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**COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
Office of Human Services**

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Director

Middlesex County Continuum of Care

To: All Middlesex County Community Agencies

From: Melissa Bellamy, CoC Chairperson

Re: Middlesex County Continuum of Care 2016 Local Application Process

Date: Friday, June 10, 2016

The Middlesex County Continuum of Care, a local planning committee charged with the responsibility of reducing the incidence of homelessness in Middlesex County, has begun the process for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) 2016 Continuum of Care Application.

In preparation for submission of the CoC application for HUD funding, the Middlesex County Continuum of Care Technical Review Committee is now accepting applications from all agencies interested in applying for funding to support new projects through the Middlesex County Continuum of Care process.

The HUD Continuum of Care program provides funding to programs serving homeless individuals and families in the community. Funding may be used for a variety of project types including permanent housing, coordinated entry and HMIS.

In the FY2015 CoC Competition, HUD identified the following funding priorities through which it would evaluate community responses to homelessness and project applications.

1. Strategic Resource Allocation – HUD calls for communities to critically evaluate all funding requests to ensure effective resource allocation. This process must include a comprehensive project review, evaluation of project use of mainstream resources, leveraging additional resources through partnerships, and reviewing the efficacy of transitional housing.
2. Ending Chronic Homelessness – HUD encourages communities to increase the number of units dedicated and prioritized for the chronically homeless.

3. Ending Family Homelessness – HUD encourages communities to increase availability of rapid re-housing opportunities for homeless families.
4. Ending Youth Homelessness – HUD encourages communities to work closely with youth service providers to identify the unique need of homeless youth and increase resources and programs available to address their housing and service needs
5. Ending Veteran Homelessness – HUD encourages CoCs to prioritize veterans to the extent possible, in existing permanent housing programs with a focus on those veterans not eligible for VA funded housing or services. In addition, CoCs should coordinate with the local VA and VA funded programs to ensure access and opportunities for all homeless veterans
6. Using A Housing First Approach – HUD encourages CoCs and CoC funded projects to adopt a Housing First Approach which prioritizes getting homeless persons into permanent housing quickly and wrapping the needed services around them. Housing First approaches include low barriers to program entry, removal of barriers for program retention, client centered services based on goals developed by the household, and prioritizing those households who are most in need. A system level Housing First approach should also include use of a centralized/coordinated assessment process and an inclusive decision-making structure for system development.

In accordance with the FY2015 HUD funding priorities, the Middlesex County Continuum of Care will consider the following types of proposals for new project application in the FY 2016 Competition.

- Permanent Supportive Housing Projects dedicated to chronically homeless individuals, which can serve persons with any type of qualifying disabling condition. This may include funding for acquisition, rehabilitation, new construction, rental assistance, leasing, services, or operating dollars. Projects may also request up to 7% in administrative funds.
- Rapid Re-Housing for homeless individuals and/or families. Rapid re-housing projects may serve homeless households who do not have a disabling condition. Programs will need to dedicate services to those living on the streets or in emergency shelter as well as those fleeing domestic violence. Rapid Re-Housing projects may request short-term (1-3 months) or medium-term (3 – 24 months) rental assistance, service funding, and up to 7% in administrative funding.
- Centralized or Coordinated Assessment. Projects may request supportive services and up to 7% in administrative funding to support the communitywide coordinated assessment process.
- HMIS. Projects may request funding for the costs associated with the HMIS that must be carried out by the HMIS Lead.

For more details on the HUD funding priorities applicants are strongly encouraged to review the FY2015 CoC NOFA which may be found at www.hudexchange.info. For additional information on the Middlesex County local selection process please visit: <http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/Government/Departments/CS/Pages/Housing/Housing%20and%20Socia%20Services.aspx>

Agencies interested in applying for funding must submit a **completed application by 2:00 pm, Wednesday, June 29, 2016**. The Notice of Intent Application Form may be found at: <http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/Government/Departments/CS/Pages/Housing/Housing%20and%20Socia%20Services.aspx>

Applications (one original with all HMIS reports and attachments and 5 copies without attachments) may be submitted by mail or in person to: Harriet Slonim, Middlesex County Division of Housing, County Administration Building, 75 Bayard Street, 2nd Floor, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 by the above deadline. A PDF file of the application should also be emailed to harriet.slonim@co.middlesex.nj.us by the same deadline date and time.

A **Technical Assistance Conference Call** will be held on **Thursday, June 16th at 2:00 pm**. It is mandatory for all new applicants and since the application has changed from last year, all renewal applicants are also encouraged to participate. The toll free call in number is 888-240-3210, access code: 8366.

Agencies submitting an application may be required to participate in program presentations before the CoC Technical Review Committee.

Any questions regarding the 2016 Middlesex County Local Application process should be made in writing by emailing Melissa Bellamy at melissa.bellamy@co.middlesex.nj.us

Thank you and best wishes on your application submissions.