

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 2022 CoC Program Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The FY 2022 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 2022 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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2022 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1A-1. CoC Name and Number: VA-603 - Alexandria CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: City of Alexandria, a municipal corporation of Virginia

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: City of Alexandria, a municipal corporation of Vir

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:

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
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1B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Sections VII.B.1.a.(1), VII.B.1.e., VII.B.1.p., and VII.B.1.r.	
	In the chart below for the period from May 1, 2021 to April 30, 2022:	
	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.	Agencies serving survivors of human trafficking	Yes	Yes	Yes
3.	CDBG/HOME/ESG Entitlement Jurisdiction	Yes	Yes	Yes
4.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	No	No	Yes
7.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Hospital(s)	No	No	Yes
9.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent	No	No
10.	Law Enforcement	Yes	No	Yes
11.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	No
12.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	Nonexistent	No	No
13.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Local Jail(s)	No	No	Yes
15.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
16.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

17.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Nonexistent	No	No
19.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Nonexistent	No	No
20.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	State Domestic Violence Coalition	No	No	Yes
24.	State Sexual Assault Coalition	No	No	Yes
25.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	No	Yes
26.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	Other Victim Service Organizations	Nonexistent	No	No
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	No	Yes
32.	Youth Homeless Organizations	Nonexistent	No	No
33.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	No	Yes
	Other: (limit 50 characters)			
34.				
35.				

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

1B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members.	
	NOFO Section VII.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 with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;
3.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

CoC membership is open to the public and requires a signature of support submitted on our “Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness Membership Form” by individuals or organizations interested in working to advance our mission in the City of Alexandria. General membership is publicly advertised biannually prior to the CoC’s Full Partnership meetings, which serves as an opportunity for interested citizens to learn more about our work and get involved. There is no definitive time or resource commitment for prospective members, keeping The Partnership diverse and engrossing of our entire community. Deeper collaboration is required of organizations that directly serve homeless clients.

Membership of the more crucial community stake holders including homeless assistance organizations, formerly homeless persons, regional housing developers, public housing agencies, mental health care and medical service providers, homeless education liaisons, affordable housing advocates, and veteran aid programs is solicited by the CoC Nominating Committee through ongoing outreach. These groups are earmarked votes on the CoC Governing Board so as turnover is anticipated representatives from the sector with an upcoming vacant chair are proposed to the board for a vote each July. In FY22, a new representative from the jurisdictions public school system, specifically the Alexandria’s lead homeless education liaison, was voted on to the CoC Governing Board.

The opinions of homeless and formerly homeless residents are especially important when making changes to CoC policy. Alexandria acknowledges that fact through their inclusion in the Continuum within the Governing Board, along with each subcommittee. The addition of another voting member with lived expertise spurred the CoC to explore incentivizing such positions on subcommittees, a strategy piloted in FY22 and being formalized in FY23.

1B-3.	CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section VII.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; and
3.	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)

The CoC engages stakeholders in an integrated process, through membership to the Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, and through informal involvement on issues affecting homeless and at-risk populations. The Partnership’s open structure encourages input from all parties involved in homeless assistance including domestic violence and youth service providers, hospitals, school social workers, non-profit housing developers, police, mental and medical healthcare providers, and formerly homeless persons, promoting diversity of perspective and experience on homeless issues.

Biannual Full Partnership Meetings are held to inform the public about the CoC’s recent successes and challenges, forge stronger relationships within the Partnership, and recruit new champions to the cause. Partnership meetings are publicly announced via email listservs maintained by the CoC, Office of Housing, Faith Communities, and the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations, as well as posted as PDF’s to the CoC’s webpage. Similar news blasts accompanied by online postings are used to disseminate Full Partnership presentation materials and other CoC publications, conduct surveys of the Partnership or community, and make requests for funding proposals. All CoC meetings are held remotely, or in ADA accessible public facilities, and materials are made available via email.

The most recent example of public input solicitation has occurred through the CoC’s Strategic Plan update. In FY21, focus groups of shelter residents were conducted, and their responses developed into Strategic Planning Goals which were circulated throughout the City for comment, including from new City Council members. From this process, the importance of homeless prevention in the mission to end homelessness was highlighted, prompting the CoC to include some of those metrics in the community dashboard on evictions, and dig deeper into data tracking strategies for prevention and diversion. For FY 23, additional shelter resident focus groups will be conducted again in order to include their input into the upcoming Strategic Plan.

1B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Awarded CoC Program Funding.	
	NOFO Section VII.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.	how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

In July the CoC Gaps & Needs Committee, consisting of program administrators and CoC Board members, issued recommendation following analysis of annual system performance data. The report was broadcast to the community, and highlighted current service needs in the CoC.

On August 8th, 2022, the FY21 HUD-CoC Competition was announced on the CoC's webpage and broadcast via listservs maintained by the CoC, faith communities, Dept. of Housing, and the Alexandria Council of Human Service Organizations. The communication solicited proposals for new funding opportunities and included formatted Notices of Intent to Apply and links to HUD and local resources. New and renewing agencies were equally encouraged to apply, and all publications were posted to the CoC's webpage in PDF format.

Only project types highlighted by the Gaps & Needs Committee's recommendations, those that increased housing stock, were eligible. In total, one NOI was submitted for the HUD-CoC bonus funding opportunity, and one for the DV bonus. The submitted proposal is a collaborative application between a current HUD grantee and active service provider in the CoC.

Within the NOI, agencies answered specific questions that outlined the full scope of their program including target population, number served, services provided, and proposed budget. NOI's were tailored to the project type being pursued so that questions solicited answers about the organization's application of those specific services. Organization's submitting for DV Bonus were asked to answer additional questions that required collaboration with the City's DV program.

The Priorities Committee, consisting of key CoC members that do not receive HUD funding, then chose the best NOI to move forward for each new funding opportunity based on the answers in the NOI's, organizational experience, and the community need addressed, as outlined in the Recommendation Report.

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 VII.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)	Nonexistent
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	Nonexistent
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Nonexistent
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)	Nonexistent
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	

18.		
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1C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:	
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG and ESG-CV funds;
2.	participated in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients;
3.	provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area; and
4.	provided information to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is the ESG recipient, and as a subrecipient of that funding through a competitive grant process, the Alexandria CoC provides all community information necessary to inform funding priorities. DHCD receives annual PIT and HIC data and solicits the CoC's opinion on ESG resource allocation each quarter. During regular grant operations the CoC monitors Alexandria's ESG program utilization, exit outcomes, and system performance measures monthly, compiling the results to inform an objective application for prevention, emergency shelter, and rapid rehousing funds.

Recent ESG processes grew to include the COVID Homeless Emergency Relief Program (CHERP), which the Alexandria CoC applied for and executed in collaboration with ESG recipients and CoC service providers, leading to almost \$2 million additional dollars in FY21 that has been extend through FY23. The CoC achieved this by mobilizing coordinated entry and public health data to project the changing local need for homeless prevention, emergency shelter, and rapid rehousing through September 2022, then monitoring spending and utilization with community partners monthly to keep the funding nimble, and able to be reallocated to meet new needs. That process will continue through the end of CHERP for its proven effectiveness in filling the ever-changing systems gaps created by COVID and corresponding safety regulations.

The Office of Housing is the lead agency for the City of Alexandria's Consolidated Plan (Con Plan) and sits on the CoC Governing Board. They receive PIT and HIC data reported in HUD's Homeless Data Exchange, as well as the CoC's own local analysis for the Con Plan. The Con Plan is updated annually via an Action Plan process, during which CoC staff consult daily with counterparts in the Office Housing to ensure our clients' needs are addressed.

1C-3.	Ensuring Families are not Separated.	
	NOFO Section VII.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 families are not separated.	No
3.	Worked with 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 AAQs or requesting technical assistance to resolve noncompliance of service providers.	Yes
6.	Other. (limit 150 characters)	

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

The Homeless Education Liaison (HEL), who is responsible for protecting the rights and educations of students experiencing homelessness within Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), is a voting member of the CoC Governing Board. In that role, she represents the Local Education Agency (LEA) and liaises with the State Education Agency (SEA) on behalf of the CoC, providing updates on the current scope of youth homelessness in the City, as well as policy changes or best practice improvements to youth education services. The HEL’s office and ACPS have an MOU with the Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS) which houses the CoC’s Lead Agency, the Office of Community Services (OCS), ensuring all residents with school age children who present for services are connected to the LEA.

OCS and the CoC’s Gaps & Needs Committee Chair have representation on Alexandria’s Youth Services Coordinating Council, responsible for executing aspects of the LEA’s Strategic Plan, and Alexandria’s Children and Youth Master Plan. The HEL is reciprocally a member of the CoC’s Gaps and Needs Committee, which manages macro-level service planning for the City’s homeless residents, and she attends bi-weekly shelter case management meetings to ensure all youth in the homeless assistance system are quickly connected to the appropriate education services. This HEL of course serve households defined as homeless under federal statutes beyond those defined by HUD, so outside of HUD defined homeless programs, the HEL also coordinates services at the State, City, and private agency level for all school age children and their families who are doubled-up, unstably housed, or otherwise at risk of homelessness. Mirroring the annual PIT count, the HEL created the first annual Youth Point in Time count and shared the results with the CoC which highlighted the disparities between households with children accessing the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC) and children within Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) who are experiencing homelessness. This partnership has allowed both parties to refer to one another when children experiencing homelessness at either entry point.

1C-4b.	Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services.	
NOFO Section VII.B.1.d.		

Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for educational services.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Continuum’s current policies and procedures for securing education services for homeless persons are mandated within the emergency shelter screening process for households with children. Upon accessing Alexandria’s housing crisis response system, households with children will review all available literature on eligible education services and City schools with the coordinated entry staff, and are assisted in completing applications for transportation assistance, subsidized lunch, or other eligible services. Those assessed to be unstably housed are linked to the City’s Homeless Education Liaison (HEL), who is responsible for securing education for students experiencing housing instability within Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). Additionally, a standard educational assessment for each child in the household is included in the family’s housing stabilization plan, while ongoing school concerns are addressed by caseworkers at shelter, school social workers, and the HEL. For infants and toddlers involved in homeless assistance, referrals are made for developmental assistance and education as necessary, while children under five are triaged for mental health services and HeadStart if needed.

As an entity of local government and representative of the City’s Dept. of Community and Human Services, the CoC Lead Agency in Alexandria is mandated to report unaccompanied minors or homeless youth to Child Protective Services. Education policies for this segment of the homeless population are managed via Alexandria’s Dept. of Child and Family services, though the experience for youth and children is similar in that linkage to ACPS, the HEL, and any auxiliary assistance is prioritized just after the child’s safety.

1C-4c.	Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers.	
	NOFO Section VII.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	Yes
2.	Child Care and Development Fund	No	Yes
3.	Early Childhood Providers	Yes	Yes
4.	Early Head Start	Yes	Yes
5.	Federal Home Visiting Program–(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV)	No	Yes
6.	Head Start	Yes	Yes
7.	Healthy Start	Yes	Yes
8.	Public Pre-K	Yes	Yes
9.	Tribal Home Visiting Program	No	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)		
10.			

1C-5.	Addressing Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors—Collaborating with Victim Service Providers.	
NOFO Section VII.B.1.e.		
Describe in the field below how your CoC regularly collaborates with organizations who help provide housing and services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking to:		
1.	update CoC-wide policies; and	
2.	ensure all housing and services provided in the CoC are trauma-informed and can meet the needs of survivors.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

Victim-centered policies are in place across the CoC to ensure security needs of Domestic Violence (DV) survivors are met at all entry points. Anyone experiencing housing crisis is assessed by the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC), who screen for safety and link to victim services before collecting any other information. Any concerns trigger a referral to the confidential 24-hour hotline for a risk and safety assessment where immediate needs are determined. Those in need of safe housing are transported to the DV Shelter, which maintains an undisclosed address, and assigned a family service specialist to set safety, then housing goals.

Referrals to all of Alexandria’s federally funded housing programs, CoC and ESG, are maintained by the CoC Lead Agency and prioritized by metrics captured on the CoC’s Coordinated Entry Assessment. The assessment uses trauma informed language to create quantified measures of clients’ housing barriers and homeless history, giving extra weight to DV cases. The DV shelter completes the same assessment, submitting non-identifiable metrics to the CoC Lead Agency so clients can be anonymously prioritized.

Besides Rapid Rehousing (RRH), the only federally funded housing programs in the City are for Chronically Homeless persons of which there have been none experiencing DV in the past 5 years. RRH providers however maintain strong relationships with the DV shelter, which employs its own housing locator, making safe transitions to clients’ desired housing location a collaborative process that starts once safety is secured. The DV housing locator is trained in victim centered-services and works to maximize client choice in the search for safe housing. She also sits on the Data Committee, responsible for monitoring the effects of housing priorities and making recommendations for improvement, as well as the Housing Crisis Response Committee who implements changes to prioritization and staffs hard to solve cases.

1C-5a.	Annual Training on Safety and Best Practices to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
NOFO Section VII.B.1.e.		
Describe in the field below how your CoC coordinates to provide training for:		
1.	project staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma-informed, victim-centered) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually); and	

2.	Coordinated Entry staff that addresses best practices (e.g., trauma informed care) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually).
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(limit 2,500 characters)

The Alexandria Domestic Violence (DV) Program operates the DV Intervention Project (DVIP), which manages the City’s coordinated community response to DV situations and addresses relevant training needs of first responders, including implementing trauma-informed, victim centered approaches in the process. This group, including the Alexandria DV Program, Child and Adult Protective Services, Police, EMS, Faith Organizations, and the CoC, meets monthly to update local service providers on national best practices and analyze de-identified local data to highlight trends Alexandria’s in DV cases.

The CoC’s Coordinated Entry point, the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC) hosts annual guest speakers from the DV Program and the Sexual Assault Center at a Case Management Subcommittee meeting to review DV safety and confidentially protocol and provide contacts for victim service referral. All service provider employees within the CoC receive annual Trauma-Informed Care training through and receive additional support via City initiatives supported by the City’s DV Program. Staff are also conditioned in the strengths-based case management model and receive standard annual training on Cultural and Linguistic Competency, LGBTQ Inclusivity, Equal Access, and Fair Housing policy. All CoC utilized assessment tools, client surveys, entry forms, releases of information and other documents are equally vetted by the CoC for use of non-discriminatory, trauma-informed language and pursuit of strengths based, client-centered interventions.

The DV Program is a voting member of the CoC board and is responsible for coordinating training and information sessions for the Continuum’s direct service staff, maintaining CoC representation any auxiliary DV training that could benefit homeless assistance programs. Over the course of FY21 and FY22 DVP recruited and trained new volunteers to increase the pool of trauma-informed, victim-centered advocates, capable of meeting further increases in instances of DV, and established intern positions to assist survivors with safe reintegration.

1C-5b.	Using De-identified Aggregate Data to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	the de-identified aggregate data source(s) your CoC uses for data on survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and
2.	how your CoC uses the de-identified aggregate data described in element 1 of this question to evaluate how to best meet the specialized needs related to domestic violence and homelessness.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Domestic Violence and Victim Services in Alexandria are operated by the City's Domestic Violence (DV) Program, which is legally required to use the state of Virginia's confidential database, VaData. This system parallels Homeless Management Information System implementation across the commonwealth, with the crucial distinction that it does not capture any identifiable client information.

Alexandria's DV Program manages the City's VaData system and aggregates metrics when necessary to report to State and Federal funders, advocate for additional DV focused resources in the Alexandria, or conduct basic local analysis of DV trends in coordination with the Continuum of Care. As operators of the City's only confidential DV shelter, the DV program also conducts the Point in Time Count for clients actively fleeing instances of domestic or sexual violence and provides housing inventory information for programs designated to serve DV population. In all instances the data is de-identified and aggregated on excel spreadsheets by DV Program staff prior to submission.

The City's DV program and separate, secure coordinated entry process utilizes the same standard housing needs assessment that the CoC utilizes at coordinated entry on guests at the DV Shelter. The assessment provides quantified measures homeless history and housing barriers, scoring higher for DV cases, before recommending an appropriate intervention. This allows the CoC to include de-identified DV shelter clients amongst the prioritized By Names List (BNL) of homeless housing referrals and compare their subsequent housing outcomes to clients involved in traditional homeless assistance. The DV program maintains representation on the Housing Crisis Response Committee who implements prioritization of the BNL, and the Data Committee who aggregates subsequent outcomes to inform recommended priority adjustments.

1C-5c.	Communicating Emergency Transfer Plan to Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.e.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC communicates to all individuals and families seeking or receiving CoC Program assistance:	
	1. the emergency transfer plan policies and procedures; and	
	2. the process for individuals and families to request an emergency transfer.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

When accessing any services in Alexandria, including the CoC’s coordinated entry center, households are asked a series of questions related to their immediate safety and experience with Domestic Violence (DV). Residents assessed to be at immediate risk are referred to the City’s DV Shelter and assisted with relocation, potentially with the help of police. Households not at immediate risk but still in need of housing supports may be referred to regular emergency shelter, but not before being connected to the DV program for survivor specific services.

The City’s DV program is advertised on the City website, at the local social services building, and on posted pamphlets and flyers at all CoC programs, as well as local churches, charities, libraries, recreation centers, parks, and other public spaces. Upon entering shelter or CoC housing programs, residents are again assessed for service need including survivor assistance and are notified that appropriate referral will be made to Alexandria’s DV Program if needed.

Once referred to Alexandria’s DV Program in any capacity, clients complete a confidential safety screening via phone and are immediately supported with services appropriate for their specific situation, including safe and confidential relocation with the assistance of service professionals, and law enforcement if necessary.

1C-5d.	Access to Housing for Survivors of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.e.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC ensures that survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking have access to all of the housing and services available within the CoC’s geographic area.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Alexandria’s Domestic Violence (DV) Program provides all survivors’ services in the City, including operating the City’s DV hotline and sole DV Safehouse, and maintaining a safe and confidential coordinated entry process between the two. This includes conducting a housing barrier assessment for all survivors that present with emergency housing needs and referring to the appropriate service. To maintain objectivity, the DV Program utilizes the same housing barrier assessment as coordinated entry for traditional shelter, allowing DV Safehouse residents to be fairly prioritized for housing opportunities against all residents actively experiencing homelessness.

DV Safehouse residents appear with non-identifiable information on the CoC’s bi-weekly housing priority lists, and from there are enrolled in Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), as opportunities come available. DV clients are slightly more likely to be offered CoC housing assistance through this process than traditional shelter residents because higher-barrier clients are prioritized first, and DV experiences are one of the quantified barriers.

DV specific housing opportunities also come available, although infrequently, and are filled through a similar collaborative process between the DV Program and CoC Lead Agency. In FY22, the Alexandria CoC executed several VAWA vouchers, and referred extremely low-income residents to a tax-credited redevelopment where the property owner asked to prioritize DV survivors.

The CoC maintains flexibility in its prioritization processes so that nuanced opportunities like the example above can be seized, but generally DV survivors are competing with all residents experiencing homelessness for the same housing assistance. To instead establish a micro-continuum specific to survivors would require renewable, DV-specific housing, a resource the CoC hopes to acquire through the DV bonus proposal in this application.

1C-5e.	Including Safety, Planning, and Confidentiality Protocols in Coordinated Entry to Address the Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.e.	

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

1.	safety protocols,
2.	planning protocols, and
3.	confidentiality protocols.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Any household fleeing a Domestic Violence (DV) situation in Alexandria is immediately connected to the City’s DV program and surrounded with the appropriate survivor services. This includes residents that present via the DV hotline and Alexandria’s coordinated entry hub, the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC). HSAC conducts housing need assessments on all clients and first ask residents several standard safety questions related to their DV experiences. If then, or at any point during screening a household presents a need for survivor services, they are referred to the DV Program. From that point, the household completes a private and confidential phone screening with the DV program where their specific needs are determined, and a plan to safely relocate them to an undisclosed DV Shelter. If needed, the police are contacted to support the household with transitioning safely. Upon entering the DV Shelter the household is provided a case manager to help support with identifying their next step in attaining safety and housing.

1C-6.	Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer+–Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training.	
	NOFO Section VII.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 VII.B.1.f.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	whether your CoC updates its CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy, as necessary, based on stakeholder feedback;
2.	how your CoC assisted providers in developing project-level anti-discrimination policies that are consistent with the CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy ensuring that LGBTQ+ individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination;
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)

The CoC’s lead agency, the Office of Community Services, is an entity of local government, and updates its anti-discrimination policy in alignment with local, state, and federal guidelines, and leverages the appropriate community partners to solicit feedback when necessary. All CoC partners that serve persons experiencing homelessness and participate the CoC’s coordinated entry system are similarly required to maintain policy and procedure documents that meet local criteria as exemplified and reviewed by the CoC Lead Agency as changes are mandated. Organizations without current polices are assisted by the CoC Lead Agency and appropriate partners, including the City’s LGBTQ+ Taskforce, to update language and receive accompanying training. The CoC reviews policy and procedure documents of federally funded programs at least annually to ensure compliance, and all other CoC organizations semi-annually, or upon changes to local, state, or federally funded mandates. Organizations that have polices that are not in compliance are supplied with acceptable examples from partnering organizations and given a deadline by which alignment is required. Programs that do not have sufficient documentation of policy alignment on things such as anti-discrimination will lose points in monitoring and be less likely to receive funding during competitive community application. If non-compliance persists, it could be used a justification to support a reallocation of a program’s local, state, or federal funding.

1C-7.	Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC's Geographic Area–New Admissions–General/Limited Preference–Moving On Strategy.	
	NOFO Section VII.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 FY 2021 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 and Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2021 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?
Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority	12%	Yes-HCV	Yes

1C-7a.	Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences with PHAs.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.g.	

Describe in the field below:

- 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
- state that your CoC has not worked with the PHAs in its geographic area to adopt a homeless admission preference.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Over the past several years the CoC has seized collaborative opportunities between homeless services and the only local PHA, the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA). Prior to 2018, ARHA’s leadership was redeveloping most of their properties and drawing the spotlight of City politics, but since has helped incrementally improve affordability through partnership with the CoC.

Especially since the pandemic, ARHA leadership has proven more receptive to affordable housing advocacy and homeless preference implementation, highlighted by their active participation on the CoC Governing Board, at CoC Housing Stability Systems Committee Meetings, and with the faith-based emergency financial providers in Alexandria. As the only PHA in the City, their absence in these conversations had cast a shadow on the efforts of CoC providers and other human service commissions and organizations in Alexandria.

Several projects since FY21 required constant collaboration between the CoC and ARHA, and more importantly, secured federal resources for clients experiencing homelessness in Alexandria. In FY20 the CoC assisted ARHA in application for 50 Housing Choice Vouchers for non-elderly disabled persons experiencing homelessness or those moving on from permanent supportive or rapid rehousing programs. In that process an MOU was crafted identifying the CoC as the authority on homeless referrals, a document the Continuum expanded on to create the MOU for Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV’s). Since executing the 38 EHV’s at a 98% utilization rate, the CoC has memorialized the special voucher prioritization processes within its housing prioritization standards, keeping the CoC prepared to respond to new PHA opportunities, and pass that benefit on to residents experiencing homelessness.

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	No
	Other (limit 150 characters)	
5.		

1C-7c.	Include Units from PHA Administered Programs in Your CoC’s Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.g.	

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

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

1C-7d.	Submitting CoC and PHA Joint Applications for Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness. NOFO Section VII.B.1.g.	
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1.	Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a competitive joint application(s) for funding or jointly implement a competitive project serving individuals or families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other programs)?	Yes
		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.	Non-Elderly Disabled Vouchers

1C-7e.	Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV). NOFO Section VII.B.1.g.	
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	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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1C-7e.1.	List of PHAs with Active MOUs to Administer the Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program. Not Scored–For Information Only	
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	Does your CoC have an active Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any PHA to administer the EHV Program?	Yes
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If you select yes to question 1C-7e.1., you must use the list feature below to enter the name of every PHA your CoC has an active MOU with to administer the Emergency Housing Voucher Program.

PHA
Alexandria Redeve...

1C-7e.1. List of PHAs with MOUs

Name of PHA: Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority

1D. Coordination and Engagement Cont'd

1D-1.	Discharge Planning Coordination.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.h.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC actively coordinates with the systems of care listed to ensure persons who have resided in them longer than 90 days are not discharged directly to the streets, emergency shelters, or other homeless assistance programs.

1. Foster Care	Yes
2. Health Care	Yes
3. Mental Health Care	Yes
4. Correctional Facilities	Yes

1D-2.	Housing First—Lowering Barriers to Entry.	
	NOFO Section VII.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 2022 CoC Program Competition.	6
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 2022 CoC Program Competition that have adopted the Housing First approach.	6
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 2022 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.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.i.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	how your CoC evaluates every recipient—that checks Housing First on their Project Application—to determine if they are actually using a Housing First approach;
2.	the list of factors and performance indicators your CoC uses during its evaluation; and
3.	how your CoC regularly evaluates projects outside of the competition to ensure the projects are using a Housing First approach.

(limit 2,500 characters)

In formal evaluation of HUD and ESG funded programs, grantees are required to respond to the same list of standards that is including in the Consolidated Application for both low-barrier and housing first policies. Missing any portion results in the loss of points on the CoC's Performance Monitoring Scoring Tool, which is utilized by the CoC Priorities Committee in program ranking, and in funding reallocation decisions. Even further, programs' permanent housing stability rates, and recidivism rates, are scored, resulting in compounding deductions when clients exit to homeless destinations.

In monthly processes, the CoC's Gaps and Needs Committee reviews changes to program data in the metrics listed above, and more, for all Alexandria homeless assistance programs. In that role, the Committee conducts ad-hoc program monitoring of housing first applications across the CoC regularly. Discrepancies in the execution of housing first are often highlighted on an individual program basis by tracking metrics like time from referral to move in, or average housing barrier score at entry, then monitoring changes. In these instances, recommendations are issued to the Governing Board for action to be taken, and the program in question works with a committee of CoC providers towards a resolution. Record of these recommendations are also issued to the Priorities Committee to inform their funding decisions.

1D-3.	Street Outreach—Scope.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.j.	

Describe in the field below:	
1.	your CoC's street outreach efforts, including the methods it uses to ensure all persons experiencing unsheltered homelessness are identified and engaged;
2.	whether your CoC's Street Outreach covers 100 percent of the CoC's geographic area;
3.	how often your CoC conducts street outreach; and
4.	how your CoC tailored its street outreach to persons experiencing homelessness who are least likely to request assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Historically the City’s homeless outreach program consisted of one full time PATH funded employee. Alexandria is only 15 square miles so coverage of the CoC’s area was effectively managed through field visits and diligent data tracking. The PATH outreach worker sits in the Office of Community Services (OCS), the CoC Lead organization, which allows the CoC to monitor the scope of unsheltered homelessness via HMIS and leverage the data for additional resources.

In the field, the PATH Outreach workers cover the entire community at least weekly, conducting daily visits to City emergency shelters, day centers, meals programs, churches, parks, libraries, and any locations they know homeless individuals to access. She employs progressive engagement strategies with residents she meets, and with a tablet can track live services in HMIS and make direct referrals to mainstream and CoC assistance.

As an employee of OCS, the PATH worker has access to all coordinated referral within Alexandria Social Services, including connection to interpreters for most languages and sign-language, as well as resources published for non-English speakers or persons with disabilities. All Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS) assistance, including homeless outreach and housing assistance, is advertised locally on City buses and in the paper in accordance with fair housing, and all services rendered meet those standards.

1D-4.	Strategies to Prevent Criminalization of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.k.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate strategies your CoC implemented to ensure homelessness is not criminalized and to reverse existing criminalization policies in your CoC's geographic area:

		Ensure Homelessness is not Criminalized	Reverse Existing Criminalization Policies
1.	Engaged/educated local policymakers	Yes	No
2.	Engaged/educated law enforcement	Yes	Yes
3.	Engaged/educated local business leaders	Yes	Yes
4.	Implemented community wide plans	No	No
5.	Other:(limit 500 characters)		

1D-5.	Rapid Rehousing–RRH Beds as Reported in the Housing Inventory Count (HIC).	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.I.	

		2021	2022
	Enter the total number of RRH beds available to serve all populations as reported in the HIC—only enter bed data for projects that have an inventory type of “Current.”	154	36

1D-6.	Mainstream Benefits–CoC Annual Training of Project Staff.	
	NOFO Section VII.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:

	Resource	CoC Provides Annual Training?
1.	Food Stamps	Yes
2.	SSI–Supplemental Security Income	Yes
3.	TANF–Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Yes
4.	Substance Abuse Programs	Yes
5.	Employment Assistance Programs	Yes
6.	Other (limit 150 characters)	

1D-6a.	Information and Training on Mainstream Benefits and Other Assistance.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.m	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1.	systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;
2.	works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services; and
3.	works with projects to promote SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

All Alexandrians seeking assistance are triaged to the appropriate services via the Dept. of Community and Human Services' (DCHS) shared Customer Relations Team, which determines immediate need before referring clients to available programs. For homeless and non-homeless clients alike, this includes referrals to Alexandria's Public Benefits office in charge of TANF, SNAP, Medicaid, the City's Workforce Development Center (WDC), and to City SOAR workers who can expedite applications for SSI and SSDI.

Clients in a housing crisis that access CoC services through the walk-in process follow are provided a warm hand-off referral to the City's collocated Office of Public Benefits by the Homeless Services Assessment Center. Emergency shelter and housing providers within the continuum likewise employ SOAR certified staff for their clients' federal benefits and can access the DCHS call center for mainstream assistance managed by the City. These parallel processes ensure residents in crisis are connected to all mainstream assistance they are eligible for, no matter their entry point or service need.

The CoC also utilizes an Employment Navigator at Alexandria's WDC, whose responsibility is to liaise between those resources and homeless assistance programs, making direct referrals from shelter and outreach to SNAP-ET, the VIEW program, WIOA, and traditional employment opportunities.

Updates to mainstream services are provided to frontline staff at monthly at meetings of the Housing Crisis Response Workgroup, and in more detail during annual presentations from the Office of Public Benefits. Higher level policy discussions, like Virginia's expansion of Medicaid and its effect on homeless programs, are managed by the CoC's Gaps and Need Committee. SOAR certifications are maintained in coordination with the Northern VA SOAR Lead.

1D-7.	Increasing Capacity for Non-Congregate Sheltering.	
NOFO Section VII.B.1.n.		

Describe in the field below how your CoC is increasing its capacity to provide non-congregate sheltering.

(limit 2,500 characters)

In response to COVID-19, the CoC took several initial steps to secure the immediate safety of households residing in homeless assistance programs. In coordination with the Alexandria Health Dept. (AHD), the CoC contracted with a local extended stay hotel to move all family households from emergency shelter to a place they could socially distance. Simultaneously, regular shelter facilities limited their capacity so they could continue to serve single households in a reconfigured space that also allowed for adequate safety measures. Later, the CoC utilized a City Rec Center that had suspended activities, to extend low-barrier seasonal shelter services through the summer, ensuring no residents were left outside, or forced into inclement or dangerous weather situations. AHD also contracted with a separate hotel, in partnership with a neighboring jurisdiction, that was available to all residents, unstably housed or otherwise, that needed a place to still while safely social distancing.

From the start of FY20 pandemic through FY22, all non-congregate facilities were available to residents in all CoC programs, and that was crucial in the CoC’s ability to address confirmed cases and stop potential outbreaks. Because of that success, steps were taken to memorialize those contracts, agreements, and processes, into standard operating procedures that could be revived the event of another public health crisis, or other circumstances that require shelters to de-congregate. Almost immediately, that work proved beneficial when, in early 2022, the CoC saw family homelessness spike in response to the closing rental assistance programs, while shelters were still mandated to operate at limited capacity. Because of the groundwork laid previously, the CoC but was able to quickly respond via another contract with an old partnering hotel and keep residents off the streets.

ID-8.	Partnerships with Public Health Agencies—Collaborating to Respond to and Prevent Spread of Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.o.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively collaborates with state and local public health agencies to:	
1.	develop CoC-wide policies and procedures to respond to infectious disease outbreaks; and	
2.	prevent infectious disease outbreaks among people experiencing homelessness.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

Learning from the COVID-19 pandemic, the CoC has formalized a systemic response to infectious disease outbreak designed to secure the immediate safety of households residing in homeless assistance programs. Alexandria’s CoC Lead Agency, the Office of Community Services (OCS) has a direct line of communication the Alexandria Health Dept. (AHD) via the Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and AHD liaison. This position is responsible for disseminating public health mandates and guidelines across DCHS affiliated programs, which includes all service providers with the CoC. The DCHS-AHD liaison schedules CoC program site visits from AHD representatives to review facilities and service delivery for any safety concerns and recommends alternate strategies. The DCHS-AHD partnership also assists CoC programs with onsite testing, scheduling vaccinations, and securing regular shipments of PPEH, in addition to maintaining non-congregate emergency housing for exposed persons residing in congregate care settings.

AHD is in direct alignment and constant communication with the Virginia Dept. of Health (VDH) ensuring all City policies coincide with state directives. To ensure any changes to safety protocol are disseminated quickly, the DCHS-AHD liaison attends monthly Housing Stability Systems Committee meetings where CoC providers can ask questions directly, and AHD representatives meet with shelters and other congregate care providers as high-impact updates are issued.

The CoC also counts the City’s largest community healthcare provider for the uninsured, Neighborhood Health, among its ranks, and leverages this organization to gain further information on the public health. In this role, Neighborhood Health helps the CoC forecast healthcare needs for the population we serve and provides many of the actual services for high-barrier clients. The also serve a liaison between the CoC and Alexandria’s largest and privately funded, hospital, INOVA-Alexandria.

ID-8a.	Collaboration With Public Health Agencies on Infectious Diseases.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.o.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC effectively equipped providers to prevent or limit infectious disease outbreaks among program participants by:	
1.	sharing information related to public health measures and homelessness, and	
2.	facilitating 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)

The CoC’s Lead Agency, the Office of Community Services (OCS), sits within Alexandria’s Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS), which created a position to liaised with City of Alexandria Health Dept. (AHD), first on COVID, and subsequently on all infectious diseases. OCS’ position within that structure ensures that all homeless assistance programs in the City, federally and privately funded, are treated akin to all congregate City facilities, receiving guidance and safety equipment directly or indirectly through AHD’s community health response.

AHD tours shelters and congregate housing programs to recommend the appropriate configurations in the event of community outbreak, advises staff and residents on appropriate make mandates, and distributes PPE in collaboration with DCHS biweekly to providers. The DCHS-AHD liaison attends the CoC’s Housing Stability Response regularly and AHD’s lead doctor has presented several times, to further educate providers on how to implement safety measures. In limiting spread of infectious diseases, AHD also worked with shelters and other congregate service facilities in the CoC to implement mass testing for residents, which included transportation to and from testing centers, and set aside time slot to specifically serve CoC clients.

Neighborhood Health, Alexandria’s primary community health provider, also proved to be an invaluable partner, attending Housing Stability Systems and keeping the CoC abreast on the current local status of public health. They also liaise between the CoC and the City’s largest hospital, Alexandria INOVA, to get insured clients connected, while being one primary care providers for uninsured residents in the region.

1D-9.	Centralized or Coordinated Entry System–Assessment Process.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.p.	
	Describe in the field below how your CoC’s coordinated entry system:	
1.	covers 100 percent of your CoC’s geographic area;	
2.	uses a standardized assessment process; and	
3.	is updated regularly using feedback received from participating projects and households that participated in coordinated entry.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC) is a low barrier coordinated entry point serving all of Alexandria that assesses clients for homeless service need. All residents in housing crisis are screened by HSAC to ensure consistent determination of homelessness and appropriate referral to housing. Assessments are conducted on walk-in or scheduled basis during regular business hours, and to ensure 24-hour access, shelters accept walk-ins overnight and accommodate clients until they can receive HSAC’s standard assessment.

If determined literally homeless clients are referred to shelter and their HSAC assessment, which provides a quantitative measure of housing barriers and history of homelessness before identifying an appropriate housing intervention, is uploaded into HMIS. The CoC’s outreach worker and the DV Shelter complete the same assessment on their clients, before entering them into HMIS and a non-identifiable spreadsheet, respectively. Collectively this data forms Alexandria’s pool of actively homeless clients, capable of being prioritized by need, homeless history, and other program specifics like chronic homeless or unsheltered status. The pool is managed by the CoC Lead Agency, which adjusts prioritization policies in collaboration with shelter and housing providers to meet the changing needs of the homeless population. Currently CoC Housing programs enroll clients with the longest homeless duration and highest housing barriers first.

All entry points for City social services, including HSAC and Homeless Outreach, have 24/7 access to language line translators and TTY devices for the speech or hearing impaired. HSAC employs bilingual staff and maintains all program literature in the four languages. The Office of Community Services, which houses HSAC, also conducts weekly outreach to three separate ministry programs for the underserved and refers clients for case management, financial assistance, and other homeless services.

1D-9a.	Program Participant-Centered Approach to Centralized or Coordinated Entry.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.p.	

	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 preferences; and
4.	takes steps to reduce burdens on people using coordinated entry.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Alexandria’s Coordinated Entry hub, the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC) is advertised throughout the City. Information can be found on the City website, at the local social services building, and on posted flyers at local churches, charities, libraries, rec centers, parks, and other public spaces. In addition, weekly outreach efforts are conducted to support anyone unsheltered. Outreach includes the provision of basic needs for residents are not engaged in services, up to coordinated entry screenings in the field, and support relocating to shelter or permanent housing.

When shelters reach capacity, HSAC prioritizes households for available shelter bedspace by need, considering several areas of vulnerability and producing a total score for each household. Scores are updated as households’ situations change, and vulnerabilities include homelessness, DV experience, age, and medical needs, etc. HSAC applies a similar process to prioritize residents for available housing opportunities using a housing barrier assessment.

HSAC meets households where they are, offering screenings at the City’s social services building, by phone, or in the community to ensures their needs are respected and supported. While HSAC’s primary focus is to assist in residents in housing crisis, they also provide referrals to clothing, food, employment, and health services. HSAC first diverts households from entering shelter, assisting with legal services to support landlord/tenant concerns, advocating to keep households in place, and providing transportation to connect with households with personal supports. HSAC utilizes language line to assist any households that need translation services.

Outreach in the community is also intertwined with eviction prevention. The Eviction Prevention Task Force (EPTF) coordinates outreach to housing developments with the highest eviction filings, as well as at the Alexandria Circuit Court to support those about to enter Court. At outreach events, community workers share targeted legal information regarding tenant’s rights, along with additional community resources like legal aid, rental assistance, housing relocation, and service navigation. The ETPF consists of community and faith-based organizations, Alexandria’s Office of Housing, the Dept. of Community and Human Services, and the Sheriff’s Office. These coordinated offers have a direct correlation to homelessness prevention by assisting households who are at risk.

1D-10.	Promoting Racial Equity in Homelessness—Conducting Assessment.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.q.	

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.	06/30/2022

1D-10a.	Process for Analyzing Racial Disparities—Identifying Racial Disparities in Provision or Outcomes of Homeless Assistance.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below:

1.	your CoC's process for analyzing whether any racial disparities are present in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance; and
2.	what racial disparities your CoC identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC’s Data Committee is responsible for monitoring system performance metrics of all CoC programs monthly, and since FY19, has been charged with overlaying all outcomes with a racial equity lens. In that, every datapoint the CoC reviews is shown in aggregate, and broken out by clients’ identified race and ethnicity, so that any nuances related to racial biases can be highlighted. These system performance metrics are reported to the CoC Gaps & Needs Committee each month, who then total them quarterly into Recommendation Reports for the CoC Governing Board that suggest policy changes based on recent quantitative data trends. The CoC also utilizes regional and national equity tools, and signs on to external initiatives when made available, including HUD’s Racial Disparity Assessment, and the DC-Metro Regional Racial Equity Audit

Qualitative data related to racial disparities can be tougher to collect, but this does not prevent the CoC from employing methods like consumer satisfaction surveys and resident focus groups to highlight clients’ perspective on racial disparities in homeless services. In the update the Strategic Plan, the CoC tasked a consultant with soliciting shelter residents’ opinions on housing assistance services in the City, and specifically asked questions about perceived inequity or racial bias. The results of those sessions were developed in the City’s Strategic Planning Goals, then sent to Alexandria’s Office of Race and Social Equity for review, another sounding board that the CoC utilizes to ensure all policy and actions related to racial disparities are aligned with Alexandria’s approach and national best practice.

1D-10b.	Strategies to Address Racial Disparities.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.q.	

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

1.	The CoC’s board and decisionmaking bodies are representative of the population served in the CoC.	Yes
2.	The CoC has identified steps it will take to help the CoC board and decisionmaking bodies better reflect the population served in the CoC.	Yes
3.	The CoC is expanding outreach in geographic areas with higher concentrations of underrepresented groups.	Yes
4.	The CoC has communication, such as flyers, websites, or other materials, inclusive of underrepresented groups.	Yes
5.	The CoC is training staff working in the homeless services sector to better understand racism and the intersection of racism and homelessness.	Yes
6.	The CoC is establishing professional development opportunities to identify and invest in emerging leaders of different races and ethnicities in the homelessness sector.	No

7.	The CoC has staff, committees, or other resources charged with analyzing and addressing racial disparities related to homelessness.	Yes
8.	The CoC is 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.	The CoC reviewed coordinated entry processes to understand their impact on people of different races and ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes
10.	The CoC is collecting data to better understand the pattern of program use for people of different races and ethnicities in its homeless services system.	Yes
11.	The CoC is conducting additional research to understand the scope and needs of different races or ethnicities experiencing homelessness.	Yes
	Other:(limit 500 characters)	
12.		

1D-10c.	Actions Taken to Address Known Disparities.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below the steps your CoC and homeless providers have taken to address disparities identified in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Beyond HUD’s Racial Disparity Assessment, the CoC has worked to center racial equity within its processes, first by normalizing the conversations around race, ensuring that all CoC members and service organization are speaking from shared definitions and a common understanding of racial inequity. In FY20, the CoC Governing Board adopted the Government Alliance on Racial Equity’s (GARE) Racial Equity Framework, which now guides board meetings and all CoC subcommittees. Racial equity likewise has been added as an agenda item in all CoC meetings, giving members a chance to update their peers on current work they or their organizations are doing, and create multiple opportunities to center race in CoC decision making.

Regionally, the Alexandria CoC completed an initiative in collaboration with other DC-Metro CoC’s to review racial equity within the area’s homeless assistance services, making recommendation for policy and process improvements. Center for Social Innovation (C4), the initiative’s lead vendor, recommended CoC’s build Racial Equity Action Councils (REAC), made up of intake workers, case managers, and residents with lived expertise, who will serve as the local steering committees for the equity efforts in each jurisdiction. REAC was formalized into a standing CoC Committee by the CoC Governing Board in FY22, with its first initiatives focused on compensating persons with lived experience and developing a CoC training curriculum to include best practices in promoting equity.

Locally, the CoC has also take steps to include race and ethnicity as a measurement in the housing barrier assessment conducted at coordinated entry. Using HMIS trend data highlighting the prevalence of homelessness based on race and ethnicity, the CoC justified an adjustment to housing assessment scores based on the same metrics. In this way, scores produced are more accurately representative of the housing barriers residents experiencing homelessness face, and conversations on the intersections of race and housing instability can be carried further.

1D-10d.	Tracking Progress on Preventing or Eliminating Disparities.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.q.	

Describe in the field below the measures your CoC has in place to track progress on preventing or eliminating disparities in the provision or outcomes of homeless assistance.

(limit 2,500 characters)

All new initiatives, policy changes, or process adjustments that are implemented with a goal of eliminating disparities are required to have measurable outcomes and with a set target, so that the CoC Data Committee, Gaps & Needs Committee, and eventually the Governing Board, can evaluate them for efficacy. For example, a change to the CoC Assessment tool in FY21 to include race and ethnicity as a quantified housing barrier was intended to improve enrollment in CoC housing programs, particularly Rapid Rehousing (RRH) for Black and Hispanic residents. Following the change, the Data Committee closely monitored the demographics of enrollments and move-ins for all CoC housing programs and compared them to the same time-period the year prior. To date, proportional representation of Black residents enrolled RRH, and moved-into housing via the program, has greatly improved since that change.

On a more macro level, progress in all metrics, including racial equity, is monitored monthly where metrics are compared to the previous month, and quarterly, and annually, where metrics are compared to the same time-period in previous years. This gives the CoC an idea of the race-equity impacts that are being felt in real time because of new mandates or initiatives, as well as long-term race-equity trends in the City that highlight some historically intractable systems promoting inequity.

Less quantifiable but no less important in this arena is progress around normalizing race equity conversations and getting all CoC staff familiar with the terms, tools, and strategies. Measuring progress here includes counting the number of organizations that attend microaggression and unconscious bias training, adopt the GARE Racial Equity Framework, or maintain representation on the Racial Equity Action Committee.

1D-11.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking—CoC’s Outreach Efforts.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.r.	

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

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC’s Outreach worker is funded by the PATH Outreach Program and draws on a wealth of experience serving residents experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and particularly single men with chronic health histories, which makes up most Alexandrians in need of outreach. The Outreach program conducts client satisfaction surveys at least annually, like all CoC participating programs, and utilizes that feedback to improve service delivery and access where applicable. The CoC’s outreach worker also serves on CoC planning and decision-making committees including the Gaps & Needs Committee, and CoC Governing Board, where she represents the voices of those that she serves in policy changes pertinent to outreach or the unsheltered population.

The CoC also maintains multiple positions on its Governing Board for membership of individuals with lived experience, after adding an additional spot for lived expertise in FY21. These Board members are responsible for representing the voice of all Alexandrians experiencing housing instability in CoC policy discussions and apply a macro-level analysis to all housing assistance services including homeless outreach.

Going forward, the CoC is exploring all feasible avenues to amplify the voice of persons with lived experience at every level of homeless assistance, starting with a standard compensation plan for all service consumers that provide feedback on Alexandria’s housing assistance policies. The CoC Racial Equity Action Committee is tasked with developing a permanent, and sustainable plan to pay residents for sharing their experiences in any capacity, an initiative we hope will improve the quality, and amount input received.

1D-11a.	Active CoC Participation of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.r.	

Enter in the chart below the number of people with lived experience who currently participate in your CoC under the five 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.	Included and provide input that is incorporated in the local planning process.	50	10
2.	Review and recommend revisions to local policies addressing homelessness related to coordinated entry, services, and housing.	50	10
3.	Participate on CoC committees, subcommittees, or workgroups.	1	1
4.	Included in the decisionmaking processes related to addressing homelessness.	1	1
5.	Included in the development or revision of your CoC’s local competition rating factors.	1	1

1D-11b.	Professional Development and Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.r.	

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)

In all CoC homeless assistance programs there are employment specific staff tasked with maintaining and increasing income and employment for program participants. These individuals make daily external referrals to recruiters, employers, vocational programs, and the Alexandria Workforce Development Center (WDC), in effort to help clients work towards their earning potential. At WDC the CoC utilizes an Employment Navigator, a position that assists CoC clients navigate the continuum of employment assistance resources in the City, and in FY22, the position will be promoting access ticket-to-work programs for single homeless residents.

At a committee level, the Employment Committee is appropriately responsible for implementing all employment-based initiatives within the CoC, including hosting job fairs, standardizing pre-employment training and interview coaching, securing job vacancies for homeless clients, and generally advocating employability of the population. The CoC also maintains representation from the business community on its Governing Board who is responsible for voicing the ongoing employment concerns of the homeless services system at the board level.

In FY23, the CoC’s Racial Equity Action Committee is developing a compensation plan for persons with lived experience that participate in CoC planning and decision-making. This initiative that will include supervision and professional development for all compensated lived experience positions and will be developed into a sustainable public policy vocational program for the consumers of CoC services.

1D-11c.	Routinely Gathering Feedback and Addressing Challenges of Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.r.	

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1.	how your CoC routinely gathered feedback from people experiencing homelessness and people who have received assistance through the CoC or ESG program on their experience receiving assistance; and
2.	the steps your CoC has taken to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness

(limit 2,500 characters)

Collecting accurate, feedback from residents that are confronting a housing crisis is critical, but challenging. This requires the CoC to have an adaptable, persistent approach with several different methods of data collection. First, all programs that participate in the CoC’s coordinated entry system and enter data into Alexandria Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) are required to collect client satisfaction surveys from program participants at least annually and submit a summation of the responses to the CoC Lead Agency during program monitoring. While this data can be limited, it provides the CoC a standard format of client feedback that can be compared across services and highlight challenging experiences that might be specific to a program or provider.

Next, the CoC maintains multiple positions on its Governing Board for persons with lived experience /expertise to serve in a strategic planning and decision-making capacity for Alexandria’s continuum of homeless services. These members are tasked with elevating their experience to the macro-level to help influence policy change in an inclusive and equitable way. These positions turn over every two years and are recruited by CoC service providers from their rosters of current and former clients.

Finally, the CoC also conducts ad-hoc focus groups of residents of CoC programs, as well as at risk households in the community, to support community driven initiatives such as the CoC’s racial equity review, and the update to the CoC’s Strategic Plan to End Homelessness. In these settings an unbiased facilitator solicits residents’ opinions and experiences about the City’s housing assistance system, and participants are compensated for their time and feedback. Going forward, the CoC’s Racial Equity Action Committee is developing a permanent and sustainable plan to compensate persons with lived experience who serve the CoC in any capacity, and receive necessary coaching and support.

1D-12.	Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.t.	
	Describe in the field below at least 2 steps your CoC has taken in the past 12 months that 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)

In FY22, the Arlandria-Chirilagua Small Area Plan (SAP) was approved establishing comprehensive policy recommendations to expand and deepen affordability in the neighborhood and support its diversity. Tools include permitting additional height in exchange for affordable units at 40-50% AMI. Following SAP adoption, another 474-unit mixed-income community was approved, which implements SAP by proposing to create deeply affordable family units, affordable for-sale units, public open spaces, and non-residential space for neighborhood services like medical care, government flex-space, and daycares.

Projects in the City apply to use the RMF Zone, a multifamily zone that incentivizes the preservation and creation of deeply affordable housing. Examples include a 223-unit proposal to renovate and expand Parc View Apartments, a proposal to construct 91 new units along Duke Street, and a CoC partner’s proposal to redevelop its existing property with 91 new units.

The City’s Zoning for Housing Program began out of the Washington Metropolitan Council of Government’s Regional Housing Initiative to amplify housing production and affordability to meet growing regional demands by 2030. In 2020 the City adopted a resolution to support an increase in housing production by an additional 3,000 units over that period with an emphasis on low- to moderate-income housing. This target is being pursued through a variety of Housing Master Plan mechanisms, resources, and tools, including the identification of regulatory barriers to more equitable housing production and access.

In FY22, a Co-Living text amendment was approved to expand housing opportunities and affordability for unrelated individuals to reside together in units with shared common areas in commercial and multifamily zones.

In FY22, an Auxiliary Dwelling Unit text amendment was approved to streamline and expand where auxiliary residential units can be constructed as an accessory use to a commercial structure.

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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2022 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

1E-1.	Web Posting of Your CoC’s Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.2.a. and 2.g.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for project applicants to submit their applications to your CoC’s local competition.	08/08/2022
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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 VII.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.	
	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

1E-2a.	<p>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.</p> <p>NOFO Section VII.B.2.a., 2.b., 2.c., and 2.d.</p>	
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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)?	43
2.	How many renewal projects did your CoC submit?	5
3.	What renewal project type did most applicants use?	PH-PSH

1E-2b.	<p>Addressing Severe Barriers in the Local Project Review and Ranking Process.</p> <p>NOFO Section VII.B.2.d.</p>	
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- Describe in the field below:
1. how your CoC collected and 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. considerations your CoC gave to projects that provide housing and services to the hardest to serve populations that could result in lower performance levels but are projects your CoC needs in its geographic area.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Alexandria’s five FY22 renewal programs have operated for years, and the CoC received only one new proposal for each opportunity, so trend data was used to compare the programs. To measure varied HUD projects against each other, the CoC delineates target outcomes by project type in Performance & Compliance Monitoring and includes clients’ average assessment score in the ranking processes. This ensures the vulnerabilities of the varying populations in these programs are considered when the CoC must prioritize for funding.

Monitoring scores are the primary metrics informing ranking and are designed to set a more accurate outcome targets for programs serving clients with higher housing barriers. In some cases, short-term subsidy programs are evaluated on different metrics than PSH, like the rate of housing exits versus rate of housing maintenance. In others the scoring scale is minimized, like a lower target percentage for clients employed in PSH versus Rapid Rehousing.

Secondary metrics used by the Priorities Committee include clients’ average assessment score at entry, and percentage of beds dedicated to special populations like the Chronic Homeless (CH) or DV. The latter two metrics are sourced from HMIS and HDX respectively and were used specifically to highlight programs with service needy clients. The CoC Gaps & Needs Committee also offers the Priorities Committee recommendations based on current System Performance so special consideration to those programs that served them.

With these criteria, the Priorities Committee prioritized the highest performing programs first, which were two singles PSH programs. Clients’ average housing barrier score at entry into both programs increased in FY22, yet they both met all system performance targets, and showing their willingness, and effectiveness, serving the most vulnerable residents.

1E-3.	Promoting Racial Equity in the Local Competition Review and Ranking Process.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.2.e.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC obtained input and included persons of different races, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population;	
2.	how the input from persons of different races, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, affected how your CoC determined the rating factors used to review project applications;	
3.	how your CoC included persons of different races, particularly those over-represented in the local homelessness population, in the review, selection, and ranking process; and	
4.	how your CoC rated and ranked projects based on the degree to which their project has 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.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC’s Gaps and Needs Committee is made up of representatives from all local homeless assistance programs in the City, as well as Alexandria Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS) staff, and community advocates. Members of the committee identify as a multitude of races including all that are predominately represented within the population of residents experiencing homelessness. The Committee is responsible for reviewing monthly system performance data from all homeless assistance programs and making recommendation for service or policy adjustment, and they do so with a racial equity lens. The demographic breakdowns of each program, and of outcomes within each performance metric, are tracked separately so that inequities can be spotted in real time, and adjustments can be mandated through formal recommendation to the CoC Governing Board or Priorities Committee.

The CoC’s Priorities Committee is an informed, unbiased body of homeless assistance and affordable housing advocates responsible for making funding decisions for the CoC during competitive funding applications, which includes the annual HUD-CoC project ranking process. The group includes 2 men and 3 women who identify as either Black or African American, or White, which make up approximately 90% of the City’s homeless population. In ranking, their decision is informed by the programs’ compliance with HUD guidelines, annual performance outcomes, and formal recommendations from the CoC’s Gaps and Needs Committee.

In FY22 the Priorities Committee ranked the HUD-CoC RRH program third, particularly for its high permanent housing rate as well as it’s equitable representation as a housing program that served over 82% black or African American households. That population made up about 78% of shelter residents in FY22 and has been identified as a high need by the Gaps and Needs Committee, so programs that have proven effective for those residents were prioritized.

1E-4.	Reallocation—Reviewing Performance of Existing Projects.	
	NOFO Section VII.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 projects through this process during your 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)

The CoC initiates reallocation to address community need or poor performance. Both scenarios result from monthly monitoring of system performance by the Data Committee and quarterly analysis by the Gaps & Needs Committee. Data through three quarters is aggregated into the CoC Needs Assessment, which identifies service gaps and recommends funding strategies to address them, including potential reallocation. Three-quarter data also informs the annual update to the Compliance & Performance Scorecard, where the Selection Committee sets new outcome targets for ranking and may request reallocation of a low performer. Both documents are public, and the process is detailed in a document referenced in the approved CoC Charter. providers also maintain representation on the Data and Gaps and Needs Committees involving them in reallocation discussions from the start. Any redistribution of funds is facilitated by the CoC Lead through public Request for Proposal.

The CoC did not initiate reallocation in 2022 because, through its reallocation processes, had been providing technical assistance to a perennially low performing grantee, Notabene families PSH, in effort to improve the effectiveness of the services and outcomes for the clients. Over the course of FY22 though, the program made sufficient improvements to service delivery and program entry processes that led to improved system performance outcomes. A new relationship was also forged between the City’s Domestic Violence shelter and Notabene during the technical assistance process, a collaboration that should keep the program fully utilized going forward.

In accordance with reallocation policies, the CoC Priorities Committee did not put Notabene fully in tier 2, nor recommend its reallocation. However, to keep the program on notice and maintain the trajectory of its performance metrics, the committee did leave Notabene straddling tiers, ensuring it would be closely monitored through CoC processes at least another year.

1E-4a.	Reallocation Between FY 2017 and FY 2022.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	

	Did your CoC cumulatively reallocate at least 20 percent of its ARD between FY 2017 and FY 2022?	Yes
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1E-5.	Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

1.	Did your CoC reject or reduce any project application(s)?	No
2.	Did your CoC inform applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced?	
3.	If you selected Yes for element 1 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 06/26/2022, 06/27/2022, and 06/28/2022, then you must enter 06/28/2022.	

1E-5a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps.	
	NOFO Section VII.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 06/26/2022, 06/27/2022, and 06/28/2022, then you must enter 06/28/2022.	09/09/2022
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1E-5b.	Local Competition Selection Results–Scores for All Projects.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Final Project Scores for All Projects attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Does your attachment include: 1. Applicant Names; 2. Project Names; 3. Project Scores; 4. Project Rank–if accepted; 5. Award amounts; and 6. Projects accepted or rejected status.	Yes
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1E-5c.	1E-5c. Web Posting of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC posted the CoC-approved Consolidated Application on the CoC’s website or partner’s website–which included: 1. the CoC Application; and 2. Priority Listings for Reallocation forms and all New, Renewal, and Replacement Project Listings.	09/28/2022
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1E-5d.	Notification to Community Members and Key Stakeholders that the CoC-Approved Consolidated Application is Posted on Website.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.2.g.	
	You must upload the Notification of CoC-Approved Consolidated Application attachment to the 4B. Attachments Screen.	

	Enter the date your CoC notified community members and key stakeholders that the CoC-approved Consolidated Application has been posted on the CoC’s website or partner’s website.	09/28/2022
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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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2022 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.	WellSky
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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 VII.B.3.a.	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2022 HIC data into HDX.	05/06/2022
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2A-4.	Comparable Database for DV Providers–CoC and HMIS Lead Supporting Data Collection and Data Submission by Victim Service Providers.	
	NOFO Section VII.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 databases that meet HUD’s comparable database requirements; and	
2.	state whether your CoC is compliant with the 2022 HMIS Data Standards.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC serves Domestic Violence (DV) survivors with immediate safety concerns in the undisclosed DV shelter, which is operated by the City of Alexandria’s Dept. of Community and Human Services (DCHS). No other victim specific programs exist within the CoC’s geographic region.

Data from the DV shelter is maintained in a separate confidential database, which collects data according to HUD-HMIS data standards. The DV shelter utilizes the same housing assessment as regular coordinated entry, so same assessment data can be de-identified and clients can be anonymously prioritized for housing on the same By-Names-List (BNL) as all literally homeless clients are filtered for DV specific voucher opportunities. Using the same assessments allows the CoC’s data committee and others to compare relative vulnerabilities of the DV population, as well as demographic trends. The CoC’s Gaps & Needs Committee monitors CoC system performance metrics of HMIS programs monthly and, at the charge of the Priorities Committee in FY22, has begun reviewing comparable metrics from the City’s Domestic Violence program including hotline calls, persons served through victim accompaniment and advocacy, and the number of youths served through supportive counseling. There are still issues of the DV shelter’s safety priorities misaligning with some of the homeless system’s housing-first metrics. As the Committee begins to build trend data, metrics key to the DV shelter’s success will be highlighted and the work to improve them will then begin.

DV data collection improvement led directly to Alexandria submitting a proposal for the DV Bonus funds for the first time in this application. Two service providers that maintain representation on the Gaps & Needs Committee were able to craft a project application for DV survivors using metrics presented in committee meetings, and if funded, will be able to eliminate a service gap within the CoC.

2A-5.	Bed Coverage Rate—Using HIC, HMIS Data—CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.3.c. and VII.B.7.	

Enter 2022 HIC and HMIS data in the chart below by project type:
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Project Type	Total Beds 2022 HIC	Total Beds in HIC Dedicated for DV	Total Beds in HMIS	HMIS Bed Coverage Rate
1. Emergency Shelter (ES) beds	125	21	125	120.19%
2. Safe Haven (SH) beds	12	0	12	100.00%
3. Transitional Housing (TH) beds	33	0	33	100.00%
4. Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) beds	36	0	36	100.00%
5. Permanent Supportive Housing	62	0	62	100.00%
6. Other Permanent Housing (OPH)	3	0	3	100.00%

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

N/A

2A-6.	Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA) Submission in HDX 2.0.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	

Did your CoC submit LSA data to HUD in HDX 2.0 by February 15, 2022, 8 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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2022 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2B-1.	PIT Count Date.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.4.b	

	Enter the date your CoC conducted its 2022 PIT count.	01/27/2022
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2B-2.	PIT Count Data–HDX Submission Date.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.4.b	

	Enter the date your CoC submitted its 2022 PIT count data in HDX.	05/06/2022
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2B-3.	PIT Count–Effectively Counting Youth.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.4.b.	

	Describe in the field below how during the planning process for the 2022 PIT count your CoC:	
	1. engaged stakeholders that serve homeless youth;	
	2. involved homeless youth in the actual count; and	
	3. worked with stakeholders to select locations where homeless youth are most likely to be identified.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC executed planning for the FY22 Youth PIT Count through the CoC Gaps & Needs Committee because members include all City homeless assistance providers as well as Alexandria City Public Schools’ (ACPS) Homeless Education Liaison. Support of ACPS was critical in that any data sourced from school-aged youth would require their Board’s approval to be made public or be used by an external group like the CoC. Beyond that, the Committee’s chair also serves on Alexandria’s Youth Services Coordinated Council (YSCC), made up of child welfare and foster care representatives, family service specialists, local non-profits, and faith organization that serve youth, allowing that group to serve as a sounding board for the proposed PIT strategy.

Dates and times for the Youth PIT Count were identified by the Gaps & Needs Committee with the help of the Homeless Education Liaison, focusing on either end of the school year when families were already required to report homeless status to ACPS through mail in forms. Next, the Youth PIT specific survey was crafted and vetted by the YSCC, including at-risk youth that support the Council’s work, and strategies for dissemination were discussed. Multiple City locations including parks, libraries, business, and after school programs and events, were identified for survey locations, but Alexandria’s Homeless Education Liaison and YSCC cautioned against collecting data outside of ACPS’ typical processes, at least for the CoC’s first attempt at a Youth PIT.

Thus, the decision was made to include the Youth PIT questions with the Homeless Education Liaison’s closeout survey of families at the end schoolyear. Still, the CoC managed to collect PIT data on a staggering number of unstably housed youth that are unknown to the CoC, largely because of HUD and DOE’s competing definitions of homelessness. Looking to FY23, the CoC aims to leverage last year’s Youth PIT results into support for a more robust methodology and Youth-inclusive process.

2B-4.	PIT Count–Methodology Change–CoC Merger Bonus Points.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.5.a and VII.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 2021 and 2022, if applicable;	
2.	describe any changes your CoC made to your unsheltered PIT count implementation, including methodology or data quality changes between 2021 and 2022, if applicable; and	
3.	describe how the changes affected your CoC’s PIT count results; or	
4.	state “Not Applicable” if there were no changes or if you did not conduct an unsheltered PIT count in 2022.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2022 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless–Risk Factors Your CoC Uses.	
	NOFO Section VII.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)

Within the Office of Community Services (OCS) is the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC). When individuals present in housing crisis, a standard assessment is given, and the previous five years of homelessness history is recorded. This gives the CoC greater context of homeless history than HUD’s report as the data can be tied to individual demographics and outcomes produced by CoC services. To start, the assessment records factors that led to a household’s current episode of homelessness, giving the CoC a self-reported source for first time experience. Coupling this information with prevention and diversion data has proven the CoC’s best method for identifying why Alexandrians becoming homeless for the first time.

The CoC’s Gaps and Needs committee collects this data monthly to determine the most prevalent sources of homelessness in Alexandria, and through analysis has managed to recommend more upstream interventions. OCS is also the City’s Community Action Agency and primary provider of short-term rental assistance. These services, as well as case management and housing location are offered first, and at last resort a referral is made to shelter.

As the short-term assistance provider and operator of coordinated entry, OCS is doubly concerned with preventing residents from experiencing homeless. Most households that experience homeless simply cannot afford a one-bedroom unit in Alexandria, showing that housing affordability remains the primary cause of first-time homelessness. To be proactive the CoC focuses on initial homelessness from specific zip codes, often with concentrations of subsidized housing, and targets prevention resources to those neighborhoods, engaging the PHA or private landlords to keep residents in housing.

2C-2.	Length of Time Homeless—CoC’s Strategy to Reduce.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.5.c.	
	In the field below:	
1.	describe your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;	
2.	describe how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and	
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

All clients experiencing homelessness, whether entering through our Domestic Violence (DV) Shelter, Winter Shelter, Street Outreach, or coordinated entry, receive the same standard assessment that measures client’s housing barriers and history of homelessness. Having the same assessment at each entry point allows for better data consistency and comparability of client responses across each access point. Bi-weekly, this data is pulled into our By Names List (BNL) by our HMIS Administrator, at which point referrals are made based on client’s rank on that list. The BNL prioritizes clients based on significance of housing barrier, race, and ethnicity, and is currently being adjusted to account for length of stay in a more quantifiable way.

Using increased and reallocated Rapid Rehousing (RRH) funds, the CoC has been using permanent housing placement to reduce the shelter length of stay. This highlights that when funds are allocated to high performing organizations who are invested in positive client outcomes, RRH is an effective method to reduce the length of stay and improve the permanent exit rate. In addition, using data-driven decision making and statistical analysis via our BNL the CoC has efficiently and effectively utilized vouchers to move people out of shelter and out of permanent supportive housing to allow long used units to come available for those in need of PSH.

Currently length of time homeless is displayed in an easily identifiable way on the BNL, essentially denoted by a client’s entry date into our shelter programs. The list is routinely analyzed and adjusted basis by the Housing Crisis Response Committee to respond to current needs. The Gaps and Needs Committee evaluates its impact on homelessness duration and housing placement. In most circumstances, subsequent changes to BNL algorithms are made based on the recommendations illustrated by the Lead CoC Administrator in Quarterly Recommendation reports.

2C-3.	Exits to Permanent Housing Destinations/Retention of Permanent Housing–CoC’s Strategy	
	NOFO Section VII.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)

More than 50% of FY20 CoC’s housing resources fund Rapid Rehousing (RRH), so the CoC targets those programs to best influence permanent exits, using its Housing Crisis Response Committee implement policy changes and the Data Committee to monitor performance improvements. During the pandemic specifically, the CoC requested and executed over 1 million dollars in RRH subsidies, largely through the COVID Homeless Emergency Relief Program (CHERP). That strategy was plotted and monitored by the CoC’s Gaps & Need Committee to new housing needs resulting from the moratorium.

As the consumer of performance monitoring data, the Gaps & Needs Committee recommends potential project configurations that could improve permanent placement and retention. Data showed an existing unstably house population that would be unable to access homeless prevention specifically during the eviction moratorium. This confirmed the CoC’s need to address homelessness for many households further downstream than usual. To maximize housing placement and retention, Gaps & Needs recommended that all the initial CHERP fund shelter and RRH, and subsequently reallocated CHERP Prevention to RRH as well. The approach helped the CoC maintain placement rates throughout the pandemic.

The CoC also extended its length of assistance, particularly the provision of rental subsidy, at this time to help residents maintain housing within despite persisting economic factors. Adjustments like these are likewise recommended through regular monitoring of move on strategies, managed by the Data, Housing Crisis Response, and Gaps & Needs Committees.

2C-4.	Returns to Homelessness—CoC’s Strategy to Reduce Rate.	
	NOFO Section VII.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 of additional returns 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)

The Office of Community (OCS) manages Alexandria’s rental and utility assistance programs and operates coordinated entry in the City. This continuity of care and client record allows OCS to monitor homeless recidivism from different data sets, giving greater detail to the cause of repeated homelessness in Alexandria. 6- and 12-month follow-ups with homeless prevention and Rapid Rehousing clients provides an early barometer of recidivism, while deduplication from non-homeless housing assistance data highlights factors creating recidivism further upstream. Even further, the CoC’s coordinated entry assessment quantifies households’ history of homeless assistance in the past five years, taking on a broader definition of recidivism than the HUD report.

The CoC is aware that recidivism is too common an occurrence among residents experiencing homelessness, and thus, several strategies are being analyzed to not only better track the situation, but to prevent it as part of the mission to prevent and end homelessness. A component that has been missing in prior approaches is the application of a racial equity to recognize the systemic causes and effects of homeless recidivism within different communities. Currently, the HMIS Data Committee is in discussion with CoC case managers and the committee that oversees their services, the Housing Crisis Response Committee (HCRC), to include one or two more questions on our standard assessment that speak primarily to generational or network impoverishment. Linkages between these factors and residents of color in the homeless service system have been highlighted through indirect analysis, so quantifying them to paint a clearer picture is the charge of the CoC’s Gaps and Needs Committee in FY23.

2C-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–CoC’s Strategy.	
	NOFO Section VII.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 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)

The Alexandria CoC employs several congruent strategies to increase homeless residents' employment income, both through mainstream employment assistance resources and through CoC specific initiatives. At the ground level, in all CoC homeless assistance programs there are employment specific staff tasked with maintaining and increasing income and employment for program participants. These individuals make daily external referrals to recruiters, employers, vocational programs, and the Alexandria Workforce Development Center (WDC), in effort to help clients work towards their earning potential.

At a committee level, the Employment Committee is appropriately responsible for implementing all employment-based initiatives within the CoC, including hosting job fairs, standardizing pre-employment training and interview coaching, securing job vacancies for homeless clients, and generally advocating employability of the population. Outside of events the committee monitors monthly employment outcomes within the CoC and recommends improvement strategies for Governing Board Approval. The CoC also maintains representation from the business community on its Governing Board who is responsible for voicing the ongoing employment concerns of the homeless services system at the board level.

To specifically address this issue the CoC utilizes an Employment Navigator, a position that sits at WDC and assists CoC clients navigate the continuum of employment assistance resources in the City. The Employment Navigator has proven successful in bridging the skills gap between homeless residents and the workforce, compelling the CoC to implement some additional data tracking requirements within the program to better inform the application of the service to clients from all levels of the Continuum. In FY22, the CoC is continuing to promote access ticket-to-work programs for single homeless residents as system performance data shows SSI/SSDI remains the primary source of income for that population.

2C-5a.	Increasing Non-employment Cash Income–CoC's Strategy	
	NOFO Section VII.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)

At coordinated entry, the Homeless Services Assessment Center (HSAC) screens clients for housing barriers, including monthly income and primary source, which informs shelter case managers in development of a housing plan. HSAC is collocated with the City’s Public Benefits Office so eligible clients are immediately referred for TANF, SNAP, SSI/SSDI, and other mainstream assistance programs. Once in shelter, staff are experienced in the relationship between income and housing in the CoC’s high-cost area and are keen to include housing plan goals that aim to increase client income to make housing attainable. To make that approach common practice, the CoC has implemented holistic Housing First training for all case managers, emphasizing connection to sustainable supports like cash and non-cash benefits simultaneous to the search for housing.

HUD-CoC funded programs in the Continuum are required to make SOAR certified staff available to all clients and all other programs in the CoC can equally access those services for clients that need SSI/SSDI applications expedited. The CoC’s PATH outreach worker, who is also SOAR certified, is responsible for coordinating with the Northern Virginia SOAR led to secure CoC staff certifications, update training, and track progress made on the CoC’s SOAR applications.

Alexandria’s Office of Public Benefits assists CoC partners in applying Virginia’s recent Medicaid expansion within their services, offering resources, contacts, and additional support to providers to ensure clients that were covered received access. That partnership continues to grow especially with federal changes to healthcare, and the CoC will continue to leverage those transitions to further improve the collaboration between benefits and homeless services.

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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2022 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 VII.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?	No
--	--	----

3A-2.	New PH-PSH/PH-RRH Project–Leveraging Healthcare Resources.	
	NOFO Section VII.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?	No
--	--	----

3A-3.	Leveraging Housing/Healthcare Resources–List of Projects.	
	NOFO Sections VII.B.6.a. and VII.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
This list contains no items			

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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2022 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects.	
	NOFO Section VII.B.1.s.	

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 VII.B.1.s.	

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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2022 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 Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section VII.C.	

	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.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes.	
	NOFO Section VII.C.	

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)

N/A

4A. DV Bonus Project Applicants

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) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Continuum of Care Competition and Noncompetitive Award of Youth Homeless Demonstration Program Renewal and Replacement Grants;
- 24 CFR part 578;
- FY 2022 CoC Application Navigational Guide;
- Section 3 Resources;
- PHA Crosswalk; and
- Frequently Asked Questions

4A-1.	New DV Bonus Project Applications.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.	

	Did your CoC submit one or more new project applications for DV Bonus Funding?	Yes
--	--	-----

4A-1a.	DV Bonus Project Types.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.	

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate the type(s) of new DV Bonus project(s) your CoC included in its FY 2022 Priority Listing.

	Project Type	
1.	SSO Coordinated Entry	No
2.	PH-RRH or Joint TH and PH-RRH Component	Yes

You must click "Save" after selecting Yes for element 1 SSO Coordinated Entry to view questions 4A-2, 4A-2a. and 4A-2b.

4A-3.	Assessing Need for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects in Your CoC's Geographic Area.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.(e)(1)(c)	

1.	Enter the number of survivors that need housing or services:	26
2.	Enter the number of survivors your CoC is currently serving:	16
3.	Unmet Need:	10

4A-3a.	How Your CoC Calculated Local Need for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(c)	
	Describe in the field below:	
	1. how your CoC calculated the number of DV survivors needing housing or services in question 4A-3 element 1 and element 2; and	
	2. the data source (e.g., comparable databases, other administrative data, external data source, HMIS for non-DV projects); or	
	3. if your CoC is unable to meet the needs of all survivors please explain in your response all barriers to meeting those needs.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC’s Gaps & Needs Committee monitors CoC system performance metrics of CoC services monthly, including comparable metrics from the City’s Domestic Violence (DV) program. This includes DV specific data like the rate of hotline calls, and number of persons served through victim accompaniment and advocacy, as well as HMIS data like the number of persons served in homeless programs that report fleeing DV. There are issues of survivor safety priorities misaligning with HUD’s definition of homelessness, so a combination of those data collection strategies was used to identify the unmet need for DV specific housing in the City.

To identify the number of DV survivors that received housing assistance through the CoC in FY22, the HMIS Administrator totaled the number of residents entering homeless designated housing programs that reported fleeing DV. This includes persons referred to CoC housing programs from the DV shelter, and any resident that reported fleeing DV at coordinated entry.

In illustrating the more ambiguous population of survivors in need of housing in FY22, the CoC totaled the number of residents served in all homeless designated programs who reported fleeing DV, as well as the number of DV shelter residents that were referred to DV specific housing opportunities outside of the CoC, like VAWA and local set aside vouchers. This does not include every resident served at the DV Shelter for immediate safety concerns because not all have long-term housing needs and is instead encompassing of all persons experiencing housing instability that are also fleeing domestic violence.

The remaining difference of 10 residents is a conservative estimate of the CoC’s service gap for DV specific housing, a need that can at least partially addressed with the CoC’s proposal for a DV specific joint TH/RRH project.

4A-3b.	Information About Unique Project Applicants and Their Experience in Housing Placement and Housing Retention for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(d)	
	Use the list feature icon to enter information on each unique project applicant applying for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus projects—only enter project applicant information once, regardless of how many DV Bonus projects that applicant is applying for.	

Applicant Name
Carpenter's Shelter

Project Applicants Applying for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH DV Bonus Projects

4A-3b.	Information About Unique Project Applicants and Their Experience in Housing Placement and Housing Retention for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(d)	

Enter information in the chart below on the project applicant applying for one or more New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects included on your CoC's FY 2022 Priority Listing:

1.	Applicant Name	Carpenter's Shelter
2.	Project Name	Housing Options for DV Families
3.	Project Rank on the Priority Listing	D-7
4.	Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)	QX1YM7ET6KM1
5.	Amount Requested	\$50,000
6.	Rate of Housing Placement of DV Survivors–Percentage	58%
7.	Rate of Housing Retention of DV Survivors–Percentage	100%

4A-3b.1.	Applicant Experience in Housing Placement and Retention for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(c)	

For the rate of housing placement and rate of housing retention of DV survivors reported in question 4B-3b., describe in the field below

1.	how the project applicant calculated both rates;	
2.	whether the rates accounts for exits to safe housing destinations; and	
3.	the data source (e.g., comparable databases, other administrative data, external data source, HMIS for non-DV projects).	

(limit 1,500 characters)

To calculate the provider's rate of housing placement for Domestic Violence survivors, the CoC first totaled the number of persons enrolled into Rapid Rehousing that either reported fleeing DV at coordinated entry, or were referred via the DV Shelter, which was 12 in FY22. Then, of these 12, the CoC found that 7 had a recorded move-in date in HMIS, resulting in a 58% DV Survivor placement rate for Carpenter's RRH in FY22. This includes only those that were leased in a safe, and affordable unit that met their needs. Finally, the CoC reviewed if any of those 7 persons re-entered coordinated entry for housing assistance, or survivor services, after their move-in date, and none had, resulting in a 100% retention rate to date. This data was primarily collected from HMIS, with some data being source from VA-Data, the DV program's comparable database.

4A-3c.	Applicant Experience in Providing Housing to DV Survivor for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(d)	

Describe in the field below how the project applicant:	
1.	ensured DV survivors experiencing homelessness were quickly moved into safe affordable housing;
2.	prioritized survivors—you must address the process the project applicant used, e.g., Coordinated Entry, prioritization list, CoC’s emergency transfer plan, etc.;
3.	determined which supportive services survivors needed;
4.	connected survivors to supportive services; and
5.	moved clients from assisted housing to housing they could sustain—address housing stability after the housing subsidy ends.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Carpenter’s Shelter serves as the City’s sole Rapid Rehousing (RRH) provider, which is the primary CoC housing intervention utilized by persons fleeing instances of Domestic Violence and has therefore built a favorable reputation for supporting survivors with housing assistance. All households enrolled into rapid rehousing are selected from the City’s priority list of homeless households, which ranks residents based on their housing assessment score collected at coordinated entry. The assessment is the same whether clients enter through the homeless service system, or the DV shelter, and it cumulates households’ housing barriers to produce a quantitative score. One of those barriers is experiences of DV, so all else equal, survivors are prioritized higher for eligible housing opportunities relative to residents not fleeing DV.

While engaged in a CoC services, housing programs or otherwise, the specific needs of the household are assessed so appropriate external referral can be made, which includes connection to the DV Program for all survivors. Here, Carpenter’s leans on a collaborative relationship fostered between their housing program and the DV Shelter, where DV caseworkers can make a warm hand-off to RRH program managers so that safety and support is maintained throughout transition. The DV program will continue to support with appropriate survivor services after move-in and beyond through their community advocacy program and victim support groups.

All residents that attain housing through Alexandria’s RRH program are moved into units that fit their needs and budget and are provided at least monthly case management to work on their housing plan, which includes gradual assumption of the full rental payment. In FY22, Alexandria RRH boasted a permanent housing exit rate over 70%, highlighting the Carpenter’s ability to move clients into housing they can sustain independently.

4A-3d.	Applicant Experience in Ensuring DV Survivor Safety for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(d)	

Describe in the field below examples of how the project applicant ensured the safety and confidentiality of DV survivors experiencing homelessness by:
--

1.	taking steps to ensure privacy/confidentiality during the intake and interview process to minimize potential coercion of survivors;
2.	making determinations and placements into safe housing;
3.	keeping information and locations confidential;
4.	training staff on safety and confidentiality policies and practices; and
5.	taking security measures for units (congregate or scattered site), that support survivors' physical safety and location confidentiality.

(limit 2,500 characters)

The CoC utilizes an objective prioritization list to rank residents experiencing homelessness by need, and fit them into appropriate, available housing. The list is distributed to CoC participating organizations with households identified only by HMIS number, or another unique value if referred from the Domestic Violence (DV) shelter, so that confidentiality is maintained. When housing programs like Carpenter’s Rapid Rehousing have space, they contact the case worker of residents at the top of the list to schedule an intake interview, again using unique values rather than personally identifying information.

In instances where the DV shelter is the referral source, a safe and confidential setting is established for the interview, and the expertise of DV Program staff is centered in developing a housing plan. Carpenter’s Housing Locator works closely with the DV Program’s Housing Locator to find housing that fits within program guidelines, and meets the specific physical safety and confidentiality needs of the survivor. After move-in, collaboration between the RRH program staff and DV services continues so that safe-space can be maintained.

The City’s DV Program operates Alexandria’s DV Shelter and is a member of the CoC Governing Board. They assume responsibility for training all CoC service providers on best practices in survivor services including safety and confidentiality protocol. Along with other City Shelter providers, the DV Program has a strong, symbiotic relationship with Carpenter’s Shelter as they are the sole RRH provider and primary source of assisted housing opportunities for residents fleeing DV.

4A-3d.1.	Applicant Experience in Evaluating Their Ability to Ensure DV Survivor Safety for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(d)	

Describe in the field below how the project has evaluated its ability to ensure the safety of DV survivors the project served in the project, including any areas identified for improvement during the course of the proposed project.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Carpenter’s shelter coordinates closely with its Rapid Rehousing (RRH) programs’ referral sources to ensure a smooth transition into appropriate housing, and this includes close collaboration with the Domestic Violence (DV) program staff when serving survivors. Within this relationship, there is constant monitoring of individual cases and formal processes with a sharp focus on maintaining client safety and confidentiality. As the program expert, and survivor services trainer for the whole CoC, the DV Program communicates confidentially concerns, safety risks, or other programmatic issues to the CoC’s Gaps & Needs Committee where they can be formally addressed either by the individual program, or through recommendation to the CoC Governing Board.

When crafting this proposal, one process concern reviewed by the CoC’s Gaps & Needs Committee was serving DV survivors in Transitional Housing (TH) specifically because it is a joint-TH/RRH project. City TH programs are not scattered site presenting some uncertainty around safety and confidentiality. Carpenter’s Shelter thus agreed to develop a collaborative prioritization process for the DV-TH/RRH units, in partnership with the DV Program, so that all residents are served in units that meet their housing and physical safety needs.

4A-3e.	Applicant Experience in Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Approaches for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(d)	

Describe in the field below examples of the project applicant’s experience using trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches to meet needs of DV survivors by:

1.	prioritizing placement and stabilization in permanent housing consistent with the program participants’ wishes and stated needs;
2.	establishing and maintaining an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions are based on equality and minimize power differentials;
3.	providing program participants access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing program participants with information on the effects of trauma;
4.	emphasizing program participants’ strengths, e.g., strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans worked towards survivor-defined goals and aspirations;
5.	centering on cultural responsiveness and inclusivity, e.g., training on equal access, cultural competence, nondiscrimination, language access, improving services to be culturally responsive, accessible, and trauma-informed;
6.	providing a variety of opportunities for connection for program participants, e.g., groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs; and
7.	offering support for survivor parenting, e.g., trauma-informed parenting classes, childcare, connections to legal services.

(limit 5,000 characters)

All survivors in Alexandria that present for assistance in any capacity, including via Carpenter’s Shelter’s programs, are referred to Alexandria’s Domestic Violence (DV) Program where they receive a safe and confidential assessment of their safety needs, and access to the breadth of Alexandria’s survivor services. This includes peer support groups, victim accompaniment and advocacy, and mentorships, as well as other relevant assistance like childcare and legal services. Carpenter’s Shelter, the City’s sole Rapid Rehousing (RRH) provider, has a more than 20-year history of working closely with the DV program to support residents who are currently fleeing, or have a history of domestic violence experience, and draws on that partnership to ensure all survivors receive appropriate services.

Carpenter’s Shelter staff specifically are trained on Trauma Informed Care, Cultural and Linguistic Competency, strengths-based coaching, motivational interviewing, Equal Access, and other human service mandates and best practices. As both an Emergency Shelter and Rapid Rehousing provider in Alexandria, Carpenter’s Shelter centers households’ service needs and personal choice when addressing crises and leverages its relationships withing the CoC to ensure all residents are linked with the appropriate supports.

Carpenter’s Shelter utilizes trauma-informed, client centered language throughout all policy and procedure documents, and specifically client assessments, as mandated by the CoC. Assessments throughout the homeless service continuum are updated regularly to be less intrusive, culturally sensitive, and focus on strengths of the households when identifying their service needs and housing barriers. All clients served by CoC programs, including Carpenter’s Shelter, are informed about CoC equal access and non-discrimination policies, and are offered avenues to register program complaints or provide other feedback on service delivery.

4A-3f.	Applicant Experience in Meeting Service Needs of DV Survivors for Applicants Requesting New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(d)		

Describe in the field below examples of supportive services the project provided to domestic violence survivors while quickly moving them into permanent housing and addressing their safety needs.

(limit 5,000 characters)

Through its partnership with the City of Alexandria’s Domestic Violence (DV) program, the CoC, and its own organizational infrastructure, Carpenter’s Shelter provided Domestic Violence Survivors access to all necessary supports including:

- Peer Support Groups for Survivors of Domestic Violence
- Women Support Groups
- LGBTQ Specific Supports and Recourses
- Nonoffender Caregiver support Groups
- Child-Care Programs and Subsidies
- Survivor Advocacy Organizations
- Legal Aid
- Trauma Informed Case Management
- Trauma Informed Parenting Classes
- Self-Care Tools
- Strengths-Based Coaching
- Safety-Planning Assistance
- Housing Stability Planning
- DV Related COVID Resources
- Victim Accompaniment
- DV Safehouse Referral
- Supportive Counseling for Youths Experiencing DV

4A-3g.	Plan for Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Approaches for New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
	NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(e)	

Provide examples in the field below of how the new project will:	
1.	prioritize placement and stabilization in permanent housing consistent with the program participants’ wishes and stated needs;
2.	establish and maintaining an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions are based on equality and minimize power differentials;
3.	provide program participants access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing program participants with information on the effects of trauma;
4.	emphasize program participants’ strengths—for example, strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans works towards survivor-defined goals and aspirations;
5.	center on cultural responsiveness and inclusivity, e.g., training on equal access, cultural competence, nondiscrimination, language access, improving services to be culturally responsive, accessible, and trauma-informed;
6.	provide a variety of opportunities for connection for program participants, e.g., groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs; and
7.	offer support for survivor parenting, e.g., trauma-informed parenting classes, childcare, connections to legal services.

(limit 5,000 characters)

A primary goal of the new project is to establish a continuum of housing supports specifically tailored to meet the needs of survivors of Domestic Violence (DV). This will help the CoC improve housing outcomes for survivors without risking their physical safety, or further burdening the homeless service system. In the new project, the variety of housing supports associated with Transitional Housing (TH) including support groups, parenting classes, peer-to-peer counseling, mentorships, child-care, etc. will be rebranded to center the needs of survivors. Similarly, Rapid Rehousing (RRH) services like housing location and housing stabilization case management will be infused with trauma informed language that prioritized household safety and confidentiality among other success metrics.

To promote safe and smooth transitions into housing for all survivors participating the in new program, Carpenter’s Shelter will formalize their collaborative relationship with the City’s DV Program, ensuring all referrals are supported with adequate safety planning before entering housing. Carpenter’s will also maintain staff training on all survivor service best practices including trauma informed care, mental-health first aid, cultural and linguistic competence, Equal Access, nondiscrimination, and fair-housing, etc. Housing Locators from both Carpenter’s Shelter’s and the DV Program will support the project in finding safe, confidential, and affordable units for clients, and caseworkers at both organizations will be available to all program participants should additional needs arise.

4A-3h.	Plan for Involving Survivors in Policy and Program Development of New PH-RRH and Joint TH and PH-RRH Component DV Bonus Projects.	
NOFO Section II.B.11.e.(1)(f)		

Describe in the field below how the new project(s) will involve survivors with a range of lived expertise in policy and program development throughout the project’s operation.

(limit 2,500 characters)

Like all CoC involved programs, the new project will be required to conduct client satisfaction surveys at least annually and provide examples of consumer feedback being utilized to improve service delivery. The CoC is also working to develop its qualitative data collection strategies more in FY23 through robust client surveys and more frequent focus group facilitation, which residents of this program would be targeted for. These initiatives are already gaining traction with lived-experience input activities currently scheduled at all City shelters, including the Domestic Violence Program, as well as some Transitional Housing Programs, to support the CoC's update to the Strategic Plan.

The CoC's Racial Equity Action Committee (REAC) is also crafting a sustainable and compensated public-policy engagement program for persons with lived experience, complete with supervision and professional development opportunities, which will establish a few paid positions within the CoC's for residents to share their lived expertise. Apart from advancing Racial Equity initiatives, this initiative will have the added benefits better involving residents with lived experience in CoC decision making and providing the CoC with a source of qualitative data on our programs and services.

If awarded, participants of Carpenter's new DV bonus project would be offered all consumer input opportunities being offered and would likely be specifically targeted as a source of DV lived experience that is not actively in housing crisis and have more capacity to provide thoughtful feedback.