



2026 Seattle-King County Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Local Competition Overview

Updated: May 6, 2025

Each year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides funding for homeless assistance programs authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, as amended by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act. These funds will be awarded through a national competitive process outlined in the anticipated HUD FY 2026 Continuum of Care Competition and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity (HUD FY 2026 NOFO).

The HUD FY 2026 NOFO establishes requirements for Continuums of Care (CoCs) and for individual project applicants included in each CoC's submission. In preparation for the HUD FY 2026 NOFO, the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA)—as the designated Collaborative Applicant for the Seattle–King County CoC—conducts an annual local competition and evaluation process (FY26 CoC Local Competition).

HUD has indicated the HUD FY 2026 NOFO will not post until late May 2026, but [previously released materials](#) indicate likely changes, which are reflected in this announcement.

Please direct your questions **via email** to coc.questions@kchra.org.

Timeline Overview

All dates discussed below reflect an anticipated timeline if the HUD FY 2026 NOFO is released on May 29, 2026. Dates, timelines, preferences, requirements and other details are subject to change.

Procurement standards require that a Notice of Funding Availability (Notice) be released for each of the anticipated local funding opportunities to carry out the directions of the HUD FY 2026 NOFO. These Notices are available on KCRHA's website and linked from each relevant section below.

New Projects – CoC General Bonus and DV Bonus
Notice Posting: May 5, 2026
Request for Proposal Release: June 10, 2026
Application Due Date: July 3, 2026
FY26 CoC Local Competition Results Shared: By August 10, 2026
HUD FY 2026 NOFO Due to HUD: August 26, 2026

Renewing or Transition/Replacement Projects – CoC & YHDP
Notice Posting: May 5, 2026
Application Release: June 10, 2026
Application Due Date: July 3, 2026
FY26 CoC Local Competition Results Shared: By August 10, 2026
HUD FY 2026 NOFO Due to HUD: August 26, 2026

KCRHA will update all Notices once the HUD FY 2026 NOFO is released, and updates may include expected funding available, updated requirements or preferences.

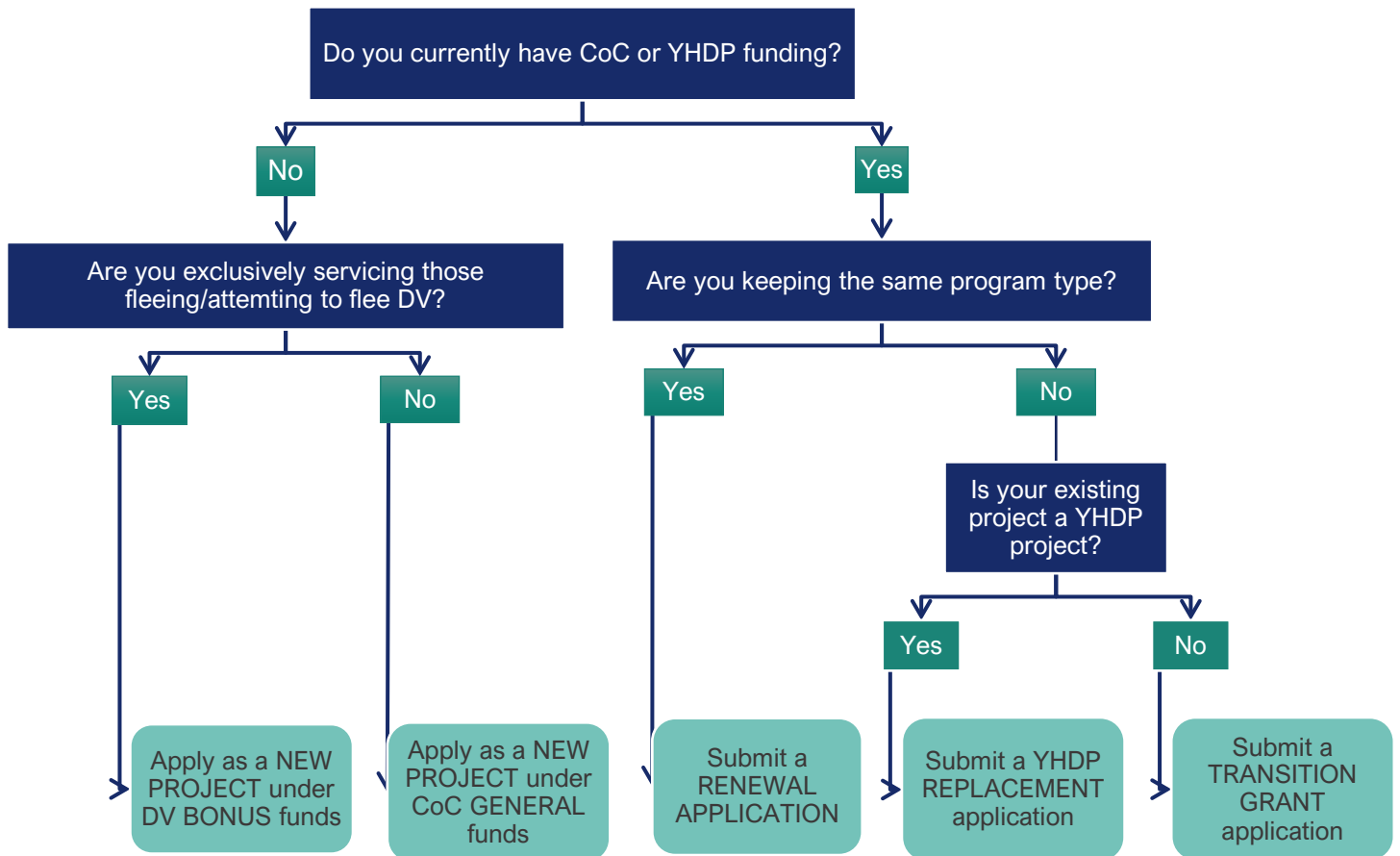
Part 1: Summary of All Anticipated Funding Opportunities

KCRHA anticipates significant opportunities for new project funding in FY 2026 through required reallocations and HUD’s annual opportunity for new projects (explained in section “[CoC General funding](#)”), as well as separate opportunities reserved for new projects serving survivors of domestic violence (explained in section “[DV Bonus funding](#)”).

Existing CoC or Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) recipients must submit a [Renewal Application](#) to continue operating under the same program component. Projects seeking to change program type (e.g., from Rapid Rehousing to Transitional Housing) must instead apply through a [Transition Application or YHDP Replacement Application](#), as applicable.



Figure 1: Decision Map for Selecting a Funding Opportunity



New Project Competition - CoC General

Anticipated Eligible Program Areas

Community engagement and stakeholder input have identified key system gaps that KCRHA anticipates prioritizing through proposals submitted to the FY26 CoC Local Competition. These priorities center on reducing barriers to accessing services, strengthening crisis response, and improving housing stability. Examples of projects meeting these gaps may include: housing navigation, behavioral health services in transitional housing or standalone programs, medical respite transitional housing, outreach services, and recovery-oriented housing. In addition, proposals should respond to workforce shortages – particularly among specialized providers, behavioral health clinicians, and peers – and strengthen housing- and employment-focused case management to improve overall system performance.



The below programs are anticipated to be prioritized in the HUD FY 2026 NOFO:

- **Transitional Housing** proposals should demonstrate strong supportive services, clear exits to permanent housing, employment and income pathways, appropriate service intensity, cost effectiveness, and local need.
- **Rapid rehousing** proposals should demonstrate strong supportive services, clear exits to permanent housing, employment and income pathways, appropriate service intensity, cost effectiveness, and local need.
- **Supportive Services Only** proposals should prioritize outreach and engagement with unsheltered and high-need populations, strong partnerships, cost effectiveness, and demonstrated experience delivering proposed services.
- **Coordinated Entry** proposals should strengthen access, navigation, standardization, outreach, and referral effectiveness across the CoC.
- **HMIS Expansion** proposals are limited to the **designated HMIS Lead Entity** and should demonstrate strong system implementation and data management capacity.

General Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Comply with federal cost principles ([2 CFR Part 200](#))
- Serve HUD-eligible populations ([Categories 1 and 4, and Category 2](#) for youth-serving projects only)
- Participate in HMIS and meet federal conflict-of-interest standards
- Be registered in [SAM.gov](#) and not be debarred or suspended
- Meet KCRHA's [minimum eligibility requirements](#) and provide [required documentation](#)
- Demonstrate a [25% match](#) using cash or in-kind, non-CoC funds
- Certify compliance with restrictions related to drug use and distribution activities

Full Notice is available [here](#).

Anticipated Local Review Criteria

KCRHA anticipates that new project applications will be reviewed based on requirements stemming from the HUD FY 2026 NOFO using a combination of need, system alignment, organizational capacity, partnerships, program quality, and expected outcomes, with priority given to projects that address documented gaps and advance CoC system goals, as described below.

Demonstrated Need and Project Design

- Clear evidence of community, system, or geographic need, supported by data or local context
- A logical, feasible project plan that addresses identified housing and supportive service needs



- Alignment with priority areas, including reductions in unsheltered homelessness, improved outcomes, public safety, treatment and recovery, and participant self-sufficiency

Addressing System and Geographic Gaps

- Projects that are located in or serve underserved areas or populations
- Proposals that expand capacity or services in priority program areas identified by the CoC
- Clear explanation of how the project fills a documented gap rather than duplicating existing resources

Experience, Staffing, and Implementation Capacity

- Demonstrated experience operating similar program or service models
- A reasonable staffing model and staff-to-participant ratio appropriate for the proposed project type
- Ability to maintain occupancy, capacity, and housing stability over time

Partnerships and System Coordination

- Strong collaboration with housing, healthcare, behavioral health, and mainstream resources (e.g., Medicaid, SSI, SNAP)
- For outreach and safety-oriented projects, coordination with law enforcement and first responders
- Preference for formal agreements (e.g., MOUs) demonstrating active partnerships

Service Approach and Program Quality

- Commitment to low-barrier, trauma-informed, and person-centered service delivery
- Required participation in supportive services where applicable, consistent with federal regulations and the HUD FY 2026 NOFO
- Demonstrated ability to deliver services that promote housing stability, wellbeing, and participant choice

Outcomes and System Performance

- Clear and measurable plans to achieve:
 - Exits to permanent housing
 - Increased employment income
 - Reduced returns to homelessness
- Use of data and prior performance to support proposed outcome targets



Fiscal, Data, and Administrative Capacity

- Ability to manage HMIS data, reporting, and data quality requirements
- Sound financial management practices, including GAAP-compliant systems or fiscal sponsorship
- A reasonable, cost-effective budget aligned with federal cost principles
- Demonstrated ability to meet the 25% match requirement

Population Priorities and Specialized Supports

- Priority for projects serving unsheltered households, youth and young adults, survivors of domestic violence or trafficking, elders, people with disabilities, and recovery-based housing models
- Additional consideration for projects offering onsite behavioral health treatment supports

New Project - Domestic Violence Only

Anticipated Eligible Program Areas

- **Transitional Housing** proposals should demonstrate strong supportive services, clear exits to permanent housing, employment and income pathways, appropriate service intensity, cost effectiveness, and local need.
- **Rapid rehousing** proposals should demonstrate strong supportive services, clear exits to permanent housing, employment and income pathways, appropriate service intensity, cost effectiveness, and local need.

General Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:

- Comply with federal cost principles ([2 CFR Part 200](#))
- Serve HUD-eligible populations under [Category 4](#) - Fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking
- Participate in HMIS and meet federal conflict-of-interest standards
- Be registered in SAM.gov and not be debarred or suspended
- Meet KCRHA's [minimum eligibility requirements](#) and provide [required documentation](#)
- Demonstrate a [25% match](#) using cash or in-kind, non-CoC funds
- Certify compliance with restrictions related to drug use and distribution activities

Full Notice is available [here](#).

Anticipated Local Review Criteria

KCRHA anticipates that new DV project applications will be reviewed based on requirements stemming from the HUD FY 2026 NOFO using a combination of need, system alignment,



organizational capacity, partnerships, program quality, and expected outcomes, with priority given to projects that address documented gaps and advance CoC system goals, as described below.

Demonstrated Need and Project Design

- Clear evidence of community, system, or geographic need, supported by data or local context
- A logical, feasible project plan that addresses identified housing and supportive service needs
- Alignment with local priority areas, including reductions in street homelessness, improved outcomes, public safety, treatment and recovery, and participant self-sufficiency

Addressing System and Geographic Gaps

- Projects that are located in or serve underserved areas or populations
- Proposals that expand capacity or services in priority program areas identified by the CoC
- Clear explanation of how the project fills a documented gap rather than duplicating existing resources

Experience, Staffing, and Implementation Capacity

- Demonstrated experience operating similar program or service models
- A reasonable staffing model and staff-to-participant ratio appropriate for the proposed project type
- Ability to maintain occupancy, capacity, and housing stability over time

Partnerships and System Coordination

- Strong collaboration with housing, healthcare, behavioral health, and mainstream resources (e.g., Medicaid, SSI, SNAP)
- For outreach and safety-oriented projects, coordination with law enforcement and first responders
- Preference for formal agreements (e.g., MOUs) demonstrating active partnerships

Service Approach and Program Quality

- Commitment to low-barrier, trauma-informed, and person-centered service delivery
- Required participation in supportive services where applicable, consistent with federal regulations and the HUD FY 2026 NOFO



- Demonstrated ability to deliver services that promote housing stability, wellbeing, and participant choice

Outcomes and System Performance

- Clear and measurable plans to achieve:
 - Exits to permanent housing
 - Increased employment income
 - Reduced returns to homelessness
- Use of data and prior performance to support proposed outcome targets

Fiscal, Data, and Administrative Capacity

- Ability to manage HMIS data, reporting, and data quality requirements
- Sound financial management practices, including GAAP-compliant systems or fiscal sponsorship
- A reasonable, cost-effective budget aligned with federal cost principles
- Demonstrated ability to meet the 25% match requirement

Population Priorities and Specialized Supports

- Priority for projects serving unsheltered households, youth and young adults, survivors of domestic violence or trafficking, elders, people with disabilities, and recovery-based housing models
- Additional consideration for projects offering onsite behavioral health treatment supports

DV-Bonus Project Considerations

- Survivor-centered, trauma-informed design that prioritizes safety, confidentiality, and housing stability
- Experience serving survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, or stalking
- Strong coordination with victim service providers and healthcare partners

CoC and YHDP Project Renewal

Renewal Funding Restrictions

KCRHA anticipates the HUD FY 2026 NOFO will limit the Seattle-King County CoC to awarding no more than the equivalent of 30 percent of the total CoC funding it received in the prior year for Permanent Housing (PH) projects, including Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and Joint TH-RRH. KCRHA may limit the number of PH renewals to remain within anticipated HUD caps.



Renewal Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must have a currently funded and operating CoC or YHDP project and must:

- Comply with federal cost principles ([2 CFR Part 200](#))
- Participate in HMIS
- Meet federal conflict-of-interest standards
- Submit documentation demonstrating a [25 percent match](#) using cash or in-kind, non-CoC funds

Project Review and Prioritization

KCRHA anticipates that renewal projects will be reviewed and prioritized using:

- HMIS performance data, including housing outcomes, returns to homelessness, length of stay, housing retention, income outcomes, data quality, and utilization;
- Non-HMIS system priorities, such as program component type, priority populations served, and project expenditures; and
- Application narratives demonstrating alignment with CoC priorities and effective service delivery.

Full Notice is available [here](#).

CoC Transition and YHDP Replacement Projects

Eligible Program Areas

- **Transitional Housing** projects must demonstrate strong supportive services, cost effectiveness, clear exits to permanent housing, and sufficient service intensity.
- **Supportive Services Only (Standalone)** projects must focus on outreach, engagement, and connections to housing and services, particularly for unsheltered and high-need populations, and demonstrate strong partnerships and cost effectiveness.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must have a currently funded and operating CoC or YHDP project proposing a transition to a new program type. Projects must:

- Follow federal cost principles ([2 CFR Part 200](#))
- Serve HUD-eligible populations ([Categories 1, 4, and Category 2](#) for youth-serving projects only)
- Participate in HMIS
- Meet federal conflict-of-interest standards
- Document a [25% match](#) using cash or in-kind, non-CoC funds
- Certify compliance with restrictions related to drug use and distribution activities



Transition Grant Overview (CoC)

Transition Grants may be created through reallocation and require full elimination of the original project.

- Awards are for a one-year grant term, during which the transition must be completed.
- Projects may seek renewal only under the new component type in a future competition.

YHDP Replacement Grant Overview

YHDP Replacement Grants support creation of new YHDP projects by replacing existing YHDP funding.

- Replaced projects must be fully eliminated.
- Awards are for a one-year grant term, after which projects may seek renewal only under the new configuration.

Anticipated Local Review Criteria

HMIS data will be evaluated for the operating period **4/1/25 to 3/31/26**. This data will be used to assess project performance according to the key indicators that populate the Annual Performance Report (APR). Additional efficiency and effectiveness measures will also be considered. The following review elements outline the anticipated criteria and may be updated upon review of the posted HUD FY 2026 NOFO.

HMIS Performance Criteria

- Exits to permanent housing, with higher weight placed on meeting or exceeding established system targets by project type
- Returns to homelessness, with increased emphasis on minimizing returns following exit to permanent housing
- Housing retention for Permanent Supportive Housing and Supportive Housing projects
- Employment and income outcomes, including exits with earned income, non-earned income, and minimizing exits with no financial resources
- Unknown or missing exit destinations, with higher priority given to projects demonstrating complete and accurate exit data

Non-HMIS System Priority Criteria

- Program component type, with greater priority given to permanent housing interventions, particularly Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing
- Population priorities, including projects serving unsheltered households, youth and young adults, people with disabilities, elders, people fleeing domestic violence or trafficking, and recovery-based housing models
- Project expenditures, with higher priority for projects demonstrating full and timely use of awarded funds



Application-Based Narrative Criteria

Applications will be reviewed for qualitative alignment with CoC expectations and requirements imposed by the HUD FY 2026 NOFO, which may include:

- Low-barrier service delivery and minimizing program terminations, consistent with HUD standards
- Participant engagement and feedback, including how participant input informs program design and improvement
- Lived and living experience, including meaningful involvement of people with lived experience in governance and decision-making, consistent with HUD NOFO requirements

Transition and Replacement-Specific Criteria

In addition to the criteria above, Transition and Replacement project applications may be assessed on:

- Service intensity, including affirmation that services meet federal service engagement standards as anticipated in the HUD FY 2026 NOFO
- Cost effectiveness, demonstrating compliance with federal cost principles and efficient use of funds

Full Notice is available [here](#).

Part 2: Consolidated Application and Request for Information

As the Collaborative Applicant, KCRHA prepares and completes the Consolidated Application, which describes the community's homelessness response strategies, performance, and system structures. To support development of this application, KCRHA has released the [2026 King County–City of Seattle Continuum of Care System Collaborations and Partnerships Request for Information \(RFI\)](#) for informational input only.

The purpose of the RFI is to gather system-level information to strengthen the narrative HUD requires as part of the HUD FY 2026 NOFO submission. Specifically, KCRHA seeks information on:

- Existing and planned collaborations or partnerships between homelessness services providers and other system partners; and
- Providers' anticipated interest in applying for CoC-funded programs either independently or in partnership.



The RFI is unfunded and optional. Submission or non-submission of an RFI response is not required to apply for any expected FY 2026 funding, including the CoC General Bonus and DV Bonus RFPs, and will have no impact—positive or negative—on eligibility, evaluation, or funding decisions.

The information collected will be used solely to support KCRHA, as the designated CoC Collaborative Applicant, in submitting a competitive CoC Consolidated Application and accurately describing system coordination, partnerships, and service delivery approaches across the region.

CoC System Collaborations and Partnerships RFI
RFI Release: May 4, 2026
Response Due Date: May 25 May 29 , 2026

Please refer to the RFI document for full timeline and additional details, including scope and applicable disclaimers.

RFI document is available [here](#).



2026 Project Review and Tiering

At the close of the application period for the FY26 CoC Local Competition stemming from the HUD FY 2026 NOFO, a panel of raters will review, rate, and rank all projects according to locally established criteria. This review determines which project applications will be included in the Consolidated Application, along with their relative priority. This results in the Priority Listing.

Here is what to expect with the HUD FY 2026 NOFO:

Tier 1 and Tier 2 Project Ranking

HUD may require every CoC to rank projects into two funding tiers. These tiers help HUD decide which projects are more likely to receive funding. Tier 1 includes the highest-priority projects and is expected to cover about 60 percent of the CoC's total award amount from the prior year (i.e., Annual Renewal Demand). Tier 2 includes the remaining projects and funding may be contingent upon a national competition.

HUD will apply its own selection priorities to the tiered ranking, especially for projects in Tier 2. HUD is likely to prioritize the following for FY 2026:

- Improving Outcomes and Effectiveness
- Restoring Balance to the Continuum of Care
- Prioritizing Treatment and Recovery as a Means to Self-Sufficiency
- Promoting Economic Self-Sufficiency
- Creating Competition to Improve Innovation and Accountability
- Ending the Crisis of Homelessness on Our Streets
- Advancing Public Safety for All
- Minimizing Trauma for Vulnerable Populations
- Expanding Access Based on Merit, not Ideology

Priority List Development

HUD's evaluation and selection process has been focused on how well a CoC demonstrates that its projects and investments align with and help achieve HUD's strategic goals and priorities. To remain competitive, the Seattle-King County CoC process must be strategic in the use of CoC Program funding within our community and be prepared for the HUD FY 2026 NOFO national competition.

The CoC rank order will be based on individual project scores which are tightly linked to criteria stemming from the HUD FY 2026 NOFO and the Seattle-King County CoC priorities. In addition, the CoC reserves the right to consider additional factors that may adjust the final rank. This will



be done to achieve a strong and balanced HUD application that achieves local priorities, maximizes points, and, thus, funding for the entire Continuum.

Upon completion of project scoring by the designated rater panel, the panel will convene to develop the final ranked order of all projects submitted for the FY26 HUD NOFO. The final ranking will be informed by project scores, alignment with CoC values and priorities, and funding availability, as outlined below.

Ranking Order and Funding Priorities

Due to forecasted requirements in the HUD FY 2026 NOFO, KCRHA anticipates projects will be prioritized for ranking in the following order, subject to change based on the published HUD FY 2026 NOFO and local system need:

- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Projects: PSH renewal projects will be prioritized first, not to exceed the anticipated 30 percent of the Annual Renewal Demand, in accordance with HUD guidelines and local funding strategy.
- Renewal Projects and Transition Grant/YHDP Replacement Grants: Renewal projects and transition or YHDP replacement grants that support continuity of existing services and housing interventions may be ranked following PSH projects.
- New Projects: New permanent housing projects may be considered after renewal and transition/replacement projects and will not exceed any funding restrictions detailed for new projects, consistent with CoC priorities for preservation of existing services and permanent housing.

Threshold Criteria and Score Considerations

The ranking panel may rank a project that fully meets all Threshold Criteria anticipated in the HUD FY 2026 NOFO above a higher-scoring project that only meets minimum Threshold Criteria, when doing so advances CoC priorities, system performance, or access to housing and services.

Population Coverage Considerations

If all projects serving a particular population (including but not limited to survivors of domestic violence, youth, or other priority populations) receive relatively low scores, the ranking panel may adjust the final ranking order to ensure continuity of services for those populations. Such adjustments will be made to support system balance and the unique needs of populations disproportionately impacted by homelessness.



Local Values

The following values will further inform and guide all ranking decisions, placing priority on projects that:

1. Center the [theory of change](#) in the planning, programming, and evaluation of Continuum of Care services.
2. Promote the mission to significantly decrease the incidence of homelessness throughout King County.
3. Promote the development of new affordable, permanent housing in underserved areas of King County.
4. Promote human-centered wellbeing.
5. Promote accessible services and quality service provision for individuals disproportionately impacted by homelessness in our community.
6. Develop a proactive system that meets the needs of all people experiencing homelessness.
7. Maximize our community response to homelessness by leveraging as much U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Program funding as possible to preserve continuity of services and support in housing for program participants.
8. Grow a proactive, accountable system through transparent and ethical practices, guided by accountability to those we serve to ensure funding is clearly and thoughtfully allocated.
9. Prioritize projects that:
 - a. Elevate the voices of people with lived and living experience as experts in the development and implementation of planning, programming, and evaluation.
 - b. Focus on those who are currently experiencing literal and chronic homelessness, including those who are “experiencing trauma or lack of safety related to, or fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous, traumatic, or life-threatening conditions.”
 - c. Actively participate in the Continuum of Care through demonstrable practices that center community and are in alignment with values of community accountability, prevention, and whole person wellbeing through focusing on what is meaningful to the individual.
 - d. Projects that were reallocated or transitioned to a new subrecipient to improve outcomes outside of the NOFO competition.
 - e. Permanent housing projects that have historically met or exceeded performance outcomes.



- f. Projects that leverage other funding from housing or healthcare entities.
- g. Demonstrate commitment to power-sharing and deference to people with lived and living experience in organizational design and policy development processes through actions such as dedicated board seats or management positions.
- h. Advance as a collective the goals of the CoC, including reducing homelessness and improving outcomes for all people experiencing homelessness.
- i. Advance as a collective the goals of the CoC to support our Elder community - which is the largest growing population of those experiencing and at-risk of homelessness - to access dignified, appropriate housing to thrive as they age.
- j. Have positive outcomes, as defined by the participant, to permanent housing and subsequent stability, including economic stability, as the primary focus.
- k. Do not replace mainstream resources but make sure that all eligible participants receive assistance enrolling in and keeping any federal or state benefits for which they qualify.
- l. Work to connect people served by CoC-funded programs with community-based resources that meet their unique needs.
- m. Participate in the Homeless Management Information System with complete, high-quality data per both local metrics and HUD data standards.
- n. Demonstrate alignment with evidence-based, nationally recognized best practices for accessing and securing permanent housing, and a commitment to delivering high-quality, participant-centered services that are modeled on evaluated approaches, meet participants where they are, and are appropriately staffed to address their needs
- o. Perform well against HUD Continuum of Care goals and positively impact local system performance and outcomes.

Priority List Community Meeting

The 2026 Priority List status will be determined before we submit the CoC response to the HUD FY 2026 NOFO. These preliminary results will be shared directly with applicants and in a community meeting on or before **submission of a final application to HUD for the HUD FY 2026 NOFO.**



Additional Resources

HUD NOFO Basics

[HUD NOFO Basics – How to Apply Overview \(Video\)](#)

Transitional Housing Deep Dive

[Deep Dive Slide Deck\(PDF\)](#)

[Q and A Document\(PDF\)](#)

Federal Compliance: Fiscal Management and Reporting Requirements Deep Dive

[Deep Dive Slide Deck\(PDF\)](#)

[Q and A Document\(PDF\)](#)

Supportive Services Only - Standalone Projects Deep Dive

[Deep Dive Slide Deck\(PDF\)](#)

[Q and A Document\(PDF\)](#)

