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## 2019 Iowa Balance of State (IA-501) Continuum of Care (CoC) Grantee Renewal Application

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### APPLICANT NAME AND INFORMATION

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**Organization Name:** Muscatine Center for Social Action

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**Renewal Project Name:** MCSA Rapid Rehousing Initiative

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**Project Name(s) as appearing in HMIS/DVIMS:** MCSA Rapid Rehousing

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**Grant Identifier:** IA0108

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**Project Type:** Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

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**Projected number of clients to be served in renewal grant period:** 35

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**Anticipated Renewal Amount:** 191332.00

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**Verify current registration in federal System for Award Management:** Yes

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**DUNS #:** 833902323

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**Counties Served by Project:** Muscatine County

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**Address of Administrative Office:** 312 Iowa Avenue  
Muscatine, IA 52761

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**Primary Contact Name:** Scott Dahlke

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**Primary Contact Phone:** (563) 264-3278

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**Primary Contact Email:** sdahlke@mcsaiowa.org

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**Secondary Contact Name:** Jennifer Leirness

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**Secondary Contact Phone:** (563) 264-3278

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**Secondary Contact Email:** jleirness@mcsaiowa.org

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### THRESHOLD ASSURANCES

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**Having too little or no income:** NOT a Barrier

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<b>Having a criminal record with exceptions for state, and/or federal restrictions:</b>	NOT a Barrier
<b>Fleeing domestic violence (e.g., lack of a protective order, period of separation from abuser, or law enforcement involvement):</b>	NOT a Barrier
<b>Having (or not having) a previous address within Iowa:</b>	NOT a Barrier
<b>Failure to comply with HUD's 2016 Gender Identity Rule: (<a href="https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1991/equal-access-to-housing-final-rule/">https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/1991/equal-access-to-housing-final-rule/</a>)</b>	NOT a Barrier
<b>Failure to comply with Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity Requirements including assuring non-discrimination on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and familial status and disability.</b>	NOT a Barrier
<b>Attach project Policies &amp; Procedures to verify barrier statuses selected above:</b>	<a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74759947/510865430/74759947_mcsa_rrh_stability_program.pdf">https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74759947/510865430/74759947_mcsa_rrh_stability_program.pdf</a>

## CONTINUUM OF CARE PARTICIPATION

<b>1. a. What percentage of your clients served do you feel were referred through coordinated entry? Explain your response.</b>	All of our Rapid Rehousing clients at Muscatine Center for Social Action are referred or come through the coordinated entry process. Since the start of Muscatine Center for Social Action's participation in coordinated entry in December 2018, our process has been to receive Rapid Rehousing clients from the pull list, and get them integrated into our program that way. Using this method of keeping track of all clients through coordinated entry has helped us maintain a standard procedure and maintain consistency over time. Additionally, since Rapid Rehousing is a newer project for MCSA, using coordinated entry to cooperate with community and regional partners to get people into affordable housing has been easier with a set process for receiving clients.
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**1. b. Describe timeline/progress of Coordinated Entry in your region. Explain your project's participation in Coordinated Entry and the steps taken to support the Coordinated Entry process in the project's region.**

MCSA went live for coordinated entry in December 2018 and has been leading regular weekly pull meetings since the launch. We are the lead for the Southeast IA Coordinated Service Region, which is comprised of Cedar, Des Moines, Henry, Lee, Louisa, and Muscatine counties. Along with other agencies, MCSA has met with Burlington Area Shelter, Emma Cornelis Hospitality House, and Muscatine County Community Services to encourage participation. Our role in terms of timeline and progress of coordinated entry has been to encourage other agencies to start participating. Memorandums of Understanding have been established by agencies in the region to participate in coordinated entry, and MCSA serves as a central point of support for those surrounding agencies in our region to learn more about and utilize coordinated entry. Moving forward, MCSA will reach out to school liaisons and law enforcement for possible involvement in coordinated entry too.

**2. Since January 2018, have representatives of your project attended at least three bimonthly meetings of the Iowa Council on Homelessness? Note that anyone can participate in Council meetings even if not a voting member. Posted meeting minutes must be available to verify attendance.**

Since before January 2018, a representative from MCSA has attended Iowa Council on Homelessness meetings. Jodi Royal-Goodwin, the City of Muscatine's Community Development Director, has been governor appointed to serve in this capacity, and she relays information to MCSA. Ms. Royal-Goodwin attended the following meetings: January 19th, March 20th, and July 20th 2018, as well as January 18th, April 4th, and May 17th 2019. Her involvement with this role has proven to be helpful, and the relationship between Muscatine Center for Social Action and the City of Muscatine is stronger due to this consistent interaction and sharing of important information. Also due to this, Muscatine Municipal Housing Authority is a member of our Coordinated Service Region.

**3. a. Describe professional development opportunities (conferences, meeting, trainings, webinars, etc.) related to Homelessness in which representatives of your project have participated within the last 12 months.**

Jennifer Leirness: Annual Meeting of Balance of State for CoC Grantees, 4/24/19 Cedar Rapids IA.  
Nebraska/Iowa Peer to Peer Homelessness Symposium, 6/5/19-6/6/19 Lincoln, NE.  
Scott Dahlke: Nebraska/Iowa Peer to Peer Homelessness Symposium, 6/5/19-6/6/19 Lincoln, NE.  
Teresa Cardoza: Crisis Intervention Training 4/1/19-4/5/19 Clinton, IA.  
Fair Housing training, 10/16/10 Muscatine, IA.  
Ashley Curtis: Rethinking Crisis training, 5/22/19 Davenport, IA.  
Joanna Green: Nebraska/Iowa Peer to Peer Homelessness Symposium, 6/5/19-6/6/19, Lincoln, NE.  
Mental Health First Aid, 3/21/29 Durant, IA.  
Iowa Balance of State Continuum of Care Coordinated Entry system training,  
Jason Dornbush: HMIS Service Point training, 3/22/19 Des Moines, IA.

**3. b. From the mentioned above, list the top three (3) most useful experiences and describe how your project implemented information gained from them?**

These training experiences have assisted staff in becoming more knowledgeable about initiatives to end homelessness. The top 3 most influential experiences were the 2018 Iowa/Nebraska Peer to Peer Homelessness Symposium, the 2018 Flock the Block Housing Iowa Conference in which MCSA was the recipient of the award for Special Needs Development, and the 2019 Nebraska/Iowa Peer to Peer Homelessness Symposium. Due to these experiences, our Rapid Rehousing project, and other projects, have benefited from the information gained. At both symposiums, MCSA staff was able to discuss Rapid Rehousing with other professionals, which allowed us to learn new ways of enhancing our programs. The Housing Iowa Conference hosted useful opportunities to learn more about initiatives to end homelessness.

**4. a. In the past year, describe your agency's activities/engagement/involvement with one or more local Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) about implementing a homeless admission preference in their written policies for the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) or Public Housing programs:**

In the past year, MCSA has worked closely with Jodi Royal-Goodwin and staff at Muscatine Municipal Housing Authority (MMHA) to provide assistance to those experiencing homelessness, and to improve services for those at risk or homeless. Scott Dahlke, Executive Director, and Joanna Green, Housing Stability Navigator are involved, and MCSA administers and provides services for 10 vouchers with MMHA for families who are literally homeless. There are also 10 project-based vouchers with MMHA that can be used at an MCSA housing project to provide permanent supportive housing options for those in Muscatine County. Through this partnership, MCSA and MMHA are able to provide better care for those facing homelessness and get them in affordable housing faster. Staff meet regularly to discuss client progress and referrals for vouchers. Muscatine County staff also work together with both groups to allocate resources to those in need of housing as well.

**4. a. Please attach documentation to verify, such as an email chain or meeting notes.**

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74770101/510865430/74770101\\_mmha\\_project-based\\_waiting\\_lists.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74770101/510865430/74770101_mmha_project-based_waiting_lists.pdf)

**4. b. In the past year, describe your agency's activities/engagement/involvement with local affordable housing providers (e.g. multifamily assisted housing owners, PHAs, Low Income Housing Tax Credit developments, or local low-income housing programs) about implementing a Move On strategy (Informational resource: <https://www.csh.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Moving-On-Chapter-6-Final.pdf>):**

In the past year, MCSA has maintained its strong relationship with MMHA to work to implement a Move On strategy. Scott Dahlke and Joanna Green collaborate with Jodi Royal-Goodwin, and have continued work on this. The MMHA reserves a set of vouchers that helps those move into affordable housing after they no longer need such intensive services, but need the opportunity to live in affordable housing. Additionally, MCSA opened its own affordable apartment complex in 2018, where guests can still receive case management, but at a more relaxed/less frequent level. This serves as a chance for people to learn valuable renting skills and continue to get back on track before moving on to a different housing option in the future when they are ready. Scott Dahlke has also been in communication with Anawim Housing in Des Moines, and Horizons Architects about creating more affordable housing.

**4. b. Please attach documentation to verify, such as an email chain or meeting notes.**

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74770192/510865430/74770192\\_mmha\\_preference\\_policy.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74770192/510865430/74770192_mmha_preference_policy.pdf)

**5. In the past year, to what extent has your agency taken steps locally to educate communities on the issues of homelessness: (e.g. decriminalization of homelessness engaging local policymakers, law enforcement, or business leaders; implementing community plan)?**

In the past year, MCSA has been educating communities on the issues of homeless. In 2019, staff members Scott Dahlke and Jennifer Leirness have given 20+ tours of MCSA, the most recent being to an elementary school on 5/23/19. On tours, staff make an effort to decriminalize homelessness by the way we speak about the homeless experience. On 5/9/18 MCSA welcomed Dr. Jerry Anthony to town to speak to over 200 people about the impact of housing, and decriminalizing homelessness. MCSA stays in contact with policymakers including Rep. Gary Carlson and Sen. Mark Lofgren to make sure the struggles that our clients face remain a priority. The MCSA Board of Directors hosts Sgt. Vince Motto, of the Muscatine Police Department, and this relationship helps maintain positive contact with law enforcement. MCSA networks with local businesses as well. The collaboration between these agencies and businesses is crucial in implementing a community plan to address homelessness and provide education.

**6. In the past year, to what extent has your agency taken steps locally to prevent the discharge of persons from local systems of care (foster care, health care, mental health care, correctional facilities) into homelessness?**

In MCSA's pursuit of providing housing, basic health care, educational and support services to those in need in Muscatine County, we take steps locally to prevent the discharge of persons from systems of care into homelessness. Sgt. Motto of the Muscatine Police Department sits on the MCSA Board of Directors, and this involvement helps MCSA staff to create a better relationship with local correctional facilities. Additionally, MCSA regularly meets with parole officers to better understand the needs of those on parole. This cooperation allows MCSA to intercept/redirect those exiting correctional facilities and help them avoid homelessness. In July 2018, MCSA opened a Downtown Wellness Clinic in partnership with the local hospital to offer health related services to the low income population, and this helped those discharging from the healthcare system. MCSA is also opening a Wellness Recovery Center in our shelter to better support those with mental health conditions.

**7. a. Did your agency participate in the street (unsheltered) count in counties served by your project and how?**

Muscatine Center for Social Action did participate in the unsheltered street count in Muscatine County. Staff members ventured into the night to areas that our community commonly sees people who are homelessness. We also made contact with City employees and the local Police, Sheriff, and Fire Departments for input on where they may have notices signs around our community. We also assisted in mobilizing and organizing agencies in our Coordinated Services Region including Community Action of Southeast Iowa, Burlington Area Shelter, Emma Cornelis Hospitality House, the VA, and others.

**7. b. Did your agency submit the PIT/HIC information for your projects by the set submission deadline? If not, why?**

Teresa Cardoza, Shelter Manager at Muscatine Center for Social Action, submitted all data for our projects by the submission date.

**8. List at least one representative of your project participate in the April 2019 Annual Meeting of Iowa Balance of State CoC Grantees. Describe any special participation your agency performed in regards to the meeting.**

Two representatives from Muscatine Center for Social Action attended and participated in the April 2019 Annual Meeting of Iowa Balance of State CoC Grantees. Jennifer Leirness, MCSA Resource Development Officer, and Angela Boelens, former Program Director, attended and participated.

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## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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**9. a. Has this project completed it's first grant full grant cycle? (i.e. 1st year renewal with end date after application date?)**

No

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**9. c. Grant amount:**

179099.00

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**9. d. Total funds expended:**

0.00

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**9. e. Funds remaining (unexpended funds):**

179099.00

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**9. f. Unexpended funds % (unexpended funds/grant amount):**

100.00

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**9. g. Your project had 5% or more of unexpended funds, please explain why funds were not expended. If this is a new grant explain you projected spend down date and if you are on track for full expenditure of funds.**

Within the last year, Muscatine Center for Social Action has experienced staff turnover, which has partially impacted the progress of this grant. We are happy to report that we are close to finishing the last step and will soon be able to start expending the funds. Our staff members experienced a strong learning curve when learning how to navigate the eLOCCS system, and receiving the help needed has taken time. Despite this roadblock, staff members are working together to solve this and move forward. There is a need for Rapid Rehousing in Muscatine County, and there are clients that will be served by this grant in the near future. The opportunity to renew funding is one that MCSA values, and we look forward to the possibility of being able to extend our Rapid Rehousing program into the coming years.

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**11. a. Has HUD monitored the project within the past two years?**

No

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**12. a. Failure to participate in supportive services and/or failure to make progress on a service plan:**

No

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**12. b. Loss of income or failure to improve income:**

No

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**12. c. Active substance abuse:**

No

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12. d. Any other activity not covered in a lease agreement typically found in the project's geographic area:	No
12. e. Ensure that every effort is made to help participants transition to other housing options when continuation in this project is jeopardized or about to expire?	Yes
12. f. Attach the project's written termination policy. The effective date must be evident on the policy.	<a href="https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74776944/510865430/74776944_mcsa_-termination_of_assistance.docx.pdf">https://s3.amazonaws.com/files.formstack.com/uploads/3367170/74776944/510865430/74776944_mcsa_-termination_of_assistance.docx.pdf</a>
13. a. Transportation assistance is provided to clients to attend mainstream benefit appointments, employment training, or jobs.	True
13. b. At least semi-annual follow-ups are attempted with participants after project exit to ensure that mainstream benefits are received and renewed (and for RRH projects, to verify that housing stability is maintained) for a period of X years.	True
13. c. Annual interim reviews with current clients are being completed with 30 days of anniversary date to check on client well-being and update all relevant data including: income, disability status, health care, etc.	False
13. d. Project participants have access to SSI/SSDI technical assistance provided by the applicant, a sub-recipient, or partner agency.	True
14. Did the number of clients served by your project achieve or exceed your estimated levels of service when you last applied/renewed this grant? Explain, success/difficulties.	Although MCSA has not logged Rapid Rehousing clients yet to the current grant, we see in our Emergency Solutions Grant tracking that the number of clients served by our Rapid Rehousing Program are what we expected. Based on our current numbers, we believe that there is and will continue to be a high need in Muscatine for Rapid Rehousing programs, and the renewal of these funds is highly important to MCSA and the Muscatine Community.

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## PROJECT PERFORMANCE/EVALUATION

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## BONUS QUESTION

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**\*Bonus - Describe any specific services provided by your project specifically for youth/mental health/substance abuse:**

As the Muscatine Center for Social Action, we are always looking for ways to provide better services for more vulnerable populations like youth, those with mental health issues, and those who use substances. In our facility, we host the Eastern Iowa Crisis Management office, as well as the Robert Young Health Home office. These resources are helpful for those battling mental health issues and those using substances. Additionally, our mental health focused Wellness Recovery Center is anticipated to open on July 1st, 2019, which can be used by anyone in the community. Families take priority at MCSA, and we work hard to ensure the youth in those families are taken care of. Unaccompanied youth are welcomed to stay on a case by case basis and with approval from our Board of Directors.

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