



2018 Policy Priorities

Each year, the FRCoC will adopt a set of policy priorities to guide funding decisions for projects funded through collaborative applications, including those for Continuum of Care Program and Virginia Homeless Solutions Program funding. Policy priorities established by a funder for a specific collaborative application should also be considered when making funding decisions for that specific funding source.

The 2018 FRCoC policy priorities below are taken from the NOFA for the FY2017 Continuum of Care Program Competition.

- 1. Ending homelessness for all persons.** To end homelessness, the CoC should identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness. The CoC should measure their performance based on local data that take into account the challenges faced by all subpopulations experiencing homelessness in the geographic area (e.g., veterans, youth, families, or those experiencing chronic homelessness). The CoC should have a comprehensive outreach strategy in place to identify and continuously engage all unsheltered individuals and families. Additionally, the CoC should use local data to determine the characteristics of individuals and families with the highest needs and longest experiences of homelessness to develop housing and supportive services tailored to their needs. Finally, the CoC should use the reallocation process to create new projects that improve their overall performance and better respond to their needs.
- 2. Creating a systemic response to homelessness.** The CoC should be using system performance measures such as the average length of homeless episodes, rates of return to homelessness, and rates of exit to permanent housing destinations to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness. Additionally, the CoC should be using their Coordinated Entry process to promote participant choice, coordinate homeless assistance and mainstream housing and services to ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance quickly, and make homelessness assistance open, inclusive, and transparent.
- 3. Strategically allocating and using resources.** Using cost, performance, and outcome data, the CoC should improve how resources are utilized to end homelessness. The CoC should review project quality, performance, and cost effectiveness. The CoC should maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness. Finally, the CoC should review all projects eligible for renewal to determine their effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness as well as their cost effectiveness.
- 4. Using a Housing First approach.** Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. Projects should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and the CoC should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness. Additionally, the CoC should engage landlords and property owners, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods.