

# REQUEST FOR NEW PROJECT PROPOSALS

## Chittenden County Homeless Alliance FFY2026 HUD Continuum of Care Program

### Burlington/Chittenden County CoC VT-501

<b>ISSUE DATE</b>	June 17, 2026 <i>updated 7/7/26 to include highlighted section on p. 7-8</i>
<b>Q&amp;A SESSIONS</b>	June 18, 2026, 9:00 – 10:00am <a href="#">Meeting Link June 18 Session</a> June 22, 2026, 2:00 – 3:00pm <a href="#">Meeting Link June 22 Session</a>
<b>APPLICATION DUE</b>	July 14, 2026, before 5:00 PM
<b>RFP CONTACT</b>	Amy Carmola <a href="mailto:amy@unitedwaynwvt.org">amy@unitedwaynwvt.org</a>
<b>FOUNDANT CONTACT</b>	Megan Bridges <a href="mailto:megan@unitedwaynwvt.org">megan@unitedwaynwvt.org</a>

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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND COC PRIORITIES

The Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (the Burlington/Chittenden Continuum of Care VT501) has as its Collaborative Applicant United Way of Northwest Vermont (United Way).

United Way is accepting proposals for NEW projects, including expansions, to be considered for funding through application to the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Federal Fiscal Year 2026 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program.

CCHA is requesting new project proposal(s) from qualified applicants for new project applications for the 2026 Continuum of Care (CoC) Program Competition. CCHA seeks new projects that can make effective use of the allocation of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) funds. Project applications are reviewed, rated, and ranked by a local Committee, which will recommend which projects are selected to apply to HUD. HUD will ultimately select the projects to be funded, and inclusion in CCHA's Collaborative Application does not guarantee HUD funding. Interested agencies must respond to this issuance on or before the deadline to be considered for new CoC funding.

**Eligible applicants are encouraged to submit proposals for any of the funds listed below. Organizations that do not currently receive CCHA CoC program funding are encouraged to submit proposals. Proposals are also welcome from current recipients of this funding.**

CCHA is committed to securing as much federal funding as it can in this NOFO cycle. Understanding that HUD priorities have shifted dramatically from past years, and recognizing the risk of large funding losses in this year's NOFO cycle, CCHA will be prioritizing projects that meet the following characteristics:

1. Demonstrate clear need for the project, using local Coordinated Entry (CE) data, and how it is tailored to the population it aims to serve.
2. Demonstrate that the project aligns with one or more of HUD's stated priorities (see Section 9), with emphasis on how the proposed project's design will meet one or more of the priorities.

3. Partner with other organizations within Chittenden County or elsewhere in the state to strengthen the proposed project. Some examples of what that might look like (not an exhaustive or required list):
  - a. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with organizations who will offer a specific service that meets one or more of HUD's stated priorities.
  - b. MOAs with organizations who commit in writing to accepting referrals from the project applicant
  - c. Subrecipient relationships with organizations who play a substantial role in implementing the project.
4. Demonstrate leveraged dollars and other formal partnerships in excess of the 25% required match. This leverage could come from Medicaid billable services, voucher or unit commitments, in-kind service offerings, or other methods.

## 2. TIMELINE

- June 8 (*complete*)      Renewal projects submitted for evaluation
- June 17                      United Way releases NEW Project RFP
- June 18 & 22              New Project RFP Information Sessions
- June 24                      United Way circulates responses to Q&A from Information Sessions
- July 14                      Applications due in United Way's [Foundant grant portal](#)
- July 20-24                 Applicants meet with or respond in writing to Ranking Committee questions
- August 7                    All applicants notified of project acceptance, reduction, or rejection
- August 26                 Final Applications due in HUD's e-snaps grant portal
- Dec 1                         Anticipated announcement of HUD awards

## 3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants must meet the following requirements:

- be a non-profit organization, a unit of state, county, city or township, or special district government Public Housing Authority, Public and State controlled institution of higher education, or Native American tribal government (Federally and non-Federally recognized),
- have capacity to manage a federally funded program and secure required matching funds, and
- have experience administering programs and services that assist people experiencing homelessness and/or housing crises.

## 4. ELIGIBLE NEW PROJECT TYPES

- **Transitional Housing** – TH (Transition Grant\* or New)
- **Supportive Services Only** – SSO (Transition Grant\* or New/Expansion)
  - SSO – Street Outreach
  - SSO – Coordinated Entry\*\*
  - SSO Standalone
- **Permanent Supportive Housing** (New)
- **DV Bonus** projects can be any of the following types for DV survivors (New)
  - Rapid Rehousing – RRH
  - Transitional housing – TH
  - SSO – Coordinated Entry

### \*Transition Grants

Existing renewal grants can apply for funding as a 'transitional grant' and – if awarded – will have the FY26 program year to fully 'transition' to the new program component. That means that the recipient would begin the program year as the old project type and transition it to the new project type, versus a new reallocation project that would need to wrap up the old project type at the end of FY25 program year and start anew for FY26 program year.

### \*\*Expansion Grants

Expansion refers to the process used by eligible renewal project applicants to add funds to an existing CoC Renewal or DV Renewal project to expand its current operations either through reallocation, DV Bonus or a CoC Bonus project application. The new funding being added to the existing renewal must be submitted as a new project in e-snaps. This portion of the project is known as a **new expansion** project. CCHA will accept expansion project submissions to add additional activities for SSO-CE projects under this FY26 NOFO cycle.

## 5. EXPECTED AVAILABLE FUNDING & USES

The following table is **preliminary** and based on CCHA's records. United Way is awaiting HUD's final report on the official renewal amount, as well as Tier 1, DV Bonus and CoC Bonus.

CCHA Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)	\$ 1,322,903
Tier 1 Amount (60% of ARD) - likely to be renewal projects	\$ 793,742
DV Bonus (20% of ARD) - Amount available for NEW Projects - TH - RRH - SSO-CE	\$ 264,580
CoC Bonus (floor of \$500,000) - Amount available for NEW Projects - TH - SSO Standalone - SSO Street Outreach - SSO Coordinated Entry (New/expansion)	\$ 500,000
Reallocation Amount – Amount available for NEW Projects - TH - SSO Standalone - SSO Street Outreach - SSO Coordinated Entry (New/expansion) - Permanent Supportive Housing	\$450,346

## 6. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

### Due Date:

A completed application must be submitted in the [FOUNDANT GRANT PORTAL](#) by no later than **July 14<sup>th</sup> before 5:00pm**.

All CCHA planning and resources related to the RFP and the FFY2026 HUD CoC NOFO Competition will be posted at <https://cchavt.org/>

### **Foundant Grant Portal Access:**

If you do not already have an account in United Way's portal, click this link to [CREATE NEW ACCOUNT](#). Once you have created the user account, click on APPLY in blue bar at the top of the page.

Because HUD has not yet released details of the project applications, United Way will not open Foundant for submissions until July 2<sup>nd</sup> so that questions can be refined if needed after HUD releases details. In the meantime, United Way is releasing a draft application (see attached PDF), which includes the questions expected to be in the HUD application, for applicants to begin preparing their responses while we wait for HUD to release details.

Contact Megan Bridges at [megan@unitedwaynwvt.org](mailto:megan@unitedwaynwvt.org) for grant portal access issues and technical assistance.

### **Application Sections:**

1. Organizational Experience and Capacity
2. Project Type
3. Target Population and Geography
4. Program Design
5. Partnerships for Success
6. Plan for Permanent Housing
7. Budget, Match and Additional Leverage

## **7. RATING, RANKING, REALLOCATION, AND APPEAL PROCESS**

The CCHA Ranking Committee will use the CoC-approved Policy & Tools, along with HUD CoC NOFO thresholds and guidance, to make funding determinations and rank approved projects to be submitted to HUD for consideration. The Chittenden County Homeless Alliance Steering Committee will review and approve the recommendations and the project listing and ranking. All applicants will be notified via email in accordance with the timeline.

**RANKING PROCESS:** The CoC will implement goals for each HUD CoC NOFO application cycle which maximizes competitiveness of the CoC's Consolidated Application in consideration of local CoC priorities. The Ranking Committee will meet to review data from each CoC applicant to determine how it meets the scoring criteria established in the CoC project rating tool, minimum grant requirements, and established HUD/CoC priorities. These combined factors will inform the Ranking Committee how to determine the CoC project ranking list and, if applicable, any necessary funding reductions to one or more projects.

**COC TIERING PROCESS:** The Ranking Committee will follow the directions in the NOFO for the Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding process. HUD will establish the amounts of CCHA's Tier 1 and Tier 2.

**PROJECT DETERMINATIONS PROCESS:** Applications that do not meet the minimum threshold requirements will not be included in the CoC Consolidated Application submitted to HUD for consideration. If more applications are submitted than the CoC has money to fund, the Ranking Committee will rank the grants in order of the agreed upon priority as approved by non-conflicted members of the Chittenden CoC Steering Committee, up to the maximum amount of funds that CCHA is eligible to apply for. Projects below the funding cutoff will not be submitted to HUD for consideration. The Collaborative Applicant will send formal notification of the determination made by the Ranking Committee to each project applicant along with individual project ranking summary report, individual project ranking number, budget reduction (if applicable), and project rejection (if applicable), as well as justification for reductions and/or rejections.

**APPEALS PROCESS:** Any appeals to the Ranking Committee’s determinations for projects must be emailed in writing within 48 hours of notification of determination. After all appeals are reviewed, the Chittenden County Homeless Alliance Steering Committee will vote to finalize the Ranking Committee’s recommendation. The Steering Committee’s final approved priority listing, along with the corresponding grant amount for all projects, will be distributed to the Continuum and posted on the appropriate websites.

In addition, any applicant whose project is rejected by the CCHA VT-501 CoC may appeal the decision by submitting a Solo Application in e-snaps directly to HUD prior to the application deadline of 11:59:59 EST on August 26, 2026. See [FFY2026 CoC NOFO](#) for more information.

## 8. NEW PROJECT RATING CRITERIA

Applicants must demonstrate all threshold and scoring criteria are met for a proposal to be considered.

The chart below indicates which rating criteria apply to which project types.

	Organizational Experience and Capacity	Budget, Match and Leverage	Target Population & Geography	Partnerships for Success	Plan for Permanent Housing	Program Design
SSO	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Street Outreach	Y	Y	Y	Y	No	Y
Coordinated Entry (DV Bonus or Expansion)	Y	Y	No	Y	No	No
PSH	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
RRH (DV Bonus)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
TH	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

### Organizational Experience and Capacity (20)

- a. Organization’s history and experience providing services to the target population(s) you propose to serve. Include specifics like past or current grants serving this population and other concrete evidence of experience with the target population.
- b. Organization’s experience with providing this type of housing and/or service model. Include specifics about lessons learned in housing and/or service provision.
- c. Provide 2-3 examples of your organization’s experience managing federal, state, or local grants of similar size and scope, describing the grant outcomes and impact. Prioritize federal or state grants in the selected examples. \*\*Include attachment (e.g., screen shot) documenting final grant spenddown (amount and percentage) for the last complete grant year for **each** grant offered as an example.
- d. Describe your organization’s financial management systems, policies and processes that ensure accountability and compliance. Include a description of financial management staff capacity and position turnover/vacancy over the past 3 years.

## Project Type

Indicate whether you will apply for PSH, RRH (DV Bonus only), TH, Street Outreach, Supportive Services Only Standalone, or Coordinated Entry (DV Bonus only)

## Target Population and Geography (10)

- a. Describe the target population and geographic area that will be served. Include a description of whether the project will include households who meet [Category 1, 2 and/or 4](#) of the federal homeless definition.
- b. Provide evidence that the target population represents a significant need within the geography. Evidence can be either of the following:
  - **Size of need:** Target population experiencing homelessness / Total population experiencing homelessness (cite population numbers from the Chittenden County CE Report – May 2026 as evidence); OR
  - **Acuity or persistence of need:** Describe persistent and/or severe barriers that the target population faces in gaining and maintaining permanent housing.

## Program Design (30)

- a. How many households will be served over the course of the grant period?
- b. How long is the proposed grant period? 12, 18, 24, 36, 42, 48, 60 months (select)
- c. If PSH, RRH, or TH: What is the unit or facility configuration? Scattered site, single site, private dwelling, congregate dwelling, etc. Describe the site(s) and configurations.
- d. If single site, list site owner and applicant's relationship to site (leasing, renting).
- e. If serving households with minor children or youth, describe the concrete plan for providing childcare at the times and frequency needed to support adults to gain or maintain employment.
- f. If serving households with a range of disabilities, describe the constellation of services and service partners that meet the spectrum of needs.
- g. If serving households with heads of household age 18+ and do not have disabilities that prevent employment, describe the concrete plan for supporting those adults to seek education, training, certification, and employment.

## Project Type-Specific Priorities to include in Program Design

### **New PSH projects will be prioritized based on stated willingness and ability to do the following:**

- a. Commit to regular in-home visits for at least the first six months post-move-in, with a plan for ongoing tenancy support.
- b. Apply for CoC service funding as a Supportive Service budget line item to augment matched services or demonstrate significant (50%+) leveraged services.
- c. Work directly with landlords to mitigate tenancy risks and concerns.

### **New RRH projects will be prioritized based on stated willingness and ability to do the following:**

- a. Demonstrate funding (CoC or matched/leveraged) specifically for housing navigation services.
- b. Commit to at least monthly meetings with each participant to plan for ongoing housing stability following RRH exit at or before 24 months.

- c. Have written standards addressing how they will determine how long a particular project participant will be provided with rental assistance and whether and how the amount of that assistance will be adjusted over time.
- d. Have written standards addressing how they will determine what percentage, or amount, of rent and utilities costs each project participant must pay, if any, while receiving rapid re-housing assistance.
- e. Types of services and assistance offered ensure participants are able to be self-sufficient and exit homelessness, with emphasis on employment income increases.

**New TH projects will be prioritized based on stated willingness and ability to do the following:**

- a. Demonstrate funding (CoC-funded or leveraged) specifically for housing navigation services.
- b. Commit to the creation and use of housing plans with each participant that begin no later than 30 days from program enrollment.
- c. Demonstrate the capacity and plan to provide individualized services that will result in at least **20 hours per week** of engagement in services, activities or employment for all program participants, except for a program participant over age 62 **or** who is an individual with handicaps or with a developmental disability. Each participant will have a services plan with goals around health and wellness, housing stability, and increased employment income.

**New Street Outreach projects will be prioritized based on stated willingness and ability to do the following:**

- a. Closely partner with Parks department(s), police department(s), or other first responders to coordinate outreach activities, including but not limited to co-locating Street Outreach staff with partner agency(s).
- b. Connect unsheltered persons to Coordinated Entry and temporary shelter.
- c. Assist unsheltered persons to access mainstream resources, e.g., Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI (if describing referrals-based access, provide evidence that the organizations/agencies receiving referrals will accept them in a timely fashion).
- d. Assist unsheltered persons to establish a reliable mailing address where they can receive benefits and other correspondence.

**New Supportive Service Only Standalone:**

- a. Note that SSO projects may serve households up to six months post-move-in if the household met the definition of homelessness – Categories 1, 2 or 4 – prior to move-in.
- b. Addresses barriers to obtaining or maintaining housing (SUD, unemployment, childcare) and increasing self-sufficiency, and will conduct annual assessments of service needs.
- c. Has a strategy to engage people who have historically not engaged with services.

**SSO Coordinated Entry Program Design:**

- a. Has partnerships and advertising that reach all households experiencing homelessness with the highest needs and who have not historically engaged with services, including partnering with outreach teams, day stations/centers, shelters, and other partners with trusted relationships with these individuals.

- b. Strategy to ensure that CE is a path to housing and services that fit their needs, and not a growing waitlist or bottleneck to reaching housing and services.

### **Partnerships for Success (20)**

Describe and document all formal partnerships with other agencies that support the primary applicant to meet one or more of the following priorities. It is **NOT** expected that a project would have partnerships that meet most/all of the priorities below. Rather, the partnerships that are documented should explicitly tie to the program design and overall project objectives.

- a. Provision of onsite substance use treatment services
- b. Provision of offsite substance use treatment services
- c. Connection to inpatient substance use treatment beds
- d. Provision of behavioral health services (onsite or offsite)
- e. Connection to education, job training, and employment services
- f. Provision of housing search and navigation services
- g. Provision of housing tenancy support services
- h. Connection to mainstream resources such as Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP, SSI, and state or local General Assistance
- i. Connection to faith communities and other community support structures (mentoring, volunteering, etc.)
- j. Provision of economic self-sufficiency and financial empowerment services
- k. Connection to higher levels of care
- l. Connection to medical care
- m. Connection to childcare

### **Plan for Permanent Housing (20)**

- a. Describe how participants will be supported to obtain permanent housing. Be specific about concrete activities and timeline for housing-related efforts.
  - 1. Applicants who designate specific housing navigation staffing (may be partial FTEs) will be prioritized.
  - 2. Applicants who can demonstrate results from current or past CoC or non-CoC funded housing navigation efforts will be prioritized (e.g., HOP or other program funds that have been used successfully).
- b. Describe how participants will be supported to maintain permanent housing. Be specific about the level and quality of supports, including how often participants are engaged.
- c. If the project is designed to connect participants with higher levels of care, indicate where/by whom the higher levels of care are provided and the concrete plan to connect participants.
  - Applicants who can demonstrate existing partnerships with providers of higher levels of care AND commitments from those providers to accept referrals will be prioritized.

### **Budget, Match and Additional Leverage (5 Bonus Points Available)**

- a. Detailed CoC project annual budget covering all Budget Line Items using the standard budget template for [direct](#) or [indirect](#) costs.
- b. Sources and amounts of leverage – provide documentation of all leverage, both cash and in-kind.
  - 1. The budget is required to match 25% of the grant, with emphasis on housing or healthcare leverage. \*Note that leasing budget lines are not included in the grant's match calculation. For more information, see [HUD's materials on match](#).

2. Each source and amount of leverage must be accompanied by a letter from the partnering entity.
3. **Due to HUD's emphasis on leveraging non-CoC funds, leverage above and beyond the 25% required match will receive 5 bonus points in the local competition.**

## 9. HUD POLICY PRIORITIES

Below is a listing of priorities pulled directly from the NOFO:

- Promote self-sufficiency, increase employment income over government assistance, and promote treatment and recovery
- Utilize the full array of mainstream programs and local and private resources to provide housing and healthcare needed to maintain safe and stable housing
- This NOFO devotes resources to Transitional Housing programs and Supportive Service Only projects with the goal of improving health and long-term economic independence for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
- Many individuals and families that have certain disabilities, such as impairment due to substance abuse, are able to recover and regain self-sufficiency and deserve every opportunity to receive treatment and services to help them do so.
- CoCs should partner with workforce development centers, employers, childcare, and other supportive service providers to increase employment and employment income for program participants.
- CoCs should prioritize projects that help lead to long-term economic independence for individuals and families to exit homelessness to unsubsidized housing and prevent future returns to homelessness.
- HUD is competing 40% of Annual Renewal Demand on the basis of merit between geographic areas. Competition ensures that CoCs consistently evaluate the effectiveness of their projects and invest in new projects that deliver the best results at reducing homelessness and optimizing self-sufficiency. The historic lack of competition has meant that the same projects are awarded every year regardless of their impact on homelessness.
- CoCs should direct resources towards outreach, intervention, and assistance that helps people move out of unsheltered homelessness and regain self-sufficiency.
- HUD intends to focus increasingly on reductions in unsheltered homelessness and movement through Transitional Housing and out of Permanent Housing to self-sufficiency.
- CoCs should work with law enforcement, first responders, and their state and local governments to reduce encampments, public camping, and public drug use in order to address barriers to maintaining housing and increasing self-sufficiency.
- This NOFO prioritizes new Permanent Housing that has robust services with participation requirements.

- Individuals who are likely to never be able to return to the workforce—over 62 years old, physically disabled, developmentally disabled—should be prioritized for Permanent Supportive Housing.
- CoCs should encourage providers to provide trauma informed care and ensure participant safety in programs, especially for youth and survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.
- Women experiencing homelessness or domestic violence should have access to safe, single-sex spaces and other considerations for personal privacy (24 CFR 578.93(b)).
- To the fullest extent permitted by law, HUD will ensure that faith-based organizations can participate in the CoC program and operate consistent with their sincerely held religious beliefs, recognizing all relevant protections provided by subsection c of HUD's Equal Participation Rule, 24 CFR § 5.109, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, and the First Amendment.
- HUD is committed to promoting equal access to CoC programs for homeless individuals and program participants regardless of their race or other protected status.

## 10. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [The CCHA website](#): resources specific to the FY2026 Competition can be found on this page, including the following documents needed for submitting applications:
  - Instructions for accessing Foundant Grant Portal
  - Foundant Application questions
  - Budget templates (use the template most appropriate to your organization's cost allocation method – direct or indirect costs)
  - Chittenden County CE Report - May 2026
  - Sample service agreements for participants
  - Strategies to offer 20 hours of individualized services in TH
- [Budget Line-Item Eligible Costs](#): 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 [At a Glance Criteria and Recordkeeping Requirements for Definition of Homeless \(hudexchange.info\)](#).
- Continuum of Care Program Interim Rule: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-24/part-578>
- [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\) for Fiscal Year 2026 Continuum of Care and YHDP](#)
- [Match Requirements](#): This HUD CoC virtual binder describes match requirements.
- [Navigating esnaps](#): Access e-snaps guides, including getting started and navigating.