

US Department of Housing and Urban Development Priorities

1. Fund housing projects before supportive service projects

A new scoring element has been incorporated in the CoC scoring factor: *Emphasis on Housing*. HUD's scoring has increased 10 to 12 points to demonstrate weight it puts on permanent housing projects.

After funding the S+C renewals (which are non-competitive), 30 percent must be awarded to permanent housing projects. The 30 percent requirement applies to the competition overall, not to individual applications. However, in order to meet this statutory requirement, HUD may skip over higher scoring non-permanent housing projects in order to fund lower scoring permanent housing projects or, within the continuum, skip over higher priority non-permanent housing projects in order to fund lower priority permanent housing projects.

Project now meeting the definition of permanent housing for this purpose are projects under the following programs;

- S+C (new)
- SRO; and
- The Supportive Housing Program (SHP)/Permanent Housing component (new and renewal)
- Safe Haven projects which have the characteristics of the permanent housing component of SHP, including a lease with the resident. (Q&A, pg 21-22).

2. Encourage use of mainstream programs to benefit homeless people

Congress appropriates several hundred billion dollars each year for mainstream assistance programs, such as Medicaid, TANF, Food Stamps, SSI, State Children's Health Insurance Program, Workforce Investment Act, and Veterans Health Care. Homeless persons are typically eligible for one or more of these major assistance programs, which can provide many of the services that are currently funded by HUD's Supportive Housing Program. As providers assist homeless persons in identifying and successfully accessing these mainstream assistance programs, the need to use HUD homeless resources to provide supportive services will decline, allowing HUD's funds to be increasingly used to develop more needed housing.

Because of the important role played by these mainstream programs, the law requires successful applicants to coordinate and integrate their homeless program with other mainstream health, social services, and employment programs for which homeless populations may be eligible (Q&A, pg. 32).

3. Eliminate chronic homelessness within 10 years

HUD's definition of chronic homelessness is an unaccompanied disabled individual who has been continuously homeless for over one year, or has had 4 episodes of homelessness in the past 3 years.

To help ensure the elimination of chronic homelessness, HUD has implemented a

requirement that at least 10% of the appropriation be awarded to housing projects that predominantly serve individuals who are chronically homeless. At least 10% of the appropriation will be awarded to new or renewal transitional or permanent housing projects where at least 70% of the project's clients will be chronically homeless. Housing projects include: SHP Transitional Housing, Permanent Housing and Safe Haven; S+C, and SRO projects (Q&A, pg. 23)

4. Fund renewal projects before new projects

The Salt Lake County Homeless Coordinating Council Continuum of Care is very concerned that the ongoing housing needs of persons currently being served by existing projects to be taken into account as part of the decision-making process. The CoC reviews each project to determine if the project is performing satisfactorily and is meeting the needs of persons it proposed to serve or whether local needs have changed and other subpopulations or types of assistance should be given preference. HUD does not require that existing projects be renewed or given a higher priority than other projects (Q&A, pg. 25).

Shelter Plus Care renewal grants, although non-competitive, shall be funded this year from the appropriation. Shelter Plus Care grants that have been extended beyond their original five-year terms but which are projected to run out of funds in FY2006 will be renewed for one-year provided that they are determined to be needed by the Continuum of Care. In order to met the Congressional intent that only S+C renewals must be submitted as part of a community's Continuum of Care submission and be included on the priority list. Therefore, S+C renewals must be given consideration as part of the local CoC planning process and, if approved for submission by the CoC, must be listed as the last entries on the CoC's Project Priority Chart (Q&A pg. 27).

5. Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)

All applicants must agree to participate in a local HMIS system when it is implemented in their community. An HMIS is a computerized data collection application designed to capture client-level information over time on the characteristics and service needs of men, women, and children experiencing homelessness, while also protecting client confidentiality. It is designed to aggregate client-level data to generate an unduplicated count of clients served within a community's system of homeless service.

US Department of Housing and Urban Development Goals

The Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) require Federal agencies to measure the performance of their programs: HUD's homeless assistance programs are measured in 2006 by the objective to "end chronic homelessness and to move homeless families and individuals to permanent housing." These five goals are:

- Create new permanent supportive beds for chronically homeless person.
- Increase percentage of homeless persons staying in permanent supportive housing over six months to 71%
- Increase percentage of homeless persons moving from transitional housing to permanent supportive housing to 61%.
- Increase percentage of homeless persons becoming employed by 11%.
- Ensure that the Continuum of Care has a functional HMIS system.