivery approach to wraparound services to ensure successful housing and self-sufficiency outcomes.

Available Funding:

The FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Competition NOFO potential funding for Imperial County includes:

- \$179,155 in Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)
- \$146,615 DV Bonus Funds
- \$117,292 CoC Bonus
- \$50,000 in CoC Planning Funds

Match Requirement:

Project applicants that intend to use program income as a match must provide an estimate of how much program income will be used for the match.

Eligible Project Applicants (McKinney-Vento Act, 24 CFR 578.15, 24 CFR 5.100):

Eligible project applicants for the CoC Program Competition are found at 24 CFR 578.15 and in the McKinney-Vento Act, and include nonprofit organizations, states, local governments,

instrumentalities of state and local governments, Indian Tribes, and TDHE [as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)(TDHEs)]. Public housing agencies, as such term is defined in 24 CFR 5.100, are eligible without limitation or exclusion. For-profit entities are ineligible to apply for grants and are prohibited from being subrecipients of CoC Program grant funds.

Participant Eligibility:

Participants should carefully consider the participant eligibility requirements of NOFO listed on page 34-35, renewal project requirements criteria starting on page 52, and new project eligibility requirements listed starting on page 55.

Eligible Project Applications:

Project applicants must comply with all FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Consolidation Application requirements and all other respective Detailed Instruction documents. Special attention should be given to the items identified in the Project Eligibility Threshold (III.C.4. a) and the Project Quality Threshold (III.C.4.b) sections of the NOFO. For detailed descriptions of HUD scoring criteria, please refer to pages 60-64 of the NOFO.

Applicants must meet the following HUD Threshold requirements to ensure that application is potentially eligible:

- 1. Recipients and applicants have Active SAM registration with current information and maintains an active SAM registration annually.
- 2. Recipients and applicant have Valid UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) Number.
- 3. COC Program Eligibility Project applicants, recipients and potential subrecipients meet the eligibility requirements of the CoC Program as described in the Act and the Rule and provide evidence of eligibility required in the application (e.g., nonprofit documentation).
- 4. Financial and Management capacity: Project applicant, recipients and subrecipients demonstrate the financial and management capacity and experience to carry out the project as detailed in the project application and the capacity to administer federal funds.
- 5. Certifications- Project applicants and recipients must submit the required certifications specified in the NOFO
- 6. Populations Served- The population to be served is required to meet program eligibility requirements as described in the Act, the Rule and the NOFO.
- 7. HMIS Participation- Project applicants and recipients, except Collaborative Applicants that only receive awards for CoC planning costs and, if applicable, UFA Costs, agree to participate in a local HMIS system. However, in accordance with Section 407 of the Act, any victim service provider that is a recipient or subrecipient may not disclose, for purposes of HMIS, any personally identifying information about any client. Victim service provider must use a comparable database that captures the required HMIS data in addition to meeting the needs of the local HMIS.
- 8. Recipients and applicant have no Outstanding Delinquent Federal Debts it is HUD policy, consistent with the purposes and intent of 31 U.S.C. 3720B and 28 U.S. 3201(e), that applicants with outstanding delinquent federal will not be eligible to receive an award of funds unless:
 - a. A negotiated repayment schedule is established, and the repayment schedule is not delinquent, or
 - b. Other arrangements satisfactory to HUD are made before the award of funds by HUD

- 9. Recipients and applicants have no Debarments and/or Suspensions- In accordance with 2 CFR 2424, no award of federal funds may be made to debarred or suspended applicants, or those proposed to be debarred or suspended from doing business with the Federal government.
- 10. Pre-selection Review of Performance- By applying, the recipient or applicant acknowledges if the organization has delinquent federal debt or is excluded from doing business with the Federal government, the organization may be ineligible for an award. In addition, before making a Federal award, HUD reviews information available through any OMB- designated repositories of government -wide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information such as Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS), and the "Do Not Pay" website. HUD reserves the right to:
 - a. Deny funding, or with a renewal or continuing award, consider suspension or termination of the award; and
 - b. Required the removal of any key individual from association with management or implementation of the award; and
 - c. Make provision or revisions regarding the method of payment or financial reporting requirements
- 11. Sufficiency of Financial Management system- By applying, the recipient or applicant understands that HUD will not award or disburse funds to applicants that do not have a financial management system that meets Federal standards as described at 2 CFR 200.302. HUD may arrange for a survey of financial management systems for applicants selected for award who have not previously received Federal financial assistance where HUD officials have reason to question whether a financial management system meets Federal standards, or for applicants considered high risk based on performance or financial management findings.
- 12. False statements A false statement in an application is grounds for denial or termination of an award and may result in criminal, civil, and/ or administrative sanctions, including fines, penalties, and imprisonment. Recipient or applicant confirms all statement are truthful.
- 13. Mandatory Disclosure Requirement By applying, recipients or applicants understand and agree to disclosing in writing to the awarding program office at HUD, all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award within ten days after learning of the violation. Recipients that have received a Federal award including the term and condition outline in Appendix XII to 2 CFR part 200- Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosure can result in any of the remedies described in § 200.338 Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment. (See also 2 CFR part 180, 31 U.S.C. 3321, and S.C. 2313.)
- 14. Prohibition Against Lobbying Activities Recipients and applicants are subject to the provisions of Section 319 of Public Law 101-121, 31 U.S.C 1352, (the Byrd Amendment), and 24 CFR part 87, which prohibit recipients of federal awards from using appropriated funds for lobbying the executive or legislative branches of the Federal government in connection with a Federal award. All applicants submit with their application the signed Certification Regarding Lobbying included in the Application. In addition, applicants disclose, using standard Form LLL(SFLLL), "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," any funds, other than federally appropriated funds, that will be or have been used to influence federal employees, members of Congress, or congressional staff regarding specific awards.

Federally-recognized Indian tribes and tribally housing entities (TDHEs) established by federally- recognized Indian tribes as a result of the exercise of the tribe's sovereign power are excluded from coverage of the Byrd Amendment, but state-recognized Indian tribes and TDHEs established only under state law shall comply with the requirement. Applicants submit the SFLL if they have used or intend to use non-federal funds for lobbying activities.

- 15. Equal participation of Faith-Based Organizations in HUD Programs and Activities Recipients and Applicants ensure that all projects meet the requirements under 24 CFR 5.109. On April 4, 2016, HUD amended 24 CFR 5.109 consistent with E.O 13559, entitled Fundamental Principles and Policymaking Criteria for Partnership with Faith-Based and Other Neighborhood Organizations (75 Fed. Reg. 71319 (Nov. 22, 2010)). See 81 FR 19355). These regulations apply to all HUD programs and activities, including all of HUD's Native American Programs, except as may be otherwise provided in the respective program regulations or unless inconsistent with respective program authorizing statute.
- 16. Resolution of Civil Rights Matters By applying, recipients and applicants understand that outstanding civil rights matters must be resolved before the application submission deadline. Project applicants, who after review are confirmed to have civil rights matters unresolved at the application submission deadline will be deemed ineligible.

The following types of project applications will be eligible for completion and submission in the FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Competition.

- 1. <u>CoC Planning Projects</u>: All Collaborative Applicants are eligible and encouraged to apply for CoC Planning funds which they may use according to 24 CFR 578.39. CoC Planning project applications must be submitted by the CoC-designated Collaborative Applicant and the Collaborative Applicant organization must match the organization listed as the Collaborative Applicant in the CoC Applicant Profile in e-snaps. Collaborative Applicants must not rank Planning project applications in the FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Competition. Planning projects will not affect a CoC's available amount for new and renewal project applications because it is not included in the CoC's ARD calculation.
- 2. Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Bonus (DV Bonus): A new project that is dedicated to individuals and families of persons experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who qualify under the paragraphs (1) or (4) of definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3 or section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. As described in the NOFO, survivors of human trafficking may qualify as homeless under paragraph (4) of the homeless definition at 24 CFR 578.3 or section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act because they are often also victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking, however, a DV Bonus project may not exclusively serve people fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking. New DV Bonus projects are subject to the limitation on new projects in section I.B.3.a.(1) of the NOFO. CoCs may apply for DV Bonus projects where the total amount for one year of funding for all DV Bonus applications is up to 15 percent of its Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN); however, this amount is limited to:
 - a. a minimum of \$50,000 if 15 percent of the CoC's PPRN is less than \$50,000; or
 - b. a maximum of \$5 million if 15 percent of the CoC's PPRN is more than \$5 million.

- 3. <u>Expansion Project</u>: HUD will allow project applicants to apply for new expansion projects to expand existing projects to increase the number of units, beds, persons served, services provided to existing program participants, or to add additional activities to HMIS and SSO-CE projects. CoC Bonus, DV Bonus, CoC Reallocation and DV reallocation funds may only be used to expand eligible CoC and DV renewal projects. The new expansion project applications must meet the project eligibility and project quality thresholds in sections III.C.4.a. and b. of the FY 2024 and FY 2025 Continuum of Care Competition NOFO and must be for the same component as the project being expanded. If the new expansion project exceeds the amount of funding available under the reallocation or Bonus processes, HUD will reduce the funding request to the available amount, which could affect the activities of the new expansion project.
- 4. <u>**DV Reallocation Projects</u>**: HUD is establishing a definition of DV reallocation to implement a congressional directive that requires projects previously funded using DV Bonus funds to continue to serve the same population, even when projects are reallocated. CoCs may reallocate eligible Renewal projects that were previously funded, in whole or in part, with DV Bonus funding to create DV Reallocation projects that are dedicated to serving the same population. New DV Reallocation projects must be 100 percent dedicated to serving individuals and families of persons experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who qualify under paragraphs (1) or (4) of the definition of homeless at 24 CFR 578.3 or section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance.</u>
 - 5. <u>CoC Bonus</u>: New projects created through the CoC Bonus must meet the project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements established by HUD in sections III.C.4.a. and b. of the NOFO. To be eligible to receive a CoC Bonus project, the Collaborative Applicant must demonstrate its CoC evaluates and ranks projects based on how they improve system performance as outlined in section V.B.2.b of the NOFO.
 - 6. <u>Eligible Renewal Projects</u>: Consists of CoC and DV projects eligible to renew under the NOFO. An eligible FY 2024 renewal project must have an expiration date in CY 2025 (between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025) and eligible FY 2025 renewal projects must have an expiration date in CY 2026 (between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026). Renewal project applications must be submitted by the same recipient operating the project. See section III.B.4.c of the NOFO for more information on renewal projects. In cases where an expiring grant agreement is amended to have a new recipient after a renewal application is submitted, the new recipient will be eligible to receive the renewal award (Section VI.A.4).

Submission Requirements:

- 1. Organizations that wish to submit an application, including Renewal Projects, should complete and submit the Notice of Intent to Submit a FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Competition Application for New or Renewal Projects form no later than 4:00 p.m. on September 12, 2024 via ivcccinquiries@co.imperial.ca.us.
- 2. New or renewal applicants must complete a project proposal in e-snaps following HUD

guidelines. The e-snaps system may be accessed at: e-snaps portal.

- 3. The applicants must **NOT** select the "submit" button for the initial submittal. This process will be completed after the local scoring and ranking of all projects.
- 4. Applicant will provide the most current information pertaining to any current awarded grants financial audit and any findings related to said audit. Specifically, whether there were any exceptions found to standard practices.
- 5. Provide Annual Performance Report (APR) for your agency for performance period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.
- 6. FY 2024 and FY 2025 Project Application will include:
 - a. Charts, narrative responses, and attachments.
 - b. Documentation of applicant and subrecipient eligibility nonprofit project applicants must attach eligibility documentation to the Project Applicant Profile. If nonprofit subrecipients are included in a project application, subrecipient eligibility documentation must be attached to the project application.
 - c. Applicant code of conduct project applicants must ensure their organization has a Code of Conduct that complies with the requirements of 2CFR part 200 and is on file with <u>HUD</u>. If the organization's Code of Conduct does not appear on HUD's website, the project applicant must attach its Code of Conduct that includes all required information to its Project Applicant Profile in e-snaps.
 - d. HUD required forms the following forms are built into e-snaps and must be fully completed and electronically signed before project applicants have access to the project application:
 - 1) SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance;
 - 2) HUD 424-B Applicant and Recipient Assurances and Certifications;
 - 3) Form HUD-2880, Applicant/Recipient Update/ Disclosure;
 - 4) SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying activities (if applicable);
 - 5) Form HUD-50070, Certification for Drug-Free Workplace;
 - 6) SF-424B*: Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (The SF-424B form must be completed as part of your SAM.gov registration. If an applicant fails to complete the SF-424B during their sam.gov registration or renewal, HUD will issue a curable deficiency notice;
 - 7) Applicant Certifications;
 - 8) Formal letter of commitment detailing how the organization will leverage non-CoC/ESG funded housing units or subsidies; (if applicable) and;
 - 9) Formal letter of commitment detailing how the organization will leverage healthcare resources to support individuals and families experiencing homelessness (if applicable).
- 7. All other attachments requested for the project application in the e-snaps system must be attached to the application in the order listed on the summary page.

Application Review, Scoring and Ranking:

The IVCCC utilizes a Scoring and Ranking Committee to review, score, establish funding allocations, and rank order project applications for submittal under the CoC Competition. Elements considered during the process include CoC threshold requirements, performance measures, experience, design of housing and supportive services projects, timeliness, financials, and local and HUD principles and prioritization criteria.

Technical Assistance:

Agencies interested in applying are strongly encouraged to attend the local FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Competition Workshop hosted by ICDSS on September 10, 2024, at 10 a.m. via the following Zoom link: FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Workshop.

Applicants are advised to review the guides located on HUD's website to include the following:

- FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Competition NOFO
- Applicable Detailed Instructions based on application/ project type
 - New Projects Detailed Instructions
 - Renewal Projects Detailed Instructions
 - CoC Planning Detailed Instructions

*Please refer to HUD's website for additional information: <u>Continuum of Care Program Competition</u>

Appeals of the Scoring and Ranking Committee:

- 1. An Appeal Committee will be appointed by the CoC Executive Board, and it will consist of two (2) to three (3) members who may not be members of the Scoring and Ranking committee.
- 2. Applicants may appeal if the applicant can prove the score is not reflective of the application information provided or if a scoring factor was missed or omitted.
- 3. Ineligible Appeals
 - a. Applicants found not to have meet the threshold requirements are not eligible for an appeal.
 - b. Appeals cannot be based upon the judgment of the scoring and ranking committee.
 - c. Applicants may not attempt to assert influence or pressure on the Appeals Committee.
- 4. All notices of appeal must be based on the information submitted by the application due date.
- 5. No new or additional information will be considered. Omissions to the application cannot be appealed. The decision of the appeal committee will be final.

The Appeal Process:

- 1. Any and all appeals must be received in writing within three (3) business days of the notification of project ranking, which will be posted on the <u>IVCCC</u> webpage.
- 2. A notice of appeal must be submitted to the IVCCC Executive Board Chair within 48 hours of the project priorities being announced on the <u>IVCCC</u> webpage. An email submission is acceptable.
- 3. The notice of appeal must include a written statement specifying in detail the grounds asserted for the appeal and must be signed by an individual authorized to represent the sponsoring agency (i.e., Executive Director).
- 4. The notice of appeal is limited to one page, single-spaced, in 12-point font.
- 5. The appeal must include a copy of the application/ proposal and accompanying materials submitted to the Scoring and Ranking Committee; no additional information can be submitted.
- 6. The appointed Appeal Committee will read, review, and evaluate all valid appeals.
 - a. All applicants will be invited to attend any appeal and make a 10-minute statement regarding the appeal.

- b. The Appeal Committee will review the rankings made by the Scoring and Ranking Committee only on the basis of the submitted project application, the one-page appeal, any statements made during the appeal process, and the material used by the Scoring and Ranking committee members; no new information can be submitted by the applicant or reviewed by the Appeal Committee.
- c. A simple majority vote must support the decision of the appeal process committee.
- 7. The appealing agency will be issued the Appeal Committee's decision in writing within 2 business days of the Appeal Committee Meeting; the decision of the Appeal Committee will be final.

Timeline/Important Dates: Applicants are responsible for adhering to all applicable due dates on the following timeline.

FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Competition Timeline			
Due Date	Activity		
August 29, 2024	Release of Local Notice of Funding Opportunity for FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Competitive Program on the <u>IVCCC website</u>		
September 10, 2024	Technical Assistance Zoom at 10:00 a.m. Link: <u>FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program</u> <u>Workshop</u>		
September 12, 2024	Notice of Intent to Submit a FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Program Competition Application for New or Renewal Projects form due by 4:00 p.m. via email: ivcccinquiries@co.imperial.ca.us		
September 20, 2024	Applications Due by 4:00 p.m.		
	Deliver to: Les Smith, IVCCC Executive Board Chair Address: 225 Wake Avenue in El Centro, CA 92243		
September 25, 2024	Project Reviews, Scoring and Ranking of All Projects and Determine Surplus or Reallocation of Funds (Tier 1 & 2)		
October 2, 2024	IVCCC Executive Board takes action on recommendations.		
October 3, 2024	Post and Send Notice to Agencies of Recommended or Rejected Applications and Allocations on the <u>IVCCC website</u>		
October 15, 2024	FY 2024 and FY 2025 CoC Application, Priority Listing and Notification to the Community		
October 30, 2024	HUD Deadline Via e-snaps is 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time		

FY 2024 and FY 2025 NOFO CoC Application Reference Sheet

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