NY-603 Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles for the 2024 CoC Funding Round were developed by the CoC-elected Governance Board, on behalf of the full CoC.

Governance Board members were informed on the 2024 HUD NOFO, HUD Guiding Principles, Regional Gaps Analysis, Community Unmet Needs Survey, PLE Advisory Board feedback.

Guiding Principles are represented by the following six pillars:

1. **Improving HUD Systems Performance Measures / Data-Driven Outcomes**
2. **Embracing Key Approaches and Strategies**
3. **Ensuring Access and Equity**
4. **Meeting Local Unmet Needs**
5. **Maximizing Capacity, Funds and Local Impact**
6. **Ensuring HUD Compliance and Integral Systems**

1. Effectively Tracking Progress Towards Ending Homelessness using HUD Systems Performance Measures (SPM)

The CoC seeks to accurately and objectively determine local progress towards ending homelessness, and make informed decisions related to local strategies and the use of scarce resources. These objective measures are emphasized throughout the local CoC application process and objectively determines individual project performance and how each project impacts progress towards ending homelessness overall within the region (i.e. net impact ranking score).

Local Systems Performance/ Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

Measure 1: Length of Time Persons Remain Homeless

Metric 1a: This measure is of the client's entry, exit, and bed night dates strictly as entered in the HMIS system.

	Universe (Persons) - FY21	Universe (Persons) - FY22	Universe (Persons) - FY23	Average LOT Homeless - FY21	Average LOT Homeless - FY22	Average LOT Homeless - FY23	Median LOT Homeless - FY21	Median LOT Homeless - FY22	Median LOT Homeless - FY23
Persons in ES and SH	6593	6867	7618	185	187.69	188.33	86	88	112
Persons in ES, SH, and TH	6704	6985	7745	185	188.07	188.65	88	91	112

Measure 2: The Extent to which Persons who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations Return to Homelessness

Measure 2a: Return to Homelessness within 6 and 12 months

Measure 2b: Return to Homelessness within 6, 12, and 24 months

	Percentage of Returns in Less than 6 Months (0-180 days) - FY21	Percentage of Returns in Less than 6 Months (0-180 days) - FY22	Percentage of Returns in Less than 6 Months (0-180 days) - FY23	Percentage of Returns from 6 to 12 Months (181-365 days) - FY21	Percentage of Returns from 6 to 12 Months (181-365 days) - FY22	Percentage of Returns from 6 to 12 Months (181-365 days) - FY23	Percentage of Returns from 13 to 24 Months (366-730 days) - FY21	Percentage of Returns from 13 to 24 Months (366-730 days) - FY22	Percentage of Returns from 13 to 24 Months (366-730 days) - FY23	Percentage of Returns in 2 Years - FY21	Percentage of Returns in 2 Years - FY22	Percentage of Returns in 2 Years - FY23
Exit was from SO	0.00%	5.26%	16.28%	11%	5.26%	2.33%	11%	0	6.98%	21%	10.53%	25.58%
Exit was from ES	9%	8.54%	14.26%	4%	5.13%	6.13%	5%	5.40%	6.22%	18%	19.07%	26.61%
Exit was from TH	12%	4.35%	4.62%	4%	2.17%	4.62%	6%	8.70%	1.54%	22%	15.22%	10.77%
Exit was from SH	10%	6.90%	5.26%	10%	6.90%	5.26%	0%	3.45%	5.26%	20%	17.24%	15.79%
Exit was from PH	3%	1.60%	3.28%	3%	1.60%	1.19%	4%	2.59%	5.37%	9%	5.79%	9.85%
TOTAL Returns to Homelessness	9%	7.54%	12.64%	4%	4.64%	5.42%	5%	5.09%	6.01%	18%	17.26%	24.07%

Measure 4: Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in CoC Program-funded Projects

Metric 4.1: This measures the change in earned income for adult system stayers during the reporting period.

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	500	484	369
Number of adults with increased earned income	66	71	47
Percentage of adults who increased earned income	13.00%	14.67%	12.74%

Metric 4.2: This measures the change in non-employment cash income for adult system stayers during the reporting period.

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	500	484	369
Number of adults with increased non-employment cash income	161	133	120
Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income	32.00%	27.48%	32.52%

Metric 4.3 - Change in total income for adult system stayers during the reporting period

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	500	484	369
Number of adults with increased total income	207	192	158
Percentage of adults who increased total income	41.00%	39.67%	42.82%

Metric 4.4 - Change in earned income for adult system leavers

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Universe: Number of adults who exited (system leavers)	135	64	111
Number of adults who exited with increased earned income	35	13	23
Percentage of adults who increased earned income	26.00%	20.31%	20.72%

Metric 4.5 - Change in non-employment cash income for adult system leavers

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Universe: Number of adults who exited (system leavers)	135	64	111
Number of adults who exited with increased non-employment cash income	28	19	29
Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income	21.00%	29.69%	26.13%

Metric 4.6 - Change in total income for adult system leavers

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Universe: Number of adults who exited (system leavers)	135	64	111
Number of adults who exited with increased total income	59	26	47
Percentage of adults who increased total income	44.00%	40.63%	42.34%

Measure 5: Number of Persons who Become Homeless for the First Time

Metric 5.1: This measures the change in active persons in ES, SH, and TH projects with no prior enrollments in HMIS.

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Universe: Person with entries into ES, SH or TH during the reporting period.	4994	5427	5800
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH, TH or any PH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	1989	1814	1762
Of persons above, count those who did not have entries in ES, SH, TH or PH in the previous 24 months.	3005	3613	4038
	60.17%	66.57%	69.62%

Metric 5.2 - Change in the number of persons entering ES, SH, TH, and PH projects with no prior enrollments in HMIS

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Universe: Person with entries into ES, SH, TH or PH during the reporting period.	5527	6769	6614
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH, TH or any PH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	2266	2679	2158
Of persons above, count those who did not have entries in ES, SH, TH or PH in the previous 24 months. (i.e. Number of persons ex	3261	4090	4456
	59.00%	60.42%	67.37%

Measure 7: Successful Placement from Street Outreach and Successful Placement in or Retention of Permanent Housing

Metric 7a.1: This measures the change in exits from street outreach to acceptable destinations.

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Universe: Persons who exit Street Outreach	114	226	100
Of persons above, those who exited to temporary & some institutional destinations	79	53	9
Of the persons above, those who exited to permanent housing destinations	34	49	2
% Successful exits	99.00%	45.13%	11.00%

Metric 7b.1: This measures the change in exits to permanent housing destinations.

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Universe: Persons in ES, SH, TH and PH-RRH who exited, plus persons in other PH projects who exited without moving into housing	3938	3457	4606
Of the persons above, those who exited to permanent housing destinations	2266	1196	895
% Successful exits	58.00%	34.60%	19.43%

Metric 7b.2: This measures the change in exit to or retention of permanent housing

	FY21	FY22	FY23
Universe: Persons in all PH projects except PH-RRH who exited after moving into housing, or who moved into housing and remained in the PH project	1616	1672	1813
Of persons above, those who remained in applicable PH projects and those who exited to permanent housing destinations	1559	1612	1661
% Successful exits/retention	96.00%	96.41%	91.62%

2. Key Approaches

Housing First

All projects seeking funding under the 2024 CoC Funding Round must operate under a **Housing First Model**, adhere to current CoC Prioritization Policy adopted by the CoC and accept referrals only through Coordinated Entry (no side door referrals). LICH and The Safe Center Long Island for DV, are the CE management and referral entities for the local Coordinated Entry System (CES). Those projects that have unresolved findings with Coordinated Entry participation will not be eligible to apply for 2024 funding round.

Trauma-Informed Care

Our CoC acknowledges the correlation between those that experience trauma and those that experience homelessness, the importance of safety, and values the unique needs of persons that experience trauma. As a CoC and through Coordinated Entry, we seek to minimize the traumas and burdens of seeking housing and services, and actively connect households to all available support networks to cope with trauma. The PLE Advisory provided feedback to acknowledge childhood trauma and ACEs (discussed during 7/16/24 PLE meeting and 7/17/24 GB meeting).

- HUD Trauma-Informed Reference Guide: https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Trauma-Informed-Design-Quick-Reference-Guide.pdf

Domestic Violence HUD Category 4 Definition:

Any individual or family who:

- is experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized;

- has no other safe residence; and

- lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing.

Ensuring Safety

The CoC emphasizes the need to ensure participant safety through training, developed policies and procedures, feedback from survivors of domestic violence, locally developed domestic violence emergency transfer plan, and the use of VAWA and other funds as needed to protect the imminent safety risk of participants.

Cultural Competency

The CoC welcomes and celebrates the unique ways that culture shapes the way that people see the world and carry beliefs. All CoC members are encouraged to openly embrace learning from others and see differences as a strength. CoC members can achieve this by:

- Valuing diversity

- Conducting self-assessment

- Managing the dynamics of difference

- Acquiring and institutionalizing cultural knowledge

CoC Practice Standards: https://www.lihomeless.org/coc-policies-standards

3. Access and Equity

Underserved/overrepresented Communities

There is a local emphasis on better ensuring access to housing and resources and equity in outcomes by serving underserved communities, those overrepresented within the local homeless system, and/or those with the least access to resources and supports. The CoC's Coordinated Entry System affirmatively outreaches those least likely to be connected to resources and/or least likely to exit homelessness on their own. This includes targeted street outreach and housing navigation for those experiencing chronic homelessness on the street or in emergency shelter.

Race Equity

Within the CoCs jurisdiction, those that identify as Black, Brown, African American, or other persons of color are significantly overrepresented in who experiences homelessness, despite making up a small percentage of those that experience poverty, and the overall population. This is most exacerbated locally with families experiencing homelessness. The CoC uses a locally developed Coordinated Entry phased assessment that identifies length of time homeless and barriers to housing as heavily weighted factors. This includes acknowledgement of disparate outcomes of households that identify as Black, Brown, African American, or other persons of color such as housing discrimination, evictions leading to homelessness, housing retention, criminal history, employment, and lack of equitable access to healthcare and education.

Involving People with Lived Experience

There is a local emphasis on involving people with lived experience in the development of projects, in training and ongoing feedback, and within all levels of power within agencies. All CoC applicants must provide detailed plans on how they will involve people with lived experiences in their work, including feedback, program development and improvement, compensation, and professional development opportunities. As part of the CoC restructure process, persons with lived experience had increased voting membership on the CoC Board, and a PLE Advisory group holds regular meetings to solicit feedback on CoC-related goals.

Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals

There is a local emphasis on improving assistance for LGBTQ+ individuals through housing and services that are culturally competent. The LBGT Network, as part of a LGBT Health Access Initiative, offers tiered certifications for agencies that embrace LBGT diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) efforts and community involvement in support of their employees, customers, and participants.

LGBT Health Access Initiative: https://lgbtnetwork.org/health-access-initiative/

The CoC provides local training on LGBTQ+ rights, HUD Equal Access Rule, appropriate language, use of pronouns, visual cues for safe spaces, agency assessments, policies and procedures, and gender-based violence.

Language Access

The CoC recognizes that importance of access and equity to all persons, including those that have limited English proficiency.

HUD Language Access Plan: https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/FHEO/documents/HUD_Language_Access_Plan.pdf

CoC Practice Standards: https://www.lihomeless.org/coc-policies-standards

4. Meeting Local Community Needs

Increasing PSH capacity with CoC funds has been identified locally as the greatest priority where applicable and permissible (CoC Bonus funds can be funded for PSH, RRH, TH-RRH, or CE or HMIS SSO Projects. DV Bonus funds can be funded for RRH, TH-RRH, DV CE).

- This was identified as the greatest unmet need by program type of the 2024 Regional Gaps Analysis.

- Based on local prioritization, most CoC-funded PSH beds are used for referrals of persons unsheltered that are moving directly from the street into permanent housing.

- The CoC also acknowledges the low local PSH turnover rates and will seek to enhance CoC move-on strategies and guidance, as well attempts to leverage and prioritize as many local housing vouchers as possible for stably housed households in PSH that are interested in moving on to less intensive interventions that allow them to maintain housing long term.

  CoCBuilds: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/cfo/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/CoCBuilds

- The CoC will also continue to explore state and local funds, private funding, and the CoCBuilds opportunity to increase PSH capacity. A large portion of PSH beds within our CoC are dedicated for Veteran households, however, non-Veteran populations face significant gaps in local PSH capacity.

Identified Unmet Needs: Our local CoC Unmet Needs Survey identified persons with disabilities, re-entry, mental health, aging adults, youth, DV, families with children. PLE Advisory group added feedback that persons with disabilities and families with children, including families with disabled children face additional challenges in exiting homelessness on their own (discussed during 7/16/24 PLE meeting and 7/17/24 GB meeting).

Unsheltered Homelessness- Unsheltered homelessness has increased steadily since COVID-19, as the percentage of single adults willing or able to access emergency shelter continues to rise, along with national precedent for criminalization of homelessness, which could put unsheltered households at further risk for harassment, enforcement, displacement and other traumatization.

5. Maximization of Funding and Resources to End Homelessness

Leveraging Housing and Healthcare

The CoC will continue to prioritize partnerships and/or opportunities to leverage existing housing and health resources in order to maximize the number of resources and the types of services that can be offered to CoC program participants. New CoC applicants that effectively demonstrate that they meet the HUD established thresholds for leveraged housing and/or leveraged healthcare, will be prioritized over new applications that cannot effectively leverage housing and/or healthcare. The CoC will continue to provide inclusive spaces and outreach to new potential partners committed to ending homelessness.

Increasing Affordable Housing

Lack of affordable housing is the leading cause of homelessness. The CoC seeks to dismantle long standing inequities in access to home ownership and rental housing and to address the overall shortfall of affordable housing options. CoC members participate on several committees such as the Long Island Housing Coalition, which brings together various stakeholders to improve access to affordable housing and overall capacity.

While CoC funds are limited, they can be used in development projects, including for supportive services or operations or directly for capital expenses. CoCBuilds, a new capital funding source, is another option for such projects.

CoCBuilds: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/cfo/gmomgmt/grantsinfo/fundingopps/CoCBuilds

CoC Bonus

The CoC will seek to maximize the use of CoC bonus funds for PSH, leveraged housing/healthcare projects, and other projects that meet local needs.

DV Bonus

The CoC will seek to maximize the use of DV bonus funds for rapid rehousing and DV CE as able and appropriate based on local needs.

Reallocation

The CoC carefully considers reallocation after many years of extensive reallocation and acknowledgement of local challenges to produce applications for all eligible funds, most significantly through DV bonus. For 2024, as all renewal projects meet local needs and performance standards, reallocation will be voluntary by the applicant. If voluntary reallocation occurs, the applicant must work with the CoC to ensure housing transitions for all households being served in the project. The CoC will more likely explore reallocation strategies in 2025 when no bonus funds will be available.

Staff Compensation

The CoC is in support of HUD's efforts to apply cost of living adjustments in the future to conditionally awarded CoC grants to sustain staffing. Please note that these adjustments do not take immediate effect and will only go into effect for applicants that are approved through the 2024 Funding Round and continue to maintain awards thereafter. HUD language below:

Building an Effective Workforce. Homeless assistance providers need effective, well-supported staff to provide high quality assistance. Unfortunately, recruiting and retaining qualified staff for programs to assist persons experiencing homelessness has proven difficult due to low pay and the challenging nature of the work. To address this issue, HUD is applying cost of living adjustments to supportive service activities and other staffing-focused budget lines to allow CoC budgets to better keep up with rising costs. HUD also encourages CoCs to work with their funders and other community stakeholders to improve pay and support for people who work in the homelessness sector.

-2024 HUD CoC NOFO

6. Ensuring HUD Compliance and Integral Systems

Our CoC acknowledges the requirements and local importance of having a Coordinated Entry System that better ensures access and equity for those that are most in need, as well as the effective administration of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to generate HUD reports, track progress towards ending homelessness, identify trends, challenges and opportunities, and further efforts to reduce local disparities for who experiences homelessness on Long Island. To ensure that these vital systems remain in place, CE-SSO projects and HMIS-SSO project will be placed in Tier 1.