

## Appendix B: Funding Opportunity Goals

The CoC Program is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness and to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, States, Indian Tribes or Tribally Designated Housing Entities, and local governments to quickly rehouse individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and youth while minimizing the trauma caused by homelessness. The CoC Program promotes access to and the effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness. HUD hopes to accomplish the following goals through the collaborative efforts of applicants for CoC Program funding and local CoC stakeholders:

### **1. Ending the Crisis of Homelessness on Our Streets**

The number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness is at an all-time high. People living on the streets and in encampments have high rates of substance use disorder and mental illness. According to [a nationwide study](#), 75% of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness report a substance use disorder and 78% report a mental health condition. The study found that substance use disorder contributed to the loss of housing for 50% of the unsheltered population, and mental health conditions contributed to loss of housing for 51% of the population.

CoCs should direct resources towards outreach, intervention, and assistance that helps people regain self-sufficiency. Consistent with Executive Order 14321 “Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets,” CoCs should work with law enforcement, first responders, and their state and local governments to reduce encampments, public camping, and public drug use in order to address barriers to maintaining housing and increasing self-sufficiency.

### **2. Prioritizing Treatment and Recovery.**

CoCs should prioritize projects that provide the treatment and services people need to recover and regain self-sufficiency including on-site behavioral health treatment, robust wraparound supportive services, and participation requirements. This NOFO devotes resources to Transitional Housing programs and Supportive Service Only projects with the goal of improving health and long-term economic independence for the homeless. HUD encourages CoCs to utilize the full array of mainstream programs and local and private resources to provide housing and healthcare needed to maintain safe and stable housing.

### **3. Advancing Public Safety**

Safety and security for all members of the public, especially those living unsheltered, is essential to promoting a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. CoCs should cooperate with law enforcement to advance public safety for the entire community impacted by homelessness. No one should sleep outside on the street or in dangerous encampments, and everyone should be able to enjoy public spaces safely. HUD encourages CoCs to assist in preventing and minimizing the trauma associated with living on the streets or in encampments, especially for women and youth that are the victims of sexual assault and trafficking. Unchecked public camping and public illicit drug use inhibit nonprofit providers and local government from effectively addressing homelessness.

First responders are critical partners in engaging people into treatment and services and protecting public order and vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness. In *Grants Pass v. Johnson*, the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the authority of local governments to prohibit public camping.

#### **4. Promoting Self-Sufficiency.**

One of the primary purposes of the CoC Program is to optimize self-sufficiency. CoCs should partner with workforce development centers, employers, childcare, and other supportive service providers to increase employment and employment income for program participants. CoCs should prioritize projects that help lead to long-term economic independence for individuals and families to exit homelessness and prevent future returns to homelessness.

#### **5. Improving Outcomes.**

CoCs should review all projects eligible for renewal under this NOFO to determine their effectiveness in reducing homelessness and increasing self-sufficiency. CoCs should prioritize projects that promote self-sufficiency, increase employment income over government assistance, and promote treatment and recovery.

This NOFO includes several options to help CoCs improve their effectiveness, including reallocation, expansion, and transition grants, and CoC's should take advantage of these options to expand the pool of providers, including faith-based providers, and improve the overall performance of the CoC.

#### **6. Minimizing Trauma.**

One of the purposes of the CoC program is to minimize the trauma associated with homelessness. CoCs should encourage providers to provide trauma informed care and ensure participant safety in programs, especially for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Women experiencing homelessness or domestic violence should have access to safe, single-sex spaces.