

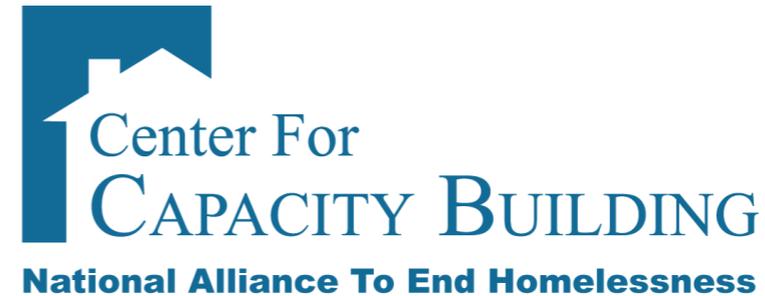
Reviewing and Ranking Projects



Cynthia Nagendra



The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonprofit, non-partisan, organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States. By improving policy, building capacity, and educating opinion leaders, the Alliance has become a leading voice on this issue.



The Alliance's Center for Capacity Building is leading the implementation of solutions that reduce homelessness in communities across the country. The Center accelerates the adoption of solutions that are cost effective, data driven, and that will ultimately accomplish the goal of ending homelessness.

Today's Webinar

HUD's policy priorities

Ranking projects

Tiering

Reallocation

Scoring criteria

Process for project review and rank

Kelly King Horne, Executive Director of Homeward,
Richmond, VA

Review and ranking process and tools

Three Things to Know

- 1) This is the most competitive NOFA ever
- 2) Performance on the goals to end homelessness is scored
- 3) Reallocation is important



HUD's Policy Priorities

Strategic Resource Allocation

HUD's Policy Priorities

Using performance and outcome data, CoCs should decide how to strategically use all federal and local resources available to end homelessness within their communities and allocate resources to effective interventions that reduce homelessness.

Ranking Projects

- CoCs will be required to rank all projects submitted by project applicants, *except CoC or planning projects or UFA costs*
- The list of ranked projects must include renewal projects, new projects created through reallocation, and permanent housing bonus projects
- CoCs should consider the policy priorities established in the NOFA in conjunction with local priorities to determine the ranking of projects.
- All projects must pass HUD's eligibility and threshold requirements to be funded, no matter their priority.

Ranking Projects

10 pts. for attaching objective criteria

3 pts. for considering past performance data from APRs or HMIS

3 pts. for considering the severity of needs experienced by program participants

3 pts. for public announcement of the ranked list, including published written policies and procedures. *The CoC's priority listing must be posted online.*

Ranking Projects

- Did your CoC review APRs for every renewal project?
- Which factors were used to review projects? (Check all that apply!)
 - Performance from APR/HMIS**
 - Length of stay
 - % PH exit destinations
 - % increase in income
 - Monitoring criteria**
 - Participant eligibility
 - Utilization rates
 - Drawdown rates
 - Funds recaptured by HUD
 - Need for specialized population services**
 - Youth
 - Domestic violence survivors
 - Families with children
 - Chronic homelessness
 - Veterans
- Review transitional housing projects for cost-effectiveness and performance in ending homelessness

Tier 1

TIER 1

The amount of funding available for Tier 1 is equal to 85 percent of the CoC's annual renewal demand. HUD will conditionally award projects from the highest scoring CoC to the lowest scoring CoC. Projects should be placed in priority order.

TIER 2

The amount of funding available for Tier 2 is equal to the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's annual renewal demand plus any amount available for the permanent housing bonus.

- Funding will be determined by the point value of each project application based on a 100 point scale.
- All Tier 2 projects will be funded in point order starting with the highest scoring projects

Tier 2

60 points: CoC Score (in direct proportion to the CoC application score)

20 points: CoC ranking of the project applications

10 points: Renewal and new Permanent Housing, renewal Safe Haven, Homeless Management Information System, Supportive Services Only for Coordinated Entry System, or Transitional Housing that exclusively serves homeless youth

3 points: Renewal Transitional Housing

1 point: Renewal Supportive Services Only project applications

10 points: Commitment to Housing First

Reallocation

What is Reallocation?

- The CoC's process to shift funds from existing CoC-funded renewal projects to create one or more new projects
- Done through the annual CoC Program Competition
- Creates new, evidence-informed projects by eliminating projects that are or are more appropriately funded from other sources

What is Reallocation?

- New project component
- New project type



Why reallocate?

- Right-size your system
- Important tool to make strategic improvements to your system
- CoCs are required to rank projects into Tier 1 and Tier 2

Types of Reallocation

- Funding from one project → New project operated by the same provider
- Funding from one project → New project operated by a different provider
- Funding from one project → Many new projects
- Funding from many projects → One new project
- Funding from many projects → Many new projects

What can you reallocate to?

- Reallocate from ***any type*** of renewal project to:
 - ✓ New permanent supportive housing projects that serve chronically homeless individuals and families
 - ✓ New rapid re-housing projects for homeless *individuals and families* who enter directly from the streets or emergency shelters, youth up to age 24, or fleeing/attempting to flee DV (Category 4)
 - ✓ New Supportive Services Only (SSO) project specifically for a centralized or coordinated assessment system
 - ✓ New dedicated HMIS project

Reallocation

You can reallocate
parts of projects.

You can ***voluntarily reallocate***

funds from your project without going
through a project review process.



Reallocation is **NOT**

- *NOT* a continuation of an old project serving the same clients with a new program name
- *NOT* when you want to make minor changes that can be made through grant amendments

Bonus projects!

- Create new projects through the permanent housing bonus
- Up to 15 percent of the CoC's FPRN for the following types of new projects:
 - Permanent supportive housing projects that will serve 100 percent chronically homeless families and individuals
 - Rapid re-housing projects that will serve homeless individuals and families coming directly from the streets or emergency shelters, and includes persons fleeing domestic violence situations and other persons meeting the criteria of paragraph (4) of the definition of homeless

How should a CoC make decisions
about ranking and reallocating
projects?

Step 1: Determine your community's priorities

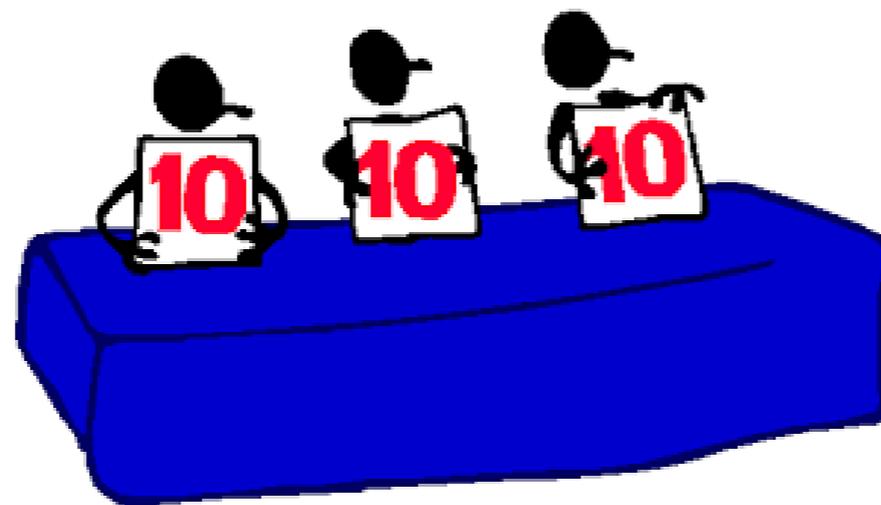
- What resources does our system need?
- How do we want to prioritize?
- What is our system-wide spending plan?
- What is in our strategic plan?
- What are our overall policy priorities?

Step 2: Develop an objective, performance-based review and rank process

- **Review and Rank Committee/Group**
 - The CoC Governance Board;
 - A CoC committee; or
 - A neutral entity that is familiar with the evaluation and monitoring of homeless services.
- **Solicit input from stakeholders from the beginning**
- **Inform CoC-funded projects and potential new applicants** so they can start collecting the data they need for the application.
- **Establish a panel of non-conflicted and knowledgeable stakeholders** that will review, score, and rank projects.
- **Prepare to engage in an appeals process, if needed.**

Step 3: Develop a scoring tool for evaluating projects

- Develop scoring criteria, related tools, and a local application that aligns with the CoC's strategic spending priorities, HUD's policy priorities, and the goals in [Opening Doors](#).



Step 3: Develop a scoring tool for evaluating projects

Performance from APR/HMIS

Length of stay

% PH exit destinations

% increase in income

Monitoring criteria

Participant eligibility

Utilization rates

Drawdown rates

Funds recaptured by HUD

Need for specialized population services

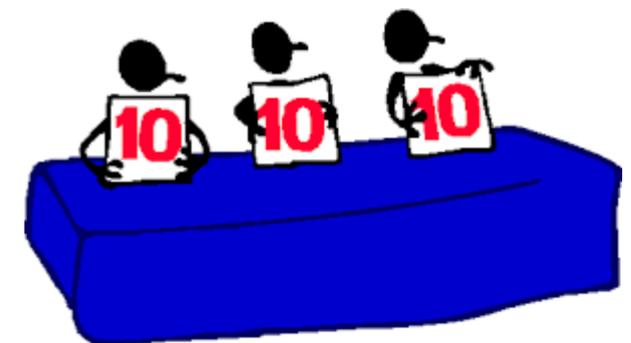
Youth

Domestic violence survivors

Families with children

Chronic homelessness

Veterans



Step 3: Develop a scoring tool for evaluating projects

Does the project prioritize the most vulnerable populations?

Does the project use a Housing First approach?

How well is the project performing in achieving outcomes?

- Rate of exits to permanent housing: For Permanent Housing and Transitional Housing, projects should at least meet the HUD goal of 80 percent housed at exit
- Increasing/maintaining income or connecting clients to educational opportunities
- Connecting clients to mainstream benefits
- Reducing average length of stay/homelessness

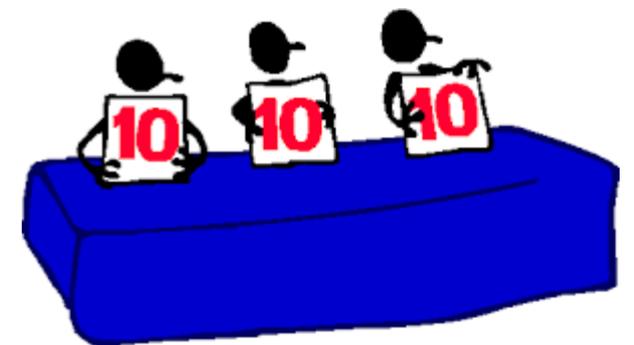
Does the project have strong HMIS participation and data quality?

Step 3: Develop a scoring tool for evaluating projects

Is the project cost-effective in comparison to similar projects?

Has the project improved its services or resolved issues from last year's review?

- Inclusion of consumer feedback
- Resolution past monitoring findings



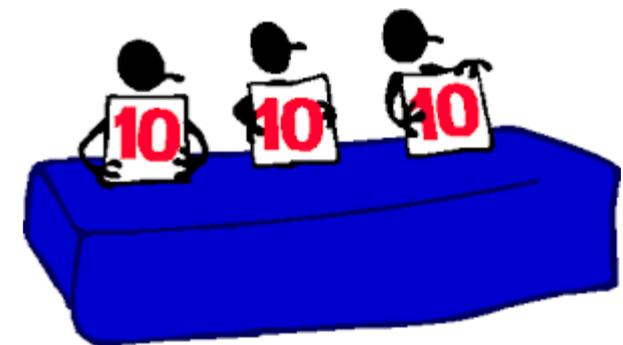
Step 3: Develop a scoring tool for evaluating projects

Does the project fully participate in the CoC's Coordinated Entry System?

Does the project participate in CoC meetings and workgroups?

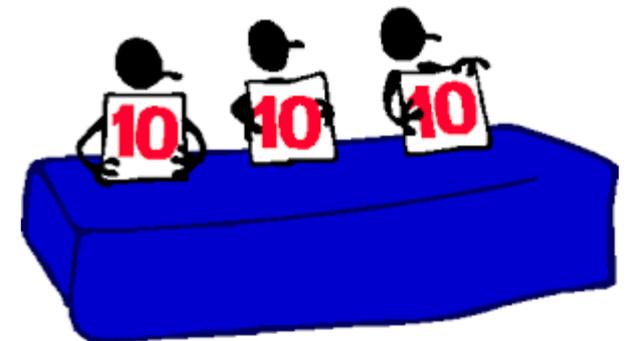
Does the project contribute towards goals and activities in the NOFA, Opening Doors, the CoC's strategic plan or 10 year plan?

If it is a new project, is it proposing a project that aligns with the CoC's needs, fills a gap in services, or shows good past performance in other projects?



Step 4: Review projects based on their performance

- Use CoC approved scoring criteria and selection priorities
- Determine the extent to which each project is still necessary and addresses the policy priorities listed in this NOFA.
- If it is transitional housing, is it low-barrier and does it serve the most vulnerable populations that are determined to be a good fit for transitional housing, such as youth, those fleeing DV, and people who choose to be in recovery?

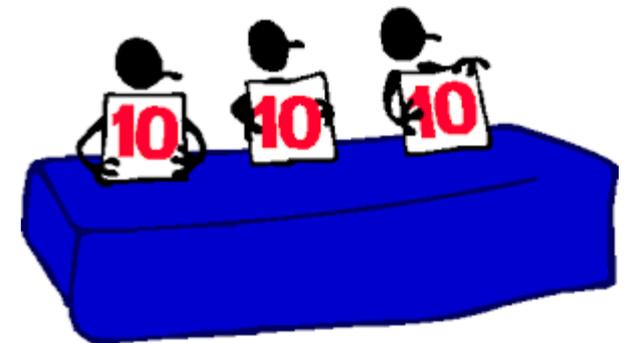


Step 5: Rank projects according to score



Resources

- <http://www.endhomelessness.org/library/entry/2015-continuum-of-care-nofa-resources>



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