

ANNUAL CHANGELOG



Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (LA BOSCO)
Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Local Competition
Updated for Funding Year 2018

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Overview

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) publishes the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program on an annual basis.

The CoC Program is “designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.”¹

The Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC), as the Collaborative Applicant (e.g. lead agency) for the Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (LA BOSCO), is responsible for completing the LA BOSCO's annual Consolidated Application to the CoC Program NOFA. The Consolidated Application includes project applications for both new projects seeking first time funding (new projects) and existing projects seeking renewal funding (renewal projects).

This Annual Changelog details how LHC's process for soliciting project applications to the LA BOSCO's annual Consolidated Application has changed during each Funding Year beginning with Funding Year 2018 (FY18). This Changelog is not intended to be comprehensive; rather, it is intended to give agencies an “at a glance” view of the major changes in a given year.

Funding Year 2018

New Parishes

Parishes that were formerly a part of the Houma-Terrebonne Continuum of Care are now part of the LA BOSCO and are eligible to apply for new and renewal funding through the LA BOSCO's Consolidated Application. Those parishes are Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, and Terrebonne.

Project Application Supplements

All applicants must now submit either the New Project Application Supplement or the Renewal Project Application Supplement with their project applications. These short supplements contain information necessary to the LA BOSCO's scoring tools that are not found in the project application or submitted to HUD.

Minimum Funding Requests

New projects are required to request at least \$150,000 in CoC Program funding regardless of which Funding Pool they are applying to.

New Project Funding

General Funding Pool

- **The General Funding Pool includes both bonus funds (previously called Permanent Housing Bonus funds) and reallocation funds.** In previous years, a given new project could not receive both Permanent Housing Bonus funds and reallocation funds. In FY18, HUD has allowed CoCs to combine those funds in the same pool.
- **The General Funding Pool can fund permanent housing projects, HMIS projects, and Coordinated Entry (SSO-CES) projects.** In previous years, Permanent Housing Bonus funds could not

¹ Funding Year 2018 CoC Program NOFA, page 4: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5719/fy-2018-coc-program-nofa/>

fund either HMIS or SSO-CES projects.

- **The General Funding Pool can fund both non-DV and DV projects.** This is not a change from previous years – projects that serve victims of domestic violence have always been able to apply on an equitable basis for CoC Program funds – but the LA BOSCOB believes it is important to highlight given that DV projects can choose instead to apply for funding through the Domestic Violence Funding Pool.
- **\$976,355 is available in the General Funding Pool.** This represents an increase of \$852,563 from last year's Permanent Housing Bonus is equivalent to last year's total new project funding, which included more than \$100,000 in reallocation funds.
- **Funding has been prioritized to LA BOSCOB Regions based on need.** To ensure all Regions have equitable access to CoC Program funding, the General Funding Pool has been prioritized to each Region based on need. (Need is defined by the number of people experiencing homelessness who were counted during the January 2018 Point in Time (PIT) Count.) Each Region has a 'funding floor' of \$150,000. Funding was allocated as follows:

LA BOSCOB Region	Total # of People Experiencing Homelessness	% of People Experiencing Homelessness	General Funding Pool Allocation
Baton Rouge	353	61.39%	\$361,485
Houma	45	7.83%	\$150,000
Lake Charles	161	28.00%	\$164,870
Natchitoches/Sabine	0	0.00%	\$150,000
Plaquemines/St. Bernard	16	2.78%	\$150,000

Domestic Violence Funding Pool

- **The Domestic Violence Funding Pool (DV Funding Pool) is available exclusively to new projects that serve victims of domestic violence.** The DV Funding Pool is funded exclusively by the DV Bonus made available through the FY18 CoC Program NOFA. The DV Funding Pool is equally available to all applicants regardless of the LA BOSCOB Region in which they propose to operate.
- **\$366,959 is available in the DV Funding Pool.** This represents approximately 80% of the DV Bonus funding available to the LA BOSCOB; the remainder will be reserved for a SSO-CES project serving victims of domestic violence at the Scoring Committee's discretion.
- **The DV Funding Pool can only fund two projects: up to one Rapid Re-housing project and up to one Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Re-housing project.** The LA BOSCOB will accept multiple project applications for each project type under the DV Funding Pool but will only submit one of each for funding under the DV Bonus, as HUD will only fund one of each project type under the FY18 CoC Program NOFA.

Scoring

- **Threshold Criteria have been significantly expanded.** The LA BOSCOB's Threshold Criteria now more closely match HUD's threshold criteria. Almost all of the new threshold criteria had in previous years been either informally assessed (e.g. whether the applicant was eligible under the CoC Program Interim Rule) or scored (e.g. Housing First).

- **New projects receive points for serving exclusively rural parishes.** For the purposes of this application, all parishes in the LA BOSCOCC are considered rural except East Baton Rouge, Calcasieu, and Terrebonne.
- **New projects are penalized if they do not fund at least 0.5 FTE outreach workers.** This is intended to address a lack of outreach, especially street outreach, which the LA BOSCOCC has repeatedly identified as one of its major deficits.
- **New projects receive points for cost effectiveness.** Cost effectiveness is defined more fully in the Scoring Tool Detailed Instructions.
- **New projects receive points if their organization voluntarily reallocated an existing FY17 CoC Program project instead of applying for renewal funding in FY18.** This is intended to incentivize organizations to reallocate projects that are lower-performing or that no longer meet either the organization's or the LA BOSCOCC's priorities.
- **New projects receive points if their organization participated both participated in the January 2018 PIT Count and the FY17 Housing Inventory Chart (HIC).** This is intended to incentivize organizations to fully participate in the LA BOSCOCC throughout the year regardless of whether they currently receive funding through a funding source that requires them to participate.

Renewal Project Funding

Scoring

- **Threshold Criteria have been significantly expanded.** The LA BOSCOCC's Threshold Criteria now more closely match HUD's threshold criteria. Almost all of the new threshold criteria had in previous years been either informally assessed (e.g. whether the applicant was eligible under the CoC Program Interim Rule) or scored.
- **Renewal projects receive points for serving exclusively rural parishes.** For the purposes of this application, all parishes in the LA BOSCOCC are considered rural except East Baton Rouge, Calcasieu, and Terrebonne.
- **Renewal projects receive points for cost effectiveness.** Cost effectiveness is defined more fully in the Scoring Tool Detailed Instructions.
- **Renewal projects receive points for having 'clean' audits and LA BOSCOCC monitorings.** Projects receive points if their organization's most recent audit had no issues or concerns and/or if their most recent LA BOSCOCC monitoring has no outstanding Findings.
- **Renewal Rapid Re-housing projects receive points based on how quickly they move participants into housing.** Projects receive an increasing number of points based on moving people into housing after project entry in 60 days or fewer.

Projections for Funding Year 2019

Scoring

- **New projects will receive a small number of points based on organizational stability.** This scoring element will incentivize projects to hire and retain high-quality staff people; projects will receive points for paying CoC Program staff a living wage and for funding benefits including health care and paid leave/sick time.

- **New and renewal projects will have updated cost effectiveness standards.** The LA BOSCOC will continue to refine cost effectiveness standards as it identifies what cost effectiveness means across the CoC and in each LA BOSCOC Region.
- **Renewal projects will receive points for submitting their Annual Performance Reports (APRs) to the LA BOSCOC and to HUD within the prescribed timeframes.**
- **Renewal projects will receive points for submitting their LA BOSCOC Monthly Data Reports on time.** The LA BOSCOC Monthly Data Report will be released after the LA BOSCOC's FY18 CoC Program Local Competition. It will require CoC Program projects to submit a small number of data elements to the LA BOSCOC on a monthly basis. All required data elements can be produced directly from HMIS.
- **Renewal projects will receive points for drawing funds at least quarterly from LOCCS.** This dovetails with a HUD requirement published in the FY18 CoC Program NOFA.



The Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care is administered by the Louisiana Housing Corporation, whose mission is to ensure that every Louisiana resident is granted an opportunity to obtain safe, affordable, energy efficient housing. Find out more at <https://www.lhc.la.gov/>