

**Clark County/City of Vancouver, WA Continuum of Care**  
**FY2022 Clark County/City of Vancouver, WA Continuum of Care Competition Project**  
**Priority Ranking and Reallocation Policies**  
*August 2022*

This document provides the policies by which projects seeking funding in the FY2022 Continuum of Care competition will be prioritized and ranked. This document also provides the policy that will guide reallocation for renewal projects. (This guide also applies to the prioritizing and ranking the CoC Special NOFO (Unsheltered Homelessness) applications with some exceptions, for example, the renewal and reallocation portions.

**A. Project Priority Ranking Order**

**I. FY2022 Clark County/City of Vancouver, WA Continuum of Care Project Priority Ranking Policies**

The Clark County, WA Continuum of Care (CoC) is required to prioritize and rank projects applying for Continuum of Care (CoC) funding in the annual CoC competition. Projects seeking renewal or new funding in the FY2022 CoC competition will be prioritized and ranked as follows.

1. The CoC's renewal infrastructure projects will be ranked first, by overall percentage scored on the renewal application, from highest to lowest, unless the project scores less than 70% on **both of the following**: Overall score and HMIS Lead Agency. Projects scoring less than 70% on **both** components will be ranked with renewal Permanent Supportive Housing projects according to the project's overall score.

For the purposes of project prioritization and ranking, "infrastructure projects" are defined as dedicated HMIS grants.

2. Renewal Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects ranked by overall percentage scored on the renewal application, from highest to lowest, unless the project scores less than 70% on **all three of the following**: Overall score, Permanent Housing Placement or Retention (component 2A) and Average Utilization (component 2B). Projects scoring less than 70% on **all three** of these components will be ranked with new expansion projects according to the project's overall score.
3. New Domestic Violence Bonus projects by overall project score.
4. Renewal projects that have not yet completed one full calendar year of operations as of 12/31/2020 will be ranked in the following order by overall percentage scored on the application, from highest to lowest:
  - a. PSH projects
  - b. RRH projects
  - c. TH/RRH projects
5. New, including new expansion project(s), created via reallocation and/or CoC Bonus funds in the following order by overall project score:
  - a. New or expansion PSH projects that, if funded, would bring additional units of PSH to the CoC.
  - b. New RRH projects.
  - c. New TH/RRH projects

## **B. Exclusion or Removal from Project Ranking List**

The Clark County CoC reserves the right to exclude or remove a renewal project from the project ranking list, and consequently not submit a project for renewal funding, in the event of written notification from the local HUD Field Office that the project has been out of compliance with regulatory or programmatic requirements and has made no progress on any corrective actions as required by HUD. Any renewal projects excluded or removed from the project ranking list will be reallocated to a new project(s).

## **C. Consolidated Project Ranking**

Projects that submit as a consolidated project will be ranked as follows:

- The individual projects will be ranked according to individual project score; and
- The consolidated project will be ranked according to the highest scoring individual project included in the consolidation.

## **D. Tiebreaking Criteria**

Tiebreakers for ranking policies will be applied in the following order:

1. Renewal & Expansion Projects: Projects that spent the greatest amount of their 20-21 budget.
2. New projects: New CoC Agency

## **E. Projects Straddling Tier 1/Tier 2**

If a project, once listed in ranked order, straddles the Tier 1/Tier 2 funding line with a portion of the project budget falling within Tier 1 and the remaining within Tier 2, the feasibility of the project to operate with only the Tier 1 amount will be determined as follows:

1. In the annual renewal application, agencies will indicate the minimum amount of funding needed for the renewal project to still be feasible.
2. The Values & Funding Priorities Committee will review this response for the project straddling the Tier 1/Tier 2 line and decide whether the project would be feasible at the reduced amount. If the Committee decides it will be feasible, the project will be submitted as is, straddling the Tier 1/Tier 2 line. If the Committee determines it would not be feasible, that project will be dropped down so that it is wholly in Tier 2, and the next ranked project will be moved up. The feasibility of this project will then be determined.
3. If an agency indicates a minimum amount needed to still be feasible exceeding the project's Tier 1 amount, that project will be automatically moved down into Tier 2, and the next ranked project will be moved up and the process given in #2 above will then be repeated with the next ranked project.
4. This process will continue until the following are realized:
  - a. All Tier 1 funds are allocated; OR
  - b. The amount of funds remaining in Tier 1 are a negligible amount. If this occurs, the CoC retains the discretion to allocate the remaining funds to another project in Tier 1 that can accept additional funds.
5. If the amount remaining in Tier 1 is of such a small amount that no project indicates it would be feasible at that reduced amount, steps 2 through 4 will not apply, but rather the projects will be ranked according to their original ranked order.

## **F. Renewal Project Threshold Score**

All projects applying for renewal funding will be evaluated and scored on a given point scale which will be given in the FY2022 CoC Application Policies. In the FY2022 competition, renewal projects must score at least 60% of the points possible in order to be placed on the project ranking list. Renewal projects that do not score at least 60% will be able to submit an appeal in accordance with the Appeals Policy. Projects should anticipate the 60% threshold may increase in subsequent competitions.

## G. Final Ranking List Review and Recommendation

Following the review, scoring, and appeals of renewal projects and board decisions on new project applications, a preliminary project ranking list will be developed in accordance with the above priority ranking order. The Committee may choose to move projects between Tier 2 and Tier 1, based on agreed upon rationale. The CoC Steering Committee will make the final decision on the project ranking list in accordance with the timeframe required by HUD.

## H. Renewal Project Appeals

The process by which renewal projects may appeal their project score is given in the CoC's Appeals Policy. A project may not appeal its placement on the project priority ranking list.

## II. FY2021 Reallocation Policy

### A. Reallocation Policy

Reallocation is the process by which the budget of a CoC funded project is reduced in part or in whole, with those funds used to fund new projects. In the FY2022 competition, projects may be reallocated for the following reasons:

1. An agency voluntarily relinquishes its CoC grant; **OR**
2. Any renewal project failing to meet the 70% scoring threshold and not granted a threshold waiver will be reallocated. Funding from reallocated project(s) will be used to fund new projects via a competitive application process. Agencies should expect the 70% scoring threshold to increase in future competitions; **AND**
3. In addition to #1 above, the CoC Steering Committee may decide to reallocate a renewal project for reasons other than a project falling below the scoring threshold. If such a decision is made, it must be demonstrated this decision is data-driven and furthers the CoC's goals and priorities; the agency in question would have the opportunity to appeal this decision in accordance with the CoC's appeals policy; **AND**

### B. Notification of Reallocation Decision

Agencies will be notified of the decision to reallocate a project within 15 days of the CoC application being due to HUD.

### C. Appealing Reallocation Decisions

An agency may appeal a decision to reallocate its project in accordance with the CoC's Appeal Policy.