

3C. Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordination

Instructions:

For guidance on completing this form, please reference the FY 2013 CoC Application Detailed Instructions and the FY 2013 CoC Program NOFA. Please submit technical question to the OneCPD Ask A Question at <https://www.onecpd.info/ask-a-question/>.

3C-1 Does the Consolidated Plan for the jurisdiction(s) within the CoC’s geography include the CoC’s strategic plan goals for addressing and ending homelessness? Yes

3C-1.1 If yes, list the goals in the CoC strategic plan. (limit 1000 characters)

The 2013 CoC Strategic Plan 1) Create 16 new permanent housing beds dedicated for the chronically homeless individuals to 757. 2) Increase the percentage of formerly homeless individuals who remain housed in HUD permanent housing projects for at least 6 months will be at least 88%. 3) The percentage of homeless persons who have moved from HUD transitional housing into permanent housing will be at least 73%. 4) The employment rate of persons exiting HUD homeless assistance projects will be at least 26%. 5) Decrease the number of homeless households with children by 18 households. 6) Reduce the overall number of homeless persons by 5%.

3C-2 Describe the extent in which the CoC consults with State and local government Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program recipients within the CoC’s geographic area on the plan for allocating ESG program funds and reporting on and evaluating the performance of ESG program recipients and subrecipients. (limit 1000 characters)

ESG Recipients will submit to the CoC an annual ESG program calendar to include critical dates, deadlines, and public participation. ESG recipients will submit to the CoC a description of the ESG Grant Allocation Process, the RFP, awards and subrecipient contracts. Funding priorities for assistance will be established annually by the with consultation from HUD, TCHC, ESG recipients and consumers. ESG recipients will participate in CoC Board meetings and public forums. The Coordinated Assessment System and HMIS will accurately document supply and utilization of ESG programs. CoC will conduct biannual monitoring of ESG recipients timely expenditure of funds, occupancy, HMIS data quality. The CoC will produce monthly, quarterly and end of program year ESG recipient and subrecipient performance reports. CoC ESG performance metrics will be established in the first quarter of the calendar year through consultation with ESG recipients and approved by the CoC Board of Directors.

3C-3 Describe the extent in which ESG funds are used to provide rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention. Description must include the percentage of funds being allocated to both activities. (limit 1000 characters)

33% of ESG funds in 2012 and 2013 were expended on homeless prevention and 36% on rapid rehousing. Funding allocations are decided at the city, county and state level. Fort Worth and Arlington utilize an independent appointed community review process facilitated by City Staff. Tarrant County Community Development determines fund allocation through internal review and project scoring. Final approval is made by City Council and County Commissioner votes. TDHCA now allocates a sum to each CoC in the State, conducts internal scoring and decisions are approved by the TDHCA Board. In 2014, the State will trial a process to allow local CoCs to manage the funding decision process and have chosen our CoC for the pilot that will be similar to the HUD CoC process based on local priorities. On Jan 15, 2014, the CoC Board passed a new ESG Consultation Policy that will increase coordination and reporting to better target resources and coordinate use of the Coordinated Assessment System.

3C-4 Describe the CoC's efforts to reduce the number of individuals and families who become homeless within the CoC's entire geographic area. (limit 1000 characters)

There are four ESG recipients Fort Worth, Arlington, Tarrant County and TDHCA within the CoC. Recipients meet with the CoC to consult at least twice a year to review needs, performance, and analyze HIC, PIT, AHAR, and State of the Homeless Address analysis in determining program needs and discuss and advise on distribution of ESG resources to a variety of different subrecipients to assure sufficient, prevention resources are available throughout the area. All subrecipients record clients served in the HMIS except for domestic violence agencies, allowing for monitoring of duplication of assistance. The impediments to fair housing report by Fort Worth noted that respondents found that those parts of the city with low income affordable housing were far away from employment opportunities. The Coordinated Assessment System will go live April 1, 2014 and play a key role in equitable access to ESG funds throughout the CoC.

3C-5 Describe how the CoC coordinates with other Federal, State, local, private and other entities serving the homeless and those at risk of homelessness in the planning and operation of projects. (limit 1000 characters)

Samaritan Housing of Tarrant County leverages HOPWA supportive service dollars for SPC, SRO and TBLA programming. The CoC and the City of Fort Worth are seeking opportunity to replace CoC funded SSO for HIV/AIDS services through reprogramming of unused HOPWA funds. CoC recipients utilize online Your Texas Benefits to stream line TANF/CHIP/SNAP/Medicare benefits application. The CoC provided all Head Start agencies on McKinney-Vento resources. The YWCA is applying to be a Head Start provider to replace CoC funded SSO for child care. The CoC created a workgroup with area foundations to explore private funding opportunities to fund supportive services and match for new PSH. True Worth has advocated to the State to accept a capital project to provide the 100% match for the Healthy Community Collaborative grant for homeless persons with mental illness. Fort Worth's homeless program leverages and matches supportive services for SPC programs. State HHSP funds will increase the supply of PSH.

3C-6 Describe the extent in which the PHA(s) within the CoC's geographic area are engaged in the CoC efforts to prevent and end homelessness. (limit 1000 characters)

The Fort Worth, Tarrant County and Arlington PHAs are all CoC recipients and have representation on the CoC Board. In 2013, FWHA successfully transferred 78 SPC clients to special homeless dedicated HCV units. The FWHA and TCHA fully cooperate and expedite the VASH program of 290 units. The FWHA quickly negotiate rental assistance administration systems with CoC recipients when the majority of leasing projects converted to rental assistance. The PHAs committed to dedicating 85 % of its beds for the chronically homeless during turnover. The Arlington HA programmed its State HHSP funds for homeless prevention. All PHAs share their updated housing lists with the CoC in building out its real time affordable housing inventory and provide information on problem landlords or other safety concerns. The PHAs have agreed to work with the CoC to assess long time SPC tenants on their readiness to live independently and transition clients to other PH and make more units for new homeless tenants.

3C-7 Describe the CoC's plan to assess the barriers to entry present in projects funded through the CoC Program as well as ESG (e.g. income eligibility requirements, lengthy period of clean time, background checks, credit checks, etc.), and how the CoC plans to remove those barriers. (limit 1000 characters)

The CoC has developed a new standard comprehensive housing assessment as part of the new Coordinated Assessment Process. The CoC will use a process of progressive engage in identifying barriers to housing. The CoC Direct Client Services fund has eliminated barriers of deposits and application fees, securing of identifications and critical documents and payment of \$50 minimum rents for . The CoC developed a RRH policy allowing for persons with eligible incomes greater than 30% AMI as required by ESG RRH. The CoC and PHAs have regular landlord meetings to encourage landlords to accept tenants with background and credit barriers. CoC Case Managers provide peer support to other agencies in negotiating with landlords. The CoC Housing Inventory Database provides queries on credit, criminal and sex offender friendly housing. The FWHA modified its SEDACA policy reducing the clean record requirement from 10 to 5 years. All CoC funded PSH are housing first model and do not require sobriety.

3C-8 Describe the extent in which the CoC and its permanent supportive housing recipients have adopted a housing first approach. (limit 1000 characters)

All CoC PSH projects have adopted a housing first policy. The CoC Direct Client Services Fund has a contract with MHMR Addiction Services to cover inpatient and outpatient substance abuse treatments for clients that are at risk of losing housing. The CoC has also partnered with MHMR and Recovery Resource Council to provide transportation and incentives to encourage homeless and PSH tenants to participate in the one day Back to Basics 12-Steps in One Day program. MHMR Addiction services has also modified its substance abuse treatment process to provide seamless care from detox to inpatient rehabilitation to outpatient rehabilitation to PSH for clients presenting with co-occurring disorders. The State funded Healthy Community Collaborative will serve up to 150 persons and will also operate as a housing first program.

3C-9 Describe how the CoC's centralized or coordinated assessment system is used to ensure the homeless are placed in the appropriate housing and provided appropriate services based on their level of need. (limit 1000 characters)

The Coordinated Assessment System (CAS) will cover Tarrant and Parker County and will go live on April 1, 2014. The CAS will include a CoC Information and Referral Specialists addressing persons presenting with a housing crisis and available through a unique publically available phone and text line that will be staffed 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The I&R will be coordinated with the 211 system. The CAS will include a CoC Resource Specialists that will maintain real-time resources inventories of the supply of housing, emergency assistance, and supportive services. The inventories will be web based and searchable. The Resource specialists will also manage the prioritization of the demand for CoC and ESG funded resources and provide verification for dedicated CH and RRH beds are allocated to targeted subpopulations. The CoC has developed a universal housing assessment that will assist in identifying the appropriate housing intervention based on a progressive engagement strategy.

3C-10 Describe the procedures used to market housing and supportive services to eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, familial status, or disability who are least likely to request housing or services in the absence of special outreach. (limit 1000 characters)

Tarrant County Homeless Coalition provides a centralized website, facebook, twitter of resources available in the community. TCHC annually reviews 211 database entries by agencies to assure accuracy of services available for persons who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. TCHC produces 16,000 pocket guides of services each year and distributes them to all homeless service providers, homeless, churches, jails, hospitals, public housing agencies, EMS, police, jail, 7-11s, Starbucks, and other 24 hour businesses. The Coordinated Assessment System will go live April 1, 2014 and will be a phone/text/email accessible call center for persons presenting with a housing crisis. A language center will be contracted in collaboration with 211 for non English speaking callers.

3C-11 Describe the established policies that are currently in place that require all homeless service providers to ensure all children are enrolled in early childhood education programs or in school, as appropriate, and connected to appropriate services within the community. (limit 1000 characters)

It is the policy of each agency that serves children and families with school age children to adhere to the local school districts' requirement that each student complete the Student Residency Questionnaire at school enrollment. This questionnaire identifies homeless students or students at risk of homelessness and is completed for CoC program recipients as well as families receiving ESG assistance. It is the policy of each shelter that serves children to inform homeless families of their eligibility for McKinney-Vento educational services and to begin assisting families enroll their children in school upon intake into the shelter as new children or youth enter. This includes contacting ISD liaisons as a new child or youth enters the program. Additionally, it is the policy of shelter providers that all children are enrolled in school and connected to appropriate services in the community which includes securing eligibility and access to Head Start programming.

3C-12 Describe the steps the CoC, working with homeless assistance providers, is taking to collaborate with local education authorities to ensure individuals and families who become or remain homeless are informed of their eligibility for McKinney-Vento educational services. (limit 1000 characters)

The CoC trained all Head Start workers and early childhood educators in the geographical area. This training was to educate child care workers on McKinney-Vento educational services for homeless persons and also to educate the child care providers on how to recognize and overcome barriers for homeless children. Over 150 early education personnel attended this training and were able to obtain a better understanding of homelessness and how McKinney-Vento relates to serving the needs of homeless children. The CoC youth committee is responsible for ISD Homeless Liaison and homeless provider collaborations. Shelters work with ISD Homeless liaisons by completing student residency questionnaires on school age children that reside in shelters. These documents are faxed to ISD administration offices. ISD Homeless Liaisons scheduled to meetings with parents collectively at the beginning of each school year to brief them on services provided by school districts and homeless assistance providers.

3C-13 Describe how the CoC collaborates, or will collaborate, with emergency shelters, transitional housing, and permanent housing providers to ensure families with children under the age of 18 are not denied admission or separated when entering shelter or housing. (limit 1000 characters)

All transitional housing and permanent housing programs that serve families with children under the age of 18 maintain the family unit when placing families into housing, regardless of children’s age or sex. Rapid Rehousing programs prioritize families to ensure that families obtain housing quickly with minimal stay at an ES. The Salvation Army Family Life Center in Arlington provides site based short term transitional housing for all married family members. Union Gospel Mission has private sleeping accommodations that can provide emergency housing for women with children and two units of housing for single fathers. The Presbyterian Night Shelter accommodates single mothers with older male children in their facility for women with children to ensure that these families remain together when seeking shelter. For unique family circumstances such as very large families or families with a sex offender member, hotel vouchers are made available until appropriate housing is identified.

3C-14 What methods does the CoC utilize to monitor returns to homelessness by persons, including, families who exited rapid re-housing? Include the processes the CoC has in place to ensure minimal returns to homelessness. (limit 1000 characters)

The CoC can pull individual comprehensive client service and housing histories from the HMIS across all CoC, VASH, SSVF, ESG, and Fort Worth non domestic violence programs. Returns to homelessness can be reported by each agency as each case occurs through examination of assessment histories. The CoC is working with the HMIS vendor to develop aggregate program level recidivism reports to establish benchmarks. The CoC Service Providers Needs Assessment Survey identified poor budgeting, substance abuse and mental health as primary reasons of housing loss. The CoC will provide training to address these barriers to housing stability. The CoC RRH rental subsidy policy allows for up to 90 day extensions of housing subsidy with a case plan and agencies must have an eviction prevention plan. CoC RRH programs have just begun and there is no return data. Only one ESG RRH program is in the HMIS, the others serve victims of domestic violence. That program has a 4% recidivism rate over two years.

3C-15 Does the CoC intend for any of its SSO or TH projects to serve families with children and youth defined as homeless under other Federal statutes? No

3C-15.1 If yes, describe how the use of grant funds to serve such persons is of equal or greater priority than serving persons defined as homeless in accordance with 24 CFR 578.89. Description must include whether or not this is listed as a priority in the Consolidated Plan(s) and its CoC strategic plan goals. CoCs must attach the list of projects that would be serving this population (up to 10 percent of CoC total award) and the applicable portions of the Consolidated Plan. (limit 1000 characters)

3C-16 Has the project been impacted by a major disaster, as declared by President Obama under Title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Act in the 12 months prior to the opening of the FY 2013 CoC Program Competition? No

3C-16.1 If 'Yes', describe the impact of the natural disaster on specific projects in the CoC and how this affected the CoC's ability to address homelessness and provide the necessary reporting to HUD. (limit 1500 characters)