Before Starting the Special CoC Application

You must submit both of the following parts in order for us to consider your Special NOFO Consolidated Application complete:
1. the CoC Application, and
2. the CoC Priority Listing.

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

As the Collaborative Applicant, you are responsible for reviewing the following:
1. The Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO) for specific application and program requirements.
2. The Special NOFO Continuum of Care (CoC) Application Detailed Instructions for Collaborative Applicants 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.

CoC Approval is Required before You Submit Your CoC's Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application
- 24 CFR 578.9 requires you to compile and submit the Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application 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 the [Specific Attachment Name] attachment to the 4A. 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

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

1A-1. CoC Name and Number: KS-507 - Kansas Balance of State CoC

1A-2. Collaborative Applicant Name: Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition

1A-3. CoC Designation: CA

1A-4. HMIS Lead: Kansas Housing Resources Corporation

1A-5.	New Projects	
	Complete the chart below by indicating which funding opportunity(ies) your CoC applying for projects under. A CoC may apply for funding under both set asides; however, projects funded through the rural set aside may only be used in rural areas, as defined in the Special NOFO.	
1.	Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside	Yes
2.	Rural Homelessness Set Aside	Yes

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

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

1B-1.	**Web Posting of Your CoC Local Competition Deadline–Advance Public Notice. (All Applicants)**	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Deadline attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC published the deadline for project application submission for your CoC's local competition.	07/28/2022

1B-2.	**Project Review and Ranking Process Your CoC Used in Its Local Competition. (All Applicants)**	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.a.	
	You must upload the Local Competition Scoring Tool attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ranked and selected new project applications during your CoC's 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).**	No

1B-3.	**Projects Rejected/Reduced–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)**	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
1.	**Did your CoC reject or reduce any project application(s)?**	No
2.	**Did your CoC inform the applicants why their projects were rejected or reduced?**	No
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, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.**	

1B-3a.	Projects Accepted–Notification Outside of e-snaps. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Notification of Projects Accepted attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC notified project applicants that their project applications were accepted and ranked on the New Priority Listings in writing, outside of e-snaps. If you notified applicants on various dates, list the latest date of any notification. For example, if you notified applicants on 6/26/22, 6/27/22, and 6/28/22, then you must enter 6/28/22.	09/30/2022

1B-4.	Web Posting of the CoC-Approved Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.1.b.	
	You must upload the Web Posting–Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	Enter the date your CoC posted its Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application on the CoC's website or affiliate's website–which included: 1. the CoC Application, and 2. Priority Listings.	10/18/2022

2A. System Performance

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

2A-1.	**Reduction in the Number of First Time Homeless–Risk Factors.**	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.b.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC determined which risk factors your CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;
2.	how your CoC addresses 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 or to end homelessness for individuals and families.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC determined risk factors in identifying persons experiencing homelessness for the first time by utilizing section 5.2 within the System Performance Measures, the Universe of entries in ES, SH, TH and PH shows an 80% increase from our last submitted data (2020: 1,185 2021: 2,142). For FY 2020, 92% of clients within that sampling did not have HMIS entries within the previous 24 months. For FY2021, that percentage increased to 94%.

2) Within that same timeframe, there were 1,116 Homeless Prevention enrollments active in HMIS. Of the 1,073 exits, 73% were to permanent destinations. In FY 2020, there were only 259 enrollments in Homeless Prevention (HP) projects within HMIS. The CoC addresses individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless through the CoC’s successful coordinated entry and HMIS strategies such as: regular regional case conferencing, emphasis on HMIS participation, and making tools like the HP VISPDAT available for the entirety of the CoC membership to utilize.

3) The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition as the Collaborate Applicant is responsible for overseeing the CoC’s strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time.

2A-2.	**Length of Time Homeless–Strategy to Reduce. (All Applicants)**	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.c.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;

2.	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)

1) The CoC's successful coordinated entry and HMIS strategies used to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless include regular regional case conferencing, an emphasis on HMIS participation, and through effective and efficient community engagement.

2) Individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time in homelessness identified in section 1.2 within the System Performance Measures, the Universe of persons in Emergency Shelters, Safe Havens, and Transitional Housing more than doubled. 625 individuals and persons were identified in 2020, and 1,276 were identified in 2021. That increase is largely in part to the addition of ESG CV temporary hotel/motel shelters within the system. Despite this increase in scale, the average length of time homeless, actually decreased from 59 nights in 2020 to 47 nights in 2021 for those three project types.

3) The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition as the Collaborate Applicant is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.

2A-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.d.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC will increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in:
1.	emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and
2.	permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC's successful coordinated entry and HMIS strategies used to increase the rate that individuals and persons residing in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing include regular regional case conferencing, an emphasis on HMIS participation, and through effective and efficient community engagement. Section 7b.1 within the System Performance Measures, the Universe of persons in ES, SH, TH, and RRH who exited increased by 77% year over year. While the overall percentage of those served who ended up in permanent housing dropped from 66% in 2020 to 51% in 2021, the 892 individuals and persons exiting to permanent housing in FY21 nearly makes up 91% universe of the 981 individuals and persons in FY20.

2) The CoC utilizes regular coordinated case conferencing, an emphasis on HMIS participation, and effective community engagement strategies such as housing navigation, and community resource development to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families in permanent supportive housing projects to retain their permanent housing or to exit to permanent housing destinations. Section 7b.2 within the System Performance Measures, the Universe of persons in PSH who exited decreased by 18% year over year. Of the ten that exited to non-permanent destination, four went to homeless situations, two went to temporary situations, one went to an institutional situation, one is now deceased, and data was not collected on the remaining two.

2A-4.	Returns to Homelessness–CoC's Strategy to Reduce Rate. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.e.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	how your CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness;
2.	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)

1) The CoC uses data from section 2a within the System Performance Measures, which includes exits to a permanent housing destination from Street Outreach (SO), Emergency Shelters (EH), Transitional Housing (TH), Safe Havens (SH), and Permanent Housing (PH), to identify individuals and families who return to homelessness. According to the data, there was a 10% return rate within two years. That consists of a 4% overall return rate for less than six months, 2% from 6 to 12 months, and 3% from 13 to 24 months. When examining these rates by project type, 55% of exits are coming from Permanent Housing projects and that return rate is only at 2%. However, when looking at Emergency Shelter, 54 of the 280 (19%) who exited to permanent destinations return to homelessness within 2 years. That return rate for Transitional Housing is 12% for two years. That accounts for six returns out of 50 exits: all of which coming in year two.

2) These positive outcomes are due to the CoC's successful strategies of holding regular regional coordinated entry case conferencing, an emphasis on HMIS participation, and through effective and efficient community engagement activities such as developing working and formal partnerships with street outreach teams and through partnerships with state and local mainstream benefit providers.

3) The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition as the Collaborative Applicant is responsible for overseeing the CoC's strategy to increase and reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.

2A-5.	Increasing Employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase employment cash sources;
2.	how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families 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)

1) Through the leadership of the CoC's Mainstream Benefits Workgroup the CoC has implemented numerous supports for the entirety of the CoC's membership to increase employment cash sources to connect individuals and families with programs such as: the Ks Economic & Employment Work Program sponsored by the Ks Dept. of Children and Families (DCF), temporary employment agencies, and regional supportive employment teams. The CoC also promotes access to regional community mental health providers who offer supportive employment and supportive education case management.

2) In a direct partnership with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) the CoC is strengthening member agencies efforts and case management through evidence-based practices. KDADS is in the process of cross training behavioral health providers on housing practices, employment assistance, and SOAR/mainstream benefits to ensure each case manager can offer support in all three areas. KDADS is also developing a relationship with Ks Legal Services for expungement to alleviate employment barriers. The CoC also provides referrals to Kansas workforce centers, vocational rehabilitation (work trial), job coaching, paid job training and workforce development. The CoC HMIS system tracks mainstream benefits, earned income and non-cash income and that information is accessible to KSHC staff to assess if additional concentrated efforts are needed within any of the respective regions. During the CoC regional planning meetings regional agencies develop regional strategies such as outreach to prospective employers and staffing agencies.

3) The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition, with support of Regional Coordinators and the CoC Mainstream Benefits workgroup is responsible for overseeing the CoC's employment strategy. The CoC promotes partnerships and access to employment opportunities with private employers and private employment organizations on a regional level. During the CoC regional planning meetings and CoC regional CES meetings CoC regional Coordinators and agency staff discuss prospective job leads, job fairs and other resources for program participants.

2A-5a.	**Increasing Non-employment Cash Income–Strategy. (All Applicants)**	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.2.f.	

	Describe in the field below:
1.	**the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase non-employment cash income;**
2.	**your CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources; and**
3.	**provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income.**

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC's partnership with (KDADS) and Community Mental Health Centers took on the effort to increase clients' connection to SOAR-Medicaid-Mainstream Benefit certified staff advocates. Through this formal partnership the KSHC employs a Housing Crisis team to effectively connect program participants needed non-employment resources and housing supports. The CoC Mainstream Benefits Workgroup has partnered with KDADS to increase access to benefits by expanding the statewide SOAR training for the entirety of the CoC membership. CoC member agencies also receive support for training of mainstream benefits, such as Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other mainstream benefits to ensure long-term sufficiency.

2) The CoC is provides guidance to allow all agencies to have access to SOAR staff training, to increase SOAR certified staffing and to provide support for SOAR and other mainstream benefits, as well as refer clients to additional support resources when appropriate. Case management plans include follow up and assistance with maintenance of benefits to ensure long-term self-sufficiency. The CoC is working to strengthen the efforts of the CoC mainstream benefit committee to ensure agencies have the support and training needed for this endeavor.

3) As stated in the MOU, KSHC as the collaborative applicant is the organization that is responsible for the oversight of this strategy. KSHC works closely with the CoC Mainstream Benefits workgroup, KDADS, Ks Dept. of Children and Families (DCF), Ks Dept. of Health and Environment (KDHE), Disability Determination Services (DDS), and Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA inc)., and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to ensure the implementation of this strategy.

2B. Coordination and Engagement–Inclusive Structure and Participation

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

2B-1.	Inclusive Structure and Participation–Participation in Coordinated Entry. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Sections VII.B.3.a.(1)	

	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 of 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.	CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
5.	CoC-Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
6.	Disability Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
7.	Disability Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
8.	Domestic Violence Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
9.	EMS/Crisis Response Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
10.	Homeless or Formerly Homeless Persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
11.	Hospital(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
12.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	No	No	No
13.	Law Enforcement	Yes	Yes	Yes
14.	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ+) Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
15.	LGBTQ+ Service Organizations	No	No	No
16.	Local Government Staff/Officials	Yes	Yes	Yes
17.	Local Jail(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
18.	Mental Health Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
19.	Mental Illness Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes

20.	Non-CoC Funded Youth Homeless Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
21.	Non-CoC-Funded Victim Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
22.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	Yes	Yes	Yes
23.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes	Yes	Yes
24.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
25.	Other homeless subpopulation advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
26.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes	Yes	Yes
27.	School Administrators/Homeless Liaisons	Yes	Yes	Yes
28.	Street Outreach Team(s)	Yes	Yes	Yes
29.	Substance Abuse Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
30.	Substance Abuse Service Organizations	Yes	Yes	Yes
31.	Youth Advocates	Yes	Yes	Yes
32.	Youth Service Providers	Yes	Yes	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)			
33.				
34.				

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

2B-2.	Open Invitation for New Members. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(2), V.B.3.g.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	communicated the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2.	ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;
3.	conducted outreach to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join your CoC; and
4.	invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, persons with disabilities).

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The KS Balance of State Continuum of Care (KS BoS CoC) developed a governance charter in 2020 and made revisions in 2021 and 2022. The Charter established a Membership and Nominations Committee that meets monthly to actively recruit diverse stakeholders representing all facets of the homeless service sector to the CoC general membership or to the CoC Steering Committee. New members are continuously solicited through announcements during the nine BoS-CoC regional planning meetings, through the BoS CoC Collaborative Applicant's email listserv that goes out to over 400 organizations across the BoS, on the KS BoS website and through social media platforms. CoC membership applications are made easily available and are posted on the CoC website.

2) To ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities, the BoS CoC made its website accessible to persons with disabilities through the AccessiBe platform. CoC meetings and sessions are recorded and placed on the website with closed captions, all meetings are provided with a virtual format for those with mobility issues.

3) The CoC actively recruits persons with lived experience to not only join the CoC membership but to participate in leadership and decision-making roles as part of the CoC Steering Committee, and on the board of directors of our funded agencies, in fact the CoC Steering Committee has the strongest representation of those with lived experience than any year past. The goal of the CoC is to establish a substantive voice for those with lived experience in throughout the CoC which includes outreach from the HMIS system. All households entered into HMIS are asked if they would like to provide input on policies or attend meetings in the CoC.

4) The CoC actively provides continuous invitations to organizations serving Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, LGBTQIA+, and persons with disabilities to participate in regional planning meetings, activities, regional and CoC wide decision-making roles. The CoC has created formal partnerships with the KS Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and has actively invited tribal nations to participate in CoC activities and leadership. The CoC Equity Committee is also currently re-designing, an invitation campaign aimed at ensuring inclusion and equity throughout our system, specifically geared towards Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, LGBTQIA+, and persons with disabilities.

2B-3.	**CoC's Strategy to Solicit/Consider Opinions on Preventing and Ending Homelessness. (All Applicants)**	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.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)

1) The CoC solicits and considers opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that know about homelessness or have an interest in preventing and ending homelessness by providing an opportunity for public comments on the CoC website. The CoC website offers a private feedback option for the public that allows for and encourages those who are interested to freely express their opinions in a welcoming and open environment. Regionally, service providers conduct various needs assessments aimed at garnering information from other types of service providers or anyone who has an interest in preventing and ending homelessness. Service providers are also invited and strongly encouraged to attend CoC Regional Planning meetings. In 2022, the CoC members attended the National Alliance to End homelessness national conference to learn from their peers, national advocacy organizations, and government officials on different aspects of preventing and ending homelessness.

2) All regional planning meetings, and CoC committee meetings are open to the public for all those interested in participating, these open meetings serve as open spaces to express questions, comments, and concerns regarding homelessness throughout the 101-county geographic area of the CoC. All CoC meetings including the CoC Statewide Call, Steering Committee meetings and General Committee meetings, and Regional Planning meetings are recorded and placed on the CoC website for public viewing.

3) The CoC regularly solicits input from its members to develop and establish policies and procedures. This happens during committee work, on the CoC website on the policy page, and the CoC public comment page. To promote adequate feedback the CoC has created Ad Hoc workgroups and/or subcommittees conducted by those with expressed strong interest in specific matters that takes place during the policy development process, such as when the Steering Committee established a special workgroup to construct the CoC Written Standards or HMIS Lead monitoring. The CoC uses the information it has gathered when developing and/or updating internal policies and procedures but also shares the information it garners when the CoC is providing advocacy to state, regional and local officials, as well as to other statewide planning committees.

2B-4.	Public Notification for Proposals from Organizations Not Previously Funded. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.a.(4)	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:
1.	that your CoC's local competition was open and accepting project applications;
2.	that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;
3.	about how project applicants must submit their project applications;
4.	about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and
5.	how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC notified the public that the CoC local competition was open and accepting new applications through several mediums for the Special NOFO. An announcement of available funding with the HUD Special NOFO information was posted on the KSHC website on 7/25/2022. A formal notice inviting all potential new applications was sent to the CoC on the CoC listserv on 8/3/22. Recipients were encouraged to forward the listserv communication to any organizations not previously funded that would be interested in applying for the FY22 Special NOFO Competition. The CoC has been clear and concise in all communications that the CoC will not only consider but encourage project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC program funding to address community gaps in the homeless system.

2) The CoC continuously endorses the need for new CoC applicants during Regional Planning meetings, committee meetings, the monthly CoC statewide call, and other community events where the CoC is present. The CoC's collaborative applicant, Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition (KSHC), held two informational webinars on the Special NOFO funding opportunities on July 21 & 22, 2022 for new applicants. As a result of our efforts, the Special NOFO submission includes nine (9) new applicants that have not received CoC funding in the past.

3) In 2022, the CoC approved a Rank and Review Policy and Procedures and Appeals Policy which explained the submission and evaluation process. KSHC provided a Special NOFO Applicant Meeting on August 11 for all organizations that submitted a Letter of Intent and from August 15th to August 19th provided one on one meetings to further explain the funding opportunities and how to write their applications. On August 22, KSHC required all Special NOFO Applicants to attend a Mandatory Training to assist applicants with creating their ESNAPS account and providing explanation for each component of the ESNAPS process.

4) The CoC approved a prioritization of PSH project applications and decided to submit all eligible applications to HUD for funding.

5) In 2022, the CoC made its website accessible through AccessiBe and all communications are posted there as well as through e-mail. Respective CoC meetings were also recorded and can be accessed via the CoC website.

2C. Coordination / Engagement–with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

2C-1.	Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.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 Planning or Operations of Projects
1.	Funding Collaboratives	Nonexistent
2.	Head Start Program	Yes
3.	Housing and services programs funded through Local Government	Yes
4.	Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC)	Yes
5.	Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations	Yes
6.	Housing and services programs funded through State Government	Yes
7.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Yes
8.	Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)	Yes
9.	Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)	Yes
10.	Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations)	No
11.	Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color	No
12.	Organizations led by and serving LGBTQ+ persons	Yes
13.	Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities	Yes
14.	Private Foundations	Yes
15.	Public Housing Authorities	Yes
16.	Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)	Yes
17.	Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	Yes
	Other:(limit 50 characters)	
18.		

2C-2.	CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.b.	

	Describe in the field below how your CoC:
1.	consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG 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 to address homelessness within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in Consolidated Plan update.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The KSHC staff consults regularly with the ESG Program recipient, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (KHRC), in CoC planning efforts. KSHC and KHRC coordinated the development of performance and evaluation standards for ESG-funded activities as well as developing the CoC's written standards. A standing agenda item on the monthly CoC meetings is for the ESG Program Manager to provide updates on ESG activities, as well as receive questions and direction from CoC members related to planning efforts.

2) The ESG Program Manager participates in the CoC regional meetings to further ESG and CoC planning, evaluation, and collaboration efforts. Collaboration and evaluation with the ESG Program recipient are further enhanced by KHRC serving as the HMIS Lead for the CoC. As such, the ESG Program Manager, the CoC HMIS Oversight Committee Chair, a representative from the Veteran's Administration, a representative from the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, a representative from the Department for Aging and Disability Services, and staff from Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition, representing the Collaborative Applicant and HMIS system administration, meet weekly to review and evaluate HMIS data quality for the CoC including ESG and ESG-CV performance. CoC policy dictates that KSHC monitors ESG sub-recipients regularly. KHRC is heavily involved in developing and updating all CoC policies and procedures and was actively involved in developing new Written Standards for the KS BoS CoC as well as updating all HMIS Policies and procedures.

3) The BoS CoC's four consolidated plan jurisdictions and the CoC have ongoing collaborative efforts in planning and providing annual PIT/HIC data to HMIS. The CoC submits annual PIT & HIC Data to each of the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions, as well as service capacity, provider network information, and the annual Gap Analysis.

4) The members of the four consolidated plan jurisdictions and the CoC are continuously working together at informing the development of the Consolidated Plan including but not limited to participating in monthly CoC committees, subcommittees, and regional and standing committees. The CoC submitted its annual Gap Analysis to each jurisdiction and submitted requested data from HMIS to inform their planning.

2C-3.	Discharge Planning Coordination. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.c.	
	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

2C-4.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.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

2C-4a.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–SEAs, LEAs, School Districts–Formal Partnerships. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.d.	
	Describe in the field below:	
1.	how your CoC collaborates with the entities checked in Question 2C-4; and	
2.	the formal partnerships your CoC has with the entities checked in Question 2C-4.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC Governance Charter designates a seat on the CoC Steering committee for the education community. The seat is currently being filled by a representative of the school district in Salina Kansas who has immense connections to several of the school districts within the CoC 101 county geographic area. In addition to the designated educational community seat, the Executive Director from the Kansas Head Start Association serves on the CoC Steering Committee.

2) In addition, the CoC, through KSHC as its collaborative applicant, will have Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with all its CoC-Funded Agencies through the Special NOFO. This MOU will establish policies and practices that are consistent with, and do not restrict, the exercise of rights provided by, the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act, and that is consistent with other laws relating to the provision of educational and related services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The CoC Written standards specifically outline that funded agencies are required to employ a dedicated staff person to ensure that all program participants have adequate access to the participant's educational needs. CoC Regional Coordinators along with KSHC's Director of Community Engagement and the education Steering Committee member serve as direct resources for all CoC member organizations to ensure that children are enrolled in school and connected to appropriate services within the community, including early childhood programs such as Head Start, Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and McKinney-Vento education services. Also, the CoC has executed an MOU with the Kansas Head Start Association to cross-train on each other's systems and to fill seats on each other's leadership committees.

2C-4b.	CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth–Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility for Educational Services. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.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)

Through the executed MOU between KSHC and funded agencies, the CoC requires funded agency programs to inform families and unaccompanied youth of their educational rights, enroll all children in early childhood education programs, or in school, as appropriate, and connect to appropriate services in the community. The funded agency is required to designate in policy who has the responsibility to educate and inform the responsible party of the educational services that are available and/or are needed. In most cases programs have designated the participant's case manager for this role. Program staff have established relationships with area school districts to assist with enrollment and connect with the liaison and/or educational provider for the youth in the home. The funded agency program also has the responsibility to ensure children in the home are enrolled and maintain enrollment. The CoC Monitoring & Technical Assistance Guidelines outlines the monitoring process that KSHC utilizes to ensure that funded agency programs adhere to the executed MOU and all established CoC policies and procedures. The adopted CoC Monitoring & Technical Assistance Guidelines also encourages funded agencies to request Technical Assistance through KSHC to establish these formal relationships if agencies need assistance. The MOU with funded agencies also tasks KSHC, as the collaborative applicant, to ensure that CoC adopted policies and practices are consistent with, and do not restrict the exercise of rights provided by the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Act and are consistent with other laws relating to the provision of educational and related services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

2C-5.	Mainstream Resources–CoC Training of Project Staff. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

Indicate in the chart below whether your CoC trains project staff annually on the following mainstream resources available for program participants within your CoC's geographic area:

	Mainstream 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	Yes

2C-5a.	Mainstream Resources–CoC Collaboration with Project Staff Regarding Healthcare Organizations. (All Applicants)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.B.3.e.	

	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 to assist program participants with enrolling in health insurance;
3.	provides assistance to project staff with the effective use of Medicaid and other benefits; and
4.	works with projects to promote SOAR certification of program staff.

(limit 2,500 characters)

1) The CoC Mainstream Benefits Workgroup (MBW) provides up-to-date information and training to the entirety of the CoC membership regarding mainstream resources. The workgroup regularly provides virtual presentations performed by mainstream benefit providers and experts, such as Wichita State University's ombudsman's office, the 3 Medicaid Managed Care Organizations, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), and Kansas Works. Through a formal partnership with KDADS the CoC is exhibiting a seminar series for Transitional Aged Youth on preventing homelessness and substance misuse. The first part of the series offered mainstream resource information regarding education, employment, substance abuse, healthcare, financial literacy, and housing prevention. All presentations are recorded and placed on the CoC website for public viewing.

2) The Mainstream Benefits Workgroup strongly markets its training to project staff who assist program participants in locating, applying for, and receiving appropriate healthcare resources. The CoC works collaboratively with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, 3 Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO's), Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), local substance abuse treatment providers, and local mental health centers to ensure program participant access to needed healthcare services. This Workgroup creates enhanced training for program staff to make appropriate referrals for direct support, to link clients to appropriate resources.

3) The CoC provides numerous tools to project staff for the effective use of Medicaid and other benefits. These tools include live and recorded virtual training, printer friendly handouts and appropriate contact information to CoC benefit expert partners for project staff to contact with any questions.

4) The CoC, in strong partnership with KDADS, strongly encourages all CoC member agencies to have SOAR certified staff to deliver SOAR services to qualified program participants. Through its partnership with KDADS, the CoC regularly and continuously produces regular material on topics such as obtaining SOAR certifications, SAMHSA published information, and other continued educational opportunities. New in 2022, the collaborative applicant, Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition, hired a "boundary spanner" to work with persons with severe service needs. Along with helping to navigate individuals to housing and services, the boundary spanner is SOAR certified and completes SSI/SSDI applications.

3A. New Projects With Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3A-1.	**Rehabilitation/New Construction Costs–New Projects. (Rural Set Aside Only).**	
	Special NOFO Section VII.A.	

If the answer to the question below is yes, you must upload the CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
Is your CoC requesting funding for any new project(s) under the Rural Set Aside for housing rehabilitation or new construction costs?	Yes

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

The CoC Special NOFO page provides HUD-approved resources to assist you in completing the Special NOFO CoC Application, including:

- Special Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness
- 24 CFR part 578
- Special NOFO CoC Application Navigational Guide
- Section 3 Resources
- Frequently Asked Questions

3B-1.	Designating SSO/TH/Joint TH and PH-RRH Component Projects to Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special 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

3B-2.	Serving Persons Experiencing Homelessness as Defined by Other Federal Statutes. (Rural Set Aside Only)	
	Special NOFO Section VII.C.	
	You must upload the Project List for Other Federal Statutes attachment to the 4A. Attachments Screen.	
	If you answered yes to question 3B-1, describe in the field below:	
1.	how serving this population is of equal or greater priority, which means that it is equally or more cost effective in meeting the overall goals and objectives of the plan submitted under Section 427(b)(1)(B) of the Act, especially with respect to children and unaccompanied youth than serving the homeless as defined in paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of the definition of homeless in 24 CFR 578.3; and	
2.	how your CoC will meet requirements described in Section 427(b)(1)(F) of the Act.	

(limit 2,500 characters)

4A. Attachments Screen For All Application Questions

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

Document Type	Required?	Document Description	Date Attached
1B-1. Local Competition Announcement	Yes	Local Competition...	09/08/2022
1B-2. Local Competition Scoring Tool	Yes	Local Competition...	10/18/2022
1B-3. Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced	Yes	Notification of P...	10/13/2022
1B-3a. Notification of Projects Accepted	Yes	Notification of P...	10/13/2022
1B-4. Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application	Yes	Special NOFO CoC ...	10/18/2022
3A-1. CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs	No	CoC Letter Suppor...	10/18/2022
3B-2. Project List for Other Federal Statutes	No		
P-1. Leveraging Housing Commitment	No	Leveraging Housin...	10/18/2022
P-1a. PHA Commitment	No	PHA Commitment	10/18/2022
P-3. Healthcare Leveraging Commitment	No	Healthcare Levera...	10/18/2022
P-9c. Lived Experience Support Letter	No	Lived Experience ...	10/18/2022
Plan. CoC Plan	Yes	CoC Plan	10/18/2022

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Deadline Webposting

Attachment Details

Document Description: Local Competition Scoring Tools

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Projects Rejected-Reduced

Attachment Details

Document Description: Notification of Projects Accepted

Attachment Details

Document Description: Special NOFO CoC Consolidated Application

Attachment Details

Document Description: CoC Letter Supporting Capital Costs

Attachment Details

Document Description:

Attachment Details

Document Description: Leveraging Housing Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: PHA Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: Healthcare Leveraging Commitment

Attachment Details

Document Description: Lived Experience Support Letters

Attachment Details

Document Description: CoC Plan

Submission Summary

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

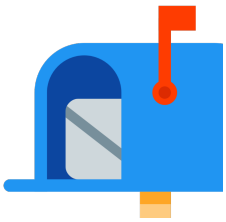
Page	Last Updated
1A. CoC Identification	09/27/2022
1B. Project Review, Ranking and Selection	10/18/2022
2A. System Performance	10/18/2022
2B. Coordination and Engagement	10/18/2022
2C. Coordination and Engagement–Con't.	10/18/2022
3A. New Projects With Rehab/New Construction	No Input Required
3B. Homelessness by Other Federal Statutes	10/14/2022
4A. Attachments Screen	10/18/2022
Submission Summary	No Input Required

Shanae Eggert

From: Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition <seggert@kshomeless.com>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:00 PM
To: Shanae Eggert
Subject: Special NOFO

Special NOFO

Preliminary Priority Listings
NOW AVAILABLE



Unsheltered Set Aside Priority Listing

Rural Set Aside Priority Listing

All submitted Special NOFO Project Applications were approved for funding, none were rejected or reduced.

Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition | 2001 Haskell Ave, Lawrence, KS 66046

Unsubscribe seggert@kshomeless.com

Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by seggert@kshomeless.com powered by

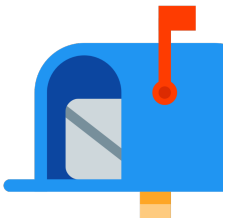
Try email marketing for free today!

Shanae Eggert

From: Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition <seggert@kshomeless.com>
Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 12:00 PM
To: Shanae Eggert
Subject: Special NOFO

Special NOFO

Preliminary Priority Listings
NOW AVAILABLE



Unsheltered Set Aside Priority Listing

Rural Set Aside Priority Listing

All submitted Special NOFO Project Applications were approved for funding, none were rejected or reduced.

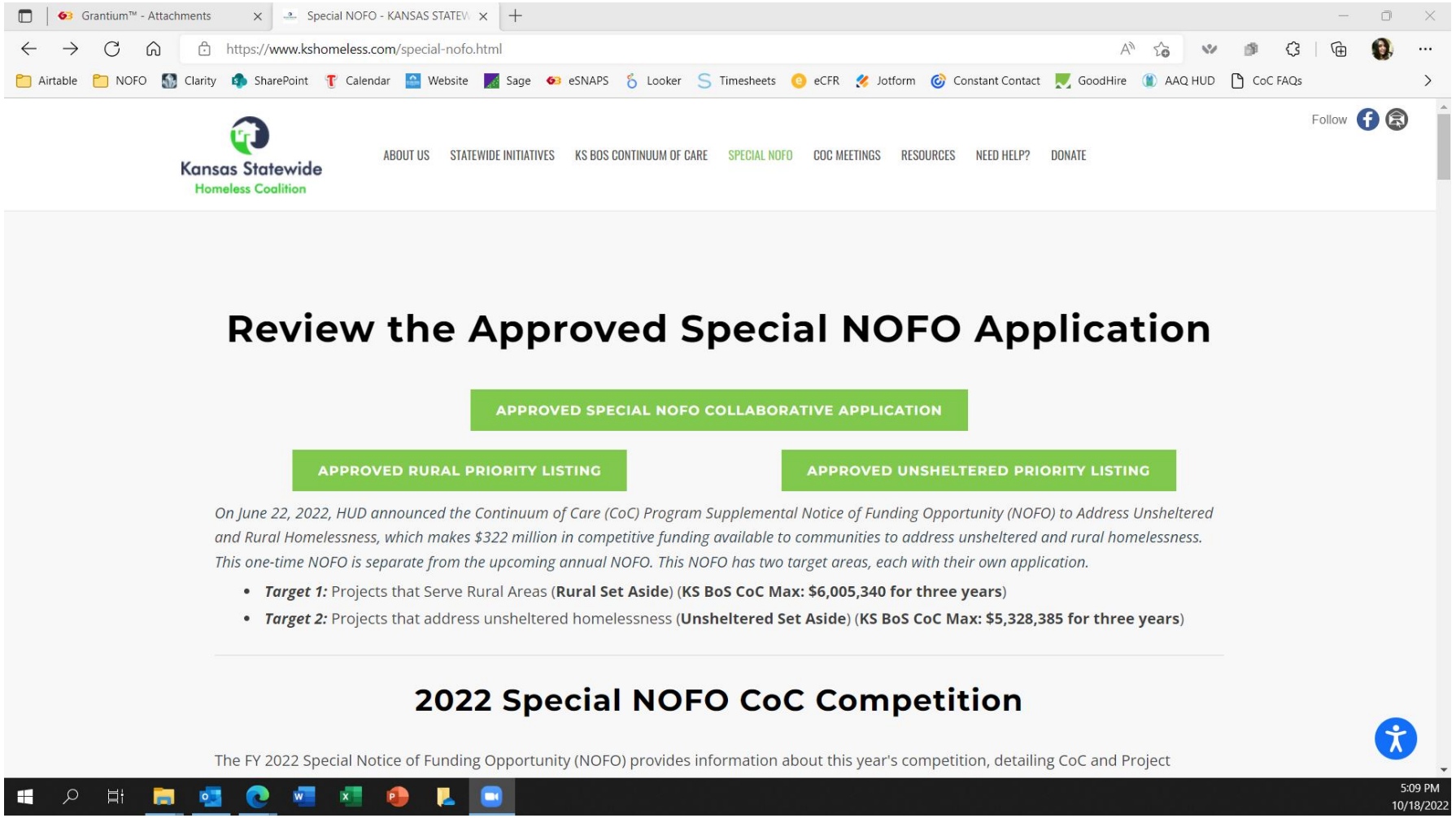
Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition | 2001 Haskell Ave, Lawrence, KS 66046

Unsubscribe seggert@kshomeless.com

Update Profile | Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent by seggert@kshomeless.com powered by

Try email marketing for free today!


Grantium™ - Attachments
Special NOFO - KANSAS STATEW
https://www.kshomeless.com/special-nofo.html
Airtable
NOFO
Clarity
SharePoint
Calendar
Website
Sage
eSNAPS
Looker
Timesheets
eCFR
Jotform
Constant Contact
GoodHire
AAQ HUD
CoC FAQs
Kansas Statewide
Homeless Coalition
ABOUT US
STATEWIDE INITIATIVES
KS BOS CONTINUUM OF CARE
SPECIAL NOFO
COC MEETINGS
RESOURCES
NEED HELP?
DONATE
Follow
Review the Approved Special NOFO Application
APPROVED SPECIAL NOFO COLLABORATIVE APPLICATION
APPROVED RURAL PRIORITY LISTING
APPROVED UNSHELTERED PRIORITY LISTING
On June 22, 2022, HUD announced the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to Address Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness, which makes $322 million in competitive funding available to communities to address unsheltered and rural homelessness. This one-time NOFO is separate from the upcoming annual NOFO. This NOFO has two target areas, each with their own application.
Target 1: Projects that Serve Rural Areas (Rural Set Aside) (KS BoS CoC Max: $6,005,340 for three years)
Target 2: Projects that address unsheltered homelessness (Unsheltered Set Aside) (KS BoS CoC Max: $5,328,385 for three years)
2022 Special NOFO CoC Competition
The FY 2022 Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) provides information about this year's competition, detailing CoC and Project
5:09 PM
10/18/2022

Kansas Statewide
Homeless Coalition

October 14, 2022

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street S.W.,
Washington, DC 20410

RE: Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition's (KSHC) Consolidated Application for the Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity to Address Unsheltered Homelessness including the Rural Set Aside and Unsheltered Set Aside funding

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care (KS BoS CoC), the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition is writing to express the KS BoS CoC's support for McPherson Housing Coalition, Inc. to construct seven cottages in McPherson, KS for the Oak Street Development. The KS BoS CoC General Membership voted anonymously on September 7th to approve this Capital Construction Project in our CoC.

Sincerely,

Christy McMurphy
Executive Director

2001 Haskell Ave. Lawrence, KS 66046
Staff@kshomeless.com
www.kshomeless.com

KS BoS CoC Plan for Serving Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs

Vision

The Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care (KS BoS CoC) has put forth efforts to reduce the number of individuals experiencing street/unsheltered homelessness; as well as those with a history of unsheltered homelessness and severe service needs. The development of the plan included both survey questions and a broad geographic participation to ensure coverage across the 101 counties within the KS BoS CoC. The overarching objective of this plan is to provide a framework for the CoC to implement strategies aimed at the reduction of unsheltered homelessness and to streamline resources to those of the highest severe service needs.

KS BoS CoC's Priorities in the Plan

- All applicants must demonstrate a community-wide commitment to the project. Therefore, applicants will be asked to identify partners in the development of the application and in the administration of the project.
- All applicants, excluding HMIS projects, must leverage housing, healthcare, mental healthcare and/or access to mainstream benefits in the operation of the project.
- All applicants, excluding HMIS projects, must develop or implement the CoC wide Landlord Recruitment/Engagement Strategy.
- All applicants, excluding HMIS projects, must describe how their project will implement Housing First principles and practices.
- All applicants, excluding HMIS and CoC Planning projects, will participate in the Coordinated Entry System and have a representative at the Regional Case Conferencing Meetings.
- All applicants must take an active role in identifying, engaging, and serving persons who are unsheltered, persons with histories of unsheltered homelessness and people with severe service needs.
- All applicants, excluding HMIS and CoC Planning projects, must prioritize people who are unsheltered, or with histories of unsheltered homelessness, and people with severe service needs.
- Supportive Services Only (SSO) Projects must provide information (i.e., eligibility requirements, location, access procedures) about all available low-barrier shelter or permanent housing opportunities within their region. Regions are required to list these services in the CoC Regional Plans.
- Street outreach activities must be strategic, culturally appropriate and coordinated. It should also strive to immediately resolve their housing crisis as part of a larger, community-wide housing strategy, with access to housing resources.
- Each outreach project will provide their individual outreach frequency including the days and times in their application.
- All applicants must describe how the project will identify and serve "underserved" communities, or those communities that have not previously been served by the homeless system at the same rate that they experience homelessness in the community.
- All applicants will assist households with providing connections to low-barrier and culturally appropriate temporary accommodations (e.g., emergency shelter, non-congregate shelter, transitional housing) as available.

- All applicants must demonstrate how persons with lived experience of homelessness (PWLE) will meaningfully contribute to the project design and administration of the project.
- All applicants must agree to update their operational strategies dependent on data and performance measures every year for the initial term of their grant.
- All applicants are encouraged to employ staff who can assist individuals with their SSI/SSDI applications through the SSI/SSDI Outreach Assessment and Referral (SOAR) process.
- Supportive Services Only (SSO) projects are encouraged to form partnerships that would connect their program participants to housing and healthcare resources.
- Street Outreach projects are encouraged to incorporate business owners, law enforcement, healthcare providers and mental health partners into its street outreach strategies.
- Street Outreach projects are encouraged to hire those with lived experience of homelessness to conduct street outreach activities.

P-1c. Landlord Recruitment

P-1c (1.) – Current Strategy:

Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care does not have a CoC-wide strategy for landlord recruitment that covers the entire 101-county geographic area. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the housing crisis and led to unprecedented economic and housing instability across the state of Kansas. However, the individual agencies within the CoC have conducted community level landlord engagement to assist program participants with finding housing and providing landlord recruitment. In rural areas, housing service providers have to rely heavily on their relationships with landlords because there is low housing stock and minimal rental opportunities. While every county in the Kansas Balance of State has not implemented each of the following landlord recruitment strategies, it is the goal of the KS BoS CoC to implement each of them as resources improve over the next three years.

- Provide landlord engagement, education, and outreach efforts.
- Employ full time landlord liaisons to provide mediation and assistance to identify units. The housing authority employs these liaisons.
- Building a list of landlords that are willing to rent to persons in supportive housing programs.
- Provide referrals and online resources to find landlords who are willing to take housing vouchers.
- Provide a monthly list of open units in the community.
- Advocate for the program participant with landlords to attempt to have them accept the household that do not meet their normal criteria for tenancy.
- Agencies attempt to find resources to dedicate staff time to provide housing navigation services to develop landlord relationships and tracking vacancies.
- Develop relationships with local housing authorities, inform potential landlords of the benefits of participating in Section 8 programs, and inform landlords of agency benefits such as case management, home visits, landlord/tenant mediation, and assistance with a move out if issues cannot be resolved.

- Encourage landlords to inform housing providers of units as they become available.

P-1c (1.a.) – Overall Strategy Performance:
This strategy has worked well to identify units to house 786 households from September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022, across the entire KS BoS CoC geographic area.

P-1c (1.b.) – Strategy Performance in Historically Underserved Areas:
While this strategy worked well to identify new units in areas where the CoC has not historically been able to identify units; however, it has not been accomplished at a rate sufficient to address the need. Most of these landlord engagement strategies are operating while underfunded or entirely unfunded. Therefore, organizations attempting to house those experiencing homelessness are forced to add these practices on top of case managers who are already at full capacity. Organizations that serve areas with a higher concentration of subsidized and/or affordable housing tend to identify more units than areas with lower amounts of subsidized or affordable housing opportunities.

One of the primary goals for the KS BoS CoC will be to establish and strengthen relationships with landlords and property management companies that have not historically accepted tenant based rental assistance to improve the move in rates and length of time homeless performance measures.

P-1c (2.) – New Practices:
The introduction of EHV programs and ESG-CV-2 programs added new practices and resources within the past three years. These practices included the implementation of the following:

1. Hiring of Housing Navigators
2. Risk Mitigation Funds
3. Hiring of Landlord Liaison Managers
4. Landlord-Tenant Mediation
5. Rental Availability Lists
6. Landlord Risk Reduction Program
7. Landlord Lease-Up Funds

Communities in the KS BoS CoC report the following lessons learned from implementing these new practices:

- In communities with universities, the competition for rental units is high which requires incentives for landlords to rent to those experiencing homelessness over the student population.
- The new programs and processes must have a seamless process for both landlords and tenants to successfully transition them from homelessness to a unit designated for a housing program.
- Organizations had to perform a more intensive landlord recruitment in the midst of COVID including negotiating lower rents to meet FMR and reaching out to landlords that normally don't work with rental assistance programs.
- Organizations adopted a "Drive By" approach to find housing units that were not listed on normal housing list websites.
- Provide non-financial incentives such as recognition awards.

P-1c (3.) – Updating Landlord Recruitment Strategy:
The CoC plans to collect data and input utilizing surveys from recipients and subrecipients of HUD funded programs as well as from individuals experiencing homelessness. To update this landlord recruitment strategy, the CoC will utilize HMIS and CES data to determine the success rates of program with landlord incentives and when they are not. These data elements include:

- Length of time homeless from initial identification to move in date
- Percentage rates of successful move ins
- CES Exits to permanent housing destinations

Additional data elements outside of HMIS will include:

- Utilization rates of Emergency Housing Vouchers
- Number of total and new landlord partnerships
- Location of properties renting to housing program participants

---

P-3. Current Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

P-3a & 3b – Current Street Outreach Strategy
The 2022 Point-in-Time count showed that the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care has experienced an increase of 14% from the 2020 count and the sheltered count decreased by 7%. Discussions resolving around the reasoning behind these results point towards the COVID pandemic. Shelters had to reduce capacity to slow the spread of COVID which led to more individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The KS BoS CoC does not have a CoC-wide street outreach strategy; however, regions have reported the implementation of the following strategies:

- Organize street outreach teams funded through PATH programs.
- Employ housing program coordinators and staff to areas where those who are unsheltered are residing or visiting and connect them to the homeless crisis system through the Coordinated Entry System.
- Providing referrals to emergency shelters.
- Provide in person case management services.
- Partner with a broader network of programs, services, or staff who are likely to encounter individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Including law enforcement, first responders, hospitals, behavioral healthcare providers, child welfare agencies, homeless education liaisons, community health action teams, workforce systems, faith-based organizations, local businesses, and other community-based organizations.
- Combine street outreach with providing basic necessities such as bus passes, food, hygiene products, clothes, and assistance to get state identification.
- Host events to provide those experiencing unsheltered homelessness with hot meals, free groceries, toiletries, and haircuts.
- Provide education to the community regarding homelessness such as speaking to representatives of other agencies, organizations, churches, businesses and speaking at events.
- Advocate to ensure the decriminalization of homelessness such as encampments and trespassing ordinances in parks.

- Coordinate a mobile canteen to travel to areas where individuals are experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- Provide information designed to identify unsheltered victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
- Invest time in building trusting relationships with those experiencing unsheltered homelessness or with histories of homelessness.
- Developing pilot programs for people with lived experienced to become Peer Support Specialist for Street Outreach.
- Provide educational trainings to Outreach teams on public health responses to pandemic circumstances and other public health concerns.

P-3a (1.) – Outreach Teams

Street outreach teams utilize coordinated outreach efforts begin by identifying encampment areas and assigning outreach workers to travel to those sites to provide direct services. The street outreach teams meet those experiencing unsheltered homelessness wherever they are at and enter them into the Coordinated Entry System (CES). These teams will coordinate with a broad network of programs, services, and staff who are likely to encounter individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness. The teams work with the street outreach programs include law enforcement, first responders, hospitals, behavioral healthcare providers, child welfare agencies, homeless education liaisons, community health action teams, workforce systems, faith-based organizations, and other community-based organizations. As the KS BoS CoC has a wide geographic need and opportunities, each CoC region will detail what outreach activities and practices are available in their Regional Plans.

P-3a (2.) – Outreach Frequency

Street Outreach will be conducted by outreach teams three to four days a week between Monday to Friday. The outreach teams will target areas where households experiencing unsheltered homelessness reside or frequently visit such as soup kitchens, day shelters, food banks and etc. The frequency of the outreach varies because Outreach projects are operated by different organizations. Each outreach project will provide their individual outreach frequency including the days and times in their application.

P-3a (3.) – Help People Exit Homelessness and Unsheltered Homelessness

After a new household has been identified as homeless, a CES assessment is completed, and the information is reported into HMIS. For Victim Service Providers (VSPs), they enter the assessment for those fleeing from domestic violence into an HMIS comparable database. Once the CES assessment has been conducted and entered into the system, the staff worker adds the individuals and families onto the Regional Coordinated Entry Queue also known as the Community Queue. This Community Queue is based on the regional boundaries of the Kansas Balance of State Continuum of Care. Each community queue provides a CES list that is reviewed and updated during Regional Case Conferencing meetings. These meetings are centered around the providers within each region coming together to either refer individuals and families experiencing homelessness to housing opportunities or to assist in a households' transition from homelessness by providing case conferencing/connections to mainstream benefits.

P-3a (4.) – Culturally Appropriate Strategy for those with the Highest Vulnerabilities

Regional Case Conferencing meetings not only assist households directly into permanent housing but to also ensure that the connection is culturally appropriate. To ensure appropriate linkages, all regional providers attend their Regional Case Conferencing to discuss the following:

- Who has the highest vulnerabilities?
- Are there households on the list with vulnerabilities that were not reflected in CES assessment such as traumatic brain injuries, developmental disabilities, or other circumstances that may led to a greater chance of death?
- Who is currently working with the household?
- Did the household receive any past services that were unsuccessful? If so, what should we do different to have a successful outcome?
- Which mainstream referrals should be best suited to assist in the housing process? (i.e., referrals to mental health providers, community health workers, substance abuse services, etc.)
- Are there communication barriers?

These culturally appropriate case conferencing strategies connect households to services and ensure collaboration with the household to accomplish the housing goals. In addition, the CES list does not disclose race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation to ensure the equality of referrals and services.

P-3a (5.) – Use Outreach Teams to Connect Households to Permanent Housing
Outreach teams connect households to permanent housing by utilizing the Coordinated Entry System (CES) and operating as a mobile Access Point or connecting them to the CES Lead Agency's Remote CES Assessment Process. This assessment is the common assessment used by the entire KS BoS CoC geographical area to determine vulnerabilities and acuity. During the Regional Case Conferencing meetings, referrals to permanent housing opportunities are provided in accordance with the CES Policies and Procedures and CoC Priorities.

P-3a (6.) – Hire Persons with Lived Expertise to Conduct Street Outreach
Engaging the unsheltered population requires a specific skill set and knowledge regarding the struggles of mental illness, chronic substance abuse, victimization, the trauma of abuse, etc. The KS BoS CoC is encouraging projects to hire persons with lived expertise of homelessness by providing bonus points in the Rank and Review process to projects that commit to this.

P-3.b. Current Strategy to Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Shelter and Temporary Housing for Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

P-3b (1.) – Current Strategy to Provide Low-Barrier Shelter and Temporary Housing:
The CoC's current strategy to provide immediate access to low-barrier shelter and temporary housing for individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness includes the following:

- Provide immediate access to shelter and temporary housing as beds become available.
- Providing motel vouchers while those experiencing homelessness are waiting on housing availabilities.
- Building partnerships with Street Outreach teams to move those experiencing unsheltered homelessness directly into shelter or hotels.

- Immediate connection to Coordinated Entry partners and access points.
- Providing specialized access to emergency shelter resources to all survivors fleeing domestic violence, sexual violence, and/or stalking. While Domestic Violence Shelters are not available in each county, every county in Kansas is covered by a local Victim Service Provider. Organizations can provide transportation to the nearest Domestic Violence shelter or provide gas cards.
- Provide transportation, dependent on available funding, to the nearest city with emergency shelters if the city does not have one.
- Temporary housing opportunities follows a Housing First approach.
- New Jerusalem in Newton County allows men with criminal records and SUD disorders.
- Assist those experiencing homelessness to pay for residential fees at Prairie View Shared Living with the assistance with KDADs Supported Housing Funds.
- The Lawrence Community Shelter in Douglas County has reduced barriers to accessing shelter such as changing ban policies, no longer issuing long term bans, and no longer doing background checks. As well as analyzing shelter rules to determine if it is for safety or control, if leadership determines a rule does not have a safety component it is deemed unnecessary.

P-3b (2.) – Overall Strategy Performance:
The CoC has experienced a difficult time incorporating temporary housing accommodations such as emergency shelters, transitional housing, and motel vouchers due to the large rural geographical area of Kansas where these services do not exist, or the nearest services may be hours away from where the homeless household originated. Due to this scarcity, homeless households are experiencing low shelter/transitional bed availability if there is a shelter nearby and hotel vouchers do not last long enough to end their homelessness. However, in counties that have emphasized the vital need for shelter and temporary housing especially during high-risk seasons (summer and winter) these counties have sheltered hundreds of individuals and families. The influx of emergency hotel vouchers from ESG CV also showed the widespread need for the continuation of temporary accommodations.

P-3b (3.) – New Practices:
Within the CoC Plan Survey, respondents listed the following new practices:

- Housing providers partnering with shelters to provide full rounded case management which assists shelters in providing extensions.
- Butler Homeless Initiative opened a Day Shelter which provides additional opportunities to create deeper relationships with clients and stronger partnerships with employers, landlords, property managers, mental health clinics, substance abuse centers, housing assistance programs, etc.
- Creating non-congregate shelters.
- Adopting Built for Zero practices for data analysis and increasing connections to shelter and housing.
- Expanding relationships with motels/hotels to provide temporary accommodations.

Lessons learned include the following:

- Case management capacity does not meet the high volumes of individuals seeking services. Case Management needs an expansion to increase shelter turnover rates and exits to permanent housing.
- Shelter bed capacity does not meet the high volumes of individuals seeking beds. In areas where shelters exist, they operate at full capacity.
- Lack of affordable housing stock for extremely low-income housing and supportive housing affects the agency's ability to locate affordable housing for their program participants.

P-3.c Current Strategy to Provide Immediate Access to Low Barrier Permanent Housing for Individuals and Families Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

P-3c (1.a.) – Current Strategy with Housing First Approach:
The CoC evaluates each CoC funded agency utilizing HUD's Housing First Self-Assessment. The Project applicant's Self-Assessment report score is a customized local criterion score for the Annual NOFO and will be used to evaluate Housing First best practices for agencies funded under the Unsheltered and Rural Special NOFO. The CoC has written expectations of Housing First practices in the CoC Written Standards, Coordinated Entry and HMIS policies and procedures for housing program enrollments, CES enrollment, data collection and reporting. The Coordinated Entry team facilitates CES Case Conferencing meetings to connect those who are experiencing homelessness to ensure that Housing First practices are utilized during referrals and housing program enrollments.

The Collaborative Applicant, Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition, partnered with Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADs) to provide Housing First training, consultation, and technical assistance, for the implementation and operation of all KS BoS CoC programs seeking to implement high fidelity Pathways Housing First (PHF) programs to address homelessness for individuals with psychiatric disabilities experiencing homelessness.

P-3c (1.b.) – Current Strategy Identified in "Leveraging Housing Resources":
The KS BoS CoC has required all permanent housing resources and programs within the Special NOFO to follow Housing First Principles. This includes the dedicated and prioritized units that will support program participants under the CoC Special NOFO programs.
Dedicated Units for the Special NOFO Applications

- Tenants to Homeowners Housing Units Commitment to Douglas County
- ATeam Estates Housing Unit Commitment MOU with DVACK
- Crawford County Housing Authority Housing Commitment to SEK-CAP
- J & C Rentals Housing Commitment to Butler Homeless Initiative
- Metro Home Housing Commitment for Butler Homeless Initiative

P-3c (2.) – Overall Current Strategy Performance:
The current strategy for providing low-barrier and culturally appropriate access to permanent housing are increasing. In accordance with the 2020 to 2021 System Performance Measures, 2,430 households were housed in permanent destinations. Out of 928 households who exited from the Coordinated Entry System 647 households (70%) exited to permanent destinations. To

ensure culturally appropriate access is provided, the KS BoS CoC will conduct an Equity Analysis and there will be training provided if improvements are identified.

P-3c (3.) – Supporting Evidence:
In late 2020, the KS BoS CoC moved HMIS vendors which enabled the CoC to collect data and evaluate it systematically. While ongoing yearly trends are not available for analysis, the CoC has evaluated and presented data in the 2022 Gaps Analysis to support the use of current operational strategies or to identify areas for improvement. The Gaps Analysis included 2020 and 2021 data from the Coordinated Entry System (CES) Evaluation Report, Grant Inventory Worksheet, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Housing Inventory Count (HIC), Point-In-Time (PIT) Count and System Performance Measures (SPMs).

P-3c (4.) – New Practices and Lessons Learned:
Within the CoC Plan Survey, respondents listed the following new practices:

- Creating additional relationships with property owners for scattered site housing opportunities.
- The CoC created a uniform transfer policy and procedures for victims of domestic violence.
- Non-HUD funded entities such as Public Housing Authorities have implemented Coordinated Entry referrals and attendance at Case Conferencing meetings.
- The CoC has begun to work with Low Income Housing Tax Credit properties that have units available for households who are homeless

Lessons learned included the following:

- Domestic Violence providers report that applicants for Permanent Housing have a deeper sense of security after the implementation of a transfer policy.
- The agencies that participated in CES for the first time learned that attending case conferencing meetings was a good opportunity to partner with the other providers that are also working with their clients.
- Housing providers who refer to KS BoS CoC's Coordinated Entry System, have realized that the Coordinated Entry System is quick and easy to use and to help families who are homeless access safe, decent, and affordable housing and appropriate services.

P-4. Updating the CoC's Strategy to Identify, Shelter, and House Individuals Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness with Data and Performance.

P-4 (1.a.) – Improve and Expand the Performance of Street Outreach:
The CoC will continually review data and best practices to improve the performance and expand the street outreach programs and activities within the CoC. This will create accountability to each funded program and the CoC as a whole. The HMIS Oversight Committee will review Street Outreach HMIS, PIT, STELLA, and Longitudinal Statistical Analysis (LSA) data elements. The Equity Committee will review data through an equity lens and the Collaborative Applicant will collect feedback directly from those experiencing unsheltered homelessness who are engaging in Street Outreach programs.

This analysis will provide the framework needed to evaluate measures for success or areas that need improvement. This will provide the Collaborative Applicant a guide to design new trainings for case management, supportive services, housing first principles, motivational interviewing and incorporating reducing harm strategies.

P-4 (1.b.) –Street Outreach Connected to CES and HMIS:
The Street Outreach programs will utilize the new Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) map feature to track encampments and the movement of unsheltered persons across the entire KS BoS CoC. This new feature will be available prior to the implementation of projects funded under the Supplemental CoC NOFO and it will focus on the use of geolocation technology. Street Outreach teams will be mobile Access Points for the purposes of Coordinated Entry, and they will be required to provide access to the Coordinated Entry Assessments where persons are experiencing unsheltered homelessness whether via paper assessments or remote assessments.

P-4 (1.c.) –New Practices and Activities Under this Award:
The CoC will incorporate a detailed Street Outreach Policy that will encompass Street Outreach providers and non-providers. All regions are encouraged to create Homeless Outreach Teams that incorporates non-homeless service providers such as law enforcement, healthcare providers, health insurance providers, business owners, school liaisons, substance abuse providers, and mental health providers. The policy will also focus on the movement of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness, original locations, if those individuals are requested to relocate and provide guidance on how these non-homeless service providers should interact with those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. All Special NOFO project applicants will be required to incorporate this policy into their program design.

P-4 (2.a.) – Improve Access to Low Barrier Shelter & Temporary Housing:
Data to Improve Access to Shelter/Temporary Housing:

1. Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
2. Shelter/Motel Voucher Enrollment Data from HMIS
3. Transitional Housing Data from HMIS

The 2021 HIC shows that twenty-two (22) out of thirty-two (32) Emergency Shelter programs in the KS BoS CoC geographic area are being capturing data in HMIS or an HMIS comparable data base. KS BoS CoC will work to partner with the shelter programs that are on the HIC but not in HMIS to improve access. KS BoS CoC will also work to provide housing first and low barrier trainings to shelters and transitional housing programs.

P-4 (2.b.) –Expand Low Barrier Shelter & Temporary Housing:
The 2022 CoC GAP analysis demonstrates a small finite number of both congregate and non-congregate emergency shelters throughout the CoC. Several of the CoC's membership agencies have applied for funding through the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) to enhance the use of non-congregative emergency shelter options in their communities, these funds are primarily used to purchase short term hotel stays for program participants.

P-4 (2.c.) –New Practices and Activities Under this Award

The Special NOFO funding will enable the CoC to implement the following new practices and activities:

- All applicants prioritize people who are unsheltered, or with histories of unsheltered homelessness, and people with severe service needs.
- Street outreach activities must be strategic, culturally appropriate and coordinated. It should also strive to immediately resolve their housing crisis as part of a larger, community-wide housing strategy, with access to housing resources.
- All applicants must develop or implement the CoC wide Landlord Recruitment/Engagement Strategy.

The Special NOFO funding will introduce the first CoC funded SSO – Standalone and SSO – Street Outreach programs within the KS BoS CoC.

P-4 (3.a.) – Improve CoC's Ability to Rapidly House in Permanent Housing:
Data to Improve Rapidly Housing those with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness:

1. Evaluation of Prior Destination Locations to create individualized analysis of final destination outcomes
2. Length of time from Unsheltered Homelessness to Move in Date
3. Comparison of Program Enrollments with Move in Dates vs. No Move in Dates (no move in dates indicate current homelessness).
4. CE Exit Destinations

The KS BoS CoC will utilize the above data measures to determine performance outcomes and will incorporate the results into the annual Gaps Analysis and the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will lay out the best practices to increase the success rates of exits to permanent housing and to decrease the length of time homeless that households are experiencing.

P-4 (3.b.) –Expand CoC's Ability to Rapidly House in Permanent Housing:
Under the Special NOFO Rural Set Aside Opportunity, the KS BoS CoC will be expanding the Housing Program availabilities with three (3) new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) programs, two (2) new Rapid Rehousing (RRH) programs and three (3) new Supportive Services Only (SSO) programs to increase services to households that may not need housing level interventions. Under the Unsheltered Set Aside, there are one (1) PSH program, one (1) new RRH program and three (3) new SSO programs to expand the CoC's ability to rapidly house individuals and families with histories of unsheltered homelessness.

P-5. Identify and Prioritize Households Experiencing or with Histories of Unsheltered Homelessness

P-5 (1.) – Strategy to Ensure Resources Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness:
The HMIS Oversight Committee will lead the evaluation of performance measures including the reduction of unsheltered homelessness across the CoC's geographic area over a three-year period. This committee will advise the CoC on prominent levels of unsheltered homelessness, program enrollment numbers, recidivism rates for returns to unsheltered homelessness and performance benchmarks. The CoC will incorporate this information into the Annual Gaps Analysis to create an in-depth review of the impact that the projects under the Special NOFO have had on the goal to reduce unsheltered homelessness.

P-5 (2.a.) – Adopting Program Eligibility to Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness:
All projects funded under this Special NOFO will prioritize households that meet HUD's Category One criteria with an emphasis on those who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness or has a history of unsheltered homelessness. Projects will be evaluated annually to ensure that those experiencing unsheltered homelessness are prioritized, and that projects are following low barrier and housing first principles at enrollment. The CoC Written Standards does not allow additional eligibility criteria such as shelter enrollment, familial size, sobriety, or specific mental diagnosis.

P-5 (2.b.) –Adopting Coordinated Entry Processes to Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness:
The CoC will adopt the following changes to the Coordinated Entry System to reduce unsheltered homelessness.

- All Street Outreach projects funded on this Special NOFO will be required to participate in Coordinated Entry and attend case conferencing meetings to advocate for their clients and facilitate connections to services.
- The CES Case Conferencing meetings will facilitate fidelity to the prioritization criteria to ensure that projects are prioritizing unsheltered households for housing enrollments.
- The Coordinated Entry Committee will adopt strategies to prioritize those experiencing unsheltered homelessness or with histories of unsheltered homelessness.
- The Coordinated Entry Assessment will be redesigned to create a higher emphasis on the vulnerability factors of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness in places not meant for human habitation such as sleeping outside, in cars, in abandoned buildings.

These changes will be coordinated between the CE Lead and the Coordinated Entry Committee. Prior to implementation, the HMIS team, Equity Committee, and a designated group of Persons with Lived Experience (PWLE) will review the impact and potential success/pitfalls that these changes may create. The CoC Steering Committee will vote to approve any changes to the CE Policies and Procedures and/or Coordinated Entry System changes.

P-5 (3.) – Utilizing Street Outreach to Connect to Housing Resources:
The CoC has compared the data of those experiencing homelessness in the PIT and CES Enrollment numbers. The comparison is illustrated in the Annual Gaps Analysis and indicates that the CoC needs a greater emphasis on identifying those who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness especially in the rural counties of Kansas. The CoC has submitted six (6) Supportive Services Only (SSO) programs under the Special NOFO to provide additional case management support to those experiencing homelessness and direct street outreach activities. The support for these programs shows the CoC's commitment to connect those experiencing unsheltered homelessness with housing resources.

P-5 (4.a.) –Additional Steps to Increase Access to Identification:
The KS BoS CoC will expand the ability to provide remote access to the Coordinated Entry System in rural areas and provide this tool to official/unofficial street outreach teams. The CE Lead is taking additional steps to build further partnerships with non-housing providers but where those experiencing homelessness may present such as libraries, food banks, jails, hospitals, health insurance providers, and substance abuse/mental illness providers.

P-5 (4.b.) – Additional Steps to Provide Housing Navigation Services:
The CE Lead has applied for two SSO-CE grants under this Special NOFO to introduce Housing Navigation Services focused on households on the CE List. By providing direct housing navigation services, it will introduce widespread diversion, rapid resolution and case management for households who are not prioritized for the limited housing services that the CoC has available.

P-5 (4.c.) – Additional Steps to Provide Access to Healthcare and Other Supportive Services:
The CoC and is members are partnering with local health care clinics to access physical and mental health care. The Collaborative Applicant and the CoC Steering Committee has partnered with Kansas Departments for Aging and Disability Services, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the three Managed Care Organizations, and the two Substance Use Treatment Services providers. All healthcare organizations have agreed to participate in the KS Bos CoC CES and will refer people to CE for housing. Along with referrals to CE, the healthcare providers have agreed to assess CoC participants the need for their services, and each healthcare partner, has agreed to educate the CoC about the services they provide during the CoCs monthly membership meetings or at other training sponsored by the CoC or Collaborative Applicant. To track the number of participants who have access to the healthcare though a Managed Care Organization, we added a question to HMIS asking them which MCO they use. This gives us information to show the MCOs that CoC participants are also MCO members.

P-6. Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Decision Making– Meaningful Outreach

P-6 (1.) – Meaningful Outreach to Engage People with Lived Experience to Develop a Working Group:
In 2022, the KS BoS CoC decided the best way to improve our system was to add a question to the HMIS intake and recertification screens asking participants if they wished to give feedback to the CoC by serving on an advisory committee or workgroup. The CoC is developing language for the general membership to approve to add this new workgroup to the CoC's Governance Charter. To offer meaningful compensation to those who engage, the Collaborative Applicant is using a part of the CoC Planning Grant match money to pay wages to individuals who serve on CoC sponsored committees and workgroups.

P-6 (2.) – Meaningfully and Intentionally Integrating those with Lived Experience into the CoC's Decision Making Structure:
The CoC Membership and Nominations Committee is developing a visual orientation package for all new Steering Committee members as a strategy to aid in the transition to the committee. This includes easy to understand visuals of our structure and a list of common terms and acronyms. For people experiencing homelessness, extra steps are being developed to ensure all members have the communication devices to receive and transmit information and to fully participate.

P-6 (3.) –CoC Encourages Projects to Involve PLE in the Delivery of Services:

Under the Special NOFO priorities approved by the KS BoS CoC, all applicants must demonstrate how persons with lived experience of homelessness (PWLE) will meaningfully contribute to the project design and administration of the project. Street Outreach projects are strongly encouraged to hire those with lived experience of homelessness to conduct street outreach activities.

The CoC's current outreach efforts to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decision-making processes not only include effective social media, virtual Coordinated Entry access points, and other virtual recruitment campaigns. The BoS CoC have developed a formal partnership with the Alliance of Overlooked Neighbors (AON), and they are active members of the Ks BoS CoC. AON membership is distinctly made up of people who are currently experiencing or who have lived experience of homelessness. The Collaborative Applicant currently employs two individuals with lived experience in leadership positions-the CoC's Director of Coordinated Entry Systems and the Director of Community Engagement. KSHC also provides continuing education opportunities for its board members with lived experience of homelessness. Currently, 10% of the CoC Steering Committee's membership is made up of those with lived experience and are provided with ongoing continuing education opportunities.

P-7. Supporting Underserved Communities and Supporting Equitable Community Development

P-7 (1.) – Strategy to Identify Populations:
The KS BoS CoC's strategy to identify populations throughout the CoC's geographic area that have not been served by the homeless system at the same rate they are experiencing homelessness varies from region to region, but the CoC has initiated the following strategies:

- The CES Annual Evaluation revealed that homelessness disproportionately affects people of color especially pronounced for the Black/African American and American Indian/Alaskan Native (AIAN) population.
- The Point-in-Time (PIT) data illustrates counties that have those experiencing homelessness but are not located close to existing services.

The Collaborative Applicant supports the work of the Equity Committee which utilizes this data to provide ongoing recommendations to improve the areas of highest racial disparities and the areas that do not have enough services to cover the number of persons experiencing homelessness.

P-7 (2.) – How Underserved Communities Interact with the Homeless System:
The Alliance of Overlooked Neighbors (AON) have assisted the KS BoS CoC to determine how underserved communities interact with the homeless system. The AON has described these populations as individuals experiencing homelessness are more likely to be in "survival mode" and may not be interacting with providers as they are too focused on meeting their basic needs such as finding food to eat and a safe place to sleep. This survival mode makes it difficult to attend housing/provider appointments. These populations may have also turned to substances to make it "easier" to survive for example, staying awake when it is unsafe to fall asleep, feeling warm when it's too cold, and not feeling hunger when there is no food available.

The AON state that even in situations where an individual has been connected to services and/or has received housing a person's thought processes may still be focused on survival mode or on the coping mechanisms (especially the unhealthy ones) may still be present and interrupting their ability to successfully interact with the homeless system.

AON recommends the following methods to improve the ability for underserved populations to interact with the homeless system.

- Improve the relationship and connections between clients and case managers.
- Provide more Peer Support and the Peer should have lived experience.
- The transition from working with a case manager to being without support should be slow and steady.
- Skill building should take place during the transition period to assist them with being without support.
- Case Management services should have consistent standards across organizations and programs such as frequency, quality, and the level of communication.
- Case Managers must understand the client's goals to determine their priorities and help them achieve those goals.
- Case Managers need to have enough capacity to provide individualized intensive support and they should have low caseloads.

P-7 (3.) –Strategy to Provide Outreach, Engagement and Housing Interventions:
The KS BoS CoC's current strategies for providing outreach, engagement, and housing interventions to provide services to underserved populations requires a wide range of strategies to meet the needs in a largely rural geography.

- The CoC utilizes data from HMIS reports, Stella, the annual CES Evaluation and the CoC annual Gaps Analysis to determine which populations may be experiencing homelessness that have not previously been served by the homeless system at the same rate they are experiencing homelessness in comparison to Census data.
- Established an Equity Committee in the CoC Governance Charter in 2021.
- The Equity Committee is designing an invitation campaign aimed at ensuring inclusion and equity geared towards BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and Persons of Color) throughout the CoC systems including CoC Governance, HMIS, and CES.
- The CoC established a CoC-wide Anti-Discrimination Policy to ensure that engagement and housing interventions are provided with an equity lens.
- CoC agencies seek bilingual employees to break down communication barriers.
- Networking with organizations that specialize with BIPOC and LGBTQ+.

CoC Plan Next Steps
Once this plan is approved by the Continuum of Care, the next steps are to incorporate it into the 2023-2026 KS BoS CoC Strategic Plan. Implementation of this CoC Plan will begin with the HUD Special NOFO Notice of Conditional Awards with a goal to start operations of all projects in 2023.