

**CARROLL COUNTY
CIRCLE OF CARING HOMELESSNESS BOARD
Continuum of Care Policy**

Policy on: Continuum of Care Project Ranking and Selection

Approved by Executive (CoC) Board on: 6/24/26

Purpose: To document the Carroll County, MD- 506 FY 2026 Continuum of Care (Continuum of Care) Project Ranking and Selection Process

2026 HUD NOFA

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the [FY 2026 Continuum of Care \(CoC\) Competition and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program \(YHDP\) Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) on June 1, 2026.

HUD will continue to require Collaborative Applicants to rank all projects, except Continuum of Care planning and UFA Costs, in two Tiers. Tier 1 is equal to 60 percent of the Continuum of Care’s 2026 Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). Tier 2 is the sum of all projects requested less Tier 1 up to the CoC’s ARD plus Bonus funding. Bonus funding is available for new projects or an expansion of existing projects as described in HUD’s NOFO. Bonus funding for serving victims of domestic violence (DV) is also being offered.

FY2026 CoC Funding Projections for Carroll County (MD-506)

Category		2026 Projected Funding Available
Total Renewal Projects (ARD)		\$591,797
Tier I (60% of ARD)	\$355,078	
Tier 2 (40% of ARD + bonus project funds)	\$838,931	
CoC Bonus		\$500,000
DV Bonus		\$102,212
Total Potential Annual FY 2026 Funding		\$1,194,009

Carroll County NOFO

On June 24, 2026, The Carroll County Homelessness Board will issue a local NOFO for the FY 2026 Continuum of Care Competition. Eligible applicants will be invited via public notice to submit Letters of Intent by July 13, 2026, and applications by July 22, 2026, for the following project types:

1. **Renewal projects** – current Continuum of Care projects eligible for FY 2026 fund renewal are required to submit a project application to the Collaborative Applicant for review, approval and ranking.
2. **Reallocations** – Project applicants with eligible renewal projects can propose new projects by shifting funds from one or more existing projects to new projects without decreasing or increasing the Continuum of Care’s ARD. Through the reallocation process:

- a. New projects created through reallocation must meet project eligibility and project quality thresholds.
 - b. To create a transition grant through the reallocation process, the CoC must wholly eliminate one or more projects.
 - c. The Continuum of Care Executive Committee will review project performance and monitoring results to determine if any projects should be recommended for reallocation per the Reallocation Policy.
3. **Bonus Projects** – Bonus funds are available to any existing or new applicant.
- a. New projects created through the CoC Bonus must meet project eligibility and project quality threshold requirements established in the CoC’s Ranking and Rating Tool.
 - b. Bonus funding may be used to create the following types of new CoC projects:
 - i. Supportive Services Only (SSO)
 - ii. Transitional Housing (TH)
 - iii. Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH)
 - iv. Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH)
 - v. SSO-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE)
 - c. DV Bonus funding is available to create new SSO-Coordinated Entry, Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH), and Transitional Housing (TH) projects to serve victims of domestic violence as defined in the NOFO.
4. **New Projects** – Applicants may apply for the following types of CoC projects that advance HUD’s goals and objectives and show the capacity to meet HUD’s System Performance Measures through the CoC Bonus or CoC Reallocation processes:
- a. Supportive Services Only (SSO)
 - b. Transitional Housing (TH)
 - c. Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH)
 - d. Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH)
 - e. SSO-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE)
 - f. HMIS (must be carried out by the HMIS Lead)

HUD is shifting its focus away from awarding CoC funding to Permanent Housing projects to expand opportunities for other components of the CoC Program. SSO and TH projects are recommended and most likely to be funded.

Overview – Continuum of Care Project Selection Criteria

The Continuum of Care’s projects will be evaluated using the Goals and Objectives listed in the FY 2026 CoC NOFO including but not limited to:

1. Improving Outcomes
2. Creating Competition to Improve Innovation and Accountability
3. Restoring Balance to the Continuum of Care
4. Prioritizing Treatment and Recovery as a Means to Self-Sufficiency
5. Promoting Economic Self-Sufficiency
6. Advancing Public Safety for All
7. Minimizing Trauma for Vulnerable Populations
8. Expanding Access Based on Merit, and Not Ideology

Tiers and Ranking:

1. Tier 1 is 60% of the CoC's ARD. Tier 2 is the difference between the CoC's Tier 1 funding and the CoC's ARD plus any bonus funding.
2. The Continuum of Care must assign a unique rank to each project that it intends to submit to HUD for FY 2026 funding. Projects scoring highest, contributing to the HUD Policy Priorities will be placed into Tier 1 until all Tier 1 funds are allocated. The remaining projects selected for funding will be ranked and placed into Tier 2 until all Tier 2 funds are allocated. HUD strongly advises Continuum of Care to rank higher those project applications that the Continuum of Care determines are high priority, high performing, and meet the needs and gaps as identified in the Continuum of Care.
3. Projects ranked in Tier 1 are considered relatively safe, while projects in Tier 2 are at risk.

Ranking and Selection

1. Since Coordinated Entry is mandated by HUD and the performance measures do not mirror those of housing projects, Coordinated Entry will be ranked as the first project and fall into Tier 1 if the project meets the CoC threshold review.
2. All remaining renewal and new applications will be reviewed and ranked using the CoC's Ranking and Rating Tool. The CoC's version of the ranking tool is attached to this policy.
3. The CoC's Executive Board may adjust individual projects up or down in the ranking or reallocate projects to fulfill HUD priorities, prevent potential losses of funding, and maximize the overall CoC application score.
4. Projects must meet Threshold Requirements including but not limited to:
 - a. HUD Threshold Requirements
 - i. Active SAM Registration
 - ii. Valid Unique Entity Identifier (UEI)
 - iii. Program Eligibility Requirements
 - iv. Financial Management Capacity
 - v. Resolution of Civil Rights Matters
 - vi. Required Certifications
 - vii. Eligible Population Served
 - viii. Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Participation
 - ix. Applicant Certifications
 - x. No Outstanding Delinquent Federal Debts
 - xi. No Debarments or Suspensions
 - xii. Sufficiency of Financial Management System
 - xiii. Mandatory Disclosure Requirement
 - xiv. Prohibition Against Lobbying Activities
 - xv. Equal Participation of Faith-Based Organizations
 - xvi. Code of Conduct
 - b. Project Threshold Requirements
 - i. Compliance with the Rule
 - ii. Documentation of Match and Eligibility of Costs
 - iii. Historical Performance
 - iv. Non-Supplanting
 - v. Data Quality at 90% for Universal Data Elements
 - vi. Reasonable Costs
 - vii. Financial Feasibility
 - viii. Project Organizational Chart

- ix. Proof of Ownership or Lease Agreement if Housing will be Provided at a Site-Based Location
 - x. Project Termination, Non-Discrimination, and Grievance Policies
 - xi. Projects Program Policies/Rules and Participant Rights and Responsibilities
 - c. CoC Threshold Requirements
 - i. Coordinated Entry Participation
 - ii. Circle of Caring Participation
 - iii. Complete Application
 - iv. Utilization
 - v. Organizational Audit/Financial Review
 - vi. Articles of Incorporation/Bylaws
 - vii. Certificate of Good Standing
 - viii. List of Board of Directors
5. Renewal/Expansion Projects will be scored on the following rating criteria:
- a. Length of Stay
 - b. Exits to Permanent Housing
 - c. Returns to Homelessness
 - d. New or Increased Income
 - e. Supportive Service Requirements
 - f. Substance Use Treatment Availability
 - g. Leveraging Healthcare and Housing Resources
 - h. Priority Populations Served (Elderly Individuals and Individuals with a physical or developmental disability and chronically homeless individuals)
 - i. Workforce Development Services
 - j. Project Efficiency
 - k. Reasonable Costs
 - l. Coordinated Entry Referrals
 - m. Project Monitoring
 - n. PIT/HIC Participation
 - o. HUD Policy Priorities
6. New Projects will be scored on the following rating criteria for all projects:
- a. Experience with Target Population and Project Type
 - b. Project Types Preference
 - c. Appropriate Accreditation and Licensures
 - d. Experience with Federal Funds
 - e. Project Meets the Needs of Clients to be Served
 - f. Project Supports HUD Goals and Objectives
 - g. Plan for Workforce Development Services
 - h. Plan for Implementation
 - i. Reasonable Cost per Household
 - j. Organizational Audit
7. New Projects will be scored on additional criteria based on the project type.
- a. Transitional Housing Projects will be scored on the following criteria:
 - i. Experience with Project Type/Population
 - ii. Performance of Similar Projects
 - iii. Access to Mainstream Resources
 - iv. Supportive Services Provided
 - v. Supportive Services Plan

- vi. Treatment Requirement and Availability
- b. Supportive Services Only (Standalone) will be scored on the following criteria:
 - i. Annual Assessment of Service Needs of Program Participants
 - ii. Performance Measures
 - iii. Supportive Services Provided
 - iv. Project Supplemented with Mainstream Resources/Match Requirement
- c. Supportive Services Only Street Outreach will be scored on the following criteria:
 - i. Project Supplemented with Mainstream Resources/Match Requirement
 - ii. Performance Measures
 - iii. Supportive Services Provided
 - iv. Partnership with Law Enforcement
 - v. Experience with Project Type
- d. Permanent Supportive Housing will be scored on the following criteria:
 - i. Housing Meets the Needs of Program Participants
 - ii. Type of Supportive Services Provided
 - iii. Amount of Supportive Services Provided
 - iv. Performance Measures
 - v. Target Populations Served
 - vi. Project Supplemented with Mainstream Resources/Match Requirement
 - vii. Treatment Requirement and Availability
- e. Rapid Rehousing will be scored on the following criteria:
 - i. Assistance Helps Participants Achieve Self-Sufficiency
 - ii. Type of Supportive Services Provided
 - iii. Amount of Supportive Services Provided
 - iv. Performance Measures
 - v. Project Supplemented with Other Resources
 - vi. Treatment Requirement and Availability
- 8. New projects created through reallocation will be ranked based on the performance of the renewal application which is being reallocated and in accordance with NOFA guidance.
- 9. Expansion projects submitted by current applicants will be ranked based on the performance of the existing project to be expanded.
- 10. Bonus projects submitted by new and existing applicants will be ranked based on the performance of similar homeless serving projects.
- 11. All Permanent Supportive Housing Projects will be certified to have demonstrated a need in the Continuum's geographic area.
- 12. The Committee's final rankings will be submitted to the Circle of Caring Homelessness Board for a formal vote on or before August 4, 2026.
- 13. All project applicants will be notified in writing by August 10, 2026, of their project acceptance, rejection or reduction and the project's rank in Tier 1 or Tier 2.

Appeals Process:

Project applicants whose project was rejected may appeal the local Continuum of Care competition decision to HUD if the project applicant believes it was denied the opportunity to participate in the local Continuum of Care planning process in a reasonable manner by submitting a Solo Application in e-snaps directly to HUD prior to the application deadline of 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time on August 26, 2026. The Continuum of Care's notification of rejection of the project in the local competition must be attached to

the Solo Application. If the Continuum of Care fails to provide written notification outside of e- snaps, the Solo Applicant must attach evidence that it attempted to participate in the local Continuum of Care planning process and submitted a project application that met the local deadlines, along with a statement that the Continuum of Care did not provide the Solo Applicant written notification of the Continuum of Care rejecting the project in the local Continuum of Care competition. The appeal must be because a decision made by the Carroll County Circle of Caring Homelessness Board regarding the ranking, rejection, or funding of their project was prejudicial, unsubstantiated by project performance, or in violation of the FY 2026 Continuum of Care Guidelines. A copy of the appeal to HUD should also be submitted to the Circle of Caring Homelessness Board via email: csteckel@carrollcountymd.gov prior to the application deadline of 7:59:59 p.m. eastern time on August 26, 2026.