

Before Starting the CoC Application

The CoC Consolidated Application consists of three parts, the CoC Application, the CoC Priority Listing, and all the CoC's project applications that were either approved and ranked, or rejected. All three must be submitted for the CoC Consolidated Application to be considered complete.

The Collaborative Applicant is responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2019 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.
6. Questions marked with an asterisk (*), which are mandatory and require a response.

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

Instructions:

Guidance for completing the application can be found in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability and in the FY 2019 CoC Application Detailed Instructions.

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1A-1. CoC Name and Number: MA-505 - New Bedford CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: City of New Bedford

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: City of New Bedford

1B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Engagement

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Warning! The CoC Application score could be affected if information is incomplete on this formlet.

1B-1. CoC Meeting Participants.

For the period of May 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019, applicants must indicate whether the Organization/Person listed:

- 1. participated in CoC meetings;**
- 2. voted, including selecting CoC Board members; and**
- 3. participated in the CoC’s coordinated entry system.**

Organization/Person	Participates in CoC Meetings	Votes, including selecting CoC Board Members	Participates in Coordinated Entry System
Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
Local Jail(s)	No	No	Yes
Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Not Applicable	No	No
Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes

Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
CoC Funded Victim Service Providers	Not Applicable	No	No
Non-CoC Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
LGBT Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agencies that serve survivors of human trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
Other:(limit 50 characters)			
FAITH COMMUNITY, MOBILE STREET OUTREACH	Yes	Yes	Yes
UNITED WAY	Yes	Yes	Yes
ELDERLY (COASTLINE ELDERLY SERVICES)	Yes	Yes	Yes

1B-1a. CoC’s Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing/Ending Homelessness.

Applicants must describe how the CoC:

- 1. solicits and considers opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness, or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;**
- 2. communicates information during public meetings or other forums the CoC uses to solicit public information;**
- 3. takes into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness; and**
- 4. ensures effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats, e.g., PDF.**
(limit 2,000 characters)

(1)The small size of the NB CoC lends itself to the advantage of enjoying tight connections in the comnty and enables a deep familiarity btwn those invested in, and/or engaged with, preventing/ending homelessness. Despite this and the historical strength of such connections, the CoC recognizes the value/importance of culling wide diversity in its approaches and actively solicits/engages/relies on opinions from across the community spectrum on an ongoing basis. Email blasts, website/social media and participation in ancillary community efforts ensures the inclusion of homelessness in broader local discussions while engaging others to share their insights with the CoC. Such efforts are routinely made to ensure/nurture/strengthen those relationships/perspectives/voices. Whether it’s folks currently living unsheltered who come to monthly CoC meetings or the businessperson who commits personal/financial/human capital to end homelessness, the CoC’s meetings/its organizational model, has always been rooted in the breadth of its collective

voice. All are welcomed.(2)CoC info is communicated at public meetings/forums, the Action Plan public process where the CoC lead reviews info about upcoming ESG/CoC funding opportunities and reviews accomplishments from the past year. These forums involve public participation and are aired on cable to ensure wide community reach. Also, CoC events like the public kick-off of the annual Point In Time Count and speaking engagements on local radio where callers raise concerns/questions have helped inform the local process. (3)The CoC uses/relies on info it gathers in its forums and recognizes all ideas can be great ideas. (4)The CoC relies on its relationship w/local disability providers in ensuring effective communication w/individvs w/disabilities at public meetings as requested. All matls published online/as part of the CoC's public mtgs are available in electronic formats (PDFs). All printed communication includes a TTY number.

1B-2. Open Invitation for New Members.

Applicants must describe:

- 1. the invitation process;**
 - 2. how the CoC communicates the invitation process to solicit new members;**
 - 3. how the CoC ensures effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;**
 - 4. how often the CoC solicits new members; and**
 - 5. any special outreach the CoC conducted to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join the CoC.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

(1)Mbrshp in the NB CoC (Homeless Service Provider's Network—HSPN) is free/open to all without exception. The CoC's strategy continues to be the broadening of its reach and an increase in its diversity. The invitation process is easy to encourage new/renewed participation. A single page application with the mission of the HSPN, its goal of preventing/ending homelessness and a "pledge" to participate in the CoC is made available in multiple locations/formats. All that's required is contact info (to help understand who is "at the table and facilitate communication). The form is provided electronically, by mail or in person at the CoC's lead (the City's Office of Housing & Community Development—OHCD). Member information is recorded in its CoC data base and email addresses are added to the CoC listserve. Membership is free. (2)The invit. process is communicated through an annual email blast sent via different listserve groups identifying the HSPN/its work/its website/its goal of ending/preventing homelessness. The est reach of this effort is 1,000 recipients. Add'l invitations are made through social media. The CoC solicits new members annually and follows a calendar year for the mbr term. CoC members are asked to bring someone new to CoC meetings to ensure inclusion of a broad and diverse membership. (3)The CoC relies on its relationship with local disability providers (eg SouthCoast Independent Living) in ensuring effective communication with individuals with disabilities. In addition, all materials published online and as part of the CoC's mailings, outreach, and overall administration is made available in electronic formats, specifically PDFs. (4)Direct outreach is made on an ongoing basis to agency representatives, housing advocates, homeless advocates, street outreach team and emergency shelters requesting their assistance year-round in inviting folks they serve/they

know to connect with the CoC to ensure those with lived experience are well-represented.

1B-3. Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded.

Applicants must describe:

- 1. how the CoC notifies the public that it is accepting project application proposals, and that it is open to and will consider applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding, as well as the method in which proposals should be submitted;**
- 2. the process the CoC uses to determine whether the project application will be included in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition process;**
- 3. the date(s) the CoC publicly announced it was open to proposal;**
- 4. how the CoC ensures effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and**
- 5. if the CoC does not accept proposals from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding or did not announce it was open to proposals from non-CoC Program funded organizations, the applicant must state this fact in the response and provide the reason the CoC does not accept proposals from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding.**
(limit 2,000 characters)

(1)The CoC notifies the public that project application proposals are being accepted through an open RFP process. The RFP announcement is made through the CoC administrative lead's (City of New Bedford Office of Housing & Community Development—OHCD) website, the CoC's own website (www.nbhspn.com), through emailing to the entire CoC mailing list as well as additional in-house mailing lists of non-profits, agencies and community stakeholders, and a display ad was placed in the local newspaper. Social media postings were also used to notify the public via two different Facebook sites and twitter and specifically noted new applicants not previously funded were encouraged to apply.

(2)The CoC's RFP defined eligible applicants citing criteria relative to compliance with HUD conflict of interest requirements as well as eligible projects. The RFP also set forth threshold requirements with nine specific criterion to be met. Income applications were immediately reviewed to ensure threshold criteria and eligibility standards were met. Those meeting threshold requirements were forwarded to the CoC's Performance Review Committee.

(3)The CoC announced the opening of the 2019 NOFA competition, availability of its RFP and its acceptance of proposals on July 30, 2019.

(4)The CoC ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities through the RFP process by placing the RFP on the City's website which is ADA compliant and is screen-reader compatible.

(5)The CoC did accept proposals from organizations that had not previously received CoC program funding. In its public posting the RFP advertising includes the following language: "This competition is open to all eligible applicants; one need not have previously applied to participate and submit an application. Inquiries from new potential applicants were made this year but no new projects were received in competition.

1C. Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordination

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1C-1. CoCs Coordination, Planning, and Operation of Projects.

Applicants must select the appropriate response for each federal, state, local, private, other organizations, or program source the CoC included in the planning and operation of projects that serve individuals experiencing homelessness, families experiencing homelessness, unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, persons who are fleeing domestic violence, or persons at risk of homelessness.

Entities or Organizations the CoC coordinates planning and operation of projects	Coordinates with Planning and Operation of Projects
Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Not Applicable
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
Head Start Program	Yes
Funding Collaboratives	Yes
Private Foundations	Yes
Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Funded Housing and Service Programs	Yes
Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Funded Housing and Service Programs	Yes
Housing and service programs funded through other Federal resources	Yes
Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
Housing and service programs funded through private entities, including foundations	Yes
Other:(limit 50 characters)	
FEDERAL COMBINED, UNITED WAY, FAITH COMMUNITY	Yes

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1C-2. CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.

Applicants must describe how the CoC:
1. consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG funds;
2. participated in the evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients; and
3. ensured local homelessness information is communicated and addressed in the Consolidated Plan updates.
(limit 2,000 characters)

(1)The NB CoC connects with ESG recipients on an ongoing basis. The way this occurs originates with the CoC's administrative arm, the City's OHCD whose staff is also responsible for administering the ESG program for the City; that staff is responsible for both CoC and ESG programming; this ensures clarity and communication between decision-makers and project personnel. In addition to this admin liaison, the CoC, through its Performance Review Committee (PRC), is engaged in the planning/allocation of ESG funds. Because its a small continuum, each agency receiving funds also sits as a member of the CoC and the majority of ESG program directors serve on the CoC's Executive Board. Also, the CoC's Strategic Plan includes strategies related to the allocation of ESG funding (initiatives focused on homeless prevention/rapid rehousing/street outreach/shelter). In this way there is a connection btwn the CoC, ESG recip. and the CoC's planning/allocation of ESG funds.

(2)The CoC participates in evaluating/performance reporting/reviews of ESG recipients/subrecipients through its PRC (mbrs of which who aren't part of orgs receiving any CoC or ESG funding). All ESG decisions are reviewed/approved by the CoC's PRC; ESG programs are monitored by the OHCD. The efficacy of these progs, particularly evidenced through data reports presented to the CoC during mbr meetings, has been valuable in helping further a collective understanding of the importance each ESG program plays as a contributor to the CoC's system-based performance.

(3)The OHCD is beginning its ConPlan update process, preparing now to draft its 2020-2024 Plan. As it's done in the past, PIT/HIC data will be provided and the process will include focus groups of those w/lived experience and homeless providers engaged in efforts to prevent/end homelessness. CoC membership will have an opportunity to participate in these focus groups and/or ConPlan surveys to help inform the plan and ensure timely, accurate representation.

1C-2a. Providing PIT and HIC Data to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions. Yes to both

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC provided Point-in-Time (PIT) and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area.

1C-2b. Providing Other Data to Consolidated Yes

Plan Jurisdictions.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC ensured local homelessness information is communicated to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions within its geographic area so it can be addressed in Consolidated Plan updates.

1C-3. Addressing the Safety Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.

Applicants must describe:

- 1. the CoC’s protocols, including protocols for coordinated entry and the CoC’s emergency transfer plan, that prioritize safety and incorporate trauma-informed, victim-centered services; and**
- 2. how the CoC, through its coordinated entry, maximizes client choice for housing and services while ensuring safety and confidentiality. (limit 2,000 characters)**

(1)The CoC’s protocols ensure those seeking services for Domestic Violence/Dating Violence/Sexual Assault/ Trafficking/Stalking receive immediate assistance to ensure safety during their housing crisis. The CoC’s emergency transfer plan involves frequent communication btwn the Coordinated Entry System (CES) staff and the CoC’s sole DV shelter (Greater NB Women’s Center) (WC) ensuring a smooth/safe transition for someone seeking services. The WC partners with the CES providing assessment/action related to individs/families presenting as fleeing DV or those later found to be in danger post intake/whose safety is otherwise compromised; they’re immed. referred to the WC for emerg. transfer and/or safety planning where a trauma-informed, victim centered model is used prioritizing safety/confidentiality/client choice to id appropriate housing/supports for DV survivors. The WC team follows a supportive, non-judgmental approach to ensure survivors aren’t re-traumatized. The WC participates in CoC meetings and offers training to CES and project providers to ensure protocols for survivor safety/choice are met. All CES staff are trained in prioritizing safety/providing trauma-informed/victim-centered services to ensure best practices and compassionate, clear/safety driven outcomes.

(2)The CES ensures clients who identify as being in danger because of any form of sexual predation—one of the first questions asked of clients—are offered rapid safety planning assistance. CES and the WC require written releases of info to facilitate the sharing of any info with the client’s permission within strict time limits. Clients are offered choice in next steps+given the info they need to make an informed decision about what’s best for them/what will afford them the greatest safety/peace of mind. While it’s often necessary to place a hhld in an undisclosed location due to safety concerns, the CoC strives to ensure the hhld has control/choices/options when selecting a safety plan.

1C-3a. Training–Best Practices in Serving DV Survivors.

Applicants must describe how the CoC coordinates with victim services providers to provide training, at least on an annual basis, for:

1. CoC area project staff that addresses safety and best practices (e.g., trauma-informed, victim-centered) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence; and
2. Coordinated Entry staff that addresses safety and best practices (e.g., Trauma Informed Care) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence.
(limit 2,000 characters)

(1) The local certified provider of domestic violence services (Women’s Center) provides an annual training about DV related resources available within the community during/following a regular CoC meeting so non-victim service providers and all CoC area project staff are updated on all relevant Fed/State/Local laws. Additionally, best practice trainings on domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and sexual assault for CoC providers (outside of regular CoC meetings) are offered on an ongoing basis to community stakeholders/CoC providers. In addition, individual CoC housing and/or supportive service providers conduct agency specific trainings (in-service trainings) to provide robust, periodic training around serving survivors, trafficking victims, etc.

(2) Procedure/protocols for working with survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, trafficking, and sexual assault are all a part of the CoC’s triage/intake process used in the New Bedford CoC’s Coordinated Entry System (CES). Specifically, Catholic Social Services, the agency providing the CoC’s CES offers training to the CES team focusing on best practices in working with folks who may be survivors of domestic violence/sexual predation in a trauma-informed manner while ensuring they are able to access the appropriate resources for safety planning. The CES has frequent contact with the local domestic violence service provider (GNB Women’s Center) to maintain open communication and ask specific questions as to how to increase best practices for CES and interaction with survivors presenting to the CES team. Additionally, the CoC’s Coordinated Entry staff are mandated to participate in the annual trainings offered by the WC and are provided ongoing technical assistance and supervision that addresses survivor protocols through the coordinated entry/assessment process.

1C-3b. Domestic Violence–Community Need Data.

Applicants must describe how the CoC uses de-identified aggregate data from a comparable database to assess the special needs related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
(limit 2,000 characters)

The New Bedford CoC has, since January of this year, transitioned to a new HMIS vendor (CaseWorthy). In so doing, the CoC (through its administrative arm, the City’s Office of Housing and Community Development—OHCD) has reviewed the means by which it has been collecting data from domestic violence/dating violence/sexual assault/stalking and trafficking providers and challenges that have resulted. With the new CaseWorthy system, the OHCD is now able to take a de-identified aggregate .csv files from domestic violence providers and import it directly into the HMIS system. In this way the aggregated data will now more cleanly align with HMIS data thereby providing greater comprehensive and ongoing representation of the domestic violence survivor cohort ensuring strategically placed initiatives can be developed. In addition, other data is collected and used to inform and assess needs related to

these cohorts including: data collected from CDBG funded DV advocate embedded within the NB Police Dept, anecdotal data from providers of domestic violence services, police and court, folks that work within multiple systems on behalf of their clients who identify as part of this cohort, other human service providers, those trained to work with survivors in general but not at the more intensive level typically associated with providers of domestic violence services, other persons not falling into the afore-mentioned groups, those who may find themselves in a position of being confided in or turned to for advice/referrals (such has been the case with a university staff member), data from community gatherings, public forums, outreach through surveys, data collected by community services throughout the city/CoC, coordinated entry data, PIT/HIC Count annual data collections and LGBTQ Allies' data.

***1C-4. PHAs within CoC. Attachments Required.**

Applicants must submit information for the two largest PHAs or the two PHAs with which the CoC has a working relationship within the CoC's geographic area.

Public Housing Agency Name	% New Admissions into Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program during FY 2018 who were experiencing homelessness at entry	PHA has General or Limited Homeless Preference	PHA has a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On
NEW BEDFORD HOUSING AUTHORITY	93.90%	Yes-Both	No

1C-4a. PHAs' Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences.

Applicants must:

1. provide the steps the CoC has taken, with the two largest PHAs within the CoC's geographic area or the two PHAs the CoC has working relationships with, to adopt a homeless admission preference—if the CoC only has one PHA within its geographic area, applicants may respond for one; or

2. state that the CoC does not work with the PHAs in its geographic area. (limit 2,000 characters)

(1) New Bedford's CoC is not only privileged to have an excellent working relationship with the New Bedford Housing Authority (NBHA) but it is additionally fortunate that the NBHA understands the importance of having an established homeless admission preference, ensuring that it consistently exercises that preference by committing the highest quality services in ensuring safe, stable housing for those coming out of homelessness. To this end, the NBHA has adopted a homeless admission preference in both its Public Housing and its HCV programs. The NBHA annually places large numbers of individuals and families experiencing homelessness into housing through its own housing authority properties and through its Section 8 voucher program (Housing Choice Vouchers-HCV).

(2) Because the CoC does work with the one PHA within its geographic area as noted under (1), this question is not applicable.

1C-4b. Moving On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC has a Moving On Strategy with affordable housing providers in its jurisdiction.

Yes

If “Yes” is selected above, describe the type of provider, for example, multifamily assisted housing owners, PHAs, Low Income Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments, or local low-income housing programs. (limit 1,000 characters)

The CoC has established and adopted its first Move On Strategy which identifies the New Bedford Housing Authority, LIHTC developments, 811s, 202s and other low income and multi-family assisted housing programs. The continuum views this as an initial step in its effort to fully develop and adopt a formal Moving On Plan within the CoC's geographic area. The attachment section includes a copy of the New Bedford CoC's Moving On Strategy adopted in September 2019.

1C-5. Protecting Against Discrimination.

Applicants must describe the actions the CoC has taken to address all forms of discrimination, such as discrimination based on any protected classes under the Fair Housing Act and 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2) – Equal Access to HUD-Assisted or -Insured Housing. (limit 2,000 characters)

The CoC has been proactive in its approach to ensuring clarity and consistency amongst all CoC and ESG programs, in a number of ways. First, with respect to training, the CoC providing information about training opportunities and hardcopy resources with providers on effectively implementing the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access and Gender Identity Final Rules). In addition, the CoC conducted a legal training session in April of this year that addressed nondiscrimination equal opportunity (and protected) classes under the Fair Housing Act under 24 CFR 5.105(a)(1) and Equal access to HUD-assisted (or insured) housing under 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2). Attorneys from the SouthCoast Counties Legal Services, Inc., and attorneys from SouthCoast Fair Housing (both agencies active members of the New Bedford CoC), educated the CoC membership about these federal statutes in addition to providing information on the eviction process, state law, legal eviction issues germane to the elderly, in particular, preserving housing through reasonable accommodations and the connection between homelessness and discrimination. In addition to this training, the CoC has been proactive in adopting and implementing an anti-discrimination policy. The CoC unanimously voted in favor of an updated set of Written Standards in June of 2019 that included a large section dedicated to Equal Access/Nondiscrimination (CoC Written Standards June.2019 pgs 2-5) that requires all providers to have nondiscrimination policies in place and assertively outreach to people least likely to engage in the homelessness assistance system. The policy compels all providers to comply with all federal

statutes/rules including the Fair Housing Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act and Equal Access to Housing Final Rule. The policy includes details on each of these elements as well as outreach, integrated housing and the Violence Against Women Act.

***1C-5a. Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training.**

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC implemented an anti-discrimination policy and conduct training:

1. Did the CoC implement a CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy that applies to all projects regardless of funding source?	Yes
2. Did the CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively address discrimination based on any protected class under the Fair Housing Act?	Yes
3. Did the CoC conduct annual training on how to effectively address discrimination based on any protected class under 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2) – Equal Access to HUD-Assisted or -Insured Housing?	Yes

***1C-6. Criminalization of Homelessness.**

Applicants must select all that apply that describe the strategies the CoC implemented to prevent the criminalization of homelessness in the CoC’s geographic area.

1. Engaged/educated local policymakers:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Engaged/educated law enforcement:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Engaged/educated local business leaders:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Implemented communitywide plans:	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. No strategies have been implemented:	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Other:(limit 50 characters)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>

1C-7. Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System. Attachment Required.

Applicants must:
 1. demonstrate the coordinated entry system covers the entire CoC geographic area;

- 2. demonstrate the coordinated entry system reaches people who are least likely to apply for homelessness assistance in the absence of special outreach; and**
- 3. demonstrate the assessment process prioritizes people most in need of assistance and ensures they receive assistance in a timely manner. (limit 2,000 characters)**

(1)The CALL (Coordinated Access to Local Links) is the NB Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry System (CES). The CALL covers the entire CoC geographic area which is the City of New Bedford. The CES is a collaborative effort among the 3 CoCs located in Bristol County. (2)The CES reaches those least likely to apply for homeless assistance in the absence of special outreach in several ways. (a) It's a phone-based 1-800 number which is easy to recognize, remember and use. (b) The CES' operation relies on targeted diversion strategies evidenced by system performance measures that reveal a continued reduction of first time homelessness for those entering emergency/transitional housing in the New Bedford CoC. (c)The CES directly markets to the NB school system, senior centers, housing court, the NB Connect (resource) event and agencies providing mental health services and substance use issue services.(3)The assessment process begins with inquiries as to safety as relates to domestic violence, etc. and then looks to strategic diversion practices in order to prevent homelessness. If diversion doesn't work, the CALL's operation continues to reflect the CoC's "Order of Priorities" as articulated in the continuum's written standards in accordance with HUD Notice CPD-16-11. MA is a right to shelter state and as such all family emergency shelter needs go through the state, not local CoC. However, as there is no waiting list for individual emergency shelter in the NB CoC, no wait list and no assessment is undertaken for admission for such shelter. There is a waiting list maintained for permanent housing within the CoC. Given this, the CALL's assessment process is rooted in the SPDAT (both the SPDAT form for families and the SPDAT form for singles/individ.

1D. Continuum of Care (CoC) Discharge Planning

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1D-1. Discharge Planning Coordination.

Applicants must indicate whether the 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. Check all that apply (note that when "None:" is selected no other system of care should be selected).

Foster Care:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health Care:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mental Health Care:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Correctional Facilities:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
None:	<input type="checkbox"/>

1E. Local CoC Competition

Instructions

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*1E-1. Local CoC Competition–Announcement, Established Deadline, Applicant Notifications. Attachments Required.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC:

1. informed project applicants in its local competition announcement about point values or other ranking criteria the CoC would use to rank projects on the CoC Project Listings for submission to HUD for the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition;	Yes
2. established a local competition deadline, and posted publicly, for project applications that was no later than 30 days before the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Application submission deadline;	Yes
3. notified applicants that their project application(s) were being rejected or reduced, in writing along with the reason for the decision, outside of e-snaps, at least 15 days before the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Application submission deadline; and	Yes
4. notified applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the CoC Priority Listing in writing, outside of e-snaps, at least 15 days before the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Application submission deadline.	Yes

1E-2. Project Review and Ranking–Objective Criteria.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC used the following to rank and select project applications for the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition:

1. Used objective criteria to review and rank projects for funding (e.g., cost effectiveness of the project, performance data, type of population served);	Yes
2. Included one factor related to improving system performance (e.g., exits to permanent housing (PH) destinations, retention of PH, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness, job/income growth, etc.); and	Yes
3. Included a specific method for evaluating projects submitted by victim services providers that utilized data generated from a comparable database and evaluated these projects on the degree they improve safety for the population served.	No

1E-3. Project Review and Ranking–Severity of Needs and Vulnerabilities.

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Applicants must describe:
1. the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities the CoC considered when reviewing and ranking projects; and
2. how the CoC takes severity of needs and vulnerabilities into account when reviewing and ranking projects.
(limit 2,000 characters)

(1)The CoC’s evaluation and scoring criteria for permanent housing projects includes consideration of severity of needs and vulnerabilities. Specifically, the CoC prioritizes individuals and families who are chronically homeless with the longest histories of homelessness, disabilities and most severe service needs. Of these, survivors of domestic violence/sexual assault/trafficking and/or stalking, along with veterans, families and unaccompanied youth have the highest priority in this category. Those individuals and families with higher barriers to housing and higher service needs who are waiting to obtain another permanent housing subsidy are prioritized over others in considering rapid rehousing projects for those at risk of homelessness. (2)Application of these varying priority levels correlates to the awarding of higher points for PSH/RRH projects. The CoC has prioritized RRH for victims of domestic violence, youth and families by scoring these projects with the same point scale that the chronic homelessness/Housing First projects receive. The greatest emphasis in scoring renewal projects is on performance that is entirely data-driven. Performance accounts for 70% of a project’s review score. Compliance with coordinated entry and housing placement criteria are reviewed onsite monitoring and are part of a broad threshold criteria review when applications first come in. Monitoring results are added to the scoring criteria and discussed during each project’s competitive review.

1E-4. Public Postings–CoC Consolidated Application. Attachment Required.

Applicants must:
1. indicate how the CoC made public the review and ranking process the CoC used for all project applications; or
2. check 6 if the CoC did not make public the review and ranking process; and
3. indicate how the CoC made public the CoC Consolidated Application—including the CoC Application and CoC Priority Listing that includes all project applications accepted and ranked or rejected—which HUD required CoCs to post to their websites, or partners websites, at least 2 days before the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition application submission deadline; or
4. check 6 if the CoC did not make public the CoC Consolidated Application.

Public Posting of Objective Review and Ranking Process		Public Posting of CoC Consolidated Application including: CoC Application, CoC Priority Listing, Project Listings	
1. Email	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. Email	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2. Mail	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Mail	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Advertising in Local Newspaper(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	3. Advertising in Local Newspaper(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Advertising on Radio or Television	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Advertising on Radio or Television	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Social Media (Twitter, Facebook, etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Did Not Publicly Post Review and Ranking Process	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Did Not Publicly Post CoC Consolidated Application	<input type="checkbox"/>

1E-5. Reallocation between FY 2015 and FY 2018.

Applicants must report the percentage of the CoC’s ARD that was reallocated between the FY 2015 and FY 2018 CoC Program Competitions.

Reallocation: 1%

1E-5a. Reallocation–CoC Review of Performance of Existing Projects.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe the CoC written process for reallocation;**
 - 2. indicate whether the CoC approved the reallocation process;**
 - 3. describe how the CoC communicated to all applicants the reallocation process;**
 - 4. describe how the CoC identified projects that were low performing or for which there is less need; and**
 - 5. describe how the CoC determined whether projects that were deemed low performing would be reallocated.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

- (1)The CoC has a written reallocation process established several years ago and updated annually.
- (2)The CoC’s Executive Committee reviews/approves the reallocation process on behalf of the CoC. When amendts are made, the Exec Committee is consulted, they review changes, discuss the effect of such changes and review the intended success such change would have on the CoC.
- (3)The reallocation plan is addressed within the RFP and a link is provided to the actual reallocation plan in addition to being on the CoC’s website here: <https://www.nbhspn.com/nbhspn/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/NB-COC-REALLOCATION-PLAN.2019.pdf>. Finally, reallocation has been discussed throughout the calendar year at CoC meetings where members are strategizing and looking at the means of improving outcomes.
- (4)The CoC’s id of lower performing projects/those for whom there is a lesser need begins with ongoing monitoring by the OHCD via on-site and desk-monitorings with/qrtly review of data/perf measures; the OHCD culls info on each proj and includes its analysis in each renewal project’s compet. review packet which is then considered/evaltd by the CoC’s Performance Review

Committee (PRC) who considers lower performing/lesser demanded projects and compares this with higher performing renewals.
(5)Renewals are reviewed by OHCD/PRC and its determined if the project meets the criteria for reallocation. The CoC's use of annual performance standards/actual data compared against those standards is integral to the evaluation process. OHCD staff monitors all CoC projs using quarterly reports and provides staff support to the PRC to assist in its overall eval process. Reallocation is based on HUD criteria/overall score of the project evaluation (e.g. audit findings w/overdue or unsatisfactory response; history of inadequate financial management acctg. practices; untimely expenditures on prior award, etc). Reallocations may be voluntary or involuntary as described in the Reallocation Plan.

DV Bonus

Instructions

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1F-1 DV Bonus Projects.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC is requesting DV Bonus projects which are included on the CoC Priority Listing: No

Applicant Name	DUNS Number
This list contains no items	

2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

Intructions:

Guidance for completing the application can be found in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability and in the FY 2019 CoC Application Detailed Instructions.

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2A-1. HMIS Vendor Identification. CaseWorthy

Applicants must review the HMIS software vendor name brought forward from FY 2018 CoC Application and update the information if there was a change.

2A-2. Bed Coverage Rate Using HIC and HMIS Data.

Using 2019 HIC and HMIS data, applicants must report by project type:

Project Type	Total Number of Beds in 2019 HIC	Total Beds Dedicated for DV in 2019 HIC	Total Number of 2019 HIC Beds in HMIS	HMIS Bed Coverage Rate
Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	296	26	221	81.85%
Safe Haven (SH) beds	0	0	0	
Transitional Housing (TH) beds	113	14	99	100.00%
Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	285	0	285	100.00%
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	313	0	260	83.07%
Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	0	0	0	

2A-2a. Partial Credit for Bed Coverage Rates at or Below 84.99 for Any Project Type in Question 2A-2.

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

**1. steps the 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 the CoC will implement the steps described to increase bed coverage to at least 85 percent.
(limit 2,000 characters)**

(1)STEPS: ES Beds. The reason the HMIS bed coverage rate has fallen below the 85% threshold for emergency shelter beds is directly related to the inclusion of two privately run emergency shelters within the CoC, neither of which have any data system. One shelter has only 9 beds and is run by the Missionary Sisters of Charity. They have proven intractable in their position of not participating in the HMIS arguing its a "servant ministry". The second of the two shelters is new to the CoC and this was their first year participating in the HIC/PIT process. CoC reps had not had any opportunity to meet w/shelter leadership to discuss HMIS, its benefits etc. In the coming year the CoC will reach out to the shelter and provide such information. PSH Beds. Of the seven projects providing PSH beds within this CoC, only one PSH does not currently participate in HMIS: Providence VA's HUD VASH vouchers. The VA has advised that this is something they are working toward.

(2)IMPLEMENTATION: ES Beds. Going forward the CoC will work to identify a faith community mbr in the CoC membership with whom the Sisters would welcome a conversation and have an established relationship of trust. It is hoped that by approaching them with information as to how the opportunity for this kind of data collection can become a valuable part of their ministry's effectiveness, there may be an inroad into introducing HMIS in this shelter. If welcomed, a training will be scheduled in order to provide an overview of the system/its benefits. The CoC will have an ES leader reach out to the new shelter to educate them as to HMIS processes/expectations/benefits for their overall operation. This meeting will be followed by onsite training/piloting of HMIS. PSH Beds: The CoC is working with the VA to create a workable solution to its participation in the HMIS going forward. It's first step will be to orient and train VA staff on how the CoC's HMIS works and will benefit their operation.

***2A-3. Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission.**

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC submitted its LSA data to HUD in HDX 2.0. Yes

***2A-4. HIC HDX Submission Date.**

**Applicants must enter the date the CoC submitted the 2019 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data into the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX).
(mm/dd/yyyy)** 04/26/2019

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

Instructions:

Guidance for completing the application can be found in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability and in the FY 2019 CoC Application Detailed Instructions.

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2B-1. PIT Count Date. 01/30/2019

Applicants must enter the date the CoC conducted its 2019 PIT count (mm/dd/yyyy).

2B-2. PIT Count Data–HDX Submission Date. 04/26/2019

Applicants must enter the date the CoC submitted its PIT count data in HDX (mm/dd/yyyy).

2B-3. Sheltered PIT Count–Change in Implementation.

Applicants must describe:

1. any changes in the sheltered count implementation, including methodology or data quality methodology changes from 2018 to 2019, if applicable; and

2. how the changes affected the CoC’s sheltered PIT count results; or
3. state “Not Applicable” if there were no changes.

(limit 2,000 characters)

(1) Although 2019 marked the first year that the CoC memorialized its methodology in a document (New Bedford CoC Point In Time (PIT) Count Methodology Guide 2019) operationally the CoC did not implement any changes in conducting its 2019 sheltered PIT Count as compared with its efforts in the 2018 PIT Count.

(2) Given that there were no changes enacted, the CoC PIT count results did not reflect the effects of any changes in executing the PIT.

(3) Not applicable.

***2B-4. Sheltered PIT Count—Changes Due to Presidentially-declared Disaster.**

Applicants must select whether the CoC added or removed emergency shelter, transitional housing, or Safe-Haven inventory because of funding specific to a Presidentially-declared disaster, resulting in a change to the CoC’s 2019 sheltered PIT count. No

2B-5. Unsheltered PIT Count—Changes in Implementation.

Applicants must describe:
1. any changes in the unsheltered count implementation, including methodology or data quality methodology changes from 2018 to 2019, if applicable; and
2. how the changes affected the CoC’s unsheltered PIT count results; or
3. state “Not Applicable” if there were no changes.
(limit 2,000 characters)

(1)The unsheltered count in 2019 differed in the level of detail that went into planning and execution. Methodology was captured/memorialized in a New Bedford CoC Point In Time (PIT) Count Methodology Guide 2019 providing an opportunity for the CoC to better understand its process’ strengths/weaknesses. The result was the development of a refined, detailed process leading to better data collection. Specifically, volunteer roles were better defined, there was a detailed timeline; the work of the count/its prep was divided into categories: resource event, volunteers, donations and logistics/data.
(2)These details led to a smoother implementation of the unsheltered count. A larger PIT Count Committee was able to focus in on specific areas of responsibility and do a better job achieving outcomes:
a. Resource event--the organization of an indoor resource event afforded an opportunity for new volunteers who had previously not been involved with the unsheltered count. Staff from Congressman Keating’s Office also participated as volunteers this year bringing important insight and help to the resource event crew.
b. Volunteers—the 2019 unsheltered count resulted in the recruitment of more volunteers than had ever previously been involved (over 100 volunteers for an unsheltered count of roughly half that number).
c. Donations—a new effort in broadly seeking out corporate and private donations was put forth for the 2019 PIT Count. Donations were used at the resource event and in backpacks distributed to those on the street.
d. Logistics/Data—this effort ensured the successful count included the involvement of youth, those with lived experience, veterans and a multitude of volunteers over the 24 hour PIT period.

***2B-6. PIT Count—Identifying Youth Experiencing Homelessness.**

Applicants must:

Indicate whether the CoC implemented specific measures to identify youth experiencing homelessness in their 2019 PIT count. Yes

2B-6a. PIT Count–Involving Youth in Implementation.

Applicants must describe how the CoC engaged stakeholders serving youth experiencing homelessness to:

- 1. plan the 2019 PIT count;**
 - 2. select locations where youth experiencing homelessness are most likely to be identified; and**
 - 3. involve youth in counting during the 2019 PIT count.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

(1)The CoC is fortunate to have both a Youth Services Workgroup as well as an unaccompanied Youth Shelter from where both volunteers and strategic thinking was found. First with respect to planning the PIT count in 2019, Youth Services Workgroup members were part of the PIT Count Committee and involved in all aspects of the PIT planning. In particular, YSW members were involved with the resource event to attract unsheltered unaccompanied youth as well as location mapping.

(2) Input from the CoC's only unaccompanied Youth Shelter (Killians) were involved in initial locational discussions to determine areas within the CoC where the PIT Count efforts should target to ensure youth were counted. In addition. youth accompanied PIT teams on the night of the count both to ensure trust/relationship building with potential unsheltered youth as well as to assist with actual locating/counting efforts.

(3) Unaccompanied youth were included in PIT Count teams that participated in the unsheltered count.

2B-7. PIT Count–Improvements to Implementation.

Applicants must describe the CoC's actions implemented in its 2019 PIT count to better count:

- 1. individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness;**
 - 2. families with children experiencing homelessness; and**
 - 3. Veterans experiencing homelessness.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

(1)Prior to the PIT Count, every volunteer was required to attend a volunteer training during which, everyone was provided with written and verbal information about chronic homelessness. Although trainings had been offered in past years, the 2019, Count volunteers were better instructed and trained on how to identify and interact with individuals and families meeting the chronic homelessness standard. As was the case in each street outreach team, careful attention was made to team composition to ensure either professional shelter staff and/or a seasoned volunteer with past experience was included.

(2)With respect to families with children experiencing homelessness, first, volunteers were trained on the definitions of a "family." Volunteers were also trained in the use of a separate survey for families with children experiencing homelessness. Potential experiences with families experiencing homelessness

as distinct from individuals were then discussed at the training and both role-playing and question/answer period helped to demystify concerns, misconceptions and potential points of confusion. Finally, as was the case with each street outreach team, careful attention was made to team composition to ensure either professional shelter staff and/or a seasoned volunteer with past experience was included.

(3)The CoC is close to declaring it has ended veteran homelessness, the director of the largest veterans service group is a long standing and active member of the HSPN Executive Board and his organization and its members are part of the team that comprise New Bedford Point in Time team. Veteran representatives participate in required training for volunteers and are part of team composition. Staff from the local veterans shelter were active participants in the count and were contacted with any questions, needs or support sought on behalf of veterans.

3A. Continuum of Care (CoC) System Performance

Instructions

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*3A-1. First Time Homeless as Reported in HDX.

Applicants must:

Report the Number of First Time Homeless as Reported in HDX.
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510

3A-1a. First Time Homeless Risk Factors.

Applicants must:

1. describe the process the CoC developed to identify risk factors the CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;
2. describe the CoC's strategy 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 the CoC's strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time. (limit 2,000 characters)

(1)The CoC's process in identifying risk factors begins with the Individual, Family and Veterans By-Name Committees as well as the Street Outreach team; each review actual circumstances these differing cohorts are in when becoming homeless for the first time. The process includes evaluating PIT risk factors that have historically revealed a prevalence of mental health and/or sub. abuse among those becoming homeless for the first time. The CoC also uses ongoing monitoring of ESG/CoC projects by the City's OHCD for important insight into personal challenges (mental health, sub. abuse, etc.) and broader issues like those resulting from barriers to housing (landlords not allowing those with poor credit, etc). With the onboarding of a new HMIS (CaseWorthy) the

CoC has found that it is now able to gather better data including demographics and vulnerability information from the CoC's CES. This reveals greater detail as to what folks are experiencing, the nature of their crisis and what they need to avoid homelessness. Additionally, if someone has experienced homelessness elsewhere in the county, data from one of two other CoC's sharing an HMIS database with this CoC can provide important information about how and why people are becoming homeless here.

(2)The CoC's strategy begins with dynamic targeting of prevention efforts. Other strategies include a Homeless Emergency Assistance Response (HEART) providing immediate response/innovation in addressing encampments, a community hospital Account Care Org (ACO)team of health workers engaging/supporting "high utilizers" of hospital ER services, most often those at risk of homelessness, active participation in the Community Crisis Intervention Team, continuing NB Connect, a successful resource event providing housing, services, etc, and continued regional participation with by-name lists.

(3)The OHCD is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to reduce numbers of those becoming homeless for the first time.

***3A-2. Length of Time Homeless as Reported in HDX.**

Applicants must:

Report Average Length of Time Individuals and Persons in Families Remained Homeless as Reported in HDX.	119
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3A-2a. Strategy to Reduce Length of Time Homeless.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe the CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;**
 - 2. describe how the 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 the CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

(1)The CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individs/persons in families remain homeless recognizes that barriers presented by a stagnant shelter/housing pipeline result in longer experiences in homelessness. Given this, prevention is recognized as critical so efforts to prevent homelessness (HP) are manifested through two ESG projects and diversion through the CoC's Coordinated Entry System (CES). CoC RRH and ESG RRH projects both exist within the CoC and help to move folks quickly into PH. The CoC leadership has recently adopted its first Move On Strategy to ensure all PSHs are assisting clients interested in moving and requiring less supports the option to move into PH in the community. To this end, the CoC continues to pursue strategies like increasing the #units in private housing dedicated to persons transitioning from homelessness. Agencies w/PSH projects are actively working with private landlords and looking at development of a property owner engagement initiative and a possible property owner mitigation fund. In the past year the CoC has also had an outside consultant (TAC) provide training sessions to ESG and

CoC projects to ensure programs are running as efficiently/effectively as possible and fully understand housing first principals so that they are applying them throughout their programs.

(2)The CoC relies on its CES to identify those experiencing homelessness for the longest lengths of time. Use of the VI-SPDAT and careful assessment of chronic homelessness are two ways the CoC ensures those with the longest periods in crisis are prioritized for housing as quickly as possible. The lack of readily available housing stock and longer tenancies for those who are in PSH programs have challenged the CoC in keeping pace with increasing demand.

(3)The OHCD is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time homeless for all.

***3A-3. Successful Permanent Housing Placement and Retention as Reported in HDX.**

Applicants must:

	Percentage
1. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing that exit to permanent housing destinations as reported in HDX.	45%
2. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families in permanent housing projects, other than rapid rehousing, that retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations as reported in HDX.	94%

3A-3a. Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations/Retention of Permanent Housing.

Applicants must:

1. describe the CoC's strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
2. provide the organization name or position title responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
3. describe the CoC's strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in permanent housing projects, other than rapid rehousing, retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations; and
4. provide the organization name or position title responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase the rate at which individuals and persons in families in permanent housing projects, other than rapid rehousing, retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.

(limit 2,000 characters)

(1)The NB CoC strategy to increase the rate at which individs/persons in families in ES/TH/RRH (there are no safe havens) exit to PH destinations is threefold: (a) building capacity to broaden/diversify funding streams of CoC orgs to facilitate the provision of enhanced supportive services to those exiting to ensure long term stability in permanent housing, (b) providing additional tech assistance/trainings for mainstream resources like the SOAR program and

CSPECH (Community Support Program for People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness) and (c) continuing to bring new community stakeholders to the CoC as has recently been the case with the local hospital system working with local providers in providing medical supports for residents and partnership with others in developing new/effective interventions and whose representative was elected as a member of the CoC’s governing body. One significant issue that persists, however, is the opioid crisis which continues to have significant impact on this CoC. Given these particular metrics, it’s important to note that although the movement of someone from one of these programs into treatment does not reflect positively when measuring permanent housing alternatives, this CoC regards entering treatment as a positive move necessary for movement to/retention of permanent housing.

(2)The CoC’s Executive Com is responsible for overseeing this CoC strategy.

(3)The NB CoC relies on many of the same noted strategies to ensure project participants are retaining their PH or exiting to PH destinations. Here the CoC’s strategy also includes making resources/services available to maintain tenancy (ie expanding partnerships with tenancy preservation programs), ensuring standards for home visits, including additional homelessness risk factors in housing inspections, piloting new employment programs and partnering with voc rehab services.

(4)The CoC’s Executive Com is responsible for overseeing this CoC strategy.

***3A-4. Returns to Homelessness as Reported in HDX.**

Applicants must:

	Percentage
1. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families returning to homelessness over a 6-month period as reported in HDX.	3%
2. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families returning to homelessness over a 12-month period as reported in HDX.	6%

3A-4a. Returns to Homelessness–CoC Strategy to Reduce Rate.

Applicants must:

1. describe the strategy the CoC has implemented to identify individuals and persons in families who return to homelessness;

2. describe the 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 the CoC’s strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.

(limit 2,000 characters)

(1)The CoC’s strategy to identify individuals/persons in families who return to homelessness begins first with the CoC’s historic emphasis on stability in permanent housing. Additionally, identifying who is returning and arises from its coordinated entry and homeless management information systems. Despite being a right-to-shelter state for families experiencing homelessness, families who have lived in permanent supportive housing within the CoC typically contact the CoC’s local coordinated entry for assistance thereby triggering their

previous information within HMIS. For individuals experiencing homelessness, whether that person has been in permanent housing or sheltered within the CoC, their name/information similarly shows up on HMIS during that initial contact with coordinated entry. Those returning to homelessness are again assessed and placed in housing as rapidly as possible, ensuring that conditions that precipitated the return to homelessness are mitigated to the greatest extent possible to ensure long term, sustainable success in their permanent housing tenancy going forward. (2)As a proactive measure toward reducing the rate of additional returns to homelessness, the CoC strategically works to increase focus on prevention and enhances training opportunities around housing first best practices for case management and housing staff so that those they serve are better equipped to stay in their housing for the long term. Additionally, the CoC has found that the limited supply of affordable rental units has the unintended effect of program participants remaining in their PH units longer for fear of losing a housing option in the CoC, altogether.(3)With the ongoing administrative support of the city's Office of Housing and Community Development (DPHCD), the CoC's Executive Committee has responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the CoC's strategy for overseeing the way in which the CoC reduces the rate of indivds/fams' returns to homelessness.

***3A-5. Cash Income Changes as Reported in HDX.**

Applicants must:

	Percentage
1. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families in CoC Program-funded Safe Haven, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing projects that increased their employment income from entry to exit as reported in HDX.	23%
2. Report the percentage of individuals and persons in families in CoC Program-funded Safe Haven, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing projects that increased their non-employment cash income from entry to exit as reported in HDX.	33%

3A-5a. Increasing Employment Income.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe the CoC's strategy to increase employment income;**
 - 2. describe the CoC's strategy to increase access to employment;**
 - 3. describe how the CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their cash income; and**
 - 4. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase jobs and income from employment.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

(1)This year's metric of 23% of adults who increased their earned income is a favorable increase over the 18% reported in the previous year. The CoC's strategy to ensure this continued trend includes providing PSH/WIB connectivity, guidance to CoC programs that communicates the importance of increasing employment income in order to sustain housing over the long term, tech assist. to case managers to help them reinforce job skills, employment acumen and their program participant's value as an employee and providing

clarity/connection to local educational/training resources—including disability/vocational assistance—to help improve worker skills.

(2)Among the CoC strategies to increase access to employment: (a) working with existing agencies to provide job coaching and (b)requesting small funding from the CoC fundraising arm to provide stipends to mitigate barriers to employment (such as transportation, child care and clothing) (c) PSH projects working w/MA Rehabilitation Commission’s Vocational Rehab program and the MA One Stop Career Center and (d)including employment questions on the coordinated entry initial assessment so referrals to employment-related services can begin immediately.

(3)The NB CoC recognizes the value of collaboration between itself and local workforce systems and maintains a well-established relationship with the local WIB whose Exec Dir is a mbr of the CoC’s Executive Committee. Such relationships are valued as an important aspect of the CoC’s ability to connect those experiencing homelessness with the local employment network. In addition, New Bedford CoC’s leadership is also directly connected with private employment including a bank president and chamber members.

(4)The CoC’s Supportive Services Committee has responsibility for ensuring the CoC’s strategy for increasing jobs and income from employment and is developing a dashboard of key indicators to monitor now that the CoC’s data collection system has been enhanced.

3A-5b. Increasing Non-employment Cash Income.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe the CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income;**
- 2. describe the CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources;**
- 3. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC’s strategy to increase non-employment cash income.**

(1)This year’s metric of 33% of adults who increased their non-employment cash income is a favorable increase over the 25% of adults reported in the previous year. The CoC’s strategy stems from 3 primary barriers, consistent with HUD’s “Strategies for Improving Homeless People’s Access to Mainstream Benefits and Services” publication. (a)The CoC recognizes mainstream structural barriers like the absence of private transportation and lmted public transit within the area and in response holds the “NB Connect” event each year. This is a large one-day resource-based event that connects sheltered/unsheltered persons directly with multiple mainstream resources all under one roof. (b) Capacity barriers arise as a result of inadequate local resources. To address this, the CoC actively works with local and state agencies (such as the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs) to provide education and training about access to mainstream resources (eg MA Health). (c)Eligibility barriers in this CoC have given rise to a 3rd strategy example, that being challenges around many experiencing homelessness who have no ID. Securing IDs, working with the MA Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV), raising funds to pay for the IDs and provide connective access to the RMV so that IDs can be secured has become an important strategy that paves the way for someone to successfully access/increase their non-employment cash income.

(2)The CoC’s strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources is part of each PSH’s onboarding process and woven into its strategies to increase income. Increasing access through the estab of events, education,

communication, connection w/outside resources, fundraising for a broader reach and direct services on a client-by-client basis each play an important role in the overall CoC strategy to access such resources
 (3)The CoC's Supportive Services Committee is responsible for ensuring the CoC's strategy for increasing non-employment cash-income.

3A-5c. Increasing Employment. Attachment Required.

Applicants must describe how the CoC:

- 1. promoted partnerships and access to employment opportunities with private employers and private employment organizations, such as holding job fairs, outreach to employers, and partnering with staffing agencies; and**
 - 2. is working with public and private organizations to provide meaningful, education and training, on-the-job training, internship, and employment opportunities for residents of permanent supportive housing that further their recovery and well-being.**
- (limit 2,000 characters)**

(1)Employment and self-sufficiency have been key values of the NB CoC since its inception in 1997. The CoC has historically coordinated with workforce and educational institutions as part of its continuum of services, maintaining close working relationships and collaborative efforts. The MassHire Greater New Bedford Career Center (GNBCC) closely collaborates with the CoC and prioritizes referrals from NB CoC providers that are registered in their system. The GNBCC provides access to multiple job fairs throughout the year, drop-in access for job search and career development activities. A new program funded by the Dept of Labor/SAMHSA is the Access to Recovery program which has provided numerous paid training and work experience opportunities for many of the CoC's population experiencing homelessness.

(2)The CoC is working with public and private organizations to provide meaningful outcomes for those in its PSH and RRH projects. Provider agencies within the Continuum have also partnered to create employment opportunities for those experiencing homelessness in RRH and PSH programs for the past 19 years. One such example has been the creative partnerships between Step-Up (PSH) and the High Point Treatment Center to fill housekeeping, maintenance and transportation services. The positions provide entry-level work experience for people returning to the workforce from homelessness, often leading to advancement within the employment system as participant's education and skill levels increase. This program has provided more than 1,500 opportunities for people since its inception in 2000.

3A-5d. Promoting Employment, Volunteerism, and Community Service.

Applicants must select all the steps the CoC has taken to promote employment, volunteerism and community service among people experiencing homelessness in the CoC's geographic area:

1. The CoC trains provider organization staff on connecting program participants and people experiencing homelessness with education and job training opportunities.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. The CoC trains provider organization staff on facilitating informal employment opportunities for program participants and people experiencing homelessness (e.g., babysitting, housekeeping, food delivery).	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. The CoC trains provider organization staff on connecting program participants with formal employment opportunities.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. The CoC trains provider organization staff on volunteer opportunities for program participants and people experiencing homelessness.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The CoC works with organizations to create volunteer opportunities for program participants.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The CoC works with community organizations to create opportunities for civic participation for people experiencing homelessness (e.g., townhall forums, meeting with public officials).	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Provider organizations within the CoC have incentives for employment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. The CoC trains provider organization staff on helping program participants budget and maximize their income to maintain stability in permanent housing.	<input type="checkbox"/>

3A-6. System Performance Measures 05/31/2019
Data–HDX Submission Date

Applicants must enter the date the CoCs submitted its FY 2018 System Performance Measures data in HDX. (mm/dd/yyyy)

3B. Continuum of Care (CoC) Performance and Strategic Planning Objectives

Instructions

Guidance for completing the application can be found in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Availability and in the FY 2019 CoC Application Detailed Instructions.

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<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/e-snaps/fy-2019-coc-program-nofa-coc-program-competition/#nofa-and-notices>

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3B-1. Prioritizing Households with Children.

Applicants must check each factor the CoC currently uses to prioritize households with children for assistance during FY 2019.

1. History of or Vulnerability to Victimization (e.g. domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Number of previous homeless episodes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Unsheltered homelessness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Criminal History	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Bad credit or rental history	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Head of Household with Mental/Physical Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>

3B-1a. Rapid Rehousing of Families with Children.

Applicants must:

1. describe how the CoC currently rehouses every household of families with children within 30 days of becoming homeless that addresses both housing and service needs;

2. describe how the CoC addresses both housing and service needs to ensure families with children successfully maintain their housing once

assistance ends; and
3. provide the organization name or position title responsible for overseeing the CoC’s strategy to rapidly rehouse families with children within 30 days of them becoming homeless. (limit 2,000 characters)

(1)The NB CoC closely works with families who are/may become homeless in order to ensure they are provided with every opportunity for housing stability. Massachusetts is a right-to-shelter state for families, thus the local CoC is limited in what it can/cannot offer. The first step is always through the CoC’s coordinated entry system at which time intake is conducted and a determination is made as to whether the family requires prevention assistance or if they are already experiencing homelessness. Targeted diversion is a key follow-up. If diversion efforts do not result in successful housing placement and there are permanent housing units available, families with high vulnerability index scores can be housed in as little as 2-3 days. Should permanent units not be available or the family otherwise ineligible, they are directed to go through the emergency assistance (EA) through the state and if eligible may then placed in a state family shelter or RRH as quickly as possible. Under the state’s HomeBASE program, families receive financial support to prevent homelessness or rental assistance to provide a temp. monthly rental subsidy to ensure families can move out of shelter as quickly as possible. The state’s goal in rapidly rehousing families is 30 days.

(2)The NB CoC addresses housing/service needs of families placed in PH following its newly adopted Moving On Strategy and does so through case management services, home visits, connection to mainstream resources, to local McKinney Vento liaisons at the school dept, medical services, to employment opportunities and prevention services as may be needed. Despite the challenges in rapidly rehousing families with children, the CoC has been successful in addressing housing and service needs once housing assistance ends.

(3)The Coordinated Entry Committee oversees the CoC’s strategy to rapidly rehouse families with children within 30 days of becoming homeless.

3B-1b. Antidiscrimination Policies.

Applicants must check all that apply that describe actions the CoC is taking to ensure providers (including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH)) within the CoC adhere to antidiscrimination policies by not denying admission to or separating any family members from other members of their family or caregivers based on any protected classes under the Fair Housing Act, and consistent with 24 CFR 5.105(a)(2) – Equal Access to HUD-Assisted or - Insured Housing.

1. CoC conducts mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded housing and services providers on these topics.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. CoC conducts optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded housing and service providers on these topics.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. CoC has worked with ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4. CoC has worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within the CoC geographic area that might be out of compliance and has taken steps to work directly with those facilities to come into compliance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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3B-1c. Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness–Addressing Needs.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC’s strategy to address the unique needs of unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness who are 24 years of age and younger includes the following:

1. Unsheltered homelessness	Yes
2. Human trafficking and other forms of exploitation	Yes
3. LGBT youth homelessness	Yes
4. Exits from foster care into homelessness	Yes
5. Family reunification and community engagement	Yes
6. Positive Youth Development, Trauma Informed Care, and the use of Risk and Protective Factors in assessing youth housing and service needs	Yes

3B-1c.1. Unaccompanied Youth Experiencing Homelessness–Prioritization Based on Needs.

Applicants must check all that apply that describes the CoC’s current strategy to prioritize unaccompanied youth based on their needs.

1. History of, or Vulnerability to, Victimization (e.g., domestic violence, sexual assault, childhood abuse)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Number of Previous Homeless Episodes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Unsheltered Homelessness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Criminal History	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5. Bad Credit or Rental History	<input type="checkbox"/>

3B-1d. Youth Experiencing Homelessness–Housing and Services Strategies.

Applicants must describe how the CoC increased availability of housing and services for:

- 1. all youth experiencing homelessness, including creating new youth-focused projects or modifying current projects to be more youth-specific or youth-inclusive; and**
 - 2. youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness including creating new youth-focused projects or modifying current projects to be more youth-specific or youth-inclusive.**
- (limit 3,000 characters)**

(1)The New Bedford CoC formed a new Youth Services Workgroup (YSW) in 2018 in order to self-assess the community’s homeless youth services, capacity and effectiveness. The group is comprised of key stakeholders from throughout the City and convenes monthly throughout the year to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities. Youth experiencing homelessness joined representatives from schools, shelters, State Department of Children and Families, medical and other stakeholders in the assessment/planning process. The YSW provided specific recommendations to the general membership of the CoC at its May 2019 member meeting. Youth-driven recommendations included: (a)Integrate the work of “existing groups” into the work of the Youth Services Workgroup – Schools, DCF, Residential, Community to host meetings throughout the year; (b)Adopt a set of community goals and action plan that each “existing group” could include in their individual workplans; (c)Develop data collection and a dissemination strategy; (d) Establish collaborative training and professional development opportunities; (e)Build capacity by creating a collaborative “brand”, communication plan and resource development strategy. The concurrence of all members of the YSW was such that although they recognized there is a great deal of good work being done in the community to help reduce youth homelessness, it is necessary to create a cohesive and comprehensive communitywide plan to better meet the needs of this underserved population. It is the intention of the YSW to provide that plan, guidance and ongoing support to reduce duplication of effort and ensure collaboration to create a stronger system of care more reflective of youth—both within the process and in articulating its vision.

(2)The work of the CoC as well as that of the YSW provides a roadmap for youth experiencing unsheltered homelessness as well as those who are sheltered. During the past 24 months two of new youth projects were developed: Catholic Social Services opened Killians House for 8 unaccompanied youth within the CoC providing safe respite from the streets and the supports needed to begin the healing many of the youth seek in addition to assistance in connecting with mainstream and specialized resources to help them move toward self-stability. Complimenting this youth shelter was the addition of an overflow winter shelter for unaccompanied youth open from November – April. Both resources are expressly youth-focused and their programming mirrors the demands and expectations expressed by the youth, themselves. In addition to these two projects, the CoC now has a formalized Street Outreach Team which provides connection to any unsheltered youth living on the streets. Their compassionate care and trust building methodology provides the authentic and reliable connections that unsheltered youth have said they seek.

3B-1d.1. Youth Experiencing Homelessness–Measuring Effectiveness of Housing and Services Strategies.

Applicants must:

- 1. provide evidence the CoC uses to measure each of the strategies in question 3B-1d. to increase the availability of housing and services for youth experiencing homelessness;**
- 2. describe the measure(s) the CoC uses to calculate the effectiveness of both strategies in question 3B-1d.; and**
- 3. describe why the CoC believes the measure it uses is an appropriate way to determine the effectiveness of both strategies in question 3B-1d. (limit 3,000 characters)**

(1)The CoC’s Youth Services Workgroup is working on developing and maintaining a dashboard of key Greater New Bedford youth wellness indicators that are collected from area institutions to be shared and used to inform policy and practice. The YSW has established a set of Guiding Principles and Considerations for its work in collecting actionable data to shape future policy/practices and change group values as may be warranted while relying on best practice models/approaches. The group focuses on incorporating indicators related to ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Model and Risk &Protective factors. The work has included and attracted a diverse set of partners who have recently convened and have agreed to hold each other accountable through a Memorandum of Understanding (in development). The group is developing a “Dashboard” of indicators that will be monitored at quarterly meetings of the YSW. A key priority of the YSW is to create clear communication and data vetting protocols for internal and external communication. It is also a priority to engage in careful consideration of unintended consequences that might occur (i.e. stigma) with the additional focus on data collection.

(2)The following indicators have been identified to be monitored as part of the YSW Dashboard: Youth Involved Arrests, # DCF Cases/census tract, DCF 51A Reports DCF, Poverty/Income Data by Census tract, Death Records/Birth, youth homeless McKinney Vento, Social Welfare/Census Tract, Emergency Department utilization, Graduation Rates by census, \$ spent on Out of School Time programs, # of Out of School Programs available, # of New Registrations in GNB Youth Alliance programs and Dept of Youth Services/Bristol County Release data.

(3)The CoC believes its broad range of data collection sources and diversity of such inputs will most accurately provide critical understanding to the YSW as it shapes its strategic development going forward.

3B-1e. Collaboration–Education Services.

Applicants must describe:

- 1. the formal partnerships with:**
 - a. youth education providers;**
 - b. McKinney-Vento LEA or SEA; and**
 - c. school districts; and**

- 2. how the CoC collaborates with:**
 - a. youth education providers;**
 - b. McKinney-Vento Local LEA or SEA; and**
 - c. school districts.**

(limit 2,000 characters)

(1)The CoC enjoys formal partnerships with a number of education entities including the McKinney Vento Local Education Agency and the local school district. Specifically: (a)youth education providers within the New Bedford Public School (NBPS), (b)the LEA/McKinney Vento Liaison elected by the CoC membership to the CoC’s Exec Com and provides written and verbal reporting to the CoC each month and (c)with the NBPS District.

(2)The CoC collaborates directly with (a)multiple youth education providers—most particularly through the local school system and two local colleges—to ensure access/outreach to those experiencing homelessness or on

the precipice of homelessness (particularly true for the colleges during the months leading up to the PIT Count and the MA annual youth count). Also the CoC collaborates with (b)the McKinney-Vento Local Liaison/LEA through the NBPS System and the NB Public Schools' Family Resource Center who provides assistance to families experiencing homelessness. Representation from the CoC actively participates in Southeastern Regional McKinney Vento Partnership meetings conducted by the NBPS as well as broader area regional McKinney Vento meetings which bring together all MV liaisons from surrounding schools/districts adjoining the geography of the CoC. The CoC Chair and other Executive Board leadership have also offered presentations at the regional meetings and the CoC lead agency (OHCD) regularly contributes printed materials and other resources to these meetings in addition to participating in the meetings, themselves. (3)The School Registrar for the NBPS system is a member of the New Bedford CoC's Executive Board and presents a detailed report to the CoC membership every month including statistical information and trending analysis of students being connected with MV support/services and participates in other community coalitions with the CoC leadership.

3B-1e.1. Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homeless about Education Services Eligibility.

**Applicants must describe policies and procedures the CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for education services.
(limit 2,000 characters)**

New Bedford CoC, acting through its lead (the City's OHCD), requires that all ESG and CoC project applicants be able to clearly demonstrate that they are informing all families/youth experiencing homelessness as to their eligibility for McKinney-Vento education services. CoC applicants must demonstrate that they are considering the educational needs of children when families are placed in emergency (or any TH) shelter and, to the maximum extent practicable, demonstrate they are placing families with children as close as possible to their schools of origin so as not to disrupt the children's education. All project applicants must be able to demonstrate that their programs are establishing policies and practices that are consistent with, and do not restrict the exercise of, rights provided by the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act, and other laws relating to the provision of educational and related services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Project applicants funded through ESG or CoC must also be able to demonstrate that they have designated a staff person to ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to the appropriate services within the community, including early childhood programs such as Head Start, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and McKinney-Vento education services. The OHCD serves as the grantee for both ESG and CoC funding; as such, it compels agencies to abide by these policies/protocols and reinforces them through subrecipient agreements and monitoring of projects.

3B-1e.2. Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers.

Applicant must indicate whether the CoC has an MOU/MOA or other types

of agreements with listed providers of early childhood services and supports and may add other providers not listed.

	MOU/MOA	Other Formal Agreement
Early Childhood Providers	Yes	No
Head Start	Yes	No
Early Head Start	Yes	No
Child Care and Development Fund	No	Yes
Federal Home Visiting Program	No	Yes
Healthy Start	No	Yes
Public Pre-K	No	Yes
Birth to 3 years	No	Yes
Tribal Home Visting Program	No	No
Other: (limit 50 characters)		

3B-2. Active List of Veterans Experiencing Homelessness.

Applicant must indicate whether the CoC Yes
uses an active list or by-name list to identify
all veterans experiencing homelessness in
the CoC.

3B-2a. VA Coordination–Ending Veterans Homelessness.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC is Yes
actively working with the U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs (VA) and VA-funded
programs to achieve the benchmarks and
criteria for ending veteran homelessness.

3B-2b. Housing First for Veterans.

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC Yes
has sufficient resources to ensure each
veteran experiencing homelessness is
assisted to quickly move into permanent
housing using a Housing First approach.

3B-3. Racial Disparity Assessment. Attachment Required.

- Applicants must:**
- 1. select all that apply to indicate the findings from the CoC’s Racial Disparity Assessment; or**
 - 2. select 7 if the CoC did not conduct a Racial Disparity Assessment.**

1. People of different races or ethnicities are more likely to receive homeless assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
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2. People of different races or ethnicities are less likely to receive homeless assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. People of different races or ethnicities are more likely to receive a positive outcome from homeless assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. People of different races or ethnicities are less likely to receive a positive outcome from homeless assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. There are no racial or ethnic disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. The results are inconclusive for racial or ethnic disparities in the provision or outcome of homeless assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. The CoC did not conduct a racial disparity assessment.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

4A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Accessing Mainstream Benefits and Additional Policies

Instructions:

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4A-1. Healthcare—Enrollment/Effective Utilization

Applicants must indicate, for each type of healthcare listed below, whether the CoC assists persons experiencing homelessness with enrolling in health insurance and effectively utilizing Medicaid and other benefits.

Type of Health Care	Assist with Enrollment	Assist with Utilization of Benefits?
Public Health Care Benefits (State or Federal benefits, Medicaid, Indian Health Services)	Yes	Yes
Private Insurers:	Yes	Yes
Non-Profit, Philanthropic:	Yes	Yes
Other: (limit 50 characters)		
SOAR Certified Providers	Yes	Yes

4A-1a. Mainstream Benefits.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe how the CoC systematically keeps program staff up to date regarding mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within the geographic area;**
- 2. describe how the CoC disseminates the availability of mainstream resources and other assistance information to projects and how often;**
- 3. describe how the CoC works with projects to collaborate with healthcare organizations to assist program participants with enrolling in**

health insurance;
4. describe how the CoC provides assistance with the effective utilization of Medicaid and other benefits; and
5. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing the CoC’s strategy for mainstream benefits.
(limit 2,000 characters)

- (1)The CoC regularly updates mbrs on mainstream resource availability by providing trainings in CoC meetings and sending out HUD/other resource updates including updates from MEDICAID, MA Health, SAMSHA, HHS, Benefits.gov, the VA, etc; this is most frequently done through a large email listserve with hundreds of recipients. Each CoC meeting includes mainstream resource discussion and/or distribution of available resources, training to access resources, etc. These particular methods have proven quite successful because multiple government agencies attend/participate in the CoC’s monthly meetings. The CoC lead as HUD grantee also provides regular tech assistance to all providers (CoC, ESG, etc.) ensuring they are apprised of state and federal mainstream updates, trainings and benefit changes. Finally, population-specific training is offered during monthly family and individual service meetings.
- (2)Info is disseminated via email blasts to the entire CoC membership whenever HUD releases new information or state/private vendors share new info- generally sent twice monthly. Additional/more detailed information is also provided through annual trainings and two annual tech workshops.
- (3)The local health care system is well represented within the CoC: the largest hospital/health system’s rep sits on the CoC Exec Committee and the local health clinic participates in every single CoC meeting. Because of this contact, projects have great access on a regular basis to health systems. Additionally, specialized staff working with the elderly has also presented to/works with the CoC on educating folks as to how to connect clients with MassHealth.
- (4)The CoC provides assistance with effective utilization of Medicaid etc by ensuring its projects have access to training materials and are connected with locally based resources that provide support and training.
- (5)The CoC’s Executive Committee is responsible for oversight of the CoC’s mainstream benefit strategy.

4A-2. Lowering Barriers to Entry Data:

Applicants must report:

1. Total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe-Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in FY 2019 CoC Program Competition.	6
2. Total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe-Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in FY 2019 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	6
Percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, Safe-Haven, SSO non-Coordinated Entry projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	100%

4A-3. Street Outreach.

Applicants must:

- 1. describe the CoC’s street outreach efforts, including the methods it**

uses to ensure all persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness are identified and engaged;
2. state whether the CoC’s Street Outreach covers 100 percent of the CoC’s geographic area;
3. describe how often the CoC conducts street outreach; and
4. describe how the CoC tailored its street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.
(limit 2,000 characters)

(1)The NB CoC’s outreach strategy is a public/private effort following protocols established in 2017 by a coalition of city government and CoC members including key partners from the faith community. The resulting Homeless Emergency Assistance Resource Team (HEART) protocols ensure a compassionate, consistent and comprehensive outreach approach to effectively address encampments and instances of unsheltered individuals/families living throughout the CoC. The HEART outreach protocols include four strategies—immediate response, ongoing outreach, supportive program capacity building and best practices/innovative approaches—and outreach is conducted on an ongoing basis. In addition to the Mobile Ministries food truck and shelter staff’s own outreach efforts, the City allocates funding through its ESG for a Street Outreach position.

(2)The CoC’s outreach covers 100% of the CoC’s entire geographic area.

(3)Street outreach is conducted weekly or more often as needed. Findings, issues and concerns reporting is provided every month at each CoC member meeting.

(4)New Bedford’s HEART outreach is rooted in building trust and forming relationships to further that trust. CoC members Mobile Ministries and shelter/street outreach staff from Steppingstone, Inc. along with other CoC members constituting the HEART team work diligently to provide an empathetic response to those living in unsheltered conditions including providing food, medical attention, resources—both immediate and long-term—and rehousing alternatives. The CoC uses this approach to connect with those least likely to “come in” and least likely to request or accept any assistance. In this regard the outreach strategy includes monthly triage at CoC meetings and the Community Crisis Intervention Team meetings; additionally, the Sr.Rose Soup Kitchen partners with the local hospital to connect hard to reach individuals with pressing med. needs in a confidential safe setting.

4A-4. RRH Beds as Reported in HIC.

Applicants must report the total number of rapid rehousing beds available to serve all household types as reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) for 2018 and 2019.

	2018	2019	Difference
RRH beds available to serve all populations in the HIC	280	285	5

4A-5. Rehabilitation/Construction Costs–New No Projects.

Applicants must indicate whether any new

project application the CoC ranked and submitted in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2019 CoC Program Competition is requesting \$200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction.

4A-6. Projects Serving Homeless under Other Federal Statutes. No

Applicants must indicate whether the CoC is requesting to designate one or more of its SSO or TH projects to serve families with children or youth defined as homeless under other federal statutes.

Submission Summary

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

Page	Last Updated
1A. Identification	09/17/2019
1B. Engagement	09/17/2019
1C. Coordination	09/17/2019
1D. Discharge Planning	No Input Required
1E. Local CoC Competition	09/17/2019
1F. DV Bonus	No Input Required
2A. HMIS Implementation	09/17/2019
2B. PIT Count	09/17/2019
3A. System Performance	09/20/2019
3B. Performance and Strategic Planning	09/17/2019
4A. Mainstream Benefits and Additional Policies	09/17/2019
Submission Summary	No Input Required