Middlesex County Continuum of Care

To: All Middlesex County Community Agencies

From: Melissa Bellamy, CoC Chairperson

Re: Middlesex County Continuum of Care 2024 Local Application Process

Date: May 2, 2024

The Middlesex County Continuum of Care, a local planning committee charged with the responsibility of reducing the incidence of homelessness in Middlesex County, has begun the process for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2024 Continuum of Care Application.

In preparation for submission of the CoC application for HUD funding, the Middlesex County Continuum of Care Technical Review Committee is now accepting applications from all agencies interested in applying for funding to support RENEWAL and NEW projects through the Middlesex County Continuum of Care process. A link to the Middlesex County CoC's Policies and Procedures can be found here:

[Policies and Procedures](#)

The Middlesex County Continuum of Care (MCHC3) has adopted the following funding priorities for the FY2024 CoC application cycle:
- Housing First – The CoC has prioritized projects using a Housing First model to support homeless households in accessing and maintaining services and housing
- Coordination with Healthcare Resources– The CoC has prioritized projects that provide coordination of services with healthcare resources in the community
- RRH programs or SSO-CE projects dedicated to serving those fleeing domestic violence

The MCHC3 reserves the right to make any additions or modifications to the list of priorities based on funding priorities outlined in the 2024 CoC NOFO once it is released.

The objective scoring criteria used by the Continuum of Care to prioritize projects can be found here:

[Scoring Criteria](#)

Projects may apply for renewal funding if the program was awarded funds for any CoC Program, SHP or S+C grants in a preceding competition where the program expires in calendar year 2024. Please note, projects that renewed in FY 2023 cannot request more funding than was awarded in their FY 2023 grant, and projects that submitted applications in the FY 2023 CoC Competition that were not awarded funds in the recent announcement cannot submit a renewal application.

The HUD Continuum of Care program provides funding to programs serving homeless individuals and families in the community that are in accordance with the goals of:

1. Ending Veteran Homelessness – HUD encourages CoCs to prioritize veterans to the extent possible, in existing permanent housing programs with a focus on those veterans not eligible for VA funded housing or services. In addition, CoCs should coordinate with the local VA and VA funded programs to ensure access and opportunities for all homeless veterans,

2. Ending Chronic Homelessness – HUD encourages communities to increase the number of units dedicated and prioritized for the chronically homeless,

3. Ending Family Homelessness – HUD encourages communities to increase availability of rapid re-housing opportunities for homeless families,

4. Ending Youth Homelessness – HUD encourages communities to work closely with youth service providers to identify the unique need of homeless youth and increase resources and programs available to address their housing and service needs.

For the FY 2023 CoC Competition, HUD identified the following funding priorities which will inform its evaluation of CoCs and project efforts toward ending homelessness for all populations:

1. Creating a systemic response to homelessness – CoCs should use CoC Program performance measures such as the average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, and other factors that determine the effectiveness of serving people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, CoCs should be doing everything they can to create and use an effective Coordinated Entry process, promote participant choice, coordinate homeless assistance and mainstream housing service providers to ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance quickly that results in obtaining and maintaining housing, and make the delivery of homeless assistance open, inclusive, and transparent.

2. Strategically allocating and using resources – HUD calls for communities to critically evaluate all funding requests to ensure effective resource allocation. This process must include a comprehensive project review, evaluation of project use of mainstream resources, leveraging additional community-based resources through partnerships, and reviewing the efficacy of transitional housing.

3. Using a Housing First Approach – HUD encourages CoCs and CoC-funded projects to adopt a Housing First Approach which prioritizes getting homeless persons into permanent housing quickly and wrapping the needed services around them. Housing First approaches include low barriers to program entry, removal of barriers for program retention, client centered services based on goals developed by the household and prioritizing those households who are most in need. A system level Housing First approach should also include use of a centralized/coordinated assessment process and an inclusive decision-making structure for system development.

In accordance with the HUD funding priorities, the Middlesex County Continuum of Care will consider the following types of proposals for new project application in the FY 2024 Competition.

1. Permanent Supportive Housing projects that will be dedicated to chronically homeless individuals and/or families, including unaccompanied youth. This may include funding for acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, rental assistance, leasing, services, or operating dollars. Projects may also request up to 7% in administrative funds. Projects demonstrating a partnership with healthcare organizations will receive priority.

2. Rapid Re-Housing for homeless individuals and/or families, including unaccompanied youth. Rapid rehousing projects may serve homeless households who do not have a disabling condition. Programs will need to serve only those living on the streets or in emergency shelter as well as those fleeing domestic violence. Rapid Re-Housing projects may request short-term (1-3 months) or medium-term (3-24 months) rental assistance, service funding and up to 7% in administrative funding.

3. Joint TH and RRH Component projects, which will combine Transitional Housing (TH) and Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH) into a single project to serve individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness.

4. Supportive Services Only Projects for Coordinated Entry. Projects may request supportive services and up to 7% in administrative funding to support communitywide centralized/coordinated assessment process.

5. HMIS. Projects may request funding for the costs associated with the HMIS that must be carried out by the CoC HMIS Lead Agency.

The MCHC3 reserves the right to make any additions or modifications to the list of priorities based on funding priorities outlined in the 2024 CoC NOFO once it is released.

For more details on the HUD funding priorities applicants are strongly encouraged to review the FY2024 CoC Registration which may be found at www.hudexchange.info. For additional information on the Middlesex County CoC local selection process please visit:

Middlesex County Division of Housing, Community Development, and Social Services

For information on the characteristics of persons who are homeless in Middlesex County in order to customize your consideration of HUD priorities to the needs present in Middlesex County, and to provide documented support of need for your application, please consult the Middlesex County HMIS administrator and local Point in Time data.

Agencies interested in applying for **new and renewal** funding must submit a completed application by **4pm on Friday June 14th, 2024.** The Notice of Intent Application Form may be found at:

Middlesex County Division of Housing, Community Development, and Social Services

Applications are to be submitted via Survey Monkey Apply at:

https://njcocmha.smapply.io/prog/middlesex_continuum_of_care_funding

A MANDATORY Technical Assistance Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 15th 2024, at 1 PM v**ia TEAMS**:**

Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 220 796 492 286
Passcode: pynLbF
Dial-in by phone
+1 732-515-5844,,327685980# United States, Edison
Find a local number
Phone conference ID: 327 685 980#

It is mandatory for all applicants and all agencies in attendance will receive additional points on their application score.

Agencies submitting an application may be required to participate in program presentations before the CoC Technical Review committee.

Any questions regarding the 2024 Middlesex County Local Application process should be made in writing by emailing Melissa Bellamy at melissa.bellamy@co.middlesex.nj.us.