

New Project Application

Replacement applicant-facing application for new, bonus, DV Bonus, SSO, HMIS, TH, PH-RRH, and PSH project requests. Submit with required attachments by the local deadline.

Applicant Guide for First-Time and Returning Applicants

What is the Continuum of Care Program?

The Continuum of Care Program is a federal HUD funding program that supports local work to reduce homelessness. It funds housing, supportive services, Coordinated Entry, data systems, and projects serving people fleeing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. In this application, HUD means the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

What is a New Project?

A New Project is a proposed project that is not already receiving renewal Continuum of Care funding. It may be created through bonus funds, reallocation, DV Bonus funds, or another eligible FY2026 funding process. Prior Continuum of Care funding experience is not required.

What is Bonus Funding?

Bonus Funding is competitive funding that HUD makes available for eligible new projects. A project must still meet threshold requirements, address a documented need, and compete through the local Rank & Review process.

Who should consider applying?

Nonprofits, behavioral health organizations, housing providers, domestic violence providers, government agencies, healthcare organizations, faith-based organizations, transportation or employment providers, and organizations that have never received Continuum of Care funding may apply if they can operate an eligible project and meet requirements.

Eligible project types in plain language

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) combines long-term rental assistance with services for people with disabilities and high housing barriers. Rapid Re-Housing (PH-RRH) helps households move quickly into permanent housing with time-limited rental assistance and services. Transitional Housing (TH) provides temporary housing and services while participants prepare for permanent housing. SSO Coordinated Entry / Housing Navigation funds services such as referral coordination, document readiness, housing search, and landlord engagement. SSO HMIS supports the local homelessness data system. DV Bonus Projects serve survivors and may include PH-RRH, TH, or SSO Coordinated Entry using survivor-safe practices.

How to get technical assistance

Applicants are encouraged to ask questions early. Technical assistance may include explaining eligible project types, reviewing local deadlines, clarifying required attachments, and helping applicants understand terms such as Coordinated Entry, HMIS, match, and System Performance Measures. Technical assistance cannot guarantee funding or write the application for the applicant.

Common terms reviewers use

Coordinated Entry means the local process for connecting people experiencing homelessness to housing and services. HMIS means Homeless Management Information System, the local data system; victim service providers use a confidential comparable database instead. System Performance Measures, or SPMs, are HUD measures that show whether the local homelessness response system is improving. PIT means Point-in-Time Count, and HIC means Housing Inventory Count. Match means non-CoC resources used to support eligible costs when required. UEI means Unique Entity Identifier, the federal identifier used for grant applicants. VAWA means Violence Against Women Act, which includes housing protections for survivors. APR, QPR, and CAPER/ESG are HUD reports used to show grant and system performance. TDHE means Tribally Designated Housing Entity. Reviewers ask about these items because they show need, coordination, and measurable results. Strong responses explain the term in relation to your project and give examples, data, partners, or records that support the answer.

How to write strong responses

For each narrative, explain what the term means in your own project, why the issue matters, and give specific examples. Strong responses describe who will be served, what will happen, who will do the work, what partners are involved, how success will be measured, and what evidence supports the need.

Applicant and Project Information

Applicant organization	
Project name	
Project funding type	
Project component	
Amount requested	
Contact person	
Phone	
Email	
Agency mailing address	
City, state, ZIP	
Service area/counties	
UEI	

1. Applicant Certification

- The applicant certifies that all statements and attachments submitted for Rank & Review are true, complete, and accurate to the best of the applicant's knowledge.
- The applicant understands that the Rank & Review Committee may use this application, submitted attachments, HMIS/comparable database information, Coordinated Entry records, local data, and other official CoC records to evaluate the project.
- Missing competitive evidence receives only the score supported by available documentation.

Authorized representative name	
Title	
Agency	
Signature	
Date	

2. Threshold Certifications

- Threshold certifications are the basic requirements an application must meet before it can be recommended for funding. They are not bonus points.
- Check Yes only when the statement is true for the applicant and the proposed project. Check No if the item is not yet true, is unclear, or needs explanation.
- A No answer does not always mean the application is automatically rejected, but it may make the application ineligible unless the issue can be corrected by the local deadline.
- Use the notes box to explain any No answer, missing document, pending approval, or item that may need clarification.

Yes	No	Threshold requirement and certification
☐ Y	☐ N	Eligible applicant and project component Applicant is an eligible nonprofit, state, local government, Indian Tribe, TDHE, or other eligible entity, and the proposed component is eligible under the FY2026 CoC NOFO and 24 CFR part 578.
☐ Y	☐ N	Supportive services and participant stability Project will provide or coordinate supportive services that help participants obtain, maintain, or successfully transition to stable housing, while following local written standards, participant eligibility requirements, fair housing, equal access, and accessibility requirements.
☐ Y	☐ N	HMIS or comparable database Applicant participates in HMIS or, for victim service providers, uses a comparable database that protects survivor confidentiality.
☐ Y	☐ N	Match documentation, if applicable Applicant documents or credibly commits match for non-leasing costs. Leasing costs do not require match under 24 CFR 578.73.
☐ Y	☐ N	Financial and management capacity Applicant demonstrates fiscal controls, audit or financial review capacity, staff roles, and ability to administer federal funds.
☐ Y	☐ N	VAWA and confidentiality Applicant will provide required VAWA notices and maintain policies that protect survivor safety, privacy, and confidentiality.
☐ Y	☐ N	Conflict of interest and false statement certification Authorized representative certifies that information is true, accurate, and complete and that conflicts of interest will be avoided or disclosed.

2A. Threshold Notes

Threshold notes and explanation of any missing, pending, or unclear item

- Use this box if you checked No for any threshold item or if the answer needs explanation.
- Examples: audit is complete but board approval is pending; match commitment letter has been requested but not yet received; HMIS onboarding is scheduled; comparable database documentation is attached separately; VAWA or fair housing policy is being updated; a fiscal policy is attached under a different file name.
- Explain what is missing or unclear, what step has already been taken, who is responsible, and when the item will be completed.
- Do not include confidential survivor-identifying information. For DV-related explanations, use general or de-identified language.

Threshold notes and explanation of any missing, pending, or unclear item

3. Required Attachments Checklist

- Attachments are documents that help reviewers verify what you wrote in the application. They do not need to be fancy, but they should be clear, current, and easy to match to your narrative answers.
 - Name or label each attachment so reviewers can find it quickly. For example: Project Summary, Budget, Match Letter, Audit, HMIS Documentation, Policies, Partner Letter, Local Data, or Lived Experience Input.
 - If a listed attachment does not apply to your project, do not leave reviewers guessing. Note that it is not applicable and briefly explain why.
 - If you mention a partnership, data source, policy, match commitment, or lived experience process in a narrative answer, attach the supporting document or identify where reviewers can find it.
 - Do not include confidential survivor-identifying information. For DV-related materials, use aggregate, de-identified, or policy-level documentation.
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- ☐ One-Page Project Summary. Maximum length: one page. Include project name, project type, amount requested, population served, households served, major activities, expected outcomes, and community impact.
 - ☐ Project narrative responses in this application.
 - ☐ Detailed project budget and eligible cost documentation.
 - ☐ Match documentation for non-leasing costs, if applicable.
 - ☐ Most recent audit, financial review, or fiscal capacity documentation.
 - ☐ HMIS or comparable database documentation.
 - ☐ Fair housing, equal access, accessibility, VAWA, confidentiality, and participant eligibility policies, as applicable.
 - ☐ Staffing plan showing financial management, direct services, supervision, and oversight.
 - ☐ Letters of commitment, MOUs, landlord strategy documentation, partner agreements, or referral protocols.
 - ☐ Local data, PIT, HIC, SPM, Coordinated Entry, or other evidence supporting documented need.
 - ☐ Lived experience, advisory board, participant feedback, or community input documentation, if applicable.

4. Project Type Selection

Select the project type being proposed. Complete the Universal Questions and the project-type section that applies.

Your selection here tells reviewers which project-type narrative question to read and score later in the application.

FY2026 note: new Joint TH/PH-RRH component applications are not accepted under the HUD NOFO. Transitional Housing is included as its own project model, including eligible DV Bonus TH projects.

- ☐ PH-RRH
- ☐ PSH
- ☐ Transitional Housing
- ☐ DV Bonus PH-RRH
- ☐ DV Bonus Transitional Housing
- ☐ DV Bonus SSO-CE
- ☐ SSO Coordinated Entry / Housing Navigation
- ☐ SSO HMIS
- ☐ Other eligible component

5. Universal Project Narrative

Describe the proposed project model, target population, service area, amount requested, implementation timeline, staffing plan, supervision structure, and sustainability plan. Explain how the project addresses documented local need and fits the eligible FY2026 project component selected above.

Reviewers are looking for:

- Project model, target population, service area, and amount requested are clear.
- Staffing, supervision, major roles, and implementation timeline are realistic.
- The response explains how the activities fit the selected project type and addresses sustainability or operating risks.

Universal project narrative response

6. System Need and Local Data

Using state, local, PIT, HIC, SPM, Coordinated Entry, HMIS/comparable database, or other reliable data, explain the need for this project. Identify the specific gap, bottleneck, or underserved population the project will address.

Reviewers are looking for:

- The problem or service gap and the affected population are clearly described.
- At least one reliable data source is used, such as PIT, HIC, HMIS/comparable database, Coordinated Entry, local data, or community evidence.
- The data is specific to the service area or target population and the response explains what the data means.
- The proposed project is connected directly to the documented need, bottleneck, or underserved population.

System need narrative response

7. HUD Priorities and MO-602 Strategic Alignment

HUD awards funding to projects that improve homelessness outcomes. Explain what problem this project solves, who benefits, how it improves the homelessness response system, and how it supports local MO-602 priorities. Examples may include reducing unsheltered homelessness, increasing access to housing, improving housing stability, improving coordination with healthcare or behavioral health, serving high-need populations, increasing equity and accessibility, or incorporating lived experience.

Reviewers are looking for:

- The response identifies the problem solved, who benefits, and the expected system improvement.
- The project connects to HUD priorities such as reducing unsheltered homelessness, improving housing stability, increasing permanent housing outcomes, equity, or lived experience involvement.
- The response describes coordination with housing, healthcare, behavioral health, mainstream resources, or other partners where applicable.

HUD priorities and MO-602 strategic alignment response

8. Cost Effectiveness and Use of Funds

Reviewers are not looking for the cheapest project. They want to understand how requested funding will be used and what community benefit is expected. Describe households expected to be served, major funded activities, why the budget is reasonable, leveraged resources, partnerships, volunteers, and other funding sources.

Reviewers are looking for:

- Households or participants expected to be served are stated clearly.
- Major funded activities and budget reasonableness are explained.
- Leveraged resources, partnerships, volunteers, or other funding sources are described when available.

Cost effectiveness and use of funds response

9. Expected Community and System Outcomes

Describe the measurable improvements expected from the project. Examples include permanent housing placements, housing retention, reduced returns to homelessness, increased income, employment gains, benefits enrollment, reduced housing barriers, improved Coordinated Entry performance, or reduced first-time homelessness.

Reviewers are looking for:

- Measurable outcomes are named, such as housing placements, housing retention, income, employment, benefits, or reduced barriers.
- The response explains how outcomes will be tracked using project records, HMIS/comparable database, Coordinated Entry, or partner documentation.
- The outcomes connect to expected community or system-level improvement, not only services delivered.

Expected community and system outcomes response

10. Organizational Experience and Readiness

Previous Continuum of Care funding experience is NOT required. Describe the organization's relevant experience, such as housing services, behavioral health, healthcare, domestic violence services, youth services, transportation, employment programs, case management, financial management, or other community services. Explain who will operate the project, staff qualifications, and how successful implementation will be ensured.

Reviewers are looking for:

- Relevant community-serving experience is described; previous Continuum of Care funding is not required.
- Operator, staff qualifications, supervision, financial controls, and implementation readiness are clear.
- Partnerships, start-up needs, or readiness risks are addressed honestly.

Organizational experience and readiness response

11. Sustainability and Long-Term Impact

Explain how the project will remain effective throughout the grant period. Describe key partnerships, other funding sources, long-term community benefits, and plans for sustaining successful activities when possible.

Reviewers are looking for:

- The response explains how the project will remain effective through the grant period.
- Key partnerships, other funding sources, or resources supporting long-term success are identified.
- Long-term community benefit and plans for sustaining successful activities are described where possible.

Sustainability and long-term impact response

12. Coordinated Entry and System Coordination

Describe how the project will use Coordinated Entry or a survivor-safe comparable process. Include referral response, referral acceptance, vacancy reporting, referral disposition, case conferencing, and partner coordination expectations where applicable.

Reviewers are looking for:

- Referral response, referral acceptance, referral disposition, vacancy reporting, and case conferencing are addressed where applicable.
- The response explains partner coordination and how the project will use Coordinated Entry or a survivor-safe comparable process.
- The project shows how coordination will reduce delays, improve follow-through, or help people move through the system more quickly or safely.

Coordinated Entry narrative response

13. Lived Experience and Participant Feedback

Describe how people with lived experience or current/former participants informed project design, implementation, governance, or evaluation. Avoid token participation; describe specific roles, feedback loops, and changes made because of that input.

Reviewers are looking for:

- Specific roles for people with lived experience or current/former participants are described.
- The response explains how input shaped design, implementation, governance, or evaluation.
- Feedback loops and concrete changes made or planned because of participant input are identified.

Lived experience narrative response

14. Fair Housing, Equal Access, and Accessibility

Describe how the project will affirmatively further fair housing, market to eligible persons least likely to apply without special outreach, provide equal access, address accessibility, and inform participants of rights and remedies under applicable civil rights laws.

Reviewers are looking for:

- The response explains how the project will affirmatively further fair housing and reach people least likely to apply without outreach.
- Equal access, accessibility, reasonable accommodations, language access, and civil rights protections are addressed.
- Participants will be informed of rights, remedies, and complaint or grievance options.

Fair housing narrative response

Project-Type Narrative Instructions

- Questions 5 through 14 are universal and should be completed by every applicant.
- Questions 15 through 20 are project-type questions. Complete only the one project-type narrative that matches the project type selected in Section 4.
- Leave the other project-type narrative boxes blank. Reviewers will not reduce the score simply because non-applicable project-type sections are blank.
- If the project could fit more than one category, choose the primary HUD project component being requested and use that narrative box. Briefly explain any related secondary activities inside that same response.
- Examples: a PH-RRH applicant completes Question 15 only; a PSH applicant completes Question 16 only; a Transitional Housing applicant completes Question 17 only; a DV Bonus applicant completes Question 18 only; an SSO Coordinated Entry or Housing Navigation applicant completes Question 19 only; an SSO HMIS applicant completes Question 20 only.

15. Rapid Re-Housing Project Questions

Complete this question only if the project type selected in Section 4 is PH-RRH. Describe counties served, anticipated households served, housing identification, unit access, landlord recruitment and retention, rent and move-in assistance, cost reasonableness, individualized services, employment/benefits connections, exits to permanent housing, and follow-up after assistance ends to reduce returns to homelessness.

Reviewers are looking for:

- Counties/service area, anticipated households, target population, and access across the coverage area are clear.
- Housing search, unit access, landlord recruitment/retention, and screening or documentation barrier strategies are described.
- Rent and move-in assistance, cost controls, individualized services, employment/income supports, mainstream benefits, participant choice, and follow-up are connected to permanent housing outcomes.

PH-RRH narrative response

16. Permanent Supportive Housing Project Questions

Complete this question only if the project type selected in Section 4 is PSH. Describe service area, target population, prioritization, dedicated or dedicated-plus approach if applicable, housing identification, landlord recruitment, barrier reduction, move-in support, retention services, participant choice, mainstream resources, income/benefit supports, and how the project will maintain housing stability and reduce returns to homelessness.

Reviewers are looking for:

- Eligibility, prioritization, service area, high-need population, and chronic homelessness focus are clear.
- Housing identification, landlord engagement, barrier reduction, participant choice, services, and mainstream income/benefit supports are described.
- The response explains retention strategy, long-term housing stability, and how returns to homelessness will be reduced.

PSH narrative response

17. Transitional Housing Project Questions

Complete this question only if the project type selected in Section 4 is Transitional Housing or DV Bonus Transitional Housing. Describe the role of TH in the proposed model, participant choice, housing-focused services, safety planning, transportation, case management, readiness for permanent housing, length-of-stay expectations, transitions to permanent housing, landlord connections, and follow-up supports.

Reviewers are looking for:

- The response explains why Transitional Housing is appropriate for the proposed population and how participant choice is preserved.
- Housing-focused services, safety planning, transportation, case management, and readiness supports are described.
- Expected length of stay, permanent housing transition plan, landlord connections, and follow-up supports are clear.

Transitional Housing narrative response

18. Domestic Violence Bonus Project Questions

Complete this question only if the project is requesting DV Bonus funding. Identify whether the DV Bonus request is PH-RRH, TH, or SSO-CE. Describe survivor safety planning, confidentiality, comparable database practices, trauma-informed services, VAWA compliance, survivor choice, safe Coordinated Entry/comparable process integration, housing outcomes, economic stability supports, child/family supports, and survivor-specific need using aggregate or de-identified data.

Reviewers are looking for:

- The DV Bonus component is identified and survivor-specific need is documented using aggregate or de-identified information.
- Survivor safety, confidentiality, comparable database practices, VAWA protections, trauma-informed services, staff training, and survivor choice are addressed.
- Housing/stability outcomes, economic supports, child/family supports, safe coordination, and community benefit are explained.

DV Bonus narrative response

19. SSO Coordinated Entry / Housing Navigation Questions

Complete this question only if the project type selected in Section 4 is SSO Coordinated Entry / Housing Navigation or DV Bonus SSO-CE. Describe how the project will serve households with the highest needs, including people who may not seek services on their own. Include housing navigation, document readiness, landlord engagement, referral completion, mainstream resource connections, benefit enrollment, employment connections, referral follow-through, vacancy reporting, referral disposition, and CE bottleneck reduction.

Reviewers are looking for:

- Target population, highest-need access, supportive service engagement, outreach, and partner referral access are clear.
- Document readiness, housing navigation, housing search, landlord engagement, unit access, and placement acceleration are described.
- Referral response, acceptance, disposition, vacancy reporting, case conferencing, CE bottleneck reduction, mainstream benefits, employment, healthcare, and other resource connections are addressed.

SSO CE / Housing Navigation narrative response

20. SSO HMIS Project Questions

Complete this question only if the project type selected in Section 4 is SSO HMIS. Describe how the project will support HMIS implementation, data quality, Universal Data Elements, deduplication, HUD-required reports, local dashboards, APR, QPR, CAPER/ESG, SPM reporting, funding strategy, and why CoC funding is needed for this supportive service activity.

Reviewers are looking for:

- Implementation strategy, staffing, training, privacy/security, coverage, and timeline are clear.
- Data quality, timeliness, accuracy, Universal Data Elements, missing data reduction, deduplication, and monitoring are addressed.
- HUD/local reporting, dashboards, system decision-making, CE support, performance management, funding strategy, and why CoC funding is needed are explained.

SSO HMIS narrative response

21. Final Applicant Signature

- Applicant certifies that this application and all attachments are submitted for Rank & Review consideration and may be used by the Committee to evaluate threshold, scoring, ranking, reallocation, and funding recommendation decisions.
- Applicant confirms that the selected project component matches the completed narrative section and that all evidence referenced in responses is attached or clearly identified.
- Applicant confirms that confidential survivor-identifying information is not included in DV Bonus materials.

Authorized representative	
Signature	
Date	