

Trenton/Mercer Continuum of Care
2015 Submission Guidelines
NEW PROJECTS

Each fiscal year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issues a Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) to provide communities with funding to assist homeless individuals and families with housing and supportive services to achieve long-term stability and end the cycle of homelessness.

The Trenton/Mercer Continuum of Care is requesting applications for the Notice of Intent to Apply for the HUD FY 2015 Continuum of Care Program submission. Attached is the application for New Projects. **Applications are due by July 1, 2015 by 12:00 p.m.** (Late applications will not be accepted). Applications must be submitted to: Vernett Sherrill, Grant Administrator, City of Trenton, Department of Health and Human Services, 319 East State Street, Trenton. Electronic submissions are PREFERRED and should be sent to vsherrill@trentonnj.org and a copy to Marygrace Billek at mbillek@mercercounty.org.

Coordinated Assessment and Prioritization

The Trenton/Mercer Continuum of Care, through a comprehensive Coordinated Assessment Process, targets and prioritizes the most vulnerable persons experiencing homelessness in the community.

- a. CoC has developed a ***Coordinated Entry and Assessment System (CEASe)*** for individuals experiencing homelessness. This system operates as the point of entry to access housing and community services for homeless individuals. Through a coordinated assessment process, the needs of the homeless are identified and prioritized and a plan to move from homelessness to housing is developed. The goal of this system is to prioritize and house those individuals with the longest history of homelessness first. The City of Trenton's CEAS Center is a major access point of the coordinated assessment system.
- b. The CoC has established orders of ***priority*** aimed at ensuring that all CoC Program funded projects target the persons who need it the most—whether that be a person experiencing chronic homelessness or a person with the most severe needs that do not yet meet the requirements to be considered chronically homeless.

Priority 1: Chronically homeless individuals and families with the longest history of homelessness and with the most severe service needs ** Chronically Homeless Veterans with longest history of homelessness and most severe service needs will take first priority.

New Projects

The Trenton/Mercer CoC is seeking applications for NEW PROJECTS for **Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronically Homeless Individuals**. The CoC will prioritize applications for chronically homeless veterans, although applications for chronically homeless individuals who are not veterans will be considered.

The CoC will also prioritize Permanent Supportive Housing projects which utilize eligible leasing costs. Leasing funds can be used to lease a structure or portion of a structure that will be used for PSH or supportive services. The CoC Program funds may not be used to lease unit or structure owned by the recipient, sub recipient or any related organization(s). For more information, please see attachment.

FY2015 funding for the CoC Program is currently unknown and funding is based on availability. Budgets may reflect estimated costs for rental assistance, leasing, supportive services, operating and administration. Applications should include all costs associated with operating a project for the intended target population. Funding for new projects will be available through reallocation and potentially through the CoC Application Permanent supportive housing Bonus.

ELIGIBILITY

The CoC Program funds permanent supportive housing (PSH), which is permanent housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with services to help homeless people with disabilities achieve housing stability; The CoC is prioritizing Chronically Homeless individuals who meet the following criteria:

Literally Homeless: An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence such as Sleeping in a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation, Living in a shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements or exiting an institution (e.g., jail, hospital) - where they resided for 90 days or less AND were residing in emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering institution.

Chronically Homeless Individual - An unaccompanied homeless adult individual (persons 18 years or older) with a disabling condition (see definition below) who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more OR has had at least four (4) separate occasions of homelessness in the past three (3) years. To be considered chronically homeless, persons must have been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets) and/or in an emergency shelter/Safe Haven during that time. Persons under the age of 18 are not counted as chronically homeless.

Disabling Condition – Any one of (1) a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act; (2) a physical, mental, or emotional impairment which is (a) expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, (b) substantially impedes an individual's ability to live independently, and (c) of such a nature that such ability could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; (3) a developmental disability as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act; (4) the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiological agency for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; or (5) a diagnosable substance abuse disorder.

For more information on the final HUD definition on homelessness and the CoC, please view the HUD Homeless Resource Exchange website at <https://www.hudexchange.info>

Projects that are dedicated chronically homeless projects, including those that were originally funded as Samaritan Bonus Initiative Projects must continue to serve chronically homeless persons exclusively.

Proven Models

Housing First is a model of housing assistance that is offered without preconditions (such as sobriety or a minimum income threshold) or service participation requirements and rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing are primary goals. Research shows that it is effective for the chronically homeless with mental health and substance abuse disorders, resulting in fewer inpatient stays and less expensive intervention than other approaches. PSH projects should use a Housing First approach in the design of the program.