



FY21 Opening Doors of Fairfield County Announcement

RFP Release Date: August 2, 2023.

RFP Response Date: August 25, 2023.

RFP Decision Date: Applicants will be notified by September 1, 2023

RFP Questions: pam@thehousingcollective.org

This Preliminary Application has been released by **Opening Doors of Fairfield County (ODFC)/CT-503** to solicit proposals for the provision of new housing and services for **survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking**.

I. **Background CT 503 FY 2023 CoC NOFA Competition - DV Bonus:**

Each year the CT-503 Continuum of Care (CoC), aka Opening Doors Fairfield County (ODFC), competes with other CoCs across the country to secure federal funds to help end homelessness through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) CoC program. In general, CoC funding is principally accessed through renewal funding and such project applications to HUD are part of the annual HUD-NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity). To access new funding, HUD offers an additional component as part of the NOFO, considered as bonus project funding, which is awarded based on the strength of strategies identified in the narrative sections of the NOFO, as well as on performance on HUD measurements and compliance on currently funded projects.

In addition to the standard funding awarded through this process, HUD has appropriated \$52 million available nationally to fund Domestic Violence Bonus projects (DV Bonus) for FY22. Funds are allocated to CoCs to create new DV-specific projects where 100 % of the participants are or will be survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

ODFC/CT 503 is eligible to apply for up to **\$ 548,628** in new DV Bonus project funding. ODFC will seek DV Bonus applications for projects to serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking for inclusion in the CoC's 2023 application for HUD CoC funds and will award at least one entity to serve as sub-recipient. A sub-recipient may designate additional sub-recipients as service providers as part of a collaborative application for the DV Bonus project.

Survivors of human trafficking may qualify as homeless under paragraph (4) of the homeless definition at 24 CFR 578.3 or section 103(b) of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act because they are often also victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; however, a DV Bonus project may not exclusively serve people fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking.

A. General Information:

ODFC encourages responses from applicants that have not previously received CoC funds, as well as from applicants that are currently receiving or have received CoC funds in the past. The CoC provides technical assistance to ensure that the process is accessible to all eligible applicants, including those who have not received CoC funds in prior competitions.

Following the pre-application project selection process, ODFC staff will assist applicants with guidance and instructions on how to submit into the HUD application platform. (HUD esnaps project application platform questions are referenced in the CT-503 CoC FY 2023 New Project Preliminary Application section of this RFP starting on page 12.)

The following project types are available through the ODFC DV bonus funding:

1. Permanent Housing – Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Services:

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is an intervention designed to help individuals and families, with or without disabilities, who do not need intensive and ongoing support to quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. RRH assistance is offered without preconditions — like employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety — and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household. RRH provides short term rental assistance and services to literally homeless individuals and families with a goal to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency and stay housed.

The three core components of RRH include housing identification, rent and move-in assistance (typically 6-9 months or less) and case management and services.

Individuals and families eligible for RRH include those who are:

- Residing in a place not meant for human habitation
- Residing in an emergency shelter or coming directly from the streets
- Persons who qualify under paragraph (4) of the definition of homelessness, including persons fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence situations
- Persons receiving services from a VA-funded homeless assistance program and met one of the above criteria at initial intake to the VA's homeless assistance system.

ODFC will submit one project for bonus funding under the DV Bonus for the RRH component. This project will be a new, standalone project. Sub-recipient applicants for DV Bonus project can request funds for:

- **Housing and Support Services**
- **Housing Location and Coordination**

Additional information:

- The Department of Housing will be the lead applicant for this project and will contract with a subrecipient or subrecipients to administer the rental assistance and provide case management services.
 - Considering the complex nature of administering rental assistance, any applicant who proposes to administer the rental assistance or to work with a subrecipient they name to administer the rental assistance will be evaluated on history and experience of managing operations on rental assistance.
- DV RRH Bonus project must follow Fairfield County Coordinated Access Network (FC CAN) practices and will be required to participate in the CAN. Each sub-recipient will work with the CAN to accept appropriate referrals from the prioritized list managed by the FC CAN for DV-specific households.
- Appropriate referrals include those who are residing in emergency shelter or a location not meant for human habitation AND qualify under the domestic violence criteria in paragraph (4) of the HUD definition of homelessness, including persons fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking. (*DV Bonus project may not exclusively serve people fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking.*)
- Applicants will be required to create a record for DV survivors without compromising client confidentiality that is compatible with the by name housing registries maintained by/through the statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

2. Support Services Only for Coordinated Entry

SSO Projects for Coordinated Entry to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's coordinated entry to better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking (e.g., to implement practices that are trauma-informed, client centered and that better coordinate referrals between the CoC's coordinated entry and the victim service providers coordinated entry system where they are different):

- ODFC expects to submit one project for DV Bonus funding under the SSO-CE (Support Services/Coordinated Entry) component. This project will be a new, standalone project.
- Applicants are limited to the following activities for SSO-CE DV Bonus funds:
 - **Supportive Services (Assessor of Needs, Pre-Housing Short Term Case Management, CAN System Navigation) *and***
 - **Training and Technical Assistance specifically tailored to providers supporting DV survivors**
- DV Bonus project must follow Fairfield County Coordinated Access Network (FC CAN) practices and will be required to participate in the CAN. Each sub-recipient will work with the CAN to accept appropriate referrals from the DV prioritized list managed by the FC CAN. Applicants will be required to create a record for DV survivors without compromising client confidentiality that is compatible with the by name housing registries maintained by/through the statewide Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
- CAN assessors and navigators will use standardized FC CAN assessments tailored to DV survivors
- Staff will use a referral & matching process to connect clients to housing resources
- By simultaneously addressing housing and other supportive service needs, the team will ensure

that program participants are prepared to engage in services to safety plan their housing retention and to engage in opportunities to increase income and economic stability.

- The FC CAN's progressive engagement processes will be used to meet additional needs as identified.
- Regular case conferencing will occur between cross-sector partners to quickly identify, engage and assist survivors with resources and services they need to achieve housing stability and independence safely

PLEASE NOTE:

HUD has limited the number of SSO-CE project submissions for the FY2023 to one per CoC. Accordingly, CT503 will submit up to one SSO-CE project as part of the FY2023 HUD CoC NOFO competition.

B. Leveraging Housing Bonus Points

1. Leveraging Housing Resources

- In the FY23 CoC Competition, new permanent housing projects that can leverage housing resources that utilize housing subsidies or subsidized housing units NOT funded through the CoC or ESG will allow the CoC to earn up to seven (7) points on the CoC Application.
- Agencies applying for the DV Bonus PH-RRH opportunity described in this RFP and able to provide a commitment from a housing partner or partners to bring leveraged housing resources to the project for which they are applying will be eligible for Leveraging Housing Bonus Points (see Section IV of this document for more on the Bonus Points). Please note the following if your agency is interested:
 - Subsidies or subsidized housing units may be funded through:
 - Private organizations;
 - State or local government, including through the use of HOME funding provided through the American Rescue Plan;
 - Public Housing Agencies, including through the use of a set aside or limited preference;
 - Faith-based organizations; or
 - Federal programs other than the CoC or ESG programs.
 - To demonstrate that the housing units are being leveraged, the CoC must attach letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support the project. Agencies applying for Leveraging Housing Resources must demonstrate an ability to secure this type of documentation as part of the CoC application.
 - Interested agencies should reach out to ODFC staff prior to reaching out to their local PHA to ensure that requests for leveraged units can be coordinated.

C. Eligibility of project participants for DV Bonus funds:

Projects funded through this RFP may serve only individuals and/or families who qualify under categories 1 or 2 ([HUD Homeless Definition](#)) residing in emergency shelter or a location not meant for human habitation AND qualify under the domestic violence criteria in paragraph (4) of the HUD definition of homelessness, including persons fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking:

- The DV Bonus is available to a participant who meets the definition of [24 CFR 578.3 HUD](#)

Interim Rule paragraph (4) who is fleeing, attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions.

- o The language from HUD Appropriations Act also includes those who are survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking as eligible to be served by projects funded through the DV Bonus. (The CoC is waiting for additional information from HUD regarding the criterion for “survivors” to determine the length of time a person is considered at risk.)
- o Persons who are fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking are eligible to be served by projects funded through the DV Bonus.

II. Project Description:

The ODFC DV RRH project will provide rental assistance, housing relocation and stabilization services to help households who are experiencing homelessness move as quickly as possible into permanent housing to achieve housing stability. A goal for ODFC’s DV RRH is for households to exit shelter or the streets and enter permanent housing within 30 days.

A. Program Participants:

Participants are literally homeless households and households fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence as defined in Category 4 of the HUD definition of homeless. A “family” is defined as one or two adults with at least one dependent child under the age of 18. This includes a homeless single adult or couple who is reuniting with a dependent child upon entry into permanent housing.

Target Population:

Projects will be targeted to the following populations:

- Individuals and families with a head of household aged 25 or older. Prioritization to be based on assessed vulnerability.
- Youth (including parenting youth), with a head of household between the ages of 18 and 24. Prioritization to be based on assessed vulnerability.

Participants must meet the following criteria:

- Residing in a place not meant for human habitation (i.e., unsheltered and living, for example, on the streets, in a park, or on public transportation); OR
- Residing in an emergency shelter; AND lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence
- Qualify under the domestic violence criteria in paragraph (4) of the HUD definition of homelessness, including persons fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking (see Appendix)
- Individuals coming from an institution where they have resided for 90 days or less AND have entered the institution from the streets or emergency shelter maintain their homeless status during that time.
- Persons in transitional housing are not eligible for new RRH projects funded through this RFP.

Objectives for Support Services Only Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) Project:

ODFC’s primary operational goals to provide support services to those entering the Fairfield County Coordinated Access Network (FC CAN) are as follows:

- Assistance is allocated as effectively and timely as possible ensuring that contacts are made

within 48 hours of initial 211 call and that within 72 hours or less households in need of support meet with a navigator for an assessment of need

- Services must be accessible to those throughout the ODFC jurisdiction no matter where or how people connect with the coordinated entry system
- Coordinated entry processes prioritize assistance based on vulnerability and severity of service needs to ensure that those in need of assistance receive it in a timely manner.
- Coordinated entry processes provide information about service needs and gaps to assist people as they present through access to resources based on assessed needs.
- Target population and program participants mirror information provided in previous section

Participants must meet the following criteria:

- Residing in a place not meant for human habitation (i.e., unsheltered and living, for example, on the streets, in a park, or on public transportation); OR
- Residing in an emergency shelter; AND lacks a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence
- Qualify under the domestic violence criteria in paragraph (4) of the HUD definition of homelessness, including persons fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking (see Appendix)
- (2) Individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that: (i) Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance; (ii) No subsequent residence has been identified; and (iii) The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing

B. Prioritization:

All program participants must be referred from the universe of the Fairfield County CAN and Department of Housing by name list (BNL). The FC CAN Housing Matching/Placements committees will take into consideration a variety of factors when determining what housing and assistance might best allow a household to maintain stable housing, such as the following:

- Length of homeless history,
- Presence of a disability,
- The number of household members,
- The amount of income,
- Employability,
- Housing history,
- Assessment score (or equivalent),
- Frequent utilization of emergency healthcare services,
- Justice involvement,
- Whether someone is experiencing unsheltered homelessness,
- Safety concerns and
- Other factors determined by risk assessment conducted by DV provider including:
 - Lethality Assessment
 - Danger Assessment
 - Criminal Justice System Assessment
 - Safety Planning

- Based on CAN operations at the time of executing this project and considering the updated version of the By Name List (v2) based on program enrollment and current living situation recorded in an HMIS compatible platform used for survivors, tenants will be selected using HUD orders of priority and the by-name list (BNL) de-identified based on statewide protocol in place for DV victims will be followed for the DV Bonus project, as appropriate, based on safety protocol planning.
- Households will be case conferenced and referred via regional Housing Placement meetings which occur bi-weekly in each of the ODFC sub-regions across the FC-CAN.

III. **Applicants:**

ODFC is seeking proposals from eligible 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations to provide permanent housing and stabilization services and coordinated entry support services as necessary, to assist single adult households, families and youth/young adults and parenting youth who are living in shelters or in places not meant for human habitation (for example, living on the street or in a car) to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing with the goal of achieving housing stability.

Applicants must have a plan for **rapid implementation** of the program: the project narrative must document how, and when, the project will be ready to begin housing the first program participant, when the project will achieve full occupancy, and a detailed plan for how the project will ensure timely implementation.

Project must be located within the following cities and towns: Bridgeport, Brookfield, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, Newtown, New Canaan, New Fairfield, Norwalk, Redding, Ridgefield, Sherman, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport and Wilton.

Collaboration among providers is required. One collaborative regional application to serve the entire FC-CAN is acceptable. Applicants applying for both project components may apply via one application.

Applicants must have experience in operating a successful **Housing First** program. Program design must meet the policies adopted to operate a Housing First project as adopted by CT 503.

A. Minimum Qualifications of Applicants:

To be considered as a sub-recipient service provider under this contract, respondents must have the following minimum qualifications:

- a. Expertise in serving tenants with safety concerns related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking or human trafficking.
 1. Ability to maintain a database comparable to HMIS to provide the CoC with aggregate project-level outcomes
 2. Project must be designed to provide safe housing to survivors and their families
 3. Program will be required to meet the safety needs of survivors and their families using **trauma-informed** practices and **Housing First** orientation, and low-barrier approach
- b. A minimum of two (2) years demonstrated experience providing housing placement, relocation and/or stabilization services to individuals, families and/or youth experiencing

homelessness or individuals, families and/or youth at imminent risk of homelessness within the ODFC region.

- c. Ability to rapidly move participants into permanent housing with short-to medium-term financial assistance.
- d. Ability to provide developmentally appropriate case management and services.
- e. Capability of serving multicultural, multilingual populations.
- f. Established partnerships and/or collaborations with housing resources in the ODFC region or sub-region area specified in the respondent's proposal is a requirement.
- g. ODFC reserves the right to reject the submission of any respondent in default of any current or prior contract with either HUD or with DOH.

IV. Project Requirements:

For RRH applicants:

- **Housing Coordination.** Service providers designated by the sub-recipient will provide housing location services to households identified and prioritized via the Fairfield County Housing BNL and recommended for rapid rehousing as an appropriate housing intervention. Sub-recipients do not have flexibility in identifying clients independently.
- **Sustainability Coordination and Case Management Services.** Sub-recipient and those designated by the sub-recipient as service providers will provide housing sustainability support. Sustainability coordination services will include assistance in increasing income through work or benefits or both, access to long-term housing subsidies and other opportunities, establishing and/or expanding family and community supports, and assistance in increasing access to mainstream services. RRH sustainability coordination services may be provided for up to 18 months but will depend on the assessed needs of the client (both the duration and the level of intervention to be determined uniquely for each client) and the client desire to remain engaged in services. Leveraged funding may support the role of sustainability coordination and this will be considered when scoring applications.
- **Adherence to CT 503 Housing First Principles:** It is expected that services will be provided in accordance with the CT 503 Housing First Principles
- **Program management/quality assurance oversight.** It is expected that this role will be leveraged through other staff already in place as a requirement under this funding.

For Coordinated Entry Support Services Only applicants:

To equitably assign housing and services and prioritize by vulnerability, the process ensures that all referrals are made and accepted via DV-specific housing solutions/placement meetings employing collaborative community discussions and ongoing assessments coordinated through the Fairfield County Coordinated Access Network (FC CAN)

- Multiple shelter, housing and outreach providers who target specific subpopulations of people experiencing homeless, including those serving DV survivors, are included in a thorough discussion of client's strengths and barriers to strategize on maintaining stability and housing retention.
- Clients on the BNL are discussed at the housing solutions/placement meetings so that all staff

have an opportunity to advocate for each client in need of resources.

- In addition, since the FC CAN is a centralized standardized front door process of access/assessment/assignment for all housing resources, agencies can no longer gain access to resources through “side door” or negotiations nor agreements outside of the FC CAN system process.
- The process to assign public resources operates in a manner that ensures equitable access to housing by prioritizing the most vulnerable households on the BNL with measures in place that ensure households are directed to appropriate interventions.

V. Funding

A. Eligible activities/projects for the funds

All projects must be for the following types:

- Rapid Re-Housing and Services for DV Survivors
- SSO-CE for DV Survivors

Projects can request funds for:

- **RRH:** housing location coordination, supportive services
- **Supportive Services Only/Coordinated Entry:** Assessment of Needs, Pre-Housing Short Term Case Management, CAN System Navigation, Training and Technical Assistance specifically tailored to providers supporting DV survivors

B. HUD Project Applicant:

- **PH-RRH:** The ODFC Funding Oversight Committee identified the Department of Housing as the DV Bonus Project’s lead applicant/grantee and recipient of direct HUD funding. Applicants are eligible to apply to participate in the DV Bonus project as sub-recipients.
- **SSO-CE:** RFP responders can apply to serve as HUD direct grantee, however, coordinated entry experience, specifically serving DV survivors will be heavily weighted in meeting threshold and in determining capacity of each applicant.

D. Application Evaluation/Review Process:

- Applications submitted to the CoC in response to the DV Bonus RFP will be reviewed by CoC’s funding decision-making bodies: the ODFC Funding Oversight Committee and the non-conflicted members of the ODFC Coordinating Council.
- The CoC reserves the option of engaging a domestic violence expert to participate in the decision-making process for this funding opportunity.

VI. Application

SCORING SECTIONS	PSH/RRH/TH-RRH	SSO-CE	DV SSO-CE
Applicant Experience and Capacity	23	18	21
Past Performance	12	7	7
Scope & Need (project description)	16	14	14
Budget Narrative	6	6	6
Housing First & Low-Barrier Access	6	6	6
Housing Case Management	16	0	0
Landlord Relationships	6	0	0
Resource Linkages	6	0	0
SSO-CE ONLY	0	20	20
PWLE	4	4	4
ARE	5	5	5
Bonus Points	10		0
TOTAL	100	80	83

All raw scores will be converted to a 100-point-scale so that the total earned is divided by the total possible for that application, so no application has an advantage over another by having access to more raw points based on how a project is structured.

More information about the CoC's process for evaluation, selection and ranking of CoC projects can be found here:

[Opening Doors of Fairfield County/CT-503 CoC FY2023 Project Evaluation, Reallocation, Selection and Ranking Policies](#)

Availability of Bonus Points:

There are bonus points available in the CoC application for any PSH or RRH project which demonstrates a commitment to utilize housing subsidies or subsidized housing units not funded through CoC or ESG and/or any PSH or RRH project which utilizes healthcare resources to help households experiencing homelessness.

To be eligible for the Leveraging Housing bonus points under this pre-application, PH-RRH project applicants must demonstrate an ability to provide a written commitment by **9/10/23** from a housing partner as part of the project application submitted to HUD, as follows:

- Selected applicants partnering with PHAs or other housing providers to add units will be required

to provide a copy of letters of commitment, contracts, or other formal written documents that demonstrate the number of subsidies or units being provided to support new project(s) that leverage housing. These documents are required by HUD as attachments to the CoC submission.

- NOTE: The leveraged resources can be used toward the provider's 25% Match commitment. The amount awarded to each provider will be determined by the ODFC Funding Oversight Committee. Applicants needing additional information regarding proposed amounts should reach out to ODFC staff at openingdoorsoffairfieldcounty@gmail.com for assistance.

CoC Application Requirements:

In addition to the CoC New Project Application that must be completed by applicants selected for submission as DV Bonus New Projects, the CoC must provide responses to a series of questions in the CoC Application specific to the experience and capacity of DV Bonus project applicants. **Any applicant selected to submit one or more projects under the CoC DV Bonus MUST work collaboratively with the CoC to provide responses/content to answer the CoC Application questions.**

Please see Appendix A of the DV Bonus RFP for a list of questions to which selected applicants must likely respond. (The CoC application was not yet available in e-snaps as of the posting of this RFP so the final list of questions is not yet available.) Please note that applicants will be asked to certify the following in their Pre-application:

- Applicants have read CoC Application DV Bonus questions for applicants,
- Applicants understand that their responses to these questions will be used by HUD in the DV Bonus project selection formula, and
- Applicants will provide the CoC with timely and complete responses as requested by CoC staff and consultants.

V. Application Submission

Responses must be submitted via email to openingdoorsoffairfieldcounty@gmail.com.

- **All applications are due by Friday, August 25, 2023, 5:00 PM.**
- **Any application received after that time will be marked as a late submission and will not be considered for funding.**
- Based on ODFC's priority to conduct a fair and impartial process for all applicants and considering the CoC's tight FY2023 NOFO scheduling to review responses and submit new applications to HUD, ODFC considers the time between the release of this RFP and response date as appropriate. Thus, no exceptions to this schedule will be considered nor negotiated with any individual prospective applicant.

APPENDIX A

The CoC expects applicants applying for DV Bonus funding to support ODFC's CoC application author efforts by supplying detailed information necessary to respond to questions required by all CoCs applying for DV Bonus projects included in the FY23 CoC Application and Priority Listing: All applicants should expect to be able to respond to the following questions upon request:

FY23 CoC NOFO APPLICATION: DV BONUS QUESTIONS FOR PROJECT APPLICANTS

1C-5. Addressing Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors–Collaboration

with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers.

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

In the chart below select yes or no for the organizations your CoC collaborates with:

Organizations

1. state domestic violence coalitions
2. state sexual assault coalitions
3. other organizations that help this population

1C-5a. Collaboration with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers to Address Needs of

Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations indicated in Question 1C-5 to:

1. update CoC-wide policies; and
2. ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC's geographic area are trauma-informed and can meet the needs of survivors.

1C-5b. Coordinated Annual Training on Best Practices to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC coordinates to provide training for:

1. project staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma-informed, victim-centered) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually); and
2. Coordinated Entry staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma informed care) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually).

1C-5c. Implemented Safety Planning, Confidentiality Protocols in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking

Survivors.

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry includes:

1. safety planning protocols; and
2. confidentiality protocols.

1C-5d. Used De-identified Aggregate Data to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence,

Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below:

1. the de-identified aggregate data source(s) your CoC used for data on survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and
2. how your CoC uses the de-identified aggregate data described in element 1 of this question to evaluate how to best meet the specialized needs related to domestic violence and homelessness.

1C-5e. Implemented Emergency Transfer Plan Policies and Procedures for Domestic Violence, Dating

Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC communicates to all individuals and families seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance:

1. whether your CoC has policies and procedures that include an emergency transfer plan;
2. the process for individuals and families to request an emergency transfer; and
3. the process your CoC uses to respond to individuals' and families' emergency transfer requests.

1C-5f. Access to Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC:


1. ensures that survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have safe access to all of the housing and services available within the CoC's geographic area; and
2. proactively identifies systemic barriers within your homeless response system that create barriers to safely house and provide services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

1C-5g. Ensuring Survivors With a Range of Lived Expertise Participate in Developing CoC-Wide Policy and Programs.

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1. ensured survivors with a range of lived expertise are involved in the development of your CoCwide policy and programs; and
2. accounted for the unique and complex needs of survivors.

Use the list feature icon  to enter information on each unique project applicant applying for New PH-RRH and Component DV Bonus projects—only enter project applicant information once, regardless of how many DV Bonus projects that applicant is applying for.

Enter information in the chart below on the project applicant applying for one or more New PH- RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects included on your CoC’s FY 2023 Priority Listing:

1. Applicant Name	
2. Rate of Housing Placement of DV Survivors—Percentage	
3. Rate of Housing Retention of DV Survivors—Percentage	

4A-2a.

Addressing Coordinated Entry Inadequacies through the New SSO-CE DV Bonus Project.

NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(3)(c)

Describe in the field below:

1. **the inadequacies of your CoC’s current Coordinated Entry that limits its ability to better meet the needs of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking; and**
2. **how the proposed project addresses inadequacies identified in element 1 of this question.**

4A-2 b. Involving Survivors in Policy and Program Development, Operations, and Evaluation in the New SSO-CE DV Bonus Project.

NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(3)(d)

Describe in the field below how the new project will involve survivors:

1. with a range of lived expertise; and
2. in policy and program development throughout the project’s operation.

4A-3. Assessing Need for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects in Your CoC's Geographic Area.

NOFO Section
I.B.3.I.(1)(c)

*

1. Enter the number of survivors that need housing or services:
2. Enter the number of survivors your CoC is currently serving:
3. **Unmet Need:**

You must enter a value for elements 1 and 2 in question 4A-3.

4A-3a. How Your CoC Calculated Local Need for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(c)

Describe in the field below:

1. how your CoC calculated the number of DV survivors needing housing or services in question 4A-3 element 1 and element 2; and
2. the data source (e.g., comparable databases, other administrative data, external data source, HMIS for non-DV projects); or
3. if your CoC is unable to meet the needs of all survivors please explain in your response all barriers to meeting those needs.

4A-3b.1 . Applicant Experience in Housing Placement and Retention for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)

For the rate of housing placement and rate of housing retention of DV survivors reported in question 4B-3b., describe in the field below:

1. how the project applicant calculated both rates;
2. whether the rates accounts for exits to safe housing destinations; and
3. the data source (e.g., comparable databases, other administrative data, external data source, HMIS for non-DV projects).

4A-3c. Applicant Experience in Providing Housing to DV Survivor for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)

Describe in the field below how the project applicant:

1. ensured DV survivors experiencing homelessness were quickly moved into safe affordable housing;
2. prioritized survivors—you must address the process the project applicant used, e.g., Coordinated Entry, prioritization list, CoC's emergency transfer plan, etc.;
3. determined which supportive services survivors needed;

4. connected survivors to supportive services; and
5. moved clients from assisted housing to housing they could sustain—address housing stability after the housing subsidy ends.

4A-3d. Applicant Experience in Ensuring DV Survivor Safety for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)

Describe in the field below examples of how the project applicant ensured the safety and confidentiality of DV survivors experiencing homelessness by:

1. taking steps to ensure privacy/confidentiality during the intake and interview process to minimize potential coercion of survivors;
2. making determinations and placements into safe housing;
3. keeping information and locations confidential;
4. training staff on safety and confidentiality policies and practices; and
5. taking security measures for units (congregate or scattered site), that support survivors' physical safety and location confidentiality.

4A-3d1. Applicant Experience in Evaluating Their Ability to Ensure DV Survivor Safety for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)

Describe in the field below how the project has evaluated its ability to ensure the safety of DV survivors the project served in the project, including any areas identified for improvement during the course of the proposed project.

4A-3e. Applicant Experience in Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Approaches for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)

Describe in the field below examples of the project applicant's experience using trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches to meet needs of DV survivors by:

1. prioritizing placement and stabilization in permanent housing consistent with the program participants' wishes and stated needs;
2. establishing and maintaining an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions are based on equality and minimize power differentials;
3. providing program participants access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing program participants with information on the effects of trauma;
4. emphasizing program participants' strengths, e.g., strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans worked towards survivor-defined goals and aspirations;
5. centering on cultural responsiveness and inclusivity, e.g., training on equal access, cultural competence, nondiscrimination, language access, improving services to be culturally responsive, accessible, and trauma-informed;
6. providing a variety of opportunities for connection for program participants, e.g.,

7. groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs; and offering support for survivor parenting, e.g., trauma-informed parenting classes, childcare, connections to legal services.

4A-3f. Applicant Experience in Meeting Service Needs of DV Survivors for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(d)

Describe in the field below examples of supportive services the project provided to domestic violence survivors while quickly moving them into permanent housing and addressing their safety needs.

4A-3g.

Plan for Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Practices for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(e)

Describe in the field below examples of how the new project(s) will:

1. prioritize placement and stabilization in permanent housing consistent with the program participants' wishes and stated needs;
2. establish and maintaining an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions are based on equality and minimize power differentials;
3. provide program participants access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing program participants with information on the effects of trauma;
4. emphasize program participants' strengths—for example, strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans work towards survivor-defined goals and aspirations;
5. center on cultural responsiveness and inclusivity, e.g., training on equal access, cultural competence, nondiscrimination, language access, improving services to be culturally responsive, accessible, and trauma-informed;
6. provide a variety of opportunities for connection for program participants, e.g., groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs; and
7. offer support for survivor parenting, e.g., trauma-informed parenting classes, childcare, connections to legal services.

4A-3h. Involving Survivors in Policy and Program Development, Operations, and Evaluation of New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.
NOFO Section I.B.3.I.(1)(f)

1. Describe in the field below how the new project will involve survivors: with a range of lived expertise; and
2. in policy and program development throughout the project's operation.

ODFC/CT 503 Housing First Principles

Housing First is a programmatic and systems approach that centers on providing homeless people with housing quickly and *then* providing services as needed using a low barrier approach that emphasizes community integration, stable tenancy, recovery and individual choice.

Low barrier approach to entry:

- Housing First offers individuals and families experiencing homelessness immediate access to permanent supportive housing without unnecessary prerequisites. For example:
 - a. Admission/tenant screening and selection practices do not require abstinence from substances, completion of or compliance with treatment, or participation in services.
 - b. Applicants are not rejected on the basis of poor or lack of credit or income, poor or lack of rental history, minor criminal convictions, or other factors that might indicate a lack of “housing readiness.”
 - c. Blanket exclusionary criteria based on more serious criminal convictions are not applied, though programs may consider such convictions on a case by case basis as necessary to ensure the safety of other residents and staff.
 - d. Generally, only those admission criteria that are required by funders are applied, though programs may also consider additional criteria on a case by case basis as necessary to ensure the safety of tenants and staff. Application of such additional criteria should be rare, and may include, for example, denial of an applicant who is a high risk registered sex offender by a project serving children, or denial of an applicant who has a history of domestic violence involving a current participant.

Community integration and recovery:

- Housing is integrated into the community and tenants have ample opportunity and are supported to form connections outside of the project.
- Housing is located in neighborhoods that are accessible to community resources and services such as schools, libraries, houses of worship, grocery stores, laundromats, doctors, dentists, parks, and other recreation facilities.
- Efforts are made to make the housing look and feel similar to other types of housing in the community and to avoid distinguishing the housing as a program that serves people with special needs.
- Services are designed to help tenants build supportive relationships, engage in personally meaningful activities, and regain or develop new roles in their families and communities.

- Services are recovery-based and designed to help tenants gain control of their own lives, define their personal values, preferences, and visions for the future, establish meaningful individual short and long-term goals, and build hope that the things they want out of life are attainable. Services are focused on helping tenants achieve the things that are important to them and goals are not driven by staff priorities or selected from a pre-determined menu of options.

Lease compliance and housing retention

- Tenants are expected to comply with a standard lease agreement and are provided with services and supports to help maintain housing and prevent eviction. Visitors are expected to comply with requirements in the lease agreement.
- Leases do not include stipulations beyond those that are customary, legal, and enforceable under Connecticut law.
- No program rules beyond those that are customary, legal, and enforceable through a lease are applied (e.g., visitor policies should be equivalent to those in other types of permanent, lease-based housing in the community). Housing providers may ask for identification from visitors.
- Services are designed to identify and reduce risks to stable tenancy and to overall health and well-being.
- Retention in housing is contingent only on lease compliance and is not contingent on abstinence from substances or compliance with services, treatment or other clinical requirements. For example:
 - a. Tenants are not terminated involuntarily from housing for refusal to participate in services or for violating program rules that are not stipulated in the lease.
 - b. Transitional housing programs offer participants due process to resolve issues that may result in involuntary discharge (unless immediate risk to health and safety)
 - c. PH providers only terminate occupancy of housing in cases of noncompliance with the lease or failure of a tenant to carry out obligations under Connecticut's Landlord and Tenant Act (Chapter 830 of the Connecticut General Statute <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2011/pub/chap830.htm>).
 - d. In order to terminate housing, PH providers are required to use the legal court eviction process.

Separation of housing and services

- Projects are designed in such a manner that the roles of property management (e.g., housing application, rent collection, repairs, and eviction) and supportive services staff are clearly defined and distinct.

- Property management and support service functions are provided either by separate legal entities or by staff members whose roles do not overlap.
- There are defined processes for communication and coordination across the two functions to support stable tenancy.
- Those processes are designed to protect client confidentiality and share confidential information on a need to know basis only.

Tenant Choice

- Efforts are made to maximize tenant choice, including type, frequency, timing, location and intensity of services and whenever possible choice of neighborhoods, apartments, furniture, and décor.
- Staff accepts tenant choices as a matter of fact without judgment and provides services that are non-coercive to help people achieve their personal goals.
- Staff accepts that risk is part of the human experience and helps tenants to understand risks and reduce harm caused to themselves and others by risky behavior.
- Staff understands the clinical and legal limits to choice and intervenes as necessary when someone presents a danger to self or others.
- Staff helps tenants to understand the legal obligations of tenancy and to reduce risk of eviction.
- Projects provide meaningful opportunities for tenant input and involvement when designing programs, planning activities and determining policies.