# BoS CoC COMPETITION

MARYLAND
BALANCE OF STATE
CONTINUUM OF CARE

**VERSION 3.0**

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# Revision History

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|---|---|---|---|
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# INTRODUCTION

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is the Collaborative Applicant and Lead Agency for the Maryland Balance of State Continuum of Care (MD BoS CoC). DHCD facilitates the local application competition in the MD BoS CoC for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Program funds. In order to ensure a transparent and equitable process, this document serves to describe the process by which funding decisions are made.

The Continuum of Care Program Competition (24 CFR part 578) is designed to promote a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; to provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, states, Indian Tribes or tribally designated housing entities, and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals, families, persons fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and youth while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by homelessness; to promote access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families, and to optimize self-sufficiency among those experiencing homelessness.

### HUD POLICY PRIORITIES

HUD has established policy priorities which are intended to help applicants better understand how the selection criteria support the goal of ending homelessness.

| HUD Homeless Policy Priorities |
|---|
| Improving Outcomes |
| Creating Competition to Improve Innovation & Accountability |
| Restoring Balance to the Continuum of Care |
| Prioritizing Treatment and Recovery as a Means to Self-Sufficiency |
| Promote Economic Self-Sufficiency |
| Advancing Public Safety for All |
| Minimizing Trauma for Vulnerable Populations |
| Expanding Access Based on Merit, Not Ideology |

### HUD COC APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

HUD requires three separate components to be submitted as part of the full application package.

1. Collaborative Application: Overall competition application completed by the CoC Lead Agency (DHCD). Contents highlight the CoC's system-wide coordination and system performance. Must indicate how the CoC facilitated a transparent, data-driven competition process. The collaborative application determines the overall CoC Competition Score, which impacts the number of new and renewal projects that will receive CoC funding.
2. Project Applications: Each new and renewing project must complete a project application in the eSNAPS system and submit before the stated deadline. These applications are completed by individual project applicants.
3. Priority Listing: A form in eSNAPS that indicates which project applications the CoC has accepted or rejected in the local competition and the ranked priority order of accepted projects. The Priority Listing also includes the overall, finalized budgets for all projects submitted in the competition. DHCD completes this portion of the application.

# CoC Competition Highlights

HUD published the FFY2026 CoC Funding Competition Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) on June 1, 2026; the competition will close on August 26, 2026, at 8:00 PM EST. All interested parties are encouraged to read the NOFO in its entirety. HUD will announce FY26 CoC awards no later than December 1, 2026.

## Available Funding

| FFY2026 CoC NOFO Available Funding | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)** | The base amount the CoC is eligible to apply for, includes all renewal projects | $9,659,780 |
| **CoC Bonus Funding** | Maximum amount of bonus funding available to create new projects, 12% of the FPRN | $1,448,962 |
| **DV Bonus Funding** | Maximum amount of designated bonus funding to create new DV dedicated projects, 15% of the PPRN | $851,740 |
| **CoC Planning Grant Funding** | Funding to provide staffing support for the Collaborative Applicant to administer HUD-required CoC activities, 5% of the FPRN | $482,988 |
| **Total Amount of Available Funding** | | **$11,960,452** |

**Final Amounts Subject to Change*

## FFY2026 Eligible Renewal Projects

Projects eligible for renewal in the FFY2026 CoC Funding Competition include projects that are set to expire in calendar year 2027 and must be listed on the 2026 Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW). Renewal projects cannot request a total dollar amount higher than the total listed in the GIW. Renewal project applications may include requests to add eligible activities to the project, shift up to 10% of funds from one approved eligible activity to another and a change in the subpopulation served.

In the 2026 competition, HUD is placing a very high priority on new Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only applications over renewal projects. This shift will mean that renewal Rapid Rehousing and Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing projects are not likely to be selected for funding.

The CoC is strongly encouraging these renewal projects to consider applying as a Transition Grant in the 2026 Competition and convert the current model to a new TH or SSO project.

## FFY2026 Eligible New Project Types

**Transitional Housing (TH)** Transitional Housing (TH) refers to a time-limited temporary housing project where households experiencing homelessness or fleeing domestic violence may stay and receive supportive services that are designed to enable individuals to move into permanent housing.

**SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ONLY (SSO)**
Supportive Services Only (SSO) projects allow recipients to provide supportive services—such as conducting outreach to sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons and families and providing referrals to other housing or other necessary services—to families and individuals experiencing homelessness. The recipient may only assist program participants for whom the recipient or subrecipient of the funds is not providing housing or housing assistance.

**While PSH and RRH, both described below, are technically eligible new project types, hud has made it clear that they intend to prioritize NEW TH and SSO projects for selection.**

**PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH)**
Permanent Supportive Housing in which housing assistance (e.g., long-term leasing or rental assistance) and supportive services are provided to assist households with at least one member with a disabling condition in achieving housing stability.

PSH combines non-time-limited, decent, safe and affordable housing assistance with wrap-around supportive services designed to help the individual or family stay housed and live a more productive life in the community.

There is no time limitation, and tenants may live in their homes as long as they meet the basic obligations of tenancy. While participation in services is encouraged, it is not a condition of living in the housing. These optional services are designed to build independent living and tenancy skills, assistance with integrating into the community, and connections to community-based health care, treatment, and employment services.

**RAPID REHOUSING (RRH)**
Rapid Rehousing is permanent housing that provides short-term (up to three months) and/or medium-term (4-24 months) tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services to households experiencing homelessness.

RRH is designed to help individuals and families quickly exit homelessness and return to permanent housing. Assistance is offered without preconditions — like employment, income, absence of criminal record, or sobriety — and the resources and services provided are tailored to the unique needs of the household.

# Balance of state CoC Local Competition

All Balance of State CoC Funding Competition related materials and information are available on the CoC website. MD BoS CoC Funding Information.

## Goals & Priorities for the FY2026 CoC Competition

The CoC has identified the following funding priorities for the FY2026 CoC Competition:

- Submit a consolidated application that maximizes the CoC overall application score, ensures the highest possibility of all available funding and meets all required thresholds
- Fund projects that meet community needs
- Fund projects that are cost effective and maximize program and mainstream resources
- Fund projects that successfully end homelessness
- Promote the use of best practices
- Fund projects that will effectively meet HUD policies and priorities

In addition, the CoC has identified the following goals and priorities to guide final ranking of new and renewal projects in the 2026 CoC Consolidated Application:

- Project Ranking Goal: To preserve critical Permanent Supportive Housing projects across the full geography of the Balance of State CoC, while encouraging new project applications for Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only projects necessary to provide necessary supports to help households exit homelessness and increase self-sufficiency.
- To that end, the following priorities, in no particular order, may help guide development of a final ranking approach:
    - The CoC may seek to preserve low-ranking projects at risk of losing funding where those projects represent the only CoC Program funding in their communities.
    - The CoC may consider reducing funding requests for the lowest ranked projects as a means to preserve funding for higher ranked projects, if needed, and keeping in line with other priorities.
    - The CoC may consider ranking new projects higher than some renewal projects, where the CoC believes doing so will better help the CoC meet the ranking goal outlined above.

## Balance of State Competition Process

CoCs are required by HUD to review, rate and rank all project applications. The BoS uses the Performance Review Committee to facilitate the scoring and ranking process. Projects that are selected and ranked in priority order by the committee are provided to the CoC Board of Directors for final review.

The committee scores new project applications solely based on the responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP). Renewing projects scores are derived from the Renewal Project Scorecard, based on actual project performance, and any required responses to the RFP.

All project application submissions undergo a threshold review for completion and accuracy prior to being scored by the Project Review Committee. Projects that submit incomplete applications or do not submit their application by the stated deadline in the competition timeline document may not be considered for funding.

# Project Evaluation

The Performance Review Committee is responsible for implementing the evaluation process and project ranking approach. The evaluation process and related project ranking helps MD-514 to fully maximize CoC Program funds, make informed funding decisions and continue to move the CoC toward the goal of ending homelessness.

## Renewing & Transitioning CoC Projects

Renewing projects are primarily evaluated via a project scorecard that utilizes project performance, financial data, data quality, grant management efforts and CoC compliance and participation. The scorecard is used to establish which programs have been most successful in achieving HUD and locally determined performance standards; and to identify how programs are contributing to the overall System Performance of the CoC.

Transitioning projects are also evaluated via a project scorecard to evaluate past performance and grant management. Although the project is applying to transition to a new component type, the CoC relies on performance history to identify applicants most likely to be successful in the greater competition.

Scorecard performance data is gathered via Annual Performance Reports (APR) generated in HMIS; aggregate level APR data provides a CoC-wide baseline performance for relevant scorecard measures. After calculating average performance for each applicable measure, a +/-5% deviation is established for the scoring range. The range nearest the average percentage is eligible for 5 points; project percentages above the specified average will receive 10 points; and project percentages below the specified average range will receive 0 points. This method allows programs to be compared and scored specifically to other programs of the same project component type within the CoC and identify which projects are most improving the CoC System Performance.

Scorecard measures that are not obtained from aggregate APRs are derived from other sources including but not limited to HMIS custom reporting, national data and best practices, HUD and eSNAPS project applications.

Project performance percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number for each measure and are scored accordingly.

Before using project reports to establish scores, DHCD will notify renewing projects of the performance date range and deadlines to complete all data corrections in HMIS.

Score card data is derived from HUD reports including the Annual Performance Reports (APR), Data Quality Reports, System Performance Reports, Sage Reports and HMIS custom reports. Project applications and agency level reports may be used for data outside the HMIS.

The following areas are evaluated as part of the renewal project evaluation process.

| Scorecard Category Weight | |
|---|---|
| Project Performance | 80% |
| HMIS Data Quality | 10% |
| Grant Management & Financials | 10% |
| Total Score | 100% |

**PROJECT PERFORMANCE:**

1) Quarterly Occupancy Utilization Rate (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates efficient use of community resources. High occupancy indicates system efficiency and community demand for services. Project occupancy data is reported to HUD via the Housing Inventory Chart (HIC).
2) Percentage of participants who remained in PSH or exited to permanent housing (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates project success in ending homelessness by measuring the number of participants with a permanent destination at project exit and those who remained in a permanent supportive housing project compared to the total number of participants active in the project during the measured year. HUD System Performance Measure #7.
3) Percentage of participants who exited to unsubsidized permanent housing (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates project success in ending homelessness by measuring the number of participants with a permanent destination at project exit to permanent, unsubsidized housing.
4) Percentage of adult stayers at annual assessment who gained or increased employment income (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates that the project is assisting households to increase self-sufficiency and stabilize housing by retaining or gaining employment income. HUD System Performance Measure #4.
5) Percentage of adult leavers at exit who gained or increased employment income (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates that the project is assisting households to increase self-sufficiency and stabilize housing by retaining or gaining employment income. HUD System Performance Measure #4.
6) Percentage of adult stayers at annual assessment who gained or increased non-employment cash income (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates that the project is assisting participants toward self-sufficiency through retaining or increasing income by utilizing all possible resources available to participants. HUD System Performance Measure #4.
7) Percentage of adult leavers at exit who gained or increased non-employment cash income (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates that the project is assisting participants toward self-sufficiency through retaining or increasing income by utilizing all possible resources available to participants. HUD System Performance Measure #4.
8) Percentage of all stayers at annual assessment with at least one source of health insurance (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates that the project is assisting participants toward self-sufficiency through retaining or obtaining health insurance.
9) Percentage of all leavers at exit assessment with at least one source of health insurance (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates that the project is assisting participants toward self-sufficiency through retaining or obtaining health insurance.
10) Percentage of adult stayers at annual assessment with at least one non-cash benefit (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates that the project is assisting participants toward self-sufficiency through retaining or obtaining non-cash benefits.
11) Percentage of adult leavers at exit assessment with at least one non-cash benefit (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates that the project is assisting participants toward self-sufficiency through retaining or obtaining non-cash benefits.
12) Percentage of chronically homeless households served (PSH projects)

a) Purpose: Indicates project success in ending chronic homelessness by measuring the number of chronically homeless participants served in the project during the measured year.

13) Percentage adults with no cash income at entry (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates the level of clients served with high needs.
14) Percentage of clients with more than one physical / mental health condition at entry (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates the level of clients served with high needs.
15) Percentage clients fleeing Domestic Violence (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates the level of clients served with high needs.
16) Percentage of households entering from a place not meant for human habitation (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates the level of clients served with high needs.
17) Percentage of clients aged 55 and over (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Indicates the level of clients served with high needs.

**HMIS DATA QUALITY:**

18) Personal Identifying Information Error Rate (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: To achieve accurate data collection and to satisfy HUD HMIS data requirements, projects must ensure that data entered into the local HMIS system is complete.
19) Universal Data Elements Error Rate (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: To achieve accurate data collection and to satisfy HUD HMIS data requirements, projects must ensure that data entered into the local HMIS system is complete.
20) Domestic Violence Provider: Comparable Database (VSP Projects) *
    a) Purpose: To ensure that Domestic Violence providers are in compliance with HUD regulations that require DV project data to be entered into a non-HMIS Comparable Database

**Data provided from non-HMIS participating agencies sent in a CSV format that is unable to be processed through the electronic database utilized by HMIS participating agencies will be reviewed outside of the system for data quality and completeness.*

**GRANT MANAGEMENT & FINANCIALS:**

21) Cost Efficiency (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: It is important to HUD that programs demonstrate cost efficiency – the annual cost to retain or move someone into permanent housing.
22) Pace of Draws (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: It is important to HUD that grants are drawn down consistently throughout the operating year to demonstrate effective grant management and reduce risk of unspent funds at closeout.
23) Percentage of total grant funds recaptured in the most recent grant closeout (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: It is important to HUD that programs show agency capacity to spend funds allocated in a timely manner and in full and allows for potential fund reallocation of unspent funds during the HUD CoC Competition.
24) Prior year recapture rate (All Projects)
    a) Purpose: Identify multiple year trend in grant recapture rate. Element is not scored.

**PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS: NON-SCORED ELEMENTS**

25) Coordinated Entry System Participation (All Projects)
    a) Not measured in 2026.

26) CoC Project Monitoring Score (All Projects)
    a) Not measured in 2026.
27) CoC Participation (All Projects)
    a) Not measured in 2026.

**AGENCY RESPONSE:** Opportunity for projects to provide feedback on performance and spending. Section not scored.

### FIRST YEAR RENEWALS

CoC projects renewing for the first time will not receive a scorecard since the project has not had the opportunity to complete a full year of performance. First year renewals will automatically be ranked pending the submission and score of the RFP. First year renewals may also be required to provide additional documentation based on the requirements of the HUD CoC NOFO. *There are no first-time renewal projects for the 2026 Competition.*

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Applicants are required to submit a response to the Balance of State Request for Proposals (RFP) for all project applications. Applicants must submit one RFP per project application. RFP questions are derived from local and HUD policies and priorities. Narrative questions may vary by project type (i.e. TH, SSO) and project status (i.e. renewal, transition, new) and will serve as an opportunity for applicants to provide more details regarding the proposed project. The Performance Review Committee is responsible for scoring this portion of the competition. A scoring matrix is provided to the committee to assist with a transparent scoring process.

Additional documentation may be requested per local priorities and HUD policies and priorities. All projects will be required to submit documentation to meet the threshold requirements as determined by HUD.

### VICTIM SERVICE PROVIDER PROJECTS

Domestic Violence Provider project applications are reviewed, scored and ranked in the manner described in previous sections. All performance related data is provided by the Victim Service provider as generated from the non-HMIS Comparable Database.

Domestic Violence applicants may be required to describe methods and tools used to ensure and increase client safety while enrolled in the program through the local RFP.

For new projects seeking DV Bonus funding, additional questions may be required on the local RFP to demonstrate unmet community need and describe a proposed plan to address the unmet need, along with data sources and calculations used to establish the unmet need.

### TOTAL PROJECT SCORE

The total project score for Renewal and Transitioning Projects is based on responses from both the Performance Scorecard and the RFP.

The total project score for New Projects is 100% derived from the RFP, since score cards are not applicable for these projects.

### eSNAPS Project Application

All project applicants must submit a project application in the eSNAPS system to meet HUD compliance requirements. The CoC will establish a deadline for application submissions and will conduct a review of each application to ensure consistency, accuracy and appropriateness.

All applicants are encouraged to review the HUD Detailed Instructions *(updated link pending)* to ensure compliance with all HUD requirements.
Applicants needing technical assistance with eSNAPS should review the HUD Toolkit for further information.

## Fund Allocation Process

The Performance Review Committee, a committee of the MD-514 CoC Board, is composed of unbiased, objective community members, who score project applications, rank projects as required and make funding recommendations to the CoC. Committee members are approved by the CoC Board and are not affiliated with applicant agencies and must complete conflict of interest documentation.

Committee members are provided with training opportunities regarding the CoC NOFO, the scoring process and the ranking policy. Members are given materials a minimum of 1 week prior to the deliberations meeting to review, score, accept/reject/reallocate and rank project applications.

The following list includes a sample of which project application materials are provided to committee members:

- Renewal project scorecard
- RFP responses
- Relevant eSNAPS data
- Relevant project financial data
- Relevant supplemental materials and attachments
- Local monitoring materials, where applicable

The scores from each member are returned to DHCD for initial project ranking per the CoC policy. Committee members deliberate in a closed meeting to make ranking, funding and reallocation decisions as guided by CoC policy. Additionally, the committee will make decisions related to which projects to accept and/or reject in the local competition.

Once a consensus has been met, the committee will provide final ranking recommendations to the CoC Board of Directors for review and to instruct the Collaborative Applicant to submit the project ranking within the HUD-required timeframe. The CoC will notify any projects that are rejected or reallocated within the HUD-required timeframe.

### Appeals

Project applicants may appeal funding related decisions for the following circumstances:

- There is a belief that the renewal project scorecard was calculated incorrectly.
- There is a belief that the CoC Competition Policies were not followed correctly.

All appeals must be submitted within two business days of the public posting of the project ranking list; appeals must be submitted to: boscoc.dhcd@maryland.gov.

# MD BoS CoC Grant Reallocation Policy

CoCs across the United States are required to monitor recipient and subrecipient performance, evaluate outcomes and take action against poor performers (24 CFR 578.7(a)(6)). One available tool CoCs may use to take action against poor performance is reallocation. Reallocation is the process of distributing funding from a lower performing project and making those funds available for new projects without decreasing the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD).

Reallocation is an important tool since CoCs must ensure that recipients are good stewards of CoC Program Funding. Per the FY2019 United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Appropriations Bill, HUD must give priority to Continuums of Care that allocate resources effectively. For FY2026 CoC Program funding, HUD will continue to prioritize CoCs who demonstrate that they actively review the performance of existing CoC funded projects and have a standard process for reallocating funds or have reallocated a total of at least 20% of the CoC's total ARD between the FY2021 and FY2026 CoC Competitions.

MD-514 uses local data to determine the characteristics of individuals and families with the highest needs and longest experiences of homelessness in order to develop housing and supportive services tailored to their needs through the CoC competition. MD-514 uses the reallocation process to create new projects that improve the overall system performance and better respond to the community need. The policy is in response to HUD's recommendation to reallocate low performing and underspent projects.

As stated in the MD-514 CoC Governance Charter, new Local Homelessness Coalitions that join the Balance of State will not be subject to involuntary reallocation during their first year of participation. Projects in the new LHC will be monitored and evaluated throughout the calendar year to allow for any necessary technical assistance and performance improvements. The goal of the CoC is to improve system performance as a whole and allow all projects the opportunity to be successful.

## Types of Reallocation

Reallocation can be involuntary or voluntary.

Involuntary reallocation is when the CoC "reclaims" some or all of a renewal project's funding which has been allocated to a particular agency without the explicit consent of the Agency in control of the funds. Involuntary reallocation happens when funding is redirected from an existing Renewal Project for the purpose of creating a New Project. Involuntary reallocation can result from the result of ongoing poor project performance or recurring underspending. Underspending, or grant recapture, is defined by the BoS CoC as a return of 10% or more of a project's awarded funds at the end of a project year, for two or more consecutive years.

Voluntary reallocation means that a project makes the choice to give up a portion or the entire amount of their project funding for the purpose of creating a new project or to change their project component type, e.g., from Rapid Rehousing to Transitional Housing.

### Voluntary Reallocation Policy

To meet HUD and community priorities, renewal projects within the MD-514 geography may request a voluntary reallocation request if there is a decision to reduce the overall budget, reduce the number of households served, or acknowledge a difficulty in implementing all performance and compliance related requirements of the grant.

Additionally, a project may elect to voluntarily reallocate funds to create a new Transition Grant. A Transition Grant is the process to fund a new CoC project by transitioning an eligible renewal project that is eliminated by reallocation to an eligible new project component over the course of a 1-year period. For example, an existing CoC Permanent Housing project may decide to voluntarily reallocate the full project funding amount in order to create a new Transitional Housing project in the same amount. The new project will have 1 operational year to fully transition from PSH to TH after HUD executes the grant agreement.

Any agency interested in a voluntary reallocation during the annual CoC Funding Competition must notify the BoS CoC Lead Agency for further instruction and technical support.

**INVOLUNTARY REALLOCATION POLICY**

During each CoC Funding Competition, the CoC Lead Agency will provide renewal project scorecards to the Performance Review Committee to further evaluate project performance, determine the project ranking order and identify any need for involuntary reallocation. The scorecards review project performance, grant management capability and HMIS participation; data used to populate the scorecard is derived from annual performance reports, HMIS reports and two years of spending history. A renewal CoC project may be subject to involuntary reallocation based on the circumstances described below.

*Project Performance*

Renewal projects will be assessed on their project quality and ability to meet performance outcomes such as occupancy rates, participant income growth, successful exits and cost efficiency. All scored renewing projects are subject to an eligibility threshold; projects that score in the lowest 20% of all renewal projects may be subject to further evaluation and review. Further, those not meeting the eligibility threshold may be moved to a lower ranking status and therefore subject to involuntary reallocation.

*Spending History*

HUD assumes that projects will spend 100% of the funds allocated to them. Projects that fail to spend the total grant award may see a decrease in funding as those funds are added to the pool of funds available for reallocation to other projects. Projects that have a high recapture rate of 10% or greater for two consecutive program years, may be reduced to the amount disbursed at the end of the 12-month review. An exception to this policy may be made for new projects that could not expend funds due to implementation barriers. Please note that any organization found to have less than 100% of their grant expended may be required to provide an explanation on why funds were recaptured.

*HMIS Participation*

HMIS participation is required to meet HUD renewal project threshold requirements. Non-HMIS providers must use a comparable database that meets the needs of the local HMIS to meet this threshold. Monitoring results along with data quality reports will be examined to determine if agency participation in HMIS is adequate. Projects with a data error rate of 10% or more will be placed on a data quality corrective action plan to correct existing errors and prevent future occurrences. The corrective action plan will consist of a series of required data quality workshops for users within the project. Projects that do not meet threshold requirements or have the highest rates of data errors may be reallocated to higher performing projects or new projects.

*Funding Restrictions*

HUD publishes funding thresholds and priorities that may shift between competition years and may require the CoC to further reallocate renewal project funds. Additionally, HUD may issue new guidance, funding limitations,

or requirements that necessitate significant revisions to funding recommendations, regardless of prior established priorities. The CoC reserves the right to make funding adjustments as necessary to align with HUD requirements or to maximize the CoC's likelihood of receiving funding.

# MD BoS CoC Project Rating and Ranking Policy

MD-514 will use the following process to rank all project applications in the FY2026 Continuum of Care Program Competition to accomplish the following objectives:

- To preserve Permanent Supportive Housing units to the maximum extent possible, ensuring units remain across the CoC geographic area
- To prioritize those activities that are most successful in ending homelessness
- To maximize funding available to end homelessness in the CoC
- To maximize the CoC overall application score and ensure the highest possibility of project funding
- To provide an incentive to all funded providers to monitor and improve their performance, including efficiency with funds, to ensure continued funding with CoC resources
- Effectively meet HUD policies and priorities

Renewal Projects are scored utilizing objective criteria, including project quality, past performance, cost effectiveness and contributions made to improve overall system performance. Domestic Violence providers will be evaluated utilizing data generated from a comparable database and are held to the same performance standards as non-domestic violence focused projects. MD-514 will monitor HUD required and local performance and compliance standards throughout the year and incorporate findings into the scoring process.

Once all renewal project scorecards are complete, the Performance Review Committee will preliminarily rank by score according to rank order stated below. The ranking priority order is subject to any unforeseen requirements as stated in the annual CoC Competition NOFO.

*Tie Breaker* - Rank order for renewal projects that receive equal scores will be determined based on the most recent year grant recapture rate, the project with the lower recapture rate will be ranked above the project with the higher recapture rate.

New projects are not subject to a renewal project scorecard and will be required to submit a response to the RFP that will be scored by the Performance Review Committee. New TH and SSO projects will be ranked in score order, below renewing PSH projects.

New projects may be assessed on the following: project design, how the project addresses local priorities and needs, how the project aligns with local strategies and HUD's priority to end homelessness, budget appropriateness and accuracy, project match, CoC participation, community collaboration, organizational capacity, and implementation timeline.

Any remaining non-PSH renewal projects will be ranked below new project applications. SSO-Coordinated Entry and HMIS renewal projects will not receive a Renewal Project Scorecard but will be subject to responding to the RFP and reviewed for compliance.

There is no guarantee that new project applications will be included in the NOFA submission; exclusion factors may include: a project application scores poorly, the project applicant fails to meet threshold eligibility or limited availability of project funds.

## Project Rank Order

Projects will be ranked based on component type, in order of highest to lowest score as determined by the Performance Review Committee.

1. Renewal Permanent Supportive Housing projects, ranked in order of highest to lowest score
2. New Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only projects, ranked in order of highest to lowest score
3. All remaining, non-PSH renewal projects, ranked in order of highest to lowest score

The CoC Planning Grant is non-competitive and is not a ranked project in this competition.

## Project Ranking Adjustment

The Performance Review Committee may adjust individual projects up or down in the ranking order to fulfill HUD priorities, prevent potential losses of funding and maximize the overall CoC application score. Other considerations to ranking adjustment include:

### Renewal Project Score Threshold

All scored renewing projects are subject to an eligibility threshold. Projects that score in the lowest 20% of all renewal projects may be moved to a lower ranking status and may be subject to reallocation. For example, the Performance Review Committee may rank a new project above a renewing project that scores in the bottom 10%.

### Geography

HUD has determined that geographic diversity is an appropriate consideration in selecting homeless assistance projects in the CoC competition. Likewise, MD-514 recognizes that geography is an appropriate consideration for the competition and seeks to ensure that funding remains equitable across the jurisdictions. Projects may be ranked higher to ensure CoC funded programs are accessible to people experiencing homelessness throughout the entire MD-514 geography.

### Vulnerable and High-Needs Populations

MD-514 recognizes that high quality projects serving vulnerable and high-needs populations, such as chronic homelessness, domestic violence and substance abuse; are a critical component to ending homelessness. To ensure the needs and vulnerabilities of these program participants are addressed, the Performance Review Committee may rank the projects higher to ensure the programs are prioritized to receive CoC funding. These programs must meet a need in the community, show positive housing related outcomes and provide choice to participants seeking the services offered.

### Voluntary Reallocation

Projects that choose to voluntarily reallocate at least 50% of their current grant amount in order to apply for a new reallocation-based project may be granted additional consideration in the ranking order. Projects that elect to fully reallocate their grant in order to change project component types, a Transition Grant, will be included in this scenario.