

2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity CoC Program Competition and Sonoma County CoC Request for Proposals (RFP) Questions and Answers (Q & A)

1. Who do we reach out to with questions?

Organizations interested in applying are encouraged to contact Karissa White, CoC Coordinator, at Karissa.White@sonomacounty.gov or Jynessa Lazzaroni, Community Development Program Specialist, at Jynessa.Lazzaroni@sonomacounty.gov with questions or to discuss potential project applications.

2. How do we stay up to date on what is happening with the NOFO and local process?

Sign up for the Homeless Coalition Listserv. All notifications will be sent out through this email group here:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CASONOMA/subscriber/new?topic_id=CASONOMA_406

3. Can you sign me up to receive notices about the RFP?

No, this is something you will need to register your email with using the link in response two above.

4. Is the e-snaps application due on July 21st?

No. The July 21st deadline is for submission of local new project proposals, not the HUD e-snaps application. The RFP originally indicated that e-snaps would be used as the application format; however, HUD has delayed releasing the e-snaps materials, so staff have developed a paper application and budget worksheet to allow the local review and scoring process to move forward. Once HUD releases e-snaps, staff will provide additional guidance, schedule training, and establish the e-snaps submission deadline. Please ensure you are subscribed to the Homeless Coalition Listserv to receive future updates and notices:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CASONOMA/subscriber/new?topic_id=CASONOMA_406

5. When are the paper applications available?

They are available online, reach out to staff if you have issues accessing them. Budget Workbooks are not available online, please reach out to staff if you need access to them.

6. If the e-snaps applications are not due yet, what is due for new projects on July 21st by 5 pm?

E-snaps due date is to be determined. The Evaluation Workgroup will no longer use these applications to score projects. For NEW projects, the following materials are due by July 21st by project type:

- a. 2026 Supplemental New Project Evaluation Application Questionnaire (either TH or SSO)
- b. 2026 New Project Threshold Criteria Form (All Projects)
- c. 2026 New Project Quality Threshold Criteria Form (either TH, SSO-SA, SSO-CE-DV, or SSO-SO)
- d. Budget Worksheet (by project type)
- e. Copy of most recent audit. If you do not have a full audit, submit audited financial statements.

7. What if we do not have an audit?

Submit most recent audited financial statements.

8. For treatment and recovery services, does this have to be provided by the staff within the project, or can it be from another organization?

Either or, see SSO/TH Scoring Tool question 10: Proposed project provides Substance Use Disorder Services (SUDS) either through the proposal as staffing or through collaboration with other providers.

9. Is there a minimum or maximum request amount for New SSO/TH Projects?

There is no established maximum funding request amount for new Supportive Services Only (SSO) or Transitional Housing (TH) projects. Unlike prior years, the FY 2026 NOFO does not specify a minimum funding request for new CoC Bonus or Reallocation projects. The only explicit minimum included in the NOFO is \$50,000 for DV Bonus projects. We have submitted this question to HUD for clarification. Until HUD provides additional guidance, applicants may propose the funding amount necessary to operate their project; however, we encourage applicants to request an amount that is reasonable and sufficient to support a viable project.

10. Is there a limit to how many projects an agency can apply for. Could we apply for both SSO and TH?

No, there is no limit. Yes, providers can apply for both project components through separate new project applications.

11. What needs to be provided on the Supportive Services Agreement attachment?

HUD has not provided specific guidance regarding the required content of the Supportive Services Agreement attachment. Because this item is included as a scored component of the application, we have incorporated it as a simple yes/no threshold. Applicants may submit a basic agreement indicating that program participants agree to engage in case management or supportive services. There is no requirement to describe consequences for nonparticipation or to include language limiting or denying services if a participant chooses not to engage. We encourage applicants to keep this document as simple and concise as possible given the lack of instruction. This attachment is also not required.

12. Will projects be required to use Coordinated Entry System (CES) for referrals?

HUD has confirmed that transitional housing projects will be required to use the CES for referrals. Local standards will need to be developed through the Homeless Coalition to confirm prioritization process. HUD has not yet confirmed if SSO-SA or SSO-SO will be required to use CES as a referral system. Staff have this question into HUD. HUD's responses have been limited. Locally, we use these project types to enroll people into CES as a form of "participation" but do not require referrals to receive assistance.

13. Will transitional housing participants still be able to remain under homeless status for Coordinated Entry purposes as they are currently?

TH is still considered Category 1 Homeless in terms of the HUD definition. Participants in TH remain eligible to be enrolled in CES. However, length of stays in TH project types do not count towards homeless history for the Chronic Homeless definition for permanent supportive housing.

14. On the budget, for the Supportive Services, HMIS, etc. tabs, is each line item supposed to include all program costs (including those covered by a match) or only the HUD requested

funds? We understand that the budget summary page includes the match separately, but we want to make sure that the tabs are accurate.

The line items on the Supportive Services, HMIS, and other budget tabs should include only the amount of CoC Program funding you are requesting from HUD. Matching funds should not be included in these tabs, as they are reported separately on the Budget Summary page.

You are not required to identify how your matching funds will be allocated among eligible activities in the budget workbook. However, recipients must provide the required 25% match (excluding any leasing funds, if applicable) over the grant term and ensure that those matching funds are used for eligible CoC Program costs in accordance with HUD requirements.

15. Will there be a vulnerability scoring and CE process to refer to TH projects or would we have the ability to serve those seeking support from our resource center if they qualify to enter?

Yes. HUD has confirmed that CoC-funded Transitional Housing (TH) projects must receive referrals through the Continuum of Care's Coordinated Entry (CE) process. Under the current Sonoma County Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures, referrals are not made to non-permanent housing projects. As a result, these policies would need to be revised.

Applicants may choose to dedicate a TH project to serving a specific subpopulation, such as Transition-Age Youth (TAY), families, or the elderly. However, individuals seeking assistance directly through a resource center would not be able to access the project unless they are referred through the Coordinated Entry process and prioritized in accordance with the CoC's approved referral policies.

If TH projects are funded through the CoC Program, the Homeless Coalition will work through its established governance process to develop referral and prioritization standards, including any vulnerability or prioritization criteria used for Coordinated Entry referrals.

16. What if we create a Supportive Services Requirements Agreement for a new project and the participant refuses to sign or does not want to engage in services?

HUD has not provided any guidance indicating that a participant must be terminated from or denied services if they decline to sign a Supportive Services Agreement or choose not to engage in supportive services. If your agency elects to include a Supportive Services Agreement as part of its application, the content of that agreement is at the agency's discretion, as the FY 2026 NOFO does not prescribe specific requirements or language.

For purposes of the application, a simple agreement indicating that participants are required to engage in supportive services is sufficient. Agencies may develop this document in a manner that is consistent with their program model and organizational policies.

17. Is there an option to use subcontracting with the award?

Yes. The CoC Program allows recipients to enter into subrecipient agreements for eligible activities. The e-snaps project application includes a section to identify subrecipients, the amount of funding allocated to each, and any required supporting documentation (once the application becomes available). If your project will utilize a subrecipient, its role and scope of work should be clearly described in the project design and narrative. Please note that CoC Program regulations include project administration cost-sharing requirements. Project administration costs are limited to 10% of the total grant award, and recipients must provide at least 50% of the project

administration funds to subrecipients that carry out eligible CoC Program activities under the grant.

18. I am looking at a transitional housing project application. Can I apply for leasing funds if I own the property?

No, leasing funds cannot be used for buildings that are owned by the Project Applicant, subrecipient, or parent companies. You may apply for operation budget line item if you are the owner. See HUD FAQ 1655: [When can lease funds be used? - HUD Exchange](#)

19. When including how many participants served, can you confirm what this means?

The number of participants served included should be your expected number of individuals served during the award term.

20. Is there a project ramp up period for new projects?

Yes. HUD provides new projects with the option, during their first award term, to request an initial grant term of either 12 months or up to 18 months. This option is intended to support an initial 3–6 month project ramp-up period, which may include activities such as hiring and onboarding staff, developing policies and procedures, establishing operational systems, and preparing for service delivery. Applicants will be able to select this option in e-snaps once the application becomes available. The total funding request will remain the same regardless of whether the initial grant term is 12 or 18 months; an extension of the grant term does not result in additional funding. The additional months are intended to provide flexibility for project implementation and start-up activities rather than an increase in the award amount.