



# Continuum of Care 101



# WHAT IS A CONTINUUM OF CARE?

# What do CoCs Do?

- Promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending
- homelessness;
- Provide funding for efforts to quickly re-house individuals and families who are homeless, which minimizes the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness;
- Promote access to and effective use of mainstream programs;
- Optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness;
- Develop and implement a long-term plan to address homelessness, including housing and service gaps, in the CoC;
- Apply for the annual CoC Program Notice of Funding Availability
- (NOFA).

# Who makes up the CoC?

In order to carry out the primary purpose of the COC Program, HUD requires representatives of relevant organizations to form a Continuum of Care to serve a specific geographic area. These representatives include:

- mental health agencies,
- hospitals,
- universities,
- affordable housing developers,
- law enforcement, and
- organizations that serve homeless and formerly homeless veterans, and homeless and formerly homeless individuals.

# History of CoCs

- 1987 - First federal law specifically addressing homelessness:
- **McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act**
- May 2009 - the **Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act** of 2009 was signed into law, consolidating HUD's competitive grant programs
- July 2012 - **CoC Program Interim Rule** was published, which codified the basic structure and duties of a CoC

# Our Continuum of Care

- HUD recognizes our CoC as **FL-502 St. Petersburg, Clearwater, Largo/Pinellas County CoC**.
- The **Homeless Leadership Alliance of Pinellas** is the **Collaborative Applicant** for our CoC, which means the HLA submits the grant to HUD on behalf of the CoC.
- The **HLA** is the **CoC Lead Agency** for our CoC, which means the HLA is in charge of conducting planning activities for the CoC.
- The **HLA** as the **HMIS Lead Agency** for our CoC, which means the HLA is in charge of administering our HMIS database and is led by the **HMIS Director**.



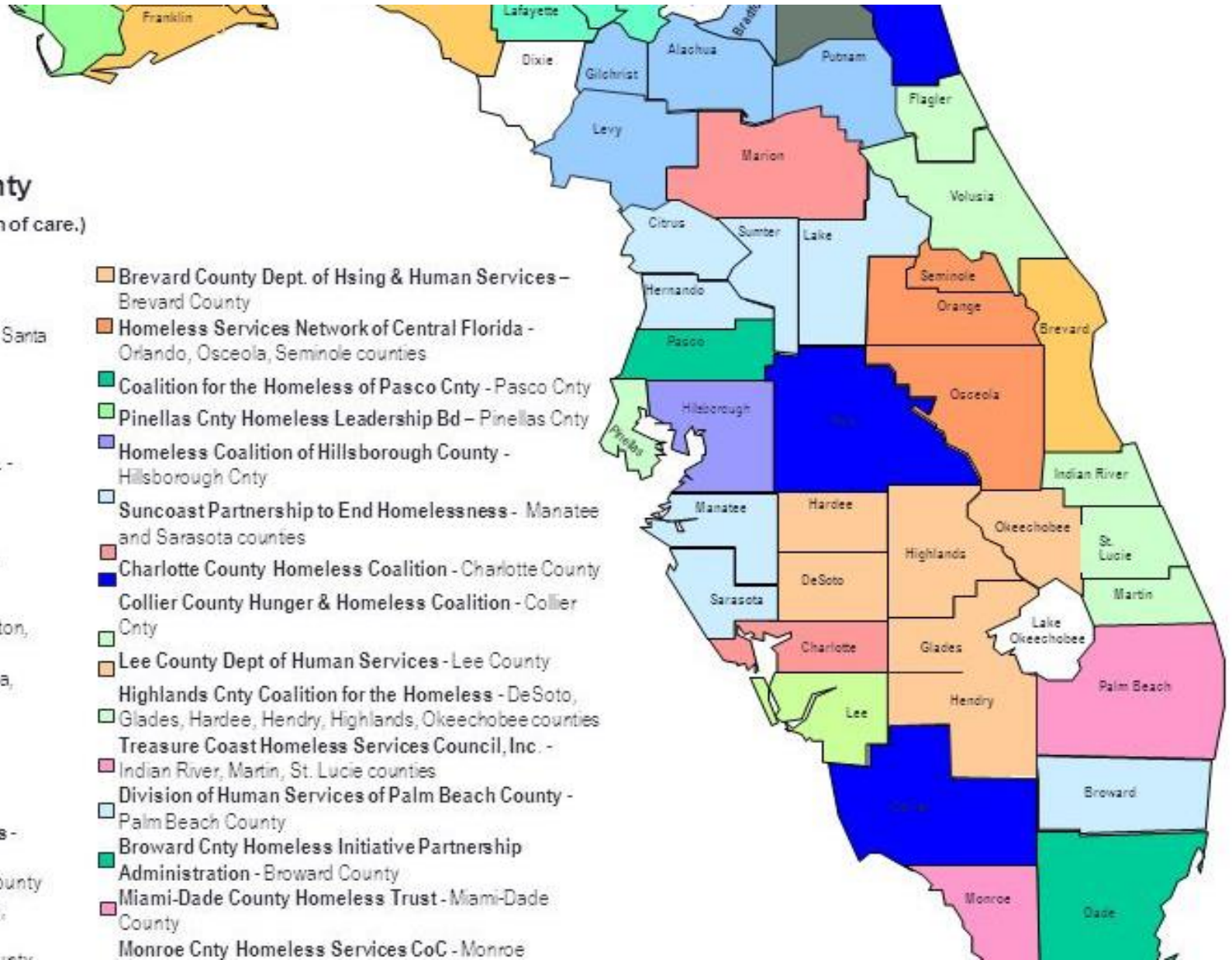
# Continuum of Care Designated Lead Agencies with Catchment Areas by County

(Counties in white are not part of a continuum of care.)

April 2013

- EscaRosa Coalition on the Homeless - Escambia, Santa Rosa
- Okaloosa/Walton Homeless Continuum of Care - Okaloosa, Walton
- Homeless & Hunger Coalition of N.W. Florida, Inc. - Bay, Calhoun, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Washington counties
- Big Bend Homeless Coalition - Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, Wakulla counties
- United Way of Suwannee Valley - Columbia, Hamilton, Lafayette, Suwannee counties
- Alachua Cnty Coalition for the Homeless - Alachua, Bradford, Levy, Putnam, Gilchrist counties
- Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition of Jacksonville - Duval, Clay, Nassau counties
- Emergency Services & Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County, Inc. - St. Johns County
- Volusia/Flagler County Coalition for the Homeless - Volusia and Flagler counties
- Marion County Homeless Council, Inc. - Marion County
- Mid-Florida Homeless Coalition - Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Sumter
- Homeless Coalition of Bolk County, Inc. - Bolk County

- Brevard County Dept. of Hsing & Human Services - Brevard County
- Homeless Services Network of Central Florida - Orlando, Osceola, Seminole counties
- Coalition for the Homeless of Pasco Cnty - Pasco Cnty
- Pinellas Cnty Homeless Leadership Bd - Pinellas Cnty
- Homeless Coalition of Hillsborough County - Hillsborough Cnty
- Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness - Manatee and Sarasota counties
- Charlotte County Homeless Coalition - Charlotte County
- Collier County Hunger & Homeless Coalition - Collier Cnty
- Lee County Dept of Human Services - Lee County
- Highlands Cnty Coalition for the Homeless - DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee counties
- Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, Inc. - Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie counties
- Division of Human Services of Palm Beach County - Palm Beach County
- Broward Cnty Homeless Initiative Partnership Administration - Broward County
- Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust - Miami-Dade County
- Monroe Cnty Homeless Services CoC - Monroe





# KEY CONCEPTS



# The CoC Program

- The CoC **NOFA** (Notice of Funding Availability) is the catchall term for funding opportunities eligible under the CoC Program. It includes two activities:
  - *CoC operations (CoC Planning Grant)*
  - *CoC Program project funding*
- Individual organizations are awarded CoC Program funds to run “CoC Program projects” through an **annual competition**
- **Project types** funded in CoC Program: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Re-housing (RRH), Transitional Housing (TH), Joint Component Transitional Housing – Rapid Re-housing (TH-RRH), Coordinated Entry Supportive Services Only (SSO), and HMIS

# Housing First

- Housing First is both a **philosophy of services** and a **program model**
- It means that participants may receive **housing before anything else**, without preconditions of sobriety or service participation
- It also means participants **can't be denied** or **terminated** from housing based on non-participation in supportive services
- HUD **rewards** CoCs for using Housing First; therefore the Pinellas CoC **rewards** projects that use Housing First

# Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

- **HMIS** – a local information technology system used to collect client- level data and data on provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families, and persons at risk of homelessness
- HUD **requires** a CoC to use a single HMIS to **record all participant information** from dedicated homeless projects; this includes CoC Program, ESG and SSVF; *other project types are welcome to join too!*
- You can record participant data elsewhere too (e.g. an Excel spreadsheet), but you **MUST** record it in HMIS

# Coordinated Entry

- **Coordinated Entry (CE)** – a standardized access, assessment, and referral process for housing and other services across agencies in a community.
- All CoC funded projects **must** receive their referrals via CE
- The HLA administers the **Coordinated Entry Process** on behalf of the CoC.



# **COC PROGRAM NOFA**

# CoC Program NOFA: The Big Picture

- Released **annually** by HUD as a competition; in **FY 2018**
  - *\$2.283 billion awarded nationally*
  - *\$94,092,155 million awarded in Florida*
  - ***\$4,534,495 million awarded to our CoC***
- NOFA competition **rewards**:
  - *System performance improvement to end & prevent homelessness*
  - *Data-driven decision making*
  - *Serving HUD-identified populations & priorities*
  - *Implementation of Housing First & Coordinated Entry*

# Competition Caveats

- NOFA is competitive, with caveats...
- Caveat #1: HUD tells us exactly how much money to apply for (**Annual Renewal Demand** = total dollar amount of all the CoC's projects that will be eligible for renewal), including how much bonus money we can apply for annually
- Caveat #2: HUD has historically funded everyone's **Tier 1** projects (Tier 1 projects = 94% of the total Annual Renewal Demand). Doing well in the NOFA competition meant **Tier 2** and **Bonus** projects are more likely to be funded

# Other Funding Considerations

- All applications must provide **25% match** for all funds EXCEPT leasing funds.
- New projects can apply for money available through **reallocation** and **bonus** amounts. Depending on the NOFA, some years it can be a combination of both.
- HUD CoC Grant is a **reimbursement** grant. Draws are made quarterly, at a minimum, in HUD's eLOCCS system.

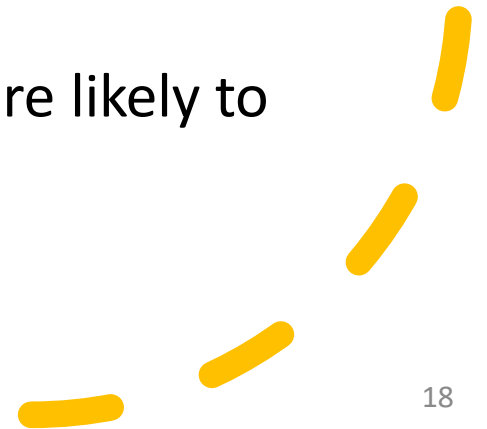


# Application Process: Scoring

- Once the NOFA is released, agencies create their **project applications** in e-Snaps, save them as PDFs, and submit them and other materials necessary for scoring to the CoC Lead Agency – HLA.
- Projects are reviewed and scored by **Scoring & Ranking Committee**
- New and Renewal projects are scored on very different **criteria**:
  - ***New projects*** are scored primarily on the strength of their application and the organization's past experience delivering related services; threshold criteria
  - ***Renewal projects*** are scored primarily based on their previous year's performance data; threshold criteria

# Application Process: Ranking

- Projects are either accepted, accepted with modifications such as reduced budgets, or rejected
- Accepted projects are **ranked** in either Tier 1 or Tier 2; both Tiers are
- submitted to HUD as part of the Collaborative Application
- **Tier 1** is 94% of the total Annual Renewal Demand;  
**Tier 2** is 6%
- Higher tiers and higher scores are more likely to **receive funding**



# What Can You Fund with CoC Program Funds?

- CoC Program **funds** Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Re-housing (RRH), Transitional Housing (TH), Joint Component Transitional Housing – Rapid Re-housing (TH-RRH), and Supportive Services Only grants for Coordinated Entry
- CoC program **also funds** Planning and HMIS
- **New projects** may apply for PSH, RRH and TH-RRH grants (and dependent on the NOFA, TH and SSO-Coordinated Entry grants)



# Project Types

- **Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)** provides permanent, open-ended housing assistance and services to people who are homeless and have disabilities
- **Rapid Re-housing (RRH)** provides housing without a designated length of stay where the agency provides short or medium-term rental assistance and services to people who are homeless
- **Joint Component Transitional Housing – Rapid Re-housing (TH- RRH)** combines TH and RRH; transitional housing on its own is not typically funded except for youth and domestic violence sub-populations

# Eligible Costs

- Administrative (up to 10% of the total budget)
- HMIS
- Rental Assistance
- Leasing
- Operating Costs

Additional resources about eligible costs can be found at:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/CoCProgramFundingforHMIS.pdf>

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/2033/hearth-coc-program-interim-rule/>

# Additional Information

- To find additional resources about **the Pinellas Continuum of Care** visit:  
[www.pinellashomeless.org](http://www.pinellashomeless.org).
- To find additional resources about **HUD's CoC Program** visit:  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/>

