

# Frequently Asked Questions #1



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

## Table of Contents

Funding Questions ..... 2

Match Questions ..... 2

Scoring Questions ..... 3

CoC Membership Questions ..... 3

HUD Equal Access Rule and Gender Identity Rule ..... 3

e-snaps Questions..... 4

Other Questions ..... 4

## Funding Questions

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### Can I apply for CoC Program funding for multiple projects?

Yes. Organizations can submit any number of project applications. Organizations will not be more or less likely to receive funding if they submit multiple project applications.

### Can I apply for CoC Program funding for both new and renewal projects?

Yes. Organizations can submit any number of project applications to any of the CoC Program funding pools.

### My organization has a project that currently receives FY17 ESG funding but will not receive FY18 ESG funding. Can I apply for renewal funding for that project under the CoC Program?

No. ESG and CoC Program are completely separate funding streams; projects that are funded by one may not apply for renewal funding from the other. However, any eligible project that is not currently funded by the CoC Program can submit a project application to the CoC Program as a new project, including those currently funded by ESG.

### Can I submit a new project application that requests funds to purchase a new property to provide housing and/or services?

No.

At the federal level, acquisition costs are eligible under the Acquisitions budget line (24 CFR 578.43).

However, the LA BOSCOG has decided not to accept project applications that request any funding under the Acquisitions budget line under the FY18 CoC Program RFP.

## Match Questions

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### What documentation is required for match?

A letter of commitment from, and a memorandum of understanding with, the organization providing the match.

### CoC Program projects are required to provide match equal to 25% of their total CoC Program funding, excluding funds under the Leasing budget line. What is included under the Leasing budget line?

The Leasing budget line funds costs to lease a structure to provide housing or services to people experiencing homelessness.

You can find details under 24 CFR 578.59.

### Can HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) be used as match for a CoC Program project?

Yes – with caveats.

Most importantly, costs recognized as match under either TBRA or CoC Program must be eligible costs under both programs, meaning – among other things – that they must serve participants enrolled simultaneously in each program. Given the nature of those programs, it is entirely possible that they will not share participants, or will not meaningfully overlap.

The LA BOSCOG would nevertheless like to encourage organizations to keep considering interesting partnerships like this. A project that marries TBRA and CoC Program funds would be sophisticated and potentially very effective, so keep reaching!

Our office space is provided as a gift from another organization. Can we recognize it as in-kind match?

Yes. Guidance on in-kind match, including how to determine its value, can be found under 24 CFR 578.73(c).

## Scoring Questions

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What constitutes a living wage?

Please note that the scoring element that references whether employees of a given organization are paid a living wage will not be scored in FY18.

Per the RFP, living wage is calculated using either (1) MIT's Living Wage Calculator or (2) via a comparable wage study.

Using the Living Wage Calculator, use the following method:

- (1) Go to <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>
- (2) Click on Louisiana
- (3) Select your parish or, if applicable, your metropolitan statistical area;
- (4) On the chart under "Living Wage Calculation for [Area]," use the value listed under the column labeled "2 Adults, 2 Children" and the row labeled "Living Wage"

## CoC Membership Questions

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If my organization isn't currently a CoC member, can I still submit a project application to the FY18 CoC Program RFP?

Yes. The LA BOSCO has an extremely low bar for membership; any individual or organization is considered a member if they attend any general meeting or subscribe to the LA BOSCO's listserv. Moreover, the FY18 CoC Program RFP does not require applicants to be members to apply.

However, the FY18 CoC Program RFP does require applicants to either be members in Good Standing or have a Good Standing waiver.

For the FY18 CoC Program RFP, Good Standing requirements are as follows:

- (1) Have at least one staff person attend at least 3 out of the most recent 4 LA BOSCO General Meetings;
- (2) Have at least one staff person participate on at least one committee, subcommittee, working group, or the Board.

Organizations that do not meet the Good Standing requirements can request a waiver by emailing the request to Gordon Levine at [glevine@lhc.la.gov](mailto:glevine@lhc.la.gov) explaining why the organization was not able to meet the Good Standing requirements. The LA BOSCO intends to be generous with waivers this year given that many organizations were not aware of the LA BOSCO early enough in the year to meet Good Standing requirements.

## HUD Equal Access Rule and Gender Identity Rule

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Are CoC Program projects required to serve all people regardless of their age or gender?

It depends.

Under the FY18 CoC Program RFP, projects are required to indicate whether they will serve (1) exclusively single-person households, (2) exclusively multi-person households, or (3) a mix of both single-person and multi-person households.

Projects that serve exclusively multi-person households and projects that serve a mix of both single-person and multi-person households are required to serve all people regardless of their age or gender.

Projects that serve exclusively single-person households are not required to serve all people regardless of their age and gender (e.g. those projects may choose to operate single-sex projects).

**Are CoC Program projects that are required to serve all people regardless of their age or gender required to serve households (including unaccompanied youth households) whose heads of household are under the age of 18?**

No. It is the LA BOSCOC's interpretation of these Rules that HUD does not intend to force projects to serve households (including unaccompanied youth households) whose heads of household are under the age of 18.

## e-snaps Questions

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**How do I get started setting up accounts and projects in e-snaps?**

The LA BOSCOC has a quick start guide on its website under the FY18 Continuum of Care Program page under the Funding section.

The LA BOSCOC strongly recommends that you follow all HUD guides related to e-snaps when entering projects into e-snaps. (These guides are linked in the LA BOSCOC's quick start guide.)

**Who can I contact about technical difficulties in e-snaps?**

Submit a question to the HUD Help Desk (also called "the AAQ," or Ask a Question) under the e-snaps section.

**I've been locked out of my account in e-snaps. How can I regain access?**

First, clear your browser's cookies for e-snaps, or try switching browsers; this can help.

If not, submit a question to the HUD Help Desk. The Help Desk is typically responsive within a few hours to requests for password resets.

## Other Questions

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**Can my organization provide rental assistance to people living outside the LA BOSCOC? Can my organization subsidize housing outside the LA BOSCOC?**

No and no. Projects funded by the CoC Program through the LA BOSCOC must exclusively intake participants through the LA BOSCOC's Coordinated Entry prioritization list and must exclusively subsidize units inside the LA BOSCOC.

**Can projects funded through the CoC Program serve immigrants?**

HUD has no specific restrictions related to serving people based on their immigration status. To the best of the LA BOSCOC's knowledge, HUD has not cited anyone for serving people of different immigration statuses.

Moreover, the FY18 CoC Program RFP through the LA BOSCOC has no restriction on serving people based on their immigration status.

However, each HUD Field Office can have its own restrictions related to serving people of different immigration statuses. The same is true for communities and agencies. The LA BOSCOC encourages

applicants to check with their HUD Field Office and any other relevant bodies before submitting project applications that specify serving people of different immigration statuses.