

In addition, as stated in the NOFA, reviews will be based solely upon the contents of the application submitted to HUD Headquarters. Application materials submitted to the HUD Field Office and not to Headquarters, even if submitted prior to the deadline, will not be considered in the review of the CoC or of individual projects.

**5. The NOFA says that HUD will perform a “threshold” review of my application. What does this mean? What should I be aware of when preparing my application?**

HUD reviews your application to ensure that the applicant is eligible to apply for the program it selected and has the requisite capacity to carry it out. It also reviews the capacity of all other organizations involved with the proposed project. It is imperative, therefore, to demonstrate that applicants and any sponsors or other organizations involved have sufficient capacity. Be sure to answer all of the questions under the Experience Narrative section(s) of the program exhibit(s). It is also imperative that nonprofit applicants include documentation demonstrating their eligibility.

HUD also reviews your project exhibit to ensure that your project will only serve homeless people (see Section C, question #1, of this supplement), that what you propose is eligible, and, in the case of projects other than SHP renewals and S+C renewals, that your project meets threshold quality standards. You can help ensure that your project passes the quality review by completely answering all of the applicable Project Narrative questions in the program exhibit. These questions relate directly to the NOFA threshold standards so it is important that you address each and every applicable factor in the Project Narrative(s) and complete the charts for the program for which you are applying.

After consultations with HHS, the individual project quality threshold review criteria have been modified to obtain better information on the nature of the supportive services being proposed by the applicant (i.e., supportive service requests must be cost-effective). In addition, performance review standards have been included for renewal projects and can be used as the basis for rejecting poorly performing projects. Finally, all projects, including renewals (except S+C renewals), must submit a specific plan for ensuring that clients will individually be assisted to obtain the benefits of the mainstream assistance programs for which they are eligible.

Under SHP and S+C, renewal projects are considered to have met most of the threshold requirements through their previously approved grant applications. However, threshold reviews will be done on renewal projects to determine: (1) the eligibility of proposed activities; (2) the eligibility of the population to be served; and (3) the capacity of the applicant and project sponsor, including specific progress data contained in the APR.

## **G. Continuum of Care Geography**

**1. What options do communities have in deciding the area to be covered by a CoC?**

The primary consideration is to design a system that will most effectively meet the needs of the homeless population. Remember, the single most important factor in receiving funding under this competition is the strength of the CoC as measured against the CoC criteria in the NOFA.

Organizations within any locality may decide to: (a) create a CoC system within its own local boundaries; (b) join nearby communities in creating a multi-county or regional CoC system that fully involves all the communities included and serves the territory of the combined communities; (c) join with the State government or a Statewide organization in creating a Statewide CoC system; or (d) join with the State government or a Statewide organization in developing a CoC system for a specific community and/or county, or an entire region.