**From Webinar Describing the Structurally Disadvantaged Areas: (Brett E.)**

And then there's 10 points for something we're calling, serving structurally disadvantaged areas.

This is if the project applicant makes a commitment, and there will be a section in e-snaps, in the project application where you can answer this question directly and tell us the area that you're planning to serve. But you get these points if you make a commitment to serve individuals and families in geographic areas of your CoC that have high need, basically demonstrated by high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty. And that they're also an area where until now CoC services have been entirely unavailable. So let's talk about what you might include in that text box and potentially attachments in your project application. You could give us some information that shows that poverty rates are significantly higher in that geographic area than in the rest of your CoC. You could give us information that shows us that rates of homelessness are significantly higher in that geographic area. So maybe you geo code your point in time, count and you're able to show us that this area has higher rates of homelessness in this area.

Or you can give us information that shows housing distress, such as severe overcrowding or severely substandard housing, and that those rates of housing distress are higher in this geographic area than they are in the rest of your CoC, or in other parts of your CoC. In that data, in that text field, you should be able to describe the data source that you use and provide any information about that

data, including links, if it's publicly available, feel free to attach something in the attachment sections of the project app, but basically give us that data that you're using in the narrative description in e-snap, so that we can evaluate these points.

Question: **Can you go over the scoring criteria for the Unsheltered Set Aside and the Rural Set Aside again? This relates to the overall CoC Application to the NOFO and not individual projects.**

Transript of Webinar (Brett Esders)

Sure. So as Norm mentioned on one of the intro slides, there are actually two pots of money available under this NOFA, there's the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside and there is the Rural Set Aside. If you're applying for both, you need to answer every single question that you see in the scoring section of the NOFA, and that totals a hundred points. And we will select projects based on a hundred points. If you are not applying for the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside, then there are, I think, three questions that you do not have to answer. And so when you're looking in the NOFA, you'll see whether a question, it'll have parentheticals, required for Rural Set Aside. And if it's not next to that, if you don't see those words next to the question, you do not have to answer it if you are only applying for projects under the Rural Set Aside. This is our attempt to make it just a little bit easier. And to also think about the types of questions that might not be applicable in rural areas in the same way that they are in urban and suburban areas.

If you're applying for both, great, but what we'll do on the Rural Set Aside for those points, we'll select you only based on the questions that were required for the Rural Set Aside. So even if you answered those other three questions because you're applying for funding under the Unsheltered Homelessness Set Aside, we won't consider those questions when we're doing your score for your rural projects. And so that means that the CoC score for the Rural Set Aside is 89 points because it removes the points from those three questions.

Question: **Can you speak to if the ‘hard costs’ are renewable and how renewing of the projects will work once the 3 years are over?**

Transcript of Webinar (Norm Suchar)

In general, they are not renewable in the CoC program. So want everyone to be aware of that and take that into consideration. There's a question about whether these projects will be renewable at all and how they will affect the annual renewal demand in future competitions. So there's a limited amount we can say about this because we generally can't talk in too much detail about a future NOFA. So we can't guarantee what's going to be in a NOFA four years from now when these projects are expiring. But in general, the way we have run our NOFOs in the past is that we have basically included any CoC projects that are eligible for renewal in the annual renewal demand. Actually, we're kind of required to do the annual renewal demand that way.

So these are CoC projects, so they would normally be included in the annual renewal demand. Again, we can't speak for future NOFOs and exactly how we're going to handle that in the future, but wanted you to be aware of that.

Question: **Let's say you have a CoC that has half, the Eastern half of the CoC is rural and maybe sort of one portion of that rural area is applying for funds under the rural part. Is the plan that they're submitting for the entire CoC? Is it for the rural parts of the CoC? Or is it for the areas that are applying for funding within the CoC?**

Transcript of Webinar (Brett Esders)

Okay, so obviously when you're talking about a CoC plan, we're looking to incorporate your entire geographic area, but certainly it makes sense if these funds are going to be targeted to a certain region that you give us more details about the region and the plan within that region that you're going to be sort of placing or citing these projects or the people that you're going to be serving. But it would be helpful to have an understanding of how this fits into your entire CoC's plan and how it supports your entire CoC's efforts to reduce unsheltered homelessness.

Question: **Is a healthcare department or a Medicaid agency or a county health department, do those count as healthcare organizations for the purposes of the healthcare leveraging questions?**

Transcript of Webinar (Norm Suchar)

And they do. They are healthcare organizations for that purpose. And so a partnership, for example, between the state Medicaid agency or a commitment from the state Medicaid agency as part of the application would certainly count towards that plan. So great question. And in fact, it doesn't just count, it's a great idea. So strongly encourage you all to work to the degree that you can with your state Medicaid agencies. It's a great partnership to have.

Question: **If a particular CoC has lived experience representation on their CoC board, but they don't have a lived experience working group. What should they be submitting to meet the requirements of that rating factor? What would sort of count towards that rating factor?**

Transcript of Webinar (Brett Esders)

So, yes. Great that you have people with lived expertise on your CoC's board and you're meeting the CoC requirements, but this goes above and beyond. So we really are looking, to receive the full points in this section, for you to have a separate working group, comprised of people with lived expertise of homelessness that are able to inform policies and procedures of the CoC and that sign off on this application. There's several resources that are on the site that we linked to earlier and that are on this slide right now for how to go about creating a working group of people with lived expertise of homelessness and you can start that process. And we're also going to be publishing, I think, in the next couple weeks, a message particularly geared towards how you go about involving people with lived expertise and how you go about setting up a working group of people with lived expertise of homelessness.

Question: **Can Youth Action Boards serve as the working group of people with lived experience for the purpose of this application?**

Transcript of Webinar (Norm S)

So I think everyone probably knows about YHTP and what the Youth Action Boards are, but just for quick reference, communities that receive funding under the Youth Homelessness Demonstration are required to have a Youth Action Board, which is made of up of young people who experience homelessness.

And the answer is yes, that can potentially serve as your lived experience working group. We do really strongly encourage you to try to create a working group that is representative of the unsheltered population that you have in your community and that you plan to serve and do your best to try to create a working group that reflects that reality as much as possible. But the Youth Action Board, assuming you've constituted the way that we normally think of Youth Action Boards, would count as meeting that requirement.

Question: **Can a project apply to serve, if they're applying for a rural project, can it serve both rural and non rural areas or can it serve only rural areas?**

Transcript of Webinar (Brett Esders)

Sure. A project under the Rural Set Aside can only serve rural areas of your geography. And I think another twist on the question that came in earlier was, does my organization also have to be located in that rural area? And the answer to that one is no. Your organization can be located in a non rural area, but through that project, you can only provide services and housing to people in the rural area. So you could certainly imagine a case where there's a city or a non-rural area that has maybe organizations that are used to running CoC funds, then they could take on the CoC grant and provide services to the rural areas.

Question: **Will HUD provide detailed instructions for people?**

Transcript of Webinar (Sid Nilakanta)

Yes. So this will be very similar to what we do for the CoC program and the project application. So we will have detailed instructions to help guide you through the project application. We will have navigation guides to kind of give snapshots of the actual application to help you go through it. And the same thing with, I believe the CoC application, there will be detailed guidance. So you'll have as much guidance as we provide for the regular CoC competition. So that is what we will have. And then on the application itself, there might be some instructions to help out, but overall we'll have detailed instructions and navigation guides to help aid you in your application.

Question: **Are there any restrictions on serving people experiencing homelessness who are undocumented?**

Transcript of Webinar (Brett Esders)

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/5126/prwora-and-huds-homeless-assistance-programs-fact-sheet/>

Yep. I actually had already put it in the chat. I can put it in again because I still have it up on my computer. But in general, these projects funded under here follow the same rules as the CoC program. So that means all of the guidance around serving people based on their immigration status or lack of documented status apply here. And basically it sort of comes down to this, emergency services such as street outreach, safe haven and rapid rehousing, those can be provided regardless of immigration status. And then if you are a nonprofit provider, then you are not required to check immigration status. But if you choose to do so, you have to do it for everyone across the board. So I will put a link back in the chat with those resources. And if you have additional questions on that, I recommend you submit them to the box.

Question: **If the CoC did not include tribal lands in their CoC registration, would they be able to still apply for funding under this NOFO?** And can you talk about, their two sort of parts of this question. One is about the geographic area that is included in the tribal lands and trust lands or reservations or other tribal lands. And then the other is about tribal organizations applying for funds.

**Transcript of Webinar (Brett Esders)**

Yep. So unfortunately at this point, the registration process has closed. So there's not a process for geographies to go back or CoCs to go back and include geographies that they hadn't previously included in their registration, in their registration at this point. So if a tribal area was not included in the geography during that registration process and that extended registration process, you can't go back and do that now. However, if a tribal organization or a TDAG wants to apply for funds and serve people who are not living in those geographic areas, but are living in the areas or residing in areas, or want services in the areas that the CoC has already sort of designated as its geographic area, then that's absolutely okay. You can have tribes and TDAGs operating projects within the CoC boundaries. And there's also the rule for tenant based rental assistance. So if you have... Okay, you've been selected, you have your project awarded, you've gone to grant agreement, and now you're providing tenant based rental assistance within your geographic area and someone wants to take their tenant based rental assistance and move on to tribal land, that's okay, too. Somebody can take that and rent a unit on tribal lands.

Question: Do you have a **resource page**?

**Transcript of Webinar (Brett Esders)**

Sure. So on the website that we have listed on the slide, you're going to be able, this is where we're going to house everything related to this competition. It is where the navigational guides will go when they're ready, it's where the detailed instructions will go. It's where you can find links to the NOFA. It's where we will put today's slides and yesterday's slides. And then the whole last three quarters of this page is technical assistance materials. And these are materials that have been developed by our TA providers, by us, by other federal partners. And they are designed to help you both prepare your application for funds. And also when it comes time to roll out projects, they'll help you adopt some of the principles like Housing First, like Centering Equity, in your project design as well.

Question: I wonder if you could talk, about **compensating people with lived experience**. Can you talk about the ways in which the CoC program can compensate people with lived experience as they work on planning and other activities within the CoC?

Brett Esders:

Sure. So CoC planning dollars can be used to pay people with lived expertise of homelessness who are engaged in planning activities of the CoC. It can be used to help them travel to meetings, I think under the pandemic, we said it can be used to provide them access to the equipment needed to attend virtual meetings. Under a project, you can hire people with lived expertise and then you pay them like you pay any other staff person, you pay them a salary. You can contract with them, you can do it that way. There are a lot of different ways that you can pay people with lived expertise. I can't remember if we have stuff on the website about that already, but if not, it's certainly something that we can include in future messaging.

Question: **Can we apply for a project that serves a particular subpopulation like veterans, for example**.

**Transcript of Webinar (Norm S)**

And I want to address that here because this is a great question that makes a larger point. And it's a good one to end on, because I just realized for at the end of our time here. Our expectation is that the plan you're submitting is really a plan to address unsheltered homelessness in all of its populations, all of its subcomponents. And we are really looking for good plans, plans that are based on evidence, that are specific, that are really good strategies to end unsheltered homelessness. We have specifically not required that each project only serve people who are unsheltered at the time they enroll. We have not put requirements around serving chronically homeless people or things like that in here. Our expectation is that the plan is really good and that it is really addressing the problem of unsheltered homelessness.

And I think if you are making a plan and only applying to serve one population, it's unlikely that you're going to score real well on the CoC application. So we really encourage you, if you're unsheltered population is really made up of like one particular subpopulation overwhelmingly, then it would make sense and it would be a good strategy to focus on that population. But otherwise, really strongly encourage you to really sort of start with the people you have that are unsheltered and really develop a plan that works for them.