

Before Starting the CoC Application

You must submit all three of the following parts in order for us to consider your Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application,
2. the CoC Priority Listing, and
3. all the CoC's project applications that were either approved and ranked, or rejected.

As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The FY 2023 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2023 CoC Application Detailed Instructions 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.

Your CoC Must Approve the Consolidated Application before You Submit It
- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the CoC Consolidated Application for the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition 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 an Attachment to the 4B. 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

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1A-1. CoC Name and Number: KS-503 - Topeka/Shawnee County CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: City of Topeka, Kansas

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: City of Topeka, Kansas

1B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.1.a.(1), V.B.1.e., V.B.1f., and V.B.1.p.	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023:	
	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 CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
9.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

16.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Other Victim Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other: (limit 50 characters)			
34.				
35.				

By selecting "other" you must identify what "other" is.

1B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(2)	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	communicated a transparent invitation process annually (e.g., communicated to the public on the CoC's website) to solicit new members to join the CoC;	
2.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and	
3.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. An open invitation to join the CoC is available all year long. Contact and meeting information is posted to the webpage of the collaborative applicant. The City of Topeka has a group list serv of community resource agencies that it emails monthly with an invitation to attend the monthly CoC meeting and to participate in the CoC competition. The Coc coordinates a public, monthly Homeless Task Force (HTF) meeting that includes an average of 40 participants, representing a wide variety of public and private organizations, as well as individual advocates, with interest and activities focusing on ending homelessness. Members are encouraged to bring new people to the meetings. Regularly, the CoC reviews memberships and conducts outreach to organizations and individuals not represented or participating. Additionally, partner organizations are using their social media platforms to inform their community about opportunities to join the CoC and HTF.

2. The CoC provides all materials of the Homeless Task Force to members electronically, using accessible PDF formatting, and provides paper copies of materials at meetings. The CoC accommodates requests for other formats as requests are made. Spaces where CoC Homeless Task Force meetings are held are accessible to individuals with a wide range of disabilities. The CoC also utilizes zoom for all of its meetings which includes accessibility features. To ensure our differently abled community members are aware and are able to access information about the CoC and HTF meetings we utilize podcasts, which are available in audio and video formats.

3. The CoC has a wide variety of members representing black, Latino, LGBTQ+, and people with disabilities. The CoC has invited culture centers, LGBTQ+ advocacy organizations, and disability agencies (e.g. El Centro, The Salvation Army, Valeo Behavioral Health Care) to attend and take roles within the CoC to address racial and ethnic disparities in persons experiencing homelessness. Members are encouraged to bring diversity to the membership. Additionally, the CoC actively monitors membership and seeks out groups or organizations that are not being represented. Some of our communication tools mentioned above are targeted in diverse geographic areas to ensure equity and inclusion.

1B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.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;
3.	ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
4.	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. The CoC hosts the Homeless Task Force (HTF) monthly meeting, which is the primary strategy for collaboration on preventing, and ending homelessness. With an average of 40 members attending regularly, the HTF brings together a broad array of individuals and organizations together to address homelessness. Monthly topics include important subjects such as Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, domestic violence, human trafficking, Fair Housing, and LGBTQIA+. Representatives from the CoC also attend public events, forums, and meetings hosted by local agencies that have an interest in preventing and ending homelessness to solicit and consider additional opinions. Additionally, CoC funded agencies that provide Rapid Rehousing services ask clients to complete a survey on their experience. Every HTF meeting individuals have an opportunity to openly share innovative tools and techniques to end homelessness.
2. CoC membership provides quarterly updates to the city council and council committee meetings to inform the community of HTF efforts. The community is invited to ask questions and share their opinions during meetings. HTF community ambassadors communicate the work of the HTF at clubs and organizations frequently to seek feedback. The CoC accepts feedback through email & calls as well.
3. The City established the ADA Advisory Council to bring a voice for persons with disabilities to the City and community. The ADA Advisory Council provides advise in different areas including communications issues relating to sensory impairments. Furthermore, the city uses closed captioning on City communication channels like YouTube, Facebook Live, and Zoom. Closed captioning is also utilized on all taped videos that are not live. Lastly, the City contracts with Nexus Interpreting LLC for residents who request public accommodations through auxiliary aids and services like qualified interpreters.
4. The City & CoC has established a core team of individuals who are coming together to join in on a 8 month process involving innovative discussions surrounding homelessness, those who work with key community partner organizations and stakeholders, as well as subject matter experts. The goal of the group is to better understand the larger problem around homelessness in Topeka by soliciting and considering opinions from a broad array of local organizations, stakeholders and individuals with lived experience to help generate ideas that can bring measurable impact.

1B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Awarded CoC Program Funding.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(4)	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:	
	1. that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;	
	2. about how project applicants must submit their project applications—the process;	
	3. about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and	
	4. ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. At the August 2023 Homeless Task Force meeting an announcement was made that the CoC funding process had opened and that new project application would be accepted and were, in fact, encouraged. Participating organizations were specifically informed at the meeting that the CoC would consider proposals from organizations not previously funded. The meetings of the Homeless Task Force are open to the public as well as to all interested social and public agencies in the community. Additionally, the funding availability announcement is put on the collaborative applicants website for the community at large. Discussions about the CoC application are held at the Homeless Task Force meetings throughout the year in addition to when the NOFO opened. The notification also goes out through the CoC's email list serv group that serves the community and social media outlets.
2. Discussions about the CoC application are held at the Homeless Task Force meetings throughout the year in addition to when the NOFO opened. A handout is given with specific instructions on how to access the HUD materials, as well as a step-by-step guide on what to do with due dates. The CoC lead is also available for questions and one on one meetings during the process. Also, all information is posted on the CoC's website.
3. The HTF and applicants are informed that the Ranking and Review committee will look at each application and score it based on performance, housing stability, project need, and consumer feedback, using a score sheet to evaluate projects. The scores determine which applications will be submitted to HUD and the ranking order. The Ranking and Review committee is made up of non-biased agencies with a focus on diversity.
4. The CoC provides all materials of the HTF to members electronically, using accessible PDF formatting, and provides paper copies of materials at meetings. The CoC accommodates request for other formats as requests are made. Spaces where CoC Homeless Task Force meetings are held are accessible to individuals with a wide range of disabilities. Meetings are also available through zoom with accessibility features. To ensure our differently abled community member organizations are aware and are able to access information about the CoC opportunities we utilize podcasts, which are available in audio and video formats. We also contract with Nexus Interpreting to assist with any accommodation requests.

1C. Coordination and Engagement

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.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 the 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)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	

18.		
-----	--	--

1C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.b.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG Program 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 the Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The City of Topeka as the CoC lead is also the recipient of ESG Program funds.
 We consult with the Homeless Task Force on best use for the funds as well as Kansas Housing Resource Corporation who receive ESG funds at the state level.
 We look at the planning process, RFP, and best allocation of funds.
 The HTF is the governing body of the CoC. At these meetings the agencies discuss the needs of the community and the best ways to allocate the ESG program funds.
2. Each year, ESG fund allocation proposals are brought before the Homeless Task Force and voted on by the full body. Additionally, the HTF annually establishes a monitoring and compliance subcommittee for ESG funded agencies.
 This subcommittee evaluates ESG program progress by reviewing and analyzing the quality of data entered into the HMIS, and compliance with protocols for ESG and CoC agencies. All results from the subcommittee's evaluation are taken back to the HTF and ESG recipients for discussion and input. Record of the ESG discussion and input is maintained in formal meeting notes kept by the CoC. ESG Program Recipients are required to participate in monthly informational and planning meetings of the Homeless Task Force. Additionally, The State ESG recipient is part of the HTF and is part of the evaluating and reporting process. ESG Program subrecipients are required to participate in monthly informational and planning meetings of the Homeless Task Force.
3. ESG Program Recipients are required to enter into our HMIS system and provide PIT and HIC data through that system. The CoC conducts an annual Point in Time Count and presents that information to the Homeless Task Force and the participating jurisdiction (PJ). The PJ uses this information in the Consolidated Action Plan to help show what needs the community has and to inform the community. Additionally, it helps the PJ decide on funding decisions using this data.
4. The Homeless Task Force provides ongoing input to the City of Topeka during their comment period of the Consolidated Action Plan. The input provided by the HTF is used in multiple places in the plan including our HIC and PIT data. The CoC Lead is also the lead for the Con Plan discussions and information is shared to the community.

1C-3.	Ensuring Families are not Separated.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.c.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ensures emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH) do not deny admission or separate family members regardless of each family member's self-reported sexual orientation and gender identity:

1.	Conducted mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated.	Yes
2.	Conducted optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated.	Yes
3.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients.	Yes
4.	Worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within your CoC's geographic area that might be out of compliance and took steps to work directly with those facilities to bring them into compliance.	Yes
5.	Sought assistance from HUD by submitting questions or requesting technical assistance to resolve noncompliance by service providers.	Yes

1C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.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

1C-4a.	Formal Partnerships with Youth Education Providers, SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Describe in the field below the formal partnerships your CoC has with at least one of the entities where you responded yes in question 1C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC has a formal partnership with the public school district to ensure we are aware of any McKinney Vento students so can work together to get families connected to housing and resources. The CoC lead had dedicated staff that work with our public school district as well as with our community partner agencies. When staff get a referral or information from the school district they reach out to the family and additional partner agencies to start the process of getting the family connected. The CoC utilizes a collective impact model to harness the assets of the community which includes a one stop shop that families attend. The goal is to help families address barriers and issues so that as we help them find housing they are able to sustain that housing long term. This one stop shop resource center was previously was geared towards just one CoC program. We have since opened it up to the entire community and made it part of our process for connecting individuals in need. Additionally, the CoC will work with the school district on an ongoing basis to ensure the kids are attending school and help address any issues that come up with the students and families.

1C-4b.	Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services.	
NOFO Section V.B.1.d.		

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC adopted a policy and procedure to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for education services during the Coordinated Entry process. An assessment of the family or individuals needs are completed and a referral is made through the coordinated entry process. If consumers inquire about the need for educational services, the CoC then makes a referral to partnering agencies that provide/collaborate with educational service providers. Additionally, the CoC has a dedicated staff person to assist homeless families with finding housing in their school district and assisting them with the enrollment process.

The partner agencies of the CoC are located across the city and each have protocols to help inform individuals and families of educational resources. For example, the Mobile Access Partnership program travels around the city, where homeless populations gather, to provide services and to hand out resources. The resources include educational materials within the community. Impact Avenues, another homeless program, partners with all the school districts, GED programs, high school diploma program and Washburn Technical School. These partnerships are part of the CoC's efforts and the employees of these agencies are CoC leaders. The CoC also partners with agencies that provide early education resources, case management, addiction services, mental health services, and housing.

1C-4c.	Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC has written formal agreements or partnerships with the listed providers of early childhood services:

		MOU/MOA	Other Formal Agreement
1.	Birth to 3 years	Yes	Yes
2.	Child Care and Development Fund	No	No
3.	Early Childhood Providers	No	Yes
4.	Early Head Start	Yes	Yes
5.	Federal Home Visiting Program–(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV)	Yes	Yes
6.	Head Start	Yes	Yes
7.	Healthy Start	Yes	Yes
8.	Public Pre-K	Yes	Yes
9.	Tribal Home Visiting Program	No	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)		
10.			

1C-5.	Addressing Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors—Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

In the chart below select yes or no for the organizations your CoC collaborates with:

	Organizations	
1.	state domestic violence coalitions	Yes
2.	state sexual assault coalitions	Yes
3.	other organizations that help this population	Yes

1C-5a.	Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers to Address Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations indicated in Question 1C-5 to:

1.	update CoC-wide policies; and
2.	ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC’s geographic area are trauma-informed and can meet the needs of survivors.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC coordinates with our victim services provider (YWCA) to annually look at our CoC wide policies and make updates where needed.

2. The YWCA of Northeast Kansas works with the CoC to provide trainings at our Homeless Task Force meetings to address trauma-informed, victim-centered approach to service delivery. The CoC's goal is to ensure services provided are steeped in trauma-informed principles: recognizing the impact of residents’ trauma on their development and coping strategies; validating the experiences of residents throughout the helping relationship; focusing on the physical and emotional safety needs of residents; building rapport, while maintaining appropriate boundaries; empowering residents by prioritizing their choice and control; collaborating with residents throughout the case management process; developing and building upon residents’ skills and strengths; and ensuring language access and cultural competency (Heffernan & Blythe, 2014). CoC and ESG funded agencies are required to attend the Homeless Task Force meetings as well as the domestic violence and trauma-informed trainings.

1C-5b.	Coordinated Annual Training on Best Practices to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

	Describe in the field below how your CoC coordinates to provide training for:
1.	project staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma-informed, victim-centered) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually); and
2.	Coordinated Entry staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma informed care) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually).

(limit 2,500 characters)

1 and 2. Safety planning is an essential part of training and it is a requirement for all advocates including project staff, and coordinated entry staff. The safety training is provided by the YWCA and is provided annually and ongoing at the Homeless Task Force meetings on the dynamics of sexual and domestic violence, understanding risk and lethality factors, and how to best serve survivors in a trauma informed way. This training is an annual requirement for CoC agencies and staff. Additionally, any CoC partner agency or community agency may request additional training throughout the year at no cost on a variety of topics, including, domestic violence, human trafficking, neurobiology of trauma and trauma-informed services, sexual violence, and healthy relationships. The YWCA advocates also attend the monthly Homeless Task Force meetings to be available to provide immediate technical assistance to the CoC as consultation is requested. The YWCA also works with survivors to identify their own safety needs and will assist them in developing a personalized safety plan for the resident. Safe housing is a significant part of their safety plan, and staff and advocates are continuously working with residents to assess what types of housing, location of housing, etc., they may need to ensure their safety. This information is conveyed to project and coordinated entry staff to assist with the housing process. YWCA utilizes a trauma-informed, victim-centered approach to service delivery. The services provided to residents at the emergency shelter are steeped in trauma-informed principles: recognizing the impact of residents' trauma on their development and coping strategies; validating the experiences of residents throughout the helping relationship; focusing on the physical and emotional safety needs of residents; building rapport, while maintaining appropriate boundaries; empowering residents by prioritizing their choice and control; collaborating with residents throughout the case management process; developing and building upon residents' skills and strengths; and ensuring language access and cultural competency (Heffernan & Blythe, 2014).

1C-5c.	Implemented Safety Planning, Confidentiality Protocols in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry includes:	
1.	safety planning protocols; and	
2.	confidentiality protocols.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. A separate, confidential process is available for domestic violence survivors who are receiving services from domestic violence service providers in the community. This process allows service providers to maintain confidentiality and safety for their clients, while also ensuring that homeless survivors have access to the full array of housing opportunities in the community. The YWCA has a hotline to ensure safety planning and protections to victims of domestic violence not staying at the shelter. The confidentiality of the shelter location is extremely critical to maintaining the safety of the residents and advocates, alike. YWCA requests that all shelter residents not disclose the location of the shelter while staying

there, as part of their shelter screening and intake paperwork. YWCA also requires that all advocates maintain the confidentiality of the shelter location.

Any vendors or providers who are authorized to learn of the shelter location are required to sign confidentiality forms.

2. The participating domestic violence service providers will conduct the VISPDAT triage assessment with the individuals and families staying in their shelters and transitional housing programs. These service providers are prohibited by law from using HMIS, so the VI-SPDAT and additional eligibility criteria that is usually included in the HMIS standard intake will be completed on a paper form. This modified intake form will only include the minimum information necessary to determine eligibility and prioritization and it will specifically exclude personally identifying information, including: name, date of birth, social security number, and last permanent address. The service provider completing the form will include the name of the agency, the appropriate staff contact, and an alternate staff contact. All communication about the assessment and any possible placements will be conducted through the service provider to maintain client confidentiality. The domestic violence service provider will include an internally generated ID number that the agency can associate with the client, but that cannot otherwise be identified with the client. COT staff will use the number to identify the client when communicating with the service provider. COT will maintain a separate Community Queue outside of HMIS for survivors referred by domestic violence service providers. No client data will be entered into HMIS.

1C-5d.	Used De-identified Aggregate Data to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	the de-identified aggregate data source(s) your CoC used for data on survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and	
2.	how your CoC uses the de-identified aggregate data described in element 1 of this question to evaluate how to best meet the specialized needs related to domestic violence and homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC uses data from a comparable database that our domestic violence provider uses. A separate, confidential process is available for domestic violence survivors who are receiving services from domestic violence service providers in the community. This process allows service providers to maintain confidentiality and safety for their clients, while also ensuring that homeless survivors have access to the full array of housing opportunities in the community. The participating domestic violence service providers will conduct the VISPDAT triage assessment with individuals and families. These service providers are prohibited by law from using HMIS, so the VI-SPDAT and additional eligibility criteria that is usually included in the HMIS standard intake will be completed on a paper form. This modified intake form will only include the minimum information necessary to determine eligibility and prioritization and it will specifically exclude personally identifying information, including: name, date of birth, social security number, and last permanent address. The service provider completing the form will include the name of the agency, the appropriate staff contact, and an alternate staff contact. All communication about the assessment and any possible placements will be conducted through the service provider to maintain client confidentiality. The domestic violence service provider will include an internally generated ID number that the agency can associate with the client, but that cannot otherwise be identified with the client.

2. CoC staff will use the number to identify the client when communicating with the service provider. COT will maintain a separate Community Queue outside of HMIS for survivors referred by domestic violence service providers. No client data will be entered into HMIS. Information will be provided by the service provider according to their internally generated number as it pertains to housing and specialized needs of survivors. This will ensure confidentiality while also allowing survivors access to needed services.

1C-5e.	Implemented Emergency Transfer Plan Policies and Procedures for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC communicates to all individuals and families seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance:	
1.	whether your CoC has policies and procedures that include an emergency transfer plan;	
2.	the process for individuals and families to request an emergency transfer; and	

3.	the process your CoC uses to respond to individuals' and families' emergency transfer requests.
----	---

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC has a policy in place that allows tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the tenant's unit to another. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. However, our CoC communicates its policies and procedures to all individuals and families receiving assistance regardless of their survivor status. This information is covered in the program material each recipient receives prior to entering the program. It is also discussed at the housing briefing with each individual. The Center for Safety and Empowerment (CSE) has worked with the CoC partners to establish a protocol where survivors can be referred to a CSE advocate who can request emergency transfer plans with Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) partners, as well as those offering Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), in cases where the client is fleeing from domestic violence. This protocol includes the completion of a comprehensive safety plan for the transfer and other system advocacy as needed for the survivor.
2. The individuals and families will contact their case manager or call the hotline to obtain the emergency transfer. CoC partner agency case managers all are trained to do an assessment of individuals seeking assistance. Walk-ins are also accepted at CSE in case they don't have a phone or can't safely make a call.
3. The CoC partner agency case managers will do an assessment and start the transfer process. This includes coordinating with housing and other partner agencies.

1C-5f.	Access to Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.e.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
--	---	--

1.	ensures that survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have safe access to all of the housing and services available within the CoC's geographic area; and	
2.	proactively identifies systemic barriers within your homeless response system that create barriers to safely house and provide services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC partners with the YWCA to prioritize the needs of survivors based on the information shared with advocates during their case management meetings. The beds within the emergency shelter are made available for individuals in immediate danger as determined by their abusers' access to them. The YWCA advocates prioritize the housing needs of the residents at the shelters based on their identified goals, access to identification documentation and income to secure housing, and their planned exit dates from the shelter. Additionally, the CoC has a separate, confidential process for domestic violence survivors who are receiving services from domestic violence service providers in the community. This process allows service providers to maintain confidentiality and safety for their clients, while also ensuring that homeless survivors have access to the full array of housing opportunities in the community. The CoC assessment will give a higher score to individuals experiencing domestic violence which means they will be pulled from the coordinated entry list first for available housing.

2. The Center for Safety and Empowerment (CSE) also has formal agreements with partner agencies to address the housing needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. CSE educates families about housing options available to them in the community. The Coc and YWCA work together to identify systemic barriers, address them, and find solutions. Additionally, the HTF regularly looks at community needs and barriers and ways we can proactively make a difference in our community.

1C-5g.	Ensuring Survivors With a Range of Lived Expertise Participate in Developing CoC-Wide Policy and Programs.	
NOFO Section V.B.1.e.		
Describe in the field below how your CoC:		
1.	ensured survivors with a range of lived expertise are involved in the development of your CoC-wide policy and programs; and	
2.	accounted for the unique and complex needs of survivors.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Our CoC works with the YWCA to encourage survivors with lived expertise to participate in the Homeless Task Force. We have individuals that serve on committees and individuals who have previously served on the executive committee.

The feedback from individuals with lived experience is invaluable to our CoC. It is through their feedback and information that we are able to change and adjust our programs and policies to better fit individuals needs.

2. The complex needs of survivors is addressed through our partnership with the YWCA and individuals with lived experience. Education is provided to partner agencies to ensure safety and confidentiality to those in need. The CoC looks at specific housing needs and services too connect survivors to. The CoC and partner agencies are respectful of survivors needs and will ensure individuals consent to any disclosure of information or participation in programs. Agencies will enquire what name and additional information a survivor is comfortable sharing. Additionally, the CoC has multiple ways to communicate with a survivor to ensure we are keeping individuals safe. It may be that a phone call is not safe but an individual can communicate through email.

1C-6.	Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+--Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

	1. Did your CoC implement a written CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination?	Yes
	2. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access Final Rule)?	Yes
	3. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs (Gender Identity Final Rule)?	Yes

1C-6a.	Anti-Discrimination Policy--Updating Policies--Assisting Providers--Evaluating Compliance--Addressing Noncompliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.f.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC regularly collaborates with LGBTQ+ and other organizations to update its CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy, as necessary to ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed and able to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and families;
2.	how your CoC assisted housing and services providers in developing project-level anti-discrimination policies that are consistent with the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy;
3.	your CoC's process for evaluating compliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies; and

4. your CoC's process for addressing noncompliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC reviews the anti-discrimination policy annually, and as needed to ensure members are aware of their expectations. CoC and HESG agencies are required to agree to anti-discrimination while utilizing those funding sources. Partner Agencies have trauma informed and TBRI staff who train others within their agency and also provide training to the community. The CoC coordinates with LGBTQ+ agencies to ensure we are meeting all anti discrimination polices.
2. The CoC provides training on anti-discrimination ensuring LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination. The CoC lead is also available for one-on-one meetings to assist agencies with policy development consistent with the CoC's antidiscrimination policy.
3. The CoC does annual monitoring of the HESG and CoC funded agencies and during that monitoring an assessment of the agency's policy is reviewed. Staff and volunteers are interviewed which can provide information on any antidiscrimination, if that is a concern. CoC agencies have opportunities for people to provide feedback on the services they receive and if they feel they were discriminated against. The CoC has two agencies that assist with discrimination Housing and Credit Counseling and Kansas Legal Services. These agencies can provide legal advice if needed.
4. If anti-discrimination is determined it is immediately addressed by the executive team of the governing body. If they are CoC or HESG funded they will have a correction plan to be able to remain funded.

1C-7.	Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC's Geographic Area--New Admissions--General/Limited Preference--Moving On Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

You must upload the PHA Homeless Preference\PHA Moving On Preference attachment(s) to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter information in the chart below for the two largest PHAs highlighted in gray on the current CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report or the two PHAs your CoC has a working relationship with--if there is only one PHA in your CoC's geographic area, provide information on the one:

Public Housing Agency Name	Enter the Percent of New Admissions into Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2022 who were experiencing homelessness at entry	Does the PHA have a General or Limited Homeless Preference?	Does the PHA have a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On?
Topeka Housing Authority	90%	Yes-Both	Yes

1C-7a.	Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences with PHAs.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. steps your CoC has taken, with the two largest PHAs within your CoC's geographic area or the two PHAs your CoC has working relationships with, to adopt a homeless admission preference—if your CoC only has one PHA within its geographic area, you may respond for the one; or	
	2. state that your CoC has not worked with the PHAs in its geographic area to adopt a homeless admission preference.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC partners with the Topeka Housing Authority to provide a homeless admission preference. Individuals that are on the waitlist for public housing or section 8 vouchers are given preference and moved up the list if they are homeless. Additional preference is given for elderly, working, and disabled individuals. Our CoC has also partnered with the Topeka Housing Authority for the first time this year to provide a moving on preference for our Shelter Plus Care individuals who no longer need the care piece of housing. The Topeka Housing Authority has set aside vouchers for our tenants to utilize when they are ready. Our CoC only has one PHA.
2. Our CoC is working with our PHA to adopt a homeless admission preference.

1C-7b.	Moving On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	
	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate affordable housing providers in your CoC's jurisdiction that your recipients use to move program participants to other subsidized housing:	

1.	Multifamily assisted housing owners	Yes
2.	PHA	Yes
3.	Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments	Yes
4.	Local low-income housing programs	Yes
	Other (limit 150 characters)	
5.		

1C-7c.	Include Units from PHA Administered Programs in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	
	In the chart below, indicate if your CoC includes units from the following PHA programs in your CoC's coordinated entry process:	

1.	Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV)	Yes
2.	Family Unification Program (FUP)	No
3.	Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)	No
4.	HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	No
5.	Mainstream Vouchers	No
6.	Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers	No
7.	Public Housing	No
8.	Other Units from PHAs:	

1C-7d.	Submitting CoC and PHA Joint Applications for Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

1.	Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a competitive joint application(s) for funding or jointly implement a competitive project serving individuals or families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other programs)?	No
		Program Funding Source
2.	Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement.	N/A

1C-7e.	Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV).	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.g.	

	Did your CoC coordinate with any PHA to apply for or implement funding provided for Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to homelessness, including vouchers provided through the American Rescue Plan?	Yes
--	--	-----

1C-7e.1.	List of PHAs with Active MOUs to Administer the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program.	
	Not Scored–For Information Only	

	Does your CoC have an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any PHA to administer the EHV Program?	Yes
--	--	-----

If you select yes to question 1C-7e.1., you must use the list feature below to enter the name of every PHA your CoC has an active MOU with to administer the Emergency Housing Voucher Program.

PHA
Topeka Housing Au...

1C-7e.1. List of PHAs with MOUs

Name of PHA: Topeka Housing Authority

1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1D-1.	Discharge Planning Coordination.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.h.	

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

1D-2.	Housing First—Lowering Barriers to Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

1.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2023 CoC Program Competition.	3
2.	Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2023 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.	1
3.	This number is a calculation of the percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, SSO non-Coordinated Entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2023 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	33%

1D-2a.	Project Evaluation for Housing First Compliance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.i.	

You must upload the Housing First Evaluation attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC evaluates every project—where the applicant checks Housing First on their project application—to determine if they are using a Housing First approach;
2.	the list of factors and performance indicators your CoC uses during its evaluation; and
3.	how your CoC regularly evaluates projects outside of your local CoC competition to ensure the projects are using a Housing First approach.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC regularly evaluates projects to assess the commitment to a Housing First model in two ways. First, when an organization applies for CoC funding, it must define the service approach. When CoC applications are reviewed by the local Review and Ranking Committee, members will evaluate if the application’s project employs a housing first model as a part of its rapid placement and stabilization activities. Proposed projects can receive up to 25 points based on experience with the model and the depth and breadth this model will be used during the program year. The annual review process is the second housing first evaluation method employed by the CoC.

2. Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless Desired Outcome: Reduction in the average and median length of time persons remain homeless Measure 2: The Extent to which Persons who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness within 6, 12, and 24 Months Desired Outcome: Reduction in the percent of persons who return to homelessness Measure 3: Partner compliance in using coordinated entry to prioritize based on need.

3. Housing First is a topic that is frequently discussed at the CoC's Homeless Task Force meeting. The CoC encourages all programs including those outside of the CoC competition to use a Housing First approach when at all possible. There is no formal evaluation process for projects that do not receive CoC funding. However, any challenges to not utilizing Housing First are discussed at the HTF meeting and we work together to come up with solutions.

1D-3.	Street Outreach—Scope.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.j.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	your CoC's street outreach efforts, including the methods it uses to ensure all persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness are identified and engaged;
2.	whether your CoC's Street Outreach covers 100 percent of the CoC's geographic area;
3.	how often your CoC conducts street outreach; and
4.	how your CoC tailored its street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC's street outreach efforts are primarily conducted through partnering members of the Homeless Task Force. The Topeka Rescue Mission, Valeo Behavioral Health Care, the Veterans' Association and the Topeka Police Department, have a collaborative street outreach effort to identify and build supportive relationships with unsheltered people experiencing homelessness. Street Outreach is occurring daily, in our CoC's geographic area of Shawnee County Kansas. Having diverse entities participating in outreach efforts build a higher level of comfort among persons experiencing homelessness who may be otherwise less trusting of other partners. The Outreach Team provides regular updates at monthly meetings of the Homeless Task Force. In addition, in 2021 the partners formed the Mobile Access Partnership, targeted at taking services into the areas where the unsheltered homeless are living. This service includes a shower trailer, food trailer, clothing trailer, a mobile health clinic, pet care, as well as participation from other services providers. The primary partners in this effort include Topeka Police Department, Topeka Rescue Mission, Shawnee County Health, Stormont Vail Healthcare, and Valeo Behavioral Health. Those efforts have continued to expand and also include assistance with accessing phone services, Kansas State University veterinary services, and transportation as well as other periodic services.

2. Coverage is 100%

3. Outreach is conducted daily with mobile access services included every Tuesday and Thursday.

4. Our street outreach teams operate on the belief that trust is the only way to help someone who is resistant to change. All our teams have extensive training in Trauma Informed Care and addressing the Social Determinants of Health. These teams show up to camps with water, food, blankets, tents etc. to help open the lines of communication and trust. Rarely does it take just one engagement to get people to open up about what struggles they are facing and how the teams can help. So, these teams make it a priority to check in weekly with these individuals and offer information about services when they feel it will be openly received. This provides one point of contact for individuals experiencing homelessness and concerned community members. The CoC and outreach teams also meet monthly to discuss the unsheltered and ensure we are not missing any individuals that need assistance.

1D-4.	Strategies to Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.k.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate strategies your CoC implemented to ensure homelessness is not criminalized and to reverse existing criminalization policies in your CoC's geographic area:

	Your CoC's Strategies	Ensure Homelessness is not Criminalized	Reverse Existing Criminalization Policies
1.	Engaged/educated local policymakers	Yes	Yes
2.	Engaged/educated law enforcement	Yes	No
3.	Engaged/educated local business leaders	Yes	No
4.	Implemented community wide plans	Yes	No
5.	Other:(limit 500 characters)		

1D-5.	Rapid Rehousing–RRH Beds as Reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) or Longitudinal Data from HMIS.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.I.	

		HIC Longitudinal HMIS Data	2022	2023
	Enter the total number of RRH beds available to serve all populations as reported in the HIC or the number of households served per longitudinal HMIS data, e.g., APR.	HIC	112	1

1D-6.	Mainstream Benefits–CoC Annual Training of Project Staff.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m.	

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

	Mainstream Benefits	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI–Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	SSDI–Social Security Disability Insurance	Yes
4.	TANF–Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
5.	Substance Use Disorder Programs	Yes
6.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
7.	Other (limit 150 characters)	

1D-6a.	Information and Training on Mainstream Benefits and Other Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.m	

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, SSDI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
	2. works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services; and
	3. works with projects to promote SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The agencies that provide mainstream benefits are part of the CoC's Homeless Task Force. The CoC uses three main strategies to communicate with agencies – having agencies that provide mainstream benefits to present at the monthly Homeless Task Force, sending out information on a regular basis via the listserv the CoC lead maintains, and inviting mainstream benefits organizations to participate in coordinated care meetings. The CoC also partners with agencies to hold a one stop shop partnership that allow program participants to show up at one location and receive information and resources from over 41 partner agencies, including mainstream benefit agencies.

2. The CoC-funded projects use case management staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance. Additionally, the major health care providers in the community are active participants in the Homeless Task Force, as are the managed care businesses in the State, making access to and effective use of Medicaid easier for customers served through CoC resources. Twice a week the local hospital has a mobile clinic that functions as a primary care site for the community. Our CoC has a Health Access program that provides specialized medical coverage to those who don't otherwise have coverage. Heath Access also provides prescription and behavioral health coverage. The CoC partners with agencies to provide coverage for psychotropic meds that aren't covered elsewhere. CoC agencies partner with substance abuse treatment programs and actively send referrals. For example, Mirror's SUD program and Heartland RADAC. Healthcare, substance abuse, and mental health agencies are all part of the CoC's one stop shop our CoC organizes on a weekly basis.

3. Many CoC partner agencies are SOAR trained and the CoC encourages all agencies to become SOAR trained. Agencies have events where people are available to assist with the application process for SSI/SSDI. Several CoC agencies have Care Navigators that connect individuals to resources and help complete applications for SSDI, Medicaid, etc. The Navigators make weekly contact with the persons served to update them on their status and make additional referrals as necessary. The CoC's outreach teams also connect individuals to SSDI services and SOAR workers.

1D-7.	Increasing Capacity for Non-Congregate Sheltering.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.n.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC is increasing its capacity to provide non-congregate sheltering.	
FY2023 CoC Application	Page 30	09/25/2023

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC was instrumental in the conversations with the HOME-ARP Implementation Plan. The comments from the CoC membership were included in the Con Plan. The plan for 2022 included \$1million for non-congregate shelter and will create more beds for those experiencing domestic violence. Our CoC is currently working on this project and we expect it to be finished and the beds available this year. The CoC is also working with our CHDO agencies to add additional affordable housing in our community.

ID-8.	Partnerships with Public Health Agencies—Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent Spread of Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to:	
1.	develop CoC-wide policies and procedures to respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and	
2.	prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC coordinates with both state and local health agencies. They are instrumental in providing education and developing policy to the CoC on how to respond to infectious disease outbreaks. The information we received has helped us create policies and procedures to help manage and outbreak. The CoC also uses information from the CDC regularly to provide all CoC agencies information for their respective agency policies regarding a response to an outbreak. The CoC has a weekly COVID Response and Coordination meeting that directly provides discussion on preparing for future outbreaks with any infectious disease, not just COVID.

2. With all the education the CoC receives, that material is passed on to all people experiencing homelessness to help prevent future outbreaks. The CoC has several outreach teams that also provide education, PPE and vaccinations in the field to those who are unsheltered. The weekly meeting looks at real time barriers and solutions for the CoC. The CoC partner agency shelters had to adjust the living arrangements for those living there to prevent future outbreaks. Agencies also consider housing alternatives, such as non-congregate shelters and other non-congregate settings. CoC agencies have a Mobile Access Partnership (MAP) that moves around the community to provide services to the unsheltered. MAP has recently partnered with the Health Department to provide immunizations during their outreach in an effort to prevent outbreaks. They are also partnering with our local Rescue Mission to provide immunizations on site. The Health department is currently working to expand their partnerships with CoC outreach teams to take health care services directly to camps. Also, the CoC's partnership with the Health department provides PPE equipment to agencies as needed.

ID-8a.	Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.o.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	shared information related to public health measures and homelessness, and	
2.	facilitated communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers to ensure street outreach providers and shelter and housing providers are equipped to prevent or limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC has a extensive listserv of people in the community who are vested in the homeless population. Information is sent out regularly to the community about public health measures. Information is also sent out by social media and podcasts regularly. This could include information from local, state and federal resources, such as the CDC. The VA homeless teams meet monthly to discuss infectious disease precautions, measures taken when others come into contact with positive individuals and continuously provides education and advocation for precaution measures. The CoC has a weekly COVID Response and Coordination meeting that directly provides discussion on preparing for future outbreaks with any infectious disease, not just COVID. Several health agencies are a part of the weekly meeting and information is shared specific to public health and homelessness. The meeting is attending by about 40 different agencies and the information shared at the meetings is then taken back and shared with other agency staff and clients.

2. Health organizations are primary partners with the ongoing efforts of the outreach teams and provide direct council and advice to congregate shelter to prevent and mitigate infectious disease. The CoC is also involved in the Mobile Access Partnership program that includes both our local health agency, both hospitals, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and our CoC outreach providers. This partnership provides outreach to those experiencing homelessness giving them access to health services and education. The local Health Department is in the process of expanding it's street reach program to provide medical at camps instead of requiring the individual to travel to them. The health department provides immunizations with the Mobile Outreach programs and at our local homeless shelter.

1D-9.	Centralized or Coordinated Entry System–Assessment Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:	
1.	covers 100 percent of your CoC's geographic area;	
2.	uses a standardized assessment process; and	

	3. is updated regularly using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry.
--	--

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC and Homeless Task Force covers the City of Topeka limits and Shawnee County. The Coordinated Assessment System covers the same geographic area which is 100% our our CoC's geographic area.
2. The coordinated entry System uses a VI-SPDAT assessment through our HMIS system to score each individual so that prioritization can be used to help those most in need first. The CoC lead uses a single access point, with a dedicated phone number and email address, for individuals in need of rent assistance. Dedicated staff man the phones and assist individuals with assessments to get them enrolled into coordinated entry. The CoC works with outreach teams to make sure we are reaching chronically homeless and unsheltered homeless. Outreach staff already have rapport built with individuals and assist the CoC in completion of the VI-SPDAT so those individuals can get enrolled into coordinated entry. The CoC also has policies in place to prioritize assistance to those in need. Those polices are used in conjunction with the VISPDAT assessment score for each individual/household.
3. The CoC meets monthly with participating agencies to get feedback on what is working well and what needs updated, as well as discuss client feedback. Agencies that receive COC funding, ask individuals receiving assistance to complete a survey that provides feedback on the their experience. Additionally, Coordinated Entry staff complete a follow up call with individuals 6 months after they receive assistance to make sure they are doing okay and get feedback on the process.

	1D-9a. Program Participant-Centered Approach to Centralized or Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system:	
	1. reaches people who are least likely to apply for homeless assistance in the absence of special outreach;	
	2. prioritizes people most in need of assistance;	
	3. ensures people most in need of assistance receive permanent housing in a timely manner, consistent with their preferences; and	
	4. takes steps to reduce burdens on people using coordinated entry.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. One of the strengths of our coordinated entry system is we have several outreach teams who focus on serving the population most in need and difficult to reach. In our area, the street homeless would be the least likely to receive services and we have many agencies that work with this population through our system. While we have a single access point for rent assistance we also use the outreach teams who already have relationships with street homeless to complete VI-SPDAT assessments and get those individuals entered into coordinated entry. Our Coordinated Entry staff also also complete outreach.
2. Our coordinated entry system uses a VI-SPDAT assessment to score each individual. This score is based on how critical each individuals needs are and allows us to use prioritization to pull names. The coordinated entry system will triage people and house those who are most in need first. Permanent Supportive Housing placements will be prioritized for those who have been homeless on the streets or emergency shelter for at least a year and with the highest acuity. Our CoC has polices in place to prioritize those in most need first
3. Names are pulled from the coordinated entry by name list based on their score, and the CoC's priority process thus ensuring those in most need of assistance receive housing first. Our CE system allows us to indicate an individuals top 4 housing preferences and every effort is made to place individuals in their top choices as quickly as possible. Having dedicated staff to manage the single access point allows for individuals to receive assistance quickly. Staff communicates daily with partner agencies to ensure individuals are getting the assistance they need.
4. The CE system has dedicated staff to man the single access point. This takes the burden off of agencies to complete the assessment with each individual who enters their agency. Staff meet regularly with partner agencies to ensure the process is running smoothly and to make any needed adjustments. The single access point utilizes a single phone number and email address community wide to make the process easier for those in need. Staff will meet with individuals in person, through zoom, or a phone call to ensure access for everyone. Additionally, staff work with the outreach teams to complete the assessment and enrollment. The Coc works to keep the process as simple as possible and every effort is made to reduce burdens for individuals.

1D-9b.	Informing Program Participant about Rights and Remedies through Centralized or Coordinated Entry—Reporting Violations.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.p.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC through its centralized or coordinated entry:	
1.	affirmatively markets housing and services provided within the CoC's geographic area and ensures it reaches all persons experiencing homelessness;	
2.	informs program participants of their rights and remedies available under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws; and	
3.	reports any conditions or actions that impede fair housing choice for current or prospective program participants to the jurisdiction(s) responsible for certifying consistency with the Consolidated Plan.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Our CoC markets housing and services provided in our area through three main strategies. Communicating with agencies at our monthly Homeless Task Force and Coordinated Entry meetings, through having agencies present at meetings that provide housing and services, and by sending out information on a regular basis via the listserv the CoC lead maintains. Additionally, our outreach teams are meeting with our unsheltered population on a daily basis and sharing the information with them. Our CoC puts together resource bags that are full of information and handed out to the community. Our Coordinated Entry outreach teams hand out the bags to unsheltered individuals. Also, individuals on the coordinated entry list are notified about our CoC's one stop shop and encouraged to attend to get connected to resources.

2. Our CoC partners with Housing and Credit Counseling (HCCI) who are the experts on landlord, tenant, and housing rights. Coordinated Entry staff and agencies actively refer individuals to HCCI for assistance and to learn more about their rights. The CoC also partners with Kansas Holistic Legal Defenders who provide free legal advice and service to those in need. Additionally, our CoC has a one stop shop where individuals can access over 40 partner agencies including HCCI and KS Holistic Defenders. Individuals on the Coordinated Entry list are given this information and encourage to participate. HCCI also teaches classes to multiple programs and participants.

3. The City of Topeka is the CoC lead and the PJ responsible for the Consolidated Plan. Additionally, the coordinated entry system managed by the City of Topeka/CoC lead. As we receive any reports that impede fair housing we look into the matter immediately. We also hold monthly meetings with coordinated entry partners and ask for feedback on not only our process but the situation in the community and any issues they are facing. Coordinated Entry staff follow up with individuals who receive assistance and ensure they are able to sustain their housing without any issues. IF there are issues, we step in to assist the individual.

1D-10.	Advancing Racial Equity in Homelessness—Conducting Assessment.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

1.	Has your CoC conducted a racial disparities assessment in the last 3 years?	Yes
2.	Enter the date your CoC conducted its latest assessment for racial disparities.	09/13/2023

1D-10a.	Process for Analyzing Racial Disparities–Identified Racial Disparities in Provision or Outcomes of Homeless Assistance.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below:

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1. | your CoC's process for analyzing whether any racial disparities are present in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and |
| 2. | what racial disparities your CoC identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance. |

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC uses the STELLA platform to provide guidance on the racial disparities in its programs. Several members of the HTF have implemented a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion task force which benefits the community. The group does training in the community to help educate on racial equity issues. CoC partner agencies do a needs assessment of disparities and report back to the CoC to ensure that not one race is underrepresented in the community. The CoC regularly looks at disparities during our monthly HTF and other meetings we then adjust policies as needed or work to combat the issues we see.

2. The CoC uses the STELLA report to identify racial disparities. This year our CoC noticed the Hispanic population was not represented equally compared to the population. Only 6% of services were provided to the Hispanic population while the Hispanic population is 15% in our community. The CoC is actively looking at ways to increase services to the Hispanic population to eliminate this barrier. The CoC's outcome is to increase services to at least 10% provided to the Hispanic population. The CoC is working closely with United Way who has also identified this issue. Conversations are being made to help identify the barriers of why this targeted population is not receiving services. The CoC will use these strategies to address this disparity.

Another disparity we are working to address is the number of homeless males. Males make up 59% of the Shawnee County Homeless population. They also take up 82%

of the jail space. This leads us to conclude 2 things. 1). Topeka has a shortage of affordable

1 bedroom housing options. This is also backed up by the PHA waitlist. The longest wait is

for 1 bedroom housing. And 2). Criminal backgrounds are a barrier to housing. In an effort

to remove some of these barriers the local CCBHC and KDADS are actively working with

Kansas Legal Service to expunge some records. The CCBHC is also developing an AOT

Team (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) and has expanded to add additional CIT responders,

jail liaisons and other crisis intervention services to keep people out of jail if possible. This

will help with unfavorable legal records.

CoC partner agencies have formed a Racial Equity Analysis group to look at policies and

grant applications to make sure they are geared towards the correct individuals. They make

sure the needed groups receive the information they need and disparities are

1D-10b.	Implemented Strategies that Address Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the strategies your CoC is using to address any racial disparities.

1.	The CoC's board and decisionmaking bodies are representative of the population served in the CoC.	Yes
2.	The CoC has identified steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC.	Yes
3.	The CoC is expanding outreach in geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups.	Yes
4.	The CoC has communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups.	Yes
5.	The CoC is training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness.	Yes
6.	The CoC is establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector.	Yes
7.	The CoC has staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness.	Yes
8.	The CoC is educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national nonprofit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity.	Yes
9.	The CoC reviewed coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes
10.	The CoC is collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system.	Yes
11.	The CoC is conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes
	Other:(limit 500 characters)	
12.		

1D-10c.	Implemented Strategies that Address Known Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below the steps your CoC is taking to address the disparities identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Our CoC has successfully implemented the EAS (Equity Access Shelter) program. This program allows an individual to walk in or call The City of Topeka and request assistance (rent & mortgage) and from there the referral will be sent to 1 of the 8 partner agencies. The partner agencies then record assistance given and housing status update via HMIS system. This also helps to eliminate agencies duplicating services and makes services equally available to all residents.

The City of Topeka also manages the SPC (Shelter Plus Care) and EHV Vouchers. To be placed on the Coordinated entry for a voucher a person must complete a VI-SPADT at one of the partner agencies or the City office. The city then uses the vulnerability score to determine prioritization and then execution of the voucher. Support agencies assist persons served in locating housing and navigating the paperwork, etc.

One disparity we are working to address specifically is the number of homeless males. Males make up 59% of the Shawnee County Homeless population. They also take up 82% of the jail space. This leads us to conclude 2 things. 1). Topeka has a shortage of affordable 1 bedroom housing options. This is also backed up by the PHA waitlist. The longest wait is for 1 bedroom housing. And 2). Criminal backgrounds are a barrier to housing. In an effort to remove some of these barriers the local CCBHC and KDADS are actively working with Kansas Legal Service to expunge some records. The CCBHC is also developing an AOT Team (Assisted Outpatient Treatment) and has expanded to add additional CIT responders, jail liaisons and other crisis intervention services to keep people out of jail if possible. This will help with unfavorable legal records.

CoC partner agencies have formed a Racial Equity Analysis group to look at policies and grant applications to make sure they are geared towards the correct individuals. They make sure the needed groups receive the information they need and disparities are being addressed.

1D-10d.	Tracked Progress on Preventing or Eliminating Disparities.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	the measures your CoC has in place to track progress on preventing or eliminating disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and
2.	the tools your CoC uses.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Our CoC has a wide range of support services available to our community. We have 2 CCBHC's (one focusing on under 18 and 1 for 18 and up) to provide mental health and crisis service to the community. We have homeless outreach teams from the VA, Valeo and Topeka Rescue Mission that focus on meeting people where they are and connecting them to a variety of services. We also have Impact Avenues that aids homeless families with social workers based in the local school district to help identify needs. All are trained and knowledgeable about community resources and help connect people with those services. (Ex. food banks, clothing, RRH, HP, Section 8, etc.). Our community also has access to free and discounted physical and behavioral healthcare through our CCBHC's, Grace Med, Pine Ridge, and Health Access. Health Access provides free donated specialty care to income eligible persons and prescription coverage. We also have other programs to address social determinants of health such as Early Childhood Development through the YWCA and the Boys and Girls club, job readiness training, and supported employment services. We have many services available, that we track through our HMIS system. Additionally agencies track other outputs and outcomes through other databases and information is shared at the HTF. These resources combined with additional efforts that focus on Homeless Prevention will help us slow the rate in which persons fall into homelessness and provide a proactive instead of reactive approach. The City is also partnering with Valeo Behavioral Health, our adult CCBHC to apply for TBRA housing assistance to bridge the gap between homelessness and the long Section 8 waitlist. Our goal is to walk along side the vulnerable and help them to learn to self resolve and take an active role in their outcome.

2. Our CoC uses Stella data as a tool to look at disparities through the data entered into our HMIS system. We also use partnerships, agency feedback, and information shared from other databases and systems to look at and help prevent disparities.

1D-11.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking—CoC's Outreach Efforts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Describe in the field below your CoC's outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decision making processes.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Within our CoC we have numerous agencies that offer support to persons served by employing Peer Support Staff. Our local CCBHC employees 12 peer support staff that average 206 hours a month of direct service to assigned persons. In addition, they have 2 peer support staff that go into our 4 NFMH's (Nursing Facility for Mental Health) and provide groups and WRAP lessons to any individual wishing to participate. The local CCBHC, Topeka Rescue Mission and VA also have outreach teams with members that have lived experience that provides community outreach 3 to 4 days a week. TRM also employees individuals that graduated from their programs. They are embedded in the organization in many ways and always available to provide support and guidance as they can speak firsthand to the struggles their guests are facing. Another resource in our CoC is NAMI. They offer Peer – to -Peer support to individuals suffering from mental illness and a many in person and online support groups. All the mentioned agencies have people with lived experience on their decision-making boards. Their input is valued and helps guide the agencies to relate to the people they serve. The CoC uses all social media outlets, podcasts, media releases for outreach to those with lived experience. The CoC continually encourages agencies to invite individuals with lived experience to our HTF meetings and seeks out feedback from those individuals when making policy decisions. Additionally, the CoC has added a core team that is made up of subject matter experts and lived experience individuals to conduct an in-depth study on our homeless situation and utilize an innovation approach to create better solutions. The CoC has hired a consult to lead us through this process.

1D-11a.	Active CoC Participation of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

You must upload the Letter Signed by Working Group attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
 Enter in the chart below the number of people with lived experience who currently participate in your CoC under the four categories listed:

	Level of Active Participation	Number of People with Lived Experience Within the Last 7 Years or Current Program Participant	Number of People with Lived Experience Coming from Unsheltered Situations
1.	Included in the decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	7	5
2.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	6	6
3.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's local competition rating factors.	5	4
4.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC's coordinated entry process.	7	6

1D-11b.	Professional Development and Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC or CoC membership organizations provide professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Multiple CoC agencies have job training programs and supported employment services in place. We partner with the Topeka Workforce Center, DCF, and the Department of Labor. DCF has a GOALS program which helps individuals get work ready. KDOC has a program called Pathways to Success to help younger adults in jail complete their GED, get certifications, and job training. The goal is to help individuals earn a living wage upon release of incarceration. Let's Help has a GED and career clothing closet to assist homeless individuals. Mirrors has a Work for Success program that provides a personal and professional development curriculum. One of our CoC's partner agencies, the Topeka Rescue Mission, has a Career Readiness Education (CaRE) Program that is designed to help unemployed and underemployed individuals experiencing homelessness attain the knowledge, skills and attitudes for employment and successful work performance. The primary goal is to help participants develop life management and job readiness skills needed to gain and retain employment. CaRE participants develop and enhance their work readiness skills and abilities for personal and professional success. Community and business partners are vital to the overall program success. Graduates report after program completion that they become more responsible individuals, having the ability to make better choices and decisions as they strive towards financial stability and self-sufficiency. This program utilizes internships at local businesses and organizations, as well as volunteers to assist with training and coaching. Additionally, our CoC has numerous agencies that offer support to persons served by employing Peer Support Staff. Our local CCBHC employees 12 peer support staff that average 206 hours a month of direct service to assigned persons. The local CCBHC, Topeka Rescue Mission and VA also have outreach teams that employ members with lived experience that provide community outreach 3 to 4 days a week. TRM also employees individuals that graduated from their programs. They are embedded in the organization in many ways and always available to provide support and guidance as they can speak firsthand to the struggles their guests are facing.

1D-11c.	Routinely Gathering Feedback and Addressing Challenges of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness. NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	
Describe in the field below:		
1.	how your CoC routinely gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;	
2.	how your CoC routinely gathers feedback from people who have received assistance through the CoC or ESG Programs; and	
3.	the steps your CoC has taken to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1 and 2. The CoC and ESG agencies are required to have a system in place to gather feedback from participants receiving services. All CoC and ESG agencies have people with lived experience on their boards which also provides the CoC feedback. Feedback is provided at our monthly Homeless Task Force meetings, the governing body of the CoC. Our coordinated entry staff follow up with individuals receiving assistance to ensure they are stability housed and get feedback on the process. Our Partner agencies conduct community listening sessions to get feedback from different groups in regard to homelessness, housing, and mental health. Individuals with lived experience are part of these groups. Additionally, the CoC has hired a consultant to help us look at our homeless issue in depth and really analyze what the challenges and gaps are. This will be a 9 month process that will give us solutions and an implementation plan. Individuals with lived experience are part of the core team that will be highly involved in the 9 month process. We also have scheduled community meetings and stakeholder groups that will participate throughout the process.

3. Recently, the CoC took feedback from homeless individuals and implemented changes to create more equity and access through a single point of entry. CoC partner agencies came together and agreed to have this single point for all rent assistance in the community. So now, individuals do not need to call around to 8 separate agencies to try and find assistance, they can just call a single access point. This single point of access uses coordinated entry and prioritization for assistance. Additionally, due to feedback from those experiencing homelessness, rapid re-housing teams are working closely with landlords to decrease opposition to house people with lived experience leading to the ability to place people in more decent and safe housing.

1D-12.	Increasing Affordable Housing Supply. NOFO Section V.B.1.t.	
--------	---	--

	Describe in the field below at least 2 steps your CoC has taken in the past 12 months to engage city, county, or state governments that represent your CoC's geographic area regarding the following:
1.	reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; and
2.	reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC is active in the process to reexamining the zoning process in the city to make it friendlier for development to take place in the city. The CoC was a part in the reducing the number of parking places for a senior living in order to increase the number of units being built. The CoC membership includes Community Housing Development Organizations who frequently will rezone to build multi-family housing in low income areas. The CoC is involved in the conversation to rezone the city to include the "Missing Middle". An - Accessory Dwelling Unit Advisory Group has been formed and started meeting regularly with the mission of defining the process to implement "missing middle" policy recommendations. The goal of this effort is to open up a greater supply of naturally occurring affordable housing.

2. The CoC membership is active in trying to find unrestricted funds to assist in housing initiatives. Additionally, the new DREAMS program allows more access for the community to utilize CDBG funds for housing development. In the past year, the Affordable Housing Trust Fund was funded with CoC membership playing in a leadership role. The CoC is involved in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program that helps property owners with tax breaks to promote development of intensive care areas. The CoC was a part of the successful effort to rezone downtown Topeka to a mixed use district allowing for the development of more housing. The City of Topeka has created a Topeka Land Bank to support the acquisition, management, and transformation of vacant, abandoned, blighted and/or foreclosed properties into a productive use benefitting the community bringing more affordable housing online in the market

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

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1E-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC’s Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a. and 2.g.	
	You must upload the Web Posting of Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

1.	Enter your CoC’s local competition submission deadline date for New Project applicants to submit their project applications to your CoC—meaning the date your CoC published the deadline.	08/07/2023
2.	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for Renewal Project applicants to submit their project applications to your CoC’s local competition—meaning the date your CoC published the deadline.	08/07/2023

1E-2.	Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. We use the response to this question and the response in Question 1E-2a along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC’s eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., 2.d., and 2.e.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	
	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected project applications during your 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
4.	Provided points for projects that addressed specific severe barriers to housing and services.	Yes

5.	Used data from comparable databases to score projects submitted by victim service providers.	Yes
6.	Provided points for projects based on the degree the projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.	Yes

1E-2a.	Scored Project Forms for One Project from Your CoC's Local Competition. We use the response to this question and Question 1E-2. along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC's eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.	

You must upload the Scored Forms for One Project attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
Complete the chart below to provide details of your CoC's local competition:

1.	What were the maximum number of points available for the renewal project form(s)?	115
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	2
3.	What renewal project type did most applicants use?	PH-PSH

1E-2b.	Addressing Severe Barriers in the Local Project Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.d.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding each project that has successfully housed program participants in permanent housing;
2.	how your CoC analyzed data regarding how long it takes to house people in permanent housing;
3.	how your CoC considered the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities experienced by program participants preventing rapid placement in permanent housing or the ability to maintain permanent housing when your CoC ranked and selected projects; and
4.	considerations your CoC gave to projects that provide housing and services to the hardest to serve populations that could result in lower performance levels but are projects your CoC needs in its geographic area.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. Each of the PY2023 applications considered by the local Review and Ranking Committee were scrutinized, in part, based on the severity of needs and vulnerabilities of the proposed, target populations. The Topeka/Shawnee County Homeless Taskforce / CoC's review and ranking criteria mirrored HUD's recommended design and scoring. There were 115 total points available to each applicant, 5 of which were specifically awarded according to "severity of needs...including individuals who are low income, no income, substance abusers, victimized, or chronically homeless." An additional 5 points could be awarded in the local process if the applicant was a victim services provider, thus providing extra emphasis to the vulnerabilities experienced by the target population.
2. Data is analyzed using our HMIS system. Reports are ran to provide the CoC and the review and ranking team how long it takes to housing people in permanent housing. That data is considered in an applicants score.
3. In the evaluation process, Review and Ranking Committee members considered both the depth and breadth of needs/vulnerabilities of each applicant's proposed, target population. Applicants demonstrating intent to support customers with multiple needs, and/or an extreme severity of need, were eligible for the highest scores in the category. For example, an applicant targeting persistently homeless, unemployed, female vets with demonstrated substance abuse conditions would have received a higher score than an applicant targeting employed homeless people.
4. The CoC's process for review and ranking does not penalize a program that is targeting the hardest to serve population if their performance is justifiably lower

1E-3.	Advancing Racial Equity through Participation of Over-Represented Populations in the Local Competition Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.e.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC used the input from persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, to determine the rating factors used to review project applications;	
	2. how your CoC included persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population in the review, selection, and ranking process; and	
	3. how your CoC rated and ranked projects based on the degree to which their project has identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The Homeless Task Force (HTF), the governing body of the CoC, met regularly with over 40 agency representatives present and worked on the creation of the Review and Ranking Tool. Members of the HTF represents our community and with wide variety of different races. Input was provided by all members and that input was used to make changes and to determine the rating factors used in the final tool.
3. The HTF has an open process for volunteering to be on the Review and Ranking committee. At our regularly scheduled meeting the option to volunteer is provided to everyone which includes persons of different races. The CoC does encourage a wide variety of individuals to participate to ensure the review and ranking committee is representative of different races and ethnicities.
4. The review and ranking team was provided a report out of STELLA regarding racial diversity of the program. This data was used when scoring a project to look at any disparities and ways in which the project was working to eliminate barriers.

1E-4.	Reallocation—Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. your CoC's reallocation process, including how your CoC determined which projects are candidates for reallocation because they are low performing or less needed;	
	2. whether your CoC identified any low performing or less needed projects through the process described in element 1 of this question during your CoC's local competition this year;	
	3. whether your CoC reallocated any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year; and	
	4. why your CoC did not reallocate low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year, if applicable.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The reallocation process is determined by the Review and Ranking committee. They look at monitoring, APR's, HMIS reporting and project proposals to determine if reallocation is necessary.
2. No low performing or less needed projects were identified.
3. Our CoC did not note any low performing projects therefore we did not reallocate any projects for this year.
4. We did not reallocate any projects because we did not identify any low performing projects.

1E-4a.	Reallocation Between FY 2018 and FY 2023.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.f.	

Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2018 and FY 2023?	No
--	----

1E-5.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

1.	Did your CoC reject any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
2.	Did your CoC reduce funding for any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
3.	Did your CoC inform applicants why your CoC rejected or reduced their project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	
4.	If you selected Yes for element 1 or element 2 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, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2023, 06/27/2023, and 06/28/2023, then you must enter 06/28/2023.	

1E-5a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	09/20/2023
Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New and Renewal Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2023, 06/27/2023, and 06/28/2023, then you must enter 06/28/2023.	

1E-5b.	Local Competition Selection Results for All Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Selection Results attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Yes
Does your attachment include: 1. Project Names; 2. Project Scores; 3. Project accepted or rejected status; 4. Project Rank–if accepted; 5. Requested Funding Amounts; and 6. Reallocated funds.	

1E-5c.	Web Posting of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application 2 Days Before CoC Program Competition Application Submission Deadline.	
	NOFO Section V.B.2.g. and 24 CFR 578.95.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	<p>Enter the date your CoC posted the CoC-approved Consolidated Application on the CoC's website or partner's website—which included: 1. the CoC Application; and 2. Priority Listings for Reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.</p>	09/25/2023
--	---	------------

1E-5d.	<p>Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders that the CoC-Approved Consolidated Application is Posted on Website.</p>	
	<p>NOFO Section V.B.2.g.</p>	
	<p>You must upload the Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.</p>	

	<p>Enter the date your CoC notified community members and key stakeholders that the CoC-approved Consolidated Application was posted on your CoC's website or partner's website.</p>	09/25/2023
--	--	------------

2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2A-1.	HMIS Vendor.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Enter the name of the HMIS Vendor your CoC is currently using.	Eccovia
--	--	---------

2A-2.	HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Select from dropdown menu your CoC’s HMIS coverage area.	Single CoC
--	--	------------

2A-3.	HIC Data Submission in HDX.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.a.	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2023 HIC data into HDX.	04/27/2023
--	---	------------

2A-4.	Comparable Database for DV Providers—CoC and HMIS Lead Supporting Data Collection and Data Submission by Victim Service Providers.	
	NOFO Section V.B.3.b.	

	In the field below:	
1.	describe actions your CoC and HMIS Lead have taken to ensure DV housing and service providers in your CoC collect data in HMIS comparable databases;	
2.	state whether DV housing and service providers in your CoC are using a HUD-compliant comparable database—compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards; and	

3. state whether your CoC's HMIS is compliant with the FY 2022 HMIS Data Standards.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC and HMIS leads educate the DV housing providers on the data standards as they are announced by HUD. The lead regularly collects and reviews the CSV uploads for reporting and to ensure the providers are using the current standards. This is monitored regularly.
2. Our DV housing provider is using a HUD compliant database and is compliant with the 2022 HMIS Data Standards.
3. The CoC is compliant with 2022 HMIS Data Standards.

2A-5. Bed Coverage Rate—Using HIC, HMIS Data—CoC Merger Bonus Points.
 NOFO Section V.B.3.c. and V.B.7.

Enter 2023 HIC and HMIS data in the chart below by project type:

Project Type	Total Year-Round Beds in 2023 HIC	Total Year-Round Beds in HIC Operated by Victim Service Providers	Total Year-Round Beds in HMIS	HMIS Year-Round Bed Coverage Rate
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	260	19	259	107.47%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	0	0	0	
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	43	0	43	100.00%
4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	15	0	51	340.00%
5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	328	0	318	96.95%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	0	0	0	

2A-5a. Partial Credit for Bed Coverage Rates at or Below 84.99 for Any Project Type in Question 2A-5.
 NOFO Section V.B.3.c.

For each project type with a bed coverage rate that is at or below 84.99 percent in question 2A-5, describe:

1. steps your CoC will take over the next 12 months to increase the bed coverage rate to at least 85 percent for that project type; and
2. how your CoC will implement the steps described to increase bed coverage to at least 85 percent.

(limit 2,500 characters)

N/A

2A-6. Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX 2.0.
 NOFO Section V.B.3.d.
 You must upload your CoC's FY 2023 HDX Competition Report to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Did your CoC submit at least two usable LSA data files to HUD in HDX 2.0 by February 28, 2023, 8 p.m. EST?	Yes
--	-----

2B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Point-in-Time (PIT) Count

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2B-1.	PIT Count Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2023 PIT count.	01/25/2023
--	---	------------

2B-2.	PIT Count Data–HDX Submission Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2023 PIT count data in HDX.	04/28/2023
--	---	------------

2B-3.	PIT Count–Effectively Counting Youth in Your CoC’s Most Recent Unsheltered PIT Count.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.b.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
	1. engaged unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations in your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process;	
	2. worked with unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations to select locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified during your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process; and	
	3. included youth experiencing homelessness as counters during your CoC’s most recent unsheltered PIT count.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC has over 60 partner agencies and of those, the majority serve homeless youth. The PIT process involves all those agencies and they provide input on the process of the count. The agencies serving youth were a instrumental part of the planning process. The Planning Committee for the PIT count had multiple agencies on the committee.
2. The CoC worked with numerous youth serving organizations in determining what locations would be best to identify homeless youth. Those locations were included in the PIT count, places such as establishments that provide lunch, the local mission, etc. Additionally, several agencies that serve youth were on the planning committee.
3. Homeless families are identified by the Impact Avenues program and participate in the PIT count.

2B-4.	PIT Count–Methodology Change–CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.a and V.B.7.c.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe any changes your CoC made to your sheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2022 and 2023, if applicable;	
	2. describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2022 and 2023, if applicable; and	
	3. describe how the changes affected your CoC’s PIT count results; or	
	4. state “Not Applicable” if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2023.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC did not make changes to the sheltered PIT methodology between 2022 and 2023.
2. The CoC did not make changes to the unsheltered PIT methodology between 2022 and 2023.
3. The CoC did not make any changes to the sheltered or unsheltered PIT methodology therefore our PIT count results were not affected.
4. The count was conducted however we had no changes.

2C. System Performance

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless–Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe how your CoC determined the risk factors to identify persons experiencing homelessness for the first time;	
2.	describe your CoC’s strategies to address 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	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The process used to identify homelessness risk factors included full group discussions at Homeless Task Force meetings as well as at meetings of the HTF Executive Committee. CoC members identified risk factors as including, but not limited to: lack of income, disability, criminal background, human trafficking, lack of health insurance, substance abuse/addiction, domestic violence, and, adverse rental histories.

2. Risk factors are heightened in the CoC resulting from the area’s lack of affordable, decent housing as well as our community’s high levels of human trafficking. Topeka is on Interstate 70, the nation’s most-used transportation route for human sex traffickers. Our CoC’s strategy to address individuals/families at risk for homelessness is to establish intentional, formal partnerships that provide supports to help families and individuals mitigate the identified risk factors. 92% of the HTF member agencies actively offer supports specifically addressing one or more of the identified risk factors and attempting to prevent homelessness from occurring. HTF monthly meetings include a detailed explanation of safety net/self-sufficiency-related services, as well as explanations of which organizations have supports currently available. The CoC Lead Agency has established plans for additional training and communication with CoC and Homeless Task Force member organizations to more accurately collect first time homeless data. Additionally, the CoC partners with agencies to provide collective impact and a one stop shop approach. We give families that are at risk access to over 40 partner agencies at one location and get them connected to wrap around services. We offer classes to help educate families on things like healthcare, housing, employment, and budgeting to help move them closer to self sufficiency and increase their odds of long term housing sustainability.

3. The CoC Lead, City of Topeka, oversees the CoC strategies related to reducing first-time homelessness.

2C-1a.	Impact of Displaced Persons on Number of First Time Homeless.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.b	

Was your CoC’s Number of First Time Homeless [metric 5.2] affected by the number of persons seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance displaced due to:

1.	natural disasters?	No
2.	having recently arrived in your CoCs’ geographic area?	No

2C-2.	Length of Time Homeless—CoC’s Strategy to Reduce.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.c.	

In the field below:

1.	describe your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;
2.	describe 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 uses Coordinated Entry to create easier and more equitable access to housing assistance. Staff complete an assessment with each individual that gives them a score based on their level of need. Names are then pulled based on prioritization. The coordinated entry system allows individuals to receive assistance quicker and streamlines the process. Additionally, placement in the CoC's Shelter Plus Care or Permanent Supportive Housing program is coordinated by an active partnership between the CoC programs, the area homeless shelter, and the area's leading mental and behavioral health services provider. The CoC-funded programs have signed MOU's with the mental health provider and in the PSH projects there is shared office-space. The formal relationships facilitate prompt reactions when eligible individuals enter the shelter or are otherwise identified as homeless. Both CoC programs have protocols in place to "fast-track" housing applications from individuals identified through our partners.
2. Identification and housing of individuals with longer periods of homeless histories is achieved through the CoC-funded program's work directly with the mental health provider and the homeless shelter. Those entities supply case-by-case length of homelessness data and use that data as a measure for prioritizing referrals to the CoC-funded projects. Our Coordinated Entry system also looks at length of time homeless and we have policies in place that give priority to those individuals.
3. The CoC Lead, City of Topeka, oversees the CoC strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless

2C-3.	Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations/Retention of Permanent Housing—CoC's Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.d.	

	In the field below:
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
2.	describe your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1. The CoC strategy, with all partner agencies, is to work more collectively and leave behind working in silos. The CoC has numerous programs that have been created with a collective impact model for assisting those in need. For example, through the efforts of the Mobile Assistance Partnership those seeking housing are being assisted with getting needed identification and documentation, facilitating quicker entry into housing. Additionally, the Impact Avenues works with 41 agencies to address all domains of the families situation by providing intensive case management to help them become housed and keep them housed. Additionally, our rescue mission increased their funding to be able to provide rent assistance to help those get into permanent housing destinations.

2. Entering and retaining permanent housing are supported through CoC partners in the Homeless Task Force that help CoC customers with targeted, strengths-based case management, employment assistance, and supports related to the identified risk factors for becoming homeless. For example, coordinated entry and similar case-specific coordination by Homeless Task Force members often results in recently housed individuals also receiving supports with landlord/tenant relations, job skills training, employment seeking assistance, home weatherization, access to Head Start or Early Head Start, and other strategies aimed at helping the individual(s) retain permanent housing. Our 97% housing retention rate is a strong indicator of the success of the collaborative strategy. The Homeless Task Force, as the governing body to the area CoC, is the organization responsible for overseeing the strategies to exit to permanent housing and retain permanent housing. Additionally, our rescue mission increased their funding to be able to provide case management to help those get into permanent housing destinations and remained housed.

3. While the CoC Lead and the HMIS lead assist in the effort by providing reports to the Homeless Task Force. The entire CoC partner agencies are ultimately responsible for successful exits to permanent housing and helping them to retain that housing

2C-4.	Returns to Homelessness—CoC's Strategy to Reduce Rate.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.e.	

In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2.	describe 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 programs, along with other HUD-funded projects and organizations participating in the citywide HMIS, have kept a high level of data, over multiple years, that allows the CoC to analyze returns to homelessness as well as access to support systems by those who were formerly homeless.

2. When a formerly homeless household or individual is noted to begin accessing a higher number of recorded support services, area agencies are trained to recognize and inquire about the household's overall stability and help the individual(s) prioritize permanent housing retention. The CoC utilizes landlord/tenant solution focused mediation to identify and address issues before it leads to a return to homelessness. Additionally, the CoC partners with agencies to provide collective impact and a one stop shop approach. Families that are at risk are given access to over 40 partner agencies at one location to get them connected to wrap around services. We offer classes to help educate families on things like healthcare, housing, employment, and budgeting to help move them closer to self sufficiency and reduce their odds of returning to homelessness.

3. The CoC Lead, City of Topeka is the organization responsible for overseeing the CoC strategy to reduce the rate of returns to homelessness.

2C-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income—CoC's Strategy.	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC's strategy to access employment cash sources;	
2.	describe how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their employment 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) Agencies in the CoC all implement strategies to increase income and employment for their customers. The CoC provides case management to each participant. Case management includes a variety of assessments and support systems, including determining eligibility for mainstream benefits and/or employment supports. The CoC partners with mainstream benefit agencies, several of which provide job training and employment readiness skills to help individuals get back into the workforce and increase their income.
- (2) Opportunities, such as access to the local Workforce Center where consumers can get assistance with resume writing and job interview skills, are discussed with participants and assistance is provided to complete program applications, attend group class sessions and individual appointments, and even to attend work or training on a regular basis. Training programs offer extensive personalized employment readiness skills and opportunities. Training helps the participant increase their cash income, along with skills necessary to maintain employment. Notifications are sent out by the CoC Leads listserv which encompasses over 200 people, including workforce centers.
- (3) Overall CoC strategy for increased job and income growth is coordinated by the CoC Lead, City of Topeka.

2C-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income—CoC's Strategy	
	NOFO Section V.B.5.f.	
	In the field below:	
	1. describe your CoC's strategy to access non-employment cash income; and	
	2. 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)

- Each local CoC agency implements strategies to increase income for their customers. The population targeted by the local CoC programs is, notably and historically, difficult to employ. Participation in the Community Action Tanglewood PSH program, for example, requires a diagnosis of a severe and persistent mental illness, which can oftentimes be a barrier to regular employment. Community Action staff, City of Topeka staff, and partnering organizations (including the local mental and behavioral health center, the local Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) and area domestic violence program, assist customers who qualify for nonemployment cash (like SSI) to obtain those resources. Agencies work with individuals to apply for food stamps and medical benefits if needed and connect individuals to SOAR workers to apply for SSI and SSDI benefits.
- The City of Topeka, as the CoC lead, oversees the strategies and the partner agencies refer individuals to SOAR agencies to get assistance with their SSI/SSDI applications. Partner agencies with case managers work with individuals to get them connected to food stamps and other non-employment cash income.

3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Housing Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.a.	
	You must upload the Housing Leveraging Commitment attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses housing subsidies or subsidized housing units which are not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	No
--	--	----

3A-2.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Healthcare Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.b.	
	You must upload the Healthcare Formal Agreements attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	No
--	--	----

3A-3.	Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.6.a. and V.B.6.b.	

If you selected yes to questions 3A-1. or 3A-2., use the list feature icon to enter information about each project application you intend for HUD to evaluate to determine if they meet the criteria.

Project Name	Project Type	Rank Number	Leverage Type
This list contains no items			

3B. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	

Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project application requesting \$200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction?	No
--	----

3B-2.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.s.	

If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below actions CoC Program-funded project applicants will take to comply with:

1.	Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u); and
2.	HUD’s implementing rules at 24 CFR part 75 to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very-low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very-low-income persons.

(limit 2,500 characters)

N/A

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

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3C-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

	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
--	--	----

3C-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

If you answered yes to question 3C-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)

N/A

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants for New DV Bonus Funding

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2023 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

4A-1.	New DV Bonus Project Applications.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.I.	

	Did your CoC submit one or more new project applications for DV Bonus Funding?	No
Applicant Name		
This list contains no items		

4B. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

We have provided 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. 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. After you upload each attachment, use the Download feature to access and check the attachment to ensure it matches the required Document Type and to ensure it contains all pages you intend to include.
8. Only use the "Other" attachment option to meet an attachment requirement that is not otherwise listed in these detailed instructions.

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1C-7. PHA Homeless Preference	No	Homeless preference	09/25/2023
1C-7. PHA Moving On Preference	No	moving on prefere...	09/25/2023
1D-11a. Letter Signed by Working Group	Yes	Working Group letter	09/22/2023
1D-2a. Housing First Evaluation	Yes	Housing First Eva...	09/22/2023
1E-1. Web Posting of Local Competition Deadline	Yes	Project deadline	09/22/2023
1E-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes	Rank & Review Tool	09/22/2023
1E-2a. Scored Forms for One Project	Yes	Tanglewood Rank &...	09/22/2023
1E-5. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes	No rejected proje...	09/22/2023
1E-5a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes	Notification of a...	09/25/2023
1E-5b. Local Competition Selection Results	Yes	Competition Selec...	09/22/2023
1E-5c. Web Posting—CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes		

1E-5d. Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes		
2A-6. HUD's Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) Competition Report	Yes	HUD Competition R...	09/24/2023
3A-1a. Housing Leveraging Commitments	No		
3A-2a. Healthcare Formal Agreements	No		
3C-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
Other	No		

Attachment Details

Document Description: Homeless preference

Attachment Details

Document Description: moving on preference

Attachment Details

Document Description: Working Group letter

Attachment Details

Document Description: Housing First Evaluation

Attachment Details

Document Description: Project deadline

Attachment Details

Document Description: Rank & Review Tool

Attachment Details

Document Description: Tanglewood Rank & Review scores

Attachment Details

Document Description: No rejected projects letter

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of applications accepted

Attachment Details

Document Description: Competition Selection Results

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description: HUD Competition Report

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Submission Summary

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

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	08/08/2023
1B. Inclusive Structure	09/24/2023
1C. Coordination and Engagement	09/25/2023
1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd	09/24/2023
1E. Project Review/Ranking	Please Complete
2A. HMIS Implementation	09/25/2023
2B. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count	09/25/2023
2C. System Performance	09/25/2023
3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare	09/24/2023
3B. Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs	09/24/2023
3C. Serving Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes	09/24/2023

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants	09/24/2023
4B. Attachments Screen	Please Complete
Submission Summary	No Input Required



TOPEKA HOUSING AUTHORITY

2010 SE California Ave. Topeka, KS 66607 ■ 785-357-8842 ■ Fax: 785-357-2648 ■ tha.gov

September 25, 2023

Topeka/Shawnee County Continuum of Care
City of Topeka
620 SE Madison St.
Topeka, KS 66607

Re: Commitment Letter for Continuum of Care to Address Unsheltered Homeless

Dear CoC:

The Topeka Housing Authority (THA) in collaboration with the Topeka/Shawnee County Continuum of Care (CoC) will support individuals and households to help eradicate homelessness. THA commits to help individuals and families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness; those fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; veterans and families that include a veteran family member that meets one of the preceding criteria.

The Topeka Housing Authority commits to working with the Topeka/Shawnee County CoC to pair housing vouchers with CoC funded supportive services. THA is also committed to utilizing coordinated entry for the allocation of vouchers so that prioritization can be given to those in greatest need.

Sincerely,

Trey George
Executive Director
Topeka Housing Authority
2010 SE California Ave
Topeka, KS 66607





TOPEKA HOUSING AUTHORITY

2010 SE California Ave. Topeka, KS 66607 ■ 785-357-8842 ■ Fax: 785-357-2648 ■
tha.gov

September 25, 2023

City of Topeka
C/O Carrie Higgins
Housing Services Division Director
620 SE Madison, 1st Floor
Topeka, KS 66607

Re: Shelter Plus Care Moving On

Ms. Higgins,

Topeka Housing Authority (THA) is committed to ensuring everyone in the City of Topeka and Shawnee County has access to a safe, decent, affordable home. We support this by providing multiple different housing solutions such as Public Housing and Administering the Housing Choice Voucher Program. We also have various other affordable housing developments that we are committed to keeping the rents at an affordable level and gladly accept individuals who participate in a housing voucher program such as Shelter Plus Care.

THA is willing to work with Shelter Care Plus participants nearing the end of their participation in the program to ensure they can maintain stable housing. THA appreciates the work the City of Topeka is engaged in and looks forward to working together on this important initiative.

Thank you,

Trey George
President/CEO
Topeka Housing Authority
785-286-7277





Behavioral Health Care

To: City of Topeka
Housing and Urban Development
Topeka, KS

September 19th, 2023

Subject: Homelessness Lived Experience Representatives.

To whom it may concern.

Valeo Behavioral Health, CCBHC for Shawnee County seeks to improve the mental and physical health of all individuals in Shawnee County. Homelessness, serious mental illness, and addiction often exist together. Approximately 257,000 people have a severe mental illness or chronic substance abuse issues. A 2020 report shows that in Kansas, 47.5% of homeless individuals identified had a co-occurring substance use disorder while the national average is 38.8%. Valeo encounters nearly 600 individuals who are experiencing homelessness on an annual basis, making Valeo one of the Community Experts on Homelessness. Valeo PATH, HOPE, SOAR and CITs Teams are trained to outreach individuals experiencing homelessness, Mental Health crisis and/or substance abuse disorders, and assist them with managing their symptoms, connecting with services, and helping them obtain housing. Valeo employs 12 peer support staff, with lived experience, who are embedded in all our outreach teams and provide feedback to our staff to help us understand the homeless perspective. Valeo is also one of the original founders of the Mobile Access Partnership. (MAP) is a unique collaboration between Valeo Behavioral Health Care, Topeka Rescue Mission, Shawnee County Health Department, Stormont Vail Health, and the Topeka Police Department’s Behavioral Health Unit. MAP assists the unsheltered homeless with basic needs, medical care, and showering/laundrying to meet basic needs. In 2022, 760 unduplicated persons were served through the Mobile Access Partnership (MAP). Valeo Behavioral Health Care, Inc. Homelessness initiatives fit well in behavioral health care because of the high prevalence of mental illness within those who are experiencing homelessness.

Valeo is proud to partner with The City of Topeka and participates in CoC lead meetings, such as the NOFO grant writing process, the Homeless Task Force, Capital City Outreach Team, and EAS, just to name a few. We also work together closely on SPC and other housing vouchers when available. Our communication is almost daily due to joint efforts to outreach individuals and provide supportive services and resources to all Shawnee County residents. We look forward to continuing our partnership and working together to provide a better community for us all.

○ 5401 SW Seventh * Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone 785.273.2252 * Fax: 785.271.2736

○ 330 SW Oakley * Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone 785.233.1710 * Fax: 785.233.0088



○ 2401 SW Sixth * Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone 785.357.0580 * Fax: 785.233.1450

○ 400 SW Oakley * Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone 785.783.7509 * Fax: 785.354.1068



Behavioral Health Care

Sondra Knox, Housing Resource Specialist

Kim Williams-Gaston, PATH, and SOAR Team Supervisor

Jenna Hosey, Peer Support Program Manager

○ 5401 SW Seventh * Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone 785.273.2252 * Fax 785.273.2736

○ 330 SW Oakley * Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone 785.233.1710 * Fax 785.233.0085

24 HOUR CRISIS LINE
234-3300

○ 2401 SW Sixth * Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone 785.357.0580 * Fax: 785.233.1450

○ 4011 SW Oakley * Topeka, Kansas 66606
Phone 785.783.7599 * Fax: 785.354.1068

HOUSING FIRST REQUIREMENTS

Housing First is a model of housing assistance that prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing that does not have service participation requirements or preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold) and does not terminate program participants from the project for lack of participation in the program (e.g., supportive service participation requirements or rules beyond normal tenancy rules).

HOUSING FIRST REVIEW CHECKLIST

Agency Name: Doorstep

Project Name: Rapid Rehousing

Check if statement is accurate:

- Access to programs is not contingent on sobriety, minimum income requirements, lack of criminal record, completion of treatment, participation in services, or other unnecessary conditions.
- Programs do everything possible to not reject an individual or family on the basis of poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, minor criminal convictions, or behaviors that are interpreted as indicating a lack of "housing readiness"
- Housing and service goals are highly tenant driven.
- ^{NA} Participation in services or compliance with service plans are not conditions of tenancy, but are reviewed with tenants and regularly offered as a resource to tenants.
- Substance use by itself, without other lease violations, is not considered a reason for eviction.
- Whenever possible, eviction back into homelessness is avoided.

Reviewed by: COC lead- Carrie Higgins

Date: 9-1-23

Review and Ranking Criteria –All projects except HMIS and Planning

Rating Factor	Score Range
1. The severity of needs will be considered with the project including individuals who are low income, no income, substance abusers, victimized, or chronically homeless.	5
2. Targeting and Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project targets an eligible population ✓ Project targets participants who are coming from the street or other locations not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, safe havens, or fleeing domestic violence <i>already housed - only 14 units available.</i> There is a strong outreach plan specifically designed to identify and engage people in the target population and ensure they are able to access the program. 	10
3. Appropriateness of Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Type, scale and location of the housing fit the needs of the program participants ✓ Participants are assisted to secure housing as quickly as possible Programs and activities are offered in a setting that enables homeless people with disabilities to interact with others without disabilities to the fullest extent possible. ✓ 	5
4. Housing First Model <i>- Applicant marked No?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project will have low barriers to entry and does not screen applicants based on having no or low income, active history of substance abuse, criminal record (except for State mandated requirements), history of domestic violence or lack of willingness to participate in services ✓ Reduce returns to homelessness ✓ Increase participant income ✓ 	10
5. Service Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For RRH projects, project meets RRH standards Type, scale, location of the supportive services fit the needs of the program participants and are readily accessible. This included services funded by the CoC grant and other project funding sources ✓ There is a specific plan to ensure participants are individually assisted to obtain the benefits of the mainstream health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible ✓ There is a specific to ensure participants are assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs ✓ 	10

Rating Factor	Score Range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a specific plan to ensure participants are assisted to increase their incomes and <u>live independently</u> 	10

<p>6. Size and magnitude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The magnitude of the project will have a significant impact on the community, if not funded.. 	<p>20</p>
<p>7. Applicant Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent relevant experience in providing housing to homeless people ✓ Recent date submitted demonstrates strong performance for relevant services and/or housing provided ? <i>date?</i> Relevant experience in operation of housing projects or programs, administering leasing and rental assistance funds, delivering services and entering data and ensuring high quality data in a system (HMIS or a similar data system) ✓ Organizational and finance capacity to track funds and meet all HUD reporting and fiscal requirements - If application has sub recipients, applicant organizations have experience working together ✓ Any outstanding monitoring or audit issues or issues are explained ✓ 	<p>10</p> <p>8</p>
<p>8. Financial Feasibility and Effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs appear reasonable and adequate to support proposed program ✓ Match requirement is met ✓ Additional resources leveraged ✓ 	<p>5</p>
<p>9. Type of Application Submitted: Renewal and new permanent housing (permanent supportive housing), renewal Safe Haven, Homeless Management Information System , Supportive Services Only (SSO) for Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System, or transitional housing that exclusively serve homeless youth projects</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>10. Type of Application Submitted: Renewal transitional housing, except those transitional housing projects that exclusively serve homeless youth and SSO projects.</p>	<p>0.5</p>
<p>11. Applicant is a victim service provider.</p>	<p>0.5</p>
<p>12. Applicant participated fully in the CoC planning and NOFA process for at least a year.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>Commitment to Policy Priorities – Total Possible 115</p>	<p>Total 99</p>

Review and Ranking Criteria –All projects except HMIS and Planning

Rating Factor	Score Range
1. The severity of needs will be considered with the project including individuals who are low income, no income, substance abusers, victimized, or chronically homeless.	5
2. Targeting and Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project targets an eligible population • Project targets participants who are coming from the street or other locations not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, safe havens, or fleeing domestic violence • There is a strong outreach plan specifically designed to identify and engage people in the target population and ensure they are able to access the program. 	10
3. Appropriateness of Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type, scale and location of the housing fit the needs of the program participants • Participants are assisted to secure housing as quickly as possible • Programs and activities are offered in a setting that enables homeless people with disabilities to interact with others without disabilities to the fullest extent possible. 	5/4
4. Housing First Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project will have low barriers to entry and does not screen applicants based on having no or low income, active history of substance abuse, criminal record (except for State mandated requirements), history of domestic violence or lack of willingness to participate in services • Reduce returns to homelessness • Increase participant income 	10
5. Service Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For RRH projects, project meets RRH standards • Type, scale, location of the supportive services fit the needs of the program participants and are readily accessible. This included services funded by the CoC grant and other project funding sources • There is a specific plan to ensure participants are individually assisted to obtain the benefits of the mainstream health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible • There is a specific to ensure participants are assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs 	10

Rating Factor	Score Range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a specific plan to ensure participants are assisted to increase their incomes and live independently 	10

<p>6. Size and magnitude</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The magnitude of the project will have a significant impact on the community, if not funded.. 	<p>20</p>
<p>7. Applicant Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent relevant experience in providing housing to homeless people Recent date submitted demonstrates strong performance for relevant services and/or housing provided Relevant experience in operation of housing projects or programs, administering leasing and rental assistance funds, delivering services and entering data and ensuring high quality data in a system (HMIS or a similar data system) Organizational and finance capacity to track funds and meet all HUD reporting and fiscal requirements If application has sub recipients, applicant organizations have experience working together Any outstanding monitoring or audit issues or issues are explained 	<p>10</p>
<p>8. Financial Feasibility and Effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs appear reasonable and adequate to support proposed program Match requirement is met Additional resources leveraged 	<p>5</p>
<p>9. Type of Application Submitted: Renewal and new permanent housing (permanent supportive housing), renewal Safe Haven, Homeless Management Information System , Supportive Services Only (SSO) for Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System, or transitional housing that exclusively serve homeless youth projects</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>10. Type of Application Submitted: Renewal transitional housing, except those transitional housing projects that exclusively serve homeless youth and SSO projects.</p>	<p>5 0</p>
<p>11. Applicant is a victim service provider.</p>	<p>5 0</p>
<p>12. Applicant participated fully in the CoC planning and NOFA process for at least a year.</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>Commitment to Policy Priorities – Total Possible 115</p>	<p>Total 115 104</p>

Review and Ranking Criteria –TangleWood - Shyla

Rating Factor	Score Range
1. The severity of needs will be considered with the project including individuals who are low income, no income, substance abusers, victimized, or chronically homeless.	5 5
2. Targeting and Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project targets an eligible population • Project targets participants who are coming from the street or other locations not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters, safe havens, or fleeing domestic violence • There is a strong outreach plan specifically designed to identify and engage people in the target population and ensure they are able to access the program. 	10 10
3. Appropriateness of Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type, scale and location of the housing fit the needs of the program participants • Participants are assisted to secure housing as quickly as possible • Programs and activities are offered in a setting that enables homeless people with disabilities to interact with others without disabilities to the fullest extent possible. 	5 5
4. Housing First Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project will have low barriers to entry and does not screen applicants based on having no or low income, active history of substance abuse, criminal record (except for State mandated requirements), history of domestic violence or lack of willingness to participate in services • Reduce returns to homelessness • Increase participant income 	10 8
5. Service Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For RRH projects, project meets RRH standards • Type, scale, location of the supportive services fit the needs of the program participants and are readily accessible. This included services funded by the CoC grant and other project funding sources • There is a specific plan to ensure participants are individually assisted to obtain the benefits of the mainstream health, social, and employment programs for which they are eligible • There is a specific to ensure participants are assisted to obtain and remain in permanent housing in a manner that fits their needs 	10 8

Rating Factor	Score Range
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a specific plan to ensure participants are assisted to increase their incomes and live independently 	10 10

6. Size and magnitude <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The magnitude of the project will have a significant impact on the community, if not funded.. 	20 15
7. Applicant Capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent relevant experience in providing housing to homeless people Recent date submitted demonstrates strong performance for relevant services and/or housing provided Relevant experience in operation of housing projects or programs, administering leasing and rental assistance funds, delivering services and entering data and ensuring high quality data in a system (HMIS or a similar data system) Organizational and finance capacity to track funds and meet all HUD reporting and fiscal requirements If application has sub recipients, applicant organizations have experience working together Any outstanding monitoring or audit issues or issues are explained 	10 8
8. Financial Feasibility and Effectiveness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costs appear reasonable and adequate to support proposed program Match requirement is met Additional resources leveraged 	5 4
9. Type of Application Submitted: Renewal and new permanent housing (permanent supportive housing), renewal Safe Haven, Homeless Management Information System , Supportive Services Only (SSO) for Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System, or transitional housing that exclusively serve homeless youth projects	10 10
10. Type of Application Submitted: Renewal transitional housing, except those transitional housing projects that exclusively serve homeless youth and SSO projects.	5 0
11. Applicant is a victim service provider.	5 0
12. Applicant participated fully in the CoC planning and NOFA process for at least a year.	10 10
Commitment to Policy Priorities – Total Possible 115	Total 93

APPROVED *Shyla Rockett*



TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY
HOMELESS
TASK FORCE

September 18, 2023

To: Topeka Rescue Mission

This letter is your notification that your application for the Rapid Rehousing Project was accepted by the review and ranking committee. Your application ranked 1st.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Regina Franklin', written in a cursive style.

Regina Franklin
Homeless Task Force Chair



TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

HOMELESS TASK FORCE

September 18, 2023

To: Community Action – Tanglewood

This letter is your notification that your application for the Permanent Housing Project was accepted by the review and ranking committee. Your application ranked 2nd.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Regina Franklin'.

Regina Franklin
Homeless Task Force Chair



TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY

HOMELESS TASK FORCE

September 18, 2023

To: The City of Topeka

This letter is your notification that your application for the Permanent Housing Project was accepted by the review and ranking committee. Your application ranked 3rd.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Regina Franklin', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Regina Franklin
Homeless Task Force Chair

2023 HDX Competition Report
 PIT Count Data for KS-503 - Topeka/Shawnee County CoC

Total Population PIT Count Data

	2020 PIT	2021 PIT *	2022 PIT	2023 PIT
Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Count	467	294	365	407
Emergency Shelter Total	283	162	162	194
Safe Haven Total	0	0	0	0
Transitional Housing Total	92	29	55	56
Total Sheltered Count	375	191	217	250
Total Unsheltered Count	92	103	148	157

Chronically Homeless PIT Counts

	2020 PIT	2021 PIT *	2022 PIT	2023 PIT
Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Count of Chronically Homeless Persons	163	100	129	164
Sheltered Count of Chronically Homeless Persons	96	31	16	31
Unsheltered Count of Chronically Homeless Persons	67	69	113	133

2023 HDX Competition Report

PIT Count Data for KS-503 - Topeka/Shawnee County CoC

Homeless Households with Children PIT Counts

	2020 PIT	2021 PIT *	2022 PIT	2023 PIT
Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Count of the Number of Homeless Households with Children	32	13	22	30
Sheltered Count of Homeless Households with Children	32	12	22	30
Unsheltered Count of Homeless Households with Children	0	1	0	0

Homeless Veteran PIT Counts

	2011 PIT	2020 PIT	2021 PIT *	2022 PIT	2023 PIT
Total Sheltered and Unsheltered Count of the Number of Homeless Veterans	43	37	16	37	36
Sheltered Count of Homeless Veterans	41	32	9	23	24
Unsheltered Count of Homeless Veterans	2	5	7	14	12

*For CoCs that did not conduct an unsheltered count in 2021, 2020 data were used.

2023 HDX Competition Report
HIC Data for KS-503 - Topeka/Shawnee County CoC

HMIS Bed Coverage Rates

Project Type	Total Year-Round, Current Beds	Total Current, Year-Round, HMIS Beds	Total Year-Round, Current, Non-VSP Beds*	HMIS Bed Coverage Rate for Year-Round Beds	Total Year-Round, Current VSP Beds in an HMIS Comparable Database	Total Year-Round, Current, VSP Beds**	HMIS Comparable Bed Coverage Rate for VSP Beds	Total Current, Year-Round, HMIS Beds and VSP Beds in an HMIS Comparable Database	HMIS and Comparable Database Coverage Rate
ES Beds	260	224	241	92.95%	19	19	100.00%	243	93.46%
SH Beds	0	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	NA
TH Beds	43	43	43	100.00%	0	0	NA	43	100.00%
RRH Beds	15	15	15	100.00%	0	0	NA	15	100.00%
PSH Beds	318	318	318	100.00%	0	0	NA	318	100.00%
OPH Beds	0	0	0	NA	0	0	NA	0	NA
Total Beds	636	600	617	97.24%	19	19	100.00%	619	97.33%

2023 HDX Competition Report
HIC Data for KS-503 - Topeka/Shawnee County CoC

2023 HDX Competition Report

HIC Data for KS-503 - Topeka/Shawnee County CoC

Notes

*For OPH Beds, this does NOT include any beds that are Current, Non-VSP, Non-HMIS, and EHV-funded.

**For OPH Beds, this does NOT include any beds that are Current, VSP, Non-HMIS, and EHV-funded.

In the HIC, "Year-Round Beds" is the sum of "Beds HH w/o Children", "Beds HH w/ Children", and "Beds HH w/ only Children". This does not include Overflow ("O/V Beds") or Seasonal Beds ("Total Seasonal Beds").

In the HIC, Current beds are beds with an "Inventory Type" of "C" and not beds that are Under Development ("Inventory Type" of "U").

PSH Beds Dedicated to Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness

Chronically Homeless Bed Counts	2020 HIC	2021 HIC	2022 HIC	2023 HIC
Number of CoC Program and non-CoC Program funded PSH beds dedicated for use by chronically homeless persons identified on the HIC	14	14	14	14

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Units Dedicated to Persons in Household with Children

Households with Children	2020 HIC	2021 HIC	2022 HIC	2023 HIC
RRH units available to serve families on the HIC			24	2

Rapid Rehousing Beds Dedicated to All Persons

All Household Types	2020 HIC	2021 HIC	2022 HIC	2023 HIC
RRH beds available to serve all populations on the HIC			112	15

2023 HDX Competition Report
HIC Data for KS-503 - Topeka/Shawnee County CoC

2023 HDX Competition Report

FY2022 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

Summary Report for KS-503 - Topeka/Shawnee County CoC

Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless

This measures the number of clients active in the report date range across ES, SH (Metric 1.1) and then ES, SH and TH (Metric 1.2) along with their average and median length of time homeless. This includes time homeless during the report date range as well as prior to the report start date, going back no further than October, 1, 2012.

Metric 1.1: Change in the average and median length of time persons are homeless in ES and SH projects.
Metric 1.2: Change in the average and median length of time persons are homeless in ES, SH, and TH projects.

a. This measure is of the client's entry, exit, and bed night dates strictly as entered in the HMIS system.

	Universe (Persons)		Average LOT Homeless (bed nights)			Median LOT Homeless (bed nights)		
	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
1.1 Persons in ES and SH	970	1039	59	57	-2	22	26	4
1.2 Persons in ES, SH, and TH	1046	1116	71	71	0	28	30	2

b. Due to changes in DS Element 3.17, metrics for measure (b) will not be reported in 2016.

This measure includes data from each client's "Length of Time on Street, in an Emergency Shelter, or Safe Haven" (Data Standards element 3.17) response and prepends this answer to the client's entry date effectively extending the client's entry date backward in time. This "adjusted entry date" is then used in the calculations just as if it were the client's actual entry date.

NOTE: Due to the data collection period for this year's submission, the calculations for this metric are based on the data element 3.17 that was active in HMIS from 10/1/2015 to 9/30/2016. This measure and the calculation in the SPM specifications will be updated to reflect data element 3.917 in time for next year's submission.

2023 HDX Competition Report

FY2022 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

	Universe (Persons)		Average LOT Homeless (bed nights)			Median LOT Homeless (bed nights)		
	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
1.1 Persons in ES, SH, and PH (prior to "housing move in")	978	1116	601	689	88	54	107	53
1.2 Persons in ES, SH, TH, and PH (prior to "housing move in")	1054	1192	585	667	82	63	122	59

2023 HDX Competition Report

FY2022 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

Measure 2: The Extent to which Persons who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness

This measures clients who exited SO, ES, TH, SH or PH to a permanent housing destination in the date range two years prior to the report date range. Of those clients, the measure reports on how many of them returned to homelessness as indicated in the HMIS for up to two years after their initial exit.

	Total # of Persons who Exited to a Permanent Housing Destination (2 Years Prior)	Returns to Homelessness in Less than 6 Months		Returns to Homelessness from 6 to 12 Months		Returns to Homelessness from 13 to 24 Months		Number of Returns in 2 Years	
		FY 2022	% of Returns	FY 2022	% of Returns	FY 2022	% of Returns	FY 2022	% of Returns
Exit was from SO	0	0		0		0		0	
Exit was from ES	0	0		0		0		0	
Exit was from TH	5	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Exit was from SH	0	0		0		0		0	
Exit was from PH	61	1	2%	0	0%	2	3%	3	5%
TOTAL Returns to Homelessness	66	1	2%	0	0%	2	3%	3	5%

Measure 3: Number of Homeless Persons

Metric 3.1 – Change in PIT Counts

2023 HDX Competition Report

FY2022 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

This measures the change in PIT counts of sheltered and unsheltered homeless person as reported on the PIT (not from HMIS).

	January 2021 PIT Count	January 2022 PIT Count	Difference
Universe: Total PIT Count of sheltered and unsheltered persons	294	365	71
Emergency Shelter Total	162	162	0
Safe Haven Total	0	0	0
Transitional Housing Total	29	55	26
Total Sheltered Count	191	217	26
Unsheltered Count	103	148	45

Metric 3.2 – Change in Annual Counts

This measures the change in annual counts of sheltered homeless persons in HMIS.

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Unduplicated Total sheltered homeless persons	1129	1173	44
Emergency Shelter Total	1047	1096	49
Safe Haven Total	0	0	0
Transitional Housing Total	96	85	-11

2023 HDX Competition Report

FY2022 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

Measure 4: Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in CoC Program-funded Projects

Metric 4.1 – Change in earned income for adult system stayers during the reporting period

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	213	184	-29
Number of adults with increased earned income	24	23	-1
Percentage of adults who increased earned income	11%	13%	2%

Metric 4.2 – Change in non-employment cash income for adult system stayers during the reporting period

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	213	184	-29
Number of adults with increased non-employment cash income	93	82	-11
Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income	44%	45%	1%

Metric 4.3 – Change in total income for adult system stayers during the reporting period

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	213	184	-29
Number of adults with increased total income	110	100	-10
Percentage of adults who increased total income	52%	54%	2%

2023 HDX Competition Report

FY2022 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

Metric 4.4 – Change in earned income for adult system leavers

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Number of adults who exited (system leavers)	66	57	-9
Number of adults who exited with increased earned income	7	6	-1
Percentage of adults who increased earned income	11%	11%	0%

Metric 4.5 – Change in non-employment cash income for adult system leavers

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Number of adults who exited (system leavers)	66	57	-9
Number of adults who exited with increased non-employment cash income	24	24	0
Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income	36%	42%	6%

Metric 4.6 – Change in total income for adult system leavers

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Number of adults who exited (system leavers)	66	57	-9
Number of adults who exited with increased total income	31	27	-4
Percentage of adults who increased total income	47%	47%	0%

2023 HDX Competition Report

FY2022 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

Measure 5: Number of persons who become homeless for the 1st time

Metric 5.1 – Change in the number of persons entering ES, SH, and TH projects with no prior enrollments in HMIS

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Person with entries into ES, SH or TH during the reporting period.	1014	1065	51
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH, TH or any PH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	135	338	203
Of persons above, count those who did not have entries in ES, SH, TH or PH in the previous 24 months. (i.e. Number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time)	879	727	-152

Metric 5.2 – Change in the number of persons entering ES, SH, TH, and PH projects with no prior enrollments in HMIS

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Person with entries into ES, SH, TH or PH during the reporting period.	1014	1240	226
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH, TH or any PH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	135	381	246
Of persons above, count those who did not have entries in ES, SH, TH or PH in the previous 24 months. (i.e. Number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time.)	879	859	-20

2023 HDX Competition Report

FY2022 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

Measure 6: Homeless Prevention and Housing Placement of Persons defined by category 3 of HUD's Homeless Definition in CoC Program-funded Projects

This Measure is not applicable to CoCs in FY2022 (Oct 1, 2021 - Sept 30, 2022) reporting period.

Measure 7: Successful Placement from Street Outreach and Successful Placement in or Retention of Permanent Housing

Metric 7a.1 – Change in exits to permanent housing destinations

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Persons who exit Street Outreach	0	0	0
Of persons above, those who exited to temporary & some institutional destinations	0	0	0
Of the persons above, those who exited to permanent housing destinations	0	0	0
% Successful exits			

Metric 7b.1 – Change in exits to permanent housing destinations

2023 HDX Competition Report

FY2022 - Performance Measurement Module (Sys PM)

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Persons in ES, SH, TH and PH-RRH who exited, plus persons in other PH projects who exited without moving into housing	899	997	98
Of the persons above, those who exited to permanent housing destinations	23	166	143
% Successful exits	3%	17%	14%

Metric 7b.2 – Change in exit to or retention of permanent housing

	Submitted FY 2021	FY 2022	Difference
Universe: Persons in all PH projects except PH-RRH	419	396	-23
Of persons above, those who remained in applicable PH projects and those who exited to permanent housing destinations	382	371	-11
% Successful exits/retention	91%	94%	3%

2023 HDX Competition Report

FY2022 - SysPM Data Quality

KS-503 - Topeka/Shawnee County CoC

	All ES, SH			All TH			All PSH, OPH			All RRH			All Street Outreach		
	Submitted FY2020	Submitted FY2021	FY2022	Submitted FY2020	Submitted FY2021	FY2022	Submitted FY2020	Submitted FY2021	FY2022	Submitted FY2020	Submitted FY2021	FY2022	Submitted FY2020	Submitted FY2021	FY2022
1. Number of non-DV Beds on HIC	284	303	236	72	37	33	344	318	318			112			
2. Number of HMIS Beds	264	283	202	36	29	29	344	318	318			112			
3. HMIS Participation Rate from HIC (%)	92.96	93.40	85.59	50.00	78.38	87.88	100.00	100.00	100.00			100.00			
4. Unduplicated Persons Served (HMIS)	286	1047	1097	39	96	87	506	432	393	87	148	242	0	0	0
5. Total Leavers (HMIS)	135	918	931	6	50	41	90	98	56	74	59	196	0	0	0
6. Destination of Don't Know, Refused, or Missing (HMIS)	67	913	921	8	24	28	0	10	3	1	2	12	0	0	0
7. Destination Error Rate (%)	49.63	99.46	98.93	133.33	48.00	68.29	0.00	10.20	5.36	1.35	3.39	6.12			

2023 HDX Competition Report
FY2022 - SysPM Data Quality

2023 HDX Competition Report

Submission and Count Dates for KS-503 - Topeka/Shawnee County CoC

Date of PIT Count

	Date	Received HUD Waiver
Date CoC Conducted 2023 PIT Count	1/25/2023	

Report Submission Date in HDX

	Submitted On	Met Deadline
2023 PIT Count Submittal Date	4/28/2023	Yes
2023 HIC Count Submittal Date	4/27/2023	Yes
2022 System PM Submittal Date	2/8/2023	Yes