

## HUD Equity Demo

For years, communities have been frustrated by assessment tools, prioritization processes, and general practices within coordinated entry systems that do not provide what they need to equitably assess the housing and services needs of their clients nor prioritize clients for appropriate housing in an equitable way. HUD is supporting an eight (8) community “Equity Demo” with a cohort of CoCs that will work together to design more equitable assessment and prioritization processes.

We understand the incredible amount of work you’re doing to respond to COVID-19; we also know the stark racial inequities associated with COVID-19 and its impact on communities of color. You’re likely thinking about how to do more equitable work – you’re being invited to join the first cohort because you’ve either expressed interest or are known for doing racial equity work and may appreciate the cohort model this Demo is offering. The goal of this Equity Demo is to design and adopt a system-wide equitable assessment and prioritization process that helps to increase racially equitable housing stability outcomes.

The Equity Demo will meet communities where they are and be complementary to local efforts and existing HUD TA. To inform your decision regarding participation, we anticipate the following time needed from a small local team (4-5 people) that includes your CoC Lead, coordinated entry team, and a data coordinator/administrator:

- Cohort kick off with 8 communities to discuss project (anticipated in mid to late August)
- Weekly meeting with coach(es); if you need more than one hour/week with coaches, you can have that.
- Inclusion of people with lived experience in all phases of the demo project, ideally within a local group that is already paid for their time
- Cohort check in every 2 weeks to share learning and problem solve challenges.
- Presentation on lessons learned at the end of the demo

To effectively participate, your CoC must be willing to share data with our data team and your coach. We will offer access to the data team throughout your participation in the Equity Demo. This Demo will include a 30-day PDSA (Plan, Do, Study, Act) Cycle. For example, if your CoC has a disproportionate number of Indigenous people, you may decide to test questions and factors that reflect the unique experiences of that population for inclusion in your assessment and prioritization processes.

There are many benefits to participating. Benefits will include free racial equity learning opportunities for your team (topics to include cultural humility and disrupting implicit bias).

### Additional Benefits:

- Complementary coaching, working alongside current TA, and also access to a team of coaches within the Equity demo
- More equitable process that takes into account your CoC demographics
- Longterm: increased housing stability for disproportionate populations because they will be matched more appropriately up front
- Contributing to national learning that will benefit CoCs all over the country - presenting lessons learned as pioneers of this effort