



## Jackson County Continuum of Care Annual Competition FY24-FY25

### Rating and Ranking Procedures

#### **Funding Availability**

Each year, HUD announces the total funding available, which varies based federal budget allocations and priorities. The Total funding available will be posted to the Jackson County CoC once it is released by HUD.

#### **Tier 1 and Tier 2**

- **Tier 1:** Typically represents 90% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). Projects in Tier 1 are more likely to be funded as HUD prioritizes these. (The percentage may change each year).
- **Tier 2:** The remaining 10% of projects are placed in Tier 2, which are less secure and compete nationally for funding. These projects are funded based on the CoC's overall score and HUD's priorities.

#### **Rating and Ranking Committee**

The Performance and Evaluation Workgroup recruits a Rating and Ranking Committee each year, with a minimum of 5 persons and a maximum of 8 persons. This Committee conducts the annual HUD Competition's local rating and ranking process for projects seeking Continuum of Care funds, reviews applications submitted, and prepares ranked recommendations for funding.

Selection of the Rating and Ranking Committee must follow the CoC's conflict of interest policy, which states "Jackson County Continuum of Care should scrupulously avoid conflicts of interest between the interests of the (CoC) on the one hand, and their personal or business interests on the other. The paramount interest of the Jackson County Continuum of Care is to fulfill its purposes as set forth in Article I of the Governance Charter." If individuals represent an

organization applying for CoC rated and ranked funding, that individual will not participate in the rating and ranking process.

## **Project Rating and Ranking**

All projects are ranked utilizing a combination of the project score and the below Board Approved CoC Priorities, with the exception of first-year renewal projects and projects supporting HUD-mandated systems (i.e. HMIS, SSO-CE), which will not be scored. Projects supporting HUD-Mandated systems (HMIS-SSO-CE) will be evaluated to ensure the projects meet the Threshold requirements and automatically ranked atop Tier 1.

Priority Projects in order

1. Infrastructure Projects (HMIS and Coordinated Entry)
2. Permanent Support Housing Projects
3. Permanent Housing Projects
4. Rapid Rehousing Projects

\*This order will be used, in conjunction with the score, to rank the projects accepted for submittal.

## **First -Year Renewal Projects**

Renewal projects in their first year of funding are unlikely to have complete data. These projects are “held harmless” for a single year and will not be ranked. These first-year renewal projects will be placed in Tier 1 ahead of any non-first-year renewal projects who ranked in Tier 2 and New Projects. Non-first-year renewal projects will be scored and ranked according to the Renewal CoC Project Rating and Ranking Tool which is largely based on Project Performance Measures and Recipient Grant Performance.

## **Reallocation**

Poor Performing Projects and Projects that are not fully expending or underspending their grant awards are subject to the reallocation process. Projects that have underspent their award by 10% may be reduced and those funds will go to reallocation for New Project(s). A one-year grace period may be extended that demonstrates a plan in writing that the grant’s expenditure and/or performance will be improved in the current program year. If stated improvements are not met by the following year, project funds may be reallocated.

Voluntary Re-Allocation As part of the local solicitation for inclusion in the HUD CoC collaborative application, providers are strongly encouraged to reallocate projects that are not spending their full award, underutilizing beds, underperforming and/or not in alignment with

Housing First principles and practices. Such reallocated funds are pooled for reallocation to New Projects.

## **Appeals**

If an applicant contests their rating or ranking, they may appeal. The Appeal must be submitted in writing by the deadline. No new information will be considered during an appeal. The Appeals Panel, comprised of 3-5 non-conflicted members seated for each NOFO round, reviews any appeals made by CoC Project Applicants to the local competition's Project Priority list. All Appeals Panel decisions are final.

### **Grounds for Appeal:**

The Applicant may appeal if they believe that one or more of the following has taken place: a. An application was not evaluated according to the published local NOFO process.

b. There was a scoring error in the evaluation of the project

c. An application was evaluated in a way that violates federal regulations.

### **The following are NOT eligible grounds for appeal:**

a. Errors or omissions by project Applicants.

b. Projects that do not meet threshold criteria.

c. Dissatisfaction with Project's scores.

d. Need for funds.

### **Appeals Process**

a. The Rating and Ranking Committee will release the first Project Priority List, including dollar amounts and point scores.

b. In the unlikely event of a mathematical error, Applicants must report the issue to the Jackson County Continuum of Care Manager within 24 hours of release of the Project Priority List for the error to be corrected. The Project Priority List and scores will be reissued with the appropriate corrections at the time of the release of the final List.

c. Applicant projects have 2 business days to register any appeals via email. Appeals and any supporting documentation should be emailed to the CoC Manager.

d. All Applicant projects who wish to submit appeals will be subject to this deadline. There will not be a second round of appeals.

e. Agencies will need to provide, in writing and with supporting examples/backup documentation, specific sections of the Application on which the appeal is based, and/or sections or examples where local guidelines or regulations were violated.

f. The appeal request must specify facts and evidence sufficient for the Appeals Panel to determine the validity of the appeal.

g. Appealing projects will be limited to the grounds they raise when registering the appeal, and appeal grounds may only be on items/attachments that were included in the initial project Application.

h. The Panel will review all submitted appeals and back up documentation and will meet to discuss, make final recommendations, and provide responses to each appellant. The Appeals Panel will complete its recommendations on the final Rating and Ranking List, including results of any appeal.

k. If the result of any appeals requires a re-ordering of the Project Priority List, the NOFO Committee will meet to approve the revised list. A final Project Priority List reflecting any changes generated by appealing projects will be issued by Collaborative Applicant and published on the Jackson County Continuum of Care website.