



FY26 CoC NOFO: System & Geographic Gaps

New Project Priorities

Uneven Access and Geographic Gaps

Services are inconsistently distributed across subregions, with a heavy concentration in Seattle and significant shortages elsewhere.

- Large capacity difference across regions (e.g., thousands of units in Seattle vs. extremely limited inventory in North, Southeast, and Snoqualmie Valley areas)
- Entire regions lack key program types (e.g., youth services, permanent supportive housing, behavioral health supports)
- Some subpopulations, including RV residents, unaccompanied youth, and people with disabilities, have no local options in certain regions

Insufficient and Mismatched Housing and Service Capacity

The system lacks both overall scale and the right mix of interventions to meet population needs.

- Shortages across housing types:
 - High-acuity models
 - medical respite,
 - behavioral health–intensive transitional housing,
 - recovery-based transitional housing
- Missing models such as:
 - Recuperative (medical respite) care
 - Safe parking and vehicle residency supportive service programs

Subpopulation-Specific Gaps

Services are not adequately tailored to meet the needs of key groups:

- Families: Long shelter wait times, lack of 24/7 access, insufficient daytime and mobile support, and inconsistent integration with schools and child welfare
- Special populations: Limited services for elders and seniors 55+, people exiting incarceration, and domestic violence survivors

Behavioral Health and Clinical Care Gaps

There is a shortage of integrated behavioral health, substance use, and medical services, especially for high-acuity individuals.

- Limited access to:
 - Mental health services (including:
 - Crisis care
 - Outpatient care outpatient care)
 - On-site services
 - Substance use disorder treatment, including Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)
 - Medical respite and ongoing care for complex conditions
- Services are often not co-located or embedded in housing/shelter, forcing people to navigate multiple systems
- Insufficient workforce capacity
- High rates of unmet need contribute to:
 - Prolonged unsheltered homelessness
 - Cycling through emergency rooms, jails, and crisis systems
 - Increased overdose and health risks

