

## OVERVIEW

On December 11, 2023, Youth Collaboratory and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) cohosted a webinar exploring the new [Youth Homelessness System Improvement \(YHSI\)](#) funding opportunity. The webinar recording can be [viewed here](#).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Below are select questions and answers discussed during the webinar. Applicants are encouraged to email additional questions to [YHSI@hud.gov](mailto:YHSI@hud.gov).

### Eligibility & Applying

Can a nonprofit apply for this funding or only governmental agencies? Does the CoC apply and support local agencies, or do local agencies apply? Do we need permission from our CoC to apply? Can we apply on our own, or only with CoC partnership?

- You do not need permission from your CoC to apply for YHSI. Anyone can apply who meets the eligibility criteria outlined in the funding announcement. Tax exempt non-profit organizations are eligible to apply.

If our CoC is applying, can we not apply?

- You can submit your own application, separate from the CoC, and HUD is looking for group efforts, community engagement, and involvement across the community. As such, it makes sense for applicants to be working with their CoC.

Can multiple applications be submitted per community/CoC (with different applicants) for different projects? Will HUD consider these equally / does HUD recommend this?

- This is not recommended. It is a stronger application for community partners to apply together.

Can you clarify what a regional approach is considered?

- A regional approach is a geographic area in:
  - Two or more CoCs; or
  - At least 75% of the geographic area of the state

For organizations who have never applied for HUD funding before, where do we go to apply.

- Go to [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and search for the funding announcement ([also linked here](#)). In the Related Documents tab you'll find a zip file with the funding announcement. Download the most recent version of the announcement – as of the writing of this document, select last file in the folder with “updated” in the title. Once all your application materials are developed and you're ready to apply, click the Apply button in [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

### Funding & Funding Structure

Are the funding categories and activities (Planning and Partnerships, Data, Coordinated Entry, and Racial and Gender Equity) all or nothing? Do we need to provide them all?

- Projects will provide one or more activities.

Are you saying that each application can only be for one project, and the funding categories and activities (Planning and Partnerships, Data, Coordinated Entry, and Racial and Gender Equity), and amount we apply for, would depend on how many bucket areas that one project covers?

- Yes, projects can cover one or more funding category and activity, and the amount of funding requested could not exceed the maximum award amount in each category and the total project cap. See pages 13 and 14 of the funding announcement for more details.

If a submission meets the requirements for a partnership, is the maximum grant allowable doubled so the total grant could be \$400,000 to \$2,000,000 - along with doubling the eligible amounts per category?

- The most any project will get is \$2 million. Statewide grants for planning and partnerships max out at \$400,000 or \$800,000 if they cross two or more CoCs.

Can there be sub-recipients under this grant?

- Yes, it is encouraged.

Can funding be used for staffing costs?

- Yes

Can funding support the development of our database or only HMIS database? Would software that supplements HMIS data collection be eligible for funding?

- Yes, as long as costs are associated with developing a youth-specific system.

Can funds be used to create housing for youth?

- No.

Would contracting with a data analyst for cross-system data analysis for the 2-year period be allowable?

- Yes. Consider how you will sustain these activities after the 2-year period since it will be one-time funding.

Is match required? Can volunteer time or in-kind hours be used?

- There is not a cost sharing or match requirement for YHSI. However, there is a Budget Rating Factor indicating that to receive the maximum number of points on the question related to other sources of funding for their projects, an applicant must demonstrate, through a letter of commitment or other documentation, that it will receive 10% of the total budget amount requested from other sources. In-kind sources can be used to meet this 10%.

Will there be another NOFO for YHSI in the future?

- Can't speak to future funding availability.

## Program

Can we target specific identified youth for our project? For example, young people impacted by commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) or young people involved in the justice system? Or is this a general systems of change for youth at-risk of homelessness?

- Yes, you can design projects targeting specific groups of young people. It must be specific about their experiences and projects cannot exclude protected classes.

What is HUD's definition of "youth"?

- Page 11 of the funding announcement defines youth as "Persons aged 24 and younger (has not reached their 25th birthday).
  - Unaccompanied Youth - persons who are age 24 or younger, who are not part of a family with children.
  - Pregnant or Parenting Youth – Individual heads of households who are age 24 or younger who are pregnant or who are the parents or legal guardians of one or more children who are present with or sleeping in the same place as that youth parent.
  - Transition Age Youth- persons between age 18 and 24."

Can you explain a CoC?

- Here's two helpful resources that provide an overview of a CoC, Continuum of Care:
  - [https://www.hud.gov/program\\_offices/comm\\_planning/coc](https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc)
  - <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>

What definition of homelessness is used for YHSI, McKinney-Vento of the definition of literal homelessness within the COC Program?

- YHSI uses the HUD definition, and includes youth at-risk of and those experiencing homelessness.

What ways will the Youth Action Board (YAB) be put into leadership roles with the implementation of this grant?

- This will be determined by the applicant and included in the Youth Involvement Rating Factor.

We understand that funds can be used to support staff time to reach out and work with tribes to engage folks in better understanding the youth system, but just to confirm, tribes don't have to agree to be part of the CoC though, right?

- Correct

On the CES access point, do we have to involve government entities for the purposes of this grant?

- Not required to partner with government entities but if the CES lead agency is a government entity you would need to partner with them.

## Application Requirements

What is included in the narrative? What is not included?

- Review "Content and Form of Application Submission" beginning on page 18 of the funding announcement for what is included in the application. The 25-page narrative includes the Rating Factor criteria beginning on page 28.

Is the Milestone Chart a separate attachment? Pages 19-20 of the funding announcement says it is, but the instructions for it on page 30 indicate it may be part of the Rating Factor narrative.

- Yes, it is an attachment.

What if we are using the funds to create a YAB, would a letter stating that suffice or would a letter from youth saying they would join the YAB if it was created be needed?

- Each YHSI application needs to have a letter of commitment for the YAB or equivalent group of youth who will be involved in the project.

Are there any forms that could help with our application, like a budget spreadsheet?

- Yes, there are two HUD forms:
  - 424 CBW is a helpful budget tool that you could think about referencing (or using if you choose to) for the required budget: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/424-CBW.xls>
  - And here is a form (HUD 2880- Applicant/Recipient Disclosure/Update Report) that you could choose to use to disclose other funding awards:
    - PDF: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/2880.pdf>
    - Word: <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/OCHCO/documents/2880.docx>

Is there transparency on how the Rating Factor points were created and how it is being implemented.

- Within the Rating Factors, each section has a maximum amount of points. There is not a breakdown of point value per question, but applicants can get an estimation of the value for each question by dividing the total point value in each section by the number of questions in that section.

Is this the sort of application that prefers cross-referencing previous sections or explicitly stating everything any time it needs to be said?

- It is recommended to reply directly to each funding announcement question that is asked.

## Other

When will this funding be awarded?

- Anticipate making awards around April 15, 2024.

Are there currently youth that are being integrated in the awarding process? Have they been a part of choosing criteria?

- Yes. Like HUD has done with YHDP, young people have been consulted on program planning and development, and will be involved in reviewing proposals for funding.