

2A-1: Describe in the field below:

- 1. how your CoC determined which risk factors your CoC uses to identify persons becoming homeless for the first time;**
- 2. how your CoC addresses individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless; and**
- 3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness for the first time or to end homelessness for individuals and families. Limit 2,500 Characters**

1. The ROCC names risk factors such as disabling conditions, serious mental health issues, substance use disorder, or physical disabilities and uses the definition for chronically homeless when someone requests assistance. The ROCC uses the VI-SPDAT to score vulnerability and assessment responses defining chronic homelessness. The ROCC is redesigning our way to determine risk factors. The aim is to shift emphasis on vulnerability and use a strengthbased approach self-sufficiency model. While scoring current vulnerabilities, this innovative approach can find other needs such as food scarcity, mobility needs, legal needs, and even childcare that may be barriers and potentially risking securing and sustaining housing.
2. During COVID, a sizable percentage of housing aid was to assist those atrisk of becoming homeless due to loss of employment and other factors making it difficult to pay rent. ROCC agencies have made accessing aid straightforward and simpler by keeping required documentation at a minimum and accepting verbal consents to expedite support. Some agencies also have energy aid programs to help with utilities and both programs support those requesting assistance. Going forward, the ROCC expects to do the same adjusting based on uncontrollable situational factors. The ROCC encourages all agencies to reach out to their community partners to refer anyone at-risk to request aid.
3. ROCC manager is employed by the Collaborative Applicant – CAPO and has oversight of the work across all ROCC agencies and works in conjunction with the HMIS Lead, and the Executive Committee standing for five agencies across our regions.

2A-2: Describe in the field below:

- 1. your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and persons in families remain homeless;**
- 2. how your CoC identifies and houses individuals and persons in families with the longest lengths of time homeless; and**
- 3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the length of time individuals and families remain homeless. Limit 2,500 Characters**

1. ROCC agencies aim to reduce the length of time of homelessness under challenges faced with lack of resources or housing in our rural communities. Often ROCC agencies may be the only resource available in their smaller

communities to support while someone searches for housing. By using a self sufficiency model (in 2c-1), building participants' strengths in other areas while working to secure housing lends itself to a reduction time homeless, by simply opening opportunities. When possible, agencies have hired housing specialists that can collaborate with both participants and landlords to find a housing match. Finally, landlord engagement is critical in tapping into what may be untapped housing opportunities.

2. HMIS reports show the data needed to identify the length of time someone is homeless and used to prioritize who to reach out to when aid is available. The ROCC relies on achieving homeless functional zero and each region has their own definition of functional zero, ranging from a 60-day to a six-month length of time depending upon community constraints such as a lack in housing. Using both HMIS reports and their regional definition, agencies can better figure out who to prioritize. Agencies with street outreach may provide alternative and workable solutions with if housing is not available. Finally, staff have available access to other ROCC regions by accessing the ROCC-wide CE list to help someone find housing outside their area.

3. ROCC manager is employed by the Collaborative Applicant – CAPO and has oversight of the work across all ROCC agencies and works in conjunction with the HMIS Lead, and the Executive Committee representing five agencies across our regions.

2A-3: Describe in the field below how your CoC will increase the rate that individuals and persons in families residing in:

1. emergency shelter, safe havens, transitional housing, and rapid rehousing exit to permanent housing destinations; and

2. permanent housing projects retain their permanent housing or exit to permanent housing destinations. Limit 2,500 Characters

1. All HMIS-participating emergency shelters enter their participants into their regional CE before adding them into their shelter project. This ensures that anyone experiencing homelessness has the opportunity for housing assistance when available. Adding 73 new emergency shelters into HMIS will increase our ability to help move someone from the shelter, into transitional or rapid rehousing to successful exit. During the CoC's current quarterly data quality review, the HMIS Lead will review APRs to find any trends in ES, TH, and RRH where positive exits may be lacking and report back to agencies accordingly. The ROCC Lead may work directly with those agencies that report a low percentage of exits and help plan and implement steps with that agency for improvement. Another tactic for the CoC is increasing landlord engagement. One agency has had a successful program engaging landlords with regular check-ins and annual breakfasts. The ROCC will work with this agency to help support replicating this program at other locations when possible.

2. ROCC agencies follow-up on all clients in a PSH project or exiting the project to evaluate the client's current situation and housing status. HMIS reports are available that both highlight those follow-ups that are overdue and the result of

those completed. The HMIS Lead will incorporate these status reports into the current data quality and APR review schedule. When needed, both the ROCC and HMIS Lead will work with agencies consistently missing follow-up target dates and/or those with higher reports of clients returning to homelessness

2A-4 Describe in the field below:

- 1. how your CoC identifies individuals and families who return to homelessness;**
- 2. your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate of additional returns to homelessness; and**
- 3. provide the name of the organization or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to reduce the rate individuals and persons in families return to homelessness.**

1. Using the SPM Return to Homelessness report, the ROCC can identify those that have a new entry into HMIS. HMIS visibility encompasses our entire region, so if one returns for assistance, staff at another agency has access to their previous information from which to begin assisting again. The ROCC can also use PIT data to identify those who may reside at HMIS non-participating agencies to identify others.

2. In 2022, the ROCC reevaluated our CE vulnerability/barrier to gauge the new risk factors that may contribute to a homeless episode and that may be a risk factor when housing is secured. Not relying on the VI-SPDAT, the ROCC identified other categories that may lead to homelessness. CE now includes factors such as, demographics, physical or mental disabilities, family dynamics including those with young children, employment, or abuse experience, and others not asked in the VI-SPDAT. These barriers are evaluated on a 5-point scale to determine risk. Increasing housing retention begins when someone enters CE. This new assessment is a case management tool to address those areas of risk while the individual/family is in an assistance program. HMIS can easily create a goal for each and provide the outline action steps and follow-up reviews by category. Increasing case management training for this purpose is a priority for the ROCC. While in an assistance program, the case manager can spend time with the individual finding ways to improve in those areas. They may be addressed directly such as finding and securing employment or ensuring children are in school, to finding ways to cope with a disability without it impacting their ability to remain housed. The new VI assessment will be implemented fully in fall 2022. The assessment is in the final stages before it is released for testing and improvements. To increase housing retention, the ROCC will investigate reassessing those exiting a program with the same assessment at entry evaluating any change in risk. Using this information, clients and case managers can design support plans to support their success. HMIS follow-up ticklers can be set to remind case managers when to contact those exited to discuss their current situation and offer additional guidance in any area of concern.

3. ROCC manager is employed by the Collaborative Applicant – CAPO and has oversight of the work across all ROCC agencies and works in conjunction with the HMIS Lead, and the Executive Committee representing 5 agencies.

2A-5: Describe in the field below:

- 1. the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase employment cash sources;**
- 2. how your CoC works with mainstream employment organizations to help individuals and families increase their cash income; and**
- 3. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase income from employment. Limit 2,500 Characters**

1. Working in rural counties with few jobs and low wages, the ROCC agencies often struggle to find employment opportunities in their areas. Many strategies requires strong community relationships with local employment agencies, state programs, local businesses, and word of mouth. Therefore, the rural and smaller communities often rely on close relationships with employers in their areas. Staff may know of employment opportunities simply by word of mouth, seeing job signs in windows, or quickly reviewing local papers and online sites.

2. Individuals seeking employment are connected to the services of the local Oregon Employment Dept, Veteran's Employment specialists, Workforce Innovations and Opportunities staff, JOBS program staff, and Vocational Rehabilitation services. The ROCC's smaller communities rely on close relationships with employers in their areas especially when large store chains are not located there. ROCC agencies have representation in their local Chamber of Commerce to engage and help facilitate matching local businesses needs with those receiving housing assistance at their sites. Each community has annual events where sponsors or businesses advertise job openings, such as Cultural celebrations and street fairs, where employers have staff available to discuss job options especially as businesses have difficulties finding workers since the pandemic. Another example are the Veteran Stand Down events where employers are available to discuss job opportunities. The ROCC relies on agencies to build partnerships with their local employment resources including WorkSource Oregon where clients can access skill-building, resume writing, and testing resources. The JOBS program which is a state employment training program for low-income families on TANF, and an independent living skills program for youth that includes career planning. Analyzing SPM data during HMIS quarterly data reviews is one of the strategies the ROCC uses to track whether the change is directly related to clients who are not finding employment and/or if the data is not added into HMIS accurately possible resulting in losing historical data. In both instances, the ROCC targets those regions or agencies for support. Additionally, data provides the detail on each client and provides ROCC agencies and the HMIS Lead to investigate individuals change in income more easily. 3. The ROCC Manager & HMIS Lead are employed by CAPO and has oversight of the work across our agencies.

2A-5a: Describe in the field below:

- 1. the strategy your CoC has implemented to increase non-employment cash income;**

2. your CoC's strategy to increase access to non-employment cash sources; and
3. provide the organization name or position title that is responsible for overseeing your CoC's strategy to increase non-employment cash income. Limit 2,500 Characters

1. The ROCC relies on strong partnerships with the Department of Human Services to help with accessing SNAP, TANF and WIC benefits. ROCC agencies assist their them in gathering needed documents, setting up appointments and/or completing an application online if a local office is not available. ROCC case managers are trained to identify non-employment case sources that a client may not access using documents supplied during intake into a housing assistance program. Once identified, in addition to giving support securing those resources, ROCC agencies may have staff that peer support that includes assistance maneuvering the steps or transportation to specific locations when needed. The ROCC needs to create a resource list of available entities with contact information across the entire COC so case managers in one region can easily access this information should their client need resources in another area. The ROCC agencies are certifying SOAR facilitators who focus is on accessing available resources for veterans. In addition, the ROCC encourages Veterans to apply for assistance through the local SSVF Grant Per diem, or VA Benefits. The ROCC's intent is to include non-veterans with increased funding to employ and certify additional facilitators. Analyzing SPM data during HMIS quarterly data reviews is one of the strategies the ROCC uses to track whether the change is directly related to clients who are not accessing non-employment case sources and/or if the data is not added into HMIS accurately possible resulting in losing historical data. In both instances, the ROCC targets those regions or agencies for support. Additionally, data provides the detail on each client and provides ROCC agencies and the HMIS Lead to investigate individuals change in income more easily.

2. The ROCC Lead is employed by CAPO and has oversight of the work across all ROCC agencies and works in conjunction with the HMIS Lead, and the Executive Committee standing for five agencies across our regions.

2B-2: Describe in the field below how your CoC:

1. communicated the invitation process annually to solicit new members to join the CoC;
2. ensured effective communication with individuals with disabilities, including the availability of accessible electronic formats;
3. conducted outreach to ensure persons experiencing homelessness or formerly homeless persons are encouraged to join your CoC; and
4. invited organizations serving culturally specific communities experiencing homelessness in the geographic area to address equity (e.g., Black, Latino, Indigenous, other People of Color, persons with disabilities). Limit 2,500 Characters

1. The ROCC extends an invitation to potential new members, year-round. The invitation to apply and instructions are posted on the websites of CAPO (www.caporegon.org) and the ROCC (www.OregonBoS.org). New member

applicants include the referrals made by ROCC members and outreach efforts by the ROCC staff. ROCC members are encouraged to share the CoC process in their respective communities. Each of the 26 regions hosts or attends publicly accessible forums, resource sharing, and leadership meetings in which the knowledge of the HUD Continuum of Care funding for homelessness is relevant for discussion.

2. The distribution and accessibility of information regarding the application for membership to the ROCC, is a high priority. The information is provided in electronic format via the mailing list and the ROCC website to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Each ROCC meeting and training event are recorded and made accessible when posted to the ROCC YouTube page. This allows for closed captioning, and limited translations. Closed “live captioning” is also included in meeting formats. ROCC has recently added language and accessibility needs in the agendas, so the matter remains under continuous review and revision.

3. The ROCC members are developing new relationships with providers of culturally responsive services to BIPOC populations experiencing homelessness, including through subrecipient agreements that have strengthened involvement in coordinated entry. All such agencies are invited to join ROCC. The Northwest Office of Native American is discussing possibilities for collaboration with the ROCC. The Emergency Housing Voucher Program, the recent evaluation of the Coordinated Entry System, and inclusion of the ROCC’s leadership with the BIPOC Coordinated Entry Steering Committee, have all created new opportunities for collective voices to share in the creation of homelessness solutions. The ROCC recognizes that our most rural and isolated communities are home to persons with very high needs. Diversity, equity and inclusion are a guiding principle to the ROCC’s efforts to end rural homelessness.

2B-3: Describe in the field below how your CoC:

- 1. solicited and considered opinions from a broad array of organizations and individuals that have knowledge of homelessness or an interest in preventing and ending homelessness;**
- 2. communicated information during public meetings or other forums your CoC uses to solicit public information; and**
- 3. took into consideration information gathered in public meetings or forums to address improvements or new approaches to preventing and ending homelessness. Limit 2,500 Characters**

1. The ROCC utilizes its many committees and workgroups to solicit input and information from organizations and individuals. Through extensive outreach and collaboration, the ROCC members have shared information of the ROCC through such groups as the Homelessness Task Force, Sexual Assault Response Team, Community Round Tables, City Council and state level meetings. ROCC leadership participates in statewide planning through engagement with workgroups such as: RHY Advisory Committee, Housing Stability Council and the Community Actions Partnerships of Oregon.

Throughout our regions, often one area takes on a project that provides an example that other regions may replicate. The ROCC assists these local regions by ensuring that entire COC is represented and providing support in their efforts. The ROCC can then facilitate activities in other areas that chose to embark on a similar path or project. For example, members in the Mid-Columbia region just concluded a nine month long strategic planning process to address the regional homelessness services system. Representatives from 40 organizations, local government, and persons with lived experience with homelessness to attend and contribute to the plan. Lessons learned shared across the ROCC opens opportunities to provide both ROCC leadership and peer-to-peer collaborations. 2.The ROCC, and its unique 26 county geography, relies very heavily upon the consistent sharing of information, in easily accessible formats. Quarterly, continuum-wide meetings are essential to develop the work at hand and create sustainable partnerships across such a large geographical distance. The ROCC utilizes electronic formats including Dropbox, ROCC website, agency websites, community forums, newsletters and emails to keep members and stakeholders well informed. The ROCC knows that reducing barriers to housing and services, begins with striving for diversity, equity and inclusion in the processes which make housing possible. 3.Each ROCC workgroup, meeting independently of the larger membership meetings are responsible to document agendas, discussions and news and updates, relevant to the ROCC members as a whole. The information from the workgroups and committees is then brought to the agenda of the monthly membership-wide meetings for further discussion. The ROCC strives for input from government partners, community members, persons with lived experience, those who protect, serve, and provide justice for victims and communities.

2B-4 Describe in the field below how your CoC notified the public:

- 1. that your CoC's local competition was open and accepting project applications;**
- 2. that your CoC will consider project applications from organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding;**
- 3. about how project applicants must submit their project applications;**
- 4. about how your CoC would determine which project applications it would submit to HUD for funding; and**
- 5. how your CoC effectively communicated with individuals with disabilities, including making information accessible in electronic formats. Limit 2,500 Characters**

1. Our CoC always has renewal and new applications available. Throughout the year we are adding interested organizations to our listserv and meetings so they can learn about the NOFO process. This year our CoC notified the public of the 2022 HUD CoC funding competition opening on 8/05/2022 via our listserv with over 300 individuals. On 8/10/2022 the CoC posted the ROCC 2022 New and Renewal Application materials on our website (oregonbos.org) and sent an email including, an intent to apply form, the application materials for new and renewals, previous training videos, and links to HUD webinars. The ROCC also

had our annual in person meeting on August 9th and 10th where we discussed the NOFO, new and renewal application processes, and collected any questions and feedback from our members regarding the NOFO process. 2.The ROCC posts both the Timeline and How to Apply documents on the CAPO and ROCC websites. The application instructions for new and renewal applications are also provided. Both websites posted the timelines for submissions of Intent to Apply, Training Schedules, Office Hours and the date of final submissions due to the ROCC. Guidance on what must be included in the applications. The process for rating and ranking occurs, date of scores posted, appeal deadline, and final submission dates are available in e-snaps. In all of our meetings, email communications, documents, and website it notes that applications must be sent to the rocc@caporegon.org email by 8/30/2022 at 5pm. 3. The CoC has a rating and ranking committee for new and renewal applications. The applications go to the 3-member Review and Ranking (R&R) Committee on 9/02/2022, for the scoring process. Using a scoring rubric designed by the CoC (1E-2), the R&R committee scores and ranks each application. Based upon the scoring and recommendation of that committee, the full CoC voted on 9/15/2022, to finalize the ranking and projects in the FY22 CoC Competition Process. 4.The distribution and accessibility of information is a high priority for the ROCC. The information is provided in electronic format via the mailing list and the ROCC website to accommodate individuals with disabilities. Each ROCC meeting and training event are recorded and made accessible when posted to the ROCC YouTube page. This allows for closed captioning, live captioning, and limited translations. ROCC has recently added language and accessibility needs in the agendas, so the matter remains under continuous review.

2C-2 Describe in the field below how your CoC:

- 1. consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG funds;**
- 2. participated in evaluating and reporting performance of ESG Program recipients and subrecipients;**
- 3. provided Point-in-Time (PIT) count and Housing Inventory Count (HIC) data to the Consolidated Plan jurisdictions within its geographic area; and**
- 4. provided information to Consolidated Plan Jurisdictions to address homelessness within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in Consolidated Plan update. Limit 2,500 Characters**

1.ROCC members include 12 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) that, together, serve our 26 counties. CAAs are the recipients of the annual ESG funds and the ESG-CV funds the last 2 years. Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) receives ESG funds and distributes them to CAAs based on data they gather using HMIS and other sources. Each CAA is responsible for planning and allocating their annual ESG funding activities based on their unique needs in their region. OHCS allocated ESG-CV funds based on their determination of need at each CAA. OHCS also categorized ESG-CV funds strictly for ES, RRH, and HP needs. Individual CAAs determine the amount in

each category. ROCC members and CAAs also worked with orgs in their region that serve traditionally underserved communities to involved them in ESG planning/implementation. 2.ESG and ESG-CV programs are evaluated based on system performance data out of HMIS. Performance is evaluated at OHCS and at each CAA. The ROCC uses a Data Quality Policy and Procedure for monitoring data and creating improvement plans when necessary. ROCC requires reviews of data completeness, accuracy, timeliness with benchmarks for each. OHCS is supporting the ROCC in developing procedures to take a more in-depth view of the data that includes analyzing trends, such as who we assist and success, that may not be evident reviewing basic HMIS data. 3. Consolidated planning occurs both regionally with our CAAs and statewide through OHCS's own planning. Regionally, CAAs provide PIT and HIC data to their local jurisdictions to identify gaps in their communities regarding homelessness. An example is in Benton County where local government used this information to guide decisions on funding and are involved in the ROCC coordinated entry process to help address their community needs. OHCS partners with Portland State Homeless Research & Action Collaboration who requests PIT and HIC data to create annual reports on homelessness estimates that are shared with the ROCC and our CAAs. 4. As mentioned, consolidated planning occurs regionally and statewide. In addition to offering PIT and HIC data to local jurisdictions, the ROCC prepared an online dashboard mapping CAAs, project, project type and locations with numbers of those assisted including aggregated demographic data and information pertaining to living situations and exits to permanent housing. OHCS has access or requests data to inform their statewide plan.

2C-4a: Describe in the field below the formal partnerships your CoC has with the entities checked in Question 2C-4. Limit 2,500 Characters

2C-4b: Describe in the field below written policies and procedures your CoC adopted to inform individuals and families who become homeless of their eligibility for educational services. Limit 2,500 Characters

The ROCC recognizes that links for homeless persons to educational services will encompass programs serving clients from pre-birth through adulthood. As a person ages, their unique educational needs will evolve. Beginning with early childhood development, throughout k – 12 and on into community college, job skills and employment training.

Our Community Action Agency partners remain a key resource for Early Head Start and Head Start Programs to assess and meet the unique educational needs of children from birth to 5 years of age.

The ROCC encourages providers to post information in both offices and shelter spaces to educate students experiencing homelessness of their personal rights. The risk of homelessness skyrockets for students who fail to achieve a GED/diploma. Primary advocates and school district liaisons help support this process through proactive interventions to support continued academic achievements.

ROCC agencies develop partnerships with South Coast Business Employment Corp. and Worksource Oregon (WSO) to refer clients for job placement and training opportunities. Employment readiness, job skill development and supportive job placements are essential tools, for a client to develop self-sufficiency and long-term stability.

Self-sufficiency and stability will look differently for each client. However, skills such as budgeting, time management, and good tenancy classes such as Rent Star / Rent Well are offered to strengthen and support the clients' success.

WSO and Training and Employment Consortium are collaborating to develop a "Warm hand off" policy and process. This allows homeless persons to first meet the collaborative partners in a safe environment where the client feels most at ease. Clients who are assisted this way achieve far greater outcomes than when merely given a cold referral to locate and approach all on their own. Across ROCC regions, providers are utilizing formal assessment tools to identify educational needs. The ROCC is working to reduce the barriers to education for persons experiencing homelessness. Many factors may interfere with a client engaging in education. Undiagnosed learning disabilities and language barriers prevent many clients from engaging in such opportunities. Mental health issues may also impact success and merit careful assessment before placement into educational programs and settings.

2C-5a: Describe in the field below how your CoC:

- 1. systemically provides up-to-date information on mainstream resources available for program participants (e.g., Food Stamps, SSI, TANF, substance abuse programs) within your CoC's geographic area;**
- 2. works with project staff to collaborate with healthcare organizations, including substance abuse treatment and mental health treatment, to assist program participants with receiving healthcare services; and**
- 3. works with projects to promote SOAR certification of program staff. Limit 2,500 Characters**

1. The ROCC monthly and quarterly meetings reserve agenda time for updates by attendees. Agencies including OHCS, DHS and CCO's (OHP) attend and provide relevant, current updates on benefit programs, funding, and resources. Updates of changes in mainstream benefit programs (OHP, SNAP, TANF) are critically important as they may impact numerous elements of stability for a client. To assure information flows to every ROCC member, all meeting minutes and documentation are uploaded to Dropbox for sharing within their agencies and community forums. All ROCC members are encouraged to include screening for benefits in their processes. Each agency provides referrals for mainstream benefits. The ROCC encourages members to collaborate with healthcare, hospitals, addiction treatment and behavioral health providers. 2. In 2020, the ROCC participated in conversations through Connect Oregon, a coordinated care network of health and social providers service Oregon. Partners are connected through United Us shared technology platforms enabling agencies to send and receive electronic referrals, address people's

social needs and improve health across communities. Though participating in the network seemed ideal, at the time it was difficult for the ROCC to find solutions sharing our participants information with a health network ensuring confidentiality from both sides. Currently, an adjacent COC is reconvening these conversations with United Us to devise a plan. The ROCC has been invited to these conversations to learn and potentially reconsider this partnership. 3.SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) is proven to be an extremely successful pathway to acquiring disability benefits. However, there are a limited number of agencies who are fully trained and certified in SOAR. Far fewer than is needed to address the increasing number of potential applicants. Opportunities to learn more about SOAR and the process for certification is integrated into the ROCC I meetings. It merits further investigation of strategic ways to add this capacity within our communities. Becoming aware of funding resources for SOAR development will be essential to growth in this area. As an example, CSC, recently ran a pilot program with ASSIST to obtain disability benefits for 10 participants being housed in a motelshelter program, paid with Covid ESG funds. All 10 were successfully awarded