

## Narrative Responses to Analyze Why Received Low Score in CoC Application

### I.

1D-10.	Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decisionmaking–CoC’s Outreach Efforts.	
	NOFO Section V.B.1.q.	
	Describe in the field below your CoC’s outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decisionmaking processes.	

Received only 1.75 out of possible 5 points

Key points in Fairfax County CoC response:

- In 2024, the CoC Lead Agency added two part-time positions for people with lived expertise and compensated at a livable wage.
- These roles of “Homelessness Advisor” provides vital input, advisement, and guidance to Lead Agency staff and the CoC’s community partners by sharing their expert opinions and recommendations policies, procedures, and practices.
- The Homelessness Advisors have supported the CoC through feedback in the review of Coordinated Entry assessment and prioritization, strategic planning, training materials, service delivery reviews, and best practice presentations.
- The governance of the CoC includes at least two seats for individuals with lived expertise of homelessness, with ongoing efforts to identify more.
- All agencies receiving HUD CoC Program funding (majority of providers in CoC) also hold lived expertise seats on their agency Board of Directors.
- In recruiting potential CoC Board members, a membership application for the CoC Board was designed to eliminate barriers for individuals with lived expertise or active episodes of homelessness from applying to and being involved with CoC collaborative leadership.
- The CoC Lead Agency also supported participation in the Racial Equity Action Committee (REAC) for people with lived expertise within the CoC. This opportunity was supported by non-profit partners and also contributed to broader hiring of individuals with lived expertise of homelessness within the provider community.

What HUD was looking for:

<p><b><i>q. Involving Individuals with Lived Experience of Homelessness in Service Delivery and Decision-Making and Provide Professional Development and Employment Opportunities.</i></b> The CoC has included persons with lived experience of homelessness in the CoC’s decision-making process, and the CoC encourages CoC members to provide professional development and employment opportunities to people experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Collaborative Applicants must demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• their CoC’s outreach efforts (e.g., social media announcements, targeted outreach) to engage those with lived experience of homelessness in leadership roles and decision-making processes;</li> <li>• individuals with lived experience of homelessness participate in their CoC’s committees, subcommittees, or workgroups;</li> <li>• individuals with lived experience of homelessness are routinely included in decision-making processes of their CoC related to addressing homelessness (e.g. minutes from CoC or CoC Subcommittee meetings show people with lived experience are involved in decision-making);</li> <li>• individuals with lived experience of homelessness are included in the</li> </ul>
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		<p>development, or revision, of their CoC's local competition rating factors;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• individuals with lived experience of homelessness are included in the development of their CoC's coordinated entry process.</li> <li>• professional development (e.g. internships, continuing education, skill-based training) and employment opportunities are provided to individuals with lived experience of homelessness either within their CoC or by CoC's membership organizations;</li> <li>• feedback is routinely gathered from people experiencing homelessness and people who have received assistance through their CoC or ESG program on their experience receiving assistance and the steps their CoC takes to address challenges raised by people with lived experience of homelessness.</li> <li>• a lived experience support letter signed by either (1) at least three members involved in a working group (e.g., advisory committee, subcommittee) comprised of individuals with lived experience <b>or</b> (2) an authorized representative of the workgroup (e.g., a working chair) along with evidence that the person is authorized to represent the group, <b>or</b> (3)</li> </ul>
		<p>individual letters signed by three individuals who are involved on different committees; and the letter must demonstrate support of the priorities for serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness with severe service needs in the CoC's geographic area—persons with lived experience may sign letters using pseudonyms to protect their privacy; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• persons with lived experience must have current knowledge of homeless crisis response systems (this can be experience and/or professional understanding).</li> </ul>

		Full points are available if there is more than one person with lived experience of homelessness engaged in local CoC planning and at least one person with lived experience came from an unsheltered situation.
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Observation: Lived Experience support letter would have helped score. Had that last year and received 4 out of 5 points.

II.

2C-2.	Reducing Length of Time Homeless—CoC’s Strategy.
	NOFO Section V.B.5.c.
	In the field below:
1.	describe your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;
2.	describe how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.

Received only 2 out of possible 5 points

Key points in Fairfax County CoC response:

- 1) Fairfax County’s Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), CoC Lead Agency, has implemented several initiatives to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families experience homelessness. Data quality processes have been streamlined to ensure the information being analyzed is accurate.
- OPEH also incorporated a length of time homeless performance measure, focused on an expected reduction rate per year, in individual contracts held with providers operating Outreach, Prevention, ES, RRH, and PSH programs.
- OPEH Program Managers hold quarterly meetings with contracted providers to review all performance measures, including length of homelessness, and discuss specific strategies to elevate performance.
- OPEH also actively engages the few providers who do not hold contracts in discussions about the system-wide performance measures, which are reviewed annually during a Bi-Annual CoC Meeting.
- 2)The CoC uses HMIS to generate By-Name Lists (BNL), which are sorted by population, project and agency and prioritized by chronicity and length of homelessness.

- The BNL template structure is focused on setting clear actionable next steps, deadlines, and identifying accountable persons to continuously move households towards housing.
- Each provider uses this BNL template in their staff meetings and OPEH staff join the provider meetings monthly to support each household’s progression to housing.
- The CoC’s Coordinated Entry Prioritization Pool, which operates in alignment with HUD’s memo on prioritizing length of homelessness for PSH programs, is used to quickly connect individuals and families to housing programs. Length of homelessness is a primary prioritization factor for all housing opportunities through the Prioritization Pool, including voucher programs and local longer term subsidy programs.
- 3) OPEH, the CoC Lead Agency, is responsible for overseeing these strategies to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless.

**III.**

2C-3.	Successful Permanent Housing Placement or Retention –CoC’s Strategy.
	NOFO Section V.B.5.d.
	In the field below:
1.	describe your CoC’s strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations;
2.	describe your CoC’s strategy to increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations; and
3.	provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC’s strategy to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing.

Received 0 out of possible 6 points

Key points in Fairfax County CoC response:

- 1)The CoC is increasing the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in ES, SH, TH, and RRH exit to permanent destinations through several strategies. Increasing the number of PSH units is top priority. The CoC has increased its PSH production with 88 units currently in the development pipeline, the most in its history, and more projects being conceptualized.
- The local PHA has also begun project-basing more vouchers in new housing developments, facilitating an increase in units committed affordable to extremely low-income households as well as PSH units.
- Beyond these new ventures, the Fairfax CoC continues to host “By-Name List” meetings, with data generated by HMIS, on a monthly basis with providers to develop individualized housing plans and review outflow data.

- The Fairfax CoC also maintains a locally-funded rental assistance programs to provide additional rapid rehousing-like options for unhoused and disabled households.
- 2) The CoC has executed several strategies to maintain the rate of retention and successful exits from these programs. The CoC strengthened its partnership with the local PHA through the utilization of the Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV). Recognizing a need for more supportive services for EHV participants, the local PHA allocated \$5 million over 3 years to provide support services to help participants retain permanent housing.
- The local PHA also continues to support a “Move-On Strategy” with a preference for PSH participants that no longer need PSH but need affordable housing options.
- The CoC also continues to prioritize serving individuals with higher barriers in its permanent supportive housing programs and adapts the services appropriately to address the various levels of need.
- All projects in the CoC use a Housing First approach in which case managers focus on housing stability and the development of tangible plans to increase income and work towards short and long-term housing goals.
- As needed, PSH providers request case conferencing with the CoC Lead agency and other providers to help provide additional support to participants struggling in current PSH placements.
- 3) OPEH, the CoC Lead Agency, is responsible for overseeing these strategies to increase the rate that individuals and families exit to or retain permanent housing.

Exact same wording as in FY 2023 application where received 13/13 points.