

Colorado Division of Housing

Transformational Homelessness Response Grant Program

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

Release Date: November 22, 2022;

Webinar: November 29, 2022 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Updated 12/1/2022)

Letters of Intent Due: January 15, May 15, & September 15, 2023;

January 15, 2024

Due Dates: February 15, June 15, & October 15, 2023;

February 15, 2024

Applicant Materials: Please Create A Copy of Each Document (Added 2/2/2023)

Note: This NOFA is subject to periodic updates. Please check to make sure you are using the most up to date version prior to application submission.

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1. Project Background

A. Overview

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), through its Division of Housing (DOH) Office of Housing Finance and Sustainability (OHFS) and Office of Homeless Initiatives (OHI), is excited to announce the creation of two separate but related programs, both of which were created by Colorado House Bill 2022 1304 (HB22-1304) (\$138,000,000) and Colorado House Bill 2022 1377 (HB22-1377) (\$105,000,000): (1) the Transformational Affordable Housing, Homeownership, and Workforce Housing Grant Program and (2) the Transformational Homelessness Response Grant Program.

The aim of these programs is to increase the number of affordable housing units and the availability of housing opportunities across Colorado to ensure everyone has a safe, stable, and affordable place to live and thrive.

This document pertains to the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Transformational Homelessness Response Grant Program specifically. However, DOH anticipates that some projects will also apply to the Transformational Affordable Housing, Homeownership, and Workforce Housing Grant Program when seeking funding for development costs, such as acquisition, renovations, or new construction of facilities or buildings related to homelessness response and resolution. Therefore, DOH encourages all potential applicants to review both NOFAs. NOFAs can be found on the <u>DOH</u> website.

The aim of this Transformational Homelessness Response Grant Program NOFA is to create a future where homelessness is rare and brief when it occurs, and no one gets left behind. The NOFA achieves this aim by advancing and implementing proven solutions and program models that reduce homelessness in a holistic and sustainable way by targeting many of the key underlying factors necessary for people to thrive: advance equity, improve overall well-being, connect to benefits and stable housing, and increase employable skills and experiences that allow individuals to meet their needs, pursue their goals, and achieve self-sufficiency. In addition to reducing homelessness, this NOFA aims to reduce public utilization costs, revitalize public spaces, and increase workforce opportunities.

B. Rationale

As the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) stated after the passing of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA): COVID-19 has exacerbated our nation's already severe housing affordability crisis. Today, 1 in 5 renters is behind on rent and just over 10 million homeowners are behind on mortgage payments. People of color face even greater hardship and are more likely to have deferred or missed payments, putting them at greater risk of eviction and foreclosure. At the same time, our nation's homelessness crisis has worsened during the pandemic, as people experiencing homelessness are highly vulnerable to COVID-19 transmission, illness, and severity due to their use of congregate shelters and their high prevalence of underlying health conditions.

Colorado is no exception, as COVID-19 has been hitting low- and extremely low-income individuals and families who were already severely cost-burdened especially hard, increasing

their risk of experiencing homelessness or inability to resolve their homelessness. For example, in the Denver metropolitan area, shelters saw a 99% increase in people experiencing homelessness for the first time between January 2020 and January 2021. The number of deaths due to overdose among people experiencing homelessness in Denver County increased by 34% from 2020 to 2021, highlighting the need for joint efforts to address substance use disorders among those experiencing homelessness.

C. Background of Funding

The NOFA is informed by <u>HB22-1304</u> and <u>HB22-1377</u> (see Appendix 4), which followed the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Transformational Task Force, the Economic Recovery and Relief Task Force, and Governor Polis' affordable housing and homelessness priorities, as well as the State of Colorado's <u>Playbook on Making Homelessness History in Colorado</u>. In addition, DOH launched a statewide public engagement process alongside Housing Colorado and the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority (CHFA) during the summer of 2022. These engagement sessions as well as numerous other meetings with stakeholders around the state provided ideas and feedback regarding the rollout and parameters of the new funding.

The source of funds for these programs are from The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, a part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Specific compliance and reporting requirements for this funding source will apply. On March 11, 2021, the federal government enacted the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" (ARPA), Pub.L. 117-2, pursuant to which Colorado has received \$3,828,761,790 from the federal coronavirus state fiscal recovery fund (SFRF) to be used for certain specified purposes; these specified purposes include providing programs, services, or other assistance for populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

More specifically, federal regulations and United States treasury guidance construing the allocation of the SFRF identify revenue replacement funds used for the provision of government services to be an eligible expenditure category. The Colorado General Assembly has declared that the eligible uses outlined in this NOFA are important government services. In addition, the SLFRF contains a nonexclusive list of uses that address the disproportionate negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including building stronger communities through investments in housing and neighborhoods. Services in this category alleviate the immediate economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on housing insecurity while addressing conditions that contributed to poor public health and economic outcomes during the pandemic, namely concentrated areas with limited economic opportunity and inadequate or poor-quality housing. Under these regulations, SFRF money may be used for programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable and workforce housing, or homelessness.

2. Funding Availability

During the 2022 Colorado State Legislative Session, <u>HB22-1304</u> and <u>HB22-1377</u> were created and signed into law, thereby appropriating funds to DOLA and DOH within the following parameters. DOH may incorporate other funding sources to support quality projects, depending on quality applications, regulatory alignment, and funding availability.

Any project and all activities proposed within a project must have the primary aim of preventing or ending participants' homelessness as efficiently and effectively as possible. Requested funding for eligible activities in this NOFA should be for costs that are not funded or reimbursable by Medicaid, other insurance, or other funding sources, as applicable for activities that are eligible under other potential funding sources, to ensure that these funds have as large of a transformational effect as possible on Colorado's homeless response system. Finally, each applicant must also demonstrate how the funds will be fully expended by December 31, 2026.

Award Details:

- Minimum project award: \$250,000Maximum project award: \$5,000,000
- Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis and may vary by eligible activity

Eligible Uses:

- (a) **Program Models and Activities:** Street Outreach; Emergency Shelter; Transitional Housing; Bridge Housing; Eviction and Homelessness Prevention; Rapid Re-Housing; and/or Supportive Housing
- (b) **Systems Improvement Activities:** Data Collection, Management, Analysis, and System Integration; Coordination; and/or Resource Utilization Acceleration

Table:

The table below lists the eligible Program Models and Activities and the eligible Systems Improvement Activities. This table is a broad and simplified list.

OHI Homelessness Program Model Comparisons:

DOH expects all applicants to thoroughly review the <u>OHI Homelessness Program Model</u> Comparisons document for information about each eligible model and activity.

ELIGIBLE PROGRAM MODELS AND ACTIVITIES

PROGRAM MODEL ACTIVITIES

Check mark indicates whether program model allows for activity

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ELIGIBLE PROGRAM MODELS Applicants apply for activities through a program model and must review the OHI Homelessness Program Model Comparisons for details about each model and related activities	Supportive Services	Operations	Educational, Vocational, & Work-Based Learning Opportunities	Recovery Care & Related Residential Programs	Rent and Financial Assistance
STREET OUTREACH is non-facility based and is the act of engaging people experiencing unsheltered homelessness where they are.	V	>	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	-
EMERGENCY SHELTER includes facilities for which the primary purpose is to provide temporary shelter to people experiencing homelessness and which do not require guests to sign leases or occupancy agreements and do not charge rent.	V	٧	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	-
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING is an intermediate step between emergency crisis shelter and permanent housing. It is more long-term, service-intensive, and private than emergency shelters, yet remains time-limited to stays of 3 months to 3 years.	V	V	V	V	
BRIDGE HOUSING is temporary housing for those who have been matched with a permanent housing resource to safely reside while waiting to move into housing.	V	V	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	-
EVICTION & HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION provides financial assistance and/or supportive and legal services to prevent households from being evicted and entering emergency shelters and/or experiencing homelessness.	V	V	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	V
RAPID RE-HOUSING provides financial assistance and/or services for households to quickly exit homelessness by securing permanent housing.	V	>	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	>
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH) is a housing model that provides households non-time limited rental assistance, the rights of tenancy, voluntary tenancy support services, and links to other supportive resources.	V	11/29/2022: Operations funding support is limited to existing Supportive Housing projects that are currently open and operating.	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	See supportive services section in Program Model Comparisons document	See PSH Request for Applications (RFA)

ELIGIBLE SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES

DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, ANALYSIS, AND SYSTEM INTEGRATION includes efforts related to collecting, managing, and analyzing data and/or integrating data systems to advance communities' homelessness efforts. Proposals may be related to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), an HMIS comparable database, and/or other coordinated activities that use data to strengthen communities' understanding of and response to homelessness.

COORDINATION includes coordination across communities, regions, and/or the state at-large, including but not limited to case conferencing, coordinated entry systems, capacity-building and infrastructure, cross-sector partnerships, and other strategic activities to advance a community's/region's homelessness efforts.

RESOURCE UTILIZATION ACCELERATION relates to enhancing the utilization of currently available resources, increasing the speed of connection to resources for eligible households, or otherwise ensuring that homelessness response systems connect households to resources as efficiently and effectively as possible.

3. Eligible Applicants

For the purposes of this NOFA, eligible applicants must be one of the following:

- Local Government: County, Municipality, City and County, Tribal Government, Special District organized under Title 32, School District, District, Housing Authority, Council of Governments, Regional Planning Commission organized under Title 30, or any other political subdivision of the State.
- **Community Partner:** Nonprofit organization that undertakes any of the Eligible Activities.

If an awarded applicant intends to subcontract for the service provision outlined within this NOFA, the selection and approval of those subcontractors shall be done in conjunction with OHI staff.

4. Project Threshold Requirements

The proposed project must be able to demonstrate that it will meet the following threshold requirements to be considered for review:

- **A. Applicant:** Must be an Eligible Applicant as listed above.
- **B. Proposed Program Model and Activities:** The request must be an Eligible Use as listed above.
- **C. Timeline:** Application must demonstrate that the project or program will execute a grant agreement by December 31, 2024 and that the project or program will be completed and funds expended by December 31, 2026.
- D. Program Design Will Advance Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA): Application must demonstrate a recognition of and commitment to advancing IDEA.
- **E. Program Design Informed through Lived Expertise:** Application must include the meaningful inclusion, participation, and engagement of individuals with lived expertise of homelessness on applicant boards, on other decision-making entities, through facilitating Lived Expertise Advisory Groups, through employing individuals with lived experience, etc.
- F. Services Capacity and Experience: For Program Models and Related Activities requested, application must demonstrate that any participating services provider(s) will have the experience and capacity to provide and manage the wraparound supportive services proposed in the application. If applicable, the application should demonstrate how the subcontracting process will ensure that the services provider(s) include diverse

representation and expertise from across sectors, such as homeless services and other community-based services providers, community mental health centers, behavioral health treatment, healthcare, vocational and employment assistance programs, as well as other systems. Applicants must demonstrate through intended sub-application processes and assurance that the any service providers will meet the following:

- A robust understanding of homelessness response best practices, including Housing First, Trauma-Informed Care, and Harm Reduction, as well as how these service delivery models apply when working with the intended population(s)
- Familiarity with the population(s), including the input from those with lived expertise, engagement strategies that accommodate the specific needs of the population(s), the ability to engage the largest number of individuals experiencing homelessness across needs, and ability to accommodate the specific and diverse cultural, linguistic, and ability needs
- Experience providing housing-focused and holistic support to individuals/households that centers around continued engagement and long-term stability
- The ability to effectively engage prospective property owners and rapidly connect eligible individuals/households with prospective units in a manner which respects participant choice and subsidy standards, if applicable
- G. Services Standards: For Program Models and Related Activities requested, application must demonstrate that the proposed project will include a target staff-to-participant ratio of no less than one case manager to every 15 households for any component of the project that includes housing, such as transitional or supportive housing, as well as no fewer than one case manager to every 30 households in shelter or community-based programming, with preference for a 1:15 case management to participant ratio for all program components. Staff should have relevant professional accreditations, education, and experience to implement both holistic and housing-focused services. Staff should be community-based and multi-disciplinary when possible. Services should be implemented using best practice models, including Housing First, Harm Reduction, Motivational Interviewing, and Trauma-Informed Care (see Appendix 1). Other services and treatment models may be coordinated with or incorporated into the services programming based on the individuals served. The delivery of all services should be guided by the principles of cultural competence, recovery, and resiliency, with an emphasis on building individuals' strengths and resources in the community, with family, and with peer/social networks. Services and delivery of the supports should be adjusted appropriately based on the intended population(s) the project will serve.
- H. Safety and Security Planning: For Program Models and Related Activities requested, applications must demonstrate how project partners will work to ensure the safety of participants, guests, and residents who may be at risk of victimization or violence. Applicants should describe in detail the type of security provided, how it relates to program operation, and how it will ensure the safety of residents. Safety planning should include the physical design of the project, as well as operational and programmatic aspects. Applicants should describe how safety and security investments and programming relate to program operation and how they will support the safety of participants. The

applicant should demonstrate how the safety and security functions are informed and responsive to best practices in Trauma-Informed Care, de-escalation, and mental health first aid.

- I. Outcomes: The application must demonstrate previous experience as well as a clear framework for what outcomes will be measured and the success anticipated. The applicant must articulate how it will capture and report relevant performance data, including data sharing processes with external entities if necessary (see Section 6 below).
- J. Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS): For Program Models and Related Activities requested, application utilizes HMIS to facilitate the evaluation of programming, the implementation of practices supported through peer-reviewed research/data, and positive movement within community dashboards tracking real-time, person-specific data on inflow, active, and outflow. Any subcontracted or participating service providers must currently use HMIS or demonstrate a commitment to begin use of HMIS for client-level data entry prior to the project start date. If the applicant is a "Victim Service Provider," the application should demonstrate a commitment to an HMIS Comparable Database or describe existing data activities.
- **K.** Commitment to Quality: For Program Models and Related Activities requested, application and all project partners named in the application must understand and commit to quality services, program models, and housing, as applicable.
- **L. Housing-Focused:** Application must support moving individuals into safe, stable, permanent, and independent community-based housing with the rights and responsibilities of tenancy. Program design must be focused on long-term housing outcomes, including housing stability.

5. Priorities

In addition to the required program parameters noted above, applications submitted in response to this NOFA will also be reviewed and scored based upon the following priorities:

- **A.** Transformational: Application fundamentally shifts the landscape of homelessness within the project's community, region, and even the State, by transforming systems, programs, and outcomes while being responsive to the one-time nature of the funding provided.
- **B.** Greatest Impact and Intended Targeted Population(s): For Program Models and Related Activities requested, application demonstrates ability to serve the largest number of people possible, with the greatest outcomes of reducing homelessness possible. The individuals prioritized by the application are those that but for this project will most likely not resolve their homelessness on their own. In particular, this includes individuals with

long lengths of homelessness with complex needs and who are not currently connected to other homeless shelters or programs.

- **C. Proof of Concept:** Application demonstrates that the project concept(s) are based upon evidence of proven effectiveness, such as research, evaluations, existing program examples with successful outcomes, etc.
- **D. Collaborative:** The intent of this NOFA is to create a robust continuum of homelessness response and resolution in communities throughout Colorado. Application includes meaningful incorporation of priorities and efforts by the regional Continuum of Care and any local homelessness strategy/ies within the region, as well as the <u>Colorado State Homelessness Playbook</u>. Application addresses community needs and breaks down silos to prevent the duplication of services, build cross-sector partnerships, and achieve system performance measures. At a minimum, the proposed project should contribute data to the statewide HMIS, demonstrate collaboration with the local Coordinated Entry System, and partner with the local Continuum of Care and other partners to identify and respond to community needs. Applications with Letters of Support will receive additional scoring.
- **E. Sustainability:** While immediate response is critical, so is long-term impact and sustainability. Application demonstrates ongoing local operating funds to ensure ongoing impact.
- **F.** Local Match: At minimum, all applications must include at least 25 percent match for any request through this NOFA to be considered for review. Additional preference scoring will be given based on the percent of the match contribution that is above and beyond the 25 percent proportionately.

Please note, applications submitted by "urban municipalities or counties," as defined by HB22-1304 (Appendix 3), will be given additional preference scoring only if the match contribution is above 50 percent, not the 25 percent. Therefore, match between 25-50 percent for those applications submitted by "urban municipalities or counties" will not receive additional preference scoring. Urban municipalities and counties will be required to explicitly show why they are unable to meet the 50 percent match. Municipalities within the counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, Mesa, Pueblo, Teller, and Weld are considered "urban municipalities."

Match sources may include monetary (e.g., governmental, private, and philanthropic) as well as non-monetary (e.g., fee waivers, staff resources, etc.). In-kind match sources are eligible.

G. Transportation/Connectivity: For Program Models and Related Activities requested, application demonstrates a feasible structure and plan for reducing the burden of transportation to and from the project to and from jobs, treatment, shelters, services, housing, etc. In addition, the application demonstrates feasible programmatic and resource plans for connecting people to their community of choice, including permanent housing.

- H. Low Barrier to Entry: For Program Models and Related Activities requested, the application must demonstrate that they are taking steps to remove barriers to entry that would typically prevent the target population from access, enrollment, or securing tenancy and to include culturally specific community engagement and outreach. This includes that the applicant demonstrates an understanding of the trauma that occurs when those experiencing homelessness or residing in an institutional setting are forced to relinquish their pets and describes elements of program design to mitigate these challenges and reduce associated barriers.
- I. Accountability: Application demonstrates the greatest ability to track and report on metrics to ensure outcomes that will ultimately reduce homelessness to the greatest extent possible. Reducing homelessness is defined as ensuring individuals secure and maintain permanent housing.

6. Performance Outcomes

DOH is seeking applications that demonstrate the ability to create a sustainable project that will achieve all expected outcomes. Awardees will be required to report quarterly to DOH. Specific reporting requirements will be finalized prior to executing grant agreements with awardees. Reports must include but are not limited to:

- A description of each awardee's use of the grant funds and matching funds
- Beneficiary information including but not limited to demographic (e.g., race and ethnicity, age, household type, etc.), geographic, income, program participants and project beneficiaries
- Program outcomes (e.g., number served, housed, connected to care)
- Other State and Federal reporting requirements as required
- 2 CFR 200 Federal reporting and compliance requirements

7. Application Submission, Informational Session, & Review Process

The Letter of Intent, Application, and NOFA-related inquiries and materials should be sent to Kristin Toombs, Director, Office of Homeless Initiatives, at kristin.toombs@state.co.us.

- A. Release Date: The NOFA release date is November 22, 2022.
- **B.** Letter of Intent (LOI): LOI in response to this NOFA must be received one month before the due date on which the applicant intends to submit. Specifically, if the applicant intends to apply on February 15, 2023, then the LOI is due January 15, 2023. The LOI must be submitted

by email to Kristin Toombs at kristin.toombs@state.co.us. If possible, please include the following in the LOI:

- a. General location of proposed project
- b. Service area
- **c.** Anticipated target population(s)
- **d.** General overview of the anticipated programmatic and housing components (e.g., from list of eligible activities noted in the NOFA)
- e. General overview of the anticipated development related activities needed (i.e., acquisition, renovation, and/or new construction) that will be applied for through other DOLA/DOH application opportunities

The specific contents in an LOI will not be binding. The application details may be adjusted and different from the LOI. The LOI information will be utilized to assist in preparation for the review process.

C. Application:

- a. Per Appendix 6, the application consists of:
 - i. Narrative of all application responses
 - ii. All required application attachments
- b. The narrative of all application responses must be submitted as one electronic copy of a single searchable PDF document (i.e., includes text that can be searched upon using the standard Adobe Reader "search" functionality). All additional required application attachments must be submitted using as few attachments as possible (i.e., attachments should be consolidated into as few attachments as possible, with a goal of no more than one-to-two attachments for the entire required attachments section).
- c. The application must be submitted on one of the four application due dates by 11:59 p.m. MT on February 15, 2023, June 15, 2023, October 15, 2023, or February 15, 2024 by email to Kristin Toombs at kristin.toombs@state.co.us. Any applications received after 11:59 p.m. MT will not be accepted for consideration during that application round. In addition, homeless response related applications received and in-process by DOH prior to November 15, 2022 may also be eligible for consideration under this NOFA provided they meet the minimum thresholds and depending on quality applications, regulatory alignment, and funding availability.
- **d.** Applications received by DOH are subject to the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA) and are considered public documents.
- **D. Applicant Interviews:** DOH and the Interagency NOFA Review Panel (Review Panel) may conduct an interview with each applicant prior to finalizing the scoring for each applicant. The Review Panel may also request additional information to assist in clarification of aspects of the application.

- **E. Cure Period:** The Review Panel will complete an application cure and simultaneous threshold review process related to the Project Threshold Requirements. After this cure is completed, the Review Panel will complete reviews and draft clarifying questions. Any application not satisfying the required application elements after the cure period will be automatically disqualified and not considered for review.
- F. Informational Session: Informational webinar will be held on November 29, 2022, 2-3:30 PM. Webinar link: here. UPDATED 12/1/2022 Recording of the webinar and the webinar slides available.
- **G.** Award and Determination Announcements: After DOH staff reviews applications, staff recommendations will be presented to the State Housing Board (SHB). SHB recommendations will then be presented to the DOLA Executive Director for final approval.
- **H. NOFA Questions:** For specific questions regarding LOI and/or Application submissions, please contact Kristin Toombs by email at kristin.toombs@state.co.us.
- I. Application Review Criteria: Review of applications intends to ensure that all proposed applications are adequate and that the level of competency and quality that will result in successful outcomes for participants as well as broader transformational change of the homelessness response system in the applicant's community, region, or even the State. Review of applications is one aspect of the review process. Current and past performance in regard to other DOH funding or homeless response and housing projects will also be considered.
- **J. Application Threshold Requirements:** In addition to the Program Parameters noted above, the application must be fully complete to be reviewed. A fully completed application must include:
 - **a.** Complete Application: A substantially complete application, as outlined in the Required Application Contents section of this NOFA (Appendix 6), received by the due date. Except where noted, all of the forms and attachments listed are required when responding to this NOFA.
 - **b. Project Parameters:** Thorough responses to the application questions, the application must demonstrate how it intends to meet the Project Parameters outlined within this NOFA.
- **K. Scoring Preferences:** Applicants will score additional points if the application demonstrates the Priorities described above. See Appendix 2 for Scoring Criteria structure.

Colorado Division of Housing

Transformational Homelessness Response Grant Program

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)

Appendix 1: Definitions

- A. Behavioral Health is the scientific study of the emotions, behaviors and biology relating to a person's mental well-being, their ability to function in everyday life and their concept of self. Behavioral health conditions include: substance use disorders; alcohol and drug addiction; and serious psychological distress, including suicide ideation and mental disorders.
- **B.** Comparable Database is a database that meets all Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Data Standards and does so in a method that protects the safety and privacy of the survivor. Comparable databases are used by "Victim Service Providers" (i.e., non-profit organizations whose primary mission is to provide services to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking).
- C. Continuums of Care (CoCs) are regional planning bodies which organize and deliver housing and services within their communities. There are four CoCs in Colorado: the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (Denver, Boulder, Arapahoe, Douglas, Jefferson, and Adams counties), Pikes Peak CoC (El Paso County), Northern Colorado CoC (Larimer and Weld counties), and the Balance of State CoC (the 54 remaining counties grouped into 10 regional coalitions).
- **D.** Coordinated Entry is a system operated by each CoC in which the goal is to create and maintain a by-name list of every assessed individual or family experiencing homelessness in that CoC's region so that they can be prioritized and matched with the most appropriate and available housing resource.
- **E.** Harm Reduction is a set of practical approaches aimed to reduce the harm associated with substance use rather than on the prevention of substance use itself. Harm reduction approaches recognize that individuals can be at different stages of recovery and that effective interventions should be individually tailored to each individual's stage. Such strategies have been effective in reducing morbidity and mortality for such individuals by incorporating strategies from safer use, to managed use, to abstinence. Individuals are allowed to make choices about use and treatment, and regardless of the choices, are not treated adversely, housing status is not threatened, and services continue to be available.
- **F.** Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a locally-administered database that collects, stores, and centralizes real-time data about people experiencing homelessness and housing opportunities. The HMIS database system is managed by CoC-appointed HMIS Lead Agencies.
- **G.** Housing First is a proven approach that prioritizes non-time limited housing to people experiencing homelessness, thus ending their homelessness. Housing First recognizes that

housing is a platform from which individuals can pursue personal goals and improve quality of life. This approach is guided by the belief that people need basic necessities, such as food and housing, before attending to other goals, such as employment, budgeting, or substance use treatment. Unlike "Housing Ready" or "Housing Next" or "Treatment First" models, Housing First positions housing as an immediate priority for people experiencing homelessness. Numerous models complement Housing First, such as Harm Reduction, low barrier programming, trauma-informed approaches, and individual choice.

- **H.** Inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA) are terms used to define efforts to outreach to and include diverse communities, organizations, and individuals who identify with diverse backgrounds, including but not limited to ethnicity, race, language, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and ability.
- I. Motivational Interviewing (MI) is a collaborative, person-centered form of guiding to elicit and strengthen motivation for change by exploring and resolving ambivalence. MI is considered to be an evidence-based practice that has proven to be successful.
- **J. Recovery Care** are services provided for individuals with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs). These services focus on improving health outcomes and self-sufficiency that allow individuals to reach their full potential.
- **K.** Recovery Care Residential Programs provide residential services and/or treatment for individuals experiencing homelessness so that they can receive recovery care services, as defined above.
- L. Trauma-Informed Care is an approach to the delivery of behavioral health services that includes an understanding of trauma and an awareness of the impact it can have across settings, services, and populations. It involves viewing trauma through a cultural lens and recognizes that context plays a significant role in how individuals perceive and process traumatic events. A trauma-informed approach realizes the widespread impact of trauma; understands potential paths for healing; integrates knowledge of trauma into policies and practices; and seeks to actively prevent re-traumatization.

Colorado Division of Housing

Transformational Homelessness Response Grant Program

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Appendix 2: Application Selection & Scoring Criteria

The following table is the scoring criteria that will assist in the award determination, including whether the proposed project overall and its individual components meet the intent of the NOFA, DOH's quality standards, and feasibility. Scoring will be completed on applications that meet the Project Threshold Requirements described in the NOFA.

Applicant team's current and historical performance with other projects or programs which have received DOH resources may be considered as well. An application will be rejected if it:

- (1) fails to receive the minimum score in each individual category below, or
- (2) fails to achieve a total minimum score possible

This is intended to ensure that approved projects are minimally adequate in each category, and that the entire score reflects a level of competence and quality above the bare minimum category scores.

Scoring Criteria: Project Threshold Requirements and Priorities	Maximum Points	Minimum Points		
Project Threshold Requirements				
A. Program Design informed through Lived Expertise	15	5		
B. Services Capacity and Experience	10	5		
C. Services Standards	15	5		
D. Safety and Security Planning	20	5		
E. Outcomes	10	5		
F. Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS)	10	5		
G. Commitment to Quality	10	5		
H. Housing-Focused	20	5		
Priorities				
A. Transformational	20	5		
B. Greatest Impact and Intended Targeted Population(s)	15	5		
C. Proof of Concept	15	5		
D. Collaborative	15	5		
E. Sustainability	15	5		
F. Local Match	25	5		
G. Transportation/Connectivity	15	5		
H. Low Barrier to Entry	15	5		
I. Accountability	20	5		
Total Points	250	80		

Colorado Division of Housing

Transformational Homelessness Response Grant Program

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Appendix 3: Funding Sources Details

During the 2022 Colorado State Legislative Session, HB22-1304 and HB22-1377 were created and signed into law, thereby appropriating funds to DOLA and DOH within the following parameters. DOH may incorporate other funding sources to support projects through these programs, depending on quality applications, regulatory alignment, and funding availability.

HB22-1304:

The funds through the Affordable Housing and Homeownership Cash Fund created in <u>24-75-229(3)(a)</u>, <u>C.R.S.</u> were appropriated to DOLA and DOH by <u>HB22-1304</u> with funds that originated from <u>ARPA SLFRF</u>. Use of the funds is authorized under <u>SLFRF Expenditure Category 6.1</u>: Revenue Replacement - <u>Provision of Government Services</u>.

Through HB22-1304, the Colorado general assembly is focusing a portion of the ARPA SLFRF money that it has received from the federal government to begin to ameliorate the affordable housing crisis in Colorado by providing direct, flexible, and timely grant funding to community-based nonprofit organizations and local governments that have or are pursuing measures to facilitate affordable housing development or the purchase of land or buildings for and the development of supportive, rental, transitional, and for-sale housing, rehousing support, timely deployment of assistance, and technical and legal assistance targeted at populations and communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The general assembly additionally intends that the grant program ensures flexibility of funding that will allow for operating grants to be made to community-based nonprofit organizations and qualified local governments, particularly in small, rural, and mountain resort communities that can best meet their own development needs.

Per HB22-1304, 50 percent of the funds, which is approximately \$69 million, will be available only in rural and rural resort communities through December 31, 2023. If 50 percent of the funds are not committed in rural and rural resort communities by this date, the remaining funds will be available statewide to ensure all funds are committed prior to the federal deadline of December 31, 2024.

HB22-1304 prioritizes projects or programs that:

- I. Leverage capital and operating subsidies from various public and private sources.
- II. Create opportunities to build intergenerational wealth for families
- III. Promote long term affordability
- IV. Involve the purchase of real property necessary to secure land areas needed for future development.

- V. Represent a one-time funding proposal to the state with minimal or no multi-year financial obligations and contribute to the overall well-being and professional and recreational needs of the local workforce and population.
- VI. Increase the supply of housing in urban, rural and rural resort areas that is proportional to each community's need through:
 - A. Mixed-income projects in which a percentage of the units, proportional to the demonstrated housing needs of a local community, within a particular development have restricted availability to households at or below the area median income levels (AMI levels) specified in these program guidelines.
 - B. Developments in which housing units are restricted at income levels demonstrated by local community needs that are at or below the income levels (AMI levels) specified in these program guidelines.
 - C. Transit oriented developments.
 - D. Development of units that are restricted for rental use by persons with disabilities or that include universal design features that allow individuals to continue to reside in their dwelling units as they age.
 - E. Housing that is restricted to the victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.
- VII. Seek to increase investments in for-sale housing stock.

In addition, HB22-1304 has varying income levels for households served by the funds, depending on the classification of the location as: rural, rural-resort, or urban. See Appendix 4 for more information.

Max Area Median Income Limits of Households That May be Targeted					
Classification	Tenure of Beneficiaries	Transformational Affordable Housing Revolving Loan Fund Program	Transformational Affordable Housing through Local Investments Grant Program	Infrastructure and Small Communities Grant Program	
Rural	Rental	120%	140%	140%	
	Ownership	120%	140%	140%	
Rural Resort	Rental	140%	170%	140%	
	Ownership	160%	140%	160%	
Urban	Rental	120%	80%	140%	
	Ownership	140%	140%	140%	

HB22-1377:

The funds through the Connecting Coloradans Experiencing Homelessness with Services, Recovery Care, and Housing Supports Fund were appropriated to DOLA by HB22-1377 with funds that originated

from ARPA SLFRF. Use of the funds is authorized under <u>SLFRF Expenditure Category 2.16</u>: <u>Long-term</u> Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons.

Per HB22-1377, it is the intent of the general assembly to facilitate investments in local communities across the state of Colorado to quickly connect people experiencing homelessness with services, treatment, and temporary and permanent housing to put them on a path to economic self-sufficiency. The grant program must be administered with the goal of reducing the rate and experience of homelessness by supporting communities to develop and implement adequate support systems to effectively respond to the barriers people experiencing homelessness face. The aim of the program is to ensure Colorado has a community-based continuum of responses for people experiencing homelessness, including outreach support, emergency shelters, transitional housing, recovery care and related residential programs, training and employment service programs, and permanent housing with wraparound supportive services. The ultimate goal is to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in Colorado, making homelessness rare to occur and brief when it does occur, and make sure no one gets left behind.

HB22-1377 prioritizes projects or programs that demonstrate:

- I. The greatest potential impact on reducing homelessness.
- II. How the project or program will be transformational in homelessness response.
- III. The incorporation of best practices, including housing-focused.
- IV. The incorporation of real-time, person-specific data to both justify the application request and inform the implementation of the work.
- V. The applicant's participation in local and regional collaboration regarding homelessness response, including cross-sector partnership(s) and coordination with the regional Continuum of Care (CoC).
- VI. Leading with equity by incorporating inclusive and culturally affirming practices, community-driven solutions, and incorporation of input from experts with lived experience.
- VII. Ensuring individuals with greatest needs or barriers, as well as those often marginalized or overrepresented, are proactively included and engaged.

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Appendix 4: Locality Classifications

The 2022 Regular Session of the Colorado General Assembly resulted in the creation of three programs: the Transformational Affordable Housing Revolving Loan Fund Program (through the enactment of Senate Bill 22-159¹), and the Transformational Affordable Housing through Local Investments Grant Program and the Infrastructure and Small Communities Grant Program (through the enactment of House Bill 22-1304²).

These statutes limit the income of households that applicants can target with funding received through these three programs. The target required of an applicant, and thus the maximum income of households it may be able to serve, is determined by the program that is being applied to, the tenure of the beneficiaries that would be served by the applicant (renters or homeowners), and the classification of the locality that an applicant's project or program is located in (rural, rural resort, or urban). The table below illustrates the max income of households that can be served as a percent of the area median income by program, tenure, and classification.

Max Area Median Income Limits of Households That May be Targeted					
Classification	Tenure of Beneficiaries	Transformational Affordable Housing Revolving Loan Fund Program	Transformational Affordable Housing through Local Investments Grant Program	Infrastructure and Small Communities Grant Program	
Rural	Rental	120%	140%	140%	
	Ownership	120%	140%	140%	
Rural Resort	Rental	140%	170%	140%	
	Ownership	160%	140%	160%	
Urban	Rental	120%	80%	140%	
	Ownership	140%	140%	140%	

¹ Codified at Colorado Revised Statutes title 24, article 32, section 731 or C.R.S. 24-32-731

² Codified at C.R.S. 24-32-729 and C.R.S. 24-32-113 respectively

These targets indicate the income of households that an applicant may be able to serve. However, the households that an applicant will be able to serve could also be influenced by other statutes, regulations, or policies administered by the State of Colorado or by other funders of the applicant.

Localities are to be initially classified as specified in the final report of the Colorado Strategic Housing Working Group Final Report³. The initial classifications are county-based so each municipality will share the classification of the county that it is located within⁴.

Any county or municipality may request: a reclassification of the county or municipality from the category in which the county or municipality is initially classified, or that a different income restriction be applied to applicants of these programs in its jurisdiction. Both are to be determined by the unique economic and housing cost factors present in the locality.

Additionally, the Division of Housing (DOH) will regularly update the classifications of localities as it receives or produces information documenting changes in local economic circumstances and housing cost factors materially affecting such classifications. Modifications to the classifications resulting from a reclassification request initiated by a locality, or from a classification updated by the DOH, will be published after the modification is made.

Entities interested in requesting a reclassification or an income restriction differential may submit a form <u>here</u>. Appointed and elected officials of a locality do not necessarily need to initiate a request, but they must submit or sponsor a request before it may be formally submitted to the DOH.

After a formal submission is made, the information provided by the requestor, along with other information available to the DOH, will be analyzed by the staff of the DOH. This analysis will investigate whether the economic circumstances and housing cost factors observed by staff could materially affect the classification of a locality, and thus warrant a reclassification or differential. Staff will make a recommendation on whether the request should be approved or denied, along with information outlining the basis for that recommendation, to the Executive Director of the Department of Local Affairs who will make the approval or denial decision. Once a decision has been made the requestor will be notified of their approval or denial and the basis for that decision.

³ https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zj7sAxAsnZ5k0ELhNemK2NE8TVR3aKVI/view

⁴ While the jurisdiction of a municipality may extend across more than one county, this will not affect the initial classification of municipalities. The counties that each municipality are located within share the same initial classification, therefore each municipality will have the same initial classification as any county that it is located within.

Localities as Initially Classified by the State of Colorado Division of Housing as of September 1, 2022

Locality Classifications for Project and Program Income Limit Restrictions Requirements for Applicants of Funding Provided Through HB22-1304, SB22-159 & SB22-232						
County	Subdivision Type	Classification	Classification Date			
Adams County	County	Urban	9/1/2022			
Alamosa County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Arapahoe County	County	Urban	9/1/2022			
Archuleta County	County	Rural Resort	9/1/2022			
Baca County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Bent County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Boulder County	County	Urban	9/1/2022			
Broomfield County	County	Urban	9/1/2022			
Chaffee County	County	Rural Resort	9/1/2022			
Cheyenne County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Clear Creek County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Conejos County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Costilla County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Crowley County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Custer County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Delta County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Denver County	County	Urban	9/1/2022			
Dolores County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Douglas County	County	Urban	9/1/2022			
Eagle County	County	Rural Resort	9/1/2022			
El Paso County	County	Urban	9/1/2022			

Locality Classifications for Project and Program Income Limit Restrictions Requirements for Applicants of Funding Provided Through HB22-1304, SB22-159 & SB22-232						
County	Subdivision Type	Classification	Classification Date			
Elbert County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Fremont County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Garfield County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Gilpin County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Grand County	County	Rural Resort	9/1/2022			
Gunnison County	County	Rural Resort	9/1/2022			
Hinsdale County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Huerfano County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Jackson County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Jefferson County	County	Urban	9/1/2022			
Kiowa County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Kit Carson County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
La Plata County	County	Rural Resort	9/1/2022			
Lake County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Larimer County	County	Urban	9/1/2022			
Las Animas County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Lincoln County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Logan County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Mesa County	County	Urban	9/1/2022			
Mineral County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Moffat County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Montezuma County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			
Montrose County	County	Rural	9/1/2022			

Locality Classifications for Project and Program Income Limit Restrictions Requirements for Applicants of Funding Provided Through HB22-1304, SB22-159 & SB22-232 County Subdivision Type Classification Classification Date Morgan County County Rural 9/1/2022 Otero County County Rural 9/1/2022 Rural Resort 9/1/2022 **Ouray County** County 9/1/2022 Park County County Rural Phillips County County Rural 9/1/2022 **Pitkin County** County Rural Resort 9/1/2022 **Prowers County** County Rural 9/1/2022 Pueblo County County Urban 9/1/2022 Rio Blanco County County Rural 9/1/2022 **Rio Grande County** County Rural 9/1/2022 **Routt County** County Rural Resort 9/1/2022 Saguache County County 9/1/2022 Rural San Juan County County Rural Resort 9/1/2022 San Miguel County County Rural Resort 9/1/2022 Sedgwick County County Rural 9/1/2022 Rural Resort 9/1/2022 **Summit County** County Teller County County Urban 9/1/2022 **Washington County** Rural 9/1/2022 County County 9/1/2022 Weld County Urban Yuma County County Rural 9/1/2022

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Appendix 5: Fair Housing

It is important to note that although HB22-1304 prompted this guidance, fair housing laws pertain broadly across housing as described below.

The passage of HB22-1304 highlighted the broad housing needs in Colorado, particularly in rural and rural resort communities. Fifty percent of funding appropriated through HB22-1304 must first be offered in rural and rural resort communities. Based on the regional housing needs in these areas, DOH can fund housing for households, in some circumstances, making up to as high as 170% of the area median income.

With the expanded authority offered through HB22-1304, the intent of this policy and guidance is to verify communities can sponsor housing units within a multifamily or single family development for people that live in their community, although a developer/community must carefully consider the potential impact on protected classes under federal and state fair housing laws.

This guidance is subject to change and is not legal advice, rather it is intended to inform and frame the considerations necessary to ensure housing opportunities are available without discrimination.

Although the intent with this policy is to encourage the production of housing where people work, this is not a live/work policy. The meaning of live/work, for the purposes of this policy, is a person or household that works out of their home space. Rather this policy is focused on providing housing near places of employment.

Fair housing laws were enacted to ensure everyone has equal access to the housing of their choice. Fair housing laws apply to housing providers (landlords), but also real estate brokers, mortgage lenders, homeowner associations, and others. The State of Colorado was the first in the nation to pass statewide fair housing laws, barring discrimination in housing in 1959, nine years before the signing of the federal Fair Housing Act. The following outlines the protected classes in the federal Fair Housing Act and the Colorado Fair Housing Act.

Federal protected classes include:

Race
Color
National Origin
Religion
Sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation)
Familial Status

Disability

Additional Colorado protected classes include:

Ancestry
Creed
Marital status
Sexual orientation
Gender expression

Source of income

Veteran or military status

Fair Housing Law and points for consideration:

As an initial point, under federal and state housing laws, illegal discrimination can take two forms: (1) disparate treatment; and (2) disparate impact. Disparate treatment discrimination is intentional discrimination against a protected class. Disparate impact discrimination is when a facially neutral policy, condition, or restriction has a greater discriminatory effect (negative impact) on a protected class.

It is important to note that the Division of Housing (DOH) in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) does not investigate Fair Housing complaints or provide legal advice. The Colorado Civil Rights Division (CCRD) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO) office oversee complaints to Fair Housing protections.

The following describes considerations for for-sale housing and rental housing in relation to both state and federal fair housing laws:

• Residency requirements and defining your service area:

Housing developers and communities should be cognizant of disparate impacts on any protected class as a result of residency requirements. Although not typical, disparate impact discrimination from residency requirements is possible and developers and communities should engage in thorough reviews of their residency requirements to ensure that they comply with the protections afforded under federal and state housing laws.

Selection preferences

Selection preferences can also potentially implicate federal and state fair housing laws. Developers and communities should periodically evaluate their preference policies to ensure that such policies do not discriminate against a protected class or otherwise have a disparate impact on a protected class under federal and state housing laws.

DOH does not recommend preferences and/or residency requirements in tenant selection or marketing plans. If a developer or community chooses to include preferences and/or residency requirements, the developer or community should ensure such preferences and/or residency requirements comply with federal and state fair housing laws. The developer or community will also be required to indemnify and defend the State of Colorado, Department of Local Affairs, Division of Housing against any liability related to such requirements.

• For-sale Housing and Work Requirements

Work requirements when <u>selling</u> housing units may be permissible if such requirement does not have a disparate impact on a protected class and so long as the developer provides equal opportunity to persons with disabilities through reasonable accommodations.

Rental Housing

The Colorado Fair Housing Act prohibits any person from discriminating against a tenant or prospective tenant based on their source of income when renting or leasing housing, subject to limited exceptions. C.R.S. 24-34-502(1)(l). Source of Income includes "any lawful and verifiable source of money paid directly, indirectly, or on behalf of a person, including: (a) Income derived from any lawful profession or occupation; and (b) Income or rental payments derived from any government or private assistance, grant, or loan program." C.R.S. 24-34-501(4.5). Developers and communities should ensure that any requirements they impose remain in compliance with the prohibition on source of income discrimination.

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Appendix 6: Required Application Contents and Instructions

I. <u>Application Attachments</u>

In addition to the application responses, applicants should include the following attachments. Details about the attachments, including instructions and required forms, can be found in this OHI Supporting Documentation Attachments document. As noted in the Required Application Contents and Instructions section, applicants must submit both (a) the application narrative, which must be submitted as one searchable PDF and (b) the application attachments, which must be submitted using as few attachments as possible, with the goal of one-to-two attachments (project budget must be submitted as Excel or Google Sheet and other attachments must be submitted as PDF). The attachments should be included in the order listed below.

1. Documentation for Grant Agreements

- **a.** Authorized Signature Sheet
- **b.** Authorized Signature Backup Documentation
- **c.** Ability to Comply with State's Insurance Requirements
- **d.** Agency W-9 signed within the last six (6) months
- e. Certificate of Good Standing from the Colorado Secretary of State (nonprofits ONLY)
- f. Verification of Registration on SAM.Gov

2. Documentation for Financial Requirements

- a. Audit Overview Form
- **b.** Most Recent Audit
- c. Verification of Audit on Federal Audit Clearinghouse, as applicable

3. Documentation of Compliance with Program Requirements

- **a.** Ability to Comply with Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or HMIS Comparable Database
- **b.** Letters of Support, if applicable
- **c.** Project Budget(s)
- **d.** Supportive Housing RFA response, if applicable
- e. Housing Development application, if applicable

4. Optional: Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) Authorization Form

- a. DOH EFT History Sheet
- **b.** Completed EFT Form
- c. Voided check or a letter from the bank with the banking information

II. Main Application Contents

All applicants must complete all questions in this section. Please complete in the order listed. This Main Application Contents section (which includes A. Applicant and B. Project Overview) should be completed in no more than seven total pages, and must include the questions from this section.

A. Applicant

- 1. Applicant Legal Name:
- 2. Applicant Legal Address:
- 3. Applicant Federal Tax ID:
- 4. Applicant Unique Entity Identifier:
- **5.** Applicant House District (https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator):
- 6. Applicant Senate District (https://leg.colorado.gov/find-my-legislator):
- 7. Applicant Proposed Service Area(s):
- **8. Applicant Primary Contact** (this should be the person who can answer questions for DOH staff, if needed) (name and title):
- **9. Applicant Primary Contact Information** (this should be the person who can answer questions for DOH staff, if needed) (email and phone):
- 10. Applicant Executive Director (or equivalent) Information (name, email, and phone):
- **11.Applicant Signatory Authority** (this authorized authority may be the same as staff listed above) (name, email, and phone):
- 12. Total Amount Being Requested:
- **13. Eligible Uses:** Complete the table below by selecting the eligible model(s) and corresponding activities included in the applicant's request.

ELIGIBLE USES. Complete the table by checking the boxes for the models/activities being requested in this application.					
	PROGRAM MODEL ACTIVITIES				
ELIGIBLE PROGRAM MODELS	Supportive Services	Operations	Educational, Vocational, & Work-Based Learning Opportunities	Recovery Care & Related Residential Programs	Rent and Financial Assistance

STREET OUTREACH			N/A	N/A	N/A
EMERGENCY SHELTER			N/A	N/A	N/A
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING					N/A
BRIDGE HOUSING			N/A	N/A	N/A
EVICTION & HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION			N/A	N/A	
RAPID RE-HOUSING			N/A	N/A	
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING			N/A	N/A	N/A
ELIGIBLE SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITIES					
$\ \square$ DATA COLLECTION, MANAGEMENT, ANALYSIS, AND SYSTEM INTEGRATION					
☐ COORDINATION					
☐ RESOURCE UT	TILIZATION A	CCELERATION			

B. Project Overview

- 1. **Project Concept Description:** Provide a narrative of the proposed project concept, including what the proposed project hopes to achieve through this NOFA.
- **2. Funding Priority:** Provide a narrative regarding how the project meets the funding priorities and aim of this NOFA.
- **3. COVID-19 Impact:** Describe how the project will respond to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly how it will support populations that have been disproportionately impacted.
- **4. Timeline:** Describe how the applicant will ensure that the project or program will expend any granted funds by December 31, 2026.
- 5. Budgets: Complete a budget per Eligible Program Model as listed in the NOFA.

a. Full Budget Forecast for First 12 Months:

Applicants should complete the budget template available here, completing one tab per Eligible Program Model request. This document must be submitted as a Google Sheet or Excel Spreadsheet with permissions set to allow for edits and DOH access to formulas.

b. Projected Sources of Funding for Project Costs:

List all projected sources of funding that are expected to be used to pay for the direct costs of services described above. It is strongly recommended to include Medicaid reimbursement as one source of services funding for eligible services. If additional sources are being considered that are pending, provide status details, including likelihood of award and timeline for notification.

- 6. Program Design Informed through Lived Expertise and Will Advance Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA):
 - a. Did the proposed project include individuals with lived experiences of homelessness and/or behavioral health systems in decision-making and program development?
 - i. Select One: YES / NO / DON'T KNOW
 - ii. **Provide Explanation:** Include (i.) how the proposed project has already included individuals with lived experience in the proposed services and project design and (ii.) how participants will continue to be able to provide input regularly to the project and services once in operation.
 - b. Does the project plan to identify and address any inequities in the program design, including but not limited to participant selection, services provision, staff training and experiences, and decision-making?
 - i. Select One: YES / NO / DON'T KNOW
 - ii. **Provide Explanation:** Include the project's data elements that clarify specific groups of persons within the intended population(s) who are disproportionately impacted as well as how this project directly addresses those disparities.
 - c. Does the applicant organization use any equity-focused tools or resources when making administrative or policy decisions about the proposed program's priorities, target populations, program implementation, goals and measurements, and other activities?
 - i. Select One: YES / NO / DON'T KNOW
 - ii. **Provide Explanation:** Describe the tool(s) used, the data elements the project will collect to identify groups of persons who are disproportionately impacted and how this project directly addresses those disparities, and/or other strategies that will be employed by the project to advance inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility. If possible, please be specific and include an example. If "No" or "Don't know", please describe why.
- 7. Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS): Describe how the project will collect data on beneficiaries served. All service providers will be responsible for data entry into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for all participants and for coordination with all project partners regarding the referral process, application completion, and engagement and outreach of applicants. If applicants are serving victims of domestic violence, data entry may occur in an HMIS comparable database.
- **8.** Commitment to Quality: Describe how the project and any participating providers and communities will ensure quality services, programs, and housing.

- **9. Housing-Focused:** Describe how the project concept supports facilitating exits from the homelessness response system into affordable housing with the rights and responsibilities of tenancy. Specify the model and number of affordable housing opportunities the project concept intends to create within the project, if applicable. This response should include specific measurements for the expected housing placements, and how data from project concepts utilizing the same project-concept/model in question informed these projections.
- **10. Transformational:** Describe how the project will fundamentally shift the landscape of homelessness within the project's community, region, or even the State. Provide specifics regarding transforming systems, programs, and outcomes while being responsive to the one-time nature of the funding provided. This should include explanations about how the request goes beyond maintaining current operations for projects that currently exist. Share data from project concepts utilizing the same project-concept/model in question.
- **11.Greatest Impact and Intended Population(s):** Describe the estimated annual number of individuals the project intends to serve and house. Describe the intended population(s) for which the project aims to serve and any additional prioritization that will occur to meet the intent and aim of this NOFA as noted in the NOFA above.
- **12.Proof of Concept:** Provide description and evidence that the project concept(s) are based upon evidence of proven effectiveness, such as research, evaluations, existing program examples with successful outcomes, etc.
- **13.Collaborative:** Describe efforts the applicant has undertaken to outreach neighborhood groups, community groups, and other external entities (local hospitals, law enforcement, local businesses) to ensure the long-term success of the project in its proposed location throughout development and operation. Efforts shared should focus on specific, strategic collaborations held for this application. Attach related Letters of Support to receive additional scoring.
- **14. Sustainability:** Describe how the community will support the long-term sustainability of the project given the time-limited nature of funding. Describe how maintenance and ongoing services will be funded.
- **15.Local Match:** Provide description of any sources and amounts of local match being committed to the project. Match may include monetary (governmental, private, and philanthropic) as well as non-monetary (fee waivers, staff resources, etc.).
- **16.Accountability:** Describe the organization's experience, including (i) the organization's experience receiving and managing federal, state, or other grant funds, (ii) the project's oversight and internal controls, such as policies, practices, and procedures to prevent waste, fraud, or abuse of funds, as well as how the organization self-monitors for compliance (e.g., how the organization avoids prohibited or unallowable activities); and (iii) how the organization holds itself accountable when non-compliance or ineffectiveness are identified or when complaints are brought forth (by participants, staff, or others).

Applicants must complete the following sections based on which Eligible Program Model(s) the application is requesting funding. Do not complete sections if the application does not request funds for those sections. When responding to the related Application Contents sections below, applicants should keep in mind and review the contents of this NOFA, including the OHI Program Model Comparisons and the State of Colorado's Playbook on Making Homelessness History in Colorado.

III. Street Outreach Questions

For Street Outreach requests, please complete the following questions. Please complete in the order listed. Include the section, question number, and question when responding. Proposed projects should align with the OHI Program Model Comparison document. This Street Outreach section should be completed in no more than four total pages, which includes the questions from this section.

- 1. Overview. Provide an overview of the project, including brief description, whether the project is new or existing, geographic coverage, goals, target population, and participant eligibility.
- **2. Budget.** Provide a description of the proposed budget, including an overview of activities and expenses, how activities and expenses were calculated, and the reason why these costs cannot be covered under other sources. This description should match the budget(s) the applicant provides in the attachment(s).
- **3. Services Standards.** Describe the service provider(s) capacity and experience to provide the intended services. This must include:
 - a. The applicant's experience delivering the proposed services, including previous program outcomes, if applicable
 - b. An evidence-based plan for tailoring services to target populations
 - c. The approach to create safety and address basic needs, as needed to build trust required for engagement in services
 - d. A list and description of services to be provided to participants once trust is built
 - e. The philosophy and framework to be used to plan for and implement the project, including evidence-based models and strategies
- 4. Staffing Plans. Describe the proposed staffing, including:
 - a. Staffing plan, including staffing case management ratios and staff structure
 - b. Plan or approach to staff credentials and trainings
 - c. Plan or approach to supervisory structure, accountability, and support

- d. Staff protocol for engaging with target populations (e.g., how long staff are expected to engage with a typical participant)
- **5.** Outreach and Engagement Strategies within a Housing-Focused Framework. Describe how the project will outreach to unsheltered populations to target those who are not actively engaged in services to access the project. Include how often and for how long case managers are expected to engage a typical participant.
- 6. Housing Navigation and Placement Strategies. Describe how the project will assist participants in securing decent, safe, affordable rental housing. Include a list of the main housing resources to be provided to participants, strategies for housing navigation and overcoming housing barriers, and engagement with Coordinated Entry systems, landlords, the regional Continuum of Care, and/or other community resources. If service provider partners have not yet been identified, describe how the applicant will identify service provider(s) that will meet the NOFA requirements.
- 7. Outcomes. Describe the deliverables and outcomes the project plans to achieve. Include how many households the project expects to serve. Include the measures that will be collected and assessed by the applicant to evaluate transformational performance and assess the success of the application (in addition to DOH's required Performance Measures). As much as possible, deliverables and outcomes should be measurable and quantifiable (e.g., "reduce utilization of emergency and health care systems" or "increase housing referrals and placements from X to Y").

IV. Emergency Shelter Questions

For Emergency Shelter requests, please complete the following questions. Please complete in the order listed. Include the section, question number, and question when responding. Proposed projects should align with the OHI Program Model Comparison document. This Emergency Shelter section should be completed in no more than four total pages, which includes the questions from this section.

- 1. Overview. Provide an overview of the project, including brief description, brief list of the project's activities and expenses, whether the project is new or existing, geographic coverage, goals, target population, and participant eligibility.
- 2. Budget. Provide a description of the proposed budget, including an overview of activities and expenses, how activities and expenses were calculated, and the reason why these costs cannot be covered under other sources. This description should match the budget(s) the applicant provides in the attachment(s).
- **3. Services Standards.** Describe the service provider(s) capacity and experience to provide the intended services. This must include:
 - a. The applicant's experience delivering the proposed services, including previous program outcomes, if applicable
 - b. An evidence-based plan for tailoring services to target populations
 - c. A list and description of services to be provided to participants
 - d. The philosophy and framework to be used to plan for and implement the project, including evidence-based models and strategies

- 4. Staffing Plans. Describe the proposed staffing, including:
 - a. Staffing plan, including staffing case management ratios and staff structure
 - b. Plan or approach to staff credentials and trainings
 - c. Plan or approach to supervisory structure, accountability, and support
 - d. Staff protocol for engaging with target populations
- **5.** Housing Navigation and Placement Strategies. Describe how the project will assist participants in securing decent, safe, affordable rental housing. Include a list of the main housing resources to be provided to participants, strategies for housing navigation and overcoming housing barriers, and engagement with Coordinated Entry systems, landlords, the regional Continuum of Care, and/or other community resources. If service provider partners have not yet been identified, describe how the applicant will identify service provider(s) that will meet the NOFA requirements.
- **6. Safety and Security Planning.** Describe how the design of the project, access planning, staffing, technology, or other elements of operation will help ensure the safety of guests. Describe how project partners will work to ensure the safety of participants, guests, and residents who may be at risk of victimization or violence. Applicants should describe in detail the type of security provided, how it relates to program operation, and how it will ensure the safety of residents.
- **7.** Low Barrier to Entry. Describe how a household would access the project, including eligibility, hours of operation, low barrier strategies, and/or other considerations to access the proposed project. Please use an example of a participant's experience to illustrate the project response.
- **8. Outcomes.** Describe the deliverables and outcomes the project plans to achieve. Include how many households the project expects to serve. Include measures that will be collected and assessed by the applicant to evaluate transformational performance and assess the success of the application (in addition to DOH's required Performance Measures). As much as possible, deliverables and outcomes should be measurable and quantifiable (e.g., "increase the percentage of guests to secure housing from X to Y").

V. Transitional Housing Questions

For Transitional Housing requests, please complete the following questions. Please complete in the order listed. Include the section, question number, and question when responding. Proposed projects should align with the OHI Program Model Comparison document. This Transitional Housing section should be completed in no more than four total pages, which includes the questions from this section.

- 1. Overview. Provide an overview of the project, including brief description, brief list of the project's activities and expenses, whether the project is new or existing, geographic coverage, goals, target population, and participant eligibility.
- 2. Budget. Provide a description of the proposed budget, including an overview of activities and expenses, how activities and expenses were calculated, and the reason why these costs cannot be covered under other sources. This description should match the budget(s) the applicant provides in the attachment(s).

- **3. Services Standards.** Describe the service provider(s) capacity and experience to provide the intended services. This must include:
 - a. The applicant's experience delivering the proposed services, including previous program outcomes, if applicable
 - b. An evidence-based plan for tailoring services to target populations
 - c. A list and description of services to be provided to participants
 - d. The philosophy and framework to be used to plan for and implement the project, including evidence-based models and strategies
- 4. Staffing Plans. Describe the proposed staffing, including:
 - a. Staffing plan, including staffing case management ratios and staff structure
 - b. Plan or approach to staff credentials and trainings
 - c. Plan or approach to supervisory structure, accountability, and support
 - d. Staff protocol for engaging with target populations
- **5.** Housing Navigation and Placement Strategies. Describe how the project will assist participants in securing decent, safe, affordable rental housing. Include a list of the main housing resources to be provided to participants, strategies for housing navigation and overcoming housing barriers, and engagement with Coordinated Entry systems, landlords, the regional Continuum of Care, and/or other community resources. If service provider partners have not yet been identified, describe how the applicant will identify service provider(s) that will meet the NOFA requirements.
- 6. Safety and Security Planning. Describe how the design of the project, access planning, staffing, technology, or other elements of operation will help ensure the safety of guests. Describe how project partners will work to ensure the safety of participants, guests, and residents who may be at risk of victimization or violence. Applicants should describe in detail the type of security provided, how it relates to program operation, and how it will ensure the safety of residents.
- **7.** Low Barrier to Entry. Describe how a household would access the project, including eligibility, hours of operation, low barrier strategies, and/or other considerations to access the proposed project. Please use an example of a participant's experience to illustrate this response.
- **8. Outcomes.** Describe the deliverables and outcomes the project plans to achieve. Include how many households the project expects to serve. Include measures that will be collected and assessed by the applicant to evaluate transformational performance and assess the success of the application (in addition to DOH's required Performance Measures). As much as possible, deliverables and outcomes should be measurable and quantifiable (e.g., "increase individuals' employment earnings from X to Y" or "create employment opportunities for X households")

VI. Bridge Housing Questions

For Bridge Housing requests, please complete the following questions. Please complete in the order listed. Include the section, question number, and question when responding. Proposed projects

should align with the OHI Program Model Comparison document. This Bridge Housing section should be completed in no more than four total pages, which includes the questions from this section.

- 1. Overview. Provide an overview of the project, including brief description, brief list of the project's activities and expenses, whether the project is new or existing, geographic coverage, goals, target population, and participant eligibility.
- **2. Budget.** Provide a description of the proposed budget, including an overview of activities and expenses, how activities and expenses were calculated, and the reason why these costs cannot be covered under other sources. This description should match the budget(s) the applicant provides in the attachment(s).
- **3. Services Standards.** Describe the service provider(s) capacity and experience to provide the intended services. This must include:
 - a. The applicant's experience delivering the proposed services, including previous program outcomes, if applicable
 - b. An evidence-based plan for tailoring services to target populations
 - c. A list and description of services to be provided to participants
 - d. The philosophy and framework to be used to plan for and implement the project, including evidence-based models and strategies
- **4. Staffing Plans.** Describe the proposed staffing, including:
 - a. Staffing plan, including staffing case management ratios and staff structure
 - b. Plan or approach to staff credentials and trainings
 - c. Plan or approach to supervisory structure, accountability, and support
 - d. Staff protocol for engaging with target populations
- **5.** Housing Navigation and Placement Strategies. Describe how the project will assist participants in securing decent, safe, affordable rental housing. Include a list of the main housing resources to be provided to participants, strategies for housing navigation and overcoming housing barriers, and engagement with Coordinated Entry systems, landlords, the regional Continuum of Care, and/or other community resources. If service provider partners have not yet been identified, describe how the applicant will identify service provider(s) that will meet the NOFA requirements.
- 6. Safety and Security Planning. Describe how the design of the project, access planning, staffing, technology, or other elements of operation will help ensure the safety of guests. Describe how project partners will work to ensure the safety of participants, guests, and residents who may be at risk of victimization or violence. Applicants should describe in detail the type of security provided, how it relates to program operation, and how it will ensure the safety of residents.
- **7.** Low Barrier to Entry. Describe how a household would access the project, including eligibility, hours of operation, low barrier strategies, and/or other considerations to access the proposed project. Please use an example of a participant's experience to illustrate this response.
- 8. Outcomes. Describe the deliverables and outcomes the project plans to achieve. Include how

many households the project expects to serve. Include measures that will be collected and assessed by the applicant to evaluate transformational performance and assess the success of the application (in addition to DOH's required Performance Measures). As much as possible, deliverables and outcomes should be measurable and quantifiable (e.g., "reduce utilization of emergency and health care systems while waiting for permanent housing by X or Y amount" or "increase income for a specific number of participants")

VII. Eviction & Homelessness Prevention Questions

For Eviction and Homelessness Prevention requests, please complete the following questions. Please complete in the order listed. Include the section, question number, and question when responding. Proposed projects should align with the OHI Program Model Comparison document. This Eviction and Homelessness Prevention section should be completed in no more than four total pages, which includes the questions from this section.

- 1. Overview. Provide an overview of the project, including brief description, brief list of the project's activities and expenses, whether the project is new or existing, geographic coverage, goals, target population, and participant eligibility.
- **2. Budget.** Provide a description of the proposed budget, including an overview of activities and expenses, how activities and expenses were calculated, and the reason why these costs cannot be covered under other sources. This description should match the budget(s) the applicant provides in the attachment(s).
- **3. Services Standards.** Describe the service provider(s) capacity and experience to provide the intended services. This must include:
 - a. The applicant's experience delivering the proposed services, including previous program outcomes, if applicable
 - b. An evidence-based plan for tailoring services to target populations
 - c. A list and description of services to be provided to participants
 - d. The philosophy and framework to be used to plan for and implement the project, including evidence-based models and strategies
- **4. Staffing Plans.** Describe the proposed staffing, including:
 - a. Staffing plan, including staffing case management ratios and staff structure
 - b. Plan or approach to staff credentials and trainings
 - c. Plan or approach to supervisory structure, accountability, and support
 - d. Staff protocol for engaging with target populations
- **5.** Low Barrier to Entry. Describe how a household would access the project, including eligibility, low barrier strategies, and/or other considerations to access the proposed project. Please use an example of a participant's experience to illustrate this response.
- 6. Outcomes. Describe the deliverables and outcomes the project plans to achieve. Include how

many households the project expects to serve. Include measures that will be collected and assessed by the applicant to evaluate transformational performance and assess the success of the application (in addition to DOH's required Performance Measures). As much as possible, deliverables and outcomes should be measurable and quantifiable (e.g., "reduce the length of time homeless from X to Y..." or "ensure at least XX% of participants remain housed after one year").

VIII. Rapid Re-Housing Questions

For Rapid Re-Housing requests, please complete the following questions. Please complete in the order listed. Include the section, question number, and question when responding. Proposed projects should align with the OHI Program Model Comparison document. This Rapid Re-Housing section should be completed in no more than four total pages, which includes the questions from this section.

- 1. Overview. Provide an overview of the project, including brief description, brief list of the project's activities and expenses, whether the project is new or existing, geographic coverage, goals, target population, and participant eligibility.
- **2. Budget.** Provide a description of the proposed budget, including an overview of activities and expenses, how activities and expenses were calculated, and the reason why these costs cannot be covered under other sources. This description should match the budget(s) the applicant provides in the attachment(s).
- **3. Services Standards.** Describe the service provider(s) capacity and experience to provide the intended services. This must include:
 - a. The applicant's experience delivering the proposed services, including previous program outcomes, if applicable
 - b. An evidence-based plan for tailoring services to target populations
 - c. A list and description of services to be provided to participants
 - d. The philosophy and framework to be used to plan for and implement the project, including evidence-based models and strategies
- **4. Staffing Plans.** Describe the proposed staffing, including:
 - a. Staffing plan, including staffing case management ratios and staff structure
 - b. Plan or approach to staff credentials and trainings
 - c. Plan or approach to supervisory structure, accountability, and support
 - d. Staff protocol for engaging with target populations
- **5.** Housing Navigation and Placement Strategies. Describe how the project will assist participants in securing decent, safe, affordable rental housing. Include a list of the main housing resources to be provided to participants, strategies for housing navigation and overcoming housing barriers, and engagement with Coordinated Entry systems, landlords, the regional Continuum of Care, and/or other community resources. If service provider partners have not yet been identified, describe how the applicant will identify service provider(s) that will meet the NOFA requirements.

- **6.** Low Barrier to Entry. Describe how a household would access the project, including eligibility, low barrier strategies, and/or other considerations to access the proposed project. Please use an example of a participant's experience to illustrate this response.
- 7. Outcomes. Describe the deliverables and outcomes the project plans to achieve. Include how many households the project expects to serve. Include measures that will be collected and assessed by the applicant to evaluate transformational performance and assess the success of the application (in addition to DOH's required Performance Measures). As much as possible, deliverables and outcomes should be measurable and quantifiable (e.g., "reduce the length of time homeless from X to Y" or "ensure at least XX% of participants remain housed after one year").

IV. Supportive Housing Application

For applications that will include Supportive Housing, applicants should plan to submit an additional application through <u>Annual Request for Applications for the Creation of Supportive Housing</u>.

For the purposes of this NOFA, Supportive Housing units refers to affordable housing units supported with Project-Based Rental Assistance/Vouchers from the DOH or another Public Housing Authorities where residents have the rights and responsibilities of tenancy with access to supportive services provided through the supportive housing model and associated best practices (including the Housing First model, as well as Harm Reduction and trauma-informed approaches).

NEW 11/29/2022 - NOTE: Operations funding support is limited to existing Supportive Housing projects that are currently open and operating. New supportive housing projects and supportive projects that applied for resources through previous iterations of the Annual Request for Applications for the Creation of Supportive Housing but have not yet opened, are ineligible for operations funding support. Operations funding will be prioritized for projects struggling with safety and security planning and/or have faced circumstances that have negatively impacted reserves.

For any questions that appear repetitive between this NOFA and the RFA, simply reference which application document has the main response.

X. Systems Improvement Questions

For Systems Improvement requests, please complete the following questions. Please complete in the order listed. Include the section, question number, and question when responding. Proposed projects should align with the OHI Program Model Comparison document. This Systems Improvement section should be completed in no more than four total pages, which includes the questions from this section.

- 1. Overview. Provide an overview of the project, including:
 - a. Whether the request is for (a) data collection, management, analysis, and system integration, (b) coordination, and/or (c) resource utilization acceleration
 - b. Geographic coverage
 - c. Detailed description of project, including a project overview, whether the project is new or existing, goals, and intended impact

- d. How the project advances evidence-based approaches to homelessness, including but not limited to how the project advances Housing First and collaborative strategies within the geographic area
- 2. Budget. Provide a description of the proposed budget, including an overview of activities and expenses, how activities and expenses were calculated, and the reason why these costs cannot be covered under other sources. This description should match the budget(s) the applicant provides in the attachment(s).
- 3. Staffing Plans. Describe the proposed staffing plan, including:
 - a. Overall staffing plan and structure
 - b. Plan or approach to staff credentials and trainings
 - c. Plan or approach to supervisory structure, accountability, and support
- **4. Extent of Need.** Describe the specific need(s) the request seeks to address. Include quantitative and qualitative data.
- **5.** Collaboration and Duplication. Describe the origin of the systems improvement request (e.g., what parner(s) identified the systems improvement opportunity), how the specific project collaborates with the local Continuum of Care and/or other partners, and how the project is avoiding a duplication of strategies or services.
- **6. Outcomes.** Describe the deliverables and outcomes the project plans to achieve. Include how many households the project expects to serve, if applicable. Include measures that will be collected and assessed by the applicant to evaluate transformational performance and assess the success of the application (in addition to DOH's required Performance Measures). As much as possible, deliverables and outcomes should be measurable and quantifiable.

XI. Development Application

For projects that will include any Development related requests, such as Acquisition, Renovations, and New Construction, applicants should also review the related NOFA for the <u>Transformational</u> Affordable Housing, Homeownership, and Workforce Housing Grant Program.

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