FREDERICKSBURG REGIONAL
CONTINUUM OF CARE

2019 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 2019 FRCoC policy priorities below are taken from the NOFA for the FY2018 Continuum of Care Program Competition.

1. **Ending homelessness for all persons.** To end homelessness, the CoC will identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness. The CoC will 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 will have a comprehensive outreach strategy in place to identify and continuously engage all unsheltered individuals and families. Additionally, the CoC will 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 will 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 will 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 will 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 will improve how resources are utilized to end homelessness. The CoC will review project quality, performance, and cost effectiveness. The CoC will maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness. Finally, the CoC will 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 will help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and the CoC will measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness. Additionally, the CoC will engage landlords and property owners, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods.

Approved by CoC Board 2/28/2019