

community, none will be successful. A strong homeless prevention strategy is also key to the success of the continuum of care.

Developing a continuum of care system involves a community process for coordinating resources. The community process should include nonprofit organizations, State and local government agencies, other homeless providers, housing developers and service providers, private foundations, neighborhood groups, and homeless or formerly homeless persons.

*(d) Coordinating Resources*

The Department recognizes that differing statutory requirements of the three programs covered by this NOFA are barriers to creating continuum of care systems that are truly responsive to community needs. The Department is continuing to pursue legislative changes necessary to provide localities and providers with the flexibility they need to create comprehensive systems that completely address the many dimensions of the problem in a coordinated fashion. Meanwhile, under this NOFA, the Department will continue to move in that direction by using its funding resources to help increase the level of coordination among nonprofit organizations, government agencies and other entities that is necessary to develop systematic approaches for successfully addressing homelessness.

To further the purpose of this NOFA, heavy emphasis is placed upon coordination in the application selection criteria. In preparing its application, the applicant should, to the maximum extent possible, coordinate its efforts with other providers of services and housing to homeless persons, such as nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and housing developers, and consult with homeless or formerly homeless persons.

Scoring high on the "Coordination" selection criteria will be important to the success of an application in this competition. High scores will depend

on organizations working together to: create, maintain and build upon a community-wide inventory of current services and housing for homeless families and individuals; identify the full spectrum of needs of homeless families and individuals; and coordinate efforts to obtain resources to fill gaps between the current inventory and needs. Applicants are advised to pay special attention to the "Coordination" selection criteria before beginning the process of developing an application.

*(e) Use of NOFA Funds and Matching Funds to Fill Gaps*

Funds available under this NOFA and matching funds may be used in the following ways to fill gaps within the context of developing a continuum of care system:

(1) *Outreach/Assessment.* The Supportive Housing program may provide funding for outreach to homeless persons and assessment of their needs. The Shelter Plus Care program requires a supportive services match; outreach and assessment activities count toward that match. The SRO program applicants receive rating points for the extent to which supportive services, including outreach and assessment, are provided.

(2) *Transitional housing and necessary social services.* The Supportive Housing program may be used to provide transitional housing with services, including both facility-based transitional housing and scattered-site transitional services. The Supportive Housing program may also be used to provide a safe haven, as described in section I.(g)(1) of this NOFA.

(3) *Permanent housing or permanent supportive housing.* The Supportive Housing program may be used to provide permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities, including both facility-based and scattered-site permanent supportive housing. The Shelter Plus Care program may be used to provide permanent supportive housing for persons with disabilities in

a variety of housing rental situations. This program requires a supportive services match; all supportive service activities count toward that match. The SRO program provides permanent housing for homeless individuals with incomes that do not exceed the low-income standard of the Section 8 housing program. The SRO program applicants receive rating points for the extent to which supportive services are provided. Providing permanent housing for homeless families is not available under the SRO program or the SRO component of the Shelter Plus Care (S+C) program because an SRO unit is designed for a single individual. Permanent housing for homeless families is only eligible under the other components of the S+C program and under the Supportive Housing program if an adult member has a disability.

*(f) Targeting*

This NOFA is targeted to serving persons who are sleeping in emergency shelters (including hotels or motels used as shelter for homeless families), other facilities for homeless persons, or places not meant for human habitation, such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned buildings. This includes persons who ordinarily live in such places but are in a hospital or other institution on a short-term basis (short-term is considered to be 30 consecutive days or less.) For the Section 8 SRO program, individuals currently residing in units to be assisted and who are eligible for assistance under Section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937 may also be served under this NOFA.

*(g) Program Summaries*

The chart below summarizes key aspects of the Supportive Housing Program, the Shelter Plus Care Program, and the Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Program for Single Room Occupancy Dwellings for Homeless Individuals. Descriptions are contained in the applicable program regulations.