



Annual Changelog Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Local Competition Funding Year 2021

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I. Introduction

The Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (LA BOSCO) is Louisiana's largest coalition to end homelessness. This document is part of a series related to the LA BOSCO's local competition for funding under the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Funding Year (FY) 2021. For more information, including other documents in this series, please visit the LA BOSCO's website at <https://laboscoc.org/fy21-coc-program-competition>.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has published its FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO on August 18, 2021. [Click here for more information about the FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO from HUD.](#)

The LA BOSCO publishes an annual changelog to help project applicants engage each year's Request for Proposals (RFP). While this changelog attempts to be comprehensive, it is not guaranteed to include every change from a given year. Project applicants are strongly encouraged to review all local competition documents for themselves.

All information about the LA BOSCO's local competition will be published to its website at <https://laboscoc.org/fy21-coc-program-competition> and via its email distribution list. [Click here to subscribe to the LA BOSCO's email distribution list.](#)

II. Funding Year 2021

A. Overview

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ongoing recovery efforts in response to hurricanes Laura and Delta, and the impacts of Hurricane Ida, HUD and the LA BOSCO made relatively few changes to the project application and scoring processes of the FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO and the LA BOSCO's local competition.

B. Low Barrier is Housing First Again

“Low barrier” language in the FY 2019 CoC Program NOFA has been replaced by Housing First language in the FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO. In this respect, the FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO more closely resembles the FY 2018 CoC Program NOFA.

C. Project Application Supplements

Project application supplements have been eliminated. Instead, project applications are required to submit documentation to receive points under certain scoring elements. In most cases, signed certification from the project applicant’s executive staff is sufficient. This is intended to reduce the burden related to filling out documents beyond the project application in e-snaps and to enable each applicant to submit the documentation that is most appropriate and easiest for them. Refer to the Scoring Tools for more information.

D. Scoring Committee Attendance

Additional experts will be invited to attend Scoring Committee deliberations to provide additional context for project assessment. These include staff from another CoC and a technical assistance partner who is not involved in the FY 2021 CoC Program NOFO consolidated application process.

E. Scoring Committee Interviews

Scoring Committee interviews will now be held at the Scoring Committee’s discretion rather than being mandatory and scheduled in advance. This is intended to alleviate scheduling challenges and to enable the Scoring Committee to engage in more fruitful discussions.

F. Tiers

Tier 1 now includes 100% of the CoC’s Annual Renewal Demand (ARD), up from 94% in FY 2019 and previous years. This change is not likely to impact the LA BOSCO, as in accordance with its policies, the LA BOSCO will continue to rank the Louisiana Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative (LAPSH) project in Tier 2 and the bottom half of Tier 1.

G. New Project Funding

1. General Funding Pool

- (a) The General Funding Pool has been renamed the General Funding Pool. (In FY 2019, it was referred to as *Bonus Funding*; in FY 2018, it was referred to as *General Funding*.) This is intended to alleviate confusion between the General Funding Pool and Domestic Violence Bonus Funding.
- (b) \$1,171,091 is available in the General Funding Pool. That represents an increase of \$194,736 from FY 2019.
- (c) The LA BOSCO may, at the Board's discretion, approve expansion funding for SSO-CES and HMIS projects. This funding will be drawn from the General Funding Pool.
- (d) The General Funding Pool can only be used to fund projects whose primary target population(s) do not include people fleeing domestic violence.

2. Domestic Violence Bonus Funding

- (a) \$858,185 is available to the LA BOSCO in Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus funding. That represents an increase of \$394,218. This increase is primarily due to DV Bonus funding that would have been available in FY 2020 being rolled over into FY 2021.
- (b) 100% of the LA BOSCO's DV Bonus funding has been awarded directly to the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV), which will serve as the project applicant for one rapid re-housing (RRH) project in the full amount and which will select subrecipients to implement that project at a local level according to a request for proposals it will develop and release.

3. Scoring

- (a) In general, scoring for new projects has not substantially changed.
- (b) Outreach plans and funding are weighted more lightly, and the New Project Scoring Tool more clearly states that outreach conducted by permanent housing projects is intended to serve that project's participants, not the CoC as a whole.
- (c) Points awarded for Point in Time (PIT) Count and Housing Inventory Chart (HIC) participation remain the same; however, organizations that do not operate projects that

submit data to those events receive full points, insofar as PIT/HIC activities were significantly curtailed in January 2020.

- (d) Bonus points for rural service areas and staff sustainability were slightly reduced to bring them in line with other scoring elements.
- (e) Bonus points for equity assessments and improvements related to black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other people whose genders or sexualities are heteronormative (LGBTQ+) have been added in response to HUD priorities related to same.
- (f) Significant bonus points have been added for RRH and permanent supportive housing (PSH) projects that leverage healthcare resources to help people experiencing homelessness. This includes projects operated by substance abuse treatment or recovery service providers who make their services available to project participants and projects that receive external funding from healthcare organizations.

H. Renewal Project Funding

1. Scoring

- (a) In general, scoring for renewal projects has not substantially changed.
- (b) A new scoring element, “Intake to Leasing,” has been added, which assesses the average number of days between participant project intake and lease-up. This metric is weighted very lightly, as this is the first year it is being measured; however, applicants can expect to see it weighted more heavily in the future.
- (c) “Increased Income at Exit” replaces questions specific to increased employment and non-employment income. While this question is weighted more heavily than its predecessors, the total impact on project scores is expected to be approximately the same.
- (d) “HMIS Data Quality” is weighted slightly less heavily, as HMIS data quality has, in general, improved.
- (e) All project-type specific scoring elements that were previewed in the FY 2019 local competition are now in effect.
- (f) Bonus points for rural service areas and staff sustainability were slightly reduced to bring them in line with other scoring elements.

(g) Bonus points for equity assessments and improvements related to black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other people whose genders or sexualities are heteronormative (LGBTQ+) have been added in response to HUD priorities related to same.

III. Funding Year 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HUD did not host a national competition in FY 2020. As such, the LA BOSCOG did not host a local competition or release an annual changelog.

IV. Prior Years

The annual changelogs for FY 2018 and FY 2019 can be found on their respective funding cycle pages at <https://laboscoc.org/coc-program-funding>.