

THE COALITION OF HOMELESS SERVICES PROVIDERS

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. When is the local competition application due?

A. Local competition applications must be submitted to grants@chsp.org in the required Excel format by July 7. Applicants selected through the local competition will be invited to complete the HUD eSNAPS application when it becomes available.

Q. When should organizations begin the eSNAPS registration process?

A. Organizations should begin the eSNAPS registration process immediately. Registration and approval can take several weeks, so applicants should not wait until applications are released.

Q. Does my organization need to register with SAM.gov?

A. Yes. Organizations applying for HUD funding must maintain an active SAM.gov registration and complete all required registrations before submitting an application.

Q. What types of new projects are being prioritized this year?

A. This year's competition emphasizes Transitional Housing and Supportive Services projects, particularly those that support recovery and align with both HUD priorities and the local Lead Me Home Plan.

Q. Can supportive services-only projects apply?

A. Yes. HUD allows applications that provide supportive services without operating a housing project, provided the project meets HUD eligibility requirements.

Q. Can grant funds be used to pay staff salaries?

A. Yes. Eligible grant funds may be used to support staff providing allowable services such as case management, housing navigation, and other supportive services.

Q. Can grant funds be used for rental assistance or security deposits?

A. Current HUD policy does not allow non-profit organizations to administer rental assistance or security deposits under Transitional Housing projects. The policy states a unit of state or local government or PHAs must administer the rental assistance if included in the Transitional Housing project. Additional guidance regarding incorporating rental assistance into operating costs is still pending from HUD.

Q. When will guidance regarding rental assistance be available?

A. The Coalition is awaiting clarification from HUD. Updated guidance will be shared with applicants as soon as it becomes available.

Q. Are utility deposits an eligible expense?

A. Yes. Utility deposits are generally considered an eligible expense under supportive services but are only a one-time fee and must be paid to the utility company. These do not include things like paying cell phone bills.

Q. Can an organization submit multiple applications?

A. Yes. Organizations may submit renewal applications, transition applications, and new project applications if they meet HUD eligibility requirements. Please note that new project application for permanent housing (PSH, RRH, Joint TH-RRH) are not being accepted through the local competition to preserve permanent housing within the region.

Q. Can a renewal project also receive funding for a new Transitional Housing project?

A. It depends on the project type and available funding. Some projects must choose between renewing an existing permanent housing project or transitioning it to Transitional Housing.

Q. How should renewal project budgets be developed?

A. Renewal applicants should generally budget using their current FY25 awarded amount, including any HUD-approved bonus funding, unless otherwise directed.

Q. How much funding will be available for Tier 1 projects?

A. Tier 1 funding equals 60% of the Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). The Coalition is verifying final amounts through the Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW) with HUD and can give an exact amount once those have been accepted. CHSP can estimate that Tier 1 will be approximately \$4.8 million.

Q. Can domestic violence programs transition from Rapid Rehousing to Transitional Housing?

A. Yes. Eligible domestic violence projects may transition to Transitional Housing by following HUD's transition requirements and submitting the required applications.

Q. Are methadone treatment programs eligible under the new NOFO?

A. HUD indicated that communities should refer to SAMHSA's guidance on allowable activities under HHS funding. Here is the guidance document HUD referenced:

<https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/dear-colleague-letter-updated-hr-funding-guidance.pdf>

According to that document, the following activities would disqualify an agency from CoC funding. (The document also outlines many harm reduction activities that are allowable and would not be disqualifying.)

Supplies and Services NOT supported with SAMHSA funding:

- No HHS funding can be used directly or through subsequent reimbursement of grantees or others to purchase or distribute:
 - Syringes or needles used to inject illicit drugs
 - Pipes or other supplies for safer smoking kits
 - Fentanyl test strips or any other substance test kits, including xylazine and medetomidine test strips, intended for use by people using drugs
- No HHS funding can be used to support “overdose hotlines” that have a primary function of facilitating illicit drugs use by providing people using drugs a virtual or telephonic companion while they are using drugs.
- No HHS funding can be used to purchase or distribute sterile water, saline, or ascorbic acid (vitamin c) used to facilitate drug use
- No HHS funding can be used to purchase or distribute any other drug paraphernalia or supplies that promote or facilitate drug use not listed as acceptable above"

CHSP encourages organizations review the guidance above and make informed decisions based on their reading of the guidance.

Q. Are there new federal requirements applicants should be aware of?

A. Yes. Applicants should carefully review the current NOFO for updated federal requirements, including provisions related to immigration enforcement, participant eligibility, and other compliance requirements. You can also refer to the Bidder's Conference materials for a quick overview of changes.

Q. Are participants required to engage in services?

A. No, projects do not need to require service participation, however, they are highly incentivized too based on HUD priorities and the outlined scoring system. Projects that do require service participation will be more competitive nationally when determining Tier 2 projects for funding. In new Transitional Housing projects, participants should be required to engage in a minimum of 20 hours unless they qualify for an exemption, such as being elderly (62 or older), who is a person with handicaps, or a person with a developmental disability. Program agreements should clearly describe participation expectations and the requirement for participation in supportive services.

Q. Will HUD-funded projects be required to participate in HMIS?

A. Yes. HUD-funded projects are required to participate in HMIS (or comparable databases for domestic violence providers) and comply with all HUD reporting requirements. Does it matter whether an applicant applies as a nonprofit, government agency, or foundation?

Note - Organization type does not affect eSNAPS registration. Applicants should apply under the entity that will administer the grant and meet HUD eligibility requirements.

Q. Where can applicants find additional guidance and resources?

A. The Coalition will distribute additional resources, including eSNAPS guidance, SAM.gov information, FAQs, and HUD updates. Organizations that were unable to attend the bidder's conference are encouraged to review these materials before preparing their applications.

Q. For existing PSH projects that fall into Tier 2 or unfunded, is there a transition plan?

A. Yes, during the local competition if a PH project falls into Tier 2, CHSP will allow that project to submit a transition grant during the e-snaps process. These projects will need to submit both a renewal and new project application.

Q. Will the CoC also apply for the Youth Homelessness NOFO?

A. No, the CoC already has YHDP funding.

Q. Please clarify exactly which supplemental attachments you are looking for as this was not clear from the Renewal excel pre-application.

A. There are no additional attachments that are required. Organizations can submit match letters and letters of support if they choose to do so.

Q. If working off 2025 awards, does that include any bonus funding received?

A. Yes, it should include any bonus funding you were awarded in the 2024 competition. Those projects were automatically renewed by HUD for FY25. Applicants are encouraged to check their 2024 and 2025 awards to determine if bonus funding was awarded.

Q. Can you explain further, if transitioning a renewal project to a new one – would the renewal application be duplicative of the new application? Or what would be the focus of the renewal application?

A. The renewal application would focus on the project remaining in the current project type. The new project application would then reflect the change in the project. Applicants are encouraged to review the scoring materials in the local competition policies to understand how the applications may differ.

Q. I don't understand the funding availability; would you mind reviewing that?

A. Funding Availability = ARD (Annual Renewal Demand) provided by HUD. This is informed by the CoC's GIW (Grant Inventory Worksheet), which lists all CoC grants currently active and eligible for renewal during the competition in the region. The GIW is also provided by HUD. New bonus projects are determined by the region's FPRN (Final Pro Rata Need). These figures are given to the CoC by HUD and the CoC is currently still waiting for these final figures.

Q. Do we have a local priority for serving people who are self-identified as LGBT?

A: There is not a local priority for serving people who are self-identified as LGBT during the CoC competition.

Q. How do I get started on e-Snaps?

A. All applicants must register their organization on e-snaps and we encourage applicants to begin this process, as it can take some time to complete the registration. However, only projects placed on the priority list will need e-snaps access. CHSP will host an e-snaps webinar for eligible projects on July 27. Links to register will be posted on the CoC website after the local competition has concluded.

Q. Is there text/character limits in the application?

A. No, there are no text/character limits in the local application. However, efficiency is always welcomed.

Q. If we choose to apply for supportive services only, would we have to have some sort of substance abuse program onsite.

A. Projects that have on-site substance abuse programs are highly incentivized during the competition this year, but they are not required. Inclusion of on-site services does make a project more competitive in the national competition for Tier 2 funding.

Q. Are we able to find out how our previously awarded project was ranked and the tier it was placed?

A. Please email the grants inbox if you would like to see previous scores. Please note that during the 2025 competition, applications were not scored/ranked before the process was paused, so CHSP does not have any information to share for application submitted for the FY25 competition.

Q. What would be considered “on site” for substance abuse services?

A. CHSP is still waiting for official HUD guidance regarding the definition of “on site.”

During the local competition, for services to be considered “on site,” the activity would have to take place at the property location and made available for all residents in the project.

For scattered site projects, services can be considered “on site” if they occur at the office of the provider and is made available to all residents of the project.

Please be advised that during the national competition, HUD may have a different definition of “on site” and CHSP will notify applicants of any guidance provided when it becomes available.

Q. What do we do about the question regarding SOAR certification since the certification program is no longer operational?

A. CHSP will review the SOAR certification question in the renewal applications and revise the scoring as needed.