

### **What we know (not much)**

The first step in applying for the FY2017 NOFA is to register for the competition. The registration window has not yet been announced. Recently HUD staff stated that their goal is to release the NOFA in May, have the deadline be in August and announce the awards in December.

In previous years, before the NOFA is posted, HUD has issued a series of “*CoC Competition Focus Messages*” that explain HUD’s policy priorities for the current year Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition and link to key resources to help CoCs and project applicants implement these priorities. We do not know what HUD’s schedule will be for sure this year, but on the outside chance that the NOFA is issued in May, we should begin the Review and Ranking Process so that there is sufficient time for the Review and Ranking (R & R) Committee to conduct its work and bring recommendations back to the Advisory Board.

### **Recommended Process**

It is the recommendation of R&R leadership and OHS staff to maintain the overall approach adopted by the Advisory Board previously which established a framework that:

- Is objective, standardized and transparent ;
  - Evaluates performance outcomes consistent with the priorities in the HEARTH Act.
1. Scoring criteria and performance standards will be reviewed and revised as needed. Revisions may be made to be more in line with the HEARTH Act guidance and HUD de-briefing feedback. If revisions are suggested, they will be presented to the OHS Advisory Board for approval vote via email. If there are concerns, a Special Board meeting could be scheduled.
  2. All organizations with projects eligible to seek renewal funding will receive notice to submit required performance outcomes, consumer satisfaction survey results, and most recent audits and management letters to OHS.
  3. OHS staff will conduct onsite HMIS security audits.
  4. HUD includes fiscal performance as an evaluation criterion. In order to assess this value, organizations will be asked to provide the following information:
    - Amount of funds awarded for the most recently completed grant year and the total expenditures of HUD dollars for that period; and
    - Frequency of HUD draws.

### **Review Process**

The rest of the timeline and activities leading up to the R&R Committee presenting a recommendation on renewing projects to the Advisory Board are:

- OHS staff will enter performance outcome results by project type (permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing, and transitional housing) onto Excel spreadsheets. Scores from performance outcomes, HMIS compliance and consumer satisfaction surveys will generate a total score for each project.
- The R&R Committee will evaluate all projects to identify 1) any additional information needed and 2) projects to receive site visits either due to low performance scores or to permit Committee members to gain a better understanding of the program.
- After the first meeting, committee members will conduct site visits, as needed
- The Committee will meet after site visits are completed to evaluate results and develop a final recommendation to present to the Advisory Board.

Board members who are not affiliated with an organization receiving HUD Homeless Assistance funding are welcome to join this year’s R&R Committee.