

2023 ACHC Funding Priorities

In preparation for the FY2023 HUD Continuum of Care grant cycle, the Atlantic County Homeless Consortium is seeking proposals from interested private, non-profit and public agencies for projects serving the homeless population in Atlantic County.

In accordance with the eligible funding categories the ACHC will accept the following types of new projects:

- New rapid re-housing projects serving individuals or families (including unaccompanied youth)
- New permanent supportive housing projects that will primarily serve chronically homeless individuals and families (including unaccompanied youth)
- Joint Transitional Housing (TH) and Permanent Housing – Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH) projects that combine TH and PH-RRH into a single project to serve individuals and families experiencing homelessness
- New supportive services only projects for centralized/coordinated assessment systems

To continue efforts to move Atlantic County closer to ending homelessness, the ACHC Executive Committee has established the following funding priorities, all projects will be evaluated according to these priorities as outlined in the scoring tools associated with new and renewal programs:

- 1. Rapid-Rehousing Projects**– Rapid re-housing (RRH) assistance aims to help individuals or families who are homeless move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability in that housing through a combination of rental assistance and supportive services.
It has been demonstrated that RRH is a valuable strategy for quickly transitioning such individuals and families directly from shelter into permanent housing with needed and appropriate supports. To sustain RRH as a valuable community tool for ending homelessness, the ACHC Executive Committee would like to see an expansion of rapid rehousing resources available to homeless individuals and families.
- 2. Targeting those with the most severe needs** – Within the program’s target population, those with the most severe barriers are often the most difficult to work with and typically the last population served. The ACHC Executive Committee would like to see an expansion of housing resources available to chronically homeless individuals and families. Projects dedicating at least 75% of their units to the chronically homeless will receive priority.
These projects should aim to prioritize the segment of the target population with the most severe barriers. Severe barriers may include, but are not limited to, frequent hospitalization, extensive criminal background, no income, refusal to participate in services, active substance abuse etc. Projects indicating a priority for the most vulnerable within the target population and identifying an appropriate engagement and service structure will receive priority.
- 3. Housing First** – Housing First is a proven evidence-based model in serving the most vulnerable homeless populations in the community. Housing First programs maintain low barriers to program entry and don’t require participation in services, sobriety, income or other additional requirements for program entry. Once participants are enrolled immediate priority is given to stabilizing them in housing rather than connecting them to services. Once stable in housing individualized, client driven services are provided to participants in order to help them maintain that housing. Projects using a housing first approach will receive priority.

- 4. Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies** - Using cost performance and outcome data, projects should demonstrate how available resources are utilized to end homelessness. The ACHC Executive Committee encourages agencies to maximize the use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness and will prioritize projects that:
 - a. Partner with public and private healthcare organizations and assist program participants to receive primary care, receive housing-related services, and obtain medical insurance to address healthcare needs.
 - b. Partner closely with state and local housing organizations (including public housing authorities) to utilize coordinated entry, develop housing units, and provide housing subsidies to people experiencing homelessness.
 - c. Partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment opportunities.

- 5. Inclusion of people from BIPOC communities and Lived Expertise** - The ACHC Executive Committee prioritizes projects that include people with lived experience and people from BIPOC communities in participating in planning and oversight activities and developing program processes. Programs should also prioritize hiring people who have experienced homelessness in areas where their expertise is needed (e.g., peer outreach and support).