

1C. Coordination and Engagement—Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations

To help you complete the CoC Application, HUD published resources at https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition, including:
 - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Continuum of Care Program Competition
 - FY 2021 CoC Application Detailed Instructions—essential in helping you maximize your CoC Application score by giving specific guidance on how to respond to many questions and providing specific information about attachments you must upload
 - 24 CFR part 578

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| 1C-1. | Coordination with Federal, State, Local, Private, and Other Organizations. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.b. | |
| | In the chart below: | |
| 1. | select yes or no for entities listed that are included in your CoC’s coordination, planning, and operations of projects that serve individuals, families, unaccompanied youth, persons who are fleeing domestic violence who are experiencing homelessness, or those at risk of homelessness; or | |
| 2. | select Nonexistent if the organization does not exist within your CoC’s geographic area. | |

| | Entities or Organizations Your CoC Coordinates with for Planning or Operations of Projects | Coordinates with Planning or Operations of Projects |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | Funding Collaboratives | Yes |
| 2. | Head Start Program | Yes |
| 3. | Housing and services programs funded through Local Government | Yes |
| 4. | Housing and services programs funded through other Federal Resources (non-CoC) | Yes |
| 5. | Housing and services programs funded through private entities, including Foundations | Yes |
| 6. | Housing and services programs funded through State Government | Yes |
| 7. | Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) | Yes |
| 8. | Housing and services programs funded through U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) | Yes |
| 9. | Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) | Yes |
| 10. | Indian Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) (Tribal Organizations) | Nonexistent |
| 11. | Organizations led by and serving Black, Brown, Indigenous and other People of Color | No |
| 12. | Organizations led by and serving LGBT persons | Yes |
| 13. | Organizations led by and serving people with disabilities | Yes |
| 14. | Private Foundations | Yes |
| 15. | Public Housing Authorities | Yes |
| 16. | Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) | Nonexistent |
| 17. | Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) | Yes |
| | Other:(limit 50 characters) | |
| 18. | | |

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| 1C-2. | CoC Consultation with ESG Program Recipients. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.b. | |

Describe in the field below how your CoC:

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| 1. | consulted with ESG Program recipients in planning and allocating ESG and ESG-CV 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 within your CoC's geographic area so it could be addressed in Consolidated Plan update. |

(limit 2,000 characters)

1. The CoC is part of 2 ESG jurisdictions, the City of Rockford and the State of Illinois. For both jurisdictions, the CoC meets and recommends the allocations for ESG funding through the CoC process. COC members in cooperation with the Collaborative Applicant made all State ESG-CV funds available to local providers. 2. The group then agreed that the City's Community Action Agency would retain all of the entitlement ESG-CV funding to use since the other funded agencies were not able to take any more funding. At that time recipients agreed that some of the funding should be for non-congregate (ES) shelters so that we could keep our population safe from the virus in addition to increasing RRH and street outreach. The Collaborative Applicant evaluates and monitors the performance of the ESG funded sub-recipients and reports its findings to the CoC. In addition, The CoC implemented the following ESG related policies to improve coordination; low/no barrier shelters, intact families, domestic violence relocations and rapid rehousing. These policies, as approved by the CoC ensure that the entitlement areas are utilizing their ESG funding in a way to ensure homeless persons receive appropriate services. 3. The CoC provides PIT data for report purposes as well as uploading the ESG csv data files used for the CR 70 & 75. Agencies providing emergency shelter, transitional housing, and outreach ensure that their records are up to date in HMIS so PIT numbers are accurate. 4. City of Rockford staff that are responsible for writing the Consolidated Plan are frequent attendees at CoC meetings. CoC members and the collaborative applicant work with City Staff to write the Consolidated Plan, especially the sections on homeless needs, affordable housing, and greatest needs. CoC members also attend and assist in presenting data at the community hearings Consolidated Plan and the Action Plan.

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| 1C-3. | Ensuring Families are not Separated. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.c. | |

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate how your CoC ensures emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing (PSH and RRH) do not deny admission or separate family members regardless of each family member's self-reported gender:

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| 1. | Conducted mandatory training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated. | No |
| 2. | Conducted optional training for all CoC- and ESG-funded service providers to ensure families are not separated. | No |
| 3. | Worked with ESG recipient(s) to adopt uniform anti-discrimination policies for all subrecipients. | Yes |
| 4. | Worked with ESG recipient(s) to identify both CoC- and ESG-funded facilities within your CoC's geographic area that might be out of compliance and took steps to work directly with those facilities to bring them into compliance. | Yes |
| 5. | Sought assistance from HUD by submitting AAQs or requesting technical assistance to resolve noncompliance of service providers. | No |
| 6. | Other. (limit 150 characters) | |
| | implemented a CoC policy prohibiting separation of families | Yes |

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| 1C-4. | CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—SEAs, LEAs, Local Liaisons & State Coordinators. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.d. | |

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| Describe in the field below: | |
| 1. | how your CoC collaborates with youth education providers; |
| 2. | your CoC's formal partnerships with youth education providers; |
| 3. | how your CoC collaborates with State Education Agency (SEA) and Local Education Agency (LEA); |
| 4. | your CoC's formal partnerships with SEAs and LEAs; |
| 5. | how your CoC collaborates with school districts; and |
| 6. | your CoC's formal partnerships with school districts. |

(limit 2,000 characters)

The Regional Department of Ed (ROE) and the Rockford Schools (RSD), the largest in our services area, have both been CoC members for years. These organizations, along with DeKalb/Boone County, Belvidere, and Harlem School Districts have homeless liaisons who collaborate with CoC agencies. They work closely with shelter/TH providers to ensure youth are getting the services they need to remain successful. Liaisons from the RSD participate in the Youth & Family Case Conferencing, providing information and assisting in getting homeless off the streets. DeKalb agencies meet regularly with ROE and local schools. Teachers reach out to Hope Haven when they know they have a homeless student in the class. The CES provider has an MOU in place with RSD that they will work together to get homeless families or unaccompanied youth to the CES system to help them move toward permanent housing. The youth case conferencing committee created a referral form for the school district to use, to make sure homeless youth are referred to CES. During the pandemic, this form was not utilized much but we are using it again for the 2021 school year. There are policies in place (both agency & CoC policies) ensuring that our homeless programs work in cooperation with local school districts and their homeless programs. DeKalb, Winnebago and Boone County providers work closely with ROE to ensure students are accessing services, and additional resources, including assistance with college admissions. Formal partnership includes ROE membership in the CoC and the ROE provides documentation that a student was homeless prior to college application/admission. Shelter and housing programs partner with the local school districts individually and have their own formal agreements with local districts to ensure services such as transportation. Each agency has an assigned educational liaison who works directly with the schools to ensure everything goes smoothly.

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| 1C-4a. | CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—Educational Services—Informing Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness about Eligibility. | |
| NOFO Section VII.B.1.d. | | |

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 2,000 characters)

The CoC voted to adopt HUD's guidance on education services. The policy states the following. The Continuum requires that each agency receiving funding, either through the Continuum of Care (CoC) or Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Programs, coordinates with local education providers to ensure that homeless families and unaccompanied youth are aware of and access the educational resources available to them. Agencies receiving CoC or ESG funding must designate a staff member to be responsible for ensuring that children and youth access appropriate education services, by being enrolled in school, early childhood programs, or other relevant education programs within the community. Agencies must designate a staff member to be responsible for ensuring that all families who are homeless understand the implications of this policy, and their decision-making rights under it. This must be a named person, one who will meet with families, initially and as needed, to explain all resources and opportunities available to the family so that families can make informed choices. An agency representative should maintain regular contact with local school liaisons, and other community education representatives to ensure that the agency can offer immediate and balanced services to homeless families, as well as a breadth of resources available to the family outside of those provided directly by the agency.

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| 1C-4b. | CoC Collaboration Related to Children and Youth—Educational Services—Written/Formal Agreements or Partnerships with Early Childhood Services Providers. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.d. | |

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate whether your CoC has written formal agreements or partnerships with the listed providers of early childhood services:

| | | MOU/MOA | Other Formal Agreement |
|-----|--|---------|------------------------|
| 1. | Birth to 3 years | No | Yes |
| 2. | Child Care and Development Fund | No | Yes |
| 3. | Early Childhood Providers | No | Yes |
| 4. | Early Head Start | No | Yes |
| 5. | Federal Home Visiting Program—(including Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home and Visiting or MIECHV) | No | Yes |
| 6. | Head Start | Yes | Yes |
| 7. | Healthy Start | No | No |
| 8. | Public Pre-K | No | Yes |
| 9. | Tribal Home Visiting Program | No | No |
| | Other (limit 150 characters) | | |
| 10. | | | |

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| 1C-5. | Addressing Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors—Annual Training—Best Practices. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.e. | |

Describe in the field below how your CoC coordinates to provide training for:

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| 1. | Project staff that addresses safety and best practices (e.g., trauma-informed, victim-centered) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually); and |
| 2. | Coordinated Entry staff that addresses safety and best practices (e.g., trauma informed care) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence and indicate the frequency of the training in your response (e.g., monthly, semi-annually). |

(limit 2,000 characters)

1. Remedies, our local DV provider, hosted training to a CoC audience in fall 2020. During the training Remedies provided domestic violence education surrounding the following topics: Patterns of coercive control; Manipulative tactics; Use of children/courts to maintain contact with survivors; Lethality risks; Safety planning; Forms of domestic violence which can include emotional, physical and sexual abuse; How abusive persons may misrepresent themselves to gain access to our or your services; Voluntary services; Coping through substance use; Mental health through the lens of domestic violence; How survivors may present; Shame of domestic violence; How access to services cannot be denied due to substance use, mental illness and criminal history; and Remedies services which include 24-hour emergency shelter and hotline services, legal advocacy and non-residential counseling and advocacy. Remedies is an active member of the CoC and provide domestic violence advocacy and education to CoC members at each meeting. Since Winnebago County has been implementing their "Trauma Informed Community" work, staff at most CoC's agencies have received training on TIC at least annually. Providers are looking for a date before the end of this year to have another CoC training. 2. CES staff has participated in Trauma Informed Care training and also attended the 40 hour Domestic Violence training through the Illinois Coalition against Domestic Violence which also included an additional 20 hours of online training which taught best practices in working with survivors including safety planning. Staff will attend TIC training at least annually, in 2021 all CES staff attending virtual training through OrgCode. The CES has also hired a DV specialist, she has been through extensive DV training, been a trainer herself, and is very well skilled in safety planning, trauma informed care, and other best practices.

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| 1C-5a. | Addressing Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors—Using De-identified Aggregate Data. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.e. | |

Describe in the field below how your CoC uses de-identified aggregate data from a comparable database to assess the special needs related to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking survivors.

(limit 2,000 characters)

Our CoC collects de-identified data from our local DV provider who receives ESG funding. Part of this data is the results of clients surveys as well as case management needs identified by survivors. We also use data obtained by law enforcement and other first responders to understand the special needs of survivors. Some of the identified needs include a safe place beyond emergency shelter, transportation to other communities where a support system exists and advocacy between the survivor and child welfare agencies.

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| 1C-5b. | Addressing Needs of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Survivors—Coordinated Assessment—Safety, Planning, and Confidentiality Protocols. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.e. | |

Describe in the field below how your CoC's coordinated entry system protocols incorporate trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches while maximizing client choice for housing and services that:

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|----|----------------------------------|
| 1. | prioritize safety; |
| 2. | use emergency transfer plan; and |
| 3. | ensure confidentiality. |

(limit 2,000 characters)

1. All survivors of domestic violence receive a full intake and assessment regardless of housing status. CES staff has been trained in trauma-informed care practices and families can be entered into HMIS anonymously, if they choose. Survivors can also do CES intakes over the phone if there are safety concerns about them coming inside. They are then referred to the Remedies Domestic Violence Service Center and Shelter for placement and safety planning. Survivors who choose not to access Remedies receive safety planning through the CES. They would be assigned to our DV specialist who will help them create the safety plan and to select housing options that will give them choice while taking safety into account. 2. The CoC has an emergency transfer plan that agencies are required to use that take into account federal VAWA legislation. Staff must let survivors know these policies and make them aware of laws protecting them. 3. All CoC funded housing programs are required to have confidentiality and safety policies for survivors of domestic violence. CoC member agencies also receive regular training on DV and human trafficking. Recently the city has opened the Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Prevention which is another source of advocacy and assistance for those experiencing those traumas.

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| 1C-6. | Addressing the Needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender—Anti-Discrimination Policy and Training. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.f. | |

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| 1. | Did your CoC implement a written CoC-wide anti-discrimination policy ensuring that LGBT individuals and families receive supportive services, shelter, and housing free from discrimination? | Yes |
| 2. | Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement the Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity (Equal Access Final Rule)? | No |
| 3. | Did your CoC conduct annual CoC-wide training with providers on how to effectively implement Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs in Accordance with an Individual's Gender Identity (Gender Identity Final Rule)? | No |

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| 1C-7. | Public Housing Agencies within Your CoC's Geographic Area—New Admissions—General/Limited Preference—Moving On Strategy. You Must Upload an Attachment(s) to the 4B. Attachments Screen. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.g. | |

Enter information in the chart below for the two largest PHAs highlighted in gray on the CoC-PHA Crosswalk Report at <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/FY-2020-CoC-PHA-Crosswalk-Report.pdf> or the two PHAs your CoC has a working relationship with—if there is only one PHA in your CoC’s geographic area, provide information on the one:

| Public Housing Agency Name | Enter the Percent of New Admissions into Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program During FY 2020 who were experiencing homelessness at entry | Does the PHA have a General or Limited Homeless Preference? | Does the PHA have a Preference for current PSH program participants no longer needing intensive supportive services, e.g., Moving On? |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Rockford Housing Authority | 47% | Yes-Both | No |
| Winnebago County Housing Authority | | No | No |

| | | |
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| 1C-7a. | Written Policies on Homeless Admission Preferences with PHAs. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.g. | |

Describe in the field below:

- steps your CoC has taken, with the two largest PHAs within your CoC’s geographic area or the two PHAs your CoC has working relationships with, to adopt a homeless admission preference—if your CoC only has one PHA within its geographic area, you may respond for the one; or
- state that your CoC has not worked with the PHAs in its geographic area to adopt a homeless admission preference.

(limit 2,000 characters)

1. The CoC has worked with our two largest PHA's listed above and additionally the Housing Authority of the County of DeKalb (HACD). Rockford Housing Authority (RHA) has had a general "homeless preference" for some time but agreed as of 2020 to add two more points for homeless persons coming from CoC agencies and for those coming from CES. This is in addition to their preference for victims of DV, youth aging out of foster care, and veterans who could all be potentially homeless. The CoC has talked at length with Winnebago County HA (WCHA) about adding a general homeless preference for their various programs. They have not yet done that but they do also have the veteran, DV, and foster youth preferences. They also have a preference in HCV for homeless to get preference for Mainstream vouchers. In addition, several years back they did agree to open up spaces for "moving on". The HACD provides a preference on both waiting lists for applicant families currently residing in Emergency Shelter, Transitional Shelter, Permanent Supportive Housing or participating at/in/through a participating DeKalb County Supportive Service Agency. This provides a preference for any person/family receiving homeless services and encourages individuals and families to continue with support services as a means to gaining access to housing faster. HACD is a CoC rental assistance grant recipient and is also a housing provider that works with a not for profit agency that provides 26 Units for Chronically Homeless and 11 units for disabled severely mentally ill homeless persons.

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| 1C-7b. | Moving On Strategy with Affordable Housing Providers. | |
| | Not Scored—For Information Only | |

Select yes or no in the chart below to indicate affordable housing providers in your CoC's jurisdiction that your recipients use to move program participants to other subsidized housing:

| | | |
|----|--|-----|
| 1. | Multifamily assisted housing owners | Yes |
| 2. | PHA | Yes |
| 3. | Low Income Tax Credit (LIHTC) developments | Yes |
| 4. | Local low-income housing programs | Yes |
| | Other (limit 150 characters) | |
| 5. | | |

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| 1C-7c. | Including PHA-Funded Units in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry System. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.g. | |

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| Does your CoC include PHA-funded units in the CoC's coordinated entry process? | Yes |
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| 1C-7c.1. | Method for Including PHA-Funded Units in Your CoC's Coordinated Entry System. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.g. | |

If you selected yes in question 1C-7c., describe in the field below:

| | |
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| 1. | how your CoC includes the units in its Coordinated Entry process; and |
| 2. | whether your CoC's practices are formalized in written agreements with the PHA, e.g., MOUs. |

(limit 2,000 characters)

1. The CES system makes direct referrals to all or any PHA's in the jurisdiction that the client chooses. Referrals are provided in addition to homeless verification letters when appropriate to ensure participants get the appropriate preference points. CES works closely with the VA to refer veterans for VASH vouchers through all local PHA's. CES staff complete applications for Mainstream vouchers through WCHA/BCHA and EHV vouchers with RHA and HACD. CES staff also work directly with WCHA on FUP voucher and providing follow up services. For these specialized vouchers, Mainstreams and EHV, applicants must come through the CES. Other "regular" PHA programs give preference to homeless clients but applicants are not required to come through CES. 2. Yes, there are formal MOU's in place between the CoC and RHA, WCHA (BCHA), and HACD.

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| 1C-7d. | Submitting CoC and PHA Joint Applications for Funding for People Experiencing Homelessness. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.g. | |

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| Did your CoC coordinate with a PHA(s) to submit a joint application(s) for funding of projects serving families experiencing homelessness (e.g., applications for mainstream vouchers, Family Unification Program (FUP), other non-federal programs)? | Yes |
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| 1C-7d.1. | CoC and PHA Joint Application—Experience—Benefits. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.g. | |

If you selected yes to question 1C-7d, describe in the field below:

| | |
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| 1. | the type of joint project applied for; |
| 2. | whether the application was approved; and |
| 3. | how your CoC and families experiencing homelessness benefited from the coordination. |

(limit 2,000 characters)

1. The collaborative applicant worked with the PHA's (on behalf of the CoC and CES) to submit joint applications for both FUP vouchers and Mainstream vouchers.
2. Yes, both applications were approved.
3. By working on the application together and having the MOU's in place, all parties knew upfront what the expectations were and were able to work accordingly to provide clients services as quickly as possible. This resulted in homeless families having less barriers to housing and allowing them to get housed quickly while being connected to any other services that they would need.

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| 1C-7e. | Coordinating with PHA(s) to Apply for or Implement HCV Dedicated to Homelessness Including American Rescue Plan Vouchers. | |
| | NOFO Section VII.B.1.g. | |

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| Did your CoC coordinate with any PHA to apply for or implement funding provided for Housing Choice Vouchers dedicated to homelessness, including vouchers provided through the American Rescue Plan? | No |
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| 1C-7e.1. | Coordinating with PHA(s) to Administer Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV) Program—List of PHAs with MOUs. | |
| | Not Scored—For Information Only | |

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| Did your CoC enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with any PHA to administer the EHV Program? | Yes |
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If you select yes, you must use the list feature below to enter the name of every PHA your CoC has entered into a MOU with to administer the Emergency Housing Voucher Program.

| |
|----------------------|
| PHA |
| Rockford Housing ... |
| Housing Authority... |