

# **BRISTOL COUNTY COC REALLOCATION PLAN.2025**

## **Background**

In addition to reviewing and evaluating any new and bonus projects submitted during the Continuum of Care (CoC) funding cycle, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) also requires that CoCs carefully evaluate and review all renewal projects. In this way, the Bristol County Continuum of Care (BCCC) ensures that underperforming projects are reduced or eliminated while the most competitive/highest performing projects are advanced in the ranking process. To provide transparency, the BCCC has developed this Reallocation Plan. 2025 for projects funded with CoC funds.

The reallocation of funds is an important tool used by CoCs across the county; it is a device that has been utilized on multiple occasions by the CoC in its efforts to make strategic improvements to the CoC's homelessness system. In addition to permitting the BCCC to create new projects that are better aligned with HUD's goals by eliminating underperforming projects or those that are more appropriately funded from other sources, reallocation is particularly important when new resources are not available.

#### A. Reallocation Policy

All renewal projects are reviewed by the New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development (OHCD) and the CoC's Performance Review Committee (PRC), a standing Committee of the BCCC, to determine how a project performed in the past year and determine if the project should be considered for reallocation.

The BCCC develops annual performance standards for all programs and the review of performance through quarterly and annual performance reports is integral to the evaluation process. OHCD staff monitors all programs through review of quarterly reports and comprehensive assessment of agency capacity and ability to implement performance measure goals and objectives. The OHCD provides technical assistance to the PRC to assist in the overall evaluation process.

Reallocation may be exercised on either a voluntary or involuntary basis, the former being at the discretion of the project subrecipient and the latter being the product of the formal review of the PRC. Reallocation is based on any one or more of the following criteria and the overall score of the project evaluation:

- 1. Underperformance in meeting expected project performance metrics.
- 2. Outstanding obligation to HUD that is in arrears or for which a payment schedule has not been agreed upon;
- 3. Audit finding(s) for which a response is overdue or unsatisfactory;
- 4. History of inadequate financial management accounting practices;
- 5. Evidence of untimely expenditures on prior award;
- 6. History of other major capacity issues that have significantly impacted the operation of the project and its performance;
- 7. Results of performance monitoring

- 8. Timeliness in reimbursing sub recipients for eligible costs. HUD will consider a project applicant as meeting this standard if it has drawn down grant funds at least once per month;
- 9. History of serving ineligible persons, expending funds on ineligible costs, or failing to expend funds within statutorily established timeframes; and/or
- 10. Low utilization rates/failure to meet targets for clients served.

# **B.** Involuntary Reallocations

Involuntary Reallocations are based on two criteria:

- Programs that have the lowest performance/score in the evaluation process
- Programs that have unspent funds in the most recent fiscal year.

The PRC will evaluate and determine if programs will have a full or partial reallocation of funding. Wellperforming programs that have unspent funding will be subject to review of possible partial reallocation of unspent funds.

All funds freed through involuntary reallocations may be made available for one or more new projects. If no new project applications are submitted, funds may remain available for the original renewal projects provided a project improvement plan is instituted.

Project applicants that are subject to partial involuntary reallocation must develop a plan to continue with their renewal project, with the reduced level of funding. This includes HUD contract compliance for numbers of persons served and the types of services provided. It may be possible to seek a contract amendment from HUD for some changes; project applicants should discuss amendment options with the OHCD who will, as grantee and as appropriate, contact its HUD representative to discuss any options for amendment. If the reduction in funding will result in loss of assistance for persons currently served by the program, the applicant must develop a transition plan for these persons.

### C. Voluntary Reallocations

For projects not listed above for involuntary reallocation, an applicant may choose to reallocate funds from an existing renewal project to free additional funds for one or more new (or existing) projects. If the same applicant wishes to apply for a new project using those same funds, the applicant may choose to reallocate <u>all or a portion of their renewal funds</u> to create the new project. The applicant may also choose to compete for a portion or all the funds available to the CoC through involuntary reallocation of other projects or bonus funds.

Through the reallocation process, the CoC ensures that projects submitted with the CoC Collaborative Application best align with the HUD CoC funding priorities and contribute to a competitive application that secures HUD CoC dollars to address and end homelessness in Bristol County. The CoC will make decisions based on alignment with HUD guidelines, performance measures, and unspent project funds.