



August 25, 2022

Re: NOFO Scoring Matrix

Dear Potential Applicant –

As the Collaborative Applicant with for the upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), we wanted to provide some context for the upcoming funding opportunities. The Anchorage Continuum of Care as a geographic area responding to homelessness has faced many challenges in the past couple of years. COVID-19 severely impacted service capacity for low barrier shelter. Additionally, historically low vacancy rates and high rents have made housing opportunities illusive for people experiencing homelessness.

Concurrent with these challenges, HUD has been clear that Housing First is its number one priority. The NOFO Project Application and Scoring Matrix reflects this priority. We plan to acknowledge the realities Anchorage is facing in the context of HUD's priorities in our briefing with the Rank and Review Committee. We know that providers want to provide permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness but also know that what is working in Anchorage often requires leveraging other resources such as transitional housing due to community challenges.

Finally, thank you for your service to Anchorage's most vulnerable people. Your dedicated service under challenging circumstances does not go unnoticed. We look forward to continuing to partner with you to make homelessness rare, brief and one time.

Sincerely,

Meg Zaletel

Executive Director