Before Starting the Special CoC Application

You must submit both of the following parts in order for us to consider your Special NOFO Consolidated Application complete:
  1. the CoC Application, and
  2. the CoC Priority Listing.

  The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
 - 24 CFR part 578
 - Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
 - Section 3 Resources
 - Frequently Asked Questions

  As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:
  1. The Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
  2. The Special NOFO Continuum of Care (CoC) Application Detailed Instructions for Collaborative Applicants which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
  3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
  4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications.
  5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachment are provided.

  CoC Approval is Required before You Submit Your CoC's Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application
- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on behalf of your CoC.
  - 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit the Consolidated Application into e-snaps.

  Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions
 Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

  Attachments
 Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You must upload the [Specific Attachment Name] attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed–including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.
- Attachments must match the questions they are associated with–if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.
  - We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1A-1. CoC Name and Number: GA-505 - Columbus-Muscogee CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley

1A-5.	New Projects	
	Complete the chart below by indicating which funding opportunity(ies) your CoC applying for projects under. A CoC may apply for funding under both set asides; however, projects funded through the rural set aside may only be used in rural areas, as defined in the Special NOFO.	
1.	Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside	Yes
2.	Rural Homelessness Set Aside	No

1B. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking–Local Competition

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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1B-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for project application submission for your CoC's local competition.	08/08/2022

1B-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.a.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected new project applications during your CoC's local competition:	
1.	Established total points available for each project application type.	Yes
2.	At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH).	Yes
3.	At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness).	Yes

1B-3.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
1.	Did your CoC reject or reduce any project application(s)?	No
2.	Did your CoC inform the applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced?	No
3.	If you selected yes, for element 1 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	

1B-3a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	09/21/2022

1B-4.	Web Posting of the CoC-Approved Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC posted its Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on the CoC's website or affiliate's website–which included: 1. the CoC Application, and 2. Priority Listings.	10/14/2022

2A. System Performance

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2A-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless–Risk Factors.	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.b.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC determined which risk factors your CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;
2.	how your CoC addresses individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time or to end homelessness for individuals and families.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC uses a collaborative process through our CES-211 as a prescreening tool collecting predefined criteria, income, homeless status, ability to sustain housing after services are administered, to name a few. This prescreening helps determine if someone is eligible for Homeless Prevention services. The prescreening report captures our First Time Homeless (FTH) population more effectively using the predefined criteria and links them to Mainstream resources which include; federal entitlements, food or emergency utility/rental assistance, transitional housing, housing subsidies.
2) The CoC has incorporated prevention & diversion as part of our culture to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless. The CoC strategy for prevention & diversion includes, quarterly meetings, quarterly with utility providers, Homeless Prevention Team of the Performance and Outcomes Committee, Landlords, Outreach Teams, RRH programs, Goodwill Job Training, CES Committee & Service Providers and Coordinated Entry Committee/Admin. The program is designed to stabilize individuals and families in their existing homes, shorten the amount of time that individuals and families stay in shelters and assist individuals and families with securing affordable housing. This collaborative process allows for addressing the causes of FTH with interventions such as payment of rent or security deposits, utility bills, housing location, employment services, counseling, outreach, follow-up and case management to prevent households from becoming FTH. This collaborative process has increased inter-agency referrals to prevent FTH, improved discharge planning, improved eviction prevention, increased safe and affordable housing.
3) The Homeless Prevention Team of the Performance and Outcomes Committee is responsible for overseeing the strategy.

2A-2.	Length of Time Homeless–Strategy to Reduce. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.c.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;
2.	how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC facilitates monthly case conferencing with an emphasis on those with the longest LOTH. In the CES-211 LOTH is a priority for placement. The Housing Navigation Team (HNT) has put a special focus on Encampments being data is showing in many cases LOTH is directly reflected with the encampment setting. Directing the encampments to CES-211 for services and shelter has given positive results.
2)Through outreach teams, provider intakes and the CES, homeless individuals and families are identified and a By Name List (BNL) is created, the CoC and all providers (to include the outreach teams) have real time data which measures LOTH & those with the highest barriers to housing. The HNT is part of the monthly case conferencing. The HNT and providers across the continuum actively engage those on the list to strategically reduce the LOTH for all. CES staff makes regular inquiry of HNT and housing service providers regarding clients on BNL to help reduce LOTH through access to permanent housing.
3)The Housing Navigation Team is responsible for overseeing this strategy.

2A-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.d.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC will increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in:
1.	emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and
2.	permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) To continue to increase the rate of exiting to permanent housing, the CoC is working with Emergency Shelters, Rapid Rehousing and Transitional Housing providers and developed a Housing Stability Plan (HSP)to follow clients throughout their journey of housing. Our model of coordinated service delivery provides wraparound services for specific homeless issues, such as family, dv, chronic & youth homelessness. Our plan is to continue work with providers to enhance & expand these services to be continuously mindful of Housing First and readily available with little to no barriers for services such as mental health, employment and CM when an individual/family is ready to exit. The Housing Navigators Team (HNT)consists of community leaders, CA, ES, RRH, TH, PSH members & other service providers working closely with landlords to provide more affordable PH that is available without barriers such as, felony, bad credit, etc. Over the past 12mths the HNT conducted 2 landlord conference2 and many informal "talks" to increase the rate of placement in available/affordable PH. The HNT conducted training for em's to assist them in wraparound services & monitoring of the Housing Stability Plan.

2) CoC uses the HSP for these clients as well. In the HSP, intensive case management, eviction prevention programs, helping clients engage in meaningful activities (volunteerism/peer opportunities) education and employment assistance and connection to stabilizing sources of income, all are areas that the em's work with the client to incorporate in their daily lives. The CoC also implemented the Moving Forward/Move On strategy to all PH housing providers. The Moving Forward Strategy identifies individuals/families that have reached a point to exit to other non-funded PH destinations to free up existing funded PH beds.

3) The Housing Navigation Team is responsible for overseeing this strategy.

2A-4.	Returns to Homelessness–CoC's Strategy to Reduce Rate. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.e.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2.	your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC Homeless Prevention Team utilizes our HMIS and our CES systems to assess the characteristics of households who return to homelessness. Assessments include information from substance abuse, to mental/physical health conditions, length of time homeless, family or individual, and income. These are common factors that have been identified and may influence return to homelessness

2) The CoC implemented a comprehensive Homeless Prevention strategy to effectively identify, assess, and prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless, and to divert those experiencing a housing crisis from homelessness. The strategy is a multi- faceted approach to maximize & leverage existing resources, evaluate & possibly modify policies that govern existing prevention resources to allow greater flexibility, prioritize the most vulnerable populations and to work with Homeless Prevention Team (HPT) to better identify potential client returns. Adequate discharge planning and continued follow up is an integral piece of the Case Manager portfolio of all CoC programs to help identify common factors of who returns to homelessness. Case Managers ensure all exiting to PH have been linked to wraparound services such as mainstream benefits and counseling, along with appropriate services to increase and sustain income. Regular and Continued contact with those who exited to PH is also required of all CoC programs for a minimum of 1 year. All funded agencies follow the Housing First Strategy ensuring that homelessness does not result due to compliance requirements.

3) The Homeless Prevention Team is responsible for overseeing RTH strategy and reporting findings quarterly to the CoC Board of Directors.

2A-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase employment cash sources;
2.	how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their cash income; and
3.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase income from employment.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) (a)The Earned Income Tax Credit - Recognizing the EITC's potential economic benefit to both families &communities, organizations within the CoC provide sup. serv, such as free tax preparation, to facilitate receipt of the credit.(b)Workforce development &training -Workforce development programs, such as our Bus Operator Training and Recruitment, Electrical Apprentice training along with a myriad of other client needs based programs through partnerships with Goodwill Industries, BetterWork Columbus, and Briggs and Associates(supportive employment) allows individuals to compete in the job market by gaining or strengthening the skills necessary to obtain & maintain a job & to advance at their current workplace or to secure a better job elsewhere.(c)Credit Repair & Debit Reduction - help individuals improve their credit history & score, which is used by lenders, landlords, & increasingly by employers, to assess one's worthiness for credit, an apartment, or job. The CoC has a list of non-funded & funded providers that work with Coe clients to help them improve credit history (score) & reduce debt. Career counseling, resume building, job training, vocational training, partnerships w/employers are also avail to clients to improve emp. income by numerous providers that participate in our CES.

2) CoC program-funded projects are required to attend resource fairs, job fairs & work closely with the Mainstream & Outreach Com. to enhance relationships w/employment training services such as Goodwill, DOL and Dept. of Rehab. Projects have case managers/life skill managers to provide assistance to individuals/families to promote job skills/assist w/job searches, transportation, volunteer opportunities to develop skills, and career counseling. CoC has MoU's with Goodwill, DOL and BetterWork Columbus to give priority to CoC clients for job placement. Partnerships with many organizations, such as Goodwill, re job readiness, training, employment search assistance & skills development are in place to help CoC clients.

3) Home for Good and Mainstream & Outreach Committee is responsible in overseeing this strategy.

	2A-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)	
		Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	
		Describe in the field below:	
	1.	the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase non-employment cash income;	
	2.	your CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources; and	
	3.	provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC is addressing many of the common reasons for the under-utilization of benefits that fall in the non-ECI status such as long and cumbersome application processes, fear of nonacceptance, lack of eligibility requirements to name a few. We have case managers that help clients who are homeless & at-risk w/ applying for disability benefits, e.g. SSI/SSDI, using SOAR model. Further, the CoC has a veteran employment services collaborative that assists veterans with applying for and increasing veteran benefits. Training through different service providers to case managers have added increasing client's non-employment cash income as a top priority within the continuum. The CoC looks at this area and addresses it during the annual audit of the funded agencies. The Performance and Outcomes Committee works with agencies that do not have client non-ECI to develop a plan to assist them in obtaining training, contacts, etc. needed to benefit clients in increasing the income. Projects have case managers/life skill managers to provide assistance to individuals/families in filling out applications, or information on what is available to them for their specific need. In cases where eligibility may be a barrier for mainstream benefits, staff works with medical/mental health providers to provide assessments and assistance in service coordination to provide documentation of disability for SSDI benefits. Bi-Monthly Mainstream and Outreach meetings between providers, such as SS, VA, Case Managers from funded and non-funded agencies, etc. help in connecting names/people to service providers. Knowledge is shared monthly to help benefit clients.
2) Home for Good and Mainstream & Outreach Committee is responsible in overseeing this strategy

2B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Sections VII.B.3.a.(1)	

	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022:
1.	select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted–including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC's coordinated entry system; or
2.	select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC's geographic area:

	Organization/Person	Participated in CoC Meetings	Voted, Including Electing of CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC's Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	Agencies serving survivors of human trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	CoC-Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Nonexistent	No	No
6.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
13.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

20.	Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Nonexistent	No	No
21.	Non-CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)			
33.	SSVF SERVICE PROVIDERS	Yes	Yes	Yes
34.	VETERANS ADMINISTRATION	Yes	Yes	Yes

2B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(2), V.B.3.g.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	communicated the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2.	ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;
3.	conducted outreach to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join your CoC; and
4.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) CoC communicates transparently the opportunity to join on a continual basis. Coe events & calendars are posted on the websites of the CoC, United Way of CV, and City of Columbus, sent via email blast & on social media outlets. The COC HAS A MINIMUM OF 2 MEMBERSHIP DRIVES PER YEAR. The drives are widely publicized using aforementioned methods & are held at a centrally located venue accessible to all (incl bus routes). INCENTIVES TO JOIN THE COC, such as free HMIS services are offered to entice attendance. Additionally, those who are determined to have assisted or provided services to the homeless population, as determined by client intakes, all are PERSONALLY INVITED TO JOIN THE COC. The Committees of the CoC have QUARTERLY EVENTS (Job/resource Fairs, SOAR Training, etc.), incl participating and non participating organizations W/ AN INVITATION TO JOIN EXTENDED TO ORGANIZATIONS AND EVENT PARTICIPANTS. At least quarterly, CoC lead addresses Civic/Professional organizations to encourage CoC participation & membership.

2) CoC communicates via email with docs that can be read with assisted technology & the CoC offers interpretation or disability services upon request (i.e., ASL or large text versions of docs). Info from handouts presented orally as well as visually & the CoC website is reviewed against Website Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

3) Homeless/formerly homeless are invited at least quarterly to attend centrally located, accessible committee meetings and provide feedback. If needed, transportation is provided by service providers. CoC funded agencies are required to have homeless and culturally diverse individuals serve on their board. Coe conducts a hybrid annual membership drive in a centrally located area targeting organizations in culturally specific communities to promote participation and equitable access to populations of black, Latino, indigenous, LGBTQ+ and persons with disabilities. A survey by our Outreach committee supplies information quarterly regarding high concentration areas of these targeted populations.

	2B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness. (All Applicants)	
		Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(3)	

		Describe in the field below how your CoC:
	1.	solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;
	2.	communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information; and
	3.	took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) CoC solicits and considers opinions at CoC meetings, CoC Chair meetings, outreach events, SSVF Community Planning meetings, Hospital Association meetings, Home for Good Board meetings, Landlord Meetings, Monthly Homeless Coalition meetings, United Way Meetings, Service provider Board meetings, through the CoC website, Homeless Resource Network meetings and social media, as well as client level surveys.
2) CoC meetings are open forums/discussions to solicit, consider and address new opinions. We conduct exercises on topics such as CES, HMIS, Housing First, SPM, underserved populations, protected classes, fair & equal opportunity housing, racial equity, and local GAPS analysis.
3) At these meetings we compile/consider all opinions to better evaluate and develop new strategies and action plans to prevent and end homelessness. CoC grantees and HMIS enrolled agencies conduct exit interviews soliciting ideas from program participants. The CoC Board of Directors receive the input/feedback from the Committee Chairs on a quarterly basis & directly from attendees in the meetings, consider it and use it to formulate policy and new initiatives. Based on feedback shared in open, public mtgs about gaps and needs w/in the CoC, Ad Hoc Committees for key subpopulations were formed for women/children, Landlord Engagement, survivors of DV, human trafficking, loss of employment and housing due to Covid-19 and, loss of housing due to mental illness/substance abuse. As a result, landlord's have become more engaged in a proactive to tenant/landlord/provider approach meeting housing and other needs for members of our community. Furthermore, case management best practices protocol have become the norm rather than the exception.

	2B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded. (All Applicants)	
		Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(4)	

		Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:
	1.	that your CoC's local competition was open and accepting project applications;
	2.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;
	3.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications;
	4.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and
	5.	how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The Continuum of Care used a multi layered approach to announcing the FY 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity to the general public. The announcements of the opening of the competition with an invitation to all interested parties to attend the Homeless Assistance Grant Application Technical Assistance Workshop and receive information on funding availability for grantees, and non-grantees, i.e, organizations that have never received funding before, and the application process was posted on the Continuum of Care website (8/8/2022), the Columbus Consolidated Government Community Reinvestment website
(8/9/2022), included in the Continuum of Care biweekly newsletter (8/5/2022) as well as being presented at the GA 505 Continuum of Care Annual Meeting (8/11/2022) which is also announced publicly to solicit new members.
2) The Continuum of Care published 2022 Competition Process and Timeline on the Continuum of Care website, as well as during the GA 505 Continuum of Care Annual Meeting and to the attendees of the Homeless Assistance Grant Application Technical Assistance Workshop. The Competition timeline and Process delineated how the applications were to be submitted and the deadlines for such submissions. Furthermore, instructions were fully explained at the Homeless Assistance Grant Application Workshop. Links to the HUD instructional guides related to the Continuum of Care Competition, ESNAPS, Navigational Guides and Detailed Instructions were included in the Homeless Assistance Grant Application Technical Workshop packets sent to all attendees as well as posted to Continuum of Care website (8/17/2022).
3) The Scoring and Ranking process which the Continuum of Care would follow to determine project including it the Consolidate Application was covered at the Homeless Assistance Grant Application Workshop. The Scoring Tool the Scoring Team would use was fully explained, as well as the Tiering Process. The Appeals Process was also fully covered.
4) All meeting sites are ADA accessible; interpretation or disability services are available upon request to participate in meetings (e.g., sign language interpretation, large text versions of handouts), information on handouts is presented orally as well as visually, the CoC website is reviewed against Website Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

2C. Coordination / Engagement–with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

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2C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	

	In the chart below:
1.	select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC's coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or
2.	select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC's geographic area.

	Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects	Coordinates with Planning or Operations of Projects
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Yes
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Yes
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Nonexistent
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		

2C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG funds;
2.	participated in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients;
3.	provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area; and
4.	provided information to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions to address homelessness within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) CoC is not an entitlement jurisdiction for ESG. The CoC coordinates with both states, Alabama and Georgia for approval/coordination of ESG awards. The CoC in both states leads/coordinates closely with their work & that of local ESG projects. States require local providers operating in local jurisdictions to coordinate with the CoC re: application opportunities, funding, performance & local CoC priorities. CoC Priority Feedback and provider participation in local CoC was provided to Dept Community Affairs ESG for consideration in ESG funding decisions. Moreover, the CoC lead served as the ESG CV regional contact for evaluation of needs of those experiencing or at risk of homelessness as a result of COVID 19.
2) The CoC's Performance and Outcomes Committee measures all HMIS participating programs including CoC & ESG, using System Performance Measures quarterly, while the CoC's HMIS committee measures data quality of all HMIS participating programs, including CoC & ESG, monthly. HMIS data driven analysis allows for equitable and fair analysis of program performance and quality based on quantifiable data.
3) Both Muscogee and Russell Counties Consolidated Plan jurisdictions involve CoC in review of Consolidated Plans. The CoC provided all PIT & HIC data to both the states & local jurisdictions (Muscogee/Russell).
4)The CoC also provided data from the CoC HMIS (occupancy rates, bed counts/length of stay) to Consolidated Plan liaisons for Muscogee/Russell for updated Consolidated Plans.

2C-3.	Discharge Planning Coordination. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.c.	

	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the systems of care listed to ensure persons who have resided in them longer than 90 days are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs.	
1.	Foster Care	Yes
2.	Health Care	Yes
3.	Mental Health Care	Yes
4.	Correctional Facilities	Yes

2C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:	
1.	Youth Education Provider	Yes
2.	State Education Agency (SEA)	Yes
3.	Local Education Agency (LEA)	Yes
4.	School Districts	Yes

2C-4a.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts–Formal Partnerships. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

	Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC collaborates with the entities checked in Question 2C-4; and	
2.	the formal partnerships your CoC has with the entities checked in Question 2C-4.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has a formal MOU with Enrichment Services, Muscogee County School District and Liaison to ensure programs provide homeless children with prioritized access, services in their current location & flexibility on enrollment requirements. The McKinney Vento Department of the Muscogee County School District and Governmental Program Department of the Russell County School District have liaisons in place to work with service providers to ensure that every homeless child and youth has access to the same free, appropriate public education provided to other children and youths consistent with the McKinney-Vento Act. Enrichment Services Head Start regularly participates in Housing Navigation Monthly meetings in order to fully inform case managers of rules, changes and available services for youth educational opportunities. The Coe requires all current & new Coe projects to appoint a staff person to act as the point of contact & coordinate education services. The role includes connecting w/school district liaison upon student enrollment, referring children to early head start & 4K programs, encouraging home visit evaluation for younger kids, ensuring families have access to literacy resources & mentoring programs, ensuring families are aware of their education rights & opportunities available to them. Designated staff ensure that an MOU is in place to formalize the partnership between the agency & school district. The McKinney Vento Department of the Muscogee County School District and Governmental Program Department of the Russell County School District (covering entire geographical area of the CoC) are active members of the CoC membership and the Federal Programs Director is an elected member of the CoC Board.

2C-4b.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for educational services

(limit 2,500 characters)

Columbus-Muscogee / Russell County Continuum of Care
GA -505
Overarching Continuum of Care Policies Written Standards
The Columbus-Muscogee / Russell County Continuum of Care (CoC) has well developed the following standards for providing assistance using McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance funds. Included is the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program, and programs funded through the CoC. Funded recipients and sub-recipients shall comply with the minimum written standards for providing assistance as established by the CoC. Recipients and sub-recipients may decide (and are encouraged to do so) to set standards that exceed these minimum standards.
Educational Assurances - CoC expects providers to collaborate with local education authorities to assist in the identification of individuals and families who become or remain homeless and these families should be informed of the eligibility for services. This includes collaborating with early childhood programs or school districts to determine available options.

2C-5.	Mainstream Resources–CoC Training of Project Staff. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains project staff annually on the following mainstream resources available for program participants within your CoC's geographic area:

	Mainstream Resource	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI–Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	TANF–Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
4.	Substance Abuse Programs	Yes
5.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
6.	Other	Yes

2C-5a.	Mainstream Resources–CoC Collaboration with Project Staff Regarding Healthcare Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

	1.	systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
	2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance;
	3.	provides assistance to project staff with the effective use of Medicaid and other benefits; and
	4.	works with projects to promote SOAR certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) Monthly Housing Navigation/Case Conference meetings attended by CoC funded projects include at least quarterly regular training from agencies/programs providing Mainstream resources. Coe funded projects are instructed on assisting client on access to Mainstream Resources. Agencies/programs providing instruction include but are not limited to: DFACS, SOAR program specialists, PHAs, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Opioid Addiction/Overdose Prevention specialists, healthcare providers, vocational rehabilitation and public health. The Coe publishes a biweekly newsletter with distribution to all CoC funded projects, CoC members, local governmental agencies, and community stakeholders. Information regarding access to Mainstream Benefits including but not limited to all updates from COVID-19 Resource Digest for Homeless Providers
2) The CoC regularly communicates and publishes enrollment criteria and procedures for enrollment with local healthcare organizations to all CoC funded projects. Enrollment instruction, eligibility requirements for healthcare access is routinely discussed during Monthly Housing Navigation/Case Conference Meetings. Healthcare providers including Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers, Regional Indigent Healthcare Providers, and uninsured and underinsured Healthcare clinic are all active members of the Coe. Project Staff attends the monthly meetings including, but not limited to, Substance Abuse Treatment Project and Mental Health Project staff.
3) The CoC regularly provides CoC funded projects with information to promote project staff certification and requires CoC project staff to have a minimum of one certified staff member per organization

3A. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects. (Rural Set Aside Only).	
	Special NOFO Section VII.A.	

If the answer to the question below is yes, you must upload the CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project(s) under the Rural Set Aside for housing rehabilitation or new construction costs?	No

3B. Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	

Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?	No

3B-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
	You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below:	
1.	how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and	
2.	how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

4A. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

		Please read the following guidance to help you successfully upload attachments and get maximum points:
	1.	You must include a Document Description for each attachment you upload; if you do not, the Submission Summary screen will display a red X indicating the submission is incomplete.
	2.	You must upload an attachment for each document listed where 'Required?' is 'Yes'
	3.	We prefer that you use PDF files, though other file types are supported–please only use zip files if necessary. Converting electronic files to PDF, rather than printing documents and scanning them, often produces higher quality images and reduces file size. Many systems allow you to create PDF files as a Print Option. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you should consult your IT Support or search for information on Google or YouTube.
	4.	Attachments must match the questions they are associated with.
	5.	Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed–including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process.
	6.	If you cannot read the attachment, it is likely we cannot read it either. - We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time). - We must be able to read everything you want us to consider in any attachment.
	7.	Open attachments once uploaded to ensure they are the correct attachment for the required Document Type.

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1B-1. Local Competition Announcement	Yes		
1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes		
1B-3. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes		
1B-3a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes		
1B-4. Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application	Yes		
3A-1. CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs	No		
3B-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment	No		
P-1a. PHA Commitment	No		
P-3. Healthcare Leveraging Commitment	No		
P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter	No		
Plan. CoC Plan	Yes		

Attachment Details

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Submission Summary

Ensure that the Special NOFO Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	10/08/2022
1B. Project Review, Ranking and Selection	10/14/2022
2A. System Performance	10/12/2022
2B. Coordination and Engagement	10/12/2022
2C. Coordination and Engagement–Con't.	10/12/2022
3A. New Projects With Rehab/New Construction	No Input Required
3B. Homelessness by Other Federal Statutes	10/11/2022
4A. Attachments Screen	Please Complete
Submission Summary	No Input Required