

## **Northlake Homeless Coalition FY2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) Application Request for Proposals (RFP) #2021-001**

### **Option 1: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for Chronically Homeless and/or Dedicated Plus Individuals and Families**

### **Option 2: Rapid Rehousing Project for Adult Only Households (RRH)**

The Northlake Homeless Coalition invites all eligible organizations (501c3 nonprofit organizations and government entities) to submit a project application for a new project that will serve homeless individuals and families in one or more parishes in the Florida Parishes Region (Livingston, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa and Washington Parishes) and adhere to the Housing First program model. Eligible organizations consist of 501c3 nonprofit organizations and local and state units of government. Applicants may choose to submit one of two project types for this RFP: Option 1: Permanent Supportive Housing for Chronic Homeless and Dedicated Plus Individuals and Families; or Option 2: Rapid Rehousing Project for Adult Only Households.

#### **I. Key Definitions**

- A. Chronic Homelessness: defined in 24 CFR 578.3. See [HUD Flowchart for Chronic Homeless Definition](#) for additional reference.
- B. DedicatedPLUS: defined on page 21, Section III.C.2.g of the [CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#).
- C. Evidence-based approach: a project or process that "employ[s] strong use of data and evidence, including the cost-effectiveness and impact of homeless programs on positive housing outcomes, recovery, self-sufficiency, and reducing homelessness." Examples include but are not limited to "rates of positive housing outcomes, such as reduced length of time homeless and reduced rates of return to homelessness; improvements in employment and income; and improvements in overall well-being, such as improvement in mental health, physical health, connections to family, and safety."
- D. Homelessness: defined in Section III.C.1 of the CoC Program NOFO; See [HUD Homeless Definition and Recordkeeping](#) Requirements for additional reference.
- E. Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Re-housing Project (TH/RRH): The Joint TH and PH-RRH component project combines two existing program components—transitional housing and permanent housing-rapid rehousing—in a single project to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Recipients should prioritize those with the highest needs using an evidence-based approach designed to provide stable housing and services that, to the greatest extent possible, move the participant towards self-sufficiency and independence. Program participants may only receive up to 24-months of total assistance. For more information about Joint TH and PH-RRH component projects, see Section V.C.3 of the NOFA.

- F. Rapid Re-housing Project (RRH): A type of permanent housing meeting the requirements of 24 CFR 578.37(a)(1)(ii). Continuum of Care funds may provide supportive services, as set forth in § 578.53, and/or short-term (up to 3 months) and/or medium-term (for 3 to 24 months) tenant-based rental assistance, as set forth in § 578.51(c), as necessary to help a homeless individual or family, with or without disabilities, move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing.
- G. Permanent Supportive Housing Project (PSH): Permanent supportive housing is permanent housing with indefinite leasing or rental assistance paired with supportive services to assist homeless persons with a disability or families with an adult or child member with a disability achieve housing stability.

## **II. Project Type Determination**

- A. In section II.A.1-7 of the NOFO, HUD outlines the following policy priorities:
  - 1. Ending homelessness for all persons.
  - 2. Using a Housing First approach
  - 3. Reducing an Unsheltered Homelessness
  - 4. Improving System Performance
  - 5. Partnering with Housing, Health and Service Agencies
  - 6. Racial Equity
  - 7. Persons with Lived Experience.
- B. After reviewing system performance metrics, coordinated entry (CE) data, feedback from the NHC Providers and Stakeholders Association (PSA) and performing a needs analysis of CE clients with unsuccessful housing outcomes, the NHC determined that either a PSH project or a RRH project serving Adult Households would best serve the region while also aligning with the above HUD policy priorities. 77% of CE clients with unsuccessful housing outcomes are adult only households and 68% are reporting unsheltered homelessness.
- C. Option 1: Permanent Supportive Housing will promote all the above policy priorities, including the opportunity to create a more service intensive PSH project by leveraging Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) to provide the rental assistance funding for this project.
- D. Option 2: Rapid Rehousing for Adult Only Households will promote all the above policy priorities and create an opportunity to reduce unsheltered homelessness for an underserved homeless subpopulation

## **III. Eligible Population by Project Type:**

|   | <b>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</b> | <b>Rapid Rehousing (RRH)</b> |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Must serve one or more of the following:<br><br>(i) Persons meeting the Dedicated Plus definition; or<br>(ii) Persons meeting the Chronically Homeless definition.  | X   |                              |
| May serve people who qualify as homeless under paragraphs (1), (2), or (4) of the homeless definition in 24 CFR 578.3 (i.e. people experiencing literal homelessness, people at risk of homelessness, and people fleeing domestic violence) |   | X                            |
| IF SERVING EXCLUSIVELY SINGLE PERSON HOUSEHOLDS:<br><br>may restrict intake to a single gender  | X   | X                            |
| IF SERVING ANY MULTI-PERSON HOUSEHOLDS: may not restrict intake based on gender identity  | X   | X                            |

**IV. Eligible Line Item Costs by Project Type:**

|   | <b>Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</b> | <b>Rapid Rehousing (RRH)</b> |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Rental Assistance (Note: PSH projects will have rental assistance provided by EHV vouchers) |   | X                            |
| Supportive Services   | X   | X                            |
| HMIS  | X   | X                            |
| Administration  | X   | X                            |

**V. Available Funding**

***A total of \$132,123 is being made available for this project, with up to \$12,011 available in administrative funds and the remainder to be spent in other allowable budget categories for the project type.***

If a PSH project is selected and awarded by HUD, this project will fund one project sponsor to serve 10-15 households at any given time with intensive wrap-around supportive services. If a RRH project is selected and awarded by HUD, this project will fund on project sponsor to serve 8-10 households at any given time with rental assistance and case management service. The new sponsor should be expected to begin summer or

fall 2022 if awarded through the HUD competition. Once funded, the project is eligible for annual renewal through the CoC funding competition based on project performance, including program and fiscal compliance.

## **VI. Application Deadline**

***Application Deadline: All applications must be submitted to the Northlake Homeless Coalition by 12:00 pm on Wednesday, November 24, 2021. Applications must be submitted electronically to [astapleton@northlakehomeless.org](mailto:astapleton@northlakehomeless.org).***

## **VII. Funding Requirements**

Any organization applying for this funding must agree to the following:

- Adherence to the regulations set forth in the Interim Program Rule (24 CFR Part 578).
- Participation in the Coordinated Access and Assessment System (CAAS), including an MOU agreement outlining the responsibilities of the Continuum of Care and the CoC-funded agencies. Accept clients from the CAAS system, which prioritizes clients based on the Place Value Assessment tool as detailed in the CAAS Policies and Procedures.
- Current good standing as an NHC member agency or willingness to become an NHC Member Agency and adhere to the NHC Partnership Agreement, which outlines the roles of the CoC and the funded agency, including the annual agency fee currently set at a rate equal to 2.1% of the total CoC funding awarded to the agency.
- Agreement to serve homeless individuals and families utilizing a low barrier entry Housing First Program model.
- Match Funding (cash or in-kind) for the project in accordance with the Interim Program Rule.
- Provide supportive services 8-15 households (contingent on project type).
- Participate in twice monthly navigation meetings to facilitate transition of clients into the program.
- Clients should be rapidly housed in less than 30 days from referral into the program.
- Provide housing assistance and case management services, including assisting clients in obtaining income and mainstream benefits (employment, SSI, Medicaid, and assessment for Medicaid funded services) so that clients can sustain housing on their own or access PSH.
- Be willing to find and inspect housing for participants depending on the client's preference and the availability of rental units. Rent amounts for the housing units must be rent reasonable.

Adherence with the Housing First Program Model is defined as the following:

1. Clients will not be screened out based on the following:

- Having no or too little income
- Active or history of substance abuse
- Having a criminal record, with the exceptions for state-mandated restrictions
- History of domestic violence (e.g. lack of a protective order, period of separation from an abuser or law enforcement involvement)

2. Clients will not be terminated from the program based on the following:

- Failure to participate in supportive services
- Failure to make progress on a service plan
- Loss of income or failure to improve income
- Being a victim of domestic violence
- Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement

### VIII. Budget

The Northlake Homeless Coalition will assist the selected project sponsor in developing a more detailed budget, if necessary. Sample budgets for Options 1 and 2 are included for your reference below:

| <b>Option 1: Sample PSH Budget</b> |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Supportive Services                | 117,012        |
| HMIS                               | 3,000          |
| Admin                              | 12,111         |
| Total CoC Funding                  | <b>132,123</b> |
| Match                              | 33,031         |

| <b>Option 2: Sample RRH Budget</b> |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Supportive Services                | 32,759         |
| Rental Assistance                  | 87,253         |
| Admin                              | 12,111         |
| Total CoC Funding                  | <b>132,123</b> |
| Match                              | 33,031         |

All eligible budget categories for this RFP require at 25% match.

These budgets are only a sample; the applicant is responsible for developing a budget that would meet the needs of the program and allow the applicant to serve 8-15 households at any given time.

For further information about the PSH, RRH or joint TH/RRH programs, see the HUD Exchange, <https://www.hudexchange.info/>, or the National Alliance to End Homelessness website, [www.naeh.org](http://www.naeh.org).

### IX. Meetings and Deadlines

- RFP Information Web Conference 1: Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 11:00 am
- RFP Information Web Conference 2: Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 11:00 am

- Deadline for submitting proposal to NHC: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at Noon
- Community Evaluation Process for New Projects: Thursday, December 2, 2021
- NHC informs applicants whether they were selected: December 6, 2021
- Selected agency must work with NHC to complete e-SNAPS application no later than: December 15, 2021.
- Anticipated Notification of Project Funding from HUD: Early Spring 2022
- Anticipated Project Start: Summer or Fall 2022

## **X. Proposal Format**

Your proposal, no more than 6 pages, must address the following:

1) Title of Project: RFP #2021-001 (please note whether your project is for Option 1, or 2), name of organization, Tax ID #, DUNS # and contact information of the applicant organization. Attach evidence of nonprofit tax-exempt status (i.e. IRS 501(c)3 letter).

2) Interest and Organizational Experience (15 points) - Describe your agency's experience and past performance in providing housing placement, employment search, planning for financial self-sufficiency, direct financial assistance and supportive stabilization services, especially experience providing housing and services to homeless individuals and families. Include past performance on other HUD-funded projects or similar projects, if applicable. Include experience with rapid rehousing, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing or other similar programs.

3) Housing First/Low-Barriers Approach (25 points)- Describe how you will utilize a "Housing First approach" in which assistance is offered without requiring compliance with treatment, medication, lack of income or any other area that would interfere with quickly housing a household within 30 days of entry into program. Describe how your program will ensure no additional barriers are placed on clients while they are enrolled in the program. Describe your agency's plans to acquire further training and expertise in providing rapid rehousing services to families.

4) Plan for Effective Case Management and Supportive Services (25 points) - Describe how you have provided effective case management to homeless, disabled or other special needs populations in the past. Include experience providing services in a "Housing First approach" in which assistance is offered without requiring compliance with treatment or medication. Describe your agency's plans to acquire further training and expertise in these practices and/or the progressive engagement approach to rapid rehousing. Describe the duties of the employees you will hire to provide the services and how they will be supervised. Attach a resume of the person who will provide supervision and the case manager, if known.

5) Staff Experience (10 points) - Please describe the job duties and qualifications of the employees you will hire to provide these services and include a resume of the person who will supervise this staff. Also describe the evidence-based practices and interventions used by your staff and how staff acquire and maintain skills through training and supervision. Attach job description(s) of project staff and a resume of the person who will provide supervision.

6) Implementation Timeline (5 points) - Describe the plan for rapid implementation, specifically how the project will house the first program participant within 1 month of the award and have full enrollment within 5 months. Include a timeline for hiring and training staff.

7) Financial Capacity (15 points) - Submit the most recent independent audit (and A-133 audit if applicable). Describe your agency's capacity and ability to pay direct assistance payments to landlords (HUD CoC grants operate on a reimbursement basis). Optional: Supportive services budget may be submitted as an attachment to demonstrate eligible supportive services that would be provided by CoC funds along with other matching funds to support program participants.

8) Cultural Competence (5 points) - Describe your agency's cultural competence. Include experience in serving with cultural sensitivity people who are racially, ethnically and religiously diverse; who speak languages other than English; who have a range of physical and mental disabilities; who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgendered; who are Young Adults or Elderly; and who are extremely low-income. Describe the diversity of your board and staff, your agency's non-discrimination policies, and how you ensure that your staff meets the needs of clients with sensitivity toward clients' varied cultural and life experiences. Include how you plan to advance racial equity with this project.

9) Underserved Regions (5 points) – State whether your project will provide housing and services in one or more of the following parishes: Livingston, St. Helena and Washington Parishes

11) Program Enhancement (5 points) - Describe what your agency will “bring to the table” in enhancing the performance of this program. Describe what matching funds will be used for your supportive services and rental assistance activities. Match may include in-kind sources and can include administrative costs.

Attachments: (mandatory to be considered for selection) (attachments not considered in page limit)

- Attach a copy of your most recent annual Financial Audit.
- Attach proof of nonprofit tax-exempt status, if your agency is a non-profit organization.
- Resume of supervisor
- Job Description(s) of project staff
- Match Commitment letter (25% of budget) indicating source of matching funds and uses of those funds on project activities.

Before submitting a project application, all applicants should read the following:

- [FY 2021 CoC Program Competition NOFO](#)
- [Project Application Detailed Instructions and Instructional Guides](#)
- [CoC Program Interim Rule](#)

For further questions or assistance, please contact Northlake Homeless Coalition Executive Director Amanda Stapleton at [astapleton@northlakehomeless.org](mailto:astapleton@northlakehomeless.org).