

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: Morris County Continuum of Care 2021 Notice of Intent

Date: Monday, April 12, 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.

In preparation for submission of the CoC application for HUD funding, the Morris County CoC Executive Committee is now accepting Notices of Intent from any agencies interested in applying for funding to support both NEW and RENEWAL projects through the Morris County CoC process. Projects may apply for new funding that may be made available through reallocation of existing monies or new bonus funding, and applicants who have not previously received CoC funding are encouraged to apply. Projects may apply for renewal funding if the program was awarded funds for any CoC Program in a preceding competition where the program expires in calendar year 2021.

The HUD CoC program provides funding to programs serving homeless individuals and families in the community. Priority populations are those with the longest histories of homelessness, greatest severity of service needs, and special vulnerabilities, including those experiencing chronic homelessness, veterans, unaccompanied youth, families, and survivors of domestic violence. This is in accordance with the federal 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.

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.

In accordance with the HUD funding priorities, the Morris County CoC will entertain NOIs from Renewal projects with contracts ending in calendar year 2021.

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 either a “New Project Notice of Intent Form” or a “Renewal 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.

For more details on the HUD funding priorities applicants are strongly encouraged to review the FY2019 CoC NOFA and CoC Registration Notice which may be found at www.hudexchange.info.

Agencies interested in applying for funding must:

- **participate in a mandatory technical assistance webinar on Monday, April 19, 2021, 10:00 am – 12:00pm**, please register using the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsduCrrz4sGdyWzIFA7o5hkFC5lwwgsNdM>
- **submit a completed Notice of Intent by 4:30 pm, Friday, June 4, 2021.**

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>.

All agencies submitting renewal projects must complete a "Renewal Project Notice of Intent Form". All agencies submitting new projects must complete a "New Project Notice of Intent Form". Any agency submitting a "New Project Notice of Intent Form" OR "Renewal Project Notice of Intent Form" for a Coordinated Entry Project must complete the "Coordinated Entry Lead Agency Addendum".

Notice of Intent Forms are to be submitted as PDF by electronic mail to the following:
Shelia Carter: scarter@co.morris.nj.us and Nadine Azari: nazari@monarchhousing.org.

Agencies submitting a Notice of Intent Form may be required to participate in a question-and-answer session before the CoC review committee. The question-and-answer session schedule will be announced within two weeks of the release of the 2021 CoC Notice of Funding Available by HUD.

Email Terry Connolly at terry@nourishnj.org with any questions regarding the 2021 Morris County Notice of Intent process.