

Before Starting the CoC Application

You must submit all three of the following parts in order for us to consider your Consolidated Application complete:

1. the CoC Application,
2. the CoC Priority Listing, and
3. all the CoC's project applications that were either approved and ranked, or rejected.

As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:

1. The FY 2024 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2024 CoC Application Detailed Instructions which provide additional information and guidance for completing the application.
3. All information provided to ensure it is correct and current.
4. Responses provided by project applicants in their Project Applications.
5. The application to ensure all documentation, including attachment are provided.

Your CoC Must Approve the Consolidated Application before You Submit It
- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the CoC Consolidated Application for the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition on behalf of your CoC.
- 24 CFR 578.9(b) requires you to obtain approval from your CoC before you submit the Consolidated Application into e-snaps.

Answering Multi-Part Narrative Questions

Many questions require you to address multiple elements in a single text box. Number your responses to correspond with multi-element questions using the same numbers in the question. This will help you organize your responses to ensure they are complete and help us to review and score your responses.

Attachments

Questions requiring attachments to receive points state, "You Must Upload an Attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen." Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process. Include a cover page with the attachment name.

- Attachments must match the questions they are associated with—if we do not award points for evidence you upload and associate with the wrong question, this is not a valid reason for you to appeal HUD's funding determination.

- We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).

1A. Continuum of Care (CoC) Identification

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1A-1. CoC Name and Number: NJ-501 - Bergen County CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Bergen County

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: Bergen County

1B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

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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:	

	Organization/Person	Participated in CoC Meetings	Voted, Including Electing CoC Board Members	Participated in CoC’s Coordinated Entry System
1.	Affordable Housing Developer(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
2.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	No	Yes
6.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	No	No	No
9.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
13.	Local Jail(s)	No	No	Yes
14.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes

17.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
20.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Agencies Serving Survivors of Human Trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Other Victim Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
33.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other: (limit 50 characters)			
34.				
35.				

By selecting "other" you must identify what "other" is.

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)

As the Continuum of Care (CoC) lead for Bergen County, our efforts to address the needs of underserved communities, particularly Black and Brown populations, have been multifaceted and focused on equity, access, and culturally competent services. Recognizing that Black and Brown communities are disproportionately represented in the homeless population, we have taken specific actions to reduce disparities and create pathways to stable housing.

First, we have incorporated data-driven approaches to understand racial and ethnic disparities within our homeless response system. This includes conducting racial equity analyses, identifying where inequities exist, and adjusting our service models to better reach and serve Black and Brown individuals and families.

Second, we have implemented targeted outreach and engagement strategies. These efforts focus on high-poverty areas and communities of color, ensuring that services such as eviction prevention, housing placement, and supportive services are accessible and welcoming. This includes working with faith-based organizations and community leaders who have deep roots in these communities.

Third, our CoC emphasizes culturally competent care, ensuring that staff and providers are trained in diversity, equity, and inclusion. We prioritize hiring individuals who reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the populations we serve, fostering trust and understanding between service providers and clients.

Moreover, we've collaborated with agencies that have expertise in serving marginalized groups, such as those specializing in health disparities, mental health, and substance use disorders, to provide holistic and integrated services tailored to the needs of Black and Brown individuals.

Finally, we continue to engage in advocacy at the local and state levels, pushing for policies that address systemic barriers contributing to homelessness among people of color, such as affordable housing shortages, discriminatory practices, and the criminalization of homelessness.

Through these comprehensive efforts, Bergen County's CoC is committed to addressing the overrepresentation of Black and Brown communities in homelessness and ensuring equitable access to housing and supportive services.

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. The CoC by-laws, posted online, include the membership & invitation process; the CoC’s contact information is also easily found on the CoC website so interested parties can reach out for more information. The CoC announces the process for membership throughout the year at CoC & non-CoC meetings. In addition to 1-on-1 invitations, monthly public & mailing list notices ensure that CoC meetings are publicized as open to any agency or person with knowledge of, or interest in, assisting homeless persons. We constantly invite the partners that we deal with in our everyday work, including affordable housing developers, to join our CoC. 2 examples of this are the Center for Alcohol & Drug Resources, which works for the safety & dignity of people who actively use drugs & CSPNJ, an agency that works with homeless persons throughout New Jersey – both agencies were invited to join the CoC in 2023.

2. The CoC has the membership process posted online which is an accessible format for those with disabilities so interested parties can initiate the process at any time; anyone that shows an interest in serving those who are homeless can join meetings. The CoC holds meetings via Zoom to ensure meetings continued through the pandemic & make any adjustments as needed for new or potential members. Info & materials for all meetings are shared in advance in accessible & digital formats to ensure compatibility with text to speech. The CoC also regularly checks the accessibility of the website & posted documents to ensure effective communication to persons with disabilities.

3. The CoC has been identifying & inviting organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness to join the CoC to address equity. For example, HMIS/PIT data has consistently shown that Black & Latino families, especially those fleeing domestic violence, are overrepresented in the population experiencing homelessness in Bergen - the CoC identified this as a concerning trend & has identified Never Alone Again, an agency that works with this population, to partner with the CoC to address this gap & find solutions. The CoC has also partnered with Hudson Pride Center (HPC) to address equity within the CoC. HPC conducts trainings for the CoC & also conducts in-depth reviews of CoC-level & agency-level policies & procedures to ensure LGBTQ+ persons throughout the CoC are treated equitably & with respect & dignity.

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)

(1) The CoC targets various stakeholders for participation in ad-hoc & subcommittee work & engages elected officials & other stakeholders in strategy development as needed. For example, the CoC's Advisory Board of Persons with Lived Experience (AB of PWLE), a standing committee of the CoC, is a key stakeholder that offers insights, gleanings, & policy recommendations. The CoC also partnered with CSPNJ, a statewide agency that offers expertise in street outreach, as this was identified as a need by the community & AB of PWLE. The CoC has also connected with Never Alone Again, a community agency, to discuss & find solutions for racial disparities in family homelessness. These connections with community organizations provided information & discussion for new approaches for preventing & ending homelessness. Additionally, several members of the CoC have attended workshops & trainings put on by national partners such as NAEH & CSH. (2&3) The CoC has the membership process posted online which is an accessible format for those with disabilities so interested parties can initiate the process at any time. Information & materials for all meetings are shared in advance in accessible digital formats to ensure compatibility with text to speech programs & conversion to large text for individuals with disabilities. CoC meetings focus discussions on primary system barriers & strategies to address them. Additionally, meeting agendas include committee updates & time for partners to raise issues not included in the agenda but relevant to community needs. CoC meetings feature various training opportunities. CoC Lead, Bergen County, is also a Consolidated Plan Jurisdiction & regularly posts information for public comment pertaining to ESG, CDBG & HOME, including solicitation of comments & public meetings to make improvements in serving homeless persons.

(4) At a CoC meeting, the AB of PWLE identified that persons who are unsheltered were experiencing difficulties accessing housing opportunities through the CoC. The CoC/AB of PWLE took this as an opportunity to connect with persons who are unsheltered & identify their needs & how the CoC was not meeting them. The CoC & AB of PWLE then outreached new agencies outside of the CoC to conduct in-depth street outreach that offers housing readiness & navigation services. The concern was brought up in June by the Advisory Board, & the new street outreach project was on the ground, fully funded & partially staffed by August.

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)

1. On 7/15/24 the CoC released the local RFP for projects interested in applying for CoC funds. On the same date, the local application was opened on the portal, an email announcement was sent via several county mailing lists, & the announcement was posted on the County Website. The funding specifications that were emailed & posted with the announcement stated that “Any nonprofit, state or local government & instrumentalities of local government may apply for new CoC funding, even if they haven’t received funding in the past. Any agency with TA questions should reach out, in writing to CoC lead staff”, with email provided.
2. The funding specifications & email notification indicated that all project applications needed to be submitted via the CoC’s online application portal. Agencies were provided information on requesting a waiver if an online submission was not possible. Additionally, on 07/22/24 the CoC Lead held a TA session so all interested parties & agencies with no CoC experience can attend to ask questions & learn about the process.
3. New & Renewal Project scorecards were included in the email announcement & website posting & were available on the application platform to be referenced by all agencies interested in applying for funding. The CoC lead was also available to explain the process to anyone who had questions. The CoC announcement included the scoring tool which would be utilized to score all new & renewal projects. During the TA session these materials were provided & the criteria for eligible projects as well as the CoC’s funding priorities were explained to all applicants. For those that could not attend the TA session it was recorded & sent out & questions were directed to the review committee & the CoC lead from any applicants.
4. The funding announcement notes that any agency or individual that needs TA can reach out to the CoC Lead. The lead will provide a waiver, if needed, to submit an application outside of the portal, or to further explain the CoC & process. The CoC works to ensure all materials including website, emails & electronic documents are formatted to improve access for persons with disabilities & can accommodate additional formatting requests if needed.

1C. Coordination and Engagement

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

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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	Nonexistent
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)	No
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.		

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

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?	Yes
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?	No

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)

CoC provider agencies serving homeless families are members and active participants in the Children's Interagency Coordinating Council (CIACC). CIACC provides an opportunity for local government, services providers, local schools, state officials and families to meet monthly, to identify barriers in servicing the needs of children requiring specialized supports, including children experiencing homelessness. The McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency (LEA) liaison is a member of the CoC full membership committee and the CoC Leadership Committee. As a member, the LEA actively participates in all planning activities of the CoC and provides expertise on issues related to homeless youth needs and education services in the region.

The LEA provides trainings to the CoC full membership on the McKinney Vento regulations covering educational institutions and the services available to families with school aged children experiencing homelessness. They also provide assistance if needed when coordinating with local liaisons for clients.

The LEA will also refer families in need of housing to the Bergen County CoC and ongoing information/resources sharing is conducted regularly. School services, tutoring, emotional and social workshops, and school supply distributions resources are regularly shared with homeless providers from the LEA.

The CoC participated in the LEA's regional strategic planning process which involved identifying gaps and strategies to best serve students and their families who were experiencing homelessness and the coordination between education and homeless services. Lastly, Greater Bergen Community Action (GBCA), who is a Head Start and

Early Head Start provider, is an active member of the CoC and is a CoC funded agency. GBCA makes these services available and known to the providers in the community, enabling connection for families in need.

1C-4b.	Informing Individuals and Families Who Have Recently Begun Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services. NOFO Section V.B.1.d.	
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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)

To ensure individuals and families who become homeless are informed of their eligibility for educational services, our CoC Policies and Procedures state that: As it is the intent of the Bergen County Continuum of Care to assist households experiencing homelessness to access housing and maximize independence to the greatest extent possible, all projects funded through the Continuum of Care must provide case management at the level most suited to household needs. Projects serving families with children under the age of 18 must provide information to program participants regarding their rights and services available in regard to education supports. At least one program case manager must be equipped to work with households in connecting them to education services and programs as appropriate and/or connecting them to education support experts in the communities that are capable of assisting households in navigating education access during experiences with homelessness. The case manager will ensure the following when serving a family in a CoC-funded project:

- All school-aged youth remain enrolled in school during periods of homelessness and/or during the transition into permanent housing.
- The names of homeless school-aged youth are reported to the Regional Educational Services Commission.
- Inform homeless families of their children’s educational rights under the McKinney-Vento Act and connect children with community services, including early childhood programs such as Head Start.
- All homeless families are connected to their LEA McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison or other designated staff person identified by the LEA.

CoC funded projects must periodically work with enrolled households to develop individualized service plans (ISP). The ISP must include a component of assessing household connection to employment, educational services and training as well as participant interest in connecting to employment, training and volunteer opportunities. Participants indicating a desire to connect with employment, training and/or volunteer opportunities must be connected to appropriate community supports that can provide further assistance in helping participants meet their personal goals of education, employment and volunteerism.

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	No	No
2. Child Care and Development Fund	No	No
3. Early Childhood Providers	No	No
4. Early Head Start	No	Yes
5. Federal Home Visiting Program–(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV)	No	No
6. Head Start	No	No
7. Healthy Start	No	No
8. Public Pre-K	No	No

9.	Tribal Home Visiting Program	No	No
	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	Yes
2.	State Sexual Assault Coalitions	Yes
3.	Anti-trafficking Service Providers	Yes
	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)

(1) Center for Hope and Safety (CHS), the local domestic violence agency, is an active member of the CoC. On a bi-annual basis, the CoC Lead Agency in collaboration with community providers (including Center for Hope and Safety) reviews system policies to ensure they account for the needs of survivors of domestic violence. Additionally, CHS sits on the CoC Executive committee and provides input and recommendations for adjustments to CoC policies as emerging trends and needs are identified. In addition to the support in the policy review and Executive committee membership, CHS works closely with the Coordinated Entry committee to provide training and support necessary to ensure the coordinated entry system addresses the specific needs of survivors of DV.

(2) The CoC hosts an annual training for all homeless providers, including coordinated entry staff, that covers a variety of topics related to serving survivors of DV. The 2024 training will occur on November 13, 2024. In 2023, the training occurred on November 8, 2023. The training is open to anyone participating in the CoC but targets emergency shelter, coordinated entry and housing providers. Trainings have a focus on domestic violence services provided throughout the County as well as best practices in identifying and working with clients who have experienced domestic violence. In addition to the CoC wide training provided, Center for Hope and Safety (CHS), the local DV agency, is an active member in the coordinated entry case conferencing committee; CHS staff training includes risk assessment and safety planning with a focus on trauma informed care. This training takes place annually to ensure the staff are up to date on all best practices. As part of the program monitoring process, the CoC evaluates trainings provided to program staff, policies and practices around confidentiality, client safety and traumainformed care.

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) When a person identifies an experience with DV they are immediately referred to the Alternatives to Domestic Violence (ADV) or Center for Hope and Safety (CHS) hotline. These agencies are the primary victim service providers in Bergen County and are active members of the CoC. ADV and CHS assess the safety needs of the household and determine whether DV program placement at CHS facilities are the most appropriate fit. If there is not an immediate safety risk, households are referred to other homeless programs. Additionally, the client is made aware that they do not have to accept the housing opportunity that is available, and that they will not lose their prioritization if they decide that housing opportunity is not right for them. This is especially important for project based openings to ensure the client feels safe and comfortable in the possible new community.

(2) CEP conducts all work with DV victims with their confidentiality at the forefront. Intake and assessment information is gathered using live entry and all computers are secured with passwords and set on auto-lock if the staff person is away from their workstation for a period of time. The agency does not print out documents that can be stored electronically. Any paper documents that are collected for a paper file are stored in locked cabinets in locked offices. No referrals are made without the client's written consent and agreement to share their information. Additionally, the CoC housing prioritization list includes deidentified client information submitted by all agencies including DV specific agencies. This allows households fleeing DV to have access to the full array of PH options available.

All CoC and ESG funded agencies participate in CoC sponsored trainings on serving victims of DV to ensure they incorporate the basics of safety planning, confidentiality and trauma informed care into their program structure.

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?	Yes	Yes
2.	Incorporates Trauma Informed best practices?	Yes	Yes
3.	Incorporates Survivor-Centered best practices?	Yes	Yes
4.	Identifies and assesses survivors' individual safety needs?	Yes	Yes
5.	Enhances and supports collaboration with DV organizations?	Yes	Yes
6.	Ensures survivors' rights, voices, and perspectives are incorporated?	Yes	Yes
	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)

1. Bergen CoC's Policies and Procedures include the following: the Bergen County CoC allows tenants who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking to request an emergency transfer from the tenant's current unit to another unit.

2. The Bergen CoC's Policies and Procedures includes survivors rights to an emergency transfer and the housing providers provides this information to all households seeking or receiving CoC Program Assistance at intake.

3. The ability to request a transfer is available regardless of sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation. The CoC requires A written statement expressing that the tenant reasonably believes that there is a threat of imminent harm from further violence if the tenant were to remain in the same dwelling unit assisted under the agency's program; A written statement that the tenant was a sexual assault victim and that the sexual assault occurred on the premises during the 90-calendar-day period preceding the tenant's request for an emergency transfer.

4. The Policies and Procedures then state: Upon submission of a transfer request, the Agency's management will connect the tenant to one of the domestic violence providers in the region to complete a third party assessment of safety risk. If the DV provider verifies the existence of a significant safety risk the Agency shall begin the process of transferring the tenant internally to an appropriate unit in accordance with this policy. If a safe and habitable and habitable unit is not immediately available internally then the tenant may be placed on a waiting list for an available unit or they may request an external transfer . In the case of an external transfer the Housing provider will assist the tenant in identifying other housing providers who may have available units to which the tenant can move to.

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)

DV households are connected to the coordinated entry system through community referral, direct outreach or referral from DV providers in the region. Households identified as fleeing domestic violence through the CE prescreening process are immediately connected to Center for Hope and Safety (CHS) and Alternatives to DV (ADV), the DV providers in the region. CHS conducts a full assessment to determine if there is an immediate safety risk requiring connection to DV specific emergency shelter services. If the client does have an immediate DV need, CHS will place them in the DV emergency shelter program. If the client does not have an immediate DV need, the CE provider works to connect the household to appropriate shelter which may include generalized shelters in the region or hotel placements. All DV households, regardless of their shelter placement, are assessed by the CE agency. CE staff are trained in providing trauma informed, and client empowering supports to households. Through the assessment process, the CE committee identifies all the housing and service needs the household presents with. Upon identification of housing and service needs, the CE committee connects households to community-based services and refers to appropriate housing opportunities/vacancies for which they are eligible. As the CE process is the same for DV households as it is for the general homeless population, DV households have access to all of the same housing and service opportunities as anyone who was not experiencing DV as long as those opportunities are appropriate based on their safety plan created with CHS and CE.

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)

Because CHS and ADV are actively involved in the CoC and the CE system, the design of the CE and the DV housing programs that have been implemented have had the input from both agencies regarding barriers that may be specific to victims of domestic violence. Both providers also host focus groups and collect feedback regularly and bring new findings and concerns to the Leadership Committee at bi-monthly meetings. The input provided directly impacts how services are delivered and new programming that is implemented in attempts to break down the barriers found by victims trying to use the system. For example, it was identified that families who are black and brown are overrepresented in the DV population, and the CoC connected with an agency, Never Alone Again, to begin identifying additional barriers and make improvements.

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 anti-discrimination 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) The CoC reviews all policies on a bi-annual basis, seeking input from all stakeholders on any necessary changes. In addition, the CoC lead contracted with Hudson Pride, an LGBTQ+ focused provider, to update the CoC-wide policies and procedures, as well as anti-discrimination policy. Input is based on best practices and feedback from consumers they are working with.

(2) The CoC lead contracted with Hudson Pride to do individual reviews of project-level anti-discrimination policies to help with updates to ensure they were consistent with the new CoC policy. They were also there to assist in training staff on the new policies and address any space updates that needed to take place to ensure all households felt safe when seeking services. These policies were then used as a guide for other providers and services to assist in policy updates.

(3) The CoC evaluates compliance with anti-discrimination policies on an annual basis through the monitoring process. The CoC is evaluating whether the agency is seeking feedback from clients who have been through the program as well as their complaint process. The CoC lead also fields any calls or complaints that are filed throughout the year for all programs in the CoC allowing issues to be addressed immediately.

(4) If a complaint is brought to the attention of the CoC lead throughout the year, the CoC lead will directly reach out to the provider for additional information and to assist in the development of an improvement plan or adjustment to ensure the anti-discrimination action is addressed. If an issue is identified through the monitoring process, the monitoring report to the agency will outline the concern and request the agency identify how they will address the issue. Whether the agency made that adjustment will be reviewed during the next monitoring, or if it is more serious, the agency will be required to follow up with the CoC lead when adjustments to the program have been made.

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.

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 Authority of Bergen County	28%	Yes-HCV	Yes
Department of Community Affairs	25%	Yes-HCV	No

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) The two largest PHAs in the region are actively involved in the CoC planning process. The Bergen County Housing Authority sits on the CoC Leadership Committee and manages the Bergen Housing Health and Human Services Center which serves as the one-stop center and sheltering location for individuals experiencing homelessness. HABC has established a limited homeless preference with 20% of vouchers set aside for use through the coordinated assessment process. Additionally HABC has established a Moving On policy and via coordinated assessment case conferencing, works with service providers to identify households with CoC vouchers that no longer need the level of service and would be appropriate to transition to HCV vouchers without services attached. The Englewood Housing Authority is the second largest housing authority in the CoC region. Englewood Housing Authority also sits on the CoC Leadership committee and has established a homeless preference.

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)	No
3.	Housing Choice Voucher (HCV)	Yes
4.	HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH)	No
5.	Mainstream Vouchers	Yes
6.	Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) Vouchers	Yes
7.	Public Housing	Yes
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)?	No
		Program Funding Source
2.	Enter the type of competitive project your CoC coordinated with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application for or jointly implement.	

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
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1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1D-1.	Preventing People Transitioning from Public Systems from Experiencing Homelessness.	
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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.
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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.	
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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.	20
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.	20
3.	This number is a calculation of the percentage of new and renewal PSH, RRH, SSO non-coordinated entry, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects the CoC has ranked in its CoC Priority Listing in the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition that reported that they are lowering barriers to entry and prioritizing rapid placement and stabilization to permanent housing.	100%

1D-2a.	Project Evaluation for Housing First Compliance.	
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NOFO Section V.B.1.i.

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

1. The CoC completes program evaluations on an annual basis to ensure compliance with Housing First (HF) requirements. In addition, the Coordinated Entry (CE) system evaluates referrals & acceptance rates. Agencies must provide a reason for any rejected referrals.
2. To ensure projects are implemented using a HF approach, the CoC Confirms that all referrals are only being accepted from the CoC’s CE program. The CE committee prioritizes households with the highest barriers for housing opportunities. CoC programs must explain how they work with consumers in landlord mediation & conflict resolution. Programs must explain how they work with service resistant clients & confirm that they are creating individualized service plans with clients. Reason for discharge for each household is reviewed through the performance outcomes evaluation to confirm households are not discharged due to factors that are not in line with housing first. Client leases & program rules are reviewed by CoC staff to ensure no stipulations regarding service participation as a precondition or requirement to maintain their housing. The CoC reviews all Policies & Procedures for each project to ensure compliance with HF. Agencies are scored on these practices in the local CoC process. Additionally, while not currently scored, the CoC is evaluating the time it takes programs to get households in a housing unit upon program acceptance.
3. In addition to the competition review, the CoC lead fields any complaint or concern regarding program implementation throughout the year. If something is brought up to the CoC lead that would indicate the project is not following the HF model, the lead would meet with the provider to address the concern, correct the issue & ensure HF is met.
4. Bergen County CoC has strengthened its commitment to the Housing First model by implementing key actions that remove barriers to housing and ensure service accessibility without preconditions. Provider Training: We conduct regular training for all service providers on core Housing First principles. Policy Alignment: Our (CES) prioritizes housing based on vulnerability. Partnerships: We collaborate with local agencies and government to expand Housing First-aligned units and leverage new funding sources to increase supportive housing options. Data-Driven Oversight: Using (HMIS), we track performance and program outcomes to ensure fidelity

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)

The CoC lead stays connected to the community through regular focus groups and listening sessions, continuously identifying barriers and concerns from the AB of PWLE. The CoC has partnered with CSPNJ, a statewide expert in street outreach, to enhance efforts in Bergen County. CSPNJ is funded to implement a comprehensive outreach system, using the Outreach Grid to: Capture information from first contact to housing, Generate real-time reports and data transparency, Streamline bed reservations and management, Connect individuals and households to permanent housing Improve care by fostering cross-sector collaboration for faster services. CSPNJ works with Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) to identify people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, covering 100% of the CoC’s geographic area. Since Bergen County is both urban and suburban, CSPNJ operates from Hackensack, where a large homeless population exists, but also drives across the county to find people living in cars, encampments, under bridges, etc. Additionally, CSPNJ has set up a hotline for the public, law enforcement, and agencies to report people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The AB of PWLE also works with CSPNJ to identify unsheltered individuals they are in contact with. CSPNJ conducts outreach six days a week, covering day and night shifts, while PATH conducts outreach Monday through Friday during the day. All outreach efforts are tailored to serve the most vulnerable and service-resistant indivi CSPNJ outreach occurs 6 days a week with both day and night shifts. PATH outreach occurs during the day, Monday-Friday. All outreach is coordinated & tailored to those who are the most vulnerable and service-resistant, specifically targeting encampments and locations identified with advocates, police, hospitals and public transit. Outreach teams adjust their times and locations to engage those that are transient and work to develop relationships and foster effective engagement with service-resistant clients in order to promote acceptance of shelter and services. If shelter is refused, connection will still be made to Coordinated Entry and clients will be prioritized for permanent housing opportunities. Both outreach and CEP work to meet the client where they are and do not force program engagement to continue to provide case management and permanent housing connections.

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)		
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1D-5.	Rapid Rehousing–RRH Beds as Reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) or Longitudinal Data from HMIS.		
	NOFO Section V.B.1.I.		

	HIC Longitudinal HMIS Data	2023	2024
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	84	62

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:

	Mainstream Benefits	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)

The Bergen County Welfare agency (CWA) is an active member of the CoC & CoC Executive Board and attends CoC meetings & subcommittees, at which they provide up to date information on mainstream resources available. CoC meetings are also attended by mental health and healthcare providers that share information regarding programming, initiatives & services. The CoC will use the CoC listserv to share information regarding available mainstream resources from meetings or directly from providers. Additionally, during bimonthly

CoC meetings agencies can discuss directly with Social Services, program changes, eligibility questions and program access questions. In 2023, the CWA provided 3 trainings on General Assistance, SSI, TANF, and Employment Assistance Programs.

Representatives from local hospitals participate in the monthly Chronic/At-Risk case conferencing meetings. During the meetings, participating agencies discuss what services and benefits, including healthcare benefits, clients are connected to and how to help them quickly access any additional services for which they may be eligible. If the client does not qualify for public healthcare benefits, they will receive assistance with enrolling in private insurance. Additionally, the Bergen Housing Health and Human Service Center (BCHHH) has representatives from mainstream benefits organizations providing office hours and completing enrollment applications at BCHHH on a weekly basis. Several service-providing agencies are eligible to bill Medicaid under the community support services waiver program approved by NJ and CMS. As such, all persons connected to the system are assessed for benefit eligibility and enrollment. All persons eligible for mainstream benefits, including Medicaid, are immediately enrolled to facilitate specialized services as applicable. During COVID-19 in particular, there was more than one case in which the CoC made special connections to healthcare services and benefits. The CoC shares information regarding the SOAR program with all providers in the community. So far, 2 major providers in the community have staff who have completed the SOAR certification program

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)

Bergen County Continuum of Care (CoC) maintains a strong collaborative relationship with state and local public health agencies to effectively respond to and prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness. Our joint efforts include:

1. Coordinated Response to Infectious Disease Outbreaks:

The CoC collaborates closely with the Bergen County Department of Health Services and the New Jersey Department of Health to establish CoC-wide policies for responding to infectious disease outbreaks. This partnership enables rapid identification, isolation, and treatment of individuals showing symptoms, particularly in congregate settings. We have protocols in place for real-time communication between public health and shelter providers to ensure timely action, such as testing, vaccination, quarantine, and medical referrals, while ensuring continuity of housing and support services.

2. Prevention of Infectious Disease Outbreaks:

Preventative measures are a key focus of our work with public health agencies. We have developed and implemented hygiene and sanitation protocols, regular health screenings, and vaccination drives for people experiencing homelessness, with particular focus on high-risk groups. The CoC and public health agencies offer training for shelter staff on infection control practices and personal protective equipment (PPE) use. Additionally, public health officials provide guidance on implementing CDC-recommended practices to minimize transmission in shelters and encampments, including physical distancing, ventilation improvements, and the provision of health education to individuals. These collaborative efforts ensure a coordinated, proactive approach to safeguarding the health of individuals experiencing homelessness while preventing the spread of infectious diseases within our community.

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. **Sharing Information on Public Health Measures and Homelessness:**The Bergen County CoC plays a central role in ensuring that public health information reaches all homeless service providers promptly and effectively. In coordination with the Bergen County Department of Health Services, we regularly distribute updates on infection control, vaccination campaigns, and emerging health risks. Information is shared through multiple channels, including email alerts, virtual meetings, and CoC-wide webinars, ensuring that service providers have the latest guidance to protect individuals experiencing homelessness.

2. **Facilitating Communication Between Public Health Agencies and Homeless Service Providers:**To strengthen communication between public health agencies and service providers, the CoC established a Street Outreach Subcommittee specifically to address public health coordination. This subcommittee, comprising street outreach teams, shelter providers, and representatives from local health departments, meets regularly to facilitate real-time communication on emerging public health threats and infection control strategies. The subcommittee ensures that street outreach and shelter providers receive training and support on critical health measures, such as infection control, personal protective equipment (PPE) use, and symptom monitoring. Public health agencies work directly with this subcommittee to coordinate on-site testing, vaccination clinics, and the distribution of hygiene kits, ensuring that service providers are equipped to prevent and manage potential infectious disease outbreaks. This ongoing collaboration ensures a seamless flow of information and resources, protecting the health of those most vulnerable to infectious diseases.

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)

1. **Serving the Entire Geographic Area:** Bergen County CoC’s Coordinated Entry System (CES) ensures coverage for all individuals and families experiencing homelessness across the entire geographic area. We have multiple access points through shelters, service providers, and community partners, with mobile outreach teams extending services to unsheltered individuals in remote or hard-to-reach areas. This decentralized approach ensures that no one is excluded based on location.
2. **Standardized Assessment for Fair and Equitable Access:** Our CES uses a standardized assessment tool, the Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT), to ensure fair, equitable, and unbiased access to housing and services. This tool is applied uniformly across all access points, allowing us to prioritize those with the highest vulnerability, while eliminating potential biases related to race, gender, age, or disability. The process ensures that all individuals are assessed and matched with services based on need, ensuring equity throughout the system.
3. **Trauma-Informed Collection of Personal Information:** We collect personal information through a trauma-informed approach, respecting the experiences of individuals who may have faced significant hardship. Staff and providers are trained in trauma-informed care to ensure that assessments are conducted with sensitivity, privacy, and respect. Individuals are informed about the purpose of data collection and consent is obtained. We offer flexibility in how and where assessments are conducted, ensuring that individuals can choose environments where they feel safe.
4. **Annual Updates and Incorporating Feedback:** The CoC created a Coordinated Entry Subcommittee that regularly reviews and updates the CES to ensure it reflects the needs of both service providers and the individuals served. This subcommittee gathers feedback annually from participating projects, service providers, and households who have gone through the CES process. Feedback is used to refine the assessment tools, improve system accessibility, and address any service gaps. These continuous updates ensure that the system evolves to meet changing needs and remains equitable and effective. Through these efforts, Bergen County CoC’s Coordinated Entry System provides comprehensive, fair, and trauma-informed access to housing and services while ensuring it serves the entire geographic area and evolves based on participant feedback.

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)

1. Reaching People Least Likely to Apply for Homeless Assistance: Bergen County CoC’s CES is designed to reach those who are least likely to seek assistance on their own through targeted outreach efforts. Our Street Outreach Committee, which meets bi-monthly, plays a crucial role in engaging unsheltered individuals, particularly those in remote or hidden areas who are disconnected from mainstream services. Street outreach teams, alongside trusted community partners, use a trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approach to build trust with individuals who may be reluctant to seek assistance. This outreach ensures that everyone, including those who are isolated or distrustful of the system, is given access to CES. 2. Prioritizing People Most in Need of Assistance: Our CES uses a standardized assessment tool, the VI-SPDAT, to prioritize individuals and families based on vulnerability and need. This tool is consistently applied across all access points, ensuring that those with the highest levels of vulnerability—such as chronic homelessness, significant health issues, or disabilities—are prioritized for housing and services. The Coordinated Entry Subcommittee, which meets bi-monthly, reviews these prioritizations regularly to ensure that the system remains fair and responsive to those in greatest need. 3. Ensuring Timely Access to Permanent Housing: The CoC works diligently to ensure that individuals most in need of assistance receive permanent housing in a timely manner, tailored to their specific needs and preferences. The CES links high-priority individuals to available housing and support services through coordinated communication between housing providers and public health agencies. We also strive to honor personal preferences, such as location or housing type, while maintaining the urgency of providing stable housing as quickly as possible. Regular monitoring by the Coordinated Entry Subcommittee helps to ensure that any delays or barriers in the housing process are addressed swiftly. 4. Reducing Burdens on People Seeking Assistance: To minimize the burdens on people seeking assistance, our CES operates with a low-barrier, streamlined approach. We reduce the number of required documentation steps to the greatest extent possible, making it easier for individuals to enter the system. The system is designed to be trauma-informed and respectful of personal experiences, ensuring individuals feel safe and supported throughout the process.

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. Flyers regarding the coordinated entry program are available & distributed throughout the CoC to ensure all agencies & clients are aware of their ability to access the coordinated entry system. Regardless of where the client is in the system, they are assessed using the standard assessment tool & once housing opportunities become available that they are eligible for, staff present those opportunities to the client. The client is made aware that they do not have to accept the housing opportunity that is available, & that they will not lose their prioritization if they decide that housing opportunity is not right for them. Additionally, the Advisory Board of persons with lived experience sit on all CoC meetings, case conferencing, & Executive Committee meetings & share their recommendations on how to better advertise services to those in need.

2. To ensure clients are aware of their rights related to fair housing & civil rights law, all agencies, including the coordinated entry program have fair housing & housing discrimination information posted & accessible for all clients. The Division of Civil Rights also provided training on 9/13/24. Clients are notified that if at any point during the referral, housing search or housing process, they feel discriminated against, they should reach out to their case worker (or if it is a complaint about their case worker) to their supervisor who will help them determine the best course of action. Additionally, Northeast New Jersey Legal Services & The Waterfront Project are two legal service agencies that are critical CoC partners. Both agencies complete annual trainings for the CoC, attend CoC meetings, & regularly provide updates to the CoC lead which are shared to the list serv. Any agency or person within the CoC that has a fair housing or civil right violation is referred to these agencies for guidance & assistance in filing official complaints.

3. Any fair housing or civil rights complaints that the CoC lead or Executive Committee were made aware of would be immediately communicated between CoC leadership & Bergen County Division of Community Development, & would be referred to legal service agencies in the county. Managing attorneys would be consulted & their recommendations would be followed. If a person experiencing homelessness was not comfortable filing a complaint the agency providing support or the coordinated entry agency would be willing to file the complaint on the tenant or prospective tenant's behalf

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.	09/19/2023

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)

1. The CoC troubleshoots pressing CoC-wide issues, including addressing racial disparities, at all Leadership Committee and General Committee meetings. The committees look at the PIT, LSA, HMIS data, and Coordinated Entry (CE) data on a regular basis to assess how homeless households are overrepresented in the CoC population experiencing homelessness, tracking how households of different races are or are not moving into permanent housing destinations, how and why vulnerability scores in CE are lower or higher for some racial groups etc. For example, a report was pulled together on Racial Disparities found in the Bergen Coordinated Entry system and will be shared at the next General membership meeting for discussion and solution finding.

2. The CoC has identified that Black/African Americans and Hispanic/Latinos are severely overrepresented in the CoC's population experiencing homelessness. 2023 PIT data indicates that Black/African Americans make up 5% of the CoC's overall population, but make up 28% of the county's homeless population. Data from Coordinated Entry shows that although persons identifying as Black and persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino make up 33.1% and 17.5% of persons accessing the homeless system, they only make up 24.9% and 11.4% of persons in Coordinated Entry, respectively. Additionally, the average Vulnerability Score reported was 3.68, but for persons identifying as Black and persons identifying as Hispanic/Latino, the average was 3.0 and 3.30, respectively. Although the Vulnerability scores are low, this does not mean that both persons who are Black and persons who are Hispanic/Latino do not report disabilities, as they both make up the majority of persons with disabilities on the Coordinated Entry list. Because of these findings and advocacy from the Advisory Board of Persons with Lived Experience, the CoC will be doing further analysis in the coming months to identify what is causing the disparities seen in Coordinated Entry.

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 decisionmaking bodies representative of the population served in the CoC?	Yes
2.	Did your CoC identify steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking 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.		Yes

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)

1. Establishment of the Coordinated Entry and Street Outreach Subcommittees: To drive racial equity efforts forward, the CoC created both a Coordinated Entry Subcommittee and a Street Outreach Committee which meet bi-monthly. These subcommittees are specifically tasked with examining access and outcomes by race and ethnicity across our Coordinated Entry System (CES) and outreach efforts. They conduct regular reviews of service data to identify disparities in how different racial groups access services, move through the system, and achieve permanent housing. Recommendations from these subcommittees directly inform changes to policy, ensuring that we continuously address barriers to equity. 2. Data-Driven Racial Equity Monitoring: Our CoC leverages data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to rigorously analyze racial disparities in service access and outcomes. This data is disaggregated by race and ethnicity to identify gaps or inequities in housing placements, service delivery, and program exits. This continuous data-driven approach allows us to quickly spot and correct any inequities, making necessary adjustments to prioritize communities of color and underserved populations within our CES. The work of the Coordinated Entry Subcommittee ensures this data is used meaningfully to drive real, impactful changes. 3. Engaging Lived Experience and Community Voices: We recognize that achieving racial equity requires ongoing input from those most impacted by homelessness. The CoC actively engages individuals with lived experience of homelessness, especially from marginalized racial and ethnic groups, in our policy-making and evaluation processes. This includes seeking feedback on their experiences with access, assessment, and service delivery. The Street Outreach Committee ensures that voices from those traditionally underserved or disconnected from the system—such as unsheltered individuals and communities of color—are heard, understood, and reflected in policy changes. As the CoC lead for Bergen County, I am developing data dashboards in collaboration with the newly formed subcommittees—the Permanent Housing Stability Committee, Outreach Committee, and Coordinated Entry Committee. These dashboards will provide a comprehensive and real-time evaluation of our community’s needs while ensuring continuous monitoring of racial disparities across all levels of the CoC. This effort will integrate input from the subcommittees to promote accountability.

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)

The CoC annual monitoring process and local selection applications ask agencies how their board of directors or equivalent decision-making body includes more than one person with lived experience. The Local Selection process also asks about the percentage of direct and executive-level staff who have lived experience. The findings from the monitoring and local selection provide insight into whether further outreach is needed to engage clients in leadership roles. The CoC Lead and Executive Committees have worked to implement an Advisory Board of consultants of persons with lived experience. The members of the Advisory Board are paid for their consultation through funding provided by Bergen County. They have been asked to sit on the Funding Review Committee for the CoC and assisted in making all funding decisions for the FY2024 process. The CoC will also run system level reports using HMIS, coordinated entry data, Stella P and Point-in-Time data on an ongoing basis to evaluate progress in the racial disparities seen at system entry and outcomes.

1D-10.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking—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 decisionmaking processes.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Bergen County CoC initially engaged with a consultant to implement the Community-Led Planning Development Project in 2020-2021. This initiative aimed to analyze racial disparities in the homeless system, provide training on racial inequities to the CoC, and establish an Advisory Board composed of individuals with lived experience who reflect the cultural diversity of the homeless population. The contract was renewed in 2023-2024, continuing to fund consultants with lived experience to support this critical work.

The Advisory Board, which began meeting in April 2021, plays a pivotal role in evaluating policies and procedures within the homeless service system, with the goal of making policy recommendations to the CoC Executive Committee. The Board holds two seats on the Executive Committee and regularly reviews policies, new programming, and identified barriers. To ensure the community's voice is heard, a checks-and-balances system has been established so that all new programs and procedures must be approved by the Advisory Board, which is involved in planning conversations from the outset.

To expand the Board's impact and engagement, new focus groups are now being held to bring in fresh perspectives and increase participation from individuals with lived experience. These efforts coincide with the formalization of the Advisory Board structure, ensuring its sustainability and effectiveness. Advisory Board members are compensated for their contributions, recognizing the value of their expertise and time.

Outreach for participation in these efforts continues through partnerships with shelter providers, outreach teams, and drop-in centers, identifying clients who may be interested in participating. Peer outreach, through word of mouth, remains one of the most effective methods for increasing both program and Advisory Board participation. Additionally, comprehensive trainings on racial inequities and systemic disparities are being provided to ensure that Board members are well-equipped to make informed recommendations and contribute meaningfully to CoC planning efforts.

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

	Level of Active Participation	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 decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	4	3
2.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	4	3
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.	4	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)

Many CoC membership organizations provide professional development and employment opportunities to individuals with lived experience. Professional development activities include access to computers and assistance in applying for employment, resume writing, mock interviews, attending trainings, meeting with vocational mentors, and having access to volunteer opportunities. While these activities focus on employment outside of the organization, multiple organizations hire current or former clients to assist with program operation. Some of the positions that are held at agencies that include persons with lived experience include shelter workers, board members and outreach workers. Clients are hired in these positions with the understanding that through their lived experience they have the knowledge and expertise to work with their peers. Two of our Advisory Board members currently work for partner agencies. In addition to agency opportunities, through the CoC's Advisory Board for persons with lived experience, all participants will receive training related to the funding sources, local funding processes, program administration and strategic planning. Additionally, the CoC has connected Advisory Board members to possible employment opportunities. For example, the CoC funded a new street outreach program in 2023 and approached an active advisory board member who conducts exceptional street outreach in their personal life if they were interested in a position as an outreach worker. The advisory board member rejected the offer but is aware that the opportunity is always available

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)

1. Bergen County CoC prioritizes the input of individuals experiencing homelessness through various accessible feedback mechanisms. Our Advisory Board, which includes two seats at the Executive Committee table, meets regularly to review policies, new programming, and barriers identified within the community. This allows for ongoing dialogue and ensures that the experiences and suggestions of individuals experiencing homelessness are central to our decision-making processes. Furthermore, all ESG and CoC-funded projects are mandated to collect client feedback regularly, creating a structured pathway for individuals to share their experiences and influence program improvements.
2. The CoC collects feedback from people experiencing homelessness Monthly. This includes feedback sessions facilitated by our Advisory Board, which actively participates in planning conversations and provides real-time solutions. This collaborative approach ensures that the voices of those impacted by homelessness are consistently heard and addressed in our programming. In addition, each ESG and CoC-funded project is required to gather client feedback throughout the program cycle, reinforcing our commitment to regular input from participants.
3. To specifically gather feedback from individuals who have received assistance through CoC or ESG programs, we conduct exit surveys and follow-up interviews. These tools assess participant experiences with our services and overall satisfaction. As part of our monitoring process, the CoC Lead, who oversees ESG funding, ensures compliance with these requirements, making it a priority to integrate participant feedback into program evaluations.
4. Feedback from program participants is gathered annually through comprehensive surveys. Additionally, we conduct follow-up discussions within six months of program exit to evaluate the long-term impact of the assistance provided. This dual approach helps us maintain a continuous feedback loop that informs service delivery.
5. The CoC takes seriously the challenges identified by individuals with lived experience of homelessness. CSPNJ has maintained successful street outreach and has incorporated the use of outreach grid which allows our outreach efforts to be addressed in real time.

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)

The State of New Jersey monitors municipalities to ensure they are meeting their obligations to provide affordable housing for low- to moderate-income households, in accordance with the Mount Laurel Doctrine. This doctrine prohibits discrimination against the poor by the state and municipalities in the exercise of their land use powers. To address these needs, the NJ Legislature passed the landmark A4/S20 legislation, which updates prior affordable housing frameworks to better align with the state's evolving housing needs. The new law strengthens affordable housing mandates, prioritizing the creation of housing for low-income households and those experiencing homelessness.

As part of this legislative effort, service providers, including members of the Continuum of Care (CoC), played a crucial role in advocating for the bill to ensure it reflected the realities and needs of homeless populations. This collaborative advocacy led to provisions that focus on expanding affordable housing opportunities and increasing housing accessibility for vulnerable populations.

The CoC Lead oversees Bergen County's HOME funding, ensuring that new housing projects include set-aside units for individuals experiencing homelessness. These projects must obtain referrals through the CoC's coordinated entry system to fill the set-aside units. Additionally, the CoC is involved in reviewing Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects seeking state funding. Under the LIHTC program, projects that allocate units for people experiencing homelessness or those with special needs receive additional points. To secure these points, developers must obtain a letter of support from the CoC and commit to accepting referrals through the coordinated entry system.

Furthermore, the Housing Development Corporation of Bergen County, the non-profit development arm of the Housing Authority of Bergen County, is an active member of the CoC Executive Committee and is engaged in the development of new housing units specifically for the homeless population. This partnership exemplifies the county's commitment to ensuring affordable housing development remains a priority for addressing homelessness.

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

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

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.	07/15/2024
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.	07/15/2024

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.

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.	Yes
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 over-represented in the local homelessness population, and has taken or will take steps to eliminate the identified barriers.	Yes
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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.	
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You must upload the Scored Forms for One Project attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.
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)?	35
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	20
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.	
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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. **Successful Housing Outcomes Analysis:** Bergen County CoC conducts a thorough evaluation of projects to assess their success in placing participants into permanent housing. We utilize a performance-based scoring system that rewards projects for key metrics: 5 points for high housing retention, 5 points for increasing unearned income, and 5 points for quick vacancy fill. These measures not only highlight effective strategies but also incentivize projects that drive positive outcomes for our community.
2. **Evaluating Time to Permanent Housing:** Our performance review includes an analysis of recidivism rates and time to permanent housing. While we did not score the time to housing metric in 2024, we plan to implement this measure in future evaluations to enhance our understanding of housing timelines. Currently, we award 4 points for accuracy in documenting admission and move-in dates, emphasizing the importance of timely data to identify and resolve delays in housing placement.
3. **Addressing Vulnerabilities in Project Selection:** We prioritize funding for projects that serve the chronically homeless, awarding 3 points for dedicated beds for this vulnerable population. Our scoring system emphasizes housing-first models, which are proven to stabilize highly vulnerable individuals. Projects employing this approach receive 3 additional points, ensuring we invest in effective strategies that support long-term housing stability.
4. **Recognizing Severe Barriers to Housing Stability:** The CoC considers significant barriers when evaluating projects for funding. Our renewal monitoring includes points for staff training in best practices, such as housing-first and motivational interviewing. Projects are evaluated on their effectiveness in securing cash and non-cash benefits for participants, with up to 5 points awarded for connecting non-SSI/SSD clients to employment income. This focus ensures we support programs that are equipped to address the complex challenges faced by those experiencing homelessness. By rigorously analyzing project data and focusing on key performance indicators, Bergen County CoC is committed to enhancing our housing programs. This ensures that we support initiatives that not only house individuals but also empower them to thrive in their new homes.

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 over-represented 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 over-represented 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)

In 2024, the CoC’s Review Committee remains focused on maintaining a transparent and equitable project evaluation process. The Review Committee was a small diverse group of individuals, that ensures representation from culturally and ethnically diverse groups, especially those overrepresented in the local homeless population. The Review Committee is responsible for reviewing and approving all CoC policies and procedures, as well as ranking project applications and approving overall funding decisions. Notably, two individuals with lived experience are now integral members of the committee, offering valuable insights into the review, selection, and ranking processes. Their input has helped shape more inclusive and responsive decision-making. The Review Committee is committed to prioritizing projects that serve the most vulnerable populations, particularly those from racial groups disproportionately represented in the CoC’s homeless population. Special consideration is given to projects that address identified barriers and provide tangible solutions. In 2024, the CoC highly ranked and funded a new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program designed to accommodate the rising number of unsheltered individuals entering the system. This new PSH project will be operated in coordination with the recently expanded street outreach program, ensuring that those experiencing chronic homelessness have direct pathways to stable housing. In 2024, as part of the CoC’s ongoing commitment to racial equity, the Review Committee incorporated new questions into the local CoC application to better assess how agencies are addressing racial disparities and incorporating consumer feedback into their service delivery models. These questions ask agencies to describe the diversity of their staff, including leadership, and to detail how they incorporate input from individuals with lived experience to refine their services. Agencies are also required to explain the strategies they employ to address racial inequities and demonstrate how their services are delivered in a culturally and linguistically competent manner. Through these efforts, the CoC continues to ensure that the review process is not only equitable but also grounded in the lived experiences of those most impacted by homelessness.

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) The CoC issues a request for new and renewal projects each cycle. Projects are evaluated on agency capacity, program fit with local priorities and project soundness. Renewal projects are also scored on compliance with HUD regs and program performance. The Performance & Evaluation committee reviews project application, performance, monitoring results, and expenditure rates. Projects returning an average of 20%+ of funding over the previous 3 years and programs with significant compliance and outcome issues will be reviewed for reallocation. The committee may request additional information including current monthly expenditure rates and proposed changes to implementation before making final determinations.
- (2) The CoC did not identify any projects in 2024 but did identify a project through this process during the local selection process in 2023. This project has been returning an average of 20% of funding over the last three years.
- (3) The CoC decided to accept a new application this year for SSO from an agency who has been meeting performance and program goals. A new project focusing on SSO for the unsheltered was funded with the \$332,233.00
- (4) N/A

PICK UP FROM HERE

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?	No
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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.	

1.	Did your CoC reject any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
2.	Did your CoC reduce funding for any project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
3.	Did your CoC inform applicants why your CoC rejected or reduced their project application(s) submitted for funding during its local competition?	No
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.	

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.	

	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.	08/24/2024
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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.	
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	Does your attachment include: 1. Project Names; 2. Project Scores; 3. Project Status—Accepted, Rejected, Reduced Reallocated, Fully Reallocated; 4. Project Rank; 5. Amount Requested from HUD; and 6. Reallocated Funds +/-	Yes
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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.	
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	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.	10/24/2024
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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.	
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	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.	10/24/2024
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2A. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Implementation

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2A-1.	HMIS Vendor.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Enter the name of the HMIS Vendor your CoC is currently using.	FOOTHOLD TECHNOLOGY
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2A-2.	HMIS Implementation Coverage Area.	
	Not Scored—For Information Only	

	Select from dropdown menu your CoC’s HMIS coverage area.	Single CoC
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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.	05/09/2024
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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) Center for Hope and Safety (CHS), the designated DV agency in Bergen County, uses Apricot, a HMIS comparable database and is required to submit weekly de-identified data on persons served in emergency shelter and transitional housing for inclusion on the housing prioritization list. This data is combined with HMIS data from shelter and outreach providers to develop a comprehensive list of those experiencing homelessness in the community. Information on survivors of DV is pulled from both the DV specific agencies as well as the general sheltering and outreach programs in the community to better understand the scope of the population in Bergen County. Additionally, the CoC collects data on DV experiences through the annual point in time count. Data from those fleeing domestic violence is analyzed to determine the characteristics of DV survivors and service needs as identified on the point in time survey. Ultimately, CHS works in conjunction with the CoC and HMIS leads to ensure all reporting requirements are met.

(2) Center for Hope and Safety is using a HUD-compliant comparable database, Apricot, that is compliant with the FY 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:

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	202	0	164	81.19%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	0	0	0	0.00%
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	170	0	139	81.76%
4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	62	0	62	100.00%
5. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds	495	0	352	71.11%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH) beds	0	0	0	0.00%

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)

The only project that does not enter into the CoC's HMIS system for PSH is the HUD VASH program. The only other permanent housing projects that are not in HMIS are the EHV voucher programs along with the HCV Homeless Set Asides from the Housing Authority of Bergen County. Between these two program types, the State of NJ holds 133 of the 971 units, the remaining units are held with the housing authority. The CoC has reached out to the State a number of times over the past few years to encourage participation in HMIS, explore uploading options with the HMIS lead and researching other ways to incorporate the data.

While the VA and the Housing Authority of Bergen County are active members of the CoC, and in the VAs case, the Veterans Committee, there has been no commitment as of yet to enter information into HMIS. Over the next year, the CoC will ensure that the CoC's data analyst will continue to research options for including VA, EHV and HCV data into HMIS, including using partner agencies to track the clients in HMIS. The CoC's will also continue to increase the coverage rate for PSH to create more beds to incorporate into HMIS.

For RRH, there was a typo with the HIC as the project that was selected as not participating (Soldier On's SSVF-RRH program) does in fact participate in HMIS.

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.	

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

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2B-1.	PIT Count Date.	
	NOFO Section V.B.4.a	

	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2024 PIT count.	01/24/2024
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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.	05/09/2024
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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)

The CoC worked with the Homeless Youth Taskforce which includes youth service providers and youth who have experienced homelessness to develop an outreach plan for engaging youth in the Point in Time Count. The taskforce assisted the PIT committee in identifying youth specific locations to target such as local malls and community colleges. The committee worked with the taskforce to educate providers serving youth about the survey and the importance of the 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. In Recent years, the PIT survey was modified by the Statewide Advisory Board of persons with lived experience to be more person-centered, using a motivational interview approach to improve data collection and center dignity. Based on feedback from the Advisory Board, 2. the PIT unsheltered survey was updated to identify barriers & needs of participants before responding to questions that are "required" and must be sent to HUD. Their efforts provided invaluable insight and reshaped the survey to gather required data while respecting the humanity of respondents. In conjunction with survey updates, the CoC provided enhanced trainings for volunteers & agencies completing the survey to ensure full understanding of the changes to the data collection. The Advisory Board also presented at each training to teach surveyors about motivational interviewing and the empathy required to conduct the survey.

3. n/a
 4. n/a

2C. System Performance

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

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)

(1) The CoC collects information on cause of homelessness and homeless history through the Point in Time data annually. Analysis of the PIT and HMIS data provide information about the risk factors associated with first time homelessness. The Leadership committee reviews this data on an annual basis. The Chronic/At- Risk committee also reviews data on a case-by-case basis through monthly case conferencing and identifies patterns in causes of homelessness and other associated risk factors which are reported to the Leadership committee. Additionally, the CoC is in the process of pulling together a report using GIS mapping that looks at HMIS data and identifies the last permanent address people had before entering the system to identify hot spots and target resources and programming to specific zip codes.

(2) Strategies developed to address these issues included:

- Strengthening coordination of prevention resources - Stakeholders administering prevention resources are part of a committee to review prevention resources and develop coordination protocols to better target resources and share information.
- Increase prevention/diversion resources – Bergen County has implemented a County Homeless Trust Fund which provides flexible funding to assist in efforts to end homelessness. A portion of the funding raised annually is allocated to prevention programs targeting families and individuals at 30% - 80% of AMI filling a gap for those households at risk of homelessness that do not qualify for ESG or other state and federal funds.
- Single Point of Entry – the Bergen County Housing Health and Human Service Center provides a single point of access for those at risk of homelessness to connect to prevention services. Through the center, coordination of mainstream benefits, employment services and legal services help to stabilize precariously housed persons in order to prevent unnecessary entry into the sheltering system.

(3) The CoC Leadership committee, which includes persons with lived experience, is responsible for reviewing progress and the Bergen Division of Community development is responsible for oversight and implementation.

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

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.
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(limit 2,500 characters)

(1) Strategies to reduce the LOT homeless include:

- The coordinated assessment housing prioritization list (HPL) prioritizes households by vulnerability and length of time homeless. Additionally, the CoC funded a new PSH project to the street outreach agency as it was identified that persons in Bergen who are unsheltered have the longest length of time homeless. This project will move those who are in unsheltered locations directly to permanent housing, decreasing the length of time homeless.
- The Division of Community Development funded housing stabilization services through the Bergen Housing Health and Human Services Center (BCHHH). The program offers support to the homeless to connect them to housing resources and PH placement.
- The CoC coordinates housing opportunities through the BCHHH including HCV, HOME TBRA and state funded rental assistance which is paired with the housing search and placement services funded locally.
- The CoC targets RRH to households with minimal barriers to prevent them from becoming long-term homeless. The CoC encourages provider to apply for State funding for ESG and is looking to partner with the mainstream benefits program to expand the way those resources are utilized to model a RRH response.

(2) The Coordinated Assessment is completed by all sheltering and outreach programs. Persons connected to the BCHHH who aren't staying at the shelter complete the assessment when they access services at the center. The assessment is used to identify vulnerability and homeless history to identify households with the longest histories of homelessness. The HPL is ranked by vulnerability and length of time homeless. Housing providers work from the top of the HPL to fill vacancies. At monthly case management meetings housing, shelter, outreach and service providers talk through difficult cases and strategize solutions. Monthly case conferencing identifies people that remain on the list too long and brainstorm solutions. Through these efforts the CoC has been able to maintain functional zero of chronic and veterans homelessness.

(3) The CoC Leadership committee, which includes persons with lived experience, is responsible for reviewing progress and the Bergen Division of Community development is responsible for oversight and implementation.

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)

(1) Strategies to increase the rate that households exit to PH include: -Housing First (HF) oriented shelter with continuous engagement by shelter staff using housing-focused/strengths-based case management to increase income, obtain rental/financial/mainstream assistance, & address other barriers.- Via Coordinated Entry (CE), we are prioritizing households with longest lengths of homelessness & highest service needs for CoC interventions, including PSH, CoC/ESG RRH, RRH as Bridge Housing, & OPH. Prioritizing those with higher barriers suggests more difficulty in maintaining PH once housed. The CoC has implemented a Homeless Trust Fund (HTF) which provides flex funding to assist in efforts to end homelessness. A portion of the funding raised annually is allocated to robust case management (CM) which will provide additional supportive services to promote retention of Permanent housing for those exiting from ES/TH/RRH & promote self-sufficiency through employment.-We utilize a By-Name List to drive case conferencing & an analysis of strategies to resolve homelessness more rapidly. -The CoC has also prioritized updating the current Housing Navigation program to increase housing opportunities & connect with landlords.

(2) Strategies to maintain/increase PH retention include: -CoC Local selection criteria & project monitoring ensure low-barrier projects are prioritized for funding & meet their commitments to implement a HF approach so high-need households are accepted & housed. Projects are also monitored to ensure that if a household in PH is discharged, they are discharged to PH. Any project with high rates of discharges to non-PH locations are flagged & the CoC works with program staff to understand program policies & identify problematic service or termination procedures impacting discharges to non-PH locations. -Through partnership with the local Housing Authority, the CoC is able to move persons who are no longer in need of PSH services to an HCV through a Moving On Initiative. -The CoC has implemented a HTF which provides flex funding to assist in efforts to end homelessness. A portion of the funding raised annually is allocated to robust CM which will provide additional services to promote retention of PH & self-sufficiency through employment.

(3) The CoC Leadership Committee, which includes persons with lived experience, is responsible for reviewing progress & the Bergen Division of CD is responsible for oversight & Implementation

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) At program intake shelters, transitional housing and outreach programs collect data on homeless history to determine if a participant has been homeless in the recent past. The Bergen Housing Health and Human Service Center assesses all persons seeking services and identifies persons previously housed that return to the shelter. When those individuals return, their cases are prioritized at the monthly case conferencing meetings.

(2) The CoC works to reduce returns to homelessness through prioritizing programs that operate using a Housing First Model. These programs are monitored for adherence to the model to ensure low barrier program entry and specialized client centered services to reduce terminations. The CoC also identifies projects with high rates of returns to homelessness and works with program staff to understand program policies and identify problematic service or termination procedures impacting returns to homelessness. The CoC has invested additional funding to ensure appropriate levels of support services are connected to permanent housing. All projects have sufficient levels of case management to address the needs of highly vulnerable populations. Coordinated Assessment vulnerability scores are used to assist in identifying appropriate levels of supportive housing. Households with lower levels of vulnerability are connected with rapid rehousing while households with higher levels are connected to permanent supportive housing. If clients that are referred to RRH are identified as needing additional support, the CoC has used RRH as bridge housing, connecting the client to PSH once there is an opening to ensure the client does not return to homelessness. In addition, the CoC created the Coordinated Entry, Street Outreach and Permanent Housing stability committees that meet BiMonthly.

(3) The CoC Leadership committee, which includes persons with lived experience, is responsible for reviewing progress and the Bergen Division of Community development is responsible for oversight and implementation.

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) All providers have an employment focus in their programs. This includes inhouse job placement or vocational specialist to assist clients with resume writing, mock interviews and job readiness. Programs provide budget evaluation supports to determine the level of employment needed as well as educational and trade options to ensure households are not limited to minimum wage job prospects that won't support their household's costs. Many providers in the region host job fairs & open houses at their facilities. The CoC supports this work by sharing information about upcoming job fairs. The CoC partners with workforce development through an MOU to help connect persons utilizing the Housing Health and Human Service Center (BCHHH) to employment services. Staff from workforce provide services out of BCHHH on a weekly basis and assist clients with completing employment assessments, resume writing, job search and additional resources to secure employment. PH programs complete assessments of clients at program entry to determine if employment should be part of their service plan and connect them with mainstream employment services to help them access employment.

(2) The CoC has begun conversations with the Workforce Investment Board to identify strategies to successfully help households engage in and maintain employment. Through the BCHHH and PH providers, the CoC will develop specialized training and employment search services to assist homeless and formerly homeless households.

(3) The CoC Leadership committee, which includes persons with lived experience, is responsible for reviewing progress and the Bergen Division of Community development is responsible for oversight and implementation.

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) New Jersey had updated regulations impacting access to cash benefits and emergency assistance benefits. The CoC has worked to ensure all providers are aware of the program changes by including discussion of the program in bimonthly CoC meetings and encouraging all programs to reconnect clients not currently enrolled in cash assistance to the Board of Social Services (BSS) for a re-evaluation of eligibility. CoC protocols require all agencies to refer clients to BSS at intake to determine eligibility for cash and non-cash benefits. Program case managers are listed as alternate contacts on new applications for assistance so agencies can assist clients with navigating the process. Agencies provide supports such as accompanying clients to appointments, assisting with securing documentation and following up on applications to ensure benefits are secured. BSS staff are co-located at the Bergen Housing Health and Human Services Center (BCHHH), the CoCs one-stop facility for homeless services once a week and facilitate client enrollment in benefits on site as well as schedule follow-up appointments as necessary. Legal Services is an active partner with on-site hours scheduled at BCHHH on a regular basis. Legal Services participates in monthly case conferencing meetings and assist clients in filing appeals when they have been denied benefits. When veterans are identified at BCHHH, upon signing of release forms, their info is sent to the Bergen County Division of Veterans Services where staff check eligibility and enrollment in VA services. For eligible clients not fully connected, Vet Services coordinates with BCHHH to schedule appointments and collect required documents to complete the enrollment process.

(2) The CoC Leadership committee, which includes persons with lived experience, is responsible for reviewing progress and the Bergen Division of Community development is responsible for oversight and implementation.

3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Housing Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.a.	
	You must upload the Housing Leveraging Commitment attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses housing subsidies or subsidized housing units which are not funded through the CoC or ESG Programs to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	Yes
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3A-2.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Healthcare Resources.	
	NOFO Section V.B.6.b.	
	You must upload the Healthcare Formal Agreements attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Is your CoC applying for a new PH-PSH or PH-RRH project that uses healthcare resources to help individuals and families experiencing homelessness?	Yes
--	--	-----

3A-3.	Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.	
	NOFO Sections V.B.6.a. and V.B.6.b.	

If you selected yes to questions 3A-1. or 3A-2., use the list feature icon to enter information about each project application you intend for HUD to evaluate to determine if they meet the criteria.

Project Name	Project Type	Rank Number	Leverage Type
Bergen Advance Ho...	PH-PSH	22	Both
Bergen Vantage He...	PH-RRH	23	Healthcare

3A-3. List of Projects.

1. What is the name of the new project? Bergen Advance Housing Villa Program FY2024
PSH
2. Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): X7NMMF8YNCN3
3. Select the new project type: PH-PSH
4. Enter the rank number of the project on your CoC's Priority Listing: 22
5. Select the type of leverage: Both

3A-3. List of Projects.

1. What is the name of the new project? Bergen Vantage Health RRH FY2024
2. Enter the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): LKHHWM4ULLT3
3. Select the new project type: PH-RRH
4. Enter the rank number of the project on your CoC's Priority Listing: 23
5. Select the type of leverage: Healthcare

3B. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project application requesting \$200,000 or more in funding for housing rehabilitation or new construction?	No
--	----

3B-2.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.r.	

If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below actions CoC Program-funded project applicants will take to comply with:

1.	Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 (12 U.S.C. 1701u); and
2.	HUD’s implementing rules at 24 CFR part 75 to provide employment and training opportunities for low- and very-low-income persons, as well as contracting and other economic opportunities for businesses that provide economic opportunities to low- and very-low-income persons.

(limit 2,500 characters)

n/a

3C. Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3C-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serve Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

	Is your CoC requesting to designate one or more of its SSO, TH, or Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects to serve families with children or youth experiencing homelessness as defined by other Federal statutes?	No
--	--	----

3C-2.	Cost Effectiveness of Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section V.F.	

You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.

If you answered yes to question 3C-1, describe in the field below:

1.	how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and
2.	how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.

(limit 2,500 characters)

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants for New DV Bonus Funding

HUD publishes resources on the HUD.gov website at CoC Program Competition to assist you in completing the CoC Application. Resources include:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2024 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

4A-1.	New DV Bonus Project Applicants.	
	NOFO Section I.B.3.j.	

	Did your CoC submit one or more new project applications for DV Bonus Funding?		No
Applicant Name			
This list contains no items			

4B. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

We have provided the following guidance to help you successfully upload attachments and get maximum points:

1. You must include a Document Description for each attachment you upload; if you do not, the Submission Summary screen will display a red X indicating the submission is incomplete.
2. You must upload an attachment for each document listed where 'Required?' is 'Yes'.
3. We prefer that you use PDF files, though other file types are supported—please only use zip files if necessary. Converting electronic files to PDF, rather than printing documents and scanning them, often produces higher quality images. Many systems allow you to create PDF files as a Print option. If you are unfamiliar with this process, you should consult your IT Support or search for information on Google or YouTube.
4. Attachments must match the questions they are associated with.
5. Only upload documents responsive to the questions posed—including other material slows down the review process, which ultimately slows down the funding process.
6. If you cannot read the attachment, it is likely we cannot read it either.
 - . We must be able to read the date and time on attachments requiring system-generated dates and times, (e.g., a screenshot displaying the time and date of the public posting using your desktop calendar; screenshot of a webpage that indicates date and time).
 - . We must be able to read everything you want us to consider in any attachment.
7. After you upload each attachment, use the Download feature to access and check the attachment to ensure it matches the required Document Type and to ensure it contains all pages you intend to include.
8. Only use the "Other" attachment option to meet an attachment requirement that is not otherwise listed in these detailed instructions.

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1C-7. PHA Homeless Preference	No		
1C-7. PHA Moving On Preference	No		
1D-10a. Lived Experience Support Letter	Yes		
1D-2a. Housing First Evaluation	Yes		
1E-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes		
1E-2a. Scored Forms for One Project	Yes		
1E-5. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes		
1E-5a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes		
1E-5b. Local Competition Selection Results	Yes		
1E-5c. Web Posting—CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes		
1E-5d. Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application	Yes		

2A-6. HUD's Homeless Data Exchange (HDX) Competition Report	Yes		
3A-1a. Housing Leveraging Commitments	No		
3A-2a. Healthcare Formal Agreements	No		
3C-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
Other	No		

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Submission Summary

Ensure that the Project Priority List is complete prior to submitting.

Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	09/16/2024
1B. Inclusive Structure	10/14/2024
1C. Coordination and Engagement	10/23/2024
1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd	10/24/2024
1E. Project Review/Ranking	10/24/2024
2A. HMIS Implementation	10/24/2024
2B. Point-in-Time (PIT) Count	10/24/2024
2C. System Performance	10/24/2024
3A. Coordination with Housing and Healthcare	10/24/2024
3B. Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs	10/24/2024
3C. Serving Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes	10/24/2024

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants	10/24/2024
4B. Attachments Screen	Please Complete
Submission Summary	No Input Required