



KCRHA
King County Regional Homelessness Authority

FY26 NOFO Rating Criteria

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Purpose Today

- Provide an update on revisions to data-based criteria.
- Familiarize the committee with the criteria for **new** projects
- Develop a shared understanding about the purpose and rationale for the recommendations to update NOFO rating criteria.
- Obtain input for changes that will be finalized in subsequent meetings.



Future Steps and Meetings

- Incorporate changes based on this discussion
- Review NOFO for other required changes
 - Analyze maximum and expected point allocations for new vs. renewing projects to ensure balance
- Vote on final criteria: **June 8**



The Why

- Align rating with stated HUD priorities while supporting local values.
- The December 2025 NOFO shifted point allocation requirements:
 - **At least 50% of the total points** available must account for objective criteria (e.g., cost effectiveness, performance data, type of population served).
 - **At least 25% of the total points** available must account for the following:
 - Returns to homelessness performance measure,
 - Employment income performance measure, and
 - Supportive service participation requirements.



Updates to Data-Based Criteria



Updates since April

- Overall approach:
 - Rebalance points to comply with HUD's FY26 NOFO (using FY25 as guidance).
 - Clarify and modernize metrics for more sophisticated data coding.
 - Emphasize “valuing what we value” locally while meeting federal requirements.
- Key recommendations integrated:
 - Use gradient scoring (e.g., full / partial / zero points) for higher-value criteria.



HMIS Metric Updates

- **Overall** – reduced total points per criteria:
 - Highest score for a single criteria is 10
 - Included gradient scoring and detailed ranges for each gradient.
- **For consideration:**
 - For programs that have no data to evaluate, what should the default score be?
 - For example, a program has 0 exits and therefore 0 exits to permanent housing – how should this be scored? Full points, mid-range, no points?



Zero Denominator and Missing Program Handling

- Some programs have **no exits** therefore **no denominator** for exit-based metrics (e.g. PSH, newer programs etc.)
- **Question:** How should programs with **no exits** be evaluated?



Exit Based Metric Types

- **Outcome-based metrics (positive outcomes)**

- No exits = no evidence of success
- Metrics:
 - Exits to permanent housing (non-PSH)
 - Exits to unsubsidized housing
 - Earned income at exits*
 - Non-earned income at exits

- **Penalty-based metrics (bad outcomes)**

- No exits = no evidence of failure
- Metrics:
 - Returns to homelessness*
 - Unknown exits
 - No financial resources at exits

* Key metrics for 2026 NOFO – metrics that must make up at least 25% of the total points available for housing projects (TH, PH-PSH, PH-RRH)



Options

- Follow rationale of outcome-based and penalty-based criteria:
 - Decide on an all or nothing scoring based on metric type
- Provide partial points
 - Decide on metrics that should be given partial points
- Establish point allocation scoring guidance for projects for 'stayers'
 - e.g. If x% of those in the program have earned income while enrolled, then score is x points.



New Project Rating Criteria

Metrics and Point Allocation Recommendations



CURRENT: Need For the Project/ Project Narrative (20 pts.)

Metric:

1. Demonstrates a Clear Need and Logical Plan
2. Experience and Expertise
3. Service Approach and Methodology
4. Target Population
5. Program Implementation and Fit
6. Unique Community Features

Worth: 20 points



Proposed Change - Need for the Project

**Break up into
2 measures**

Addressing System or Geographic Gaps

Partnership & Coordination



NEW - Addressing System or Geographic Gaps (10 pts.)

Metric:

The proposed project addresses an identified geographic or system gap (accessing services, strengthening crisis response, and improving housing stability) as documented by the CoC's needs assessment, gap analysis, or other published system priorities. Reviewers will consider the extent to which the project:

- Is located in, or specifically serves, areas identified as underserved; and/or
- Expands capacity in service areas or program types identified as priority gaps.



NEW - Partnerships & Coordination (6 pts.)

Metric:

- Demonstrates collaboration and system integration with:
 - Housing & Healthcare Partnerships: Coordinates with housing and healthcare providers.
 - Law Enforcement & First Responder Collaboration: Especially for SSO-Street Outreach; supports public safety and encampment reduction.
- 1 bonus point for MOUs or other formal agreements with Healthcare and Housing



CURRENT: Demonstration of Experience and Proposed Services (10 pts.)

Metric:

1. Operational Experience and System Performance Effectiveness
2. Supportive Services and System Coordination
3. Collaboration and Partnerships
4. Staffing and Expertise



Proposed Change - Demonstration of Experience

**Break up into
2 measures**

**Demonstration of Experience Operating
Proposed Services**

**Staffing and Qualifications & Staffing
Needs**



NEW - Demonstration of Experience Operating Proposed Services (5 pts.)

Metric:

- Demonstrates experience and expertise in providing proposed services.
- Provides adequate experience to deliver Rapid Rehousing, Transitional Housing or Supportive Services Only.
- Provides detail about the anticipated number of people housed and anticipates serving an underserved population.



NEW - Staffing and Qualifications & Staffing Needs (5 pts.)

Metric:

- Clearly explains how staff positions and their qualifications are designed to meet the needs of the program's participants.



NEW - Service Approach & Methodology (5 pts.)

Metric:

- Demonstrates a commitment to trauma-informed, person-centered approaches that maintain confidentiality and encourage wellbeing.



CURRENT: Data and Fiscal Management Practices (5 pts.)

Metric:

1. Experience and Capacity with Data Management

- **HMIS Data Management:** Demonstrates previous experience or provides a detailed explanation of their knowledge and capacity to collect and manage Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data.

2. Reporting Requirements

- **Experience with Reporting:** Has experience meeting reporting requirements for state, local, and/or federally funded programs, or demonstrates the ability to fulfill these requirements.

3. Financial Management and Health

- **Financial Overview:** Adequately describes the organization's revenue, financial health, and fiscal management system.
- **Fiscal Management System:** Maintains a fiscal management system with checks and balances that adheres to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) to safeguard all awarded funds. If the applicant lacks fiscal management capabilities, they must identify a fiscal sponsor.



Proposed Change - Data and Fiscal Management

**Break up into
2 measures**

HMIS & Data Management

Fiscal Management



NEW - HMIS & Data Management (5 pts.)

Metric:

- Demonstrates previous experience or provides a detailed explanation of their knowledge and capacity to collect and manage Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data. Has experience meeting reporting requirements for state, local, and/or federally funded programs, or demonstrates the ability to fulfill these requirements.



NEW – Fiscal Management (5 pts.)

Metric:

- Maintains a fiscal management system with checks and balances that adheres to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) to safeguard all awarded funds. If the applicant lacks fiscal management capabilities, they must identify a fiscal sponsor.



CURRENT - Project Budget (5 pts.)

Metric:

1. Staffing and Qualifications

- Staffing Needs: Clearly explains how staff positions and their qualifications are designed to meet the needs of the program's customers.

2. Budget Justification

- Budget Explanation: Provides a clear explanation for each budget item and its intended use. Budget items are logical and cost-effective.
- Funding Sources: If using funds from other sources, clearly lists those sources and provides a detailed explanation of budget allocations.

3. Match Requirement

- Match Requirement Compliance: Demonstrates the ability to meet the 25% match requirement for the funding.



Proposed Change - Project Budget

**Break up into
2 measures**

Budget Justification

Match Requirement



NEW - Budget Justification (5 pts.)

Metric:

- Provides a clear explanation for each budget item and its intended use. Budget items are logical and cost-effective, meets 2 CFR 200.404 standards.



NEW - Match Requirement (5 pts.)

Metric:

- Demonstrates the ability to meet the 25% match requirement for the funding.



NEW - Exits to Permanent Housing (10 pts.)

Metric:

- Clear plan to exit at least 50% of participants to permanent housing within 24 months.



NEW - Employment Income Outcomes (10 pts.)

Metric:

- Plan to achieve a gain of employment income for 50% of participants including examples and partnerships to support this goal.



NEW - Returns to Homelessness (10 pts.)

Metric:

- Strategy to support increase self-sufficiency of participants to reduce returns to homelessness.



NEW - Coordination with Mainstream Resources (5 pts.)

Metric:

- Demonstrates partnerships with Healthcare, Housing, SSI, SNAPs: MOUs, referrals, co-enrollment.



NEW - Supportive Service Participation (10 pts.)

Metric:

- Evidence of required engagement per 24 CFR 578.75(h).



NEW - Program Population Priority (3 pts.)

Metric:

- 100% of units/program dedicated/prioritizes Unsheltered Persons = 3pts
- 100% of units/program operates as “Recovery Based” Housing = 3pt
- 100% of units serve Elders, seniors and/or disabled persons = 3pt
- 100% of units/program serve Youth and Young Adults= 3pt
- 100% of units/program participants are fleeing Domestic Violence or Sex Trafficking = 3pt



NEW - Onsite Behavioral Health Treatment Supports (5 pts.)

Metric:

- The project demonstrates clear evidence of onsite behavioral health treatment supports, including a letter of agreement with the partner or team providing such services.



NEW - Program Component Priority (up to 3 pts.)

Metric:

- Rapid Rehousing = 3 pts
- Transitional Housing = 2 pts
- Support Services Only = 2 pts



Maintain - Inclusion of Lived Experience (5 pts.)

This metric will be maintained pending NOFO language.

Metric:

1. Partnership and Community Involvement
2. Feedback and Power Sharing
3. Board Representation
 - **DV-Specific:** Victim-Centered Practices



A Note on Point Allocations

The final point allocation and balance will be determined upon the publishing of the HUD FY 2026 NOFO to ensure alignment with the rule and guidance outlined in that document.



Next Steps

KCRHA staff will reconcile the recommendations with any input from today's presentation.

