

**\*IMPORTANT NOTICE\***  
**MS-503 CoC**  
- PUBLIC NOTICE -  
**2023 CONTINUUM OF CARE APPLICATION**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FROM RENEWAL APPLICANTS AND NEW**  
**PROJECT APPLICANTS**

The Open Doors Homeless Coalition annually applies for funds under the United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity. The Continuum of Care (CoC) application includes a community strategy to prevent and ultimately end homelessness in the Gulf Coast region along with data and outcomes related to local initiatives. The Open Doors Homeless Coalition submits renewal applications for existing high performing programs and new applications created by reallocation or bonus. **New and renewal applications are due no later than Friday, August 18, 2023 by 3:00 p.m. and are to be submitted on esnaps. The esnaps login information and other important information can be found at [www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info). If you have questions about the esnaps system, you may contact Cathy Pitalo at [cpitalo@opendoorshc.org](mailto:cpitalo@opendoorshc.org).**

**Open Doors Homeless Coalition seeks applications for new housing programs that will enhance the availability of housing and the delivery of services for individuals and/or families and/or youth who are homeless and/or fleeing domestic violence and/ or victims of trafficking in the 6-County region.** The region includes Harrison County, Hancock County, Jackson County, Pearl River County, Stone County, and George County. New rapid rehousing programs for individuals, families, and/or youth experiencing homelessness, new permanent supportive housing programs for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness or persons with a documented disability and long histories of homelessness, or new combined transitional housing and rapid rehousing projects will be considered.

The 2023 NOFO allows applicants to apply for up to \$130,100 for a regular CoC bonus project, which will compete in Tier 1 and 2 against other projects, including renewals. The NOFO also provides an opportunity for a specific DV Bonus project to move forward: programs that serve those fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking in 6-County region may apply for the special DV bonus up to \$185,857. MS-503 supports this opportunity and encourages applicants to apply for this national competition among DV providers. The successful applicant will meet threshold criteria, collaborate with other victim service providers, demonstrate the need for the project, their experience, their victim-centered practices, and inclusion of survivors with lived expertise in their policies and planning. This project will not be ranked with others in Tier 1 and 2, but will be pulled into the national competition by ticking the DV Bonus box in their esnaps application. Only one (1) regular CoC bonus project will move forward, and only one (1) DV Bonus project will move forward. ANY project submitted for consideration in the ranking process will not be considered if over \$250,000.

Area nonprofit organizations, public housing authorities, or units of local government may apply to be included in the Open Doors Homeless Coalition Continuum of Care application. The process is competitive. If selected for inclusion in the 2023 MS-503 CoC application to HUD, whether a renewal project or new proposed project, there is no guarantee that HUD will approve the project. Additionally, selected projects may be reduced by the MS-503 CoC review committee or by HUD. For more information, please visit [www.opendoorshc.org](http://www.opendoorshc.org) under the Continuum of Care tab.

Chronic homelessness is defined as experiencing homelessness for over one year or four episodes of homelessness that total 12 months in a three-year period. To be considered chronically homeless and eligible for CoC-funded permanent supportive housing, the assisted individual or assisted head of household must have a documented disability and must come to the housing from a shelter environment or place not meant for human habitation.

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness are eligible for rapid rehousing under this program only if they are moving from literal homelessness or fleeing domestic violence or fleeing trafficking directly to permanent housing. Individuals and families who are "doubled up" would not be eligible participants.

If a project is chosen for inclusion in the 2023 MS-503 CoC application, the nonprofit organization, public housing authority, or unit of local government applicant must complete a SAM registration, an electronic applicant profile, an electronic esnaps application, and additional information, as required by HUD. Inclusion in the CoC application is not a guarantee of award. HUD makes the final decision on all awards. A 25% match applies to this program.

Applicants will be notified by **September 6, 2023**, if their proposals were chosen for inclusion in the 2023 Continuum of Care application. If chosen, applicants may be asked to make minor changes to their proposals to strengthen the overall application.

If selected for inclusion in the 2023 MS-503 CoC application to HUD, whether a renewal project or new proposed project, there is no guarantee that HUD will approve the project. Additionally, selected projects may be reduced by the MS-503 CoC review committee or by HUD.

Existing renewal projects may be reallocated by voluntary reallocation or by reallocation to a higher scoring new project.

The MS-503 CoC reallocation policy is posted at [www.opendoorshc.org](http://www.opendoorshc.org).

#### **Proposal Requirements:**

The proposal must create new permanent supportive housing for individuals experiencing chronic homelessness or rapid rehousing for individuals, families or youth, as defined in this notice, or a combination transitional housing and rapid rehousing project. The proposal must leverage funds from other sources to create a program that meets the housing and services needs of the participants. New project applications are limited to a request of \$250,000. New project applicants may request funds for new construction of housing, rehabilitation of housing, leasing in renewals or the transitional component of TH-RRH, tenant based rental assistance, administrative costs up to 10%, and appropriate supportive services.

A documented match of 25% is required. No guarantee of award is made as HUD makes the final decisions on funding.

Applicants who have not previously received Continuum of Care funds are encouraged to apply under this notice as long as the applicant has a current DUNS number, a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), is registered in the SAM registry, has experience with federal funds and has no unresolved audit findings. The link for the SAM registry follows:

<https://governmentcontractregistration.com/sam-registration.asp>.

The application for new or renewal projects must be completed on the esnaps site. The esnaps 101 Toolkit can be found at [www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info).

#### **Points**

100 points are possible. 10 bonus points are possible. Project applications will be scored, rated, and ranked by an unbiased review committee. **The scoring rubric can be found at [www.opendoorshc.org](http://www.opendoorshc.org).**

Capacity: up to 25 points

Fit with the system/ cost effectiveness: up to 25 points

Evidence Based Practices: up to 25 points

Program Outcomes: up to 25 points

As the MS-503 Continuum of Care Collaborative Applicant, Open Doors Homeless Coalition will apply for CoC planning funds outside the rating and ranking, as described by the 2023 NOFO. As the MS-503 Continuum of Care HMIS lead, Open Doors Homeless Coalition intends to apply for HMIS funds (Homelessness Management Information System) and Coordinated Entry/ Assessment funds. Per HUD's 2023 Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), the programs that are being renewed under the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) will be evaluated and accepted or rejected but not rated and ranked in the 2023 Continuum of Care competition.

The current 2023 HUD Continuum of Care Program NOFO can be found at [www.hudexchange.info](http://www.hudexchange.info).

If you have questions regarding the proposal, please contact Cathy Pitalo at [cpitalo@opendoorshc.org](mailto:cpitalo@opendoorshc.org).

## 2023 MS-503 CoC HUD Continuum of Care Scoring Rubric

### Capacity: up to 25 points

Does the project meet threshold requirements of experience with federal funds and SAM registration? YES: project is eligible to be scored, NO: project is not eligible to be scored

HUD experience/ monitoring reviews: up to 6 points

All money spent in previous HUD programs: up to 3 points

Understanding of Coordinated Entry and full participation in Coordinated Entry: up to 8 points

Evidence of participation, accuracy, and timeliness in HMIS: up to 8 points

### Fit with the System/ Cost Effectiveness: Up to 25 Points

Cost Effectiveness: Up to 10 points

Coordination with the system: Up to 15 points

### Evidence Based Practices: Up to 25 Points

Demonstrated use of Housing First and other evidence-based practices like Motivational Interviewing, Harm Reduction, and/ or Trauma Informed Care: up to 10 points

Low barrier Program: up to 7 points

Housing type and scale meet the needs of the participants: up to 4 points

Services meet the needs of the participants: up to 4 points

### Program Outcomes: Up to 25 Points (if a program reallocated to themselves, use the outcome info from the existing program's last reported year)

Exits to Permanent Housing: 85% or greater 10 points, 77%-84% 5 points, under 77% 0 points

Returns to Homelessness: 0% 5 points, 1%-4% 3 points, over 4% 0 points

Increases in Income at Exit: 50% or more 5 points, 30%-49% 3 points, under 30% 0 points

Time Homeless from referral to housed: 15 days or less 5 points, 16-29 days 3 points, over 30 days 0 points