A public request for proposals will be widely distributed as soon as possible after the annual Notification of Funding Availability is released by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The request for proposals, as approved by the MS-503 CoC, will be distributed to the CoC email distribution list that includes CoC members, local jurisdictions, and the general community. In addition, the availability of the request for proposals will be advertised in the local newspaper available across the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The request for proposals will request both new and renewal proposals for inclusion in the upcoming submission of the Continuum of Care application. The CoC-approved scoring rubric and the request for proposals will be posted on the Open Doors Homeless Coalition’s (Collaborative Applicant’s) website. Objective criteria for both new and renewal proposals will be considered. For renewals, Annual progress Report (APR) information, fit within the homeless services delivery system, HMIS data quality, and cost efficiency will be critical factors. For new projects, HMIS participation and data quality, proposed outcomes and evidence based practices that improve the homeless services delivery system will be critical factors. Projects that aim to end chronic homelessness by 2017, sustain an end to homelessness among veterans, end homelessness among families, including persons and families fleeing domestic violence, and end homelessness among youth by 2020, and set a course to prevent and end all homelessness in South Mississippi will be given the highest consideration. All projects will be scored by an elected unbiased review committee using the posted scoring rubric. All review committee members’ scores will be added together for each project and the projects, whether new or renewal, will be ranked per the scores. Any new projects that fall below the available funding line (Annual Renewal Amount plus any bonus availability) will be rejected. Any renewal that falls below the funding line will be reduced or completely reallocated in order to include higher scoring new projects in the MS-503 Continuum of Care application.

Any renewal project may elect to voluntarily reallocate funds to create a new project that fits with the system in a better way. For example, a transitional housing project may elect to have its funds reallocated to a new rapid rehousing program or a leasing project may elect to reduce its project by moving from FMR leasing amounts to actual leasing amounts if there is a history of returning leasing funds. In the event that a program voluntarily reallocates funds, the agency will state its intentions by submitting the new
project request to be reviewed, scored, and ranked by the unbiased review committee and will not submit a request for renewal.

MS-503 CoC Reallocation History:
1. 2013: An HMIS renewal was reduced by $13,249 to create 2 units of PSH for chronically homeless persons that was awarded to an agency new to the CoC.
2. 2014: A PSH renewal for non-chronically homeless persons was reduced by $40,000 to be more cost effective (moved from $28,000 per person to $23,000 per person to be in line with the average $14,000 per person of other similar programs) and 3 units of RRH were created as a result of the reallocation ($40,000) to an agency new to the CoC.
3. 2015: A PSH project was eliminated as the agency elected not to renew ($13,149), a renewal was reduced from FMR leasing to actual leasing ($15,000), and a new coordinated entry project was approved ($28,149).
4. $241,983 was reallocated for new projects to serve persons fleeing domestic violence in RRH, youth in RRH, and expand coordinated entry. These new projects will assist the system in ending homelessness among families and youth by 2020 and setting a course to prevent and end all homelessness by coordinating and prioritizing resources to help persons most in need.

As a result of the change through reallocation, all CoC-funded PSH beds in the system, or other PSH beds funded through other sources, will be either reserved for chronically homeless persons (45) or the most vulnerable individuals and families fleeing domestic violence with the longest histories of homelessness will be prioritized for beds at turnover (6).

If the MS-503 CoC is awarded all reallocated funds and the bonus, three new programs to house homeless youth will be implemented along with a robust/improved coordinated entry and assessment process for PSH, RRH, and homelessness prevention.