



FY 2026 Continuum of Care Competition and YHDP Grants NOFO

Frequently Asked Questions for CoC Applicants

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1. Quick orientation

1. What is this NOFO?

This is HUD's FY 2026 Continuum of Care (CoC) Competition and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity. It governs the CoC Consolidated Application, project applications, renewal and new project opportunities, and the federal review and selection process. *NOFO reference: pp. 1, 5, 38*

2. What are the federal deadline and key dates?

Applications are due to HUD by 8:00 PM Eastern Time on August 26, 2026. HUD anticipates awards on December 1, 2026, with an estimated performance period beginning January 1, 2027 and ending December 31, 2027. Local CoC deadline to submit the Collaborative Application on Monday, August 24, 2026, by 5 pm Pacific Time. *NOFO reference: pp. 1, 3, 5 and Local Timeline.*

3. What systems do applicants need to access?

Applicants should ensure SAM.gov registration is active and current, including a valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI). The CoC application and project applications are submitted through e-snaps. The application package is also associated with Grants.gov opportunity number CPD-2600-DC-0025. *NOFO reference: p. 3*

4. What is the basic purpose of the CoC Program under this NOFO?

HUD describes the CoC Program as a national competition among geographic areas to promote a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness, quickly rehouse individuals and families experiencing homelessness, promote access to mainstream and state/local resources, and optimize self-sufficiency. *NOFO reference: pp. 5-6, 28*

5. What is YHDP in this NOFO?

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program supports coordinated community approaches to preventing and ending youth homelessness. The population served is homeless youth age 24 and younger, including unaccompanied youth and pregnant or parenting youth. YHDP funds are restricted to serve only youth 24 years and under (Cannot be reallocated to fund a new project that is not youth-dedicated). *NOFO reference: p. 6*

6. What major policy shifts should applicants notice?

HUD emphasizes increased competition, Tier 1 at 60 percent of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand, a national competition for the remaining portion, system performance, self-sufficiency, treatment and recovery, outcomes, and a balance of project types including Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only projects. *NOFO reference: pp. 28-38*

2. Eligibility and applicant basics

7. Who can apply?

Eligible applicants include state, county, city or township, and special district governments; public and state-controlled institutions of higher education; federally recognized tribal governments; public housing authorities/Indian housing authorities; certain Native American tribal organizations; and nonprofits with 501(c)(3) status. Individuals and for-profit entities are not eligible applicants; for-profit entities also cannot be subrecipients. *NOFO reference: pp. 9, 58*

8. Are faith-based organizations eligible?

Yes. Faith-based organizations may apply on the same basis as other organizations, subject to applicable federal requirements. They may not use direct HUD financial assistance for explicitly religious activities except as allowed by law, and may not discriminate against beneficiaries or prospective beneficiaries based on religion or religious belief. *NOFO reference: pp. 9-10*

9. What happens if an applicant has unresolved civil rights judgments?

Applicants with outstanding unresolved judgments for violations of specified civil rights laws must resolve those matters before the application deadline, or they will be deemed ineligible. *NOFO reference: pp. 10-11*

3. Project types and funding opportunities

11. What project applications are eligible under this NOFO?

The NOFO includes CoC Planning, UFA Costs, CoC Bonus, DV Renewal, DV Bonus and DV Reallocation, new projects through CoC Bonus or CoC Reallocation, YHDP renewal/replacement, expansion projects, consolidation projects, and transition grants. *NOFO reference: pp. 11-26.*

The local process will allow the following:

- PSH renewals that must be rated and ranked and can only fall in Tier 1 (Prioritized projects)
- Renewal System Level projects (HMIS and CES) and will fall in Tier 1 (Prioritized projects)
- YHDP Renewals or Replacement projects
- New TH, Supportive Services Only, and SSO- Outreach projects (Tier 2)
- New DV Dedicated projects (TH, SSO)

At any given time, the CoC may choose to submit a new call for new project types if the CoC has not received enough intents to submit for eligible project types.

12. What is the CoC Bonus?

The CoC Bonus allows CoCs to use up to 15 percent of Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN) to create one or more new project applications. The NOFO includes minimum and maximum bonus amounts that vary for split, merged, new Tribal, and other CoCs. The San Diego City and County CoC is capped at \$5 million. *NOFO reference: pp. 11-12, 36*

13. What is the DV Bonus?

DV Bonus funds support projects serving individuals and families experiencing trauma or lack of safety related to, or fleeing or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. DV Bonus and DV Reallocation may only create new SSO-Coordinated Entry, PH-RRH, and TH projects. *NOFO reference: pp. 6, 12-13*

14. What are YHDP Replacement projects?

CoCs may replace renewing YHDP projects to create one or more new YHDP Replacement projects, including YHDP Reallocation. YHDP projects must serve homeless youth age 24 and younger, and replacement projects must follow the eligible activity and project rules in the NOFO. *NOFO reference: pp. 14-16*

15. What does HUD say about Transitional Housing and SSO?

HUD identifies a priority for new Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only projects and states that the NOFO provides opportunities to restore balance among CoC-funded project types. HUD has set-aside 1.3 million for new projects with a priority for Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only projects. *NOFO reference: pp. 30, 36, 89*

4. Renewals, expansions, consolidation, and transition grants

16. Which renewal projects are eligible?

CoC Program, Special NOFO, and YHDP projects are eligible for renewal with FY 2026 funds if they are currently operating and have an expiration date in calendar year 2027. Renewal applications must generally be submitted by the same recipient that signed the grant agreement or by an approved transferee. Please see local call for acceptable renewal projects. *NOFO reference: pp. 22-23*

17. Can renewal applications include budget changes?

Renewal applications may include non-significant changes, including shifting up to 10 percent of funds from one approved eligible activity to another. Requests over 10 percent or other significant changes generally are not considered during the competition and should be handled through grant amendment processes. *NOFO reference: p. 23*

18. What is an expansion project?

An expansion project is the process by which eligible renewal applicants add funds to an existing CoC Renewal, DV Renewal, or YHDP Renewal project. HUD allows expansion to increase units, persons served, services, or eligible HMIS/SSO-CE activities, subject to detailed limits. *NOFO reference: pp. 16-18*

19. What is a consolidation project?

HUD encourages consolidation of eligible renewal grants. Generally, projects must have the same recipient, the same component, and CY 2027 end dates. The NOFO also lists project types that cannot be consolidated, such as DV Renewal with CoC Renewal, YHDP Renewal with CoC Renewal or DV Renewal, and TH with PH to form a Joint TH/PH-RRH project. *NOFO reference: pp. 19-21*

20. What is a transition grant?

A transition grant uses the reallocation process to transition eligible CoC renewal projects from one program component to another eligible component over a one-year period. YHDP renewal grants cannot use the transition grant process; they must use the YHDP Replacement process to change components. *NOFO reference: pp. 21-22* Transition grants are not eligible to expand.

5. Budget, match, and allowable costs

21. Is match required?

Yes. Recipients must match all grant funds except leasing funds with no less than 25 percent in cash or in-kind contributions from other sources. Applicants planning to use program income as match must estimate the amount to be used. The NOFO includes a YHDP match exception where applicable. *NOFO reference: p. 26*

22. What are the administrative cost limits?

Project administrative costs must not exceed 10 percent of the total funding requested. For CoC Planning, the maximum is 5 percent of FPRN up to \$1,500,000, or \$50,000, whichever is greater. UFA Costs may be up to 3 percent of FPRN or \$1,250,000 per fiscal year, whichever is less. *NOFO reference: pp. 25, 86*

23. What grant terms are available for new projects?

Renewal projects are for one year. New project grant terms vary by project type and cost category. While the NOFO states the initial term may be 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 15 years, subject to NOFO exceptions, locally new projects requesting one year of funding may request 12 to 18 months to accommodate start-up, but transition grants cannot request 18-month terms. *NOFO reference: pp. 24-26*

24. Are capital costs allowed?

Some new projects may request new construction, acquisition, or rehabilitation costs, but projects requesting capital costs must request at least a 3-year grant term and may request up to 5 years. Expansion applications and YHDP Replacement projects cannot request capital costs. Locally, we will not be accepting expansion projects or projects requesting capital costs. *NOFO reference: pp. 16-17, 25*

25. What should applicants know about rental assistance budgets?

Renewal rental assistance projects may request a per-unit amount below Fair Market Rent if actual rent under lease is lower. New rental assistance projects must request the full FMR amount per unit and cannot request more than 100 percent of published FMR. *NOFO reference: p. 23*

6. Application package and local competition process

26. What are the three main elements of the application?

Applications must include standard forms, assurances, and certifications; budget; and narratives and other attachments. HUD states that missing required documents or incorrect format can make an application incomplete. Password-protected or encrypted files should not be submitted. See local Call document for more details on local submission requirements for project evaluation. *NOFO reference: p. 44*

27. Where are application materials submitted?

Although the NOFO is posted on Grants.gov, the standard forms, certifications, budgets, narrative responses, and attachments are built into e-snaps. HUD does not accept faxed applications or supporting documents. *NOFO reference: p. 44*

28. What local CoC competition documents does HUD expect?

The CoC must attach its written review, rating, and ranking process or tool. It also must attach a listing of projects considered in the local competition, including final score, project rank, accepted/rejected status, funding amounts, and reallocated funds added or subtracted. *NOFO reference: pp. 70-71*

29. What notice must the CoC give project applicants?

The CoC must notify project applicants in writing outside e-snaps whether their applications will be accepted and ranked, rejected, or reduced on the CoC Priority Listing no later than 15 days before the HUD application deadline. If an application is rejected or reduced, the notice must state the reason. *NOFO reference: p. 71*

- [FY 2026 CoC NOFO Local Timeline](#)

7. Review, scoring, ranking, and selection

30. What are the main HUD review stages?

HUD review includes threshold review, merit review, risk review, and selection. Threshold review checks eligibility, timeliness, completeness, and project standards. Merit review scores the CoC application. Risk review assesses the applicant's likelihood of successfully carrying out the project. *NOFO reference: pp. 58, 69, 86-87*

31. How many merit points are available?

The NOFO provides a 200-point merit review structure: Project Capacity, Review, and Ranking is 14 points; System Performance is 64 points; and CoC Coordination and Engagement is 122 points. The NOFO also includes up to 6 merger/UFA bonus points and up to 14 policy initiative preference points. *NOFO reference: pp. 69-70, 84-85*

32. What system performance measures should projects and the CoC pay attention to?

HUD scoring emphasizes reductions in unsheltered homelessness, reductions in first-time homelessness, length of time homeless, successful exits, returns to homelessness, employment income growth, timely submission of data, HMIS/comparable database bed coverage, and unknown exit destinations. *NOFO reference: pp. 72-74*

33. What does HUD expect from local ranking?

HUD expects a coordinated, inclusive, and outcome-oriented process using objective criteria. The local tool should consider factors such as cost-effectiveness, performance data, population served, financial stability, performance history, capacity, audit findings, and public complaints. *NOFO reference: pp. 70-72*

34. What is Tier 1?

HUD sets Tier 1 at 60 percent of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand for this competition. HUD states this increases the portion of funding competed on the basis of merit among geographic areas. *NOFO reference: pp. 30, 36*

35. How will HUD make final funding decisions?

HUD considers threshold, merit, and risk review results. HUD may also consider projected impact, cost reasonableness, readiness, likelihood of expected benefits, geographic dispersion, and other factors allowed by law. HUD may fund applications in whole or part, impose conditions, reduce awards, or choose not to fund applications. *NOFO reference: pp. 87-88*

8. Submission, deadlines, and technical support

36. Are late submissions allowed?

No. Late applications are not evaluated and are not eligible for funding. If HUD receives more than one application, HUD reviews only the last submission. CoCs should not wait until the deadline to submit. *NOFO reference: pp. 58, 96*

37. What if there is a disaster affecting the local competition?

The Collaborative Applicant may request an extension due to a major disaster by sending written notification to Karen DeBlasio, Office of SNAPS, at CoCDisaster@hud.gov. The request must describe the disaster, impacts, duration, and requested extension time. HUD may or may not approve the full request. *NOFO reference: pp. 96-97*

38. Can the CoC submit a paper application?

Electronic submission is required unless HUD approves a waiver. Waiver requests must be postmarked no later than 60 days after publication of the NOFO, and HUD will not consider paper applications without prior approval or after the deadline. *NOFO reference: p. 102*

39. Who should applicants contact for federal questions?

For program and application requirements, HUD lists the Office of Community Planning and Development at CoCNOFO@hud.gov. HUD staff may provide general clarification but cannot help applicants prepare their e-snaps applications. Questions about specific program requirements should also be directed to the local HUD CPD field office as appropriate. *NOFO reference: pp. 115-116*. Local submission questions should be directed to Kat Durant and Alma Vasquez at Kathryn.durant@rtfhsd.org and alma.vasquez@rtfhsd.org.

9. Post-award expectations

40. What federal requirements apply after award?



Recipients must comply with applicable Administrative, National and Departmental Policy Requirements and HUD terms and conditions, including 2 CFR part 200, Build America, Buy America where applicable, record safeguards, and other listed requirements. *NOFO reference: pp. 106-108*

41. Are environmental requirements relevant?

Yes. The NOFO includes environmental requirements that must be addressed before certain activities can proceed, particularly where projects involve property, rehabilitation, construction, leasing, or assistance tied to physical units. *NOFO reference: pp. 108-110*

42. What happens if a recipient does not comply after award?

HUD may impose specific conditions, take other remedies, or terminate all or part of an award under applicable 2 CFR provisions and the terms and conditions of the award. *NOFO reference: p. 110*

43. What reporting requirements should applicants plan for?

Recipients should plan for HUD reporting requirements, including performance and financial reporting, HMIS or comparable database responsibilities as applicable, and other reports identified in the NOFO and award terms. *NOFO reference: pp. 110-114*