

Montgomery County Continuum of Care CoC Program - Ranking and Selection Process

Each year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocates funding for homeless assistance programs through the Continuum of Care (CoC) competition process. In order to receive funding, each Continuum of Care must submit a consolidated application for funding that describes how local activities meet or exceed HUD requirements and are aligned with community needs. The CoC is required to rank in order of priority funding requests from all eligible providers. The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), acting as the Collaborative Applicant for the Montgomery County MD Continuum of Care, is responsible for coordinating this process and submitting a Consolidated Application on behalf of the Montgomery County CoC. Each year DHHS reviews HUD requirements and priorities for funding under the Continuum of Care Competition.

The CoC Allocation Committee is responsible for reviewing and ranking project applications to be included as part of the Consolidated Application. Members include a range of public and private stakeholders representing the CoC. Allocation Committee members cannot be an employee, board member or volunteer of a project applicant that is requesting new or renewal funding.

DHHS Services to End and Prevent Homelessness, as the CoC Collaborative Applicant, supports the committee but is not a voting member. The Collaborative Applicant identifies HUD Continuum of Care Competition requirements and priorities for funding, compiles materials for each renewal project, announces funding availability to the Continuum of Care for new projects, develops an evaluation tool used to rate projects, schedules Allocation Committee meetings to conduct the review process, and provides technical assistance to applicants. All providers wishing to receive Continuum of Care funding must submit a project application and all requested supplemental information by deadlines outlined by the Collaborative Applicant that include performance data, HUD monitoring reports and a summary of drawdown expenses.

Members of the Allocation Committee review information related to the needs of the CoC including the most recent housing inventory chart, Point-in-Time data, federal priorities, CoC strategic plan priorities and identified service gaps. Committee members will review renewal projects based on bed utilization, HUD and CoC performance measures, cost effectiveness, Continuum of Care priority needs, alignment with HUD priorities, fidelity to Housing First philosophy, and compliance with HUD funding requirements. New project applications will be reviewed for applicant experience, project quality, cost effectiveness, alignment of HUD priorities, fidelity to Housing First philosophy, and priority to Continuum of Care needs. Each Project Application will be scored individually using a standardized ranking tool. Planning Projects are reviewed for submission but not ranked per HUD guidance.

Projects will be ranked by the Allocation committee by majority vote based on CoC need and ranking tool scores. Projects will be organized to best meet the needs of the CoC and maximize overall funding. All applicants will be notified directly regarding the recommendations of the Allocation Committee.

Refer to Competition and Project Application Instructions on CoC website for detailed application instructions and information about specific criteria to be assessed.