

FY2026 NY-508 CoC Funding Rank and Review Guide

Updated and approved by the CoC board on 7/2/2026.

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Background/Introduction

HUD's Continuum of Care (CoC) homeless assistance program serves as a source of funding for homeless services in Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming County. The lead agency coordinating these services (CoC Lead) is the Homeless Alliance of Western New York (HAWNY). HUD awards homeless assistance grants through an annual application process known as the CoC Program Funding Competition. The competition is a two-step process made up of local and national funding application. First, homeless service providers submit a local application in response to the Request For Proposal (RFP) released by the HAWNY, the CoC lead. Projects that make the selection list through the Rank and Review Process will advance to the federal application process. Second, projects selected submit a national application through E-snaps in response to HUD's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). HAWNY prepares the Collaborative Application for the CoC NOFO and provides technical assistance to projects applying for CoC funding, however, applicants are responsible for the preparation of both the local application and, if selected, the HUD electronic submission through e-snaps.

Projects that are eligible for the CoC funding are Transitional Housing (TH), Rapid Re-Housing (RRH), Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Supportive Service Only(SSO), Coordinated Entry Project (SSO-CE), Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and CoC

Planning. Projects may apply through renewal, transition, reallocation, replacement, or other eligible funding opportunities identified in the local Request for Proposal (RFP). Renewal projects and new projects are reviewed separately based on the criteria and principles detailed in this document. The Local Request for Proposal, which details the funding opportunities and application process, will be published on HAWNY's website.

Glossary

Continuum of Care (CoC) - The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote community wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness; provide funding for efforts by nonprofit providers, and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness; promote access to and effect utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families; and optimize self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness;

Project Review Committee - Review and rank applications for CoC annually. The committee also provides recommendations on funding reallocation and other strategies to use fundings. Committee members include people with lived experience as well as other community members who do not receive CoC funding to maintain fairness.

Request for Proposal (RFP) - A document to publicize a grant opportunity and request for proposed services. In the context of this document, the CoC local RFP follows HUD's CoC funding eligibility and outlines the local needs and application process.

E-snaps - The electronic Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Application and Grants Management System that HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) uses to support the CoC Program funding application and grant awards process for the CoC Program;

CoC Board - The Continuum of Care (CoC) Board is the governing body that determines policy and acts as the CoC's decision-making group. Mandated by HUD's Continuum of Care Program, the board is responsible for oversight of funds designated to the Continuum of Care and regional planning/policy development for addressing homelessness

eLoccs - The Line of Credit Control System (LOCCS) is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) primary grant disbursement system, involving disbursements for most HUD programs. Grant disbursements are facilitated via the Internet through the eLOCCS system;

Coordinated Entry Process - Coordinated Entry is a streamlined system that provides quick access to individuals and families seeking assistance through a coordinated referral and housing placement process. Households are assessed using a standard and objective tool that identifies their vulnerability and barriers to housing. Those who are assessed as having the highest vulnerability and longest homeless history will be prioritized for access to available housing programs as vacancies occur;

HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) - Referring to HUD annual Continuum of Care competition of funding.

Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) – The total amount of funding required to renew eligible CoC-funded projects within the Continuum of Care, excluding the CoC Planning Grant.

Guiding Principles on Project Review and Ranking

For the FY2026 HUD CoC funding round, the CoC has established the following guiding principles based on the priorities and policy goals outlined in the FY2026 HUD CoC NOFO.

- Minimize returns to homelessness and associated trauma by preserving housing resources and supporting project models that demonstrate strong participant outcomes.
- Prioritize CoC funds for HUD-required projects (Coordinated Entry and HMIS) to meet all HUD requirements for the CoC.
- Encourage project designs that align with FY2026 HUD priorities, improve competitiveness, and strengthen the community's ability to retain and expand federal funding.
- Promote efficient use of CoC resources by encouraging project transitions, reallocations, consolidations, replacements, and other strategies when such changes improve project effectiveness, competitiveness, or system performance.
- Balance community needs, project performance, geographic fairness, and HUD priorities when making funding recommendations.

Project Selection Committee:

The Project Review Committee shall have a minimum of 7 members

- The CoC will make reasonable efforts to ensure the committee includes representation from across the geographic areas served by the CoC to support a broad regional perspective during the project review process.
- The committee should attempt to include members with lived experience of homelessness that may or may not be residing from a funded program. When this situation occurs, the member will be excluded in that particular program discussion.

- Members must have no existing or perceived conflict of interest with any applicant and no direct relationship with any applicant or application subrecipient seeking CoC Program funds. Relationships include being an employee, contractor, vendor, or board of director, advisory board or similar relationship currently or in the past 3 years.
- Members should have knowledge of homelessness, housing, behavioral health, victim services, or other systems serving populations eligible for CoC assistance.
- CoC Lead staff will participate in the meeting with the Project Review Committee but will not score any application.

FY2026 HUD NOFO Policy Goals

The following FY2026 HUD policy goals will inform local funding recommendations, project review, and ranking decisions. These goals are established by HUD and may change in future funding competitions.

1. Improving Outcomes
2. Creating Competition to Improve Innovation and Accountability
3. Restoring Balance to the Continuum of Care
4. Prioritizing Treatment and Recovery as a Means to Self-Sufficiency
5. Promoting Economic Self-Sufficiency
6. Advancing Public Safety for All
7. Minimizing Trauma for Vulnerable Populations
8. Expanding Access Based on Merit, Not Ideology

Reallocation Process

Reallocation, transition, replacement, consolidation, and other project modifications are tools available to the CoC to respond to changing HUD priorities, improve competitiveness, preserve community resources, address system needs, and improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

These strategies may be used to strengthen project performance, align projects with HUD funding priorities, maintain community funding levels, improve system effectiveness, or address significant project performance concerns.

Strategic Reallocation or Project Modification

Examples:

- voluntary transition
- replacement project

- redesign
- alignment with HUD priorities
- improving competitiveness

Performance-Based Reallocation

Examples:

- under expenditure
- low utilization
- monitoring concerns
- failure to use CE
- failure to serve target population
- compliance issues

The CoC recognizes that changes in project design, component type, or funding structure are not necessarily an indication of poor performance. In some circumstances, project modifications may be recommended to improve competitiveness, preserve community funding, respond to changing HUD priorities, or better address local needs.

HAWNY provides ongoing education, technical assistance, performance reporting, and consultation to support providers in understanding HUD priorities, improving project performance, evaluating project design options, and preparing for the annual CoC competition.

[Renewal Projects Scoring Standards](#)

[New Project Scoring Standards](#)

Ranking Factors

1. Tier one priority

HUD's FY2026 NOFO limits Tier 1 to 60% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand. As a result, not all renewal projects can be placed in Tier 1.

The CoC seeks to minimize returns to homelessness and associated trauma by prioritizing housing resources that serve participants with the highest barriers to housing stability and by protecting critical system functions necessary to maintain HUD compliance and effective system coordination.

Tier 1 will prioritize high-performing Permanent Housing projects, including Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) and Joint Transitional Housing and Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH), particularly those serving populations that may not be successful in Transitional Housing or other project types. HMIS and Coordinated Entry projects will also be prioritized within Tier 1 due to their critical role in maintaining HUD compliance and supporting system-wide operations.

Placement in Tier 1 does not guarantee full funding. Project budgets and funding recommendations may be adjusted to address HUD priorities, geographic allocation considerations, community needs, project viability, and overall competitiveness.

2. Geographic Fairness Based on Pro Rata Need (PPRN)

HUD's Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) represents HUD's measure of relative need for homeless assistance funding within the Continuum of Care. Using PPRN as the basis for geographic allocation promotes fairness, transparency, and alignment with HUD methodology.

Each county will receive a maximum Tier 1 allocation based on its percentage share of the CoC's Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN). The geographic allocation establishes the maximum Tier 1 allocation available to each county.

If a county's remaining proportional allocation is insufficient to reasonably support a viable project, the Project Selection Committee may reassign that allocation to ensure available funding is fully utilized and remains competitive within the HUD funding process.

If a county does not have enough eligible and competitive projects to utilize its

proportional Tier 1 allocation, the remaining capacity may be reassigned to projects in other counties that demonstrate stronger performance, greater competitiveness, and alignment with CoC priorities.

Allowing unused allocations to be reassigned helps ensure available Tier 1 capacity is fully utilized, supports community competitiveness, and reduces the risk of losing funding opportunities due to insufficient eligible or competitive projects within a particular county.

3. Alignment with Community Needs and Existing Housing Resources

While PPRN serves as the primary basis for geographic allocation, the Project Selection Committee may also consider the alignment between existing housing resources and the needs of people experiencing homelessness within each county. Particular consideration may be given when a county contains a substantial concentration of specialized or restricted-eligibility housing resources serving specific populations or eligibility groups.

In such circumstances, the Committee may evaluate whether the proportional allocation of Tier 1 resources remains consistent with current community needs, available housing inventory, and overall system effectiveness. Adjustments may be made as necessary to ensure available funding is used efficiently, supports equitable access to housing resources, and advances the CoC's goals of reducing homelessness and maintaining competitiveness within the HUD funding process.

4. Tier 2 ranking

Renewal projects ranked in Tier 2 are not guaranteed funding priority over new project applications. Tier 2 renewal projects may be evaluated competitively alongside new, reallocation, transition, and replacement projects based on local ranking results, HUD priorities, project performance, and anticipated competitiveness in the national HUD review process.

The CoC reserves the right to work with applicants to explore project modifications, reallocation opportunities, component changes, consolidations, transitions, or alternative project designs that may improve project competitiveness and alignment with FY2026 HUD priorities and local system needs.

Projects that replace or substantially continue an existing CoC-funded project, while modifying the project design, funding structure, or component type to better align with FY2026 HUD priorities, may be evaluated using renewal scoring criteria and may be

ranked above other new project applications in Tier 2. Examples may include transition projects, replacement projects, reallocated projects, DV Bonus projects replacing an existing renewal resource, or similar project modifications.

This approach allows the CoC to recognize prior project performance, preserve effective community resources, and support strategic project modifications that improve competitiveness and alignment with HUD priorities.

New projects will generally be ranked after Tier 1 projects and projects replacing existing renewal resources. However, final ranking decisions may also consider HUD priorities, project quality, system impact, anticipated competitiveness, and overall community benefit.

5. Priority Rules Apply Before Final Ranking

While scoring determines the **initial ordering** of projects, the CoC's **priority rules**—including Tier 1 restrictions, PPRN geographic allocation, required infrastructure placement (HMIS/CE), eligibility thresholds, and HUD FY2026 NOFO alignment—**take precedence over score alone**.

These priority rules may change the final ranking position of any project, regardless of its numerical score.

This ensures that the Priority Listing:

- remains compliant with HUD's FY2026 NOFO,
- protects essential system functions,
- maintains geographic fairness, and
- maximizes community-level competitiveness.

Appeals

An applicant organization that has been denied funding or awarded funds in an amount that is less than applied for or requested under the local application process may submit an appeal to the CoC Project Selection Committee under any of the following conditions:

- a. If they were denied the right to reasonably participate in the local application process;
- b. If the Project Selection Committee overlooked information in the application that would have caused the application to meet thresholds or be successfully scored. No additional application information may be submitted after the deadline stated in local RFP;
- c. A decision made by the CoC Project Selection Committee regarding the ranking, rejection or funding of their project was unsubstantiated by the project performance

standards.

If the applicant can prove it meets one of these criteria, the applicant organization may file an appeal to be reconsidered for inclusion in either the local competition or federal competition. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to address each area(s) identified as a factor(s) of the funding decision in a manner that could result in a more favorable decision. **An appeal shall not be used as a negotiation tool to extend a poor performing program with the promise to better in the future.**

A written appeal request must be submitted to HAWNY via email within **three business days** of the notice of the funding decision. The formal appeal must include detailed reasons, in accordance with the criteria above (a,b,or c). HAWNY staff will share the appeal with the Project Review Committee. The Committee will then determine if this appeal meets the above criteria. A response to the appeal will be given via email with a decision or schedule a hearing with the applicant within ten business days. The decision made by the Project Review Committee will be final.