Garrett County COC 2018 RATING, REVIEW, SELECTION & RANKING PROCEDURES

September 5, 2018

Project Application Deadlines & Applicant Notifications
The CoC established deadlines for submission of project applications as follows: Renewal project applications were required to be submitted by August 15, 2018. New project applications were required to be submitted by August 15, 2018. The CoC notified in writing, outside of e-snaps all renewal project applicants on or before September 3, 2018 and all new project applicants on or before September 3, 2018 that their applications would be accepted and ranked, rejected or reduced on the CoC Priority Listing. Where a project application was being rejected or reduced, the CoC indicated in the notification the reason for the rejection or reduction.

Threshold Review
All applications for new and renewal projects are reviewed for threshold to ensure compliance with the HEARTH Act, the CoC Program Interim Rule, the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), CoC written standards, and the local CoC Request for Applications. Any new or renewal project that does not meet the threshold requirements are not considered for funding.

Renewal Project Performance Scoring & Selection
The Garrett County CoC Board determines the evaluation scoring standards for renewal projects annually using the following process: standards are shared with the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting and distributed by email, stakeholder input is discussed, and adjustments to the standards are made and the Board adopts the final standards. Scoring standards adopted are the objective criteria used by the CoC to review, rate, rank, and select renewal projects for inclusion in or exclusion from the CoC Priority Listing. These objective criteria use APR and HMIS data to evaluate cost effectiveness (e.g. unit utilization and spending of funds), past performance (e.g. length of stay, income increases, accessing non-cash benefits & health insurance, & exits to/maintenance of PH), type of population served (e.g. chronically & literally homeless), consumer participation, and compliance with administrative requirements. Objective criteria include factors related to achieving positive housing outcomes (e.g., exiting to or maintaining permanent housing, increasing income, and accessing non-cash benefits). Garrett County Community Action analyzes evaluation data and prepares scoring reports. Applicants have the opportunity submit appeals related to renewal evaluation scores and/or reallocation decisions to the Garrett County CoC Board, which reviews and approves or denies all requests. Applicants are notified in writing of decisions by the Board.

New Project Application Scoring & Selection
Annually, the CoC analyzes the most critical gaps in the housing inventory, determines the type of new project applications that will be sought. The CoC welcomes and solicits new project applications from organizations that currently receive or have received CoC Program funds and from organizations that have never received CoC Program funds. The Board appoints a review committee of subject matter experts to review, rate, rank & competitively select new project applications for inclusion in the CoC Priority Listing. Parties with conflicts of interest are disallowed

from participation on the review committee. The Committee uses objective criteria to score applications. The CoC provides technical assistance to all applicants to ensure that the process is accessible to any applicant, including those that have not previously received funding.

Ranking
In the annual CoC competition, HUD requires communities to rank projects for funding in two tiers. CoCs must rank all new and renewal projects, except CoC Planning. Each year the Board reviews new & renewal project scoring results along with participant needs, gaps in the housing inventory, and CoC membership feedback. The Board discusses preliminary ranking strategies at a monthly meeting and reviews stakeholder input, makes adjustments and adopts the final ranking strategy. Parties with conflicts of interest are disallowed from participation.
Projects included in the 2018 Garrett County CoC Priority Listing were ranked in the following order:
- Renewal projects meeting threshold outcomes and greatest impact on homeless system;
- Followed by remaining evaluated renewal projects in order based on score;
- Followed by new projects in a manner that maximizes resources available to end homelessness.

Consideration of Severity of Participant Needs and Vulnerabilities
The CoC's ranking & selection process prioritizes funding for projects serving vulnerable participants, including: youth under age 25, people experiencing chronic homelessness, criminal history, active substance use, and those reluctant to engage in services.