

# Morris County

## Continuum of Care

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<https://hs.morriscountynj.gov/behavioral/continuum/>

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To: All Morris County Community Agencies

From: Terry Connolly, Chair

Re: Call for Additional NEW Notices of Intent for the 2021 Morris County Continuum of Care Competition

Date: Wednesday, August 25, 2021

The Morris County Continuum of Care (CoC), a local planning committee responsible for ending homelessness in Morris County, has begun the process for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2021 CoC Application.

Through the FY2021 HUD CoC Competition, the Morris County CoC is eligible to apply for a total of \$2,405,826 for new and renewal projects that work towards the goal of ending homelessness. This total budget includes \$2,037,776 available for renewal funding, \$101,889 available for new bonus projects and \$266,161 for Domestic Violence bonus projects.

Additional information regarding the competition and CoC program regulations can be reviewed in the FY2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and the CoC Interim Rules which are linked below:

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=335322>

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2033/hearth-coc-program-interim-rule/>

To ensure that all funding allocated to Morris County is applied for, the Allocations Committee is accepting Notices of Intent (NOI) from any agency interested in applying for funding to support NEW projects through the Morris County CoC process. New funding may be made available through reallocation of existing monies or new bonus funding. Applicants who have not previously received CoC funding are encouraged to apply. Renewal and new projects submitted during the previous NOI deadline (June 4, 2021) require no further action and will be evaluated alongside new NOIs received during the current submission window.

Specifications for eligible project submissions are outlined on the following page. Please make sure to review all information before submitting a Notice of Intent.

The CoC has adopted the following priorities which will inform its evaluation of project efforts toward ending homelessness for all populations.

1. Using a Housing First Approach – The CoC has established a funding preference for projects which operate with a Housing First Approach which prioritizes getting homeless persons into permanent housing quickly and wrapping needed services around them. A Housing First approach includes 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 also includes use of a centralized/coordinated assessment process and an inclusive decision-making structure for system development.
2. Creating a systemic response to homelessness – The CoC will use performance measures such as the average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, and other factors that determine the effectiveness of projects serving people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the CoC is working 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, making the delivery of homeless assistance open, inclusive, and transparent.
3. Strategically allocating and using resources – The CoC will 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.

New project proposals may request funding for the following types of activities:

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects that will primarily serve 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.
- Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) 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 or 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.
- Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing 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.
- 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. **Morris County CoC has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Coordinated Entry Lead Agency. Agencies interested in applying must complete the “Coordinated Entry Lead Agency Addendum” in addition to the “New Project Notice of Intent Form.”**
- HMIS. Projects may request funding for the costs associated with the HMIS user fees. This activity will only be considered as a project component, not as an independent project proposal.

The Notice of Intent form may be found at the Morris County Department of Human Service’s website:  
<https://www.morriscountynj.gov/Departments/Community-Behavioral-Health-Services/Continuum-of-Care>.

Agencies interested in applying for funding:

- **must submit a completed Notice of Intent by 4:30 pm, Friday, September 17, 2021; and**

- **may be required to participate in a question-and-answer session before the CoC Allocations Committee.**

Notices of Intent are to be submitted as PDF by electronic mail to the following:

Shelia Carter: [scarter@co.morris.nj.us](mailto:scarter@co.morris.nj.us) and Nadine Azari: [nazari@monarchhousing.org](mailto:nazari@monarchhousing.org).

Email Rebecca Sherrod at [rsherrod@cfmorriss.org](mailto:rsherrod@cfmorriss.org) with any questions regarding the 2021 Morris County Notice of Intent process.