



# 2026 Sonoma County Continuum of Care Competition Renewal Project Evaluation Notification

Release Date: March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Renewal Project Supplemental Materials Due Date: April 6th, 2026

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## Overview

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has given the name [Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Program](#) to its competitive funding targeted for services and housing serving homeless people. This funding originated in the McKinney Act of 1987 and was reauthorized as the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act in 2009. All projects require a minimum 25% [match](#) (either in-kind or cash match, leasing is excluded from this calculation); and all projects are required to state what local non-McKinney-Act resources will be leveraged by the HUD award.

Continuum of Care funding is available through a national competitive block grant process in which local communities can access a formula amount (known as pro rata need) by demonstrating an effective local, year-round planning process. Therefore, all applications are made with one umbrella Consolidated CoC Application (completed by the Continuum of Care Coordinator), and individual project performance is important.

HUD requires that local CoC's prioritize all renewal and new projects submitted in our consolidated application. As in past years, project priorities will be generated by a scoring system, site visits, and interviews by an impartial review body. This year, the Homeless Coalition Board has assigned this review to the 2026 CoC Competition Evaluation (CCE) Workgroup.

Based on information staff has received to date, HUD will be releasing the 2026 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) no later than June of 2026. We will continue the process for rating and ranking slightly adjusted in 2026 based on what was included in the rescinded 2025 NOFO, feedback from the working group, and any new HUD priorities listed upon release of the NOFO.

Staff and CCE Workgroup members will begin monitoring renewal projects in March of 2026. Preliminary analysis is conducted during this process by the CCE Workgroup comprised of impartial community partners, and those with lived experience of homelessness. The evaluations this year will be reviewed, recommended, and approved by two review bodies in the following order:

1. CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup (Review & Recommendations)
2. Homeless Coalition Board (Final)

## Changes to the FY 2026 CoC Competition

As we look ahead to the 2026 NOFO, staff anticipate the potential inclusion of new or revised priorities, similar to those outlined in HUD's 2025 NOFOs, which were later rescinded due to legal challenges. These could include measures such as caps on permanent housing, new services requirements, and the addition of new project components eligible for funding.

In anticipation of an earlier release date for the 2026 NOFO, staff are transitioning site visits to a virtual format to accommodate the adjusted timeline. Typically, final renewal projects are approved by the Homeless Coalition Board in June; however, this year they will be presented to the Board for approval at its May meeting.

## Renewal Evaluation Scoring Process

Renewal project supplemental materials are extensively reviewed, and site visits are conducted by CoC Staff and the CCE Workgroup prior to the release of the NOFO to ensure the Homeless Coalition has enough time to thoroughly review all existing projects and develop Corrective Action Plans (if needed). Final ranking of renewal projects will not be completed until the CoC NOFO period opens.

- Agencies that are considering transferring a grant or voluntarily reallocating funding—due to not meeting HUD performance expectations, lack of capacity, etc.—may consult with the CoC Coordinator anytime.
  - Note: CoC Staff were recently informed by HUD that grant transfers are currently on hold.
- New projects that do not yet have performance data for a full year of operation will be held harmless, per HUD requirements first time renewals cannot be reallocated.
- All renewal projects will be rated and ranked based on the Renewal Project Scoring Tool.
- Renewal projects will be scored on their performance for the Annual Performance Report (APR), including the project's position on the Final Priority List submitted in the CoC Competition.
- Renewal projects that do not meet 80% of the top scoring renewal project during preliminary analysis will be offered a Corrective Action Plan.
- Renewal HMIS and Coordinated Entry projects, as mandated system components, will not be numerically scored. Although they are typically placed in Tier 1, adjustments to Tier 1 funding percentages may result in placement in either tier, as recommended by the CCE Workgroup and approved by the Homeless Coalition Board.

As outlined within the schedule of events, all **Renewal Project supplemental application materials and attachments are due April 6<sup>th</sup> by 5:00pm.**

For more information, please contact the CoC Coordinator, Karissa White at (707) 565-4080 or [Karissa.White@sonomacounty.gov](mailto:Karissa.White@sonomacounty.gov) and the Community Development Specialist, Jynessa Lazzaroni at (707) 565-7067 or [Jynessa.Lazzaroni@sonomacounty.gov](mailto:Jynessa.Lazzaroni@sonomacounty.gov). Email communication is strongly preferred. Please ensure you include a reference to “CoC Program” in the subject line of the email.

## Sonoma County CoC Renewal Project Funding

Below is a list of the 10 Renewal Project Applications currently submitted by 6 agencies set for review:

*Catholic Charities – 1 permanent supportive housing project including scattered sites in Santa Rosa, Guerneville, and select units at the Palms Inn serving 100% chronically homeless individuals.*

*Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) – 1 permanent supportive housing scattered site project serving 100% chronically homeless individuals in Rohnert Park and Petaluma.*

*Community Support Network – 1 site based permanent supportive housing project serving 100% chronically homeless individuals with mental illness in Santa Rosa.*

*Community Support Network – 1 Sponsor Based Rental Assistance permanent supportive housing project serving transitional age youth ages 18-24.*

*West County Community Services – 1 site based permanent supportive housing project in Guerneville and 1 site based permanent supportive housing project in Sebastopol, both serving 100% chronically homeless adults.*

*Sonoma County Community Development Commission Housing Authority – 1 permanent supportive housing project providing rental assistance, serving special populations experiencing homelessness (persons with HIV/Aids).*

*County of Sonoma, Department of Health Services – Coordinated Entry and Homeless Management Information System (projects are evaluated outside this process).*

*St. Vincent de Paul Sonoma County – 1 site based permanent supportive housing project, St. Vincent de Paul Commons PSH serving the chronically homeless, located in Santa Rosa.*

**HUD does not require us to stay with the same 10 projects if they aren't all performing well or no longer address our needs.**

The Homeless Coalition is allowed to **reallocate** funding to another new project, if the project:

1. No longer serves local needs;
2. The project is unable to comply with the new regulations;
3. The project is no longer a good match for this funding stream (due to new regulations); or
4. The operator desires to decrease a request from HUD for another reason (e.g., cannot spend down all funds).

**Reallocated funds can be used for any eligible kind of project**, and any eligible expense. We regularly use this feature to reallocate funding from under-performing projects and savings from other projects. Our Homeless Coalition, as the CoC, is also scored by HUD on our process and decisions to reallocate underperforming projects. Determining whether to reallocate funds is a primary purpose of the 2026 CCE Workgroup.

Another possibility is to **reassign** a contract if a provider prefers not to contract with HUD or if their performance does not win the support of the 2026 CCE Workgroup.

One feature of the scoring system is a threshold for unconditional renewal; those projects scoring below the threshold have the option of either improving their performance or giving up their project's funding for reallocation. As evaluation committees have done in the past, the 2026 Continuum of Care Program Evaluation Workgroup will provide the same level of review for renewal and new projects once the FY 2024 Continuum of Care Competition opens.

HUD scores our Consolidated CoC Application in several areas of aggregate project performance; therefore, **individual project performance is important**. Also due to limited funding, HUD requires local communities to prioritize the projects we submit to them; therefore, they must be locally scored.

## Renewal Project Detailed Instructions

In the 2026 Continuum of Care Competition, 10 projects with contract end dates in 2025 will be up for renewal. Project scoring will take place in three phases:

1. **Collection and Preliminary Scoring** of performance data, background documents, and the supplemental application questionnaire.
2. **Virtual Provider Interviews** will be scheduled for all CoC-funded agencies in 2026 during the week of April 27<sup>th</sup>. . As in years past, focus will be based on:
  - a. Concerns following review of documentation and scoring;
  - b. Concerns or corrective action plans in 2024-2025; or
  - c. Projects renewing for the first time.
3. **New and Renewal Project Ranking** will be scheduled upon release of the NOFO. Additional information about this process and eligible use of funds will be provided upon release of the local Request for Proposals (RFP).

**Phase One: Collection and Preliminary Review of Renewal Evaluations April 6<sup>th</sup> – April 20<sup>th</sup>**  
*Please see the attached checklist of required documents to be submitted by **April 6, 2026**.*

The CCE Workgroup is scheduled to meet the week of March 16<sup>th</sup> to approve the Renewal Project Scoring Tool. The draft scoring schema is attached to these instructions but is subject to change.

New Project Scoring Tools will be released upon the local RFP. Final scoring will not be completed until after the Continuum of Care Competition opens and new projects have been reviewed and scored.

Projects are scored on:

- Performance on outcomes we report to HUD
- Alignment with local and HUD priorities
- Agency Capacity

Scores will be derived from the project's most recent Annual Performance Report (APR), review of HMIS and other compliance documents (including HUD monitoring or audits), responses to monitoring questionnaires, and submitted documents.

The CCE Workgroup will meet the week of March 16<sup>th</sup> for a review of the CoC Evaluation Process and during the week of April 20<sup>th</sup> to review preliminary scoring for new projects and finalize the schedule of provider interviews.

### Phase Two: Provider Interviews Week of April 27<sup>th</sup>

To accommodate an earlier NOFO release, site visits will not be held this year and all interviews will be conducted virtually. CoC staff will contact each agency to schedule a virtual interview, with time slots offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Interviews will be conducted virtually and will include CoC staff and select CCE Workgroup members. This is an opportunity to discuss any concerns identified during the review process, as well as areas

where the project is performing well. Providers will also be able to respond to questions about submitted evaluation materials, clarify any conflicting information in the evaluation report, ask questions about scoring, and provide additional context as needed. After the NOFO period has ended, CoC Staff will meet with each provider and conduct file reviews.

Please have the following staff present during the virtual interview as well as any follow-up meetings:

- Program manager
- Direct service staff
- Staff in charge of grant management

## Conditional vs. Unconditional Renewal

Policies for conditional vs. unconditional renewal are as follows:

1. Once renewal projects have been scored, a threshold for unconditional renewal will be established at 80% of the top score.
2. Projects scoring below the threshold will be asked to develop a plan to address performance issues before the release of the 2026 NOFO or to voluntarily give up award money to be reallocated to a new project.
3. Determination of any conditions to renewal will be developed for recommendations during the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>.
4. Any required Corrective Action Plans must be submitted for approval to the Homeless Coalition Board during the May 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, as approved/recommended by CCE Workgroup, where the final determination can be made as to whether the project goes forward for Priority Listing submitted to HUD.

## Renewal Project Scoring Tool

Please see the attached CoC Renewal Project Scoring Tool (Subject to revision by the CCE Workgroup the week of March 16<sup>th</sup>) for your review. CCE Workgroup will meet the week of March 16<sup>th</sup> to review the tool for approval recommendations and discuss how projects are scored. If any changes are made to the tool, providers will be sent an updated final version of the scoring tool.

## Required Materials Renewal Evaluation Submission

Please see *Checklist of Required Documents* form.

## Materials

All materials for the 2026 CoC Competition will be posted, as released, on the on the Sonoma County Continuum of Care website: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/health-and-human-services/health-services/divisions/homelessness-services/sonoma-county-homeless-coalition/continuum-of-care-competition>

Information will also be sent out through electronic email communication to existing CoC Renewal Project Applicants and through the Sonoma County CoC's Listserv; if you haven't already done so, please sign up to receive notifications from our office by subscribing here:

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CASONOMA/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=CASONOMA\\_406](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CASONOMA/subscriber/new?topic_id=CASONOMA_406)

HUD will post all CoC Competition Materials on their website (including the NOFO, application instructions, award information, etc.): <https://www.hud.gov/hud-partners/community-coc>

## New Project Review and Final Priority List

We anticipate the 2026 application period may open as early mid-spring and that the evaluation process could potentially overlap into the application period. After the NOFO is released, CoC Staff will release a local Request for Proposals (RFP) for new project applications. If new HUD priorities are outlined within the NOFO like we anticipate, the CCE Workgroup may ask renewal projects to submit additional materials for scoring.

The CCE Workgroup rates and ranks all renewal and new projects for the competition (including new projects from reallocated funding and/or new projects for bonus project funding), this includes projects placed in tier 1 and tier 2 for funding. Projects placed into tier 2 are at risk of losing their funding from HUD. The amount to be placed at-risk in tier 2 will be announced via the 2026 CoC NOFO.

The Homeless Coalition Board meetings for CoC project evaluations are open to the public, and community feedback is welcomed. New and Renewal Applicants are welcome to join and provide feedback through public comment, but it is not required.

During the NOFO period, the following process will be followed:

- Amounts for new funding through bonus project funding and reallocated funding will be announced via a public Request for Proposals (RFP).
- Applicants will be required to attend a mandatory Bidder's Conference. **New applicants to CoC Funding are *required* to attend and discuss the applying for CoC funding with the CoC Coordinator.**
- Technical Assistance (TA) sessions will be provided for e-snaps assistance as well as answering any questions related to application submissions.
- All renewal and new projects will submit applications to the County of Sonoma's Department of Health Services (CoC Lead Agency and Collaborative Applicant) through e-snaps.
  - New projects will be required to submit the supplemental questionnaire and required attachments in addition to the project application.
  - Renewal projects are only required to submit their application in e-snaps since other required materials for scoring were already submitted. Additional information for renewals may be requested from the CCE Workgroup if there are additional requirements outlined in the NOFO to score.
- The CCE Workgroup will meet to review and rank all renewal and new projects as well as make their recommendation on the Priority List to the Homeless Coalition Board.
  - New project scoring will closely align with renewal project scoring, weighted equally, and scored on proposed outcomes.
- CoC Collaborative Applicant will review submitted project applications in e-snaps, and notice providers of any edits needed in their applications.

- CoC Collaborative Applicant will then submit the Final Priority List to HUD through e-snaps, which will include all new and renewal project applications that have been recommended for funding.

More information on the RFP, TA sessions, and Application process will be provided after the NOFO has been released.

## 2026 CoC Renewal Project Evaluations Schedule of Events

<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Tasks</b>
Week of March 16 <sup>th</sup>	CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup Review of competition and Scoring
March 16 <sup>th</sup>	Memo and requirements for submission released
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Renewal documentation due by 5:00pm
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	Renewal Documentation provided to CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup for review
April 20 <sup>th</sup>	Preliminary review of renewal documentation completed
Week of April 20 <sup>th</sup>	CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup Meeting – Review of Renewal Documents and initial scoring
Week of April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Virtual Provider Visits with Workgroup
Week of May 4 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup evaluation of renewal projects completed and any recommendations for Corrective Action Plans
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Completed recommendations for public notice to the Homeless Coalition Board (staff report)
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	Homeless Coalition Board 2026 Preliminary Renewal Project Scoring and Corrective Action Plans (if Applicable) Approval
No later than June TBD*	Continuum of Care NOFO released
June- July TBD*	Local Request for Proposals for new projects released
TBD*	Rating and Ranking of New and Renewal Projects by CoC Competition Evaluation Workgroup
TBD*	Final Rating and Ranking of New and Renewal Projects by Homeless Coalition Board and Submission of CoC NOFO

*\*HUD does not have a specific date in which the CoC Competition NOFO Is released or due for submission. The timeline above is an estimate of release and approval based on previous funding years and is subject to change.*