Outline of Overarching Policy Priorities Highlighted in FY 2021 NOFO

1. Ending Homelessness for All Persons
   a. Identify, engage, and effectively serve all persons experiencing homelessness
   b. Measure performance based on local data that take into account challenges faced by all, including:
      i. Veterans
      ii. Youth
      iii. Families
      iv. Chronically homeless
   c. CoCs should partner with housing, health care, and supportive services providers to expand housing options, such as PSH, housing subsidies, and RRH
   d. Use local data to determine characteristics of individuals and families with highest needs and longest experiences of homelessness to develop housing and services tailored to their needs
2. Use a Housing First Approach
   a. Prioritizes rapid placement and stabilization in permanent housing without service participation requirements or preconditions
   b. CoC-funded projects should help people move quickly into PH, and the CoC should measure and help projects reduce the length of time people experience homelessness
   c. CoCs should engage landlords and property owners to identify an inventory of housing available for RRH and PSH participants, remove barriers to entry, and adopt client-centered service methods.
   d. HUD encourages CoCs to assess how well Housing First approaches are being implemented in their communities
3. Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness
   a. People living unsheltered have extremely high rates of physical and mental illness and substance use disorders
   b. CoCs should identify permanent housing options for people who are unsheltered
4. Improving System Performance
   a. Measure System Performance to determine how effectively they are serving people experiencing homelessness
   b. Use Coordinated Entry process to promote participant choice, coordinate homeless assistance, and mainstream housing, and services to ensure people experiencing homelessness receive assistance quickly, and make assistance open, inclusive, and transparent
   c. Review all renewal projects to determine effectiveness in serving people experiencing homelessness, including cost effectiveness
   d. CoCs should look for opportunities to implement continuous quality improvement and other process improvement strategies
   e. Points reduced for SPM due to effects of COVID-19 on CoC performance, but will be significantly increased in FY 2022 and subsequent NOFOs
5. Partnering with Housing, Health, and Service Agencies
   a. Using cost performance and outcome data, CoCs should improve how all available resources are utilized to end homelessness
   b. Especially important as CARES Act and ARP have provided significant new resources
   c. HUD encourages CoCs to maximize use of mainstream and other community-based resources when serving persons experiencing homelessness and should:
      i. Work closely with public/private healthcare organizations and assist program participants to obtain medical insurance for healthcare needs
      ii. Partner closely with PHAs and state/local housing organizations to utilize coordinated entry, develop housing units, and provide housing subsidies to people experiencing homelessness. Programs can help participants exit PSH through HCV. Work to implement EHV, VASH, Mainstream Vouchers, FUP, and other vouchers targeted to

people experiencing homelessness. CoCs should coordinate with housing agencies on utilization of new HOME resources through ARA funding

    iii. Partner with local workforce development centers to improve employment opportunities

    iv. Work with tribal organizations to ensure access CoC-funded assistance when a CoC geographic area borders a tribal area

6. Racial Equity
   a. In nearly every community, Black, Indigenous, and other people of color are substantial overrepresented in the homeless population
   b. HUD is emphasizing system and program changes to address racial equity
   c. CoCs should review local policies, procedures, and processes to determine how and where to address racial disparities affecting those experiencing homelessness

7. Persons with Lived Experience
   a. HUD encourages CoCs to include in local planning process people currently/formerly homeless to address homelessness
   b. Should determine how local policies may need to be revised and updated, participate in CoC meetings and committees as stakeholders, provide input on decisions, and provide input related to the local competition process (e.g., hoe rating factors are determined)
   c. CoCs should seek opportunities to hire people with lived experience