



2026 NYC Continuum of Care (CoC) Preliminary New Project Application Instructions

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Background Information

Thank you for your interest in applying for Continuum of Care (CoC) funding through the NYC CoC's 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Local Competition. Please read this document carefully. We appreciate your commitment to addressing and ending homelessness and look forward to receiving your application.

The NYC Department of Social Services (DSS) is the lead agency for the NYC CoC and serves the role of collaborative applicant in the NOFO process. As the NYC CoC's collaborative applicant, DSS is responsible for submitting a joint application on behalf of the entire continuum, including applications for both renewal projects and new project proposals. The NYC CoC team at DSS also plays a central role in coordinating the application process, facilitating collaboration among various stakeholders within the CoC, and ensuring compliance with HUD requirements.

For more information about the NYC CoC, [visit our website](#).

As of 4/13/26, HUD has not yet published a 2026 NOFO. However, in order to prepare for the NOFO's release, the NYC CoC is opening a preliminary local competition to invite new project applications. Once the NOFO is released, it is possible that some applications will require modifications in order to meet HUD's eligibility requirements or to maximize the likelihood of funding given current funding priorities. In such an event, the NYC CoC will communicate with all applicants and provide guidance on next steps.

Organizations and agencies that applied for new project funding in the NYC CoC's 2025 Local Competition (Nov/Dec '25) are encouraged to re-apply through this competition. **Applications submitted as part of the 2025 competition will not be considered.**

Please attend the office hours listed in the [Preliminary Application Timeline](#) section to ask questions and learn more.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible project applicants include:

- Nonprofit organizations*
- [States](#)
- Local governments
- Instrumentalities of [State](#) or local governments
- Public housing authorities

Eligible project applicants for the CoC Program Competition are found at [24 CFR 578.15](#). **For-profit entities are ineligible to apply** for grants and are prohibited from being subrecipients of CoC Program grant funds. Public housing agencies, as defined in 24 CFR 5.100, are eligible without limitation or exclusion.

Applicants interested in partnering with a subrecipient organization should contact the NYC CoC to discuss their plans in more detail before submitting their application.

Non-profit organization must have a **Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) to be eligible. A UEI functions as a means of entity identification for federal awards. For more information, visit SAM.gov's [UEI Registration page](#). Applicants without a UEI will not be considered.*

Eligible Project Types

As of 4/13/26, HUD has not yet published a 2026 NOFO. However, HUD has signaled an upcoming shift in resources away from permanent housing models and towards Transitional Housing (TH) and Supportive Services Only (SSO) programs. Given that expectation, we are only accepting new project applications under the TH and SSO project types*. This may include applications from agencies operating programs aligned with the TH or SSO model that currently rely on non-CoC funding sources; we would consider this to be a “new project application” as the current activities are unsupported by CoC funding.

Existing RRH and TH-RRH providers interested in shifting operations to the TH or SSO project type should apply for new project funding. Providers interested in transitioning to the TH model should be aware that if the transition grant is awarded, existing participants may be unable to continue their program enrollment under the new project type. The NYC CoC is seeking additional guidance on this topic and will share more information once available. At this time, we are not accepting applications for new Permanent Housing, which includes both Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid Re-housing (RRH). If the 2026 NOFO includes an opportunity to apply for new PSH or RRH funds, we will share updated guidance with the CoC mailing list.

**We will also accept applications under the HMIS and SSO-Coordinated Entry project types, but only from the appropriate lead agencies.*

Priority Populations

The NYC CoC encourages applications that will serve the following subpopulations:

- Older adults (62+)
- Individuals with complex medical needs
- Individuals with a substance use disorder

Universal Requirements

The following requirements apply to all applicants regardless of project type or intended service population.

- **Applicant Eligibility:** Applicants must meet all requirements referenced in the [Applicant Eligibility](#) section, including the Unique Entity Identifier requirement
- **Operation within New York City:** Projects must operate within the five boroughs of NYC, the geographic area of the NYC CoC (Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Staten Island)
- **HMIS Participation:** See the [HMIS Guidance section](#) for more information
- **Coordinated Entry Participation:** Applicants must agree to receive referrals through NYC’s Coordinated Entry system
- **Matching Funds*:** Grantees must meet HUD’s 25% match requirement (excluding leasing funds)
- **Timeliness standards:** see [CoC Timeliness Requirements](#) for more information
- **Grant term:** unless the proposal includes a request for capital funding, the grant term must be for 12 months

*See [Additional Resources](#) for more information

Minimum Budget Threshold

Given the significant administrative responsibilities associated with CoC funding, the NYC CoC is instituting a minimum allowable budget size of \$1,000,000 (not including matching funds) for new project applications, with the exception of transition grant applications.

Project Type Transitions

For a breakdown of potential pathways through the NOFO process for existing renewal grantees, see the *NOFO Pathways for Renewal Grants* visual in the [Additional Resources](#) section.

Grantees currently receiving CoC funds may apply to transition their existing project(s) to a new project type through what is referred to as a *transition grant*. In order to receive a transition grant, the recipient must fully reallocate the existing project while requesting funding for a new project. If awarded, the transition grant facilitates the transition to a new project type by allowing the recipient to use a portion of project funds to wind down the reallocated project while ramping up the new one over the course of a 12-month period.

Please note that projects originally funded through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (**YHDP**) and Domestic Violence Bonus (**DV Bonus**) have been **ineligible for transition grants** in past NOFOs. YHDP and DV Bonus projects considering a shift away from the RRH or TH-RRH model should consult the NYC CoC to discuss their options.

For more information, see [Transition Grant Requirements for the CoC Program Competition](#).

HMIS Guidance

HUD CoC funded grantees must track client enrollment and outcomes in an HMIS or HMIS-compliant data system, and [are required](#) to upload their data* to the NYC HMIS Data Warehouse each month. If you do not already use a pre-approved HMIS-compliant system (a non-comprehensive list of accepted vendors can be found [here](#)), you will need to procure an HMIS system to collect the data for any CoC-funded programs if awarded. Cost of HMIS-compliant systems vary, but **organizations should expect to spend at least \$35,000 annually** (those costs can be included in the HMIS portion of the Budget Appendix). For further clarification on if your current data system complies with local requirements or any other questions, please reach out to the HMIS team at DSSHMIS@dss.nyc.gov.

**Victim Service Providers (VSPs) cannot upload to the HMIS warehouse, but are still required to use an HMIS-compliant system as described above. They must submit HMIS compliant reports to HMIS team and HUD from their system.*

Preliminary Application Timeline

4.13.26	Preliminary local competition opens
4.17.26	Office Hours #1: Register Here (3-4pm)
4.20.26	HMIS Information Session for New Project Applicants: Register Here (10-11am)

4.24.26	Office Hours #2: Register Here (10-11am)
5.1.26	Office Hours #3: Register Here (10-11am)
5.4.26	Application submission deadline (5pm EST)

To request more time to complete your application, please email nyc.coc@dss.nyc.gov. Requests will be considered on a case by case basis.

The NYC CoC encourages applications from agencies new to CoC funding, provided that they demonstrate the necessary organizational capacity and experience serving persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Upon release of the 2026 NOFO, applicants may be asked to modify their proposals to meet HUD expectations and maximize the likelihood of funding. The CoC team will communicate with all applicants to provide additional guidance during this phase of the process.

Participant Eligibility and HUD Homelessness Definitions

Participant eligibility for **Transitional Housing** (TH) is typically limited to individuals and families that meet HUD homeless definition **1, 2 or 4** (see below).

Participant eligibility for **Supportive Services Only** (SSO) projects is typically limited to individuals and families that meet HUD homeless definition **1 or 4** (see below).

1. [Literally Homeless](#)

An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

1. Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation; **or**
2. Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); **or**
3. Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

2. [Imminent Risk of Homelessness](#)

An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

1. Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;
2. No subsequent residence has been identified; *and*
3. The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.

3. [Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes](#)

(Projects funded through the NYC CoC are unauthorized to serve participants under this category)

4. [Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence](#)*

An individual or family who:

1. Is experiencing trauma or a 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 related to the violence against the individual or a family member in the individual's or family's current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized;
2. Has no other safe residence; **and**
3. Lacks the resources to obtain other safe permanent housing

**The Category 4 definition was amended through the [2022 reauthorization](#) of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).*

Required Application Components

1. New Project Application (Survey Monkey)

- Submission method: through Survey Monkey online platform

2. Narrative Questions Appendix

- Submission method: submit as a PDF attachment in Survey Monkey application
- ***Please note that questions differ by project type***

3. Budget Appendix

- Submission method: email to nyc.coc@dss.nyc.gov as an Excel attachment

Note: Please review this entire document before beginning your application in Survey Monkey. We recommend preparing and saving all answers outside of Survey Monkey, as it will not allow you to save and return to your answers at a later time.

Narrative Questions

You will upload a PDF attachment of your *Narrative Questions Appendix* at the end of your Survey Monkey application form. Please save your attachment using the format **OrgName_ Project Name_Narratives** and clearly label your responses for each question (it is not necessary to include the full text of each question). Your attachment is limited to 5 pages, single-spaced, size 12 font with one-inch margins.

Applications that do not follow the required format, do not clearly label their responses, and/or exceed page limits will not receive full points.

Transitional Housing (TH) Applicants

All TH applicants (including transition grants) must respond to the narrative questions below.

1. Provide a description that addresses the entire scope of the proposed project. Your response must include all elements listed below:
 - the target population(s) to be served
 - anticipated length of stay for participants
 - the type of transitional housing that will be provided, including detailed plans for how the program will acquire units
 - how the program will facilitate exits into permanent housing and long-term housing stability
 - how the CoC Program funding will be used, as well as plans to leverage non-CoC funding

- an outline of your staffing plan, including expected caseloads for direct service staff
2. Describe your plan to coordinate and integrate with resources both internal and external to your agency, including physical and behavioral health, public benefits, and employment programs. Describe how these service connections will help participants to both increase their income and maximize their ability to live independently.
 3. *For proposed expansions of existing CoC-funded projects – if applicable:* Describe your project’s current operations and how the additional resources will be used to further the project’s impact.
Note: expansion funding can be used to increase the number of participants served and/or to increase the frequency or depth of services provided to existing participants.
 4. Describe your agency’s experience operating transitional housing and working with the intended service population.
 5. In an environment of scarce federal funding for housing and services, explain how your proposed use of CoC funds would meet a community need (including how you identified that need) and augment or fill a gap in local/state funding.

Supportive Services Only (SSO) Applicants

All SSO applicants (including transition grants) must respond to the narrative questions below.

1. Provide a description that addresses the entire scope of the proposed project, including:
 - the target population(s) to be served
 - how/where the program will engage with participants and provide services
 - how the program will facilitate successful client outcomes (including moving from street homelessness to shelter and from shelter to permanent housing)
 - how the CoC Program funding will be used, as well as plans to leverage non-CoC funding
 - an outline of your staffing plan, including expected caseloads for direct service staff
2. Describe your plan to coordinate and integrate with resources both internal and external to your agency, including physical and behavioral health, public benefits, and employment programs. Describe how these service connections will help participants to both increase their income and maximize their ability to live independently.
3. *For proposed expansions of existing CoC-funded projects – if applicable:* Describe your project’s current operations and how the additional resources will be used to further the project’s impact.
Note: expansion funding can be used to increase the number of participants served and/or to increase the frequency or depth of services provided to existing participants.
4. Describe your agency’s experience with the service model described above and working with the intended service population.
5. In an environment of scarce federal funding for housing and services, explain how your proposed use of CoC funds would meet a community need (including how you identified that need) and augment or fill a gap in local/state funding.

Eligible Costs by Project Type

Supportive Services Only

The following costs are eligible under the SSO project type. Please follow the links provided for more detail.

Capital: Acquisition and rehabilitation (construction costs not eligible)

[Leasing](#): Leasing of a facility from which supportive services will be provided

[Supportive Services](#): Case management, education services, mental health services, substance use treatment, employment assistance, food, and life skills training

[Operating Costs](#): Utilities, maintenance, furniture, insurance, and other facility-related expenses

[HMIS](#): Costs related to contributing data to the Homeless Management Information System

[Project Administration](#): Limited to 10% of the total grant for administrative expenses

Transitional Housing

The following costs are eligible under the TH project type. Please follow the links provided for more detail.

[Capital](#): Acquisition, rehabilitation and new construction

[Rental Assistance*](#): see limitation below

[Leasing](#): Rent for units or buildings, leased directly to the org recipient (sub-lease or occupancy agreement with participants)

[Supportive Services](#): Case management, education services, mental health services, substance use treatment, employment assistance, food, and life skills training

[Operating Costs](#): Utilities, maintenance, furniture, insurance, and other facility-related expenses

[HMIS](#): Costs related to contributing data to the Homeless Management Information System

[Project Administration](#): Limited to 10% of the total grant for administrative expenses

** In order to use rental assistance funds under TH, a non-profit must enter into a contract or subrecipient agreement with a unit of local government, state government, or a public housing authority to administer the rental assistance. This limitation is based on a recent HUD clarification of CoC statute. Given this limitation, the NYC CoC recommends that non-profits applying for TH apply for leasing funds instead of rental assistance.*

Application Scoring Criteria

New project submissions will be reviewed and evaluated by the CoC team and external reviewers according to the criteria listed below. In the event that the 2026 NOFO, once published, includes additional criteria that will influence the likelihood of funding, the CoC will communicate with applicants regarding potential application modifications.

Category	Details	% of Overall Score
Organizational Capacity and Experience	Applicant demonstrates experience in and capacity for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serving intended service population• Managing HUD and/or other federal, state, city, or private funds• Financial management and accounting• Data management and compliance with reporting requirements• Leveraging external partnerships/resources to better serve participants	30%

Project Design and Purpose	<p>The project design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is appropriate for and fits the needs of the target population • Is clearly and fully described, including connections to internal and external resources • Addresses the applicant’s strategy for facilitating successful housing outcomes 	50%
Alignment with System Needs and Local Priorities	<p>The project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets an identified need in the NYC housing/homeless services system • Aligns with NYC CoC priorities 	20%

Additional Resources

[NOFO Pathways for Renewal Grants](#)

[Eligible Costs and Activities: HUD Exchange](#)

[Homeless Management Information System \(HMIS\) Requirements](#)

[HUD CoC NOFO Archive](#)

[Matching Requirements](#)

[CoC Timeliness Requirements](#)

[Leasing vs. Rental Assistance: HUD Exchange](#)