

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS REGARDING REQUEST FOR NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS Chittenden County Homeless Alliance FFY2026 HUD Continuum of Care Program

Issued June 25, 2026, by United Way of Northwest VT, acting as the Collaborative Applicant for the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (Burlington/Chittenden County CoC VT-501).

This FAQ document is offered in response to questions about the FFY2026 HUD Continuum of Care Local Competition asked during information sessions held on June 18 and June 22 as well as questions submitted via email to United Way staff and/or to Abby Miller, Housing Innovations, as contracted consultant for the Chittenden County NOFO process.

For more complete information about this funding process, please refer to the RFP for the Local Competition and related documents all shared on the CCHA website <https://cchavt.org/>

Also see:

- Slides from the information sessions, shared via email and posted on CCHA website
- [eligible CoC program costs](#)
- [HUD virtual binder](#)

Abby Miller and United Way staff will continue to provide technical assistance and guidance as needed. Further questions may be submitted to United Way via email to Amy Carmola amy@unitedwaynwvt.org.

INFORMATION SESSION ATTENDEES

June 18: Kim Fitzgerald, Molly Dugan, Rebecca Reese, Meghan Morrow Raftery, Christina Goodwin, Christina Brown, Jordan Calderara, Travis Poulin, Taylor Thibault, Karen Prosciak, Lizzy Lyons, Jeenifer Wright, Luke, Heather Bush

June 22: Kenneth Martel, Elisha Ferree, Matt Thompson, Ciara Kilburn, Karen Vastine, Karen Prosciak, Anera Foco, Justin Graham, Jennifer Hunter, Adam Avery, Matthew Plotzker, Beth Holden, Scott LaValley

TIMING OF FUNDING FOR NEW PROJECTS

1. Are these funds for this year?

No, this local competition is for HUD CoC FFY2026. HUD recently announced FFY25 awards; you can view the announcement and details about FFY25 awards [here](#).

2. When would we expect to receive these funds?

Congress is mandated to announce awards by December 1, 2026, and they are on track to do so. Any renewal projects, including transition grants, as well as new expansion projects, would begin

immediately following the close of the prior grant year. New projects can select their start date, with some constraints introduced by HUD's timing on signing grant agreements for new projects.

We recommend planning to start new projects no earlier than April 2027 to allow time for grant processing by HUD.

AVAILABLE FUNDS

3. How much funding is available for the Chittenden County CoC competition?

We have not yet received the Annual Renewal Report from HUD, which will confirm the amounts of funding available in each category. The RFP issued earlier this month includes estimates for those amounts; we will update/confirm those amounts as soon as we receive the information from HUD.

Based on our estimation, we expect just over \$1.2 million will be available for new projects; this includes a DV Bonus of \$264,580 (for projects serving survivors fleeing domestic violence) and a CoC Bonus of \$500,000.

Chittenden County CoC/CCHA will have to perform very well to be eligible for bonus funds – within the top 50%, ideally within the top 25%, of national competition. High quality projects will bolster the application and increase our ability to bring new/more money into Chittenden County.

ALLOWED USE OF FUNDS

See [eligible CoC program costs](#)

4. Our program gives cash incentives to participants. Could these be covered under this grant?

No, these funds cannot be used for cash incentives (and, as noted below, they cannot be used as match since it is not an eligible CoC program cost).

Please reach out to the Collaborative Applicant team if you have additional questions about eligible costs.

REQUIRED MATCH/IN-KIND

5. What is the required match?

25% of total grant amount, excluding leasing budget line item. Cash or In-Kind are eligible match types; cash is recommended (but not required) due to onerous documentation requirements for in-kind.

All match must be used on [eligible CoC program costs](#) not limited to approved budget line items for the project; for example, even if project does not have supportive services in its CoC budget, it may use matching funds to support case management services for project participants project.

6. Can the in-kind match include benefits?

That depends what you mean by benefits:

- If your programs secures benefits for the people you serve, the value of those benefits cannot be counted as match.
- However, the cost of benefits/fringe for program staff is part of your program/project budget and can be counted as match if not covered by CoC funds for which you are applying. If the staff are providing CoC eligible services, you can count their time (salary and fringe) toward match.

7. What about program fees?

If you are charging participants for any part of the project, there are specific rules for how you can use that program income as match. See [CoC Program Interim Rule 578.97](#) for more details. Abby can consult with applicants on that point if needed.

8. Can cash incentive be used for match?

Cash incentives that are provided directly to program participants cannot be used as match.

PROJECT TYPES – DISTINCTIONS, HUD PRIORITIES, & CONSIDERATIONS

9. The RFP is for New or New/Expansion projects. What is the difference between those two?

A new project is one that is not currently funded by a CoC Program grant. A New/Expansion project is new or expanded services added to/building upon an existing project (already reviewed for renewal). Expansion is not necessarily an expansion of your organization's program; it must be expansion – addition new elements or services – to an existing CoC Project funded by HUD.

10. What is the difference between Transitional Housing (TH) and Rapid Rehousing (RRH)? Which is being prioritized by HUD?

HUD is prioritizing Transitional Housing projects, which include up to two years of rental assistance and are more flexible, with fewer regulations than RRH projects. TH is open to people who are literally homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness (within 14 days of losing housing and having nowhere else to go), as well as people fleeing DV, sexual assault, human trafficking (HUD categories 1, 2, 4).

The old model of TH was like enhanced shelter, or longer-term shelter. But TH does not have to be facility based and can look different. If you like the RRH model, but don't like the regulations that come with RRH, you can do RRH-type work with a TH grant, with more flexibility to do things the way you want/need.

TH is a time-limited intervention with a bridge to long-term stability – it works best with populations who have a clear clinical or developmental need that can be met by the Transitional Housing project, while preparing for independent living. Some of those needs may include people who are in recovery and need more structure to support their sobriety, young people who are still developing independent living skills, and people fleeing DV who need time to rebuild in a confidential location.

This year, RRH projects are only available through DV bonus.

11. What about Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects?

PSH is limited to individuals with a disability or families where one adult or one child has a disability.

Site-based programming is most effective for PSH, especially in rural areas.

Per HUD, PSH does not have to be dedicated to people experiencing chronic homelessness – that eases an administrative burden (it can be hard to document chronic homelessness). It is also now possible to serve those at imminent risk of homelessness, in addition to literal homelessness.

12. What does it mean for a project to be Supportive Services Only (SSO)?

The CoC regulations state that an SSO project "provides supportive services to unsheltered and sheltered homeless persons for whom the recipient or subrecipient is not providing housing or housing assistance."

13. Is HUD prioritizing any Project Types?

TH or SSO projects have a much higher likelihood of being funded than any other type, because HUD has set aside funds within the NOFO for these project types. However, if you have a supportive services project explicitly tied to units (and you've used those units as your match), that project must be PSH.

HUD is also prioritizing Supportive Services Only (SSO) projects, which are for services that are not tied (or limited to) to a specific location/site where the services are being offered.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

14. Who can administer rental assistance?

A nonprofit organization is not permitted to administer rental assistance in a Transitional Housing project. They must contract with an eligible entity to administer the rental assistance for a TH project.

The administering entity must be a Housing Authority, state or local government, or instrumentality of state/local government (meaning they act on behalf of government, and government retains some key functions and oversight).

If a TH project is using a rental assistance model, they must have a contracted relationship with PHA, or arm of government, who could administer the rental assistance on your behalf.

One major benefit of rental assistance (versus leasing) is that the project applicant can be the owner of a facility or unit receiving rental assistance. There are a few caveats; for example, project applicants cannot do housing quality standards (HQS) inspections or establish rent reasonableness for units and priorities they own.

The downside to rental assistance is that it cannot be combined with operating dollars.

See [HUD virtual binder](#) for more information re: rental assistance versus leasing

15. Where do rent reasonableness standards apply?

Rent reasonableness standards apply to both rental assistance and leasing. Rent reasonableness is generally interpreted as 110-120% of fair market rent. See [HUD's guidance](#) for more on how rent reasonableness is determined.

USING COORDINATED ENTRY (CE) DATA IN PROJECT PROPOSALS

16. How should we use the CE Report in preparing a project application?

See sections Q7a for numbers, Q11 for age, and Q13a for Physical and Mental Health Conditions. These data points will give you a sense of what the need is, and for whom.

For any organization applying for CoC funding outside of Chittenden County, through the Balance of State CoC, the CE data reports for all other areas are posted on HHAV's website on the Coordinated Entry page: <https://helpingtohousevt.org/whatwedo/coordinatedentry/overview/>