

3D. Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordination with Strategic Plan Goals

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/>.

In 2013, applications submitted to HUD for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program will be evaluated in part based on the extent in which they further the achievement of HUD's goals as articulated in HUD's Strategic Plan and the Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (FSP).

3D-1 Describe how the CoC is incorporating the goals of Opening Doors in local plans established to prevent and end homelessness and the extent in which the CoC is on target to meet these goals. (limit 1000 characters)

FSP goals are mirrored in the CoC Strategic Plan. The CoC continues to unfund SSOs and replace with PH. The COC board passed an 85% dedicated CH bed policy on Jan 15, 2014. The CoC participated in the VASH Boot Camp to coordinate all efforts to end Veteran Homelessness. The CoC has removed many barriers for Veterans with the Direct Client Services Fund for deposits, fees, housing startup kits, beds and bus passes housing searches. The PHAs rapidly process and inspect VASH move ins. The CoC has lead Rapid Rehousing and Coordinated Assessment System workshops throughout 2013 to ready agencies for transitioning TH to RRH and converting to a CoC wide prioritization of chronic homeless and rapidly rehousing families. To address gaps in prevention, outreach and RRH, the CoC requested the State allow the local CoC to control the allocation decisions of ESG funds to address the entire geographic area. TX601 has initial approval to pilot the process for the state of Texas with FY2014 funds.

3D-2 Describe the CoC's current efforts, including the outreach plan, to end homelessness among households with dependent children. (limit 750 characters)

The CoC has increased the supply of ESG RRH to 42 units. The CoC funded 3 new RRH projects in FY2012 of 41 units to begin operating in 2014. The CoC reallocated projects in FY2013 for 14 units of RRH. The CoC Board passed a CoC RRH Rental Subsidy policy that allows for a higher income eligibility than ESG RRH address this barrier for underemployed working families. The CoC will launch its Coordinated Assessment System on April 1, 2014 that will systematically connect homeless families with prevention and housing resources. In six PIT counts, the CoC has identified only one unsheltered family. When encountered outreach teams and shelters act immediately and no families with children are denied shelter and left in an unsheltered circumstance.

3D-3 Describe the CoC's current efforts to address the needs of victims of domestic violence, including their families. Response should include a description of services and safe housing from all funding sources that are available within the CoC to serve this population. (limit 1000 characters)

Persons in need of shelter contact a hotline number and are screened. All domestic violence cases are referred either to a non disclosed Fort Worth or Arlington location and are transported from designated safe meeting locations to the shelter. The One Safe Place service center is available to victims of domestic violence and includes access to counseling, victim advocacy, legal services and job training. Housing programs are also available and provide both permanent supportive and transitional housing, as appropriate, for individuals and families who have experienced domestic violence. Housing programs are provided across the CoC to allow survivors to select a housing location apart from their previous location where their abuser may still reside for safety in housing placement. Client data ESG or CoC program-funded domestic violence projects are kept confidential and are only identified by an anonymous identifier number to further maintain the safety and privacy of these families.

3D-4 Describe the CoC's current efforts to address homelessness for unaccompanied youth. Response should include a description of services and housing from all funding sources that are available within the CoC to address homelessness for this subpopulation. Indicate whether or not the resources are available for all youth or are specific to youth between the ages of 16-17 or 18-24. (limit 1000 characters)

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services LIFE project provided by ACH Child and Family Services is a housing program for youth aged 18-24 who are exiting foster care and are at risk of homelessness without assistance. LIFE provides housing through host homes, shared housing, college dorm style housing, and in apartment settings. The CoC participates in human trafficking outreach through Mosaic Family Services which protects youth at risk for, or experiencing, human trafficking, victimization or exploitation. The Safe Place program provides immediate response to youth at designated locations and guarantee transportation to the ACH or other safe shelter. The ACH Youth Outreach team locates and provides services for runaway youth aged 10-21. Homeless youth aged 10-17 may stay at the ACH emergency youth shelter until reunited with family or other safe housing. ACH provides residential care for youth aged 4-21 including therapy, crisis intervention and housing placement.

3D-5 Describe the efforts, including the outreach plan, to identify and engage persons who routinely sleep on the streets or in other places not meant for human habitation. (limit 750 characters)

Unsheltered Outreach Committee members MHMR, Catholic Charities, Hands of Hope, MedStar and Police meet monthly to staff difficult cases and to discuss outreach activities to coordinate engagement. Initial engagement often occurs at church missions or referrals from police, EMS, and citizen calls. Catholic Charities provides critical documents, medical care appointments, applying and follow up on benefits, documenting chronic homelessness. Outreach workers maintain an average five client caseloads per month providing intensive case management focused on trust building and safe shelter housing plans. Most client records are included in the HMIS to assure equal inclusion in the prioritization for PSH beds for chronically homeless.

3D-6 Describe the CoC’s current efforts to combat homelessness among veterans, particularly those are ineligible for homeless assistance and housing through the Department of Veterans Affairs programs (i.e., HUD-VASH, SSVF and Grant Per Diem). Response should include a description of services and housing from all funding sources that exist to address homelessness among veterans. (limit 1000 characters)

The CoC participated in VASH Boot Camps and created a plan to remove barriers to rapidly housing Veterans. The CoC conducted a blitz of identifying Veterans and their discharge and disability status recorded in the HMIS to identify non VASH eligible Veterans and target for alternative PSH programs. The CoC reallocated funds in FY 2013 to create an additional 14 PSH beds for ineligible Veterans. GPD programs work directly with the VA in identifying and expediting VASH housing. For non chronic Veterans, Soldier Support, Transitional Employment and SSVF programs are utilized to reduce lengths of stay. Though GPD programs allow for 24 months of housing, Veterans are being engaged to move to permanent housing programs to free up GPD beds for new homeless Veterans. Barriers of deposits, fees, critical documents, startup kits, furniture are removed from the CoC Direct Client Services Fund. The CoC provides the VASH office with bus passes for housing search and other appointments.