Special Notice of Funding Opportunity (Special NOFO)
Continuum of Care Supplemental to Address Unsheltered Homelessness
HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities and Program Highlights

1. Unsheltered Homelessness. Unsheltered homelessness is continuing to rise in many areas of the country and recent analysis of homelessness data shows that people experiencing unsheltered homelessness report significantly greater health challenges and experiences of trauma and violence than their sheltered peers. These challenges often begin before they lose their housing. This NOFO supports this highly vulnerable population by supporting CoCs in their efforts to identify people living in unsheltered situations, including encampments, and connects them with health and housing resources. It also supports CoCs in their efforts to enhance their Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect more comprehensive data on people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their geographic area.

2. Unsheltered Homelessness and Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs in Rural Areas. Rural areas often lack the resources and infrastructure for providing homeless services and permanent housing. Additionally, rural areas often require unique strategies to solve challenges specific to their geography. To support CoCs in their efforts to end unsheltered homelessness in their rural areas, this NOFO targets resources to rural areas and provides additional eligible activities to address some of the unique needs of rural areas.

3. Providing Assistance on Tribal Lands. Indian Reservations and Trust Lands may be all or part of a CoCs' geographic areas, and Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities are eligible recipients of CoC Program funds. This NOFO provides additional incentives for creating projects that serve individuals and families in geographic areas that have high levels of homelessness, housing distress, or poverty, and are located where CoC services have until now been entirely unavailable, such as, for example, Trust Lands and Reservations.

4. Involving a Broad Array of Stakeholders in the CoC's Efforts to Reduce Homelessness. Ending homelessness cannot be achieved by homeless service organizations alone. It requires coordination with a variety of other stakeholders, including affordable housing developers, mainstream service providers, the business community, victim service providers, political leaders, and healthcare providers. This NOFO supports and encourages CoCs to invite a variety of stakeholders to develop and implement a CoC Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs.

5. Advancing Equity. In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color as well as individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities are substantially overrepresented in the homeless population. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address equity within CoCs through identifying and addressing the needs of subpopulations who are disproportionally more likely to experience homelessness, such as the populations identified

above, and other populations who are disproportionately more likely to experience homelessness. CoCs should be reviewing their strategies to support and serve underserved communities in their geographic area, identify barriers that led to any disparities in communities being served, and take steps to eliminate these barriers. This includes, in conjunction with people experiencing homelessness, reviewing local policies, procedures, and processes to determine where and how to address disparities affecting underserved communities experiencing homelessness.

6. Use a Housing First approach. Housing First prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing and does not have service participation requirements or preconditions. Projects funded under this NOFO should help individuals and families move quickly into permanent housing, and the CoC should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness as well as ensure projects are correctly implementing a Housing First approach. Additionally, CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt service delivery methods that respond to the preferences and needs of the individual or family presenting for assistance