

Northern Colorado Continuum of Care (NoCO CoC) FY2024 CoC Application

1B. Coordination and Engagement—Inclusive Structure and Participation

1B-1. Inclusive Structure and Participation—Participation in Coordinated Entry.

NOFO Sections V.B.1.a.(1), V.B.1.e., V.B.1f., and V.B.1.p.

In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024:

1. select yes or no in the chart below if the entity listed participates in CoC meetings, voted—including selecting CoC Board members, and participated in your CoC’s coordinated entry system; or

2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist in your CoC’s geographic area:

- Participated in CoC Meetings
- Voted, Including Electing CoC Board Members
- Participated in CoC's Coordinated Entry System

1. Affordable Housing Developer(s) Y, Y, Y

2. CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction Y, Y, Y

3. Disability Advocates Y, Y, Y

4. Disability Service Organizations Y, Y, Y

5. EMS/Crisis Response Team(s) Y, Y, Y

6. Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons Y, Y, Y

7. Hospital(s) Y, N, Y

8. Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)
NONEXISTENT

9. Law Enforcement Y, Y, Y

10. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates Y, Y, Y

11. LGBTQ+ Service Organizations Y, N, Y

12. Local Government Staff/Officials Y, Y, Y

13. Local Jail(s) Y, Y, Y

14. Mental Health Service Organizations Y, Y, Y
15. Mental Illness Advocates Y, Y, Y
16. Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color Y, Y, Y
17. Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons Y, Y, Y
18. Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities Y, Y, Y
19. Other homeless subpopulation advocates Y, Y, Y
20. Public Housing Authorities Y, Y, Y
21. School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons Y, Y, Y
22. Street Outreach Team(s) Y, Y, Y
23. Substance Abuse Advocates Y, Y, Y
24. Substance Abuse Service Organizations Y, Y, Y
25. Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking Y, Y, Y
26. Victim Service Providers Y, Y, Y
27. Domestic Violence Advocates Y, Y, Y
28. Other Victim Service Organizations Y, Y, Y
29. State Domestic Violence Coalition Y, N, N
30. State Sexual Assault Coalition N, N, N
31. Youth Advocates Y, Y, Y
32. Youth Homeless Organizations Y, Y, Y
33. Youth Service Providers Y, Y, Y
- Other: (limit 50 characters)
34. SSVF Providers Y, Y, Y
35. VA Providers Y, Y, Y

1B-1a. Experience Promoting Racial Equity.

NOFO Section III.B.3.c.

Describe in the field below your **CoC's experience in effectively addressing the needs of underserved communities, particularly Black and Brown communities, who are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population.**

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,498 characters)

Since becoming our own CoC in 2020, we have taken seriously the need to identify and remedy the unique challenges and barriers for people from underserved communities. In 2022 and since, the NoCO CoC has been publicly reporting regional racial disparity data. Using this information, the NoCO CoC has worked with service organizations and local governments to reduce disparity and improve outcomes for those overrepresented in the homeless system.

One example of this work is the development of an HMIS data dashboard, filterable by race/ethnicity, for three cities in our CoC to report data on use of homeless programs, exits, returns, trends etc. The cities have each implemented an internal process to use this data to inform local leadership and homelessness strategy, including Consolidated Plans and allocation of CDBG, HOME and general funds.

In addition, the CoC releases a yearly State of Homelessness Report and data dashboard hosted on the NoCO CoC website. The report compares Point in Time Count data to the most recent American Communities Survey data for Larimer and Weld Counties. This analysis found that while racial and ethnic disparities are present in both counties of our CoC, there are nuances. For example, in Larimer County, Black/African Americans make up 1% of the total county population, but account for 9% of the total homeless population. The same level of disparity for Black/African Americans is not seen in Weld County, where again Black/African Americans are 1% of the total county population and 3% of the homeless population. In both counties, Native Hawaiians are overrepresented in the homeless population. However, this disparity is starker in Weld County where Native Hawaiians make up 0.15% of total population but account for 5% of those in homelessness. The CoC Director has debriefed these findings with the respective city and county representatives to discuss contributing factors and brainstorm impact strategies.

One strategy the CoC has prioritized has been to make meaningful connections and proactively create space and opportunity for grassroots and community-based groups to participate and inform CoC-wide goals and priorities. An example of this is engaging organizations like the Yarrow Collective, a peer-led organization builds consent-based alternatives to mental health services through peer support and harm reduction. In late 2023, the Harm Reduction and BIPOC Program Director of the Yarrow Collective joined the NoCO CoC governing board.

1B-2. Open Invitation for New Members.

NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(2)

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1. communicated a transparent invitation process annually (e.g., communicated to the public on the CoC's website) to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2. ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
3. invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in your CoC's geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,799 characters)

New members are always invited to join the CoC. 1) Information on General Membership meetings are clearly displayed on the CoC's website (nocococ.org) and sent out regularly via an online newsletter that reaches dozens more agencies than are currently signed on as members of the CoC, encouraging them to officially join as a member. In addition, current members are encouraged to invite other organizations and individuals to participate. This year, it has been a priority to engage sectors who have historically not been represented within the CoC membership. 2-3) The CoC Director and other staff regularly attend and speak at community meetings and presentations, both in person and virtual. It is standard practice to always invite anyone who is interested in learning more about the CoC to meet personally with the CoC leadership. A subcommittee of the CoC Governing Board focuses on Member Engagement and is tasked with identifying and engaging unrepresented stakeholders to participate in the CoC. The CoC is fortunate to have active participation by the majority of organizations in the region who directly interact with people experiencing homelessness organizations or are housing focused. However, the CoC continues to work on creating connections with organizations outside the mainstream housing and homelessness system. In the past year, CoC leadership met with and encouraged CoC participation from organizations like The Jacob Center, which provides resiliency-based intervention programming for youth and families in Larimer County. The Jacob Center provides programs like youth and family coaching and peer support for youth who have experienced trauma, such as supporting LGBTQ+ and youth of color with increasing their sense of belonging and connectedness to increase wellbeing.

1B-3. CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness.

NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(3)

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1. solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness, or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;
2. communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information;
3. ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats; and
4. took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,472 characters)

1) Membership meetings are an opportunity for all stakeholders to contribute ideas, input, and information to the CoC's collective knowledge. We have a robust work structure that is deployed to seek partner engagement and participation woven throughout our entire CoC process to prevent and end homelessness. A diverse group of individuals and organizations with specialized knowledge pertaining to that subcommittee's work are invited and encouraged to participate, including an emphasis on people with lived experience. 2) This year the CoC Leadership participated in several "Community Conversations on Homelessness" throughout

the region. The public was invited to learn more about the CoC and the local work that was happening in their city and then had the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. CoC Leadership had addressed three City Councils and one County Board of Commissioners, answering questions and getting feedback from the elected officials. The CoC offers free trainings for any partner or community member to attend. This year we provided training on the McKinney-Vento Program, Responding to Domestic Violence and Homelessness, and information on housing rights updates on recent CO housing legislation. Member agencies are encouraged to bring information from other groups and networks to the CoC and are encouraged to share relevant information about the CoC's current work in other forums; this information is later emailed out and may be posted on our website. 3) In 2023, we upgraded our CoC website and made it more accessible to persons with disabilities. We upload video recordings of our member meetings and trainings with subtitles enabled for people with auditory challenges. The content on the website is organized to look clean and easy-to-read for people with visual challenges. 4) CoC Leadership attend other collaborative partnership meetings and often share information related to the work of addressing homelessness. For example, the CoC staff participate in the Stone Soup Collective, a multidisciplinary group working to improve service coordination and discharge planning for incarcerated people at the Larimer County Jail. Participation in the Collective has spurred cross-engagement among criminal justice reform advocates and the homelessness work of the CoC, especially through deeper connections to peer support groups; their input is being utilized within our current efforts to improve our common housing assessment.

1B-4. Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Awarded CoC Program Funding.

NOFO Section V.B.1.a.(4)

Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:

1. that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;
2. about how project applicants must submit their project applications—the process;
3. about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and
4. ensured effective communication and access for persons with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,396 Characters)

1) The NoCO CoC informed the public of the opportunity to apply through a detailed and accessible information posted on the CoC's website, two newsletter notifications through the CoC's listserv providing details on the competition, eligible projects, and competition deadlines, and an announcement at a CoC General Membership meeting. 2) The Intent to Apply form for new and renewal funds was available on the CoC website for easy and accessible submission; the CoC Competition Coordinator communicated directly with all victim service providers of the availability of DV Bonus Funds. During the local competition, interested projects received a Project Rating Application and scoring rubric, with instructions for application submission for local review and in *e-snaps*. Four new projects applied for funding through the local competition,

including one that had never applied for CoC funds prior. Renewal and new project applications were scored and ranked by the Rating & Ranking Committee. 3) Whether a new project was included in the Priority Listing was determined by three factors: alignment with CoC-wide priorities set by the Governing Board, project rating score based on objective criteria, and available Bonus and Reallocation funding. 4) It is important to the NoCO CoC to ensure broad accessibility of information for this competition. In addition to individual meetings with applicants, the CoC Competition Coordinator held multiple webinars addressing the intent to apply, local rating application, and *e-snaps* submission deadlines. The webinars provided general information related to CoC Program, and technical assistance navigating the local competition and submission in *e-snaps*. Recordings of webinars are on the CoC website, with closed captions and transcripts enabled. Other comprehensive information on the CoC competition was provided on the CoC website in clear and easy-to-read formatting, with links to other helpful HUD-provided resources. General strategies used to increase accessibility include email and web-based communication so that individuals can access tool and apps that increase readability for those with low vision or other disabilities including minimizing the use of pictures to allow for easier access for those using screen readers, using simple fonts and adequate white space, and underlining links to other web pages, email addresses or documents.

1C. Coordination and Engagement

1C-1. Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations.

NOFO Section V.B.1.b.

In the chart below:

1. select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC's coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or

2. select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC's geographic area.

Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects; Coordinates with the Planning or Operations of Projects?

1. Funding Collaboratives [Yes](#)
2. Head Start Program [Yes](#)
3. Housing and services programs funded through Local Government [Yes](#)
4. Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC) [Yes](#)
5. Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations [Yes](#)
6. Housing and services programs funded through State Government [Yes](#)
7. Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [Yes](#)
8. Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) [Yes](#)
9. Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) [Yes](#)
10. Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations) [Nonexistent](#)
11. Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color [Yes](#)
12. Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons [Yes](#)
13. Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities [Yes](#)
14. Private Foundations [Yes](#)
15. Public Housing Authorities [Yes](#)
16. Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) [Yes](#)
17. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) [Yes](#)

Other:(limit 50 characters)

18. Veteran service providers funded by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs

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

NOFO Section V.B.1.b.

In the chart below select yes or no to indicate whether your CoC:

1. Consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG Program funds? Yes
2. Provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area? Yes
3. Ensured local homelessness information is communicated and addressed in the Consolidated Plan updates? Yes
4. Coordinated with ESG recipients in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients? Yes

Question was a narrative response in FY2023

1C-3. Ensuring Families are not Separated.

NOFO Section V.B.1.c.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ensures emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH) do not deny admission or separate family members regardless of each family member's self-reported sexual orientation and gender identity:

1. Conducted mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated? No
2. Conducted optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure family members are not separated? No
3. Worked with CoC and ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients? Yes
4. Worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within your CoC's geographic area that might be out of compliance and took steps to work directly with those facilities to bring them into compliance? Yes
5. Sought assistance from HUD by submitting questions or requesting technical assistance to resolve noncompliance by service providers? Yes

1C-4. CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.

NOFO Section V.B.1.d.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the entities your CoC collaborates with:

1. Youth Education Provider **Yes**
2. State Education Agency (SEA) **Yes**
3. Local Education Agency (LEA) **Yes**
4. School Districts **Yes**

1C-4a. Formal Partnerships with Youth Education Providers, SEAs, LEAs, School Districts.

NOFO Section V.B.1.d.

Describe in the field below the formal partnerships your CoC has with at least one of the entities where you responded yes in question 1C-4.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,524 characters)

Addressing youth homelessness and improving the ability of our homeless system to respond to youth and young adults is a priority for the CoC. In 2023, the CoC obtained MOUs and onboarded two new school districts, Poudre School District and Thompson School District, to participate in our coordinated entry process. Notably, Thompson School District and Poudre Schools District are key partners, alongside a youth service provider The Matthews House, to build and operate the first at-risk drop-in center and youth shelter by late-2024. This highly collaborative project has implemented a multi-disciplinary Leadership Committee, which includes CoC Leadership representation, has identified funding for the project and is now working on developing programmatic processes to ensure youth are identified, assessed and have access to eligible housing resources that flow through our coordinated entry system. The CoC has formal partner MOUs with all three lead partners on the project. Another important area of connection and coordination the CoC has to Youth Education Providers is United Way of Weld County, the collaborative applicant for the NoCO CoC, also serves as the Lead Agency to implement the State of Colorado's Universal Preschool Program in Weld County as well as leading the collective impact-based Early Childhood Council of Weld County. These initiatives work to ensure all households in Weld County, especially those experiencing socioeconomic instability, have access to affordable, quality early education.

1C-4b. Informing Individuals and Families Who Have Recently Begun Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services.

NOFO Section V.B.1.d.

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC uses to inform individuals and families who have recently begun experiencing homelessness of their eligibility for educational services.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,769 characters)

There are 17 different school districts in the NoCO CoC, but the vast majority of students attend

school in the three urban districts. As part of our CoC and ESG Written Standards, which is posted on the CoC website, the NoCO CoC has a written policy to ensure funded agencies provide information and facilitate access to educational services for families recently experiencing homelessness. The primary procedure to accomplish this is through the direct relationship emergency shelter and other direct assistance programs who serve families have with the school district McKinney Vento Liaisons. These programs, including the region's victim service providers, have formal agreements to make referrals to enroll children in school and receive the educational benefits for which they are eligible through the McKinney Vento program at the district. McKinney Vento Liaisons in two of the three largest school districts also have signed formal MOUs with the CoC and participate in the coordinated entry system (CES), which is an opportunity for them to potentially identify families in their district that were otherwise unknown to the program. Additionally, families on the by-name list can benefit from two different State of Colorado Next Step 2 Gen grants to provide housing assistance to families identified through the McKinney Vento program. One such example of this policy in practice is the formal Memorandum of Understanding that CoC partners Family Housing Network, Poudre School District, Thompson School District, Catholic Charities of Larimer County, and The Matthews House have together to provide parenting education to families experiencing homelessness, meeting at times weekly to coordinate family progress plans, including education access planning.

1C-4c. Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers.

NOFO Section V.B.1.d.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC has written formal agreements or partnerships with the listed providers of early childhood services:

MOU/MOA Other Formal Agreement

1. Birth to 3 years Y, Y
2. Child Care and Development Fund Y, N
3. Early Childhood Providers Y, Y
4. Early Head Start Y, Y
5. Federal Home Visiting Program—(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV) N, N
6. Head Start Y, Y
7. Healthy Start N, N
8. Public Pre-K Y, Y
9. Tribal Home Visiting Program N/A, N/A

Other (limit 150 characters)

10.

1C-5. Addressing Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking—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 **Y**

2. State Sexual Assault Coalitions **N**

3. Anti-trafficking Service Providers **Y**

Other Organizations that Help this Population (limit 500 characters)

4.

1C-5a. Collaborating with Federally Funded Programs and Victim Service Providers to Address Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations that you selected yes to 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.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,199 characters)

Our CoC is proud of the deep collaboration that happens between victim service providers (VSP) and mainstream homeless service providers, particularly in our coordinated entry process. 1) In the 2021 CoC Competition, our CoC was awarded SSO-CE DV Bonus funds, with the project officially beginning October 1, 2022. Over the past two years, this project has improved our coordinated entry system for survivors in a variety of ways. Coordinated Entry staff have dedicated time to working closely with VSPs and mainstream homeless service providers to thoroughly review coordinated entry policies and processes and identify specific changes needed to improve coordinated access, safety, outcomes for survivors regardless of where they seek assistance. For example, the CoC has updated Coordinated Entry policy to include "imminent danger to domestic violence" as a specific factor in determining vulnerability and prioritization for housing resources, and are leading a task force focused on developing a new, trauma-informed standardized assessment tool, that will replace the VI-SPDAT, capable of

capturing and responding to the nuanced way survivors' experience of homelessness and vulnerability often differ from the socially understood experience of homelessness. There have also been procedural improvements made to case conferencing to ensure survivors have equitable access to housing resources. 2) In addition to updating policies and procedures, the CoC has victims service experts in key leadership and advisory positions. The executive directors of two area victim service organizations hold seats on the CoC governing board, the chair of the CoC coordinated entry steering committee is the Housing Manager at a VSP, and both coordinated entry staff have worked previously as victim advocates. Additionally, every CoC committee has at least one member who works with people experiencing domestic violence, especially on decision-making committees. This helps ensure that issues experienced by victims are always considered. In summer 2024, the CoC hosted an annual training at the CoC General Membership meeting on issues and best practices for working with victims experiencing homelessness.

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

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry addresses the needs of DV survivors by including:

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

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,695 characters)

1) The most important safety protocol our coordinated entry system (CES) uses is the regular representation and active participation from victim service providers (VSP) during case conferencing. One example stands out in which an individual who had been accessing a mainstream homeless service provider was being case conferenced and the VSP staff person voiced that it sounded like this individual was experiencing domestic violence and the group discussed a plan to connect that individual to the VSP as soon as possible for resources and ultimately safe-shelter. An example of a planning protocol used is the practice of conducting separate CES assessments for all adults, even if they are in an intimate relationship with another individual experiencing homelessness. This ensures that someone who may be experiencing active domestic violence does not have their chance of obtaining a housing resource contingent on their partnership with their abuser. 2) Confidentiality of DV-affected households is a high priority for our CES. All individuals who are assessed at a VSP are included on the by-name list using a unique identifier and only non-identifying information is shared about their housing needs during the case conferencing process. Referrals are coordinated through the VSP so that the victim's confidentiality is kept until they explicitly agree through a written release of information for their personal information to be provided to the resource point of contact. Additionally, we have sought technical assistance from Safe Housing

Partnerships to further review our coordinate entry practice and ensure it aligns with VAWA requirements and best practices for confidentiality.

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

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

In the chart below, indicate how your CoC facilitates training for project staff and coordinated entry staff that addresses best practices on safety planning and confidentiality protocols:

Project Staff Coordinated Entry Staff

1. Training Occurs at least annually? **Y**
2. Incorporates Trauma Informed best practices? **Y**
3. Incorporates Survivor-Centered best practices? **Y**
4. Identifies and assesses survivors' individual safety needs? **Y**
5. Enhances and supports collaboration with DV organizations? **Y**
6. Ensures survivors' rights, voices, and perspectives are incorporated? **Y**

Other? (limit 500 characters)

7

1C-5d. Implemented VAWA-Required Written Emergency Transfer Plan Policies and Procedures for Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.

NOFO Section V.B.1.e.

Describe in the field below:

1. whether your CoC's written policies and procedures include an emergency transfer plan;
2. how your CoC informs all households seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance about their rights to an emergency transfer;
3. what your CoC requires households to do to request emergency transfers; and
4. what your CoC does in response to households requesting emergency transfers.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,241 characters)

1) Our CoC has policies and procedures that include an emergency transfer plan; documents related to this are posted on our website. Additionally, the CoC has hosted a Fair Housing Rights as well as specific domestic violence training for the CoC membership that included information related to housing rights of victims of domestic violence. 2) It is a funding requirement of all our PSH programs to honor emergency transfer plans if a victim requests a

transfer due to safety concerns. All our RRH programs keep documentation that there are lease addendums in place for all assisted units that detail the VAWA protections, including transfers and lease rescissions options, afforded to victims of domestic violence. 3) If a tenant reasonably believes there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if they remain in the same unit, they are eligible to request an emergency transfer. The tenant must request the transfer in writing to their property manager either through self-disclosing their concern for further harm or via a qualified third party, such as a victim advocate. When responding to the emergency transfer request, there is an expectation of confidentiality and expediency on the part of the property manager. In Colorado, there are expanded protections for victims requesting emergency transfers and property managers must comply with valid requests for emergency transfer in accordance with Colorado law. 4). If there is a tenant or advocate concerned about non-compliance, there are several CoC partner legal aid organizations that can assist victims with landlord mediation or representation if necessary. The CoC has hosted these legal aid programs at two different general membership meetings to share with the membership, including housing case managers, how to access their services for tenants. The CoC Lead Agency, United Way of Weld County, administers a flex fund for individuals housed through coordinated entry (CE). CE partner agencies working with clients seeking an emergency transfer may be eligible to access these funds. Additionally, all CoC-program funded projects are encouraged to utilize the VAWA component in their program budget to provide funding for clients who may require an emergency transfer.

1C-5e. Facilitating Safe Access to Housing and Services 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 ensures households experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have safe access to all of the housing and services available within your CoC's geographic area.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,706 characters)

The CoC's coordinated entry system (CES) currently keeps a separate, parallel process for intaking and managing assessment data from households who are accessing the system through victim service providers (VSP). When any household presents at an access point for the CES, part of the prevention and diversion screening involves assessing whether they are fleeing domestic violence (DV). If the household identifies as fleeing DV, they are offered to either complete the assessment at the mainstream access point or to be referred to the DV provider in that area for a confidential assessment. If they choose to complete the assessment at the mainstream access point they are still referred to DV support services and they are flagged on the by-name list as experiencing DV. In order to ensure continued adherence to this process regardless of personnel changes at partner agencies, the CoC has created a specific training module on responding to domestic violence that all staff who participate in CES must take prior to attending case conferencing. All VSPs provide non-identifying client data to the Coordinated Entry team in standardized spreadsheet format. When preparing to assign housing resources in case conferencing, the mainstream by-name list is pulled from HMIS using a special report that

creates a spreadsheet that can be easily combined with the DV by-name list spreadsheet. This process allows victims the same access to being referred to a mainstream housing resource in addition to DV-specific housing resources. This ensures households fleeing DV have full access to those housing resources provided through the CES while still maintaining confidentiality and privacy of the household.

1C-5f. Identifying and Removing Barriers 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 ensures survivors receive safe housing and services by:

1. identifying barriers specific to survivors; and
2. working to remove those barriers.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,357 characters)

If a survivor receives a housing referral to a mainstream housing program, they are often able to continue receiving supportive services and safety planning through a VSP. All households with an active housing referral, regardless of program, continue to be case-conferenced until they successfully move into housing. Survivors who have been referred to a mainstream housing program are still case-conferenced using their unique identifier. This allows for these households to continue to be discussed and housing barriers problem-solved in case conferencing and remain confidential. As an example, one family fleeing domestic violence was initially staying in a VSP safehouse and was enrolled into coordinated entry confidentially. This household was referred to a mainstream housing program in a different city and had the challenge of deciding whether to enroll their children in a new school district or access McKinney Vento supports to bus the children back to their school. Through the case conferencing process, the VSP, the housing program, and the McKinney Vento liaison were able to communicate effectively to assist the household in addressing this challenge while still using the household's unique identifier and maintaining their confidentiality. The CoC coordinated entry staff participate in monthly meetings with VSP leadership and housing staff to monitor system processes and troubleshoot solutions. Additionally, all three VSPs independently partner with the mainstream homeless service providers in their area to ensure comprehensive and responsive services are available to all people experiencing homelessness, regardless of whether they are currently experiencing domestic violence.

In addition to improving communication and coordination to reduce barriers for survivors, the CoC has made a concerted effort to improve data systems to accurately collect and report domestic violence homeless data. CoC HMIS staff have been working closely with the Colorado Division of Housing and the CO Domestic Violence Program to make improvements to the state-sponsored comparable database to collect VSP data, including the ESG Caper, CoC APR, and Coordinated Entry enrollments, and integrate it broader CoC system data, in part for the purpose of tracking housing referrals and outcomes, identifying gaps and disparities and creating solutions.

1C-6. Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+—Anti-Discrimination Policy and Equal Access Trainings.

NOFO Section V.B.1.f.

1. Did your CoC implement a written CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination? [Yes](#)
2. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access Final Rule)? [Yes](#)
3. Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement Equal Access in Accordance With an Individual's Gender Identity in Community Planning and Development Programs (Gender Identity Final Rule)? [Yes](#)

1C-6a. Anti-Discrimination Policy—Updating Policies—Assisting Providers—Evaluating Compliance—Addressing Noncompliance.

NOFO Section V.B.1.f.

Describe in the field below:

1. how your CoC regularly collaborates with LGBTQ+ and other organizations to update its CoC wide anti-discrimination policy, as necessary to ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed and able to meet the needs of LGBTQ+ individuals and families;
2. how your CoC assisted housing and services providers in developing project-level antidiscrimination policies that are consistent with the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy;
3. your CoC's process for evaluating compliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies; and
4. your CoC's process for addressing noncompliance with your CoC's anti-discrimination policies.

(limit 2,500 characters) [\(1,974 characters\)](#)

1) The CoC has updated its CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy to include more specific language to align with HUD Equal Access and Gender Identity Rules, as well as updating procedures of how the CoC will ensure equal access. The CoC has several people who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community at levels of leadership, including on the CoC Governing Board. In our region there is a lack of specific LGBTQ+ advocacy and service organizations, however several peer support programs participate as part of the general membership and within our coordinated entry system (CES) and have provided useful guidance on CoC and CES policy. 2) The CoC has provided information to partners on best practice for gender inclusive language as well as shared with partners trainings offered by national technical assistance firms associated with non-discrimination and Fair Housing rights. The CoC has hosted a Fair Housing training for partners, which included information on Colorado protections for gender identity in housing. 3) The CoC evaluates compliance with anti-discrimination policies through formal

monitoring of ESG and CoC funded programs. The CoC has hired a contractor to assist in advancing certain CoC goals, including further development of ESG and CoC program monitoring process. A part of this monitoring process will include organization self-assessment and outside assessment of DEI policies and procedures and practices. 4) Upon completion of the program monitoring DEI assessment process, CoC and ESG funded programs will receive results and recommendations for areas of improvement and strengthening and will be asked to identify specific action steps. Results of the monitoring may be factored into the project's renewal rating if requesting continued CoC funding. Failure to make corrections could impact the program's receipt of future funds, either through the CoC local competition process or through advocacy to the State Division of Housing ESG Program.

1C-7. Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC's Geographic Area—New Admissions—General/Limited Preference—Moving On Strategy.

NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

You must upload the PHA Homeless Preference\PHA Moving On Preference attachment(s) to the 4B Attachments Screen.

PHA Homeless Preference Attachment – Complete

PHA Move On Preference Attachment - Complete

Enter information in the chart below for the two largest PHAs highlighted in gray on the current CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report or the two PHAs your CoC has a working relationship with—if there is only one PHA in your CoC's geographic area, provide information on the one:

- Public Housing Agency Name
- Enter the Percent of New Admissions into Public Housing or Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2023 who were experiencing homelessness at entry
- Does the PHA have a General or Limited Homeless Preference?
- Does the PHA have a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On?

Housing Catalyst 46%, Yes-General, Yes

Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing, 40%, Yes, General Homeless Preference from waiting list; "literally homeless" definition (Chapter 4, pg 108), Yes, in HCV program waiting list preference for "Current Participants in the following DOH subsidy programs: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) (Chapter 4, page 109)

1C-7a. Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences with PHAs.

NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

Describe in the field below:

1. steps your CoC has taken, with the two largest PHAs within your CoC's geographic area or the two PHAs your CoC has working relationships with, to adopt a homeless admission preference—if your CoC only has one PHA within its geographic area, you may respond for the one; or
2. state that your CoC has not worked with the PHAs in its geographic area to adopt a homeless admission preference.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,532 characters)

1) Housing Catalyst, a public housing authority in the CoC, has various homeless preferences for their HCV program depending on the specific type of voucher provided. For certain project-based vouchers attached to permanent supportive housing units, Housing Catalyst has a written preference for homeless families and individuals referred through the CoC and member agencies. For their HCV waitlist, Housing Catalyst has a preference for non-elderly individuals with disabilities who are homeless or who are transitioning out of institutional settings and would be discharged into homelessness; Housing Catalyst receives referrals for these preferred applicants from the NoCO CoC. Housing Catalyst received 24 Emergency Housing Vouchers which were issued to referrals from the CoC for families experiencing homelessness or who were at risk of homelessness. They have adopted a Move-On preference for people requesting to move from project based PSH to a tenant-based voucher. The Division of Housing- Housing Authority Department also has both a homeless preference and a Move On preference for their HCV, FUP, Mainstream, and Non-Elderly Disabled vouchers. In addition to their extensive number of state housing vouchers, in northern Colorado, the Division of Housing has agreements with two agencies to administer CoC-funded vouchers for people experiencing homelessness, Northrange Behavioral Health and Summitstone Health Partners. Additionally, they have designated 56 Emergency Housing Vouchers to Larimer and Weld County.

.

1C-7b. Moving On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers.

Not Scored—For Information Only

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate affordable housing providers in your CoC's jurisdiction that your recipients use to move program participants to other subsidized housing:

1. Multifamily assisted housing owners No
2. PHA Yes
3. Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments Yes
4. Local low-income housing programs Yes

Other (limit 150 characters)

5.

1C-7c. Include Units from PHA Administered Programs in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry.

NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

In the chart below, indicate if your CoC includes units from the following PHA programs in your CoC's coordinated entry process:

1. Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) [Yes](#)
2. Family Unification Program (FUP) [Yes](#)
3. Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) [Yes](#)
4. HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) [Yes](#)
5. Mainstream Vouchers [Yes](#)
6. Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers [No](#)
7. Public Housing [No](#)
8. Other Units from PHAs:

1C-7d. Submitting CoC and PHA Joint Applications for Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness.

NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

1. Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a competitive joint application(s) for funding or jointly implement a competitive project serving individuals or families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other programs)? [Yes](#)
2. Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement. [Family Unification Program \(FUP\)](#)

1C-7e. Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV).

NOFO Section V.B.1.g.

Did your CoC coordinate with any PHA to apply for or implement funding provided for Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to homelessness, including vouchers provided through the American Rescue Plan?
[Yes](#)

1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

1D-1. Preventing People Transitioning from Public Systems from Experiencing Homelessness.

NOFO Section V.B.1.h.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the public systems 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.

1. Prisons/Jails? **Yes**
2. Health Care Facilities? **Yes**
3. Residential Care Facilities? **Yes**
4. Foster Care? **Yes**

1D-2. Housing First—Lowering Barriers to Entry.

NOFO Section V.B.1.i.

1. Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition.
8
2. Enter the total number of new and renewal CoC Program-funded PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects your CoC is applying for in FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.
8

1D-2a. Project Evaluation for Housing First Compliance.

NOFO Section V.B.1.i.

You must upload the Housing First Evaluation attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Housing First Evaluation Attachment - Complete

Describe in the field below:

1. how your CoC evaluates every project—where the applicant checks Housing First on their project application—to determine if they are using a Housing First approach;
2. the list of factors and performance indicators your CoC uses during its evaluation;

3. how your CoC regularly evaluates projects outside of your local CoC competition to ensure the projects are using a Housing First approach; and

4. what your CoC has done to improve fidelity to Housing First.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,208 characters)

1) Projects funded through the CoC are expected to adhere to Housing First (HF) practices, including prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing. For the 2024 rating process, housing first implementation and practices were weighted heavily. Projects were scored on both outcome data that indicate an embrace of HF practices, as well as on a program's understanding and implementation of harm reduction and trauma-informed care practices. 2) Renewal projects were scored based on objective system performance (APR) data that reflects implementation of housing first practices, including the extent to which the project serves vulnerable populations and how quickly they move people into housing and successfully exit them to permanent housing. New projects were asked to explain through narrative how their program would support these system performance objectives. Both renewal and new projects were scored on their provided narrative describing specific examples of how Housing First is used in the design and implementation of the project, and how Harm Reduction and Trauma-Informed Care is used in the program model in practice. 3) Outside of competition, programs are also evaluated by the coordinated entry team throughout the year on how many referrals are being accepted or denied, and the stated reason for denials and notifying CoC leadership if there are any concerning trends in denials. Program data collected and reported in HMIS provides a more structured opportunity to assess whether a program's participants are remaining housed or moving on to other permanent housing. An unusually high rate of exits to homelessness is an indicator the program model may need adjustment. 4) In 2023 and 2024, in partnership with the City of Greeley, our CoC has had the opportunity to offer two free and open-to-the public trainings from the "Father of Housing First", Dr. Sam Tsemberis, as well as several smaller learning sessions tailored for local government/business leaders and for non-profit/direct service providers. Dr. Tsemberis is contracted to provide on-going technical assistance to the City of Greeley as it implements a new comprehensive Housing First Housing Program.

1D-3. Street Outreach—Data—Reaching People Least Likely to Request Assistance.

NOFO Section V.B.1.j.

Describe in the field below how your CoC tailored its street outreach to people experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,130 characters)

Outreach happens by multiple organizations daily in both counties of our CoC. All outreach efforts are similarly based around often being the first point of contact for the unhoused for services, including enrolling in the coordinated entry system. The teams generally focus first on building relationships and trust with those who are under-engaged in services; once trust is established, they are more able to connect the individual to other services and resources. In Fort Collins, a dedicated street outreach team (Outreach Fort Collins) is a key access point to the coordinated entry system and is regularly deployed to find individuals referred to resources, and engaged in merchant and law enforcement mediation to prevent unnecessary

criminalization. In Loveland, a partnership with the City of Loveland and a local non-profit to conduct outreach to natural areas and other hot spots for encampments and encourage unsheltered people to access the newly expanded shelter and services. Loveland recently received funding to create a dedicated street outreach team. In the mountain-resort town of Estes Park, outreach efforts are conducted by Crossroads Ministry, including within the forested area that surrounds the town. The City of Greeley created the first dedicated street outreach team for the city in 2024, and in Weld County a street outreach focused workgroup has mapped out where and when each organization conducts outreach, and to create a coverage plan and coordination of efforts. The CoC works with all outreach teams to understand their role as potentially the primary point of contact for services for people with the highest barriers. The teams are trained to use non-threatening and approachable methods to engage people, including relying on others with lived experience, which helps create the dynamics needed to engage people least likely to request assistance. Additionally, street outreach efforts are intentionally targeted to cover areas located geographically away from homeless services, such as shelters and day-centers, to better connect with individuals who intentionally avoid these spaces.

1D-4. Strategies to Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness.

NOFO Section V.B.1.k.

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate your CoC's strategies to prevent the criminalization of homelessness in your CoC's geographic area:

- Your CoC's Strategies Engaged/Educated Legislators and Policymakers
 - Implemented Laws/Policies/Practices that Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness
1. Increase utilization of co-responder responses or social services-led responses over law enforcement responses to people experiencing homelessness? [Yes/Yes](#)
 2. Minimize use of law enforcement to enforce bans on public sleeping, public camping, or carrying out basic life functions in public places? [Yes/Yes](#)
 3. Avoid imposing criminal sanctions, including fines, fees, and incarceration for public sleeping, public camping, and carrying out basic life functions in public places? [Yes/Yes](#)
 4. Other:(limit 500 characters): [Implemented Safe Parking Program in Loveland](#)

This question was not asked in FY2023

1D-5. Rapid Rehousing—RRH Beds as Reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) or Longitudinal Data from HMIS.

NOFO Section V.B.1.l.

Enter the total number of RRH beds available to serve all populations as reported in the HIC or the number of households served per longitudinal HMIS data, e.g., APR.

HIC Longitudinal HMIS Data

1. 2023 - [249](#)
2. 2024 - [244](#)

1D-6. Mainstream Benefits—CoC Annual Training of Project Staff.

NOFO Section V.B.1.m.

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains program staff annually on the following mainstream benefits available for program participants within your CoC's geographic area:

CoC Provides Annual Training?

1. Food Stamps [Yes](#)
2. SSI—Supplemental Security Income [Yes](#)
3. SSDI—Social Security Disability Insurance [Yes](#)
4. TANF—Temporary Assistance for Needy Families [Yes](#)
5. Substance Use Disorder Programs [Yes](#)
6. Employment Assistance Programs [Yes](#)
7. Other (limit 150 characters)

1D-6a. Information and Training on Mainstream Benefits and Other Assistance.

NOFO Section V.B.1.m

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1. works with projects to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including those that provide substance use disorder treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services, including Medicaid; and
2. promotes SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters) [\(1,411 characters\)](#)

1) Many members and funded projects actively collaborate with healthcare organizations, including local behavioral health organizations, to ensure clients can access services. Funded projects and member organizations actively assist clients in accessing and using benefits, including Medicaid. For instance, Navigators -- who are often among the first staff members in contact with someone newly accessing services and the coordinated entry system -- assist individuals to enroll in critical benefits. The several members of CoC leadership are members of the Mental Health Substance Use Alliance (MHSUA), a collaborative addressing intersecting issues related to ensuring access to mental and behavioral health services in our region, and sit on the Interagency Council, which is a network of mental and behavioral health providers, emergency medicine, law enforcement and co-responders that share both organizational level

information and best practices as well as conduct coordination of services for high utilizers of the emergency response system. By participating in these groups and sharing about the work of the CoC, the number of healthcare sector CoC partners has increased. 2) Two highly engaged CoC and coordinated entry partners, SummitStone Health Partners in Larimer and NorthRange Behavioral Health in Weld, offer SOAR certification for their staff and ensure such services are widely accessible.

ID-7. Partnerships with Public Health Agencies—Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent the Spread of Infectious Diseases.

NOFO Section V.B.1.n.

Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to develop CoC-wide policies and procedures that:

1. respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and
2. prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC improved its ability to respond to future infectious disease emergencies by 1) collaboratively rethinking the structure of current programs and facilities and forging new partnerships. The need to keep people experiencing homelessness safe during the pandemic required organizations to work together in ways that built off previous partnerships but responded to the challenges of the pandemic. For instance, emergency shelters in the CoC that regularly coordinate to maximize space during cold weather months again were required to work together to determine how best to use the space across all available shelters to serve individuals and families safely, as well as increasing the use of motels and other non-congregate options. These collaborations have been consistently sustained since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. 2) As CoC agencies and providers have expertise and relationships with people experiencing homelessness, and public health agencies have resources and a responsibility to protect the public health, it was imperative to work together during the pandemic. Coming out of the pandemic, the CoC has forged further partnerships with the State Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), as well as our local Regional Accountability Entity (RAEs) that operate in each county in our region. Both HCPF and the RAEs myriad of resources and information that the CoC was not previously connected to. These partnerships and relationships will serve all parties well when there is a need to respond to a future public health emergency. During the COVID-19 pandemic and since, the health departments of both counties have provided vaccination opportunities at shelters and other locations most available to our unhoused neighbors.

ID-7a. Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases.

NOFO Section V.B.1.n.

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1. effectively shared information related to public health measures and homelessness; and
2. facilitated communication between public health agencies and homeless service providers to ensure street outreach providers and shelter and housing providers are equipped to prevent or limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,780 characters)

1) The CoC has formal partnerships with both the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), as well as public health departments from both counties in our region. Because of this partnership, public health information has been shared with members during our General Membership meetings, notably around Covid-19, Monkeypox, and Hepatitis C prevention. Both the Larimer and Weld County Health Departments continue to regularly publish data on the prevalence of public health concerns present in the region. A CoC Governing Board member who is the executive director of a domestic violence shelter also sits on the Weld County board to review protocols for emergency preparedness to provide perspective on the needs of highly vulnerable sheltered populations. 2) In both counties, over the last year there has been an expansion of communication and collaboration between public health providers and homeless service providers. In Fort Collins, the largest day shelter in the CoC, the Murphy Center, renovated a portion of their space into a permanent medical clinic specifically for people experiencing homelessness in partnership with Summitstone Health Partners and others; the first of its kind in our region. This facility opened in spring 2024. In Greeley, the Housing Navigation Center hosts medical clinic hours several times a month. Due to a high percentage of people staying in encampments during the summer months in Greeley, the Weld County Health Department monitors the river water content for dangerous levels of E.coli and other infectious bacteria and coordinates with street outreach workers to proactively notify residents of the encampment if levels become dangerous and also to assist in compassionate encampment movement when needed.

1D-8. Coordinated Entry Standard Processes.

NOFO Section V.B.1.o.

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

1. can serve everybody regardless of where they are located within your CoC's geographic area;
2. uses a standardized assessment process to achieve fair, equitable, and equal access to housing and services within your CoC;
3. collects personal information in a trauma-informed way; and
4. is updated at least annually using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,404 characters)

1) The Coordinated Entry System (CES) uses a "no-wrong-door" approach to access the system and covers 100% of our CoC. The CES includes 41 physical "Access Points" into the system, strategically located throughout both counties where people experiencing homelessness often

seek services. The street outreach teams operating in the CoC also serve as mobile access points. Additionally, the CoC maintains an online portal hosted on FindHelp.com to expand access to CES where anyone can self-refer or be referred by someone else for assistance and assessment by a homeless resource navigator. As part of the development of this online portal, the CoC worked to outreach, engage and train organizations who have not historically participated in our CES, such as healthcare, probation, competency court, education, libraries, cultural community centers and others to use the online referral portal when they encounter someone who is experiencing homelessness. 2) Our CES uses a combination of the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) and custom follow-up questions to assist with prioritization as our standardized assessment. Use of the VI-SPDAT as the standardized assessment tool was determined when Larimer and Weld County were a region of the CO Balance of State. 3) Since becoming our own CoC and improving our evaluation process, we have identified the need to implement a new, more equitable and trauma-informed assessment tool. The CoC is actively coordinating a task force focused on developing this new tool. Implementation of the new tool is expected in mid-2025. In the meantime, the CoC has included specific training required for all service providers who administer the VI-SPDAT on how to conduct the assessment through a trauma-informed lens. 4) Every year our CES conducts an annual evaluation to gather feedback from partners on system functioning, engagement and the collaborative process. During this evaluation process, the CoC Lived Experience Advisory Council reviewed the standard assessment and the process to access coordinated entry and provided extremely valuable feedback that will be part of the foundation of our current goals of changing our assessment and prioritization policies. At the conclusion of the CES Evaluation, an official report is released, and the results of the annual evaluation inform system-wide improvement goals.

1D-8a. Coordinated Entry–Program Participant-Centered Approach.

NOFO Section V.B.1.o.

Describe in the field below how your CoC’s coordinated entry system:

1. reaches people who are least likely to apply for homeless assistance in the absence of special outreach;
2. prioritizes people most in need of assistance;
3. ensures people most in need of assistance receive permanent housing in a timely manner, consistent with their needs and preferences; and
4. takes steps to reduce burdens on people seeking assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,436 characters)

1) In keeping with the “no wrong door” approach, individuals who may not seek services elsewhere are still connected to the coordinated entry system (CES) through whichever entity might be in a position to assist them. In many cases our outreach teams and low barrier day shelters are the point of entry into CES as they regularly engage and build trust with people who are otherwise service hesitant. Households in the CES are prioritized based partly on their assessment score and partly on other criteria. 2) The CoC has adopted HUD’s Orders of Priority (CPD Notice16-11) for PSH programs and prioritizes households based on chronic status and

length of time homeless in addition to their VISDPAT score. Households are primarily prioritized for RRH based on their VISDPAT score and length of time homeless. 3) The CES utilizes case conferences to collaboratively refer households to resources and ensure the household is properly assisted with any front-end needs, such as securing required documentation to access housing. This process ensures households are connected as quickly and seamlessly to available housing resources as possible. Through case conferencing, our CES partners set action steps for each week and identify specific activities that should be accomplished by the case managers in between meetings to expedite housing. Additionally, referred households are always offered the housing opportunity as a choice and not as their only option. If a household declines a resource for whatever reason, they remain prioritized on the by-name list for future resources that may fit better with their preferences. 4) An example of taking steps to reduce burdens on people using coordinated entry is our CES adopting procedures to ensure people who have declined or who are unable to complete the VISDPAT are still included in the by-name list and their housing needs are determined through the case conferencing process. This is an especially important option for those who are often living unsheltered and generally only engaging with targeted street outreach. This also can ensure people who may be leery of providing personal information to others to still be considered for resources. Our community participated in a HUD Workshop Series on Improving Assessment and Prioritization and we have created a task force that is actively working on creating a new assessment tool that is much simpler and less invasive than the VISDPAT.

1D-8b. Coordinated Entry—Informing Program Participants about Their Rights and Remedies—Reporting Violations.

NOFO Section V.B.1.o.

Describe in the field below how your CoC through its coordinated entry:

1. affirmatively markets housing and services provided within the CoC's geographic area and ensures it reaches all persons experiencing homelessness;
2. informs program participants of their rights and remedies available under federal, state, and local fair housing and civil rights laws; and
3. reports any conditions or actions that impede fair housing choice for current or prospective program participants to the jurisdiction(s) responsible for certifying consistency with the Consolidated Plan.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,737 characters)

1) The CoC's coordinated entry system (CES) uses a no-wrong door approach, with access points to the CES being available both at mainstream homeless service programs, but also at other locations that have a broader service footprint, such as mental and behavioral health, criminal justice advocacy, cultural community centers, etc. There is also access to our CES through our online referral platform hosted by FindHelp.org. Each of these access points are responsible for affirmatively marketing housing resources and services through direct case management, visual aids, and other materials in an accessible way to people of any race, ethnicity, or belonging to any marginalized identity. 2) This includes providing information on fair housing rights, rights afforded to victims of domestic violence, as well as remedies for violations to civil rights. The CoC partners with Colorado Poverty Law Project (CPLP), a non-profit law firm

that provides housing advocacy and education, eviction prevention, and tenants right legal aid services. CPLP hosts legal clinics and provides legal clinics for people who may have experienced fair housing violations, or who have been unjustly served an eviction notice. 3) This year, the CoC hosted a Fair Housing Rights training provided by the Denver Metro Fair Housing Center (DMFHC) for all CoC partners to know and understand federal and Colorado Fair Housing laws, including recent policy changes. The CoC endorses a process for partner organizations to report either on behalf of or together with clients who have experienced conditions or actions that violate Fair Housing rights to the CPLP or to DMFHC. Both CPLP and DMFHC have provided CoC-sponsored training for housing service providers.

1D-9. Advancing Racial Equity in Homelessness—Conducting Assessment.

NOFO Section V.B.1.p.

1. Has your CoC conducted a racial disparities assessment in the last 3 years?

Yes

2. Enter the date your CoC conducted its latest assessment for racial disparities.

7/1/2024

1D-9a. Using Data to Determine if Racial Disparities Exist in Your CoC's Provision or Outcomes of CoC Program-Funded Homeless Assistance.

NOFO Section V.B.1.p.

Describe in the field below:

1. the data your CoC used to analyze whether any racial disparities are present in your CoC's provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance; and
2. how your CoC analyzed the data to determine whether any racial disparities are present in your CoC's provision or outcomes of CoC Program-funded homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,067 characters)

As part of the 2024 State of Homelessness Report, released publicly at the beginning of August 2024, the NoCO CoC conducted an analysis of the homeless system in northern Colorado, including a specific section discussing racial and ethnic disparities in the region. Analysis of race and ethnicity was also in the report's discussion of the coordinated entry system, domestic violence system, and CoC system performance measures. 1) Because most programs serving people experiencing homelessness enter program data into HMIS and we use HMIS to manage our coordinated entry data, this was the primary source for most data used in the analysis. However, additional data sources included reports of aggregate data from their emergency shelter programs voluntarily provided by the three primary victim service organizations in the region, the annual System Performance Measure (SPM) report, and data from the 2024 Point in Time Count (PIT) and the Housing Inventory Count (HIC). For instances of comparison of northern Colorado to local, state or national statistics, various data sources were used, such as the most recent American Communities Survey. 2) After collecting the data, it was processed

and analyzed collaboratively by CoC staff, including HMIS Lead staff, the Coordinated Entry Data System Specialist, the CoC System Improvement Director, and an independent contractor working on preparing the report. To investigate and understand the types of disparities present in the data, the data sets were uploaded into a data analysis and visualization tool. The team utilized HUD-provided data tools, like Stella-P, as well. Calculations of the racial/ethnic make-up of the homeless population compared to the general population of the region were done through manually combining data sets into Excel to create charts and graphs for better understanding of disparity trends. Insights gathered from the data were then reviewed collectively by the team working on the report and were drafted into a narrative discussion to be included in the State of Homelessness Report.

1D-9b. Implemented Strategies to Prevent or Eliminate Racial Disparities.

NOFO Section V.B.1.p

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the strategies your CoC is using to prevent or eliminate racial disparities.

1. Are your CoC's board and decision-making bodies representative of the population served in the CoC? [No](#)
2. Did your CoC identify steps it will take to help the CoC board and decision-making bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC? [Yes](#)
3. Is your CoC expanding outreach in your CoC's geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups? [Yes](#)
4. Does your CoC have communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups? [Yes](#)
5. Is your CoC training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness? [Yes](#)
6. Is your CoC establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector? [Yes](#)
7. Does your CoC have staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness? [Yes](#)
8. Is your CoC educating organizations, stakeholders, boards of directors for local and national nonprofit organizations working on homelessness on the topic of creating greater racial and ethnic diversity? [Yes](#)
9. Did your CoC review its coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness? [Yes](#)
10. Is your CoC collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system? [Yes](#)
11. Is your CoC conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness? [Yes](#)

Other:(limit 500 characters)

12.

1D-9c. Plan for Ongoing Evaluation of System-level Processes, Policies, and Procedures for Racial Equity.

NOFO Section V.B.1.p.

Describe in the field below your CoC's plan for ongoing evaluation of system-level processes, policies, and procedures for racial equity.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,099 characters)

Since becoming our own CoC in 2020, the NoCO CoC has been steadily developing a strong process for ongoing evaluation of system-level racial equity. The foundation for ongoing evaluation is ensuring the CoC has appropriate staff capacity and skill; to this end the collaborative applicant employs a CoC System Improvement Director and the HMIS Lead employs an HMIS System Improvement Manager to lead the work. Additionally, the Data & Performance Committee and the Coordinated Entry Steering Committee are key CoC working groups focused on system evaluation and equity. These committees meet monthly, however specific workgroups and task forces may be constituted to focus on a specific topic. The process the CoC uses for ongoing equity evaluation is based in Built for Zero change strategies and includes 1) centering evaluation with quality data and inclusion of diverse voices and backgrounds, 2) regular tracking and review of progress towards equity benchmarks, 3) identifying and implementing change ideas through community collaboration including active involvement, and 4) transparently communicating progress and continued challenges in achieving equity goals to CoC leadership, partners, and the public. The CoC typically focuses on one area in need of improvement and implements an action review cycle until meaningful progress has been made. For example, we identified that we need to move to a different common assessment tool than the VI-SPDAT in part because the tool has a score bias that disproportionately disadvantages people of color in being prioritized for housing referrals. The Data and Performance Committee reviewed data related to how individuals answered questions on the VI-SPDAT by race/ethnicity to see if which questions did or did not show biases and track how the experience of homelessness may differ between groups. To respond to this inequity, the CoC's System Improvement Director is actively leading a special taskforce to develop a new equity-based assessment tool that works for our community. This new assessment tool is expected to be released in early 2025.

1D-9d. Plan for Using Data to Track Progress on Preventing or Eliminating Racial Disparities.

NOFO Section V.B.1.p.

Describe in the field below:

1. the measures your CoC plans to use to continuously track progress on preventing or eliminating racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and
2. the tools your CoC plans to use to continuously track progress on preventing or eliminating racial disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,360 characters)

The CoC has an explicit goal of improving our homeless response system to ensure that all people experiencing homelessness have equitable access to the system and its resources, and that system outcomes are on par regardless of racial/ethnic background. 1) To meet this end, the measures our CoC regularly tracks include:

- Homeless population demographics (CoC-wide and county-specific) compared to general population demographics
- Demographics of those who are sheltered versus unsheltered
- Comparison of demographics of people enrolled in emergency shelter and people enrolled in coordinated entry
- Comparison demographics of people referred to housing resources and people successfully housed
- Comparison demographics of people identified as needing permanent supportive housing and people identified as needing rapid rehousing
- Demographic differences within HUD System Performance Measures, including First Time Homeless, Length of Homelessness, Exits to Permanent Housing, and Returns to Homelessness

2) The tools our CoC uses to track these measures are a combination of program-level and coordinated entry-level HMIS data, DV comparable database data, Point in Time and Housing Inventory Count, Longitudinal System Analysis reports, System Performance Measure reports, and other publicly available data sources, such as the American Communities Survey.

1D-10. Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decision-making—CoC's Outreach Efforts.

NOFO Section V.B.1.q.

Describe in the field below your CoC's outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decision-making processes.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,472 characters)

The CoC created a committee to implement the StriveTogether Theory of Action framework to develop more equitable strategies for solving homelessness in northern Colorado. The NoCO StriveTogether committee focused on: 1) establishing a NoCO CoC Lived Experience Advisory Council (LEAC), and 2) expanding the diverse representation and participation in the Continuum of Care's boards, committees and workgroups. By following the StriveTogether action plan, the committee developed an intentional and deliberate plan for building a lived experience advisory council and other opportunities for input that includes diversity of personal experience and

cultural background. The NoCO CoC acknowledges the importance of compensating individuals for their work and has funds to pay participants for their work on the LEAC. In 2023, the CoC governing board voted to include a member from the LEAC as a designated voting governing board member. Twice a year, the LEAC recruits new members through personal networking, social media posts, and public flyers. Since the LEAC has become an active part of the CoC structure, the council has begun to discuss more possible ways to meaningfully engage other people with lived experience in the CoC, formally and informally. Discussion included focus groups, one-on-one interviews, etc. and topics would focus on CoC and CES priorities.

As a result of the StriveTogether committee, beginning in 2023 the NoCO CoC began collecting data on the demographics and background of its membership. The StriveTogether committee developed an anonymous demographics survey for all service providers and access points in the CoC to see where gaps and disparities may exist so that intentional recruitment to fill gaps in representation can occur. The demographics survey included a secondary survey to capture interest for individual's involvement in the work of the CoC, with the purpose of supporting expanding membership on CoC board, committees, and workgroups to be more diverse and representative of the community as a whole and the people it is meant to serve. Based on the results of this supplemental survey, interested respondents were outreached and connected to become involved in the CoC committee of their choice. People who indicated having lived experience were prioritized for involvement in committees that require application. In September 2024, the survey was redistributed and the CoC will repeat this process for the upcoming year.

1D-10a. Active CoC Participation of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.

NOFO Section V.B.1.q.

You must upload the Lived Experience Support Letter attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Lived Experience Support Letter Attachment - Complete

Enter in the chart below the number of people with lived experience who currently participate in your CoC under the four categories listed:

- Number of People with Lived Experience Within the Last 7 Years or Current Program Participant
 - Number of People with Lived Experience Coming from Unsheltered Situations
1. Routinely included in the decision-making processes related to addressing homelessness. [24/6](#)
 2. Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups. [24/6](#)
 3. Included in the development or revision of your CoC's local competition rating factors. [2/1](#)
 4. Included in the development or revision of your CoC's coordinated entry process. [7/3](#)

1D-10b. Professional Development and Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.

NOFO Section V.B.1.q.

Describe in the field below how your CoC or CoC membership organizations provide professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,913 characters)

CoC membership organizations provide professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience of homelessness. In Larimer County, Homeward Alliance has created and expanded a program called Hand Up in which employment specialists work with clients experiencing homelessness to build a resume, apply for jobs, and connect with employer partners. Homeward Alliance partners with other agencies to host office hours for their Hand Up employment specialists throughout Larimer County. Another strategy that has been deployed is targeting employment services for individuals at high risk for exiting incarceration into homelessness. In Larimer County, Homeward Alliance supports a re-entry program called Work and Gain Education and Employment Skills (WAGEES) for individuals exiting the criminal justice system. The program works with clients to set and attain employment and educational goals and secure stable housing. In Weld County, Weld Employment Services hold weekly office housing at the local Housing Navigation Center, assisting guests with resume building, job searching and general employment readiness. Additionally, Jobs of Hope operates a reentry program that provides employment and transitional housing services to individuals 18 and over, released from incarceration having had or currently gang-affiliated and involved in the justice system. As a participant of the Jobs of Hope program, individuals meet regularly with their Reentry Case Manager/Navigator to receive a fully integrated, holistic and collaborative service planning for meeting self-identified goals related to employment and permanent housing. For the veteran population, there is a new organization called Veteran Employment Services that works with unhoused veterans to find and maintain employment, complete certificates to increase wages, and provide material assistance needed for employment.

1D-10c. Routinely Gathering Feedback and Addressing Challenges of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.

NOFO Section V.B.1.q.

Describe in the field below:

1. how your CoC gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;
2. how often your CoC gathers feedback from people experiencing homelessness;
3. how your CoC gathers feedback from people who received assistance through the CoC Program or ESG Program;
4. how often your CoC gathers feedback from people who have received assistance through the CoC Program or ESG Program; and

5. steps your CoC has taken to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,339 characters)

The CoC created a Lived Experience Advisory Council (LEAC) to inform the broader work of the CoC, advise the governing board, and steer priorities of CoC committees. The LEAC is comprised of people who have recent or current experience of homelessness; members are paid for their expertise and are invited to be involved and paid for participating in other CoC committees and initiatives. Several LEAC members have received assistance from CoC and ESG funded programs, including two that live at a CoC-funded PSH complex. Additionally, there are regular lived-experience listening sessions occurring at the two primary homeless resource centers/day shelters, both of whom receive ESG funding, to gather feedback and understand concerns of people receiving assistance. Because both agencies are highly engaged in the CoC, the feedback they have gathered within these lived experience groups has been communicated at CoC meetings and has helped inform certain policies and priorities. Broadly, feedback that has been gathered from both the LEAC and through listening sessions is that people feel frustrated and let down by the length of time it takes for them to receive housing assistance and actually lease up in a unit. The CoC has taken many steps to address this challenge through optimizing our coordinated entry system to better streamline referrals, identify target move-in dates and encourage a sense of urgency and positive problem solving in housing navigators so that people on the by-name list are being housed as quickly as possible. Another specific example is feedback provided by the LEAC representative who currently serves on the Project Rating Committee. The feedback shared was a recommendation that the perspective of people being served by CoC-funded programs should be included as part of the Rating and Ranking process. Additionally, feedback from people with lived experience should be collected in ways other than a paper survey since most people feel more positively when they are given the opportunity to talk about their experiences and not just given another piece of paper to fill out. This suggestion was overwhelmingly supported by the rest of the Project Rating Committee and the next CoC Competition will include the perspective of program recipients in the rating process and not simply using a survey.

1D-11. Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.

NOFO Section V.B.1.s.

Describe in the field below at least two steps your CoC has taken in the past 12 months to engage city, county, or state governments that represent your CoC's geographic area regarding the following:

1. reforming zoning and land use policies to permit more housing development; and
2. reducing regulatory barriers to housing development.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,786 characters)

CoC has strong partnerships with the major municipalities in the region, including reserving seats on the CoC governing board, and engages the CoC network to support affordable housing strategies happening at the city, county and state levels. In 2023, the State of Colorado began implementation of the Affordable Housing Support Fund available to municipalities that formally

commit to increasing their supply of affordable housing by 3% per year. To date, seven cities and one county in our CoC region have made this commitment to increase their overall housing supply by 9% by 2026, for a total of 1,706 new affordable units. Fort Collins, the largest city in the CoC, has approved zoning requirements that permits more housing development, including expanding the number of approved housing types and increasing development incentives for affordable housing, reducing parking standards, and increasing height and density. They are currently working on decreasing approval times for affordable housing projects (“fast-tracking”) and recommendations for accessory dwelling units. The City of Loveland is also a year into implementing an expanded Single Family Zoning to encourage higher density and diversity of housing units, as well as creating a Loveland Land Bank for future development designated as 100% Affordable. Larimer County has implemented several strategies to preserve naturally occurring affordable housing and increase interest in diverse housing types through implementing a Mobile Home Park Preservation zone and removing a sales tax on manufactured home sales. Larimer County Commissioners approved the inclusion of a goal in its 5-year strategic plan to “coordinate regionally on land use issues to encourage affordable, attainable housing near transportation and jobs.” The strategic plan objective group includes county staff and regional stakeholders who meet quarterly. Individual CoC Governing Board members are involved in local and regional efforts to change zoning and land use policies and to reduce regulatory barriers so that more affordable housing might be developed.

1E. Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking—Local Competition

1E-1. Web Posting of Advance Public Notice of Your CoC’s Local Competition Deadline, Scoring and Rating Criteria.

NOFO Section V.B.2.a. and 2.g.

1. Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for New Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC’s local competition.
8/5/2024
2. Enter the date your CoC published its submission deadline and scoring and rating criteria for Renewal Project applicants to submit their project applications for your CoC’s local competition.
8/5/2024

1E-2. Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition.

We use the response to this question and the response in Question 1E-2a along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC’s eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.

NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., 2.d., and 2.e.

You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Local Competition Scoring Tool Attachment – Complete

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected project applications during your local competition:

1. Established total points available for each project application type. [60](#)
2. At least 33 percent of the total points were based on objective criteria for the project application (e.g., cost effectiveness, timely draws, utilization rate, match, leverage), performance data, type of population served (e.g., DV, youth, Veterans, chronic homelessness), or type of housing proposed (e.g., PSH, RRH). [Yes](#)
3. At least 20 percent of the total points were based on system performance criteria for the project application (e.g., exits to permanent housing destinations, retention of permanent housing, length of time homeless, returns to homelessness). [Yes](#)
4. Provided points for projects that addressed specific severe barriers to housing and services. [Yes](#)
5. Used data from comparable databases to score projects submitted by victim service providers. [Yes](#)
6. Provided points for projects based on the degree the projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those overrepresented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers. [Yes](#)

1E-2a. Scored Project Forms for One Project from Your CoC's Local Competition.

We use the response to this question and Question 1E-2. along with the required attachments from both questions as a factor when determining your CoC's eligibility for bonus funds and for other NOFO criteria below.

NOFO Section V.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.

You must upload the Scored Forms for One Project attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Scored Forms for One Project attachment - Complete

Complete the chart below to provide details of your CoC's local competition:

1. What were the maximum number of points available for the renewal project form(s)? [60](#)
2. How many renewal projects did your CoC submit? [8](#)
3. What renewal project type did most applicants use? [PH-PSH](#)

1E-2b. Addressing Severe Barriers in the Local Project Review and Ranking Process.

NOFO Section V.B.2.d.

Describe in the field below:

1. how your CoC analyzed data regarding each project that has successfully housed program participants in permanent housing;
2. how your CoC analyzed data regarding how long it takes to house people in permanent housing;
3. how your CoC considered the specific severity of needs and vulnerabilities experienced by program participants preventing rapid placement in permanent housing or the ability to maintain permanent housing when your CoC ranked and selected projects; and
4. the severe barriers your CoC considered.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,992 characters)

1-2) The Project Rating Application used a combination of quantitative data pulled from HMIS and qualitative narrative provided by the applicants to evaluate the project's ability to successfully and quickly house people in permanent housing. Renewal Projects submitted their most recent Annual Performance Report (APR) to address outcomes related to remaining in or exiting to permanent housing. Applicants also were asked to describe specific scenarios around how their program used harm reduction and trauma informed care to keep people housed. Projects were also scored on the percentage of referrals that were exited without being permanently housed. This data was analyzed and scored by the Rating/Ranking Committee based on a weighted scoring criteria that favored projects that demonstrated successfully housing people with severe barriers. 3) Projects were considered based on project performance using APR data, percentage of successful referrals from coordinated entry, as well as narrative of specific examples of implementing housing first, harm reduction and trauma informed care. Taken in totality, projects that served people with more vulnerability indicators, successfully housed them in under 60 days, who had a high percentage of exits to permanent housing, and demonstrated adherence to Housing First scored the highest. 4) The CoC gave priority in the scoring process to projects that provide housing and services to the hardest to serve populations by more heavily weighting questions that addressed these practices, specifically the number of people served with multiple disabling conditions, the number of people served who have experienced of domestic violence, and the number of people served who were chronically homeless. Additionally, as outlined in the Rating and Ranking policies and procedures, project ranking may be adjusted outside of the raw score the application received based on the project meeting CoC high priorities, including serving the most vulnerable.

1E-3. Advancing Racial Equity through Participation of Over-Represented Populations in the Local Competition Review and Ranking Process.

NOFO Section V.B.2.e.

Describe in the field below:

1. how your CoC used input from persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those overrepresented in the local homelessness population, to determine the rating factors used to review project applications;
2. how your CoC included persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those overrepresented in the local homelessness population in the review, selection, and ranking process; and
3. how your CoC rated and ranked projects based on the degree that proposed projects identified any barriers to participation (e.g., lack of outreach) faced by persons of different races and ethnicities, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, and steps the projects took or will take to eliminate the identified barriers.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,205 characters)

1-2) The CoC uses one Project Rating and Ranking Committee to develop the local Project Rating Application, scoring tool, and then to rate and rank the submitted applications. Participation in the Rating and Ranking Committee is open to all CoC members and the CoC advertised opportunity for involvement at a general membership meeting as well as in two CoC newsletters, specifically encouraging people with diverse backgrounds and identities to participate. The rating tool used this year was heavily based on the work of the rating committee from last year's competition, which was influenced by input from the people of color who participated on the committee. 3) Projects were scored on their answers to the questions: 1. "Describe efforts made by your organization to obtain and include input from people of different races/ethnicities, particularly those who are over-represented in the homeless population," and 2. "Describe how your agency has identified barriers to participation in your housing program faced by people of different races/ethnicities and the steps taken to eliminate these barriers." To receive full points, they must describe specific examples that fully addressed the question.

1E-4. Reallocation—Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.

NOFO Section V.B.2.f.

Describe in the field below:

1. your CoC's reallocation process, including how your CoC determined which projects are candidates for reallocation because they are low performing or less needed;
2. whether your CoC identified any low performing or less needed projects through the process described in element 1 of this question during your CoC's local competition this year;
3. whether your CoC reallocated any low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year; and
4. why your CoC did not reallocate low performing or less needed projects during its local competition this year, if applicable.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,404 characters)

1) This is the fourth competition in which the Northern Colorado Continuum of Care has applied. Until 2020, funded projects were previously a part of a different CoC, with different standards for monitoring, rating and ranking, and reallocation. During the split from our former CoC, some project contracts changed hands and management. All of these factors have made consistently and objectively evaluating projects more challenging. In addition, due to COVID-19 and delays in hiring CoC staff, our CoC has made progress on formulating comprehensive plans to correct project underperformance but has not fully implemented these to fidelity. For these reasons, the CoC has chosen to only pursue reallocation for projects that did not meet minimum threshold criteria or that have underspent the previous year's grant funds. This was outlined in the Policies and Procedures for Project Rating, Ranking, and Reallocation which were disseminated to project applicants prior to the rating and ranking process. 2-3) The CoC is reallocating one renewal project for this competition. This project voluntarily chose to reduce their grant due to changes in project scope and reallocate the funds to another project. There were no additional projects at risk for reallocation due to performance. 4) This question is not applicable to our CoC.

1E-4a. Reallocation Between FY 2019 and FY 2024.

NOFO Section V.B.2.f.

Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2019 and FY 2024?

Yes

1E-5. Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps.

NOFO Section V.B.2.g.

You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Attachment: Notification of projects rejected-reduced - Complete

1. Did your CoC reject any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition? Yes

2. Did your CoC reduce funding for any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition? Yes

3. Did your CoC inform applicants why your CoC rejected or reduced their project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition? Yes

4. If you selected Yes for element 1 or element 2 of this question, enter the date your CoC notified applicants that their project applications were being rejected or reduced, in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2024, 06/27/2024, and 06/28/2024, then you must enter 06/28/2024.

10/10/2024

1E-5a. Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps.

NOFO Section V.B.2.g.

You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Notification of Projects Accepted Attachment - Complete

Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New and Renewal Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, enter the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 06/26/2024, 06/27/2024, and 06/28/2024, then you must enter 06/28/2024.

10/09/2024, 10/10/2024

1E-5b. Local Competition Selection Results for All Projects.

NOFO Section V.B.2.g.

You must upload the Local Competition Selection Results attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Local Competition Selection Results Attachment - Complete

1E-5c. Web Posting of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application 2 Days Before CoC Program Competition Application Submission Deadline.

NOFO Section V.B.2.g. and 24 CFR 578.95.

You must upload the Web Posting–CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter the date your CoC posted the CoC-approved Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or partner’s website—which included:

1. the CoC Application; and
2. Priority Listings for Reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.

1E-5d. Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders by Email that the CoC-Approved Consolidated Application is Posted on Website.

NOFO Section V.B.2.g.

You must upload the Notification of CoC Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

Enter the date your CoC notified community members and key stakeholders that the CoC approved Consolidated Application was posted on your CoC’s website or partner’s website.

2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

2A-1. HMIS Vendor.

Not Scored—For Information Only

Enter the name of the HMIS Vendor your CoC is currently using.

Bitfocus Clarity

2A-2. HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.

Not Scored—For Information Only

Select from dropdown menu your CoC's HMIS coverage area.

2A-3. HIC Data Submission in HDX.

NOFO Section V.B.3.a.

Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 HIC data into HDX.

5/10/2024

2A-4. Comparable Databases for DV Providers—CoC and HMIS Lead Supporting Data Collection and Data Submission by Victim Service Providers.

NOFO Section V.B.3.b.

In the field below:

1. describe actions your CoC and HMIS Lead have taken to ensure DV housing and service providers in your CoC collect data in HMIS comparable databases; and
2. state whether DV housing and service providers in your CoC are using a HUD-compliant comparable database—compliant with the FY 2024 HMIS Data Standards.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,705 characters)

1) The three primary domestic violence providers in the CoC all use an HMIS- comparable database. Two of the three use CAFE, a database supported by the State of Colorado and used by the majority of DV providers throughout the state to manage their program data. The other program uses an alternate comparable system, Apricot, to manage their data, and also reports data into CAFE as required by the State of CO. The CO Department of Health (CDHS) manages the CAFÉ system for victims service providers (VSPs); VSPa are required to use CAFE to report on Domestic Violence Program (DVP) funding reports. Additionally, the CO State Division of Housing (DOH) requires VSP ESG recipients to use CAFÉ to report Emergency Solutions Grant CAPERS. Given the size of these three providers, the overwhelming majority of households fleeing domestic violence in the region have data inputted into an HMIS-comparable database. The CoC System Improvement Director and HMIS System Administrator have been working for over a year with the CDHS and DOH to work towards improving CAFÉ to ensure VSPs have access to an HMIS comparable database on par with the HMIS software used by mainstream

providers, and to have the capability to integrate aggregate, deidentified data to include DV coordinated entry within a comparable database. The HMIS Lead currently has access to a training version of the CAFÉ database and is able to provide our CoC victim service providers with comparable data management support of CoC and ESG funded programs than mainstream providers receive. 2) Colorado VSPs are required to use CAFÉ by CDHS and DOH to report homeless data; CDHS and DOH state CAFÉ is compliant with 2024 HMIS Data Standards.

2A-5. Bed Coverage Rate—Using HIC, HMIS Data—CoC Merger Bonus Points.

NOFO Section V.B.3.c. and V.B.7.

Using the 2024 HDX Competition Report we issued your CoC, enter data in the chart below by project type:

- Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current Non-VSP Beds [Column F of HDX Report]
 - Adjusted Total Year-Round, Current VSP Beds [Column K of HDX Report]
 - Total Year-Round, Current, HMIS Beds and VSP Beds in an HMIS Comparable Database [Column M of HDX Report]
 - HMIS and Comparable Database Coverage Rate [Column O of HDX Report]
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds
 2. Safe Haven (SH) beds
 3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds
 4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds
 5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds
 6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds

[Entered data directly into ESNAPS](#)

2A-5a. Partial Credit for Bed Coverage Rates at or Below 84.99 for Any Project Type in Question 2A-5.

NOFO Section V.B.3.c.

For each project type with a bed coverage rate that is at or below 84.99 percent in question 2A-5, describe:

1. steps your 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 your CoC will implement the steps described to increase bed coverage to at least 85 percent.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,391 characters)

1) Only two of the five transitional housing projects in Northern Colorado are not currently participating in HMIS, however, these projects account for more than half of all TH beds. Both of these projects are located in Weld County, where the CoC is actively working to develop a data driven culture amongst providers. The VASH Voucher program accounts for 33% of the PSH

beds that are not in HMIS, and it is run by the Fort Collins Housing Authority. The CoC is continuing to work on solutions to streamline the process for providers who must enter data into multiple systems. 2) Homeward Alliance, HMIS Lead, has recently hired a HMIS System Improvement Manager who is tasked to improve HMIS coverage. With this added staff capacity, Northern Colorado will take steps to increase HMIS coverage for PSH beds and TH beds, including a) continuing outreach to agencies across both counties, to educate providers on the benefits and importance of HMIS and b) increasing efforts to make HMIS more accessible by exploring data integration tools that would decrease the workload on the agencies responsible for collecting and entering data, specifically the VASH program which collects a number of comparable data elements, c) continue to engage state and private funders on the importance of comprehensive data and advocate these funders to require the use of HMIS for homeless program grantees.

2A-6. Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX 2.0.

NOFO Section V.B.3.d.

You must upload your CoC's FY 2024 HDX Competition Report to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

FY2024 HDX Competition Report Attachment – Complete

Did your CoC submit at least two usable LSA data files to HUD in HDX 2.0 by January 24, 2024, 11:59 p.m. EST?

[Yes](#)

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

2B-1. PIT Count Date.

NOFO Section V.B.4.a

Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2024 PIT count.

1/30/2024

2B-2. PIT Count Data—HDX Submission Date.

NOFO Section V.B.4.a

Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2024 PIT count data in HDX.

5/10/2024

2B-3. PIT Count—Effectively Counting Youth in Your CoC’s Most Recent Unsheltered PIT Count.

NOFO Section V.B.4.b.

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1. engaged unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations in your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process;
2. worked with unaccompanied youth and youth serving organizations to select locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified during your CoC’s most recent PIT count planning process; and
3. included youth experiencing homelessness as counters during your CoC’s most recent unsheltered PIT count.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,491 characters)

In general, youth-specific homeless services are lacking in Northern Colorado, which has impacted the CoC’s ability to effectively and accurately collect and understand youth homelessness data. 1) Our CoC does not currently have an active Youth Action Board or coordination with youth-led groups. This year, the CoC did further engage youth serving organizations in the planning and implementation of the PIT Count, including holding specific PIT planning meetings attended by McKinney-Vento liaisons and staff from the Matthews House, the largest youth-service organization in the CoC. 2) In these planning meetings, the PIT committee created a shared “hot spot” map using Google Maps of intended survey areas based on knowledge of street outreach and youth-serving partners. The maps included areas where youth were most likely to be identified that were used on the day of the PIT by surveyors. 2024, the CoC collected Housing Inventory Count collected data from one rapid rehousing housing program that serves youth and one youth-specific permanent supportive housing project. The CoC also engaged McKinney Vento representatives from three of the largest school districts in the CoC to complete PIT Count surveys with known homeless youth at school. This year, the

PIT count identified 50 homeless youth (18-24) throughout the two counties; in 2023 only 27 were counted. 3) The CoC did not specifically include youth experiencing homelessness as counters during the unsheltered PIT Count.

2B-4. PIT Count—Methodology Change—CoC Merger Bonus Points.

NOFO Section V.B.5.a and V.B.7.c.

In the field below:

1. describe any changes your CoC made to your sheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;
2. describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2023 and 2024, if applicable;
3. describe whether your CoC's PIT count was affected by people displaced either from a natural disaster or seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance who recently arrived in your CoCs' geographic; and
4. describe how the changes affected your CoC's PIT count results; or
5. state "Not Applicable" if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2024.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,150 characters)

1) There were no changes in methodology between 2023 and 2024 sheltered PIT Count. 2) The 2024 unsheltered PIT count was conducted using a combination of HMIS and client-level surveys. The methodology was based off a "Night of the Count-known location" approach. A new program was adopted to collect information on clients who were counted outside of HMIS, Survey123 by ArcGIS. This program assists with deduplication and consistency in information collected. The unsheltered survey count was more robust in 2024 than it was in 2023. In addition to expanding surveying efforts into more rural parts of our CoC, we also coordinated several Day-Of PIT events offering survey incentives in locations where unsheltered individuals were most likely to be, which we believe increased the likelihood of unsheltered people to complete the survey and be counted. 3) Our CoC was not affected by people displaced from a natural disaster or from an influx of recent arrivals seeking shelter in our CoC. 4) There was no statistical significance in the difference in PIT Count numbers between 2023 and 2024 despite expanded street surveying efforts across the CoC.

2C. System Performance

2C-1. Reducing the Number of First Time Homeless—Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.

NOFO Section V.B.5.b.

In the field below:

1. describe how your CoC determined the risk factors to identify persons experiencing homelessness for the first time;
2. describe your CoC's strategies 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 your CoC's strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,238 characters)

Ensuring households that can be prevented from becoming homeless are prevented/diverted from the homeless services system is a critical component of the coordinated entry system (CES). 1) As the CoC developed the CES, they incorporated questions recommended by HUD, national technical assistance organizations, and other CoCs into a diversion/prevention tool to identify those households at-risk of homelessness and prevent them from becoming homeless. Households are noted as being at elevated risk of homelessness if the household believes they will lose their housing within the next 72 hours and if they have no safe options of other places to reside. This may include having received an eviction notice or other written notice to vacate their housing, but this is not required. People who are doubled up, couch-surfing or self-paying at motels are also considered at high risk of experiencing homelessness due to the inherent precarious nature of their housing situation. 2) Part of the prevention/diversion process entails asking the household if any resources (e.g., conflict mediation, rental assistance, utility assistance, etc.) could help them stay where they are currently living. Multiple CoC partners receive Homeless Prevention funding and households flagged as high risk are regularly referred to these programs for assistance in preventing eviction or housing loss. Additionally, the CoC has been intentional in expanding the number of formal partnerships that work to provide eviction prevention assistance, both through direct client assistance funding and through legal aid. 3) While the work of preventing and ending homelessness is shared by multiple agencies involved in the CoC, Neighbor to Neighbor and Colorado Poverty Law Project are experts in homeless and eviction prevention and provide leadership in the CoC to develop strategies to prevent homelessness among individuals and families in the region. In addition, given the overarching goal of the CoC is to prevent and end homelessness, the Governing Board of the CoC is responsible for approving any CoC-wide strategies developed to prevent and end homelessness and ensuring agencies are adhering to the tactics and practices outlined in those strategies.

2C-1a. Impact of Displaced Persons on Number of First Time Homeless.

NOFO Section V.B.5.b

Was your CoC's Number of First Time Homeless [metric 5.2] affected by the number of persons seeking short-term shelter or housing assistance displaced due to:

1. natural disasters? [No](#)

2. having recently arrived in your CoC's geographic area? [No](#)

You must select a response for elements 1 and 2 in question 2C-1a. If you select Yes for either response, you must save the page and provide a narrative response in the text field that displays below your yes response after you save the page.

2C-2. Reducing Length of Time Homeless—CoC's Strategy.

NOFO Section V.B.5.c.

In the field below:

1. describe your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;
2. describe how your 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 your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.

(limit 2,500 characters) [\(1,786 characters\)](#)

1) Length of time from identification to housing is an outcome metric that is used to evaluate CoC program's effectiveness when considering them for continued CoC funding. The benchmark from referral to housing is 60 days or less. Projects that have an average length of time to housing greater than 60 days must provide an explanation and are scored accordingly. Furthermore, length of time homeless is a prioritization factor for the CoC's coordinated entry system (CES). This ensures households who have been without permanent housing the longest are prioritized for any available housing resources and are assisted to quickly access those resources. Length of Time Homeless is calculated for each person enrolled in Coordinated Entry and is included as part of the by-name list. 2) The CES uses two different metrics to determine a household's total length of time. Metric 1 (the most heavily weighted) is *Total Months Homeless at Time of Enrollment + Total Months in the CE Program*. This metric is calculated based on the "Total number of months homeless on the streets, in ES, or Safe Haven in the past three years" question on the program enrollment. Metric 2 is *Total Days Since Latest Episode of Homelessness Began*. This metric is calculated based on the "Approximate Date this Episode of Homelessness Started" data collected during program enrollment. If two people have the same total months homeless, the person with the longer current episode will be prioritized for referral. 3) While the work of reducing the length of time individuals and families experience homelessness falls to all agencies involved in the CoC, the Coordinated Entry Lead, United Way of Weld County, is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time people remain homeless.

2C-3. Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention –CoC’s Strategy.

NOFO Section V.B.5.d.

In the field below:

1. describe your CoC’s strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
2. describe your CoC’s strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations; and
3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing.

(limit 2,500 characters) (2,194 characters)

1) Increasing exits to permanent housing destinations and rates of housing retention involves multiple strategies. Primarily, the coordinated entry system (CES) and in particular the case conferences provide a collaborative space for key agencies involved in the housing process to monitor the community’s by-name list and troubleshoot issues residents currently housed may be facing. For instance, if a resident of one permanent housing project is leaving, the case conference team may identify other resources that are coming available to which the resident can be referred, ensuring housing is retained. In 2023 our CoC redesigned the way we case conference to allow for more thoughtful discussion of household’s needs and barriers related to housing resources, create weekly action steps to housing, and ensuring the household with a housing resource is followed until they successfully lease up. 2) In addition, Housing Catalyst (local PHA) has contracted with HWA (local service provider) to provide housing navigation and stabilization services to persons experiencing homelessness who are newly issued a special purpose Housing Choice Voucher. This helps the voucher holder to have success in using their voucher and ensures they have the basic resources needed to be successful. The CoC also has prioritized Emergency Housing Vouchers for people enrolled in Rapid Rehousing Programs who have demonstrated they would be better supported with long term housing assistance. For our veteran population, we have successfully used SSVF RRH to HUD VASH as a strategy to quickly house veterans and then provide long term support. 3) While the strategy to increase the rate of permanent housing exits is influenced by the participation of all members, staff at the Collaborative Applicant, United Way of Weld County, and HMIS Lead, Homeward Alliance, are the primary organizations responsible for ensuring households who are eligible for an available resource through a specific service provider are flagged in HMIS and ensuring that when any HMIS user in the community comes in contact with the household, they can rapidly connect them back to the provider with the available housing resource.

2C-4. Reducing Returns to Homelessness–CoC’s Strategy.

NOFO Section V.B.5.e.

In the field below:

1. describe your CoC's strategy to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2. describe your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate that individuals and families return to homelessness; and
3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,867 characters)

1) The CoC has the advantage of being part of a statewide HMIS. This enables users, including funded projects with access to HMIS, to more accurately identify households who have previously experienced homelessness, even if their last contact with a homeless service provider was in another part of the state. Our HMIS Lead has created custom reports that are sent to our coordinated entry team to show enrolled households that are returns to the system. 2) The CoC's strategy to ensure households do not return to homelessness involves first referring households to housing that meets their needs, including incorporating client preference into the housing process. Households that have choice in where they live are more likely to remain housed. Second, CoC members and funded projects are committed to providing adequate supportive services in permanent housing programs and continuously working to build trust and rapport with residents. When a household faces issues that may compromise their housing, case managers and service providers with already- established relationships are best able to work with the household to address those issues and increase the household's chances of staying housed. Third, even if a household must leave a housing unit, agencies work with the current housing provider to execute a mutual rescission rather than an eviction. This ensures the household will not face unnecessary barriers as they work to identify the next permanent housing opportunity or unit to which they can move. 3) While the work of reducing returns to homelessness falls to all agencies involved in the CoC, much of this work occurs in the coordinated entry system (CES). Therefore, the United Way of Weld County, which serves as the administrator for the CoC's CES holds the responsibility of overseeing the CoC's strategy to reduce returns to homelessness.

2C-5. Increasing Employment Cash Income—CoC's Strategy.

NOFO Section V.B.5.f.

In the field below:

1. describe your CoC's strategy to access employment cash sources;
2. describe how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness increase their employment cash income; and
3. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase income from employment.

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,997 characters)

1) Funded providers are expected to assist households in securing or increasing their income, including employment cash sources for those households who are capable of working. This

regularly involves helping clients to access services provided through local county workforce development centers. While each agency may assist their clients, there are also programs dedicated to assisting individuals experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness secure employment. 2) For example, United Way of Weld County's Housing Navigation Center partners with Employment Services of Weld County to provide employment training and job search assistance to increase participant income. Additionally, the Hand Up program at Homeward Alliance provides a range of employment services including case management, job search training, resume building, interview preparedness, workshops and career counseling with the Larimer County Economic and Workforce Development Center, and assistance in securing needed documents or other resources (e.g., necessary clothing or footwear, eyeglasses, IDs, etc.). In addition, the program proactively cultivates relationships with local employers who can offer jobs to program participants. The majority of CoC homeless service providers have formal partnerships with their county's Workforce Center to provide direct referral for employment assistance and also have connections with area Temp Agencies that offer both temporary and longer-term employment opportunities. There are also yearly Job Fairs that are coordinated in partnership with the largest homeless service providers in each county and marketed to people experiencing homelessness or who have been recently housed. 3) Homeward Alliance, a large service provider in the CoC, provides multiple employment-related services to clients, both those in housing and those not yet housed. Given this expertise and capacity, Homeward Alliance leads strategies in the CoC related to increasing income from employment.

2C-5a. Increasing Non-employment Cash Income—CoC's Strategy

NOFO Section V.B.5.f.

In the field below:

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

(limit 2,500 characters) (1,845 characters)

Securing cash income from non-employment sources is a priority for service agencies assisting people experiencing homelessness. 1) Particularly for funded PSH projects, given the severity of health conditions and disabilities as well as age of many residents, accessing income through sources other than paid employment is critical. All funded projects work with participants to apply for and access the benefits to which they are entitled. Depending on which subpopulations the household belongs to determines which agency may assist them. For instance, veteran service providers are skilled at working with veterans to secure necessary documentation and navigate the VA system to access veteran benefits. Additionally, agencies like Disabled Resource Services in Fort Collins and Loveland, and Center for Independent Living, provide services from their own buildings and also hold office hours at the central resource centers to assist people in applying for public benefits like social security disability. Agencies typically begin working with households immediately to access income sources. In particular, this is part of the process of working with Navigators across the CoC, who are often among the first staff positions people experiencing homelessness come in contact with. When a household accesses housing, the staff members in that project often assume responsibility for continuing to work with and follow-up on any applications submitted. Intentional work with

households is needed, especially given it is commonplace for applications to some disability benefits to be denied multiple times before being approved. 2) In the CoC, the Navigators, housed at the United Way of Weld County and the Murphy Center, are experts in this work and have the expertise to lead strategies to increase non-employment cash income across the CoC.