

**Testimony of Shane Rock,  
CEO, Interfaith Works,**

April 23, 2019

Good afternoon. My name is Shane Rock. I am CEO of Interfaith Works and a member of this Commission.

Thank you for this opportunity to share thoughts on behalf of Interfaith Works regarding 2019 NOFA funding priorities.

We support continuing to prioritize populations in funding decisions including: Veterans, Chronic Homeless, Most Vulnerable, Families, Youth, and Families fleeing domestic violence.

In addition, we recommend three populations not currently prioritized for permanent supportive housing (PSH). First, expectant mothers are often in a precarious situation; housing is not planned for them until they reach the eight-and-a-half month point in their pregnancy. This population should be prioritized in some way. Perhaps using Family PSH as bridge housing. Second, we are seeing increasing numbers of older adults—62 or older—who are homeless. Their income opportunity is limited or non-existent, making successful rapid rehousing extremely difficult or impossible. PSH should be an option in these cases. And third, individuals with developmental disabilities who may not be able to respond to the SPDAT questions in a way that reflects their true need for PSH should be prioritized.

If there is a Bonus Project this year, we ask that the process be improved to include clear and specific written guidance on a qualifying proposal must contain, particularly with respect to populations served. Confusion during last year's Bonus Project competition regarding required populations to be served resulted in many applicants including families in their proposals, making those proposals less competitive. To ensure a fair process, a well-written and comprehensive guidance must be the basis of proposal evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.