



## **SC UPSTATE COC (SC-501) PROJECT SCORING, RATING AND RANKING POLICIES**

### **Performance Scoring Policy**

Applications for new and renewal projects will undergo a threshold review to ensure compliance with the HEARTH Act, the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and the local CoC Request for Applications. Any new or renewal project not meeting the Threshold Requirements will not be further reviewed and will not be considered for funding. Renewal projects have previously passed Housing and Urban Development (HUD) threshold review and only in very exceptional cases of changed HUD policies or program changes will be at risk of not passing the threshold review.

The locally developed rating and ranking tools, with feedback incorporated through the CoC Grants Committee, are utilized in the local NOFO solicitation. The Upstate CoC makes available and accepts comment on the rating and ranking tools for new and renewal projects from the public and full membership of the CoC. These scoring standards are annually reviewed at CoC meetings. While ranking recommendations are made by the Grants Committee, the independent Rating and Ranking Committee makes all final recommendations on project ranking.

All new or renewal applicants are required to submit performance data to be analyzed, including domestic violence victim service providers who utilize a protected database.

Scoring of renewal projects is tabulated by the Upstate CoC Grants Committee using the Rating and Ranking Tool for Renewal Projects, available on our website. The tool is largely based on prior year performance on HUD-approved System Performance Measures, project costs, project alignment with Housing First and the applicant's ability to spend the previous year's award.

Scoring of new projects or renewal projects without performance data is tabulated by the Upstate CoC Grants Committee using the Rating and Ranking Tool for New Projects/Renewal Project without Performance Data, available on our website. The tool is based on narrative provided by the agency regarding their experience serving their proposed population, their alignment with Housing First, their ability to manage federal funds, and their ability to implement the program in a timely manner. The narrative for this scoring rubric is collected in the Letter of Intent to Apply.

## **Ranking Policy**

The Upstate CoC Advisory Council appoints an independent Rating and Ranking Committee of subject matter experts who do not receive CoC funding to review, rate and rank all applications, including Reallocation, Expansion and Bonus Project applications. All renewal and new projects are subject to the scoring as outlined above. The committee has the discretion to select one or more applications for the amount of bonus funds available for new projects.

HUD requires Collaborative Applicants to rank all projects in two tiers. Tier 1 is defined by HUD in the NOFO as a percent of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) approved by HUD on the final HUD- approved Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW). Tier 1 projects are traditionally protected from HUD cuts. Tier 2 is the difference between Tier 1 and the CoC's ARD plus any amount available for bonus (including the Domestic Violence Bonus) as described in the HUD NOFO. Tier 2 projects must compete nationally for funding.

Projects will be ranked as follows:

- Renewal Project applications ranked according to Renewal Project Rating and Ranking Tool (Tier 1 and 2)
- New projects and Expansion projects ranked according to New Project Rating and Ranking Tool that emphasizes the HUD priorities outlined in the NOFO (Tier 2, unless otherwise determined by the Rating and Ranking Committee)

Projects that are deemed essential to the CoC but which would be at risk of losing funding if placed in Tier 2 will be ranked at the bottom of Tier 1. Tier 2 projects will be organized to best maximize the CoC Consolidated Application Overall Score.

The CoC Planning project is not ranked in the Priority Listing.

## **Re-Allocation Policy**

Any funds reallocated as part of recapturing unspent funds, voluntary or involuntary reallocation will be made available for reallocation to create new projects during the local solicitation process.

## **Unspent Funds**

Projects that are not fully expending or underspending their grant awards are subject to the reallocation process. Projects that have underspent their award by 10% may be reduced and those funds will go to reallocation for New Project(s). A one-year grace period may be extended by the Upstate CoC Advisory Council to providers who appeal proposed reallocation with a plan that demonstrates that the grant's expenditure will be improved in the current program year. Projects that have under-expended more than 10% of their award in two consecutive program years, without reallocation during the previous year, may have their funding reduced through reallocation in the CoC NOFO competition.

## **Voluntary Re-Allocation**

As part of the local solicitation for inclusion in the CoC collaborative application, providers are strongly encouraged to reallocate projects that are not spending their full award, underutilizing beds, under performing and/or not in alignment with Housing First principles and practices. Such reallocated funds are pooled the creation of New Projects. The competitive process for New Projects provides bonus points as an incentive to providers offering to reallocate their entire project funds to create a New Project addressing CoC priorities.

## **Involuntary Re-Allocation (Unconditional v Conditional Renewal)**

Projects with poor performance, not spending their full award, underutilizing beds, not in alignment with Housing First principles and practices, not serving the intended population or with significant, unresolved findings are subject to involuntary reallocation.

The Upstate CoC has established a threshold for unconditional renewal. Projects who score below 50 points of the weighted ranking score will be placed on corrective action and may be ranked in Tier 2. All projects submitting full renewal applications meeting the threshold review and scoring above 50 points are approved for renewal without conditions.

Projects scoring below 50 points will be asked to develop a plan to address performance issues by next year's competition (Performance Improvement Plan), or to voluntarily give up award money to be reallocated to a New Project. If problems continue, projects may be reallocated in the following cycle. Applicants may appeal the decision and the appeal must be considered by the Upstate CoC Advisory Council.

Determination of any conditions to renewal will be made at least 45 days ahead of the NOFO due date. Any required Performance Improvement Plans or plan that demonstrates that the grant's expenditure will be improved as part of a reallocation appeal must be submitted for approval at least 30 days ahead of the NOFO due date, so that a final determination can be made as to whether the project goes forward for renewal. A final list of New and Renewal Projects will be presented to the CoC Advisory Council and posted on the Upstate CoC website at [www.upstatecoc.org](http://www.upstatecoc.org).