MARION COUNTY COC PROGRAM COMPETITION

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

COMMUNITY SERVICES

FY 2024 – 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 26, 2024

DUE DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

1 OVERVIEW

1.1 LOCAL COMPETITION

This Request for Proposal (RFP) invites prospective organizations to submit a proposal to support the Ocala/Marion County Continuum of Care (CoC) Joint Office Program. The RFP provides organizations with the relevant application process, performance expectations, and local criteria and evaluation requirements that the program must fulfill. The Collaborative Applicant will work to prepare and submit the annual CoC Consolidated Application to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and to work with the CoC Board and its Application Review Committee to assess and prioritize projects through the annual NOFO competition. This document is company-confidential. Organizations requested for proposals are engaged in respecting the confidentiality of information contained in this document. ***SEE SECTION 6 FOR CHALLENGE GRANT INFORMATION**

HIGHLIGHTS

- This year the project applicants will apply for the FY 2024 competition and will be automatically renewed for FY 2025.
- Bonus projects awarded through "special populations" DV Bonus, must remain for the proposed population when reallocating in future years.

1.2 ELIGIBILITY & THRESHOLDS

1.2.1 Applicant Eligibility

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) invites applicants from State and local government agencies; non-profit, not-for-profit, including faith-based and community organizations; associations; and hospitals, preferably operating within Ocala/Marion County Continuum of Care.

Applicants who fail to meet these requirements are deemed ineligible.

1. Project applicants and potential subrecipients must meet the eligibility requirements of the CoC Program as described in the Act and the Rule and provide evidence of eligibility required in the application (e.g., nonprofit documentation).
2. Project applicants and subrecipients must demonstrate the financial and management capacity and experience to carry out the project as detailed in the project application and the capacity to administer federal funds. Demonstrating capacity may include a description of the applicant and subrecipient experience with similar projects and with successful administration of SHP, S+C, or CoC Program funds or other federal funds.
3. Project applicants must submit the required certifications specified in NOFO.
4. The population to be served must meet program eligibility requirements as described in the Act, the Rule, and section I.B.3.k of this NOFO.
5. Project applicants, except Collaborative Applicants that only receive awards for CoC Planning Costs and, if applicable, UFA Costs, must agree to participate in a local HMIS System. However, in accordance with Section 407 of the Act, any victim service provider that is a recipient or subrecipient must not disclose, for purposes of HMIS, any personally identifying information

about any client. Victim service providers must use a comparable database that meets the needs of the local HMIS.

Applicants must comply with Rules and Regulations Applicable to HUD NOFOs to apply. The following requirements effect applicant eligibility. To review the detailed information on each requirement, see **Section III.A.4** of the NOFO. Applicants who fail to meet the eligibility requirements are deemed ineligible to receive HUD funding.

Federal

- UEI (Unique Entity Identifier)
- SAM.gov (System for Award Management)
- Outstanding delinquent federal debts
- Debarments/suspension, or both
- Prohibition against lobbying
- Mandatory disclosure requirements
- Pre-selection review of performance
- Sufficiency of financial management system
- False statements
- Failure to conduct business in accordance with Ethical Standards/Code of Conduct

Local

- Membership - Membership in the CoC (FL-514) in good standing (reference **Governance Charter, section I.II**)
- Data Quality Overall Score is required to be at 90% or above, or the applicant can provide a plan detailing their improvement plan to meet the 90% threshold
- Applicant agrees to meet a housing-first model
- Applicant agrees to participate in the Coordinated Entry process

1.2.2   Solo Applicant

HUD provides an application process for those who attempt to participate in the CoC local competition and believe they were denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner.

1.2.3   Project Eligibility

Project eligibility should be reviewed in **Section III.C.4.a** of the NOFO. HUD determines eligibility based on the applicant or subrecipients eligibility and capacity, project eligibility, and project quality as a threshold review. Subrecipient and applicant capacity is explained in **Section III.C.4.c.**

New Projects

The project must demonstrate its ability to improve the CoC's System Performance Measures.

Expansion Projects

The project must expand existing efforts to increase the number of units, persons served, and services provided to existing program participants, or add additional activities to HMIS and SSO-CE projects. Considering all renewals are first-time renewals, expansions will not be allowed.

Renewal Projects

An eligible FY 2024 renewal project must have an expiration date in CY 2025 (January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025).

1.2.4   Bonus Eligibility
This year, new projects must be created through bonus projects. Applicants can apply for the following bonus projects outlined below. Bonus projects will be evaluated based on the degree to which they improve system performance.

CoC Bonus Opportunity

CoC bonus projects must demonstrate their ability to improve system performance. Review **Section V.B.2.b** of the NOFO. HMIS dedicated and SSO-CE are not allowed in this bonus opportunity as this year is their first renewal with minimal performance to prove a need to expand.

- **PH-PSH (NO LIMIT)**
- **PH-RRH (NO LIMIT)**
- **Joint TH/PH-RRH (NO LIMIT)**

DV Bonus Opportunity

Projects under the DV bonus opportunity must be dedicated to serving persons experiencing trauma or a lack of safety related to fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating, violence, sexual assault, or stalking who fit the participant eligibility criteria.

- **PH-RRH (NO LIMIT)**
- **Joint TH/PH-RRH (NO LIMIT)**
- **SSO-CE (LIMITED, ONE PER COC) project** to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the CoC's Coordinated Entry to better serve the needs of individuals and families who fit the DV participant eligibility criteria.

1.3   OFFICE HOURS
Any group or organization wishing to apply for grant funding is encouraged to attend one of the scheduled Office Hours. The Collaborative Applicant will host an informal meeting to address requirements, completion of additional forms, potential projects, CoC needs assessment, and more. **For the most current timeline see** Resources & Funding Availability | Marion County, FL (marionfl.org)

Date	Time	Location
Thursday August 22nd	9 am – 11 am	Marion County Public Library Headquarters Meeting Room B
Friday August 23rd	2 pm – 4 pm	Marion County Growth Services Building Main Training Room

1.4 RFP QUESTIONS & PROCESS

Questions after Office Hours may be submitted to the appropriate CoC staff liaison up until the grant deadline. Answers will be answered in the order they are received; however, applicants cannot depend on being able to get a question answered immediately. Questions and answers will be shared among all applicants via email and failure to get an answer is not an acceptable reason for missing the grant deadline. HUD requests that project applicants read the NOFO in its entirety. Additional resources that may address questions are indicated below.

Designated COC Staff Liaison:
Lauren Blaugh
Lauren.Blaugh@marionfl.org
CoC@marionfl.org
352-671-8770

Designated HMIS Staff Liaison:
Kasey Tabor
ktabor@ocalafl.gov
352-629-8374

Additional Resource Hyperlinks:

- NOFO FY 2024-2025
- CoC Program Project Application FAQs
- New Project & Expansion Detailed Instructions
- Renewal Detailed Instructions
- CoC Application Detailed Instructions
- E-SNAPS

1.5 CoC INTENDED PURPOSE

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote communitywide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; and provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families, persons fleeing domestic violence, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

1.5.1 Local Priorities

As the Collaborative Applicant and CoC Lead Agency for Ocala/Marion County CoC, we are committed to decreasing homelessness making it rare and non-recurring. This requires the CoC to continually assess the community needs, available resources, and balance competing priorities of the overall system to strategically align resources to the priorities and needs.

The CoC has knowingly adopted the series of evidence-based practices collectively known as Housing First. To truly address homelessness, the community must first address the top priorities of homelessness as described in the **Public Notice on August 1, 2024.**

Priority 1 –Reduction in Length of Time Homeless

Bonus points will be provided to those who indicate program and housing services that help to reduce the length of time homeless. Specific activities will be found in the scorecard.

Priority 2 – Increase in Successful Permanent Housing Placement

Bonus points will be provided to those who describe how participants will be placed into permanent housing. Specific activities will be found in the scorecard.

Priority 3 – Decrease in Returns to Homelessness

Bonus points will be provided to those who indicate how staff will help participants retain housing after placement. Specific activities will be found in the scorecard.

1.5.2   HUD Policy Priorities

The following HUD Homeless Policy Priorities support the goal of ending homelessness. Bonus points will be provided to those who currently have policies in place addressing the following priorities. Policies must have been created and approved prior to the local competition. Partial points will be provided to those who address how they will implement at minimum the locally mandated policies between the date HUD announces the award and within the first 90 days of contract execution.

1. **Ending homelessness for all persons.** Policies are built on the foundation of equity, data evidence, and collaboration. Assessing challenges faced by all populations to implement strategies for housing and support, crisis response, and prevention.
2. **Housing First Approach.** Policies indicate individuals and families move into permanent housing without preconditions. Specifically, the policy addresses (1) little to no income, (2) substance use, (3) criminalization, (4) domestic violence or sexual assault, and (5) childhood abuse.
3. **Reduced Unsheltered Homelessness**. Policies include prioritization based on living unsheltered, encampment, car, or other. Those with physical and mental health challenges and substance use disorders.
4. **Improving System Performance.** Policies indicate the utilization of the HMIS data processing and establishment of a CoC Centralized or Coordinated Assessment System. Prioritization and referrals to housing and services for people experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness.
5. **Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies.** Policies indicate using cost performance and outcome data by way of Coordinated Entry through HMIS or a parallel system. CoCs should improve how all available resources are utilized to end homelessness.
6. **Racial Equity**. Policies indicate that communities should partner with organizations to serve underserved populations. Projects should address racially diverse sets of populations, identify barriers resulting in racial disparities, and take steps to resolve those disparities.
7. **Improving Assistance to LGBTQ+ Individuals.** Policies indicate discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation does not overlap with other forms of prohibited discrimination. HUD requires that all projects provide privacy, respect, safety, and access regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

8. **Persons with Lived Expertise/Experience.** Policy indicates that HUD expects CoCs to include people with lived homeless experience in their local planning and decision-making processes. These individuals should determine how local policies may need to be revised to improve the effectiveness of homelessness assistance programs.
9. **Building and Effective Workforce.** Policies are built upon addressing cost of living adjustments to supportive service activities and other staffing-focused budget lines allowing CoC budgeting to better keep up with rising costs. CoC should work with funders and community stakeholders to improve pay and support for people who work in the homelessness sector.
10. **Increasing Affordable Housing Supply.** Priorities are built to educate local leaders and stakeholders about the importance of increasing the supply of affordable housing and the specific consequences of the continued lack of affordable housing. CoCs should be communicating in the development of Consolidated Plans and engaging local leaders about steps for increasing the affordable and accessible housing supply.

1.6 CONFLICTS

A conscious effort is made to avoid conflicts when assigning review applications. No CoC Ranking and Review Committee member will be allowed to score their own agency's project applications. All members must disclose actual or potential conflicts. No Continuum of Care Board member may participate in or influence discussions or resulting decisions concerning the award of a grant or other financial benefits to the organization that the member represents. Influential discussion could be seen as providing input or perspective on the goals or outcomes of the given situation. Where conflict is present, members must follow the recusal process. When a person recuses themselves, they no longer participate in the conversation until the action or decision has been finalized.

Ocala/Marion County staff and CoC Ranking and Review Committee members understand and fully acknowledge there is an inherent conflict of interest in having persons scoring other proposals that are competing for funding. Staff are to conduct a review of all scoring/reviewer data to monitor for signs of a scorer/reviewer that may score in a manner that directly influences the outcomes of the results. Reference **Governance I.III B. and I.III C.** if there are questions regarding individual conflict, organizational conflict, types, influence, and recusal process. https://www.marionfl.org/agencies-departments/departments-facilities-offices/community-services/resources-funding-availability

1.7 CLAUSES, LAWS, OBLIGATIONS, AND TERMINATIONS

HUD holds information and resource material available via their Continuum of Care (CoC) Program webpage on the HUD Exchange that includes operational regulations, training, and resources related to 24 CFR part 578 (CoC Program Regulations), including:

- CoC Program Laws, Regulations and Notices - Including McKinney-Vento and CoC regulations
- CoC FAQs – Frequently asked questions regarding program funding and costs
- HUD Exchange – Resources strongly recommended and encouraged for all applicants to review
- HUD Strategic Plan FY 2022-2026 – HUD Homeless Policy and Priorities

1.8 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR MARION COUNTY COC

1.8.1 Competitive Funding HUD NOFO
Funds are available for new, expansion, and renewal projects.

Project Type	Renewal ARD	Reallocation	CoC Bonus 12%	DV Bonus 15%
HMIS	$209,173	N/A		
SSO-CE	$71,023	N/A		
RRH-DV	$239,942	N/A		
Potential New			$343,938	$429,922
Total	$520,138			

1.8.2 Non-Competitive Funding
The CoC planning costs are not ranked and will be selected provided they pass project eligibility and project quality threshold. This funding is only available to the Collaborative Applicant as an eligible entity. The amount available is $143,307.

Planning duties are outlined in **24 CFR 578.7.** Considering the Ocala/Marion County CoC is currently operating its coordinated entry process, planning costs cannot be used for coordinated entry.

2 SCOPE OF ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

2.1 PROJECT SCOPE

2.1.1 Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH)
Permanent Supportive Housing is for persons with disabilities. PSH can only assist individuals with disabilities and families in which one adult or child has a disability. Supportive services designed to meet the needs of the program participants must be made available to the program participants.

2.1.2 Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH)
Continuum of Care funds may provide supportive services, as outlined in § 578.53, and/or short-term (up to 3 months) and/or medium-term (for 3 to 24 months) tenant-based rental assistance, as outlined in § 578.51(c), as necessary to help a homeless individual or family, with or without disabilities, move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing. When providing short-term and/or medium-term rental assistance to program participants, the rental assistance is subject to § 578.51(a)(1), but not § 578.51(a)(1)(i) and (ii); (a)(2); (c) and (f) through (i); and (l)(1).

2.1.3 Transitional Housing (TH)
Transitional Housing facilitates the movement of homeless individuals and families to PH within 24 months of entering TH. Grant funds may be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, leasing, rental assistance, operating costs, and supportive services.

2.1.4   Joint TH and Rapid Rehousing (Joint TH/PH-RRH)

2.1.5   Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE)

Funds may be used for acquisition, rehabilitation, relocation costs, or leasing of a facility from which supportive services will be provided to unsheltered and sheltered homeless persons for whom the recipient or subrecipient is not providing housing or housing assistance. SSO includes street outreach.

2.1.6   Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

Funds may be used by HMIS Leads to lease a structure in which the HMIS is operated or as operating funds to operate a structure in which the HMIS is operated, and for other costs eligible in § 578.57.

2.2   HUD AND LOCAL OBJECTIVES

Project participants must meet the participant eligibility in **Section I.k.3** of the NOFO.

2.2.1   PSH Objective

The objective of this program is to increase the stability of the most vulnerable (with disabling conditions) and improve their health and well-being. The combination of long-term housing, case management, and supportive services will help to decrease the number of chronically homeless, targeting those who may be unsheltered or have chronic health conditions. The overall goal would be to transition those who successfully complete the program to self-sufficiency.

2.2.2   RRH Objective

The objective of this program is to find permanent housing for those experiencing literal homelessness to quickly find housing. Reducing the time spent homeless will positively-improve CoC-wide system performance by freeing up shelter beds.

2.2.3   TH Objective

This program has an initial goal of interim stability and support. HUD allows for up to 24 months in the program, however, reducing that time lessens the participant's homeless experience. The goal is to successfully move participants to permanent housing and maintain housing.

2.2.4   SSO-CE

The objective of this program is to implement policies procedures and practices meeting the needs of those experiencing housing crisis. Policies should allow for a client-centered approach, address the needs of special populations, and operate efficiently and effectively.

2.2.5   HMIS

The objective of HMIS is to improve the capacity of people setting up, operating, and benefitting from data systems to ensure that collection is accurate, comprehensive, and timely, and that the Continuum of Care and stakeholders can effectively use the data to improve efforts to end homelessness. Working with the continuum to define goals and objectives, strategic planning, and growth.

2.3 EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Expected deliverables will be determined by the applicant. The applicant will attach the expected deliverables and will be evaluated on their impact to track if the project is meeting the expected outcomes. Information is provided on the local competition website.

2.4 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The approved recipients of the HUD NOFO will follow all reporting guidelines prescribed by HUD. Quarterly reporting of the APR will be provided to the Collaborative Applicant to ensure milestones are being met and determine if reallocation of funds will need to occur at future competitions. Reallocation is determined based on poor performance and the needs of the CoC.

- SAGE reporting within 90 days after the contract date
- A copy will be provided to the Collaborative Applicant 15 days after submission
- Quarterly drawdown reports will be provided to the Collaborative Applicant to ensure HUD expectations are being met

3 SOLICITATION PROCESS

3.1 COMPETITIVE PROCESS

A formal process providing an equal and open opportunity to qualified parties and culminating in a selection based on submitted documentation and established criteria. At Ocala/Marion County, the Competitive Solicitation Process may be achieved through the issuance of an invitation to bid or a request for proposals. Decisions are performance-based.

3.2 TIMELINE

Schedule of events and deadlines: please reference the link below for the most recent timeline information. Information is subject to change. See public notice for events and dates: https://www.marionfl.org/agencies-departments/departments-facilities-offices/community-services/resources-funding-availability. The deadline for project submission is **September 27, 2024, at 5 pm.**

4 APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process outlines the policies and procedures for the CoC Competition Funding. This year, only renewal and bonus projects are allowed to participate in the application process. Reallocation will not occur this year as all renewal projects are entering their first-year renewal, deeming them ineligible for reallocation. Expansion projects will fall under this same rule, given the lack of understanding of the project's need to increase services, units, or new participants.

4.1 REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

- HUD Related Documents should be completed within the E-snaps portal.

- CoC Related Documents can be found on the local competition website. Please be sure to complete all required CoC documents. The application coversheet will provide details of specific documentation needed.

4.2 HUD PORTAL
- Create or log into existing E-Snaps account.
- Before submitting in the portal, review all thresholds. If thresholds aren't met, the application will be rejected.
- Follow guides provided on the HUD CoC Competition page, a link is provided on the local website.
- Fully complete the application and submit attachments required by HUD in the portal.

4.3 EMAIL OR DELIVER
- Email a PDF of the fully submitted application to the Collaborative Applicant along with the locally determined attachments and backup to CoC@marionfl.org.
- If problems arise with email, accept delivery ATTN: designated CoC Staff.

4.4 REVIEW PROCESS
- Collaborative Applicant will review all threshold requirements.
- All copies will be provided to the Application Review Committee for scoring evaluation.
- Final scoring evaluation is provided to the CoC Board of Governors for review and final prioritization based on local priorities.
- Priority listing is reflected in the E-Snaps portal by the collaborative applicant.

4.5 NOTIFICATION PROCESS
- A letter of approval or denial will be written by the Collaborative Applicant and provided to the project applicant.
- Tiering and project budget may indicate a need to adjust the request amount.
- If adjustment is needed, the applicant will be notified to log into E-Snaps to make changes to the original amount.

4.6 PUBLICATION PROCESS
- Once the information is finalized, the CoC Application and Priority Listing will be published on the local website.
- Open discussion will also occur at the CoC General Membership Meeting.

4.7 OFFICIAL SUBMISSION PROCESS
- Once all feedback has been received and/or sought, the Collaborative Applicant will prepare the full submission to HUD.

5 PROJECT APPLICATION CRITERIA FOR SCORING

5.1 CATEGORIES EVALUATED LOCALLY

- **Thresholds:** Thresholds are established by HUD and the local CoC. Members in good standing may be waived for any new members who have received an application through transfer.
- **Applicant Structure and Financial Information**: This evaluates how the applicant is structured, leadership equity, and financial capacity to operate the requested project.
- **Applicant Experience**: This section evaluates the applicant's experience in servicing the population and their ability to manage and obtain, federal, state, and local funding.
- **Program Information**: This section evaluates the scope of the project, usage of best practices like housing first, and possible sub-populations. For projects like HMIS, this may be called **Project Implementation**. This is an area where "improvement of system performance measures may be included."
- **Project Housing and Supportive Services**: This evaluates the types of services that will be provided to the participant. This may be an area where "improvement of system performance measures may be included." Service descriptions may inquire regardless of being funded by the HUD NOFO. Complete services of the project. Specific regarding participants may be included here as well.
- **Project Performance**: The performance of the project is heavily weighted to ensure it meets cost-effectiveness as well as meets the expected outcomes, and how decisions are made with an equitable lens. The CoC will only fund projects that have a positive impact on the CoC. For new projects or first-time renewals, participants generally haven't been served and questions are more geared towards what to expect.
- **Bonus Points:** Extra points are provided to projects that can clearly explain how their services, methods, or strategies will positively impact the three (3) local priorities. Bonus points are not available for HMIS.

5.1.1 Percentage Based on NEW/RENEW

NEW Project applicants are weighted out of 100 points. The percentage is provided below. Bonus points will be included in the areas in which they were evaluated.

- Application structure and financial information: 10% of the final score
- Applicants experience: 15% of the final score
- Program information: 20% of the final score
- Project housing and supportive services: 20% of the final score
- Project performance: 35% of the final score

RENEWAL Project applicants are weighted out of 100 points. The percentage is provided below.

- Application structure and financial information: 15% of the final score
- Program information: 25% of the final score
- Project housing and supportive services: 25% of the final score
- Project performance: 35% of the final score

5.2 CATEGORIES EVALUATED BY HUD

5.2.1 Project Quality
This includes both new projects through the CoC bonus and/or DV bonus. The minimal amount of 4 out of 5 points are needed for **PH-PSH** and **PH-RRH**, 6 out of 8 points are needed for **TH/PH-RRH**, and 2 out of 4 points are needed for **SSO-CE**. If minimal points are not met, the project will be rejected by HUD.

- Housing proposed, and units fit the needs of project participants (1 point) **PH-PSH and PH-RRH and TH/RRH**
- Services offered ensure retention, and obtaining permanent housing, regardless of funding source (1 point) **PH-PSH and PH-RRH and TH/RRH**
- Plan ensures each participant assisted in retaining and obtaining mainstream resources (1 point) **PH-PSH and PH-RRH and TH/RRH**
- Participants assisted in obtaining and remaining in housing that first needs through specific service examples (1 point) **PH-PSH and PH-RRH and TH/RRH**
- Average cost per household is reasonable, evaluate cost for housing, services provided, and consistency with population planning to serve (1 point) **PH-PSH and PH-RRH and TH/RRH**
- The RRH portion will have twice as many resources as the TH portion identified in the budget, twice as many RRH units, or demonstrate that the budget and units are appropriate for the population served (2 points) **TH/RRH Only**
- Project adheres to the housing first model (1 point) **TH/RRH Only**
- CE system is easily available to reach for app persons in geographic area. Specifically address disability (1 point) **SSO-CE Only**
- Advertisement strategy is designed to reach with highest needs, disproportionately represented (1 point) **SSC-CE Only**
- Standardized assessment process (1 point) **SSO-CE Only**
- Take into account those historically underserved through priority process, directed to appropriate housing, services fit needs (1 point) **SSO-CE Only**

5.2.2 DV Bonus Specific
- CoC score based on CoC Application (50 points) **PH-RRH and TH/PH-RRH and SSO-CE**
- Collaboration noted in CoC Application (10 points) **PH-RRH and TH/PH-RRH and SSO-CE**
- Project Need (10 points) **PH-RRH and TH/PH-RRH**
- Project Need (25 points) **SSO-CE Only**
- Quality of Project applicant experience (15 points) **PH-RRH and TH/PH-RRH**
- Demonstration of DV practices (8 points) **PH-RRH and TH/PH-RRH**
- Demonstration of plan to include survivor's expertise (7 points) **PH-RRH and TH/PH-RRH**
- Demonstration of a plan to include survivor's expertise (15 points) **SSO-CE Only**
- Housing First **PH-RRH and TH/PH-RRH**

5.3 TIERING AFTER EVALUATION
The HUD funding process operates on a two (2) tier basis. Higher-ranked applications will be assigned to Tier 1 and lower-ranked projects will be assigned to Tier 2. This informs HUD of local needs and gaps.

The total funding opportunity available to the Ocala/Marion County CoC is **$1,293,998.** This does not include CoC Planning as it is not allowed to partake in the tiering evaluation.

Initial DV Bonus Selection (100-point scale)

If HUD selects the DV Bonus through the initial selection process, HUD will pull the project out of your priority listing tiers and move the projects beneath it up.

- DV Bonus in Tier 1, HUD evaluates if they will use DV Bonus Funding
- If yes, the project is pulled out of the local ranking, and projects beneath move up
- If no, the project remains in its place for the Tier 1 funding available
- Project Quality and DV specifics will locally be evaluated to determine the likelihood of meeting the bonus

Tier 1

Tier 1 is predetermined based on the full ARD. This year, HUD specified Tier 1 would represent 90% of the **ARD ($468,124).** The project passes project eligibility, project quality threshold, and/or renewal threshold, HUD evaluates as follows:

- HUD ranks CoC's projects based on the CoC Application,
- HUD orders based on Higher to Lower ranked CoCs
- Then HUD ranks based on the CoC Priority Listing

Tier 2

Tier 2 is the difference between the 90% ARD in Tier 1 and the full ARD plus the available DV bonus and the available CoC Bonus. **($52,014 + $429,922 + $343,938= $825,874)**

Tier 2 has the remaining funding available. Tier 2 is a little more competitive as it's based on a 100-point scale. **50** points based on your CoC Application, **40** points based on your local ranking, and **10** points for your commitment to housing first.

CoC Application Score

- CoC Score Received / 200 Available Points = Percentage Received
- Percentage Received * 50 Tier 2 points Available = Points Received

Local Ranking Evaluation

- 40 * the quantity (1-x) x = Ratio of Tier 2 Cumulative Funding

Housing First Evaluation

- Yes Committed = 10

6   CHALLENGE GRANT SPECIFICS

6.1   OVERVIEW

Applicants seeking Challenge Grant Funding will also go through the timeline. The CoC Plan is provided on the local competition website. Challenge Grant allows projects listed in the CoC Plan. Considering the availability of the two funds, the Collaborative Applicant has decided to be more strategic with the Challenge Grant. Challenge Grant will allow opportunities that are not included in the NOFO process.

Funding available is approximately **$150,000 to $215,000**

6.2   PROJECTS ALLOWED

Those not listed in the NOFO CoC Competition and projects and activities listed in the CoC plan. Priority will be given to those working to reduce shelter barriers. Only two projects will be selected through the Challenge Grant.

- Expansion of case management
- Activities included in the CoC plan

6.3   INTENT TO APPLY

If you intend to apply for the Challenge Grant, please email the Collaborative Applicant, CoC@marionfl.org and further instructions will be provided.

6.3.1   Competition Process

The competition process will work alongside the NOFO competition. However, the backup documentation, application process, and scoring may differ (reflecting the original DCF process).