

## 2015 COC NOFA REVIEW

This document is based on review of the 2015 Application against the 2015 NOFA release document.

### ***CoC Coordination and Engagement*** – up to 49 points

- Up to 7 points for demonstrating invitation and membership to individuals and organizations of all groups. How can the Indianapolis document reducing the number of no's on this chart?

Organization/Person Categories	Participates in CoC Meetings	Votes, including electing CoC board	Sits on CoC Board
Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	No
Local Jail(s)	Yes	No * <i>360 Engagement Center</i>	No
Hospital(s)	Yes	No * <i>Eskenza Zi</i>	Yes
EMT/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	No *	No *
Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	No
CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	No	No	No
Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	No	No
School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
CoC Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Non-CoC Funded Victim Service Providers	No	No	No
Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	No
Youth advocates	Yes	Yes	No
Agencies that serve survivors of human trafficking	No	No	No
Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
HIV/ AIDS Agency	Yes	Yes	Yes

- Up to 2 points awarded for having a timeline that meets the goals of ending homelessness as defined by *Opening Doors*. Points are awarded if we can show the committees and organizations working towards those goals and how their activity is producing results. The narrative should include more results. Section 1B -3

- Up to 2 points are awarded if the CoC coordinates with other providers not funded with the CoC program. I did not see this in the application. The 2015 application talked about the website and outreach for new applications.

#3

- *Houston Response: The CoC publishes funding info in 3 publications, The Houston Chronicle, including dissemination online and their Hispanic newspaper, La Voz, The Houston Defender (leading African-American newspaper) and The India Herald. Ensuring new comm partners not active in our system know about the NOFA process is a vital point to get new agencies involved. Throughout the year we visit emerging and new orgs to gauge interest and provide technical assistance. If interest is communicated to CFTH, we ensure they comply with CoC priorities, have experience and a quality plan to serve target pop, leverage resources, and satisfactory grant mgmt. If they align with funding limitations of the NOFA, they are encouraged to apply. We try to pair them with a well-established org in the community to ease new applicants into the reqs of this funding, sometimes as subrecipients. Our CoC benefits from new agencies as different areas of the CoC have needs that are unanswered by those already involved with HUD Funding.*

- Up to 6 points are awarded for coordination with local Consolidated Plan. This is likely covered by the City's participation on the council and as the Collaborative applicant.

#4

- Up to 3 points is awarded if the CoC discusses coordination with DV providers. 2015 application refers to scenario A and scenario B but does not elaborate what those scenarios are. Suggest this section be re-written and also address housing choice.

#5

- *Houston Response: The CoC Lead Agency formed a DV provider workgroup in April 2014 to address and plan for Coordinated Access alignment, transitional housing operations, best practice adoption, client confidentiality and safety and ways to expand client housing choice across the DV and non-DV systems. Since that time DV shelter providers worked with Coordinated Entry to identify households whose safety risks were low and who would benefit from RRH. In these instances, the prospective clients are referred to housing and service providers and provided a means to reconnect with victim's services if the need arises. Non-DV providers are continually trained to ask all clients about safety and domestic violence prior to beginning an HMIS record in an effort to ensure that clients at risk are aware of the option to not have identifying information entered into HMIS. Potential participants with safety risks are connected to victim's services where they can access safe housing and services.*

- Up to 3 points for demonstrating coordination with the local Public Housing agency. This may be three points to resolve to get in the 2017 application.

#6

#7

- Up to 2 points for coordination with discharge policies – in the 2015 application only two of the boxes were checked out of the 8.
  - Question: select the systems of care within the CoC’s geographic area for with there is a discharge policy in place that is mandated by the Cate, CoC or another entity for the following institutions:
    - Foster care
    - Health care
    - Mental health care
    - Correctional facilities
    - Indianapolis checked “none”
  - Question: select the system of care within the CoC’s geographic area with which the CoC actively coordinates to ensure that institutionalized persons that have resided in each system of care for longer than 90 days are not discharged into homelessness
    - Foster care
    - Health care
    - Mental health care
    - Correctional facilities
    - Indianapolis checked “health care” and “mental health care”

#8

- Up to 3 points for the Coordinated Assessment System: Indianapolis in the 2015 application did not have a CAS. This is Houston’s response:
  - *Coordinated Access (CA) was implemented in Jan 2014. To ensure accessibility to households in need, the CA System provides access to services from 7 CA Assessment Hubs & a call center. The CA Hubs include shelters for men, women, family, youth, & Vets as well as direct service providers. In addition, all Outreach Teams have become designated CA Outreach. These teams can assess & navigate clients in the field. The CA Assessment includes the Vulnerability Index (VI) assessment, a standardized assessment, next-step assessments for non-chronics, and a housing eligibility module that matches clients to the appropriate PSH or RRH programs. Detailed information regarding Hub locations and hours of operation are posted on the Coalition’s website [www.homelesshouston.org](http://www.homelesshouston.org), the community’s website [www.thewayhomehouston.org](http://www.thewayhomehouston.org), on flyers displayed at every service provider location, & at suburb ministries throughout the community. Information about CA is also shared through the 211 Helpline.*

#9

- Up to 6 points to CoC’s with 75 percent of projects with low barriers – meaning the projects allow entry with low or no income, past or current substance abuse, criminal records (except sex offender registry requirements). Indianapolis scored full points according to the debriefing.

#10

- Up to 6 points for CoC’s with 75 percent of the permanent housing projects (permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing) are using the Housing First model. At least 75 percent of the transitional housing projects must demonstrate

housing first by providing a low barrier to entry. Indianapolis scored full points according to the debriefing

- # 11
  - Up to 2 points will be awarded to CoC's that demonstrate a thorough outreach program, ensuring outreach is conducted to homeless individuals and families least likely to request services. Max points are awarded to the CoC if they can demonstrate that 100 percent of the geographic area is covered. Indianapolis answer:
    - *At this time we have not identified any other housing opportunities that exist with the CoC that target person experiencing homelessness.*
  - Houston Answer:
    - *The CoC works closely with local and national tax-credit developers of affordable housing in an effort to provide housing opportunities for those exiting homelessness. We have also engaged in extensive technical assistance with our local HUD multi-family department to encourage properties to create a homeless preference for housing. The CoC has a landlord marketing workgroup which works closely with the Houston Apartment Association to identify low-cost apartments in an effort to educate owners and property managers about the needs and opportunities related to leasing to households exiting homelessness. We have standardized materials for apartment outreach that describes the benefits of working with CoC programs to house households exiting homelessness.*
    - Houston also has created a good neighbor team for homeless providers and neighbors as well as Raised funds for a program: 2 Special Assistance on Homelessness housed out of the Mayor's office.
- # 12
  - Up to 4 points for rapid re-housing - must show an increase in number of units available in HMIS from the previous year. **Indianapolis showed an increase in the 2015 application - double the number!**
- # 13
  - Up to 2 points for demonstrating homeless program participants receive assistance obtaining mainstream benefits. Indianapolis only listed Esckenazi staff. Houston listed six different organizations connecting participants to mainstream benefits.
    - Houston utilizes in person trainings, educational materials, and transportation to medical appointments, mobile clinics and care teams on site at PSH to connect participants to health care.
    - Indianapolis only listed educational materials and transportation to appointments in the 2015 application.
- # 14
  - Up to 1 point for leveraging other resources – Indianapolis should go after this point. It may be an easy point to get.

**Project Ranking, Review and Capacity** – Up to 26 points total

- Up to 16 points for Objective Criteria and Past Performance
  - 10 points for demonstrating objective evaluation criteria such as project type, project performance and monitoring results
  - 3 points for considering past performance as part of evaluation
  - 3 points for considering the severity of needs: low or no income, current or past substance abuse, criminal record and chronic homelessness – Indianapolis scored highly in the debriefing on this item
    - Examples from Houston:
      - *Projects within our CoC all hold an important role in housing homeless clients, however, per our CoC ranking and prioritization strategy, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project are prioritized as they house the most vulnerable street population. Projects serving people experiencing the following vulnerabilities are prioritized: current or prior DV history, LGBTQ status, those with significant health or behavioral health challenges, and those who are high utilizers of emergency services. Whether a proposed projects served these high need populations was a significant factor in deciding whether a new project would be selected for funding. Projects not targeting highly vulnerable populations were not ranked for funding.*
  - Assuming the new ranking information follows other cities' examples.
- Up to 3 points for demonstrating the ranking and selection process is public announced, including published written policies and procedures that include maintaining dated meeting minutes for all meetings pertaining to the local competition process
- Up to 4 points for demonstrating the CoC monitors project performance of grants
  - Monitoring needs to include:
    - Utilization rates
    - Increasing housing stability
    - Participant eligibility
    - Length of time of homelessness
    - Destination upon program exit
    - Increasing participant income
    - Connecting participants to mainstream benefits
- Up to 1 point for the GIW
- Up to 2 points for accuracy of the project submissions – all projects must have the following or 0 points is awarded
  - HUD -2991
  - Certification of Consistency with the Consolidated Plan
  - Accurate Form 50070
  - Drug free workplace

#15

#16

#17

#18

#19

- HUD – 2880
- Applicant/Recipient Disclosure form
- All forms must be signed between release of NOFA and due dates

**Homeless Management Information System – Up to 18 points**

# 20

- Up to 2 points that address policies and procedures necessary to meet the HMIS requirements established by HUD in the governance charter
- Up to 3 points if CoC adopts and follows an HMIS policy and procedures manual
- Up to 1 point to CoC that submitted the HMIS count before the NOFA designated date
- Up to 4 points if the CoC recorded 86 percent or higher bed coverage
  - Indianapolis coverage rates:
    - Emergency shelter beds – 35.27%
    - SH – 100%
    - TH – 62.71%
    - RRH – 100%
    - PSH – 66.10%
    - Average: 72.216%
    - Houston Average: 89% (only one category was below 85%)

# 21

- Up to 4 points for data quality – full points awarded to CoC's with less than 10 percent null or missing values and blow 10 percent of refused or unknown values for the Universal Data Elements – this is date sensitive in the NOFA

# 22

- Up to 4 points to CoC's able to generate all HUD required reports from HMIS, including CAPER, ESGE and Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR). 2 of the 4 will be awarded if HUD accepted and used the last AHAR.

# 23

**PIT Count – up to 9 points** - believed Indianapolis scored full points in this section. No debriefing comments provided. – no changes could be made for 2016 NOFA at this point. If any changes shall be required, will need to be done prior to January 2017 PIT.

**System Performance – Up to 38 points**

# 24

- Up to 9 points awarded for reducing the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness - Indianapolis unsheltered and safe haven totals increased from 14 to 15 - Houston only increased in one area

# 25

- Up to 2 points for the CoC that demonstrates how it is working to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness the first time
  - Indianapolis talks about plans to coordinate and assessments
  - Houston talks about the actual coordination and efforts
- Up to 6 points for the reducing the length of time of homelessness. To receive max points, CoC must provide a narrative that describes:
  - Specific efforts to track and record length of time
  - Planning process to reduce length of time
  - How does data drive the projects considered
  - How does data drive the provision of housing for those experiencing homelessness the longest

- Example from Houston:
- *Workgroups were formed to implement strategies to reduce the length of time that households remain homeless. Queries were created in HMIS to show the number of days from CA Assessment & referral to move-in. PHAs were invited to participate in the workgroups which meet weekly to problem-solve barriers to housing entry. Process changes are made based on these meetings & from HMIS data. These include: dedicated housing inspectors w/response times in 24 hours to reduce inspection wait times, dedicated CA Housing Navigators to assist clients & landlords with the leasing process, an unrestricted "barrier buster" fund to pay for things that will speed up lease-up (IDs, deposits), & landlord marketing & lease-up fairs with landlord leasing incentives. Outreach Teams are designated CA Staff & can provide the same services to clients living on the streets. Since these changes were implemented, HMIS reports indicate that the length of time from assessment to move-in has gone from 300 to 90 days.*
- Up to 8 points for CoC's with projects that exit program participants into permanent housing, subsidized, non-subsidized or permanent supportive housing.
  - Indianapolis compared well to Houston. Could always improve numbers.
- Up to 5 points to CoC's that provide info to HUD on the extent which people return to homelessness and how the CoC will work to reduce the number – Indianapolis received all five points.
- Up to 5 points to CoC's that demonstrate strategies to increase program participants to employment income, reducing non-employment income.
  - To receive max points:
    - Describe efforts strategies to increase employment (Centers for working families)
    - How CoC program funded projects have been assisted to implement the strategies
    - And the CoC's success at using the strategies
- Up to 3 points for demonstrating the ability to identify and engage unsheltered persons in the entire CoC area – Indianapolis has a strong answer for outreach, but how does the CoC track the number of unsheltered persons? Lafayette has regular bi-monthly meetings that track those waiting for housing and are unsheltered

***Performance and Strategic Planning*** – up to 60 points

- Up to 15 points for the extent the CoC is working to end chronic homelessness
  - Up to 2 points that the strategies in the 2014/2015 NOFA are working
  - Up to 3 points will be awarded to CoC's that have adopted the priority described in Notice CPD 14-012
  - Up to 3 points if CoC prioritizes 85% of PSH units that become empty for chronically homeless
  - Up to 2 points for increasing the number of Chronically homeless beds
  - Up to 5 points for reducing the number of chronically homeless
    - Max awarded if you can reduce both sheltered and unsheltered chronically homeless
- Up to 15 points based on the extent to end homeless households with children by 2020
  - Up to 3 points to prioritize households based on need
    - Vulnerability to victimization
    - Number of previous homeless episodes
    - Unsheltered homeless
    - Criminal history
    - Bad credit or rental history
  - Up to three points based on local plan to rapidly re-house households with children in 30 days
  - Up to 5 points for implementation of rapid re-house model and increase in number of RRH units for households with children
  - Up to 2 points for ensuring project do not deny admission to or separate family members when they enter shelter or housing
  - Up to 2 points that the number in the PIT count of households with children has reduced from 15 to 16
- Up to 15 points for work to reduce youth homelessness
  - Up to 5 points for strategies that address the unique needs of unaccompanied homeless youth – Indianapolis was missing the following
    - Human trafficking
    - LGBTQ
    - Exit from foster care
  - Up to 5 points to CoC's that demonstrate an increase – as recorded in HMIS “resident prior to entry” – in the number of homeless unaccompanied youth
  - Up to 3 points for demonstrating a proposed plan to increase funding for unaccompanied youth homeless programs
  - Up to 1 point for describing specific collaborations with local education authorities
- Up to 15 points for ending Veterans Homelessness
  - Up to 7 points that demonstrated a decrease of veterans (sheltered and unsheltered) from last PIT count to current PIT count



- Up to 3 points that demonstrate 75 percent reduction in the total number of homeless veterans as reported in the PIT count – last NOFA compared 2015 to 2010
- Up to 2 points that demonstrate it identifies, assesses and refers homeless veterans to eligible programs at Veterans Affairs – HUD VASH or SSVF
- Up to 3 points how they demonstrate prioritizing program funded resources towards serving veterans who are not eligible for VA assistance

**BONUS POINTS**

Up to 3 points for submitting the entire application 24 hours prior to the deadline.