

**MARYLAND BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE MD-514
FY2026 CoC FUNDING COMPETITION
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)**

RFP ISSUE DATE: June 26, 2026
PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 8:00 pm, July 24, 2026
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY: CPD-2600-DC-0025
Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026
Continuum of Care Competition

ESTIMATED FUNDS AVAILABLE: CoC Annual Renewal Demand: \$9,659,780
CoC Bonus Funds: \$2,300,702

NOTE: **This RFP is subject to amendment pending future HUD updates
or announcements**

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to solicit project applications from across the MD Balance of State CoC for new and renewing projects in the FY2026 CoC Funding Competition.

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.

CRITICAL CHANGES FROM PRIOR YEARS

This section includes the relevant excerpts from the 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), found on HUD's Continuum of Care Program Competition website. The BoS CoC encourages applicants to review the [NOFO](#) in its entirety.

Additionally, the National Alliance to End Homelessness has published an analysis of the 2026 CoC Competition:

- [Full Analysis](#)
- [Understanding HUD's 2026 CoC NOFO Slides](#)

Changes to Tiering and Ranking

- The CoC's Tier 1 projects are capped at 60% of ARD.
- Tier 2 is the remaining balance of the ARD plus available bonus funding.
- All projects in Tier 2 are subject to the new HUD Selection Process.

Emphasis on Transitional Housing

- Through the new Selection Process, HUD has emphasized the creation of new Transitional Housing projects.

Emphasis on Supportive Services Only Projects

- Through the new Selection Process, HUD has emphasized the creation of new Supportive Services Only (SSO) projects.
- SSO project types have been further divided into three categories to distinguish different threshold requirements for each:
 - SSO – Standalone

- SSO – Street Outreach
- SSO – Coordinated Entry

Project Threshold Review

- HUD will review all project applications to determine if they meet 1) project threshold criteria, and 2) project quality threshold requirements.
- HUD's project threshold criteria require applicants to certify affirmatively the following:
 - The project applicant will not engage in illegal racial discrimination.
 - The project applicant will not operate drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites" in violation of 21 U.S.C. 856(a)(1), knowingly permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control in violation of 21 U.S.C. 856(a)(2), or knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia in violation of 21 U.S.C. 863. This is consistent with the objectives outlined in Section III.B above and is consistent with the requirements of 2 CFR 200.300(a).
- HUD reserves the right to verify past performance and evaluate the eligibility of a project application submitted during the CoC Program Competition to ensure that it can adequately manage federal awards and comply with all applicable federal laws. HUD will not penalize applicants for complying with the terms and conditions of prior HUD grants.

Risk Review

- HUD may reject applicants during the HUD Risk Review process for past performance as identified in public sources including news reports, inspector general findings, GAO reports and complaints with a reasonable basis.
- HUD may reject applicants during the HUD Risk Review process based on organization health, including: financial stability and capability, quality of management systems and the ability to follow laws and rules, among others.
- HUD in its discretion may use the results of the risk review as a sufficient and independent basis to make adverse funding decisions, including rejecting an award, applying special conditions on the award, or reducing the amount of an award.

CoC Collaborative Application Merit Review

- The CoC Collaborative Application rating factors are the evaluation criteria HUD uses to assess the CoC's overall application.
- HUD removed references and rating factors such as those related to Housing First and equity initiatives.
- HUD added rating factors such as the presence of substance use treatment and detox centers, local laws that prohibit public camping, requirements to participate in supportive services and expanded collaboration with law enforcement.

Emphasis on Service Participation Requirements

- The CoC application and individual project applications are awarded more points by HUD if the projects require supportive service participation. The threshold and scoring system, in practice, requires that all or a majority of projects require participation in supportive services to receive funding.
- New Transitional Housing projects will be required to provide individualized services for all program participants during their time in Transitional Housing that result in at least 20 hours per week of engagement in services, activities or employment, except for a participant who is over age 62 or who is an individual with handicaps as defined in 24 CFR 8.3 or a with a developmental disability as defined under 24 CFR 578.3
 - Examples of services or activities include case management, counseling, treatment, volunteering, work therapy, education, job training, community building activities, etc.
 - Employment may contribute to the required 20 hours per week of engagement.
- The below is from 24 CFR 578.75(h):
 - “Supportive service agreement.” Recipients and subrecipients may require the program participants to take part in supportive services that are not disability-related services provided through the project as a condition of continued participation in the program. Examples of disability-related services include, but are not limited to, mental health services, outpatient health services, and provision of medication, which are provided to a person with a disability to address a condition caused by the disability. Notwithstanding this provision, if the purpose of the project is to provide substance abuse treatment services, recipients and subrecipients may require program participants to take part in such services as a condition of continued participation in the program.”

NEW HUD GOALS

HUD has established policy priorities for this funding opportunity 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

FY2026 CoC NOFO AVAILABLE FUNDING

Amount	Type	Description
\$9,659,750	Annual Renewal Demand for MD-514	The CoC's ARD is calculated by adding together the eligible portion of the budgets in the group of grants ready to renew. The CoC will have the opportunity to submit applications based on the amount needed to renew these grants.
\$1,448,962	CoC Bonus Project Funding	This is the maximum amount of bonus funding for which the CoC is eligible to apply (does not include any reallocation).
\$851,740	DV Bonus Project Funding	This is the maximum amount of DV bonus funding for which the CoC is eligible to apply.

**Final Amounts Subject to Change*

HUD allows local communities to create new projects through two methods: bonus funds and reallocation. Bonus projects are typically awarded competitively at the national level but are also required to be ranked with the CoC's other renewal and new projects.

Other important amounts to note:

- Tier 1 projects are capped at \$5,795,850 total, or 60% of ARD
- HUD is dedicating \$1.3 billion for new Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only projects that fall into Tier 2.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT APPLICATIONS

For the FY2026 CoC Competition, the Maryland Balance of State is prioritizing high performing renewal Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects and new Transitional Housing (TH) and Supportive Services Only (SSO) projects. The Balance of State will not accept new PSH, Rapid Rehousing or Joint TH-RRH project applications during this competition cycle.

NEW PROJECT COMPONENT TYPES

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (TH)

Transitional Housing (TH) provides temporary housing with supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the goal of interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing. TH projects can cover housing costs and accompanying supportive services for program participants for up to 24 months.

The core components of a TH project include:

Housing structure

- Time-limited stay of up to 24 months
- Housing can be facility-based (single-site) or scattered-site units
- Participants are tenants/residents working toward permanent housing

Eligible participants

- Individuals and families experiencing homelessness (Category 1 or 4 of the HUD definition of homeless)

Required services

- Case management
- Services designed to help participants stabilize and transition to permanent housing
- Connection to employment, income, benefits and mainstream resources

Operating and leasing costs

- Eligible costs include leasing, operating costs, supportive services, HMIS, and administration (Note: Non-profit organizations are not allowed to administer rental assistance dollars. Non-profits will need to coordinate with a local or state unit of government or a Public Housing Authority to administer rental payments)

Compliance and data

- HMIS participation (or comparable database for DV providers)
- Habitability and lead-based paint standards
- Termination/grievance procedures and program participant protections
- Coordinated Entry participation for intake/referrals

New Project Threshold Criteria

HUD has established the following threshold scoring criteria for each new TH project application.

- Demonstrate that the project will provide and/or partner with other organizations to provide eligible supportive services that are necessary to assist program participants to obtain and maintain housing (i.e., case management, behavioral healthcare, employment training, etc.)
- The applicant has prior experience operating transitional housing or other projects that have successfully helped homeless individuals and families exit homelessness within 24 months or has a plan in place to ensure homeless individuals and families will exit homelessness within 24 months.
- The applicant has previously operated or currently operates transitional housing or another homelessness project, or has a plan in place to ensure that at least 50 percent of participants

exit to a positive destination within 24 months and at least 50 percent of participants exit with employment income as reflected in HMIS or another data system used by the applicant.

- The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.
- Describe how the proposed project will:
 - assess the service needs of program participants,
 - and provide individualized services for program participants during their time in Transitional Housing that will result in at least 20 hours per week of engagement in services, activities or employment for all program participants, except for a program participant over age 62 or who is an individual with handicaps as defined in 24 CFR 8.3 or a with a developmental disability as defined under 24 CFR 578.3 (examples of services or activities include case management, counseling, treatment, volunteering, work therapy, education, job training, community building activities, etc.) Employment may contribute to the 20 hours per week of engagement. The project description provided here does not constitute a reporting or documentation requirement.
- Indicate that the proposed project will create service plans for each program participant that include:
 - the services to be provided, when and how often services will be provided, by whom all services will be provided;
 - program participant goals, strategies for achieving those goals, and target dates for achievement to focus on improved health and wellness, housing stability, and increased employment income leading to financial stability and self-sufficiency.
- Demonstrate the average cost per household served for the project is reasonable. 2 CFR 200.404.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ONLY (SSO)

Supportive Services Only 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.

- **Supportive Services Only (Street Outreach):** An SSO project primarily dedicated to outreach service activity described in 24 CFR 578.53(e)(13) to individuals and families primarily residing in places not meant for human habitation.
 - 24 CFR 578.53(e)(13) describes outreach services as “activities to engage persons for the purpose of providing immediate support and intervention, as well as identifying

potential program participants...” and includes “initial assessment; crisis counseling; addressing urgent physical needs, such as providing meals, blankets, clothes, or toiletries; actively connecting and providing people with information and referrals to homeless and mainstream programs; and publicizing the availability of the housing and/or services.”

- **Supportive Services Only (Standalone):** This project type covers all other SSO project types that are not primarily dedicated to Coordinated Entry or Street Outreach, as described in 24 CFR 578.37(a)(3). Eligible supportive services are listed in the CoC Interim Rule and are listed on the HUD website. Examples include case management, education services, employment assistance, legal services, outpatient health services, and utility deposits.

New Project Threshold Criteria

In the FY26 NOFO, HUD distinguishes between different types of SSO projects. HUD established a distinct threshold scoring criteria for each type of new SSO project.

- **Supportive Services Only (Street Outreach):**
 - The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.
 - The proposed project has a strategy for providing supportive services to eligible program participants including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services.
 - Demonstrate that the applicant has a history of, or a plan for, partnering with first responders and law enforcement to engage people living in places not meant for human habitation and connect them to emergency shelter, treatment programs, reunification with family, transitional housing, or independent living. The applicant must cooperate with, and not interfere or impede, the enforcement of local laws such as public camping and public drug use laws, and must assist or be willing to assist first responders in their efforts to engage homeless individuals.
 - The applicant has experience providing outreach services, or a plan for providing outreach services, consistent with the activity description at 24 CFR 578.53(e)(13) and has a plan for or has demonstrated effectiveness at helping people successfully exit from places not meant for human habitation to emergency shelter, treatment programs, transitional housing or permanent housing programs.
 - Demonstrate the average cost per household served for the project is reasonable. 2 CFR 200.404.

- **Supportive Services Only (Standalone):**

- The Supportive Services project is necessary to assist people in exiting homelessness, addressing barriers to stable housing (e.g., substance use disorder, unemployment, childcare, etc.) and increasing self-sufficiency and the Recipient will conduct an annual assessment of the service needs of the program participants.
- The proposed project has a strategy for providing supportive services to eligible program participants including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services.
- The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.
- Demonstrate the average cost per household served for the project is reasonable. 2 CFR 200.404.

Additionally, the [HUD Exchange Decision Tool](#) provides more information to help distinguish SSO projects from housing projects.

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) which can be found on the [CoC Funding Competition Webpage](#).

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.

Applicants requesting renewal for rental assistance may request a per-unit amount less than the Fair Market Rent (FMR) if the actual rent per unit under lease is less than the FMR. This will help reduce the number of projects receiving rental assistance that have large balances of unspent funds remaining at the end of the operating year.

Renewal project applicants must ensure the amount requested will be sufficient to cover all eligible costs as HUD cannot provide funds beyond the amount awarded through the FY2026 CoC Program Competition. Project applications for rental assistance cannot request more than 100% of the published FMR.

NOTE TO CURRENT PSH, RRH AND JOINT TH-RRH PROVIDERS

The changes in the FY2026 NOFO will have a significant impact on providers with existing PSH, RRH and Joint TH-RRH projects.

Because of the new HUD prioritization for new TH and SSO projects, **the CoC will ONLY ACCEPT renewal project applications from renewing Permanent Supportive Housing projects. Rapid Rehousing and Joint Transitional Housing - Rapid Rehousing renewal project applications will not be eligible to renew.**

Providers with renewal RRH or Joint TH-RRH projects are strongly encouraged to:

1. Submit a transition grant to another project type
 - a. Transition grants are for providers that want to switch the project component of a currently funded project. For example, transitioning a project from RRH to TH.
 - b. This is technically a “new” project application, but only eligible for projects that are currently funded with a grant expiration date in calendar year 2027.

Providers with renewal PSH projects are encouraged to:

2. Consider reducing the total grant award amount
3. Consider if a transition grant to another component is appropriate

TRANSITION GRANTS

Transition grants are a type of new project application that is only available to currently funded projects with an expiration date between January 1, 2027, and December 31, 2027. A Transition Grant is an application to fund a new CoC project through the reallocation process to transition an eligible CoC renewal project from one program component to another eligible component over a 1-year period. The primary advantage is that the operating start date for the new project type would be aligned with the end date of the prior grant.

The following is required of transition grants:

- The transition grant operating start date will be the day after the end of the previous grant term for the expiring component. For transition grants reallocated from more than one project, the operating start date of the transition grant will be the day after the end of the earliest expiring grant term.
- For a new project to be considered a transition grant, the new project applicant must be the recipient listed on the current grant agreement for the eligible renewal grant(s) being eliminated and must include the grant number(s) of the project(s) being eliminated to create the new project and attach a copy of the most recently awarded project application. FY 2025 grants expiring in CY 2027 that were not required to submit a FY 2025 renewal application for the FY 2025 funding opportunity, the applicant will attach a copy of the FY 2024 CoC Program Competition project application.
- Transition grants will be evaluated by HUD using the threshold quality criteria of new grants.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Entity Types

- State government
- County Government
- City or township governments
- Special district governments
- Public and state controlled institutions of higher education
- Federally recognized Native American tribal governments
- Public Housing Authorities / Indian Housing Authorities
- Native American tribal organizations
- Nonprofits with a 501(c)(3) status
- Faith-based organizations

Additional Information on Eligibility

- Individuals are not eligible to apply
- For-profit entities are not eligible to apply for grants or be a subrecipient of grant funding
- Applications submitted by ineligible organizations will not be reviewed, scored, or selected for funding

Additional Requirements

- Applicant has active SAM registration with current information and maintains an active SAM registration annually. Applicants must be registered with <https://www.sam.gov/SAM> before submitting their application. In addition, applicants must maintain an active SAM registration with current information while they have an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by HUD.
- Applicant has a valid UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) Number. This is the identifier assigned by SAM to uniquely identify business entities. As of April 4, 2022, the federal government has transitioned from the use of the DUNS Number to the use of UEI, as the primary means of entity identification for Federal awards government-wide.
- Applicant is a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization or another city government agency. For-profit entities are ineligible to apply for grants and are prohibited from being subrecipients of CoC Program grant funds.
- Financial and Management Capacity: Project applicants and subrecipients demonstrate the financial and management capacity and experience to carry out the project as detailed in the project application and the capacity to administer federal funds.
- Population Served - The population to be served meets program eligibility requirements as described in the Act, the Rule, and the HUD NOFO.

- Applicant is in Good Standing with the State of Maryland (certification of Good Standing can be obtained through the Department of Taxation website.)
- Applicants must have two years of most recent Single Audit or independent financial audits that meet the Reports and findings from audits performed under Subpart F—Audit Requirements of 2 CFR part 200 or the reports and findings of any other available audits. The agency must be able demonstrate the financial and management capacity and experience to carry out the project as detailed in the project application and the capacity to administer federal funds. Demonstrating capacity may include a description of the applicant and subrecipient experience with similar projects and with successful administration of SHP, S+C, or CoC Program funds or other federal funds.
- Applicants must agree to participate in a local HMIS system. However, in accordance with Section 407 of the Act, any victim service provider that is a recipient or subrecipient must not disclose, for purposes of HMIS, any personally identifying information about any client. Victim service providers must use a comparable database that meets the needs of the local HMIS.
- Applicants must document at least a 25% cash or in-kind match for the amount of funding requested.

BALANCE OF STATE LOCAL CoC COMPETITION PROCESS

CoCs are required by HUD to review, rate and rank all project applications. The BoS uses the Rating and Ranking 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 will score project applications and scoring materials will vary by project status:

- **Renewal Projects:** Performance based scorecard, renewal project RFP response
- **Transition Projects:** Performance based scorecard, new project RFP response
- **New Projects:** New project RFP response

All project submissions will 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 may not be considered for funding.

The MD-514 Maryland Balance of State CoC has chosen the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to serve as its Collaborative Applicant for FY2026.

The contents of this RFP are subject to change pending updates from HUD.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Before continuing with this RFP, applicants may wish to review the [MD-514 Balance of State CoC Funding Opportunities](#) webpage for more information, including the CoC NOFO, training materials and additional guidance.
2. Verify your organization's eligibility:
 - Faith-based organization
 - Nonprofit with a 501(c)(3) status
 - Unit of Government
 - Public or State Institute of Higher Education
 - Federally Recognized Native American Tribal Government
 - Native American Tribal Organization
 - Public Housing Authorities / Indian Housing Authorities
3. **Please use this link to complete the RFP and upload any required attachments**
PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS DOCUMENT TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION. APPLICATIONS WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTED WHEN SUBMITTED VIA THE LINK ABOVE.
4. Submit the RFP, including any required attachments via the online submission portal no later than **8:00 p.m., July 24, 2026**.
5. Questions about the RFP should be [submitted by clicking here](#).
6. DHCD will post clarifications, corrections and announcements on our [CoC Funding Opportunities Page](#) through July 23, 2026 at 5:00 PM.
7. The Rating and Ranking Committee will review and rank all project applications in early August and provide recommendations to the CoC Board for final review.
8. All project applicants will be notified of their status no later than August 11, 2026.

PROPOSAL CHECKLIST

Application Contents	
☐	RFP Response: MUST be <u>Completed Online</u>
☐	e-SNAPS: Completed <u>New or Renewal Project Application</u> NOTE: e-SNAPS APPLICATIONS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE
☐	Attachment: eLOCCS screenshot to demonstrate the project is making, at minimum, a quarterly draw down of funds
☐	Attachment: Agency policy or other documentation of supportive service participation requirements (if any)
☐	Attachment: Evidence of on-site substance abuse treatment (if any)
☐	Attachment: List of Board of Directors
☐	Attachment: Most recent A-133 Single Audit or Independent Financial Audit if organization received less than \$750,000 in federal funds
☐	Attachment: Certificate of Good Standing: Screenshot of organizational registration status with the Secretary of State (non-profit organizations only) https://egov.maryland.gov/BusinessExpress/EntitySearch/Search

Applicant Information

The information below contains the list of questions that are included in the official version of this RFP. This document is for reference only, all questions must be answered [online](#).

Project Information

- Project Name (*please match project name as listed in eSNAPS*)
- Applicant / Recipient Organization Name
- Street Address, City, State, Zip
- County of Headquarters Office

Authorized Representative Information

- Chief Executive Name
- Chief Executive Title
- Chief Executive Email
- Chief Executive Phone

Agency Contact for CoC Application / RFP Questions

- Agency Contact Name
- Agency Contact Email
- Agency Contact Phone

Agency eSNAPS Contact (if different from contact above)

- eSNAPS Contact Name
- eSNAPS Contact Email
- eSNAPS Contact Phone

Threshold Requirements

- Does the Agency Have an Active SAM Registration
- Does the Agency Have a Valid UEI (Unique Entity Identifier) Number
- Does the Agency Have Outstanding Delinquent Federal Debts
- Is your organization a victim service provider defined in 24 CFR 578.3?
- Is your organization a faith-based organization?
- What is your organization type

Project & Application Details

- Please indicate the geographical area your project will serve
- Total Anticipated Funding Request (*Reminder: Renewal projects cannot request an amount above the total listed in the GIW*)
- Project Status
 - Renewal Project
 - Transition Project (Renewal project converting to a different component type, ex: RRH -> TH)
 - Brand New Project
- Renewal Project
 - Permanent Supportive Housing
 - SSO-CE
 - HMIS
- New / Transition Project
 - Transitional Housing
 - DV Bonus Transitional Housing
 - Supportive Services Only: Standalone
 - Supportive Services Only: Street Outreach
- If new project, projected start date (must be in calendar 2027)

PROPOSAL GENERAL QUESTIONS

SUMMARY BUDGET (CORRESPONDS WITH eSNAPS APPLICATION)

- Leasing \$
- Rental Assistance \$
- Supportive Services \$
- Operating Costs \$
- HMIS \$
- Admin \$
- Total Request \$

MATCH FUNDS (CORRESPONDS WITH eSNAPS APPLICATION)

- Match Source
 - Type of Commitment (Cash or In-Kind)
 - Type of Source (Private, Government)
 - Name the Source of the Commitment (Be specific, include the office or grant program as applicable)
 - Date of Written Commitment
 - Value of Written Commitment

GENERAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION (CORRESPONDS WITH eSNAPS APPLICATION)

Provide a description that addresses the entire scope of the proposed project. The project description should be complete and concise. The description must be consistent with other parts of this application and should identify the following:

- a. The target population including the number of single adults and the number of families with children to be served when the project is at full capacity
- b. Indicate if this is an expansion of a current project
- c. Type and number of units (scatter-site or single site; single or multi-family homes, etc.)
- d. Specific services that will be provided
- e. Projected outcomes
- f. Coordination with partners including but not limited to trainings, resources, and collaborations
- g. How the project meets community needs in its service area

PROPOSED NUMBER SERVED

- Total Number of Units (Households)
- Total Number of Beds (Individuals)

HMIS

- Will the program ensure new and current employees are up to date on HMIS best practices, requirements and regulations and ensure timely data entry and excellent data quality
- For Non-HMIS participating agencies (Victim Service Providers), will the program ensure timely data entry and accurate data quality using a comparable database

COORDINATED ENTRY PARTICIPATION

Participation in Coordinated Entry is a requirement for all CoC funded projects and all organizations must adhere to the following goals:

- ❖ *All clients who enter the homeless services system will be assessed for the Coordinated Entry System*
- ❖ *100% of CoC funded housing providers will participate in the Coordinated Entry System*
- ❖ *100% of new client enrollments into housing projects will come from the Coordinated Entry System By Name List*
- Will the program ensure that the project is compliant with the CE goals stated above

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES

HUD is increasingly relying on data-driven performance to evaluate community success. CoC's are required to submit [system performance measures](#) each year to demonstrate community-wide performance.

CoC's must strive to:

- ❖ *Ensure program participants do not return to homelessness*
- ❖ *Ensure program participants are successfully exiting to and maintaining permanent housing*
- ❖ *Ensure employment and income growth for homeless persons in CoC-program funded projects*
- Will the program agree to contribute to the CoC's overall success for the performance measures stated above.

LIVED EXPERIENCE ENGAGEMENT

Please indicate if your organization involves or engages people with lived experience in a meaningful way. Check all that apply.

- Host focus groups to collect feedback on program services
- Individuals with Lived Experience Serve on Agency Board
- Individuals with Lived Experience Employed by Agency
- Individuals with Lived Experience Service in Peer Navigation / Volunteer Role
- Individuals with Lived Experience Serve on Working Groups or Advisory Committees

- Have process for receiving and incorporating programmatic feedback from Persons with Lived Experience

HEALTHCARE

Indicate, for each type of healthcare listed below, whether your program assists clients with enrolling in health insurance and/or assists clients effectively utilizing the benefits.

- Public Health Care Benefits (State or Federal benefits, Medicaid, Indian Health Services)
- Private Insurers
- Non-Profit, Philanthropic
- Other

CHILDREN & YOUTH COLLABORATION

Indicate if the agency has any written formal agreements, MOU/MOAs or partnerships with one or more providers of early childhood services and supports listed below.

- Birth to 3 Years
- Child Care and Development Fund
- Early Childhood Providers
- Early Head Start
- Federal Home Visiting Program
- Head Start
- Healthy Start
- Public Pre-K
- Tribal Home Visiting Program
- Other

EDUCATION

- Does the organization have partnerships with youth education providers including Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), McKinney-Vento liaisons, school districts, GED programs, community and technical colleges, and other postsecondary education providers
- Does the organization have policies and procedures in place to notify families of McKinney-Vento service eligibility

SUBPOPULATION

Please indicate which subpopulation your project will serve. Check all that apply.

- Chronically Homeless Households
- Older & Aging Adults
- Physical Disability/Impairment or Developmental Disability
- Youth 18-24 Years
- Domestic Violence Survivors
- Veterans
- Families with Children

PHA COLLABORATION

- Does the organization have a current or planned agreement in place with public housing agencies to allow participants to transition from CoC housing programs to PHA supported housing

TREATMENT & RECOVERY SERVICES

- Does the program offer on site treatment
- Does the program require clients to participate in treatment as condition for participation
- Does the organization partner with outpatient treatment providers or peer recovery specialists
- Is there 24/7 access to detox or inpatient treatment (this could include local hospital Emergency Room)
- Does the organization have a formal partnership with a Certified Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) or Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)
- Is there a current or proposed sober house for people in recovery in the county
- Does the organization have partnerships with a local crisis system of care, such as the 988 Life Line, mobile crisis and outreach, or other crisis stabilization services
- Does the organization have current or planned partnerships with local drug courts or other specialty courts the serve mental and substance use disorders

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- Will the program require program participants to take part in supportive services (e.g. case management, employment training, substance use disorder treatment) by providing direct language from supportive service agreements (contract, occupancy agreement, lease, or equivalent)

EMPLOYMENT & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Does the organization partner with employment or workforce development programs such as the Local Workforce Development Board, State Workforce Agency, American Job Center (also known as One-Stop Career Centers), registered apprenticeship program, community and technical college, union training program, adult education provider, or State Vocational Rehabilitation agency.

MAINSTREAM BENEFITS

- Will the organization provide information to staff about mainstream benefits, including up-to-date resources on eligibility and program changes that can affect clients?

FAMILY REUNIFICATION

- Does the program assist with family or support network reunification efforts

ADDITIONAL COLLABORATION

- Does the program partner with any of the following organization types
 - Veteran Serving Organization
 - Victim Service Provider
 - Justice System or Re-Entry Programs
 - Projects that serve those with a high level of medical needs, including frequent utilizers of healthcare systems
 - Aging or Elderly Serving Organizations

PROJECT TYPE THRESHOLD QUESTIONS

NEW TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECTS

- Will the program provide and/or partner with other organizations to provide eligible supportive services that are necessary to assist program participants to obtain and maintain housing (i.e., case management, behavioral healthcare, employment training, etc.)
- Does the organization have prior experience operating transitional housing or other projects that have successfully helped homeless individuals and families exit homelessness within 24 months or have a plan in place to ensure homeless individuals and families will exit homelessness within 24 months.
- Has the organization previously operated or currently operates transitional housing or another homelessness project, or has a plan in place to ensure that at least 50 percent of participants exit to permanent housing within 24 months and at least 50 percent of participants exit with employment income as reflected in HMIS or another data system used by the applicant.
- Will the project be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI and SNAP.
- Will the project require program participants to take part in supportive services (e.g. case management, employment training, substance use treatment, etc) in line with 24 CFR 578.75(h) by attaching a supportive service agreement (contract, occupancy agreement, lease, or equivalent).
- Will the project provide individualized services for program participants during their time in Transitional Housing that will result in at least 20 hours per week of engagement in services, activities or employment for all program participants, except for a program participant over age 62 or who is an individual with handicaps as defined in 24 CFR 8.3 or a with a developmental disability as defined under 24 CFR 578.3 (examples of services or activities include case management, counseling, treatment, volunteering, work therapy, education, job training, community building activities, etc.) Employment may contribute to the 20 hours per week of engagement. The project description provided here does not constitute a reporting or documentation requirement.
- Will the provider ensure that the average cost per household served for the project is reasonable, consistent with 2 CFR 200.404.
- Non-profit organizations are not authorized to administer Rental Assistance for Transitional Housing projects. Rental Assistance for TH may only be administered by a unit of government or Public Housing Authority.
 - If your organization is a non-profit entity, do you plan to use Rental Assistance, and if so, do you already have a partnership (or similar arrangement) with an eligible unit of government or PHA?
 - If yes, please describe.
 - If no, would you like assistance from the BoS to identify potential partnerships

NEW DV BONUS TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROJECTS

New DV Bonus projects (Transitional Housing) must be fully dedicated to survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking who qualify as homeless under paragraph (4) of 24 CFR 578.3.

New DV Bonus TH projects must request a minimum of \$50,000 per project.

- DESCRIBE THE APPLICANT EXPERIENCE IN PROVIDING HOUSING TO DV SURVIVORS, ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING:
 - ensured DV survivors experiencing homelessness were quickly moved into safe affordable housing;
 - prioritized survivors—you must address the process the project applicant used, e.g., Coordinated Entry, prioritization list, CoC's emergency transfer plan, etc.;
 - determined which supportive services survivors needed;
 - connected survivors to supportive services; and
 - moved clients from assisted housing to housing they could sustain—address housing stability after the housing subsidy ends.
- DESCRIBE EXAMPLES OF HOW THE APPLICANT ENSURED THE SAFETY AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF DV SURVIVORS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS BY:
 - taking steps to ensure privacy/confidentiality during the intake and interview process to minimize potential coercion of survivors;
 - making determinations and placements into safe housing;
 - keeping information and locations confidential; training staff on safety and confidentiality policies and practices; and taking security measures for units (congregate or scattered site), that support survivors' physical safety and location confidentiality.
- DESCRIBE THE PROJECT APPLICANT EXPERIENCE AND PLAN FOR USING TRAUMA-INFORMED, VICTIM-CENTERED APPROACH TO MEET THE NEEDS OF DV SURVIVORS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:
 - prioritizing placement and stabilization in permanent housing consistent with participants' preferences and stated needs;
 - establishing and maintaining an environment of agency and mutual respect, e.g., the project does not use punitive interventions, ensures program participant staff interactions are based on equality and minimize power differentials;
 - providing program participants access to information on trauma, e.g., training staff on providing program participants with information on trauma;
 - emphasizing program participants' strengths, e.g., strength-based coaching, questionnaires and assessment tools include strength-based measures, case plans work towards survivor defined goals and aspirations;
 - providing a variety of opportunities for connection for program participants, e.g., groups, mentorships, peer-to-peer, spiritual needs

NEW SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ONLY STANDALONE

- Is the project necessary to assist people in exiting homelessness, addressing barriers to stable housing (e.g., substance use disorder, unemployment, childcare, etc.) and increasing self-sufficiency and the Recipient will conduct an annual assessment of the service needs of the program participants.
- Does the proposed project have a strategy for providing supportive services to eligible program participants including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services.
- Will the project be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI and SNAP.
- Will the services provided be cost-effective consistent with 2 CFR 200.404.

NEW SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ONLY STREET OUTREACH

- Will the project be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI and SNAP.
- Does the proposed project have a strategy for providing supportive services to eligible program participants including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services.
- Does the applicant have a history of partnering with first responders and law enforcement to engage people living in places not meant for human habitation to access emergency shelter, treatment programs, reunification with family, transitional housing or independent living. The applicant must cooperate, assist, and not interfere or impede with the enforcement of local laws such as public camping and public drug use laws.
- Does the applicant have experience providing outreach services, or a plan for providing outreach services, consistent with the activity description at 24 CFR 578.53(e)(13) and has demonstrated effectiveness at helping people successfully exit from places not meant for human habitation to emergency shelter, treatment programs, transitional housing or permanent housing programs.
- Will the services provided be cost-effective consistent with 2 CFR 200.404.

APPLICANT ATTESTATION

I understand and agree:

1. If awarded Continuum of Care funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, this project will comply with all program regulations as found in the Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule 24 CFR Part 578. The project will also comply with all other applicable federal, State and local regulations.
2. The organization will enter required project and client data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or a comparable database in accordance with the HMIS Data Standards and HMIS Policies & Procedures.
3. The funded project will participate in the Coordinated Entry System and adhere to all Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures.
4. Data submitted with this project application (including, but not necessarily limited to data in the APR, Sage, in HMIS, or within the application itself) is complete, accurate and correct.
5. It is understood that the MD BoS CoC Board is responsible for making decisions on which new and renewal projects are submitted to HUD each year as part of the annual CoC competition, and that the ultimate decision in whether a project is funded is made by HUD. It is further understood that 24 CFR §578.35 describes certain situations in which an agency may submit an appeal directly to HUD. It is agreed that the submission of an appeal to HUD, in accordance with HUD's policies and procedures, is the final recourse that may be taken for the project.
6. New Project Applications Only: If the new project funding applied for is awarded by HUD, it is expected that the grant agreement for that project will be executed and the project will be implemented. Failure to execute a grant agreement for new project funding may result in that funding being lost to the CoC. If my agency chooses to not execute a grant agreement for new project funding, that agency must attend a meeting with representatives of the CoC Lead Agency and the CoC Executive Committee to discuss why the agency is choosing to not accept new project funding. Additionally, the agency will not be allowed to apply for new CoC project funding for five (5) years. The CoC board also reserves the right to take additional action if needed.
7. If at any time my agency decides to voluntarily relinquish a renewal CoC grant, my agency will notify the CoC Lead Agency of this decision in writing as soon as possible.
8. If my agency voluntarily relinquishes a renewal grant, my agency will work with the CoC Lead Agency and other stakeholders as needed to ramp down the project and ensure that clients being served by the project are able to retain or achieve stable housing by the time the grant ends.

9. It is understood that my project will serve clients based only on HUD's minimum eligibility criteria and the project target population as written in the grant application. It is understood that clients will not be excluded from the project unless there are other funder requirements with additional eligibility or exclusionary criteria over and above the HUD CoC program criteria.
10. It is our responsibility to ensure that all proposed program participants will be eligible for the program component type selected; that all proposed activities are eligible under 24 CFR part 578; each project narrative is fully responsive to the question being asked and that it meets all of the criteria for that question as required by this NOFO and included in the detailed instructions provided in eSNAPS; the data provided in various parts of the project application are consistent; and all required attachments correspond to the attachments list in eSNAPS and contain accurate and complete information.
11. All applicants will be required to attest to additional federal regulations in eSNAPS as required for a federal grant. Responses will be considered part of the application process.

eSNAPS Application

- I understand that I am required to submit a corresponding application to this project in the HUD eSNAPS system and will meet all local deadlines and requirements.

APPENDIX A: NEW PROJECT ELIGIBLE COSTS

Under the Continuum of Care Program, new projects can request funding in up to 6 categories, dependent on project type:

Eligible Costs	Description	TH	SSO: All Models	PSH	RRH	Joint TH-RRH
Leasing	*Individual Units or Entire Structure *Rent must be reasonable and not exceed FMR *Lease between service provider and unit owner *Client is sublessee of service provider *Responsible for 100% of rent costs and damages *Service provider must pay for vacancies	✓		✓		✓
Rental Assistance	* Apartments, houses, facilities *Lease between client and housing owner *Written rental assistance agreement between housing owner and service provider *Client pays portion of rent according to 24 CFR 578.77. Service provider pays remaining portion of rent *Service provider cannot make rental assistance payments on a vacant unit except as provided in 24 CFR 578.51(i) <i>*Non-profit organizations are not authorized to administer Rental Assistance, only units of</i>	✓		✓	✓	✓

	<i>government or PHAs may administer Rental Assistance payments</i>					
Supportive Services	*Includes a wide range of services such as case management, assistance with moving costs, client assistance, treatment, food, and counseling.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Operating Costs	Costs for housing units: *Property Taxes/Insurance *Maintenance and repair *Security *Utilities *Furniture and equipment *Cannot be requested if project is using rental assistance funds in same structure	✓		✓		✓
HMIS	*Staffing and equipment costs to meet the regulatory requirements for participation in HMIS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Project Admin	*Up to 10% of grant *Administrative costs related to the planning and execution of Continuum of Care activities * Does not include staff & overhead costs directly related to carrying out activities eligible under §578.43 through § 578.57 , because they are eligible as part of those activities	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

For more information about the differences between leasing and rental assistance under the CoC Program, refer to the [HUD website](#). For more information about eligible costs under the CoC Program, review this [Introductory Guide](#) from HUD. For specific details about each eligible activity, refer to [24 CFR Subpart D - Program Components and Eligible Costs](#).

APPENDIX B: MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Match refers to actual cash or in-kind resources contributed to the grant. All costs paid for with matching funds must be for activities that are eligible under the CoC Program, even if the recipient is not receiving CoC Program grant funds for that activity.

All grant funds must be matched with an amount no less than 25% of the awarded grant amount (excluding the amount awarded to the leasing budget line item) with cash or in-kind resources. Match resources may be from public (not statutorily prohibited by the funding agency from being used as a match) or private resources.

To determine the amount of match required for a new project, develop a proposed budget for the funds being requested through the CoC Program. Subtract the amount requested for leasing and multiply the new total by 25%. This is the amount of match required.

Match Calculation Examples	
<u>Without Leasing</u> Total amount requested from HUD (without leasing): • Rental Assistance funding = \$80,000 • Supportive Services funding = \$13,000 • Project Administration funding = \$7,000 • Total amount requested = \$100,000 Total amount requested from HUD x .25 = Minimum Match Requirement \$100,000 x .25 = \$25,000	<u>With Leasing</u> Total amount requested from HUD (with leasing): • Leasing funding = \$70,000 • Supportive Services funding = \$23,000 • Project Administration funding = \$7,000 • Total amount requested = \$100,000 Total amount requested from HUD, excluding amount requested for leasing $\\$100,000 - \\$70,000 = \\$30,000$ Total amount minus leasing x .25 = Minimum Match Requirement \$30,000 x .25 = \$15,000

Eligible Costs for Match

All match contributions (cash or in-kind) in the CoC Program must be for eligible activities/costs per Subpart D of the CoC Program Interim rule, regardless of whether the activities/costs are included in the HUD-approved project budget. The eligible categories of match are as follows:

Supportive Services	Operating
1. Assessment of Service Needs	1. Maintenance/Repair
2. Assistance with Moving Costs	2. Property Taxes and Insurance
3. Case Management	3. Replacement Reserve
4. Child Care	4. Building Security
5. Education Services	5. Electricity, Gas, and Water
6. Employment Assistance	6. Furniture
7. Food	7. Equipment (lease, buy)
8. Housing/Counseling Services	
9. Legal Services	
10. Life Skills	
11. Mental Health Services	
12. Outpatient Health Services	
13. Outreach Services	
14. Substance Abuse Treatment Services	
15. Transportation	
16. Utility Deposits	
17. Operating Costs (SSO Projects ONLY)	

Cash Match Description

The service provider may use cash funds from any source, including other federal sources (excluding CoC Program funds), as well as state, local and private sources, provided that funds from the source are not statutorily prohibited to be used as match. The service provider must ensure that any funds used to satisfy the matching requirement are expended for eligible line items in the approved budget.

Programs may also count program income as cash match. Program Income must be earned during the grant term and shall be retained by the recipient and added to funds committed to the project and used for eligible activities. Rents and occupancy charges collected from program participants are program income. In addition, rents and occupancy charges collected from residents of transitional housing may be reserved, in whole or in part, to assist the residents from whom they are collected to move to permanent housing.

In general, program participant mainstream benefits are not considered match in the CoC Program because the benefits are not committed to the recipient/sub-recipient for the activities funded through the project. Instead, benefits are provided to the program participant and are based on program participant eligibility for that program.

Documentation of Cash Match

When the source is cash, written documentation must be provided on the source agency's letterhead, signed and dated by an authorized representative, and, at a minimum, should include the following:

- Amount of cash to be provided to the recipient for the project
- Specific date the cash will be made available
- The actual grant and fiscal year to which the cash match will be contributed
- Time period during which funding will be available
- Allowable activities to be funded by the cash match

In-Kind Match Description

In-kind contributions include the value of real property, equipment, goods, or services contributed to the program as match, provided that if the sub-recipient had to pay for them with grant funds, the costs would satisfy the matching requirement for eligible line items in the approved budget.

In general, program participant mainstream benefits are not considered match in the CoC Program because the benefits are not committed to the recipient/sub-recipient for the activities funded through the project. Instead, benefits are provided to the program participant and are based on program participant eligibility for that program.

Documentation of In-Kind Match

In-Kind Goods/Equipment

When the source of match is in-kind goods and/or equipment, written documentation must conform to the OMB Circular requirements in 24 CFR Parts 84 and 85 and the standards described below.

Written documentation of the donation of in-kind goods and/or equipment must be provided on the source agency's letterhead, signed and dated by an authorized representative of the source agency, and must, at a minimum, include the following:

- Value of donated goods to be provided to the recipient for the project
- Specific date the goods will be made available
- The actual grant and fiscal year to which the match will be contributed
- Time period during which the donation will be available
- Allowable activities to be provided by the donation;
- Value of commitments of land, buildings, and equipment—the value of these items are one-time only and cannot be claimed by more than one project or by the same project in another year.

In-Kind Services

Documentation of in-kind service match requires a different approach than documentation of in-kind goods and equipment. The sub-recipient must enter into a formal memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the agency providing the in-kind service(s) and must establish a system to document the actual value of services provided during the term of the grant.

APPENDIX C: ELIGIBLE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

The CoC Interim Rule specifies which eligible supportive services can be paid for with CoC Supportive Service funds (§ 578.53(a)(1)). All supportive services provided must help program participants obtain and maintain housing. Services not specified in the CoC Interim Rule are not eligible (§ 578.53(d)).

Eligible supportive services include:

- Annual Assessment of Services (§ 578.53(e)(1))
- Moving costs (§ 578.53(e)(2))
- Case management (§ 578.53(e)(3))
- Childcare (§ 578.53(e)(4))
- Education services (§ 578.53(e)(5))
- Employment assistance and job training (§ 578.53(e)(6))
- Food (§ 578.53(e)(7))
- Housing search and counseling services (§ 578.53(e)(8))
- Legal services (§ 578.53(e)(9))
- Life skills training (§ 578.53(e)(10))
- Mental health services (§ 578.53(e)(11))
- Outpatient health services (§ 578.53(e)(12))
- Outreach services (§ 578.53(e)(13))
- Substance abuse treatment services (§ 578.53(e)(14))
- Transportation (§ 578.53(e)(15))
- Utility deposits (§ 578.53(e)(16))

Note: Any supportive service not listed in the CoC Interim Rule is NOT an eligible cost.

Allowable Supportive Services are listed above and should not be conflated with program rules and barriers. Examples of program rules and barriers include:

- Curfews
- Rules regarding visitors
- Quiet hours
- Cleanliness
- Property Damage
- Code of Conduct