

FUNDING ALERT: HOUSING FUNDS TO SERVE SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHAT ARE BONUS FUNDS?

Bonus funds are distributed through the local Continuum of Care (CoC) in addition to the standard funds that a CoC may apply for. The additional funds enable communities to provide support for survivors who may be unsheltered or facing challenges to obtaining or securing permanent housing.

Bonus funds will be made available for projects serving survivors of **human trafficking**, domestic violence, and sexual assault. Programs who solely serve human trafficking survivors are eligible to apply; a connection to a domestic violence program is not required. Anti-trafficking programs can apply in collaboration with their CoC. As an anti-trafficking program you can take advantage of the bonus to provide housing to survivors of human trafficking in your local community by working with your CoC.

WHAT IS A CONTINUUM OF CARE?

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless individuals. Every county in the U.S. has a designated CoC. [Find your local CoC here.](#)

\$50 Million Available to House Survivors

In FY2018, HUD included a \$50 million Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus for new projects serving survivors. **HUD has made \$50 million available in fiscal year 2019 for projects serving survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual assault, as well.**

Anti-trafficking organizations can propose and administer projects to meet the housing needs of survivors using the bonus funds. Funds can be used to support housing costs like rental assistance, moving costs, and housing case management for trafficking survivors.

The FY2019 CoC Program Competition

HUD has just released the [FY2019 CoC Program Competition](#). Applications are due 9/30/2019 and awards are expected to be announced in December 2019. If you are interested in applying for a housing project, **NOW** is the time to start talking with your local CoC.

What Anti-Trafficking Programs Need to Know?

- Trafficking survivors who are fleeing and/or attempting to flee a trafficking situation fall under **Category 4** of [HUD's definition of homelessness](#).
- Project funds can support survivors from all types of trafficking and of any gender.
- Questions around confidentiality may come up. VAWA and FVPSA prevent victim service providers from entering information into HMIS, an online database utilized by CoCs and mandated by HUD. Don't let that discourage you. Service providers can work with their CoC to develop a comparable database and address confidentiality of survivors. The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV) created a [fact sheet on Coordinated Entry and confidentiality](#) that can help guide the conversation.

What Steps Should We Take?

If your program has identified the need for housing services to serve survivors of trafficking and is interested in applying for a housing project, consider taking the following steps:

- Start internal conversations about your organization's capacity to administer a new housing project. Identify the needs and proposed budget to meet a variety of survivors' needs.
- Identify and communicate the housing needs of local trafficking survivors to your CoC. The lead CoC agency will be responsible for the overall proposal that is submitted to HUD. As an anti-trafficking program, you will be responsible for identifying the needs and proposed budget to serve survivors.
- Contact your local CoC immediately to introduce your program and learn more about the CoC. Express your interest in applying for the upcoming bonus funds to better meet the needs of survivors who are experiencing homelessness. The CoC may be familiar with last year's DV bonus, which can facilitate the conversation. Advocate for survivor's access to the full range of housing support and resources, particularly the bonus fund designated through the FY2019 HUD CoC Program Competition.
- If your program **does not** have the capacity to support a housing project, stay involved and offer your expertise to the CoC. Your input is critical in shaping the criteria used to prioritize individuals for housing assistance, and allocating housing resources, to ensure that the needs of trafficking survivors are met. You can find the contact information for your local CoC [here](#). There may be more than one CoC that overlaps with your organization's service area.
- If your program **does** have capacity to support a housing project, present your project ideas and proposed budget to the CoC. Past projects covered under the DV Bonus funds have included:
 - Funding for rental assistance
 - Supportive services (case management)
 - Child care to facilitate the housing needs of survivors
 - Staff time for housing/counseling services
 - Assistance for moving costs

Consider additional needs linked to housing such as employment assistance and financial literacy. Get input from survivors to ensure that the project meets their needs.

- Still unsure if this a good fit for your program? Take a look at [HUD's e-snaps FAQs on DV Bonus Projects](#). You can also reference the [2018 CoC NOFA](#) to get an idea of the application structure and allowable costs. Page 7 of the document outlines last year's DV Bonus Fund.

Need Additional Assistance?

- If you are new to CoCs, HUD funding, or unsure about how to approach a potential project, we can help. Reach out to the Freedom Network Training Institute (FNTI) Housing Technical Assistance Project via email at training@freedomnetworkusa.org or visit freedomnetworkusa.org/project/housing/.
- Through [FNTI's Housing Project](#) you will find a fact sheet on [Working with Continuums of Care](#) and a link to the [Resource Library](#) with a webinar on Collaborating with Continuums of Care.
- The Domestic Violence and Housing Technical Assistance Consortium developed a [FAQ](#) on the Joint Transitional Housing and Permanent Rehousing- Rapid-Rehousing Component Project (JCP) and how it can be utilized to expand safe housing options for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Anti-trafficking service providers can use a similar approach and adapt it based on their local needs and with input from trafficking survivors.
- To learn more about the Continuum of Care program or other homeless assistance programs, visit the HUD Exchange at <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs>.

Tips for Anti-Trafficking Providers

- If your program serves survivors who are currently undocumented, HUD has provided clarification on how immigration status impacts HUD's homeless assistance programs. Anti-trafficking providers should reference the [July 2016 joint letter from HUD, HHS and DOJ](#) and [Fact Sheet](#).
- Consider the type of assistance needed to support a survivor's access to housing. This may include moving costs, move-in fees or security deposits, rental costs, utility bills, application fees, among others. As you work on a project proposal, think through what expenses a survivor might incur and ask survivors what they need. This process can help inform your project and your proposed budget.
- Design a project that respects and supports survivor choice. For example, having a scattered site project that allows individuals to live in a preferred area, versus just one option, may be better suited for survivors.
- CoCs use a Coordinated Entry System to place individuals experiencing homelessness into programs and available units. Nationwide, trafficking survivors are often not identified as high-risk and are not being prioritized for assistance. Due to the complexity of human trafficking, the process of housing a survivor utilizing HUD funded programs requires a range of options and flexibility. Anti-trafficking programs can work with the CoC to ensure that the needs of trafficking survivors are identified and prioritized for receiving housing assistance. For example, a CoC sub-committee on human trafficking could be established.