

# Youth Homeless System Improvement (YHSI) Grant Summary

## SUMMARY 2023 The Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grant NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

On November 8, 2023, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Grant. The grant will support either improving existing or creating new systems to respond to youth homelessness. The [HUD YHSI NOFO](#) sets forth the process and requirements for submitting applications. **Applicants must thoroughly read and understand the full NOFO before applying.**

### Key Points

- HUD will award \$50,000,000 in YHSI grants nationwide. HUD expects to make about 35 awards under this NOFO.
  - HUD has determined that geographic diversity is an appropriate consideration in selecting communities for the YHSI. To this end, HUD reserves the right to select lower scoring applications in order to fund applications from eligible communities with the highest total score in each of the 10 HUD regions.
- Minimum application amount: \$200,000.
- Maximum award amount: \$2,000,000.
- Grant request limitations: the following limits apply for each eligible activity:
  - Planning and Partnerships: The maximum a community may request in this category of activities is \$400,000.
  - Data: The maximum a community may request in this category of activities is \$300,000.
  - Coordinated Entry: The maximum a community may request in this category of activities is \$200,000.
  - Racial and Gender Equity: The maximum a community may request in this category of activities is \$200,000.
  - These maximum amounts will be doubled for applications that cover geographic areas in 2 or more CoCs or if the CoC covers the entire geography of the state.
- Requires a letter of commitment from an identified partner for CES and HMIS activities.
- No match required.
- Grant performance period: 30 months immediately following HUD selection. Estimated project start date 6/1/2024.
- Application deadline February 15, 2024, 11:59:59 PM Eastern time.

### Program Objectives

- Improve the capacity of youth in the community: Developing peer support models, including training, project design, and implementation; creating Youth Action Board training, including government rules, leadership, and other skills; community training and outreach on how to work with youth and integrate youth leadership in an authentic way.
- Establish partnerships: Bringing together system partners who also work with youth who are living in unstable housing. This could include partnerships with Tribes and cultural organizations in the community, K-12 schools, higher education, juvenile justice, child welfare, employment services, etc.
- Improve the centralized or coordinated assessment system also known as the Coordinated Entry Systems (CES).
- Improve data collection and use between systems that work with youth at-risk of and experiencing homelessness.
- Assess, address, and improve equity in youth homeless response systems.

### Eligible Applicants

- State governments
- County governments
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities

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- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Indian Tribes and tribally designated housing entities
- Tax-exempt nonprofit organizations
- Faith-based organizations

HUD will review one application per organization for this NOFO unless the applicant chooses to submit one state-wide application and one non-statewide application. HUD will not review more than two applications per applicant.

### Eligible Activities

- **Planning and Partnerships:** Developing community-wide or region-wide partnerships to identify and address the needs of at-risk or homeless youth.
- **Data (HMIS):** expanding HMIS system, gathering and analyzing data.
- **Coordinated Entry:** establishing or improving a youth-specific Coordinated Entry System.
- **Youth Experiencing Homelessness Racial and Gender Equity:** conducting racial equity analysis, implementing system improvements to address findings.
- **Funds may not be used to provide housing or services.**

### Application Requirements

- All application materials, including Application Instructions and Application Package, are available through Grants.gov.
- Applicants must submit your application electronically via Grants.gov.
- 25 Pages maximum length of narratives, double spaced, 12-point (minimum) Times Roman font on letter sized paper (8 1/2 x 11 inches) with at least 1-inch margins on all sides. Attachments will not count toward the 25-page maximum.
- **Racial Equity Narrative:**
  - You analyzed the racial composition of the persons or households who are expected to benefit from your proposed grant activities;
  - You identified any potential barriers to persons or communities of color equitably benefiting from your proposed grant activities;
  - You detailed the steps you will take to prevent, reduce or eliminate these barriers; and
  - You have measures in place to track your progress and evaluate the effectiveness of your efforts to advance racial equity in your grant activities.
- **Affirmative Marketing Narrative:** You must submit a narrative demonstrating that the housing, services, or other benefits provided under this grant will be affirmatively marketed broadly throughout the local area and nearby areas to any demographic groups that would be unlikely or least likely to apply absent such efforts.
- **Other Narratives:** following narratives and non-form attachments.
  - **Geography:** Applicants must indicate the geographic area that the application covers by county.
  - **Rating Factor Narrative:** Responses to the rating factors in Section V.A.1
  - **Budget:** A project budget, as required in Section V.A.1, that outlines costs associated with personnel including salaries and benefits of employees and costs associated with consultants, contracts, and subgrantees; travel; equipment, including costs associated with hardware or software purchases; supplies and materials; other direct costs; and indirect costs.
  - **Advancing Racial Equity Narrative:** Required narrative response to the Advancing Racial Equity questions in Section III.F. (Same as above).
  - **Youth Commitment:** Letter of Commitment from the YAB or equivalent group of youth who will be involved in the project.
  - **Letter of Commitment:** A Letter of Commitment from partner organizations (if required under Section II.C. or Section V.A.1.
  - **Milestone Chart:** A proposed milestone chart that identifies the total length of the proposed project (maximum of 30 months) as well as the milestones, deliverables, responsible organization, and dates for

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completion. This chart will be used for monitoring progress for awarded applications and may be modified if the project experiences delays. See Section II.D of this Notice for grant term information.

- **Disclosure of other government assistance provided or received and use of funds and interested parties.**
- **Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing narrative:** application must discuss how the applicant will carry out the proposed activities in a manner that affirmatively furthers fair housing in compliance with the Fair Housing Act and its implementing regulations, and how applicants will meet the requirements.
- SAM Registration
- UEI
- Register with Grants.gov
- Standard Application, Assurances, Certifications and Disclosures
- Standard Form 424 (SF-424)
- Assurances (HUD 424-B): applicant will comply with U.S. statutory and other requirements, including, but not limited to civil rights requirements.
- Applicant Disclosure Report Form 2880 (HUD 2880)
- Code of Conduct: all recipients must have a Code of Conduct.

## Selection Process

Rating Factor	Points
Proposed Project Activities	40
Budget	10
Youth Involvement	20
Project Outcomes and Evaluation	15
Regional Approach	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

Other factors considered in evaluating applications:

1. Past Performance
2. Assessing Applicant Risk
3. Applicant Integrity
3. Experience Promoting Racial Equity