Chittenden County Homeless Alliance CONTINUUM OF CARE

Request for Interest (RFI)

2025 CoC NOFO New Projects

Background

The Chittenden County Homeless Alliance Continuum of Care (CCHA CoC) is requesting letters of interest from qualified non-profit organizations and/or local government agencies for new projects for the 2025 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition. CCHA CoC seeks letters from organizations with experience and interest in creating and managing specific project types that HUD has indicated will be prioritized in this year's NOFO. Priority will be given to interested organizations who are willing to serve individuals at imminent risk of homelessness due to current CoC-funded PSH projects ending.

CCHA CoC encourages nonprofit organizations with experience in serving people experiencing homelessness via Transitional Housing (TH) or Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing (TH-RRH), regardless of whether they have previously received CoC funds to operate this project type. CCHA CoC does not anticipate funding permanent housing (PSH or RRH) expansion projects in this 2025 NOFO cycle, due to HUD's indicated priorities of funding non-permanent housing.

Letter of Interest Details

HUD has not yet issued the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for its Continuum of Care funding, so CCHA CoC is only requesting letters of interest. These letters must contain responses to each of the prompts below, as well as those listed in <u>Project Types and Target Populations</u>:

- 1. Component type the organization is interested in administering: TH or TH-RRH
- 2. Past and/or current experience operating TH or TH-RRH (does not need to be federally funded)
- 3. Past history of spenddown of federal or state grants indicate your spenddown rate for the past two grant cycles for any relevant federal or state grants
- 4. Describe the interested organization's current system or method of accounting, noting federal standards laid out in 2 CFR 200.302.
- 5. Describe the interested organization's experience connecting people experiencing homelessness with employment services, indicating how it measures success and what its successes have been
- 6. Describe the interested organization's experience in addressing people's substance use treatment needs. Be specific about the organization's existing referral networks and average length of time for clients (who want treatment) to get into treatment
- 7. Describe the interested organization's existing relationships with local law enforcement, highlighting positive relationships that have resulted in unsheltered people getting connected to homeless services and other supports
- 8. Describe the interested organization's work with landlords, housing navigation, and housing case management supports

This RFI may be followed by a request for proposals to solicit CoC new project applications. Interested agencies must respond to this issuance on or before the deadline to be included in the CoC request for proposals. In anticipation of a 14-day timeframe for the 2025 NOFO, CCHA reserves the right to draw solely on information contained in the letters of interest and follow-up conversations with those interested organizations to determine which projects will be selected to submit to HUD. Given radical shifts in Administration priorities, CCHA anticipates potentially large policy-oriented, administrative, and structural changes to the NOFO.

Organizations can anticipate a short turnaround time to submit an official project application to HUD. If a project is selected through this process to be included in the FY25 CoC Application, the Collaborative Applicant will support the organization to submit a competitive project to HUD as part of its Consolidated Application, which includes a CoC application and individual project applications.

Request for Interest (RFI) Information Sessions

The same content will be covered in each session; however, there will be Q & A in each session that may cover different topics based on attendees' interests. Any staff responsible for program oversight and proposal submission are strongly encouraged to attend at least one session and are welcome to attend both. Below are links to join the <u>remote</u> information sessions. Recordings of the RFI Information Sessions will be posted on the <u>CCHA Funding Webpage</u>.

Information Session #1: October 31, 2025: 11a – 12:30p Information Session #2: November 3, 2025: 11a – 12:30p

Eligible Interested Parties

Eligible organizations must meet the following requirements:

- Be a non-profit organization, a unit of local government, or a Housing Authority
- Have capacity to administer federal funding and secure required matching funds
- Have experience administering programs and services that assist people experiencing homelessness and/or housing crises

Project Types and Target Populations

The CCHA CoC is likely to prioritize TH or TH-RRH, specifically working to keep currently housed people in their housing, in line with what HUD has indicated will be its priority for 2025 funding.

CCHA's first priority in rating and ranking projects will be to protect as much Permanent Supportive Housing as possible. The second priority will be to transition clients to Transition Housing to keep as many individuals housed for as long as possible.

Information below indicates important project type-specific information that interested parties should consider in their responses to this RFI:

Transitional Housing

- 1. Indicate the organization's capacity and interest to serve one or more of the following target populations below.
 - a. People already in housing who are in jeopardy of losing permanent housing funding and becoming homeless.
 - b. People fleeing domestic violence
 - c. Youth and young adults (18-24)
 - d. Individuals in any stage of recovery seeking a sober living environment, including organizational capacity to offer relapse prevention and mitigation
 - e. Aging and medically vulnerable¹ individuals, including organizational capacity to offer a supportive service model that includes TH staff working closely with clinical support from healthcare systems.
 - f. If you are interested in and have the capacity to serve a different target population than those listed above, please include the desired target population, your experience serving this population, and your plan to achieve positive outcomes.
 - g. Note: This project type typically may serve HUD's <u>Category 1</u>, <u>Category 2</u>² and <u>Category 4</u>³ of the federal homeless definition.
- 2. Indicate the type of setting in which the organization is considering offering its TH program. Settings may include a single-site facility or leasing all or part of an apartment building. Currently housed people should be allowed to transition in place within the allowable time limits and parameters. It may also be possible to offer the program in a scattered-site model. If considering scattered-site, indicate how the organization plans to assist program participants to get into units quickly.
- 3. Indicate the organization's interest and experience in offering housing navigation services.

Note: "Domestic Violence" includes dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member that either takes place in, or him or her afraid to return to, their primary nighttime residence (including human trafficking).

¹ Medically vulnerable individuals often have a history of frequenting emergency rooms and inpatient hospital settings, most often with one or more of the following common conditions: cardiovascular disease; diabetes; HIV; post-operative care; acute psychiatric disorders; acute respiratory tract infections; skin conditions; substance use disorders; traumatic brain injury; and wound care.

² An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, provided that:

^{1.} Residence will be lost within 14 days of the date of application for homeless assistance;

^{2.} No subsequent residence has been identified; and

^{3.} The individual or family lacks the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing. *Note:* Includes individuals and families who are within 14 days of losing their housing, including housing they own, rent, are sharing with others, or are living in without paying rent.

³ Any individual or family who:

^{1.} Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence;

^{2.} Has no other residence; and

^{3.} Lacks the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing

4. Describe the likely exit pathways for program participants and how the organization would rely on existing partnerships and/or build new ones to facilitate connections to housing, assisted living, nursing homes, and other appropriate settings for the target population.

TH-RRH (Joint Transitional - Rapid Rehousing)

- 1. Indicate the organization's capacity and interest to serve one or more of the following target populations below.
 - a. People fleeing domestic violence
 - b. Youth and young adults (18-24)
 - c. Individuals in any stage of recovery seeking a sober living environment, including organizational capacity to offer relapse prevention and mitigation
 - d. If you are interested in and have the capacity to serve a different target population than those listed above, please include the desired target population, your experience serving this population, and your plan to achieve positive outcomes.
- 2. Indicate the type of setting in which the organization is considering offering the TH portion of its program. Settings may include a single-site facility or leasing all or part of an apartment building.
- 3. Indicate the organization's interest and experience in offering housing navigation services.
- 4. Describe the organization's experience and documented success at working with landlords to accept housing vouchers of any kind. If the organization has experience with time-limited vouchers like RRH, please indicate experience and success with these vouchers, including, but not limited to, experience and success administering HOP-funded RRH.
- 5. Note: this project typically may serve HUD's Category 1, 2 and 4 of the federal homeless definition.

Submission Information

Deadline: November 7, 2025

The proposal must be submitted electronically to Rebecca Reese at rreese@burlingtonvt.gov on or before **5pm** Eastern Daylight Time. PDF format is preferred. Please take note of page limits listed below.

Instructions: Letters of interest should not exceed 5 pages.

Additional Resources

- The CCHA CoC website: <u>CCHA Funding Webpage</u>. Resources specific to FY2025 Competition will be added to this page as they become available
- <u>Budget Line-Item Eligible Costs</u>: This HUD CoC virtual binder shows what is eligible under each of the eligible supportive service costs (case management, education services, outreach, etc.)
- HUD's definitions of homelessness <u>At a Glance Criteria and Recordkeeping Requirements for</u>
 Definition of Homeless (hudexchange.info)
- Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule: https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-24/part-578