

Multnomah County 2023 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition

New or Expanded Project

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs as of July 25, 2023

Q. When are new project pre-applications due?

A. New or expanded project pre-applications are due **August 13, 2023**. Pre-application materials are available on the [JOHS Continuum of Care 2023 New Projects website](#).

Q. When should I start working on my e-snaps applications?

A. Draft renewal project e-snaps applications are due on August 16, 2023.

New project e-snaps applications are due on September 5, 2023, but won't be notified about project selection until September 8 or 11, 2023. Because new project *e-snaps* applications are due so soon after notification of selection, new project applicants are strongly encouraged to start their *e-snaps* applications *well before* the notification of selection has been issued.

We expect HUD to issue a 2023 New Project Guidance document with shortcuts to resources and *e-snaps* tips and tricks, but it has not been released yet.

Q. How much funding is available for new projects?

A. The Multnomah CoC is eligible to apply for \$2,111,717 in CoC Bonus funding, and \$909,440 in Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus funding. If a renewal project chooses not to apply, or if a project is reduced or reallocated by the CAC, there may be additional funding available for new projects beyond the bonus funding amounts. Please see the JOHS [Continuum of Care 2023 New Projects](#) website for detailed information about applying for this funding.

Q. Do funded projects have to use the Multnomah County CoC's coordinated access system? If so, how does that work? Is there a way to prioritize the organization's existing clients for the housing or services funded through this competition?

A. If funded, projects must participate in the Multnomah County CoC's coordinated access system. Coordinated access is the way that organizations, service providers, County and city agencies coordinate the care and support for individuals and households moving out of homelessness into transitional and permanent housing. Generally, providers must agree to take clients based on the referrals and prioritization established by the coordinated access process and cannot prefer or prioritize their own clients. It is also important to note that funding for new or expanded projects generally may not be used as a source of funds to supplant (replace) existing funding for services that are already being offered. Existing clients should be served through existing resources, unless they otherwise qualify and are prioritized for services through the coordinated access system. See [this website](#) for more information on the coordinated access system.

Q. Are therapy services for survivors in a CoC eligible cost?

A. Yes. A supportive services budget line item can cover the cost of therapy provided by a licensed professional.

Q. Utility allowances are a CoC eligible cost under which budget line items?

A. Utility allowances are an eligible cost under both leasing and rental assistance budget line items. For general details on utility allowances, visit [HUD's utility allowance guidebook](#).

Q. If an agency has a federal negotiated indirect cost rate, will it be accepted for a new CoC project application?

A. Yes. The indirect cost rate agreement will need to be attached to your project's application in e-snaps.

Q. Can Medicare reimbursements cover health services that are provided to CoC clients? If so, would such expenditures help the CoC qualify for the Healthcare Leverage bonus points?

A. Yes. Medicare reimbursements paid directly to healthcare providers are an eligible source of match funding, assuming they provide services to the CoC project's clientele. To qualify the CoC for its Healthcare Leverage bonus points, a written commitment must be included in the e-snaps application, detailing the health care organization that will provide substance use treatment or recovery services to all interested program participants, or services equal in value to 25% of the funds requested by the project.

Q. Can a project serving DV survivors expand to include additional therapy services?

A. Yes. An existing renewal project that was previously awarded under the DV Bonus is eligible to apply for an expansion grant, which may include licensed therapy services under its Supportive Services budget line item. Note, the project would be eligible for its expanded funds from *both* of the DV Bonus, and CoC Bonus.

Q. Can an organization from within a larger parent nonprofit apply separately for funding?

A. Likely no. The agency recipient of CoC funds must be able to identify itself in e-snaps with a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number. This replaced the DUNS system that was in place prior to 2022. It is more likely that the parent nonprofit would need to apply for CoC funds as the direct recipient, and subcontract or name the smaller organization as a subrecipient.

Q. Can a nonprofit apply for CoC programs in multiple states/communities?

A. Yes. The only limitation is that programs serving a given community must be applied-for through that community's local application/competition process, i.e. a project awarded in the Portland, Multnomah/Gresham CoC must serve clients from that community's coordinated entry queue.

Q. Can CoC funds be used for seismic upgrades and/or building improvements?

A. Yes. Acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction CoC project applications are allowable.

Q. Can CoC funds pay for improvements to existing shelter and/or drug and alcohol treatment programs?

No. Neither shelter nor residential treatment programs are eligible project component types under CoC funding. In addition, CoC funds may not replace existing funds for programs that are already running. New CoC project applications can only fund permanent housing (i.e., permanent supportive housing and/or rapid rehousing), and supportive services provided to clients in newly funded programming.

Q. How many applications are required to expand an existing renewal CoC project?

Locally, the Multnomah CoC requires one renewal application for the existing project, and one new application for the proposed expansion. Similarly, HUD requires in e-snaps, one renewal application for the existing renewal project, and one new application for the proposed expansion.¹

Q. Are agencies allowed to collaborate on a proposed CoC program design and operation?

A. Yes! Collaborations are encouraged between agencies whose services and housing support plans complement each other. Note, one agency should identify itself as the direct recipient of the incoming grant funds (likely the agency with greater capacity for financial and compliance controls), with the other agency or agencies acting as subcontractor(s) to the former.

Q. Multnomah County and HUD are prioritizing certain specific vulnerable populations, according to the TA Workshop presentation. We did not see (population X) mentioned. Is (population X) still an appropriate focus of our project?

¹ This guidance is based on e-snaps instructions from 2022. As of July 27, 2023, e-snaps detailed instructions have not yet been published. We will update this answer at a later date, if necessary.

A. Yes, but Multnomah County's scoring tools are designed to give some advantage to projects serving priority subpopulations. All else being equal, a project serving a priority population is more likely to be prioritized for funding.

Q. Does 'woman identifying' refer specifically to woman-identifying transgender populations, or does it include cisgender women?

A. The category includes both transgender and cisgender women.

Q. Does the 25% match have to be cash, or can it be in-kind health services delivered to clients utilizing housing services provided by a partner org?

A. Match is satisfied *either* by a 25% cash amount compared to the grant total (with exceptions for certain budget line items), OR in-kind services provided to CoC program participants valued at or exceeding 25% of the grant total.

Q. Who are the members of Multnomah County's Consolidated Application Committee (CAC), the group responsible for reviewing and ranking CoC project applications?

A. The CAC is composed of non-conflicted members of the Multnomah County leadership board. They are not permitted to have a conflict of interest, real or apparent, arising from a relationship with an agency applying for CoC funds.

Q. Is this funding only available to non-profit agencies? What if you are working under a Non-Profit Umbrella of a different company?

A. This funding is available to nonprofit or government agency applicants. A nonprofit operating under a larger parent company or organization must have its own Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and apply for the funds itself as the recipient.