

# City of Lincoln/Lancaster County Continuums of Care (NE-502) Requests for Applications

## 2026 Collaborative Application for HUD Continuum of Care Funding

**Invitation to Bid:** The City of Lincoln/Lancaster CoC (Lincoln CoC) announce the opportunity to apply for funding under the 2026 HUD Continuum of Care Notification of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Detailed instructions for renewal and new project applications are below.

### **2026 Continuum of Care Competition**

This opportunity is available for renewal and new projects under the annual Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity. All Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project grants expiring in Calendar Year 2027 MUST apply for renewal or to transition as part of this competition.

While the FY2026 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) does not include the 30% cap on Permanent Housing (PH) project renewals that HUD previously forecasted, the 60% limitation on Tier 1 funding, combined with the 1.3 billion set aside for new transitional housing projects and new supportive services only (SSO) projects, creates a functional cap on the amount of PH projects that will be able to renew. This means that the Lincoln CoC anticipates selecting multiple new project proposals for Transitional Housing (TH) and Supportive Services Only projects, including enhanced services for program participants and Street Outreach projects and that any renewal grant placed in Tier 2 is at risk of not being selected for funding by HUD.

Because of this, we strongly encourage existing grantees who are unsure whether their renewal grant(s) will score high enough for Tier 1 placement to consider applying through this RFP to transition their existing grant(s) to transitional housing or supportive services only project type.

Existing CoC and YHDP grantees may submit:

- New project applications
- Expansion applications, which must add housing units and/or increase services to current participants, remain within the same program component (e.g., RRH, PSH), and identify the existing grant being expanded and the rationale for expansion.
- Transition applications, which allow an existing CoC project to shift from its current program component to a new one over the course of a program year (e.g., converting an RRH project to TH). YHDP recipients seeking to transition must use the YHDP Replacement process.

Any eligible organization is invited to apply for new project funding, and HUD and CoC are specifically encouraging participation from faith-based organizations. With new eligibility to fund Transitional Housing, the Lincoln CoC also encourages applications from organizations with experience in TH and/or residential treatment. Informational webinars will be available for new applicants.

**RENEWAL GRANTS:** Any organization with HUD Continuum of Care funding in the Lincoln CoC that is expiring in Calendar Year 2027 must apply for renewal funding through this funding opportunity or apply to transition to a new program component. Failure to submit a renewal or transition application under designated timeline or other application requirements, may result in exclusion from the Collaborative Application and funding being discontinued.

**BONUS PROJECTS:** (New projects) Opportunity to apply for bonus funding to create new permanent housing or supportive services only projects.

*Eligible new project types include:*

- Supportive Services Only (enhanced support services, street outreach)
- Transitional Housing

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BONUS:** opportunity for project applications that exclusively serve populations eligible for services under HUD Category 1 or 4 Homeless.

*Eligible project types include:*

- Rapid rehousing (RRH)
- Transitional Housing (TH)

**YHDP RENEWAL AND REPLACEMENT PROJECTS:** **Current YHDP funded organizations must submit a renewal or replacement YHDP project application** under the 2026 collaborative application to receive on-going funding. YHDP projects are being renewed COMPETITIVELY and will be ranked and scored. If the current recipient of YHDP funding will no longer operate the project and the project has been renewed at least once on a CoC competition, the YHDP funding may be reallocated to one or more new recipients. Any project assisted with YHDP resources may only serve youth aged 24 and under.

Current YHDP grantees may make minor changes to their renewal applications; significant changes (changing program component, significant budget changes) require a YHDP replacement application.

**RANK AND REVIEW:** Under the Continuum of Care NOFO, HUD requires CoCs to rank project applications in priority order and to base that ranking, at least partially, on how the project succeeds in meeting HUD system performance measures. Due to the need to continue providing services and support to households currently receiving CoC assistance, the CoC policy has been to prioritize well-performing renewal projects. Renewal projects, except for those essential to the operation of the CoC (HMIS and coordinated entry) are ranked according to

their renewal evaluation score. That score, in turn, is based on HUD system performance measures and compliance with CoC and HUD requirements and policies as determined collectively by the CoCs.

*This year all YHDP projects must be ranked and competitively renewed in the 2026 competition.*

All CoC NOFO documents for CoCs, including the Renewal Project Evaluation Scoring Criteria, New Project Scoring Criteria, and the Rank and Review Policy, will be posted to the CoC websites as soon as available:

- [City of Lincoln/Lancaster County CoC](#)

#### ELIGIBLE COC ACTIVITIES:

The 2026 NOFO HUD added two new eligible project types: Transitional Housing (TH) and Supportive Services Only (SSO) projects, including but not limited to those focused on Street Outreach.

Transitional Housing (TH) provides up to 24 months of housing and supportive services to people experiencing homelessness. Housing can be provided at a single site location or in scattered sites in the community. HUD expects TH programs to deliver individualized, intensive services focused on increasing income and supporting long-term housing stability. HUD further expects TH programs to be service intensive, offering supports such as case management, substance use disorder treatment, mental health treatment, employment assistance and job training, and outpatient healthcare. These services may be provided directly by the TH program operator or through formal partnerships with specialized service providers. Please note the following key elements:

- Transitional Housing must 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.
- Participant engagement in services, including clinical supports, will be required.
- Nonprofit applicants can provide housing assistance using leasing or operating costs. Due to statutory limitations, nonprofits cannot administer rental assistance for transitional housing.

Supportive Services Only/Enhanced Services (SSO) programs deliver robust supportive services and require participant engagement in those services to promote housing stability and increase income. Eligible applicants may propose projects that expand the level and intensity of services available to CoC program participants, particularly those that support HUD's key outcomes: sustaining housing, preventing returns to homelessness, and increasing earned income.

- Proposed services are focused on key HUD goals of maintaining housing stability, preventing returns to homelessness, and increasing employment income.

- Applicants must specify the services to be provided and indicate how they will assist in achieving the key HUD outcomes.
- Applicants must describe how the services will be coordinated with those provided by the housing provider. Applicants should describe any non-CoC resources that will be available to support the proposed project.
- **Eligible Applicants.** Eligible organizations<sup>1</sup> are invited to submit new or renewal applications for CoC funding to be included in the 2026 Collaborative Application. The only entities that may submit a CoC renewal application are current HUD CoC grantees that have a grant with an end date in calendar year 2027. Only current YHDP recipients may apply to renew or replace YHDP funds. Applicants for new projects can be nonprofit organizations, agencies of local government, Indian Tribes or TDHEs, and public housing agencies (PHAs).

## PROJECT APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

All applications must be completed using HUD’s online application platform, the E-SNAPS system. Additionally, new project applications seeking funding through the 2026 CoC NOFO must demonstrate that all threshold and scoring criteria are met, including:

- Certify that the applicant will use the service participation agreement developed by the CoC.
- The applicant certifies that it does not operate illegal drug injection sites or “safe consumption sites” in violation of 21 u.s.c. 856.

### THRESHOLD CRITERIA

Projects must demonstrate the ability to pass **all** the threshold criteria for the project to be reviewed and scored by the Recipient Approval and Evaluation (“Funding”) Committee. The criteria for Housing Projects (RRH/PH/TH) are [here](#) on pages 59-64 and the criteria for Supportive Services Only are on pages 64-66.

### TIMELINE:

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<sup>1</sup> Eligible organizations include nonprofit organizations and government entities including public housing agencies. Individuals and for-profit entities are ineligible to apply.

Project applications submitted after the designated due date will NOT be considered for inclusion in the 2026 City of Lincoln/Lancaster County CoC Collaborative Application

#### *2026 Continuum of Care Competition*

- **Letter of Intent, New Project Applicants.** Any eligible organization considering a new project application is requested to submit a letter of intent by **July 06, 2026**. These are non-binding. The Lincoln CoC will provide technical assistance to new applicants in meeting the requirements.
- **New project applications** must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm CDT on July 27, 2026**.
- **Renewal project applications** [including YHDP renewal/replacement] must be submitted in E-SNAPS no later than **5 pm CDT on July 31, 2026**.

#### Information and Resources

All information required for this competition will be posted on the CoC website, found here:

#### [City of Lincoln / Lancaster County CoC](#)

- The NOFO published by HUD and supporting information provided by HUD.
- The CoC's policies for review and ranking of new and renewal applications
- CoC's policies regarding reallocation – including voluntary and mandatory reallocation.
- Scoring factors for the review and ranking of renewal applications
- Links to resources available from the Department of Housing and Urban Development in support of the competition.

#### Possible application types:

Eligible organizations may submit one or more of the following application types:

- **Renewal application.** Any organization with a CoC funded grant that is expiring in calendar year 2026 must submit a renewal application in order to continue the project. This includes all YHDP projects. The total funds requested **must match the ARA** (Annual Renewal Amount) shown for the project in the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW). As of the release of this document, HUD has not yet released the GIW, but the CoC will share upon release. The project component, numbers of units, numbers and types of persons served, must be fully consistent with the expiring grant. Minor budget changes involving shifting 10% or less of a budget line item can be made as part of the renewal process – significant changes cannot be made.

All renewals will be ranked in the competition according to the scores received in the renewal evaluation process. Projects that do not meet the minimum threshold score for renewal must

either submit and obtain approval for a Project Improvement Plan or agree not to renew the grant and to reallocate the funding.

- **New project application.** New project applications may be for any of the eligible new project categories.

Funding for new projects will come from bonus funding, from renewal projects transitioning to a new component and from any funds that may be available from reallocation.

New project applications may submit a new project requesting 1 year of funding but with a longer initial grant term not to exceed 18 months. This will permit the project to start up and become fully operational. New project applications seeking to expand an existing project may only apply for 12 months of funding. New project applicants allowed to request an initial term of greater than 12 months are strongly encouraged to do so.

#### **Additional Options for Projects**

- **Transition application.** An existing renewal application (not including YHDP – this is accomplished through YHDP replacement) may be submitted as a ‘transition’ application. **This is a new project application.** A transition application will start the program year as one component and through the course of the program year, the project will transition from that component to one of the eligible new project components. At the completion of the program year, the project will renew under the new component. A transition application may be the most effective way to accomplish a ‘voluntary’ reallocation where the grantee with funds to reallocate is also the planned grantee for the reallocated project.
- **Consolidated Application.** Also continued from prior years, a grantee with more than one grant with the same program component may consolidate those individual grants into a single grant. Up to ten grants could be consolidated through this process. To submit a consolidated application, applicants must submit renewal applications for each project and indicate the intent to consolidate. If all the renewal grants are ranked so that each is funded by HUD, HUD consolidates the renewal grants into a single grant that will have as its start date, the earliest initial date of the consolidated projects. The only limitation on consolidating grants is that it must be the same recipient and the same program component and that no more than 10 grants be consolidated. There is no requirement that consolidated grants have the same budget line items or use the same subsidy approach (i.e., a leasing project can be consolidated with a tenant based rental assistance or project-based rental assistance project).

- **Expansion Applications.** Grantees may choose to submit a new project application in the NOFO competition that expands a currently funded CoC grant to serve additional persons, provide additional units, or provide additional services to existing program participants. HMIS may also be expanded. Expansion grants may only request 12 months of funding. Grants may be expanded solely to incorporate the newly established VAWA activities.

### Rating and Ranking of Projects

Renewal projects will be ranked in the Collaborative Application according to the rating score provided as part of the renewal evaluation process. The primary factors affecting the ranking of renewal projects have to do with project performance and the extent to which the project is contributing to an overall improvement in the CoC's system performance. Projects submitted by victim services providers are evaluated based on data from non-HMIS comparable systems regarding housing and income outcomes and on the extent to which the project improved the safety of participants.

New project applications will be reviewed by an independent panel with subject matter expertise but no conflicts of interest with regard to the application.

### Invitation to organizations that have not previously received CoC Program funding:

The CoC actively seeks applications from organizations that have not previously received HUD CoC funding. HUD places considerable requirements on grantees and the application process can be challenging. Organizations without CoC grant experience are invited to reach out to the CoC by contacting Jay Schalk ([jschalk3@unl.edu](mailto:jschalk3@unl.edu)) and request assistance in understanding program requirements or the application process. Requirements on eligible participants and activities are very stringent and organizations are encouraged to discuss potential projects and the application process.

### Presentation and Question and Answer Session

#### **New Project applications**

- **June 25, 2026, 9:00 am – 10:30 am Central Time**

#### **Renewal project applications including YHDP renewal and replacements:**

- **July 27, 2026, 9:00 am – 10:30 am Central Time**

