Fresno-Madera Continuum of Care

FY2021 CoC Application Score Analysis

OVERVIEW

This document presents an analysis of the score that the Fresno-Madera Continuum of Care (FMCoC) application earned in the national FY2021 HUD CoC competition. As shown in the analysis below, the FMCoC scored 8.75 points above the median score for the country as a whole.

For FY2021, the FMCoC received perfect scores on a number of key application questions. Not only did FMCoC receive all of the new bonus points available for coordination with housing and health care, but they also scored perfectly on the Housing First, street outreach, racial equity, rank and review, and approach to COVID-19 response questions.

The areas for improvement focused on HMIS and system performance, both areas that have been challenges for FMCoC in the past. However, the FMCoC has shown some improvement. In FY 2019, FMCoC received 47 of 60 points available in system performance, scoring only 78% of the total points available. In FY2021, HUD de-emphasized these questions, offering only 22 total points. The FMCoC received 19.25 of the 22 points, accounting for 87.5% of the points available, improving the overall percentage of its score.

The primary reason the FMCoC did not score above the weighted mean score in FY2021 was due to a miscalculation when counting RRH beds in 2020. One of the local RRH providers in the 2020 HIC count mistakenly included RRH beds in the HIC, regardless of whether the beds were occupied. While that is the correct way to account for PSH beds, RRH beds are only included in the HIC if the beds are actually occupied at the time of the housing inventory count. The correction was rightfully made in the count for 2021. While the FMCoC reached out to HUD to alert them to this discovery, it was too late to change the FY2020 HIC that they had on record for the FMCoC. As a result, it appeared to HUD in the NOFO as though FMCoC lost RRH beds, thus the FMCoC received zero of the ten points available for that application question. This error alone accounted for close to half (47%) of the FMCoC's lost points.

In general, a higher score on the Collaborative Application translates into a higher chance of receiving funding for projects ranked in Tier 2 and/or DV bonus funding. The weighted mean score is the mean CoC score weighted by Annual Renewal Demand. CoCs that score higher than the weighted mean score were more likely to gain funding relative to their Annual Renewal Demand, while CoCs that scored lower than the weighted mean were more likely to lose money relative to their Annual Renewal Demand. Because of the lost 10 points, the FMCoC scored 3.75 points lower than the weighted mean score.

DV Bonus Funds: One of the Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus grants was ranked highly in the FMCoC's local competition but did not receive DV Bonus funding from HUD in the national competition. As a result, other projects that were ranked lower in the local competition were pushed to Tier 2 (or straddled Tier 2) of FMCoC's Priority Listing and did not receive full funding. DV Bonus funds were applied for and not awarded in 2019 as well. No DV Bonus-specific scoring guidance was provided by HUD. However, this year HUD awarded double the amount of DV Bonus funds that is usually allocated, so there was an increased likelihood of obtaining these funds. Therefore, if the CoC intends to apply for

DV Bonus funds again, the CoC should closely review how to best consolidate and utilize data to demonstrate the need for additional DV resources in the community. HUD scores DV Bonus projects as follows: up to 50 points in direct proportion to the score on the national application, 25 points for the demonstrated need for DV resources in the community and how the project will fill the gap, and 25 points for the quality of the project applicant (i.e., their previous experience/performance serving DV clients).

Objective Criteria, Neutral Facilitation, and New Project Outreach: As part of the Review and Rank scoring below, HUD awarded full points only if the CoC could demonstrate that at least 33% of the CoC's scoring factors in the local NOFO competition utilized objective criteria and that 20% were based on System Performance Measurements (SPMs). For the renewal scoring tool, 72.5% of the scoring factors were objective and/or based on project data and outcomes and 70% were based on SPMs. The review and rank panel had very limited discretion to change the scores for data-driven scoring factors.

Additionally, the CoC hired neutral facilitators to run the local competition and to provide technical assistance to new and renewal projects throughout the competition. The scoring tools and policies for the competition were reviewed at a public meeting for comments, new project outreach was conducted, and a new project technical assistance workshop was held for the public and all potential new project applicants.

Summary of Full Score

Scoring Category	Maximum Score	Your CoC Score	Comments
1b and 1c: CoC Coordination and Engagement	74.5	61	The FMCoC lost 13.5 points, the majority (10 points) because of a miscalculated RRH numbers. Other areas for improvement include: connection with early childhood providers, organizations working with youth, young adults, and LGBTQ+ individuals, involvement with local tribal communities, and discharge planning with health care and correctional facilities.
Addressing COVID	21.5	21.5	Perfect score. As stated above, the FMCoC deserves recognition for effectively collaborating and connecting to organizations and agencies to develop a cohesive and thoughtful response to homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Project Capacity, Review and Ranking	30	30	Perfect score
Homelessness Management Information System	11	7	All four points were lost due to the bed coverage rate. Moving forward, the FMCoC can increase points by expanding the number of providers and beds that are included in the HIC. See below for more details.
Point-in-Time Count	3	3	Perfect Score

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System Performance	23[1]	19.25	The CoC only lost 3.75 points this year, compared to 13-point loss in FY2019. The FMCoC received 84% of the points available in FY2021 compared to only 78% of the points available in FY2019. Continued focus to improve system performance measures can strengthen FMCoC's score. According to the HUD debrief, FMCoC lost points for reduction in first time homelessness (1 point), the length of time homelessness (1 point), returns to homelessness (1/2 point), and increased employment income (1/4 point)
Coordination with Housing and Health Care Bonus Points	10	10	Perfect Score
Total Points	**173**	**151.75**	**88% of total points available**

Scoring Breakdown – High Priority Application Questions

Scoring Category	Maximum Score	Your CoC Score	Comments
Part 1: Coordination and Engagement/Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, & Other Organizations			
Housing First - Lowering Barriers and Project Evaluation	10	10	Congratulations! Your perfect score on this section reflects the hard work that the FMCoC put in to lower barriers and continue to evaluate and improve projects moving forward.
Street Outreach	3	3	Congratulations on your perfect score in this category!
Rapid Rehousing Beds	10	0	This is the primary area where the FMCoC lost points. Scoring for this was all or nothing (10 or 0, nothing in between). Fortunately, the point loss was based on a miscalculation reporting RRH beds during the COVID-19 pandemic (for FY2020, the year HUD excused the NOFO) and not an actual reduction in RRH beds. As a result, it appeared in the FY2021 NOFO that FMCoC decreased availability of RRH beds between FY2020 and FY 2021. This was a one-time error. In the future, it would be helpful to review data reports submitted to HUD and compare to

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[1] Note: The calculated points add up to 22. But the HUD summary includes a total of 23, which is one extra point. Not sure how to reconcile with the points available in the detailed information below. We believe this is a typo or misstated number from HUD, as other CoCs also had the total as 23, even though the points only add up to 22.

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Scoring Category	Maximum Score	Your CoC Score	Comments
			previous years so that if similar errors occur, the FMCoC can identify them early to avoid them impacting the NOFO.
Racial Equity and Racial Disparities	7	7	Again, congratulations! The FMCoC is working hard to address inequities in the system and the information you all provided to HUD indicates you are on the right track with your perfect score!
Addressing COVID in the CoC's Geographic Area			
How well the CoC addressed challenges resulting from the outbreak of COVID-19 affecting individuals and families experiencing homelessness.	21.5	21.5	The FMCoC received a perfect score in this area. Congratulations. It was a difficult and challenging two years and required stronger coordination and collaboration to respond to the crisis.
Project Review, Ranking, and Selection			
This section looked out how well the CoC used objective criteria and past performance to review and rank projects based on required attachments.	22	22	Another perfect score for the FMCoC. HUD awarded points based on FMCoC's use of objective criteria, system performance criteria, and criteria used for rank and review.
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Bed Coverage			
Bed coverage rate using HIC, HMIS, and VSP comparable data bases	6	2	This is an area with opportunity for improvement for FMCoC. We believe the points that were lost in this category were based on the percentage of beds covered by HMIS. The FMCoC had overall only 63.51% of its total non-DV beds enrolled in HMIS, compared to HUD's target of 85% enrollment. The breakdown is particularly important for emergency shelter and PSH beds for FY2021: Emergency shelter beds – only 43.74% of the non-DV beds are in HMIS (318 of the 727 beds) PSH beds – only 56.91% of PSH beds are in HMIS (683 of the 1,200 beds) Continued work to include all shelter and PSH beds in HMIS will go far to improve the FMCoC's score in this section. Working with the VA to utilize the new HUD-VA HOME tool

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Scoring Category	Maximum Score	Your CoC Score	Comments
			to add HUD-VASH vouchers into HMIS would significantly raise the PSH bed coverage rate. This year (FY 2021) HUD broke out LSA submission scores from bed coverage rates. In FY 2019, the two were combined and FMCoC received a score of 4 out of 9 (44%). This year, if combined, FMCoC would have received 4 out of 8 points (50%) of points available. So some improvement
Submission of LSA data	2	2	Submitted LSA data on time
System Performance			
Reduction in first-time homelessness	3	2	You all did exceptional in this area, with a small opportunity for improvement in the next year. Given the impact of COVID-19 on our communities, it is not a surprise that 2019-2021 was a hard two years to reduce first-time homelessness.
Length of time homeless	6	5	This is another measure where you did well but have an opportunity for improvement over the next year. It is important to increase placement of people who are chronically homeless who have high lengths of time homeless. By doing so, you not only will help hard-to-place individuals become more housing stable, but you will also bring down the median and mean numbers for the FMCoC overall. Additionally, the increasingly high cost housing market may be impacting the FMCoC's ability to find housing for clients as quickly as in previous years.
Exits to permanent housing and retentions in permanent housing	5	5	Congratulations! Another perfect score. You are doing the work to ensure people can access and retain stable housing.
Returns to homelessness	4	3.5	Almost another perfect score. Continuing to explore ways to provide case management and other supportive services for people who are recently housed so that they can develop the skills and resources they need to retain permanent housing may help lead you all to a perfect score in the upcoming years.
Increasing employment cash income and workforce development	4	3.75	The FMCoC fell only one quarter point from a perfect score in this area. Given that income was a difficult metric to measure during COVID for most CoCs nationwide, the .25 point reduction seems minimal.

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Scoring Category	Maximum Score	Your CoC Score	Comments
education and training			
Total CoC High Priority Questions	**103.5**	**86.75**	The FMCoC received 84% of the total score available for the high priority questions. Had the RRH miscalculation error not occurred, the FMCoC would have likely received 96.75 points, for 94% of points available.

Context

- Highest Score for any CoC: 168.25
- Lowest Score for any CoC: 60.25
- Median Score for all CoCs: 143
- Weighted Mean Score for all CoCs: 155.5

AREAS OF STRENGTH IN FMCoC'S APPLICATION

- Housing First;
- Street outreach;
- Racial equity and racial disparities;
- Rank and review;
- Approach to COVID-19 response questions; and
- Coordination with housing and health care (bonus).

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT FOR NEXT YEAR'S APPLICATION

- Review and compare HIC and PIT counts when initially submitted to allow time to identify and correct any errors;
- Improve HMIS bed coverage rate, including work with VA and faith-based shelters. Utilize the new HUD-VA HOME tool to add HUD-VASH vouchers to HMIS, which will raise the PSH bed coverage rate.
- Reduce length of time homeless and first-time homeless numbers;
- Engage with early childhood providers and/or organizations representing youth/young adults, and LGBTQ+ individuals; and
- Continue to address racial equity and disparities, build upon the initial work engaging more people with lived experience of homelessness in the CoC, and deep partnerships with housing and health care.

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