

2026 Annual CoC Program Competition

Northeast MN Continuum of Care

10:00am - 11:30am

June 30, 2026



What to Expect

HUD COC PROGRAM COMPETITION OVERVIEW

LOCAL COMPETITION PROCESS & TIMELINE

RESOURCES AND Q&A



About the NE CoC

The Continuum of Care is a **regional community planning body** designed to promote a shared commitment to the **goal of ending homelessness** with a focus on:

- quickly rehousing individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused by housing instability;
- promoting access to and utilization of mainstream resources and benefits; and
- optimizing stability and self-sufficiency for individuals and families while homeless and once housed.

The NE MN CoC region includes Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching & Lake Counties – including Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, & Leech Lake Reservations.

About the CoC Program Competition

- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) releases a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for CoC Homeless Program Funding.
- CoC Program Competition is often referred to as “the NOFO”
- Nationwide funding competition among approx. 450 Continuums of Care.

CoC Program Competition Components

Project Applicants

[-----Continuum of Care-----]



Developed based
on CoC priorities &
need

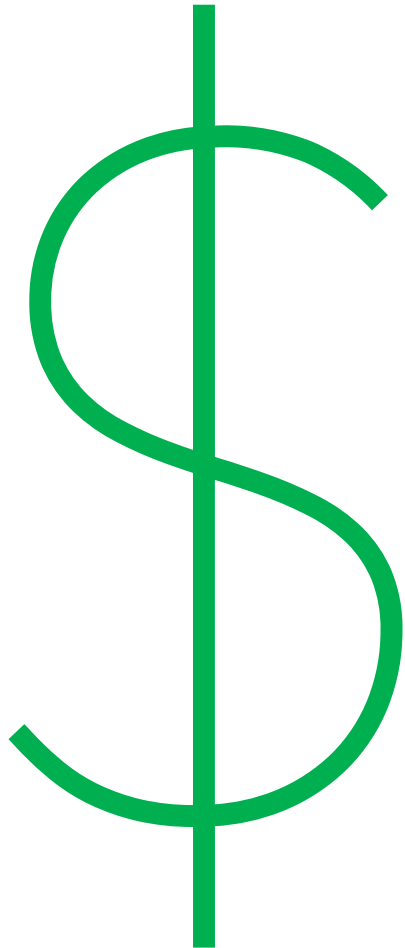
Highlights CoC-wide
performance &
strategies to end
homelessness

CoCs submit all
application
materials to HUD
to participate in
the nationwide
competition

Available Funding & Eligible Projects



Available Funding for NE CoC Projects



National Funding

- \$4.040 billion
- At least \$104 million for DV Bonus (FY25 and FY26 allocation)
- At least \$430 million for permanent housing for families with children
- Up to \$1.3 billion set-aside for new projects in Tier 2

Local Funding

- **Annual Renewal Demand:** \$726,038
- **Tier 1:** \$435,623
 - *Most likely to be funded if prioritized locally*
- **Tier 2:** \$290,415 (40% ARD) + Any Bonus Amounts
- **DV Bonus:** TBD
- **CoC Bonus:** \$500,000

Eligible Projects

Renewals: All projects listed on the 2026 Grant Inventory Worksheet are eligible to apply for renewal funds in 2026 – including SNOFO projects and recently transferred projects.

New projects created through reallocation, CoC Bonus, or DV Bonus funding, including:

- Supportive Services Only (SSO) - Street Outreach
- Supportive Services Only (SSO) – Standalone
- Supportive Services Only (SSO) – Coordinated Entry
- Dedicated HMIS (HMIS Lead Only)
- Transitional Housing (TH)
- Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)
- Rapid Rehousing (RRH)



Check out the [CoC Virtual Binder](#) to learn more about each project type!

HUD Project Eligibility & Project Quality Threshold

Each year, all projects (new and renewal) must meet threshold eligibility criteria to receive funding.

- Pass/fail standard—project applications rejected if they do not meet
- Renewal projects are considered to have mostly met these requirements previously

Assesses extent project applicants are eligible, have financial and management capacity to carry out the project, have submitted required certifications, will serve eligible program participants, and will agree to participate in HMIS.

NEW IN FY2026! Project applicants must certify that the organization:

- Will not engage in racial preferences or other forms of illegal discrimination
- Will not operate drug injection sites or “safe consumption sites,” knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia, permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs, or conduct any of these activities under the pretext of “harm reduction”
- HUD reserves the right to verify past performance and evaluate the eligibility of a project application to ensure that it can adequately manage federal awards and comply with federal laws.

Standard review of renewal projects to assess that they meet the minimum eligibility, capacity, timeliness, and performance standards identified in the NOFO

- Pass/fail standard—project applications rejected if they do not meet

NEW PROJECT QUALITY THRESHOLD CRITERIA

Project Type	Minimum Score	Key Criteria
Transitional Housing (TH)	6 / 8	• Will partner with other organizations to provide supportive services, supplement with public/private resources, and demonstrate reasonable costs • Experience operating TH where households exited homelessness within 24 months and ≥50% exited with employment income • Participants engage in ≥20 hrs/week of services, activities, or employment (exceptions: age >62, “handicap” per 24 CFR 8.3, developmental disability) • Project assists sheltered/unsheltered persons to exit homelessness by increasing self-sufficiency
Supportive Services Only (SSO) – Standalone	4 / 5	• Will partner with other organizations to provide supportive services, supplement with public/private resources, and demonstrate reasonable costs • Experience operating TH where households exited homelessness within 24 months and ≥50% exited with employment income • Participants engage in ≥20 hrs/week of services, activities, or employment (exceptions as above) • Project assists sheltered/unsheltered persons to exit homelessness by increasing self-sufficiency • Will supplement with public/private resources and demonstrate reasonable costs
Supportive Services Only – Street Outreach (SSO-SO)	5 / 6	• Meets all criteria for SSO-Standalone • Experience providing outreach services • Demonstrates history of partnering with first responders and law enforcement • Will not interfere with enforcement of public camping or drug-use laws
Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE)	3 / 4	• CE access is available and reachable across the entire geographic area • Strategy exists for reaching households with highest needs • Standardized assessment process used • Ensures participants are directed to appropriate housing and services

NEW PROJECT QUALITY THRESHOLD CRITERIA

Project Type	Minimum Score	Key Criteria
Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)	3 / 5	• Housing type and configuration fit participant needs • Supportive services help participants obtain and retain permanent housing • Must serve households with a disability • Costs are reasonable under 2 CFR 200.404 • Project supplemented with mainstream resources
Rapid Rehousing (RRH)	4 / 6	• Leverages public/private sources for supportive services and demonstrates reasonable costs • Housing fits participant needs; services support obtaining/retaining permanent housing • Must serve households with a disability • Requires participation in services • Applicant has operated a project where employment incomes improved
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	3 / 4	• Used as proactive case management tool to promote treatment and recovery • Collects all UDEs • Ability to deduplicate client records • Produces all HUD-required reports
CoC Planning	3 / 5	• CoC membership is open and inclusive; written governance charter in place • CoC-wide planning committees • Activities comply with 24 CFR 578.7 • Funds improve CoC's ability to evaluate project outcomes

Key NOFO Changes in 2026

Changes to Funding Tiers

Tier 1	Tier 2
60% of Annual Renewal Demand (Typically ~90%)	The difference between Tier 1 and the sum of the CoC's ARD, CoC Bonus, and DV Bonus Amount
HUD selects all projects ranked in Tier 1 that pass project quality, project threshold, and risk review	After selecting all approved Tier 1 projects, HUD will select projects ranked in Tier 2 following the selection criteria and using an assigned point value for each project based on (1) CoC Merit Score, (2) CoC Project Ranking, and (3) Supportive Service Participation Requirement
• Everything except CoC Planning (or UFA costs) is competitive and must be ranked in Tier 1 or Tier 2, including YHDP and DV Bonus • Projects awarded under the SNOFO that expire in 2027 are eligible to apply for renewal • Any eligible project types can be included in Tier 1 or 2: Transitional Housing, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, HMIS, SSO-CE, SSO-SO, and other SSO • New minimum and maximum amounts to CoC Bonus • Significant changes to Selection Criteria	

Other Key Changes from HUD

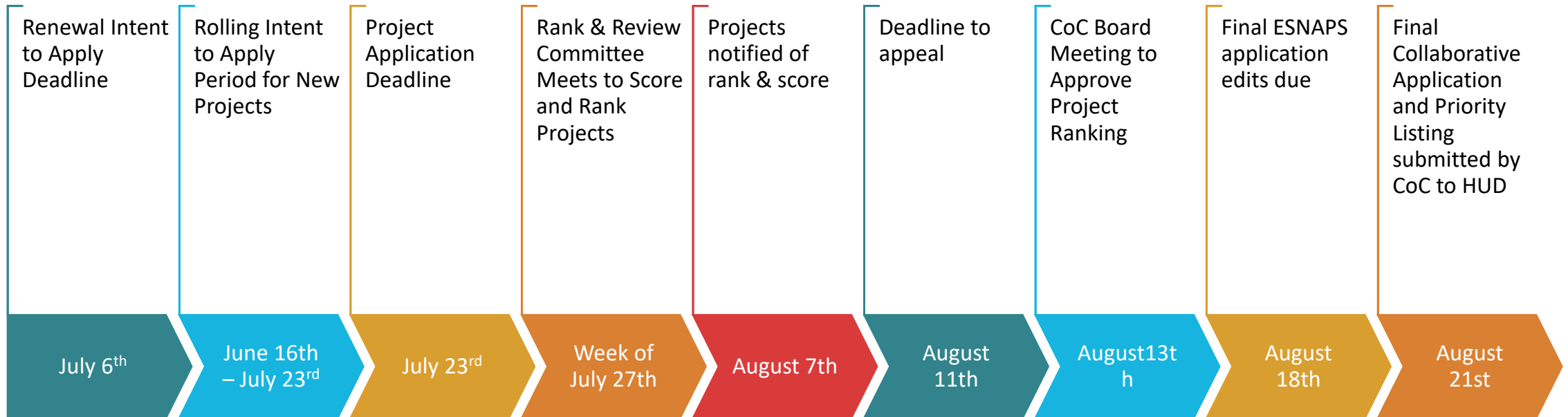
- **Expanded Eligibility for PSH.** PSH projects that are not dedicated to chronically homeless households or designated as DedicatedPLUS may serve people with disabilities who meet Category 2 of the homeless definition in addition to Categories 1 and 4.
- **Reallocation for First Time Renewals.** CoCs can reallocate funding from any eligible renewal, including those that are renewing for the first time.
- **Rural Set Aside.** Grants awarded under SNOFO may now only request costs eligible under CoC Program.
- **Preferences for Older Adults.** Recipients may establish preferences for elderly individuals and families.
- **Must Meet NSPIRE.** Effective October 1, 2026, all housing with leasing or rental assistance line items must meet the National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate (NSPIRE).
- **Expanded Eligible Projects for DV Bonus.** Transitional Housing is an eligible project type for the DV Bonus.
- **Joint TH-RRH.** HUD will allow for the renewal of Joint TH/RRH component projects but will not accept new applications for this component type.
- **Reinterpretation of “self-sufficiency”.** HUD is now interpreting this to mean “the ability to meet basic needs, including a place to live, without public or private assistance.”

HUD's Conditional Selection Process

1. All **CoC Planning** and UFA Costs applications that meet project threshold requirements.
2. All **projects ranked in Tier 1** that meet project threshold requirements. Can include any type of project, new or renewal, including DV Bonus.
3. If **DV Bonus** ranked in Tier 1= \$104 million, no further action needed; If total does not = \$104 million, select DV bonus by project score in Tier 2 up to \$104 million DV Bonus ranked in Tier 2 > \$104 million may still be selected based on project score using steps below
4. If **PH projects for families with children** ranked in Tier 1= \$430 million, no further action needed; if total does not = \$430 million, select PH projects for families with children by project score in Tier 2 up to \$430 million PH projects for families with children ranked in Tier 2 > \$430 million may still be selected based on project score using steps below
5. **New TH and SSO projects ranked in Tier 2** by project score (could include DV Bonus for TH and SSO not already selected) until \$1.3 billion of new projects selected
6. **(If funds available) Other types of new projects ranked in Tier 2** by project score until the \$1.3 billion amount has been reached. Once \$1.3 billion in new projects has been reached, HUD will remove any remaining unselected new projects
7. **(If funds available) HUD will select renewal projects ranked in Tier 2** that meet project threshold requirements by Tier 2 score until all remaining available funds have been expended.

NE CoC Local NOFO Process

Local Timeline – Key Renewal Project Dates



Local Threshold Criteria: RENEWALS

Eligible entity – nonprofit organizations, states, local governments, instrumentalities of state and local governments, Indian Tribes and TDHE

Eligible service population

Project application materials submitted by the deadline

HMIS – Capacity and plan to participate

Match – Meets HUD requirement of 25% match for everything but leasing

CoC participation – Participates in 50% of CoC Board meetings

Coordinated Entry – Participates in Coordinated Entry (training, assessments, referrals to program)

HUD Monitoring – No unresolved significant findings

Admin costs do not exceed HUD limits

Annual Training – Participates in mandatory trainings including: Fair Housing, Mainstream Benefits 101, and Safety & Best Practices for DV Survivors

APR Submitted on time for Previous Grant Year (Renewals)

Local Threshold Criteria: NEW PROJECTS

Eligible entity – nonprofit organizations, states, local governments, instrumentalities of state and local governments, Indian Tribes and TDHE

Eligible service population

Project application materials submitted by the deadline

HMIS – Capacity and plan to participate

Match – Meets HUD requirement of 25% match for everything but leasing

CoC participation – **Agrees to** participate in 50% of CoC Board meetings

Coordinated Entry – **Agrees to** participate in Coordinated Entry (training, assessments, referrals to program)

HUD Monitoring – No unresolved significant findings for any current or previous CoC grants

Admin costs do not exceed HUD limits

Annual Training – Participates in mandatory trainings including Fair Housing, Mainstream Benefits 101, and Safety & Best Practices for DV Survivors

Applicants with existing CoC grants or who have operated a CoC grant in the past 5 years have met all Capacity, Drawdowns, and Performance requirements (timely APR submission; quarterly drawdowns; no significant performance or capacity issues)

Proposed project demonstrates that it can meet HUD's minimum point requirement for the project component.

Local Scoring Criteria: Renewals

CoC Priorities & Need	Grant Administrative Performance	Coordinated Entry Participation	Services	System Performance (Renewals)
• Chronic Homeless (PSH Only) • Veterans • Priority Project Type (1. PSH or 2. TH) • Ending Family & Youth Homelessness • Connection to K-12 Education & Early Childhood Development • Coordination with Early Childhood & K-12 Partners	• Funding Management (Spending & Drawdowns) • Bed utilization (PSH, RRH, TH) • Data Quality – Personally Identifying Information	• Assessments • Case consultation • Referrals accepted	• Participant Service Requirements • Substance Use Treatment Availability • Partnerships with First Responders and Law Enforcement (SO)	• Returns to Homelessness • Maintain/Increase Income • Non-Cash Benefits • Retention/Exit to Permanent Housing (TH, RRH, PSH) • Successful Street Outreach Exits (SO)

Local Scoring Criteria: New Projects

CoC Priorities & Need	Youth, Families & Children	System Performance	Services	DV Bonus
• Chronic Homeless (PSH Only) • Veterans • Priority Project Type (1. PSH or 2. TH) • CoC Participation • Experience Administering HUD or Similar Grants • Project Meets Community Needs • Connecting Participants to Mainstream Health, Social & Employment Programs (PSH, RRH, TH)	• Ending Family & Youth Homelessness • Connection to K-12 Education & Early Childhood Development • Coordination with Early Childhood & K-12 Partners	• Returns to Homelessness • Increase Employment Income	• Participant Service Requirements • Substance Use Treatment Availability • Partnerships with First Responders and Law Enforcement (SO) • Transition Project	• Rate of Housing Placement and Retention for Current Clients • Experience Serving DV Survivors • Services Tailored to DV Survivors

Application Requirements

Required HOUSING & SSO Renewal Application Elements for CoC Local Competition:

- Renewal Project Supplemental Application – Housing Projects
 - Financial Assessment Form (ELOCCS screenshots are not required in 2026)
 - Households w/ Children Questionnaire (Families/Youth)
- Note: The CoC will also review information in Sage and HMIS as part of the renewal application review.
- ESNAPS Application

Required NEWLY FUNDED Renewal Application Elements for CoC Local Competition (not yet completed 1st grant cycle):

- Renewal Project Supplemental Application – Housing Projects
 - Sections: Project Information; CoC Participation; Services
- ESNAPS Application

Required HMIS & SSO-CE Renewal Application Elements for CoC Local Competition:

- Renewal Project Supplemental Application – HMIS & SSO-CE Projects
 - Financial Assessment Form (ELOCCS screenshots are not required in 2026)
- ESNAPS Application

Required NEW PROJECT Application Elements for CoC Local Competition

- New Project Supplemental Application
- ESNAPS Application

All application materials must be submitted via email to: clundquist@live.com by 11:59pm on July 23, 2026

ESNAPS applications will be due July 23, 2026 UNLESS HUD does not make the application available within 3 business days of the deadline.

Project Application Review Process

- Applicants submit all application materials to CoC by the deadline
- CoC Ranking & Review Committee reviews and scores applications using CoC approved tools and policies.
- CoC Ranking & Review Committee recommends draft project ranking and scoring.
 - Draft Project Ranking & Scoring posted to CoC website for public review and comment.
 - All applicants are notified of proposed rank and score and are provided the opportunity to appeal.
- CoC Board votes to approve Project Ranking & Scoring.
- CoC Coordinators review your ESNAPS project application and send recommended changes.
- Projects submit final ESNAPS application.
- CoC Coordinators submit final Project List and Collaborative Application in ESNAPS.
- HUD reviews applications at a national level.



Local CoC Ranking

- **Tier 1 Prioritization (Most likely to be funded by HUD)** - Within Tier 1, the CoC will prioritize:
 - High-performing PSH renewal projects
 - Other high-performing housing renewal projects
 - Other renewal projects meeting threshold requirements
 - Renewal HMIS and SSO-CE projects
- **Tier 2 Prioritization (Required to Compete w/ Projects Nationally)** - Within Tier 2, the CoC will prioritize projects in the following order:
 - Transitional Housing (TH) Projects (New & Renewal)
 - Support Services Only Projects (New & Renewal)
 - Permanent Housing Projects that Primarily Serve Families (New & Renewal)
 - Any remaining new projects created through reallocated funds
- **Renewals Ranked in Tier 2:** Renewal projects placed in Tier 2 due to low performance will be reallocated to create new projects unless there are not enough eligible new project applications to absorb the full reallocation amount. If there are not enough new project applications, the Ranking & Review Committee may recommend partial reallocation of funds or a Performance Improvement Plan. Renewal projects at risk of being placed in Tier 2 will be notified by the CoC and offered the opportunity to submit a new project proposal that better aligns with community needs.

Reallocation

- Reallocation refers to the process by which a CoC shifts funds in whole or in part from existing CoC-funded projects that are eligible for renewal to create one or more new projects.
- CoCs can reallocate funding from any project eligible for renewal in a competition year.
- Competitive reallocation: The CoC can reallocate some or all of a renewal project's funding if they:
 - Do not meet all threshold criteria to apply.
 - Are deemed to be low performing by scoring poorly and/or having unsatisfactory project performance.
 - Have returned any funds from their previous grant period or appear to be at risk of returning funds in their current grant period.

Application Tips!

Set Aside Time!	Schedule time in your calendar to focus on your NOFO Application and START EARLY!
Complete ALL Forms	Make sure you fill out all forms and questions that apply to your project.
Review Last Year's Application & Scoring (for renewals)	Review the local application materials and scoring from last year's NOFO as a starting place for this year (contact Cara if you don't have these!)
Ask Questions!	Reach out to your CoC Coordinators with questions.
STAY CALM	STAY CALM!

Helpful Resources

Local Resources (NE CoC)

NE CoC Website: nemncoc.org

- Project Supplemental Applications
- Project Scoring & Ranking Criteria – Includes total points available for applications
- CoC Ranking & Reallocation Policies
- NE CoC NOFO Schedule
- Local NOFO Updates

Application Technical Assistance

- Contact Cara (clundquist@live.com) to schedule 1:1 technical assistance.

Other Resources

HUD CoC Competition page

https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/coc/competition

- HUD 2026 CoC Program NOFO
- ESNAPS Detailed Instructions & Navigation Guides
- Grant Inventory Worksheet

HUD CoC Virtual Binder:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/coc-esg-virtual-binders/>

- CoC eligible activities
- Overview of project components
- Match requirements
- Grant administration

Q&A

