



NOFO Technical Assistance

Q&A

Q: Is this forum intended for discussion of grant transitions, such as Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects transitioning to Transitional Housing (TH)?

A: The primary purpose of the session is technical assistance related to the FY26 CoC NOFO process, including project applications, prioritization, budget templates, and related guidance. Detailed project-transition discussions are expected to occur after the release of NOFO materials and through follow-up conversations with providers. The applications and applications were released on 7/2/2026 and can be found at <https://www.columbusfranklincountycoc.org/funding/>

Q: When will providers receive information regarding Tier 1, Tier 2, and project prioritization decisions?

A: CoC leadership indicated that the prioritization document, updated Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW), applications, and supporting materials would be released later that day. The final document was being refined to ensure clarity and usability.

Q: How will providers understand which projects are expected to remain unchanged and which may need to transition?

A: The released prioritization materials identify CoC priorities and provide sufficient detail to help providers determine which projects are expected to be included in Tier 1 and Tier 2, as well as which projects may be candidates for transition.

Q: Will providers have individual meetings to discuss project-specific strategies and applications?

A: Yes, providers may reach out and request a project specific TA. General questions asked and answered during those meetings will be added to this Q&A document.

Q: Is the Columbus & Franklin County CoC planning to pursue a CoC Builds application?

A: The CoC is evaluating whether to compete for CoC Builds funding. Staff noted that after observing previous funding rounds, HUD's priorities and likely award recipients appear somewhat predetermined. Given the limited funding available, the CoC is analyzing whether applying would be a strategic use of resources.

Update as of 7/13/26- CoC Builds local competition timeline, application and Information Session Details have been released and added to the website on 7/10/26.

Q: Do the 20-hour work/service requirements apply to Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects?

A: No. The 20-hour requirement applies to Transitional Housing (TH) projects, not to projects that remain PSH. However, the CoC must still demonstrate that a percentage of projects incorporate service requirements to maximize scoring under the Collaborative Application and Providers with PSH renewals may choose whether to include these requirements, and the CoC will review the overall project portfolio before final submission.

Update as of 7/13/2026- The CoC is requiring all project models submitted to include some work/service requirements. This does not have to be 20 hours and can be as simple as requiring participation in case management while in program. More robust requirements will earn more points though.

Q: Should providers be concerned about staff carrying or distributing Narcan under current policy changes?

A: No. HUD has specifically clarified that Narcan/Naloxone and other lifesaving overdose-response measures are not prohibited. The concern is directed toward activities such as safe-use sites, drug consumption spaces, and distribution of drug-use supplies rather than overdose prevention interventions. Additional HUD technical assistance guidance will be shared with providers.

Q: What activities raise concerns under the current NOFO guidance?

A: HUD's concern centers on activities that could be interpreted as facilitating drug use, including:

- Safe drug-use sites

- Designated drug-use rooms

- Distribution of drug-use supplies such as needles or drug-use equipment

- Policies allowing active drug use on-site

Staff emphasized that these practices are generally uncommon within local CoC-funded projects.

Q: Can open PSH projects currently operating without CoC funding apply for funding through the FY26 NOFO?

A: Existing operating PSH projects that have funding gaps may be eligible to compete for funding through available Tier 1 capacity. Such requests would be evaluated competitively alongside other proposals and would likely be placed toward the lower end of Tier 1 prioritization. Providers must demonstrate that requested funds address unmet needs and do not simply replace existing committed local funding sources.

Q: May applicants use the 15% de minimis indirect cost rate for a new SSO project?

A: Yes. Organizations that do not have a federally negotiated indirect cost rate agreement may use the 15% de minimis indirect cost rate.

Q: What guidance documents should applicants use when preparing applications?

A: Applicants should review:

- The HUD NOFO
- Local CoC application materials
- Application orientation presentation posted on the CoC website
- The Project Prioritization document
- The Grant Inventory Worksheet (GIW)
- The continuously updated Q&A document on the CoC website

These resources collectively provide the guidance needed to complete applications.

Q: Do applicants need to submit a match commitment letter?

A: No. An earlier version of the budget template incorrectly referenced a required match commitment letter. The requirement has been removed. Applicants only need to complete the match documentation section within the budget template. No separate commitment letter is required.

Q: Are application materials final, or should applicants expect changes?

A: The application package is largely finalized. Any future revisions would likely be minor corrections or clarifications. However, providers are encouraged to regularly review the Q&A document on the CoC website, as that resource will continue to be updated throughout the application process.

Q: Some sections of the New and Transition Project Application appear specific to DV, YHDP, or SSO projects. What should applicants do if those sections are not relevant?

A: Applicants should indicate “N/A” when the content clearly does not apply to their project type. The application was intentionally designed to accommodate multiple project types using single form so this might happen.

Q: Since PSH is already permanent housing, are housing outcome questions about exits to permanent housing applicable?

A: The CoC intends to seek additional guidance from consultants. While many providers reasonably view the question as not applicable to PSH, HUD may increasingly evaluate movement from PSH into non-assisted permanent housing. Further clarification is expected.

Update as of 7/9/26- PSH Applicants should answer the question as it relates to the successful housing outcome of retention in housing.

Q: Is the CoC pursuing new youth homelessness (YHSI) funding despite already having YHDP projects?

A: Yes. The current interpretation is that the CoC remains eligible to pursue additional YHDP/YHSI opportunities even though it already operates YHDP-funded projects. The CoC will pursue funding to support system-wide youth services. Agencies wanting additional funding to support their project specifically can apply on their own.

Q: There is not a supportive services tab on the Standard Renewal Budget Template. Do I plug that information into fund request summary tab?

A: Yes, provide the total supportive services budget request into the Fund Request Summary Tab.

Q: I do not see a line for the de minimis on the Standard Renewal Budget Template. Are you all not accounting for it in the budget sheets?

A: It is allowed and included on the Fund Request Summary Tab row 16.

Q: In the past HMIS was a BLI and I am assuming it no longer is. Is that correct?

A: This was an oversight as only 1 renewal project that as HMIS as a BLI. A revised Standard Renewal Template has been uploaded on the website.

Q: Does the NOFO require a specific lease arrangement for DV Transitional Housing projects?

A: No, DV Transitional Housing can be designed using either the Rental Assistance or Leasing Components. Rental Assistance administration must be conducted by a governmental entity.

Q: Can updated Q&A documents show a revision date?

A: Yes. Future updates will include an "Updated" date so users can easily identify the latest version.

Q: In the project model section of the application, should CARR be identified as a YHDP project or Coordinated Entry?

A: Both. CARR is a YHDP Coordinated Entry project, so both boxes should be checked.

Q: Is support service participation required for all program types?

A: The CoC requires all project models submitted to include some work/service requirements. This does not have to be 20 hours and can be as simple as requiring participation in case management while in program. More robust requirements will earn more points though.

Q: Does every project need 20 hours of supportive services?

A: No. The 20-hour requirement applies to new Transitional Housing (TH) projects. Other projects must require some participation, but there are not time or activity stipulations for the requirement.

Q: Should TLP use the standard renewal budget?

A: Yes. TLP is a regular TH project and should use the standard renewal budget. CAR should use the YHDP renewal budget.

Q: Is the 2880 still required as part of the local application?

A: No. It will be completed electronically in eSnaps. No paper version needs to be submitted.

Q: Is an MOU mandatory for supportive services?

A: No. MOUs are not required. They can strengthen an application by demonstrating how required supportive services will be delivered, particularly for TH projects, but they are optional.

Q: Do agencies need MOUs with referral agencies?

A: No. Referral relationships alone do not require MOUs. If MOUs exist, they may be submitted as supporting documentation.

Q: A staff member is applying for SOAR certification. Should the application state the agency will have a SOAR-certified person?

A: Yes. Since the project period starts in the future, it is reasonable to indicate the agency expects to have a certified SOAR staff member.

Q: What documents should be uploaded under "other supporting documentation"? Should agencies upload policies, procedures, APRs, etc.?

A: Full policies, procedures, APRs, or HMIS data already available are not needed. The section is optional and intended for additional materials applicants believe strengthen their application.

Q: If something is missing from the application, can it be corrected later/ Will there be an opportunity to fix mistakes?

A: Yes. After submission there will be a technical assistance period where missing or problematic items can be addressed.

Q: What should be entered as the "Date of Commitment" on match documentation?

A: Generally, use the date funds are committed through a contract or funding agreement. As long as the commitment exists before the program start date, the exact date is less critical. 7/1/27 is an acceptable date if applicable to the match's funding agreement.

Q: Can partner resources such as Medicare/Medicaid and other funding sources be included as match?

A: Yes, as long as those same dollars are not being counted as match elsewhere

Q: How should calendar year funding be counted as match for a July–June grant?

A: If the funding supports the project over the full 12-month period, the full award amount can be used, though agencies may choose a more conservative approach if they prefer.

Q: Where should survivor advisory group stipends be budgeted?

A: The initial recommendation was under Supportive Services. Staff agreed to verify further and provide clarification if needed.

Update- Advisory group stipends are only allowable under CoC Planning and not individual project applications.

Q: Should data questions go to Sara/Samba or HMIS staff?

A: Data questions should go to HMIS Staff "Jennifer McCloskey-Haas" <JMcCloskey-Haas@csb.org> and "Jeremiah Bakerstull" <jbakerstull@csb.org>. "Sara Dodeci" <sdodeci@csb.org> and "Samba Silla" <ssilla@csb.org> should be copied also.

Q: If SAM registration is still being processed, what documentation is needed?

A: Provide documentation such as an email or screenshot showing the status is under review.

Q: Are moving costs and utility deposits allowable under a DV SSO- CE expansion project?

A: No, they are not allowed.

Q: Can DV projects require supportive services when VAWA emphasizes voluntary services?

A: No definitive answer was provided. Concerns were raised that requiring services may conflict with VAWA requirements. The recommendation was to consult legal counsel and carefully craft language while awaiting further guidance.

Q: Is indirect 10% or 15%? I thought it was 15% but the budget documents seem to indicate 10%?

A: A project may budget up to 10% of eligible grant costs for administration. Administrative costs typically include activities such as grant management, reporting, audits, monitoring, and other program administration functions. HUD specifically states that CoC project applicants may request up to 10% of other project grant line items for administrative costs.

The de minimis indirect cost rate is not the same thing as the CoC admin line item. The administrative cost allowance and the de minimis indirect cost rate are separate concepts. The de minimis rate is used to recover organizational overhead costs that cannot readily be assigned to a single program, such as executive leadership, accounting, HR, shared office space, and utilities.

However, the same expense cannot be charged twice. HUD requires costs to be treated consistently as either direct or indirect costs, not both. For example, if rent, utilities, or administrative staff time are charged directly to the grant, those same costs cannot also be recovered through the indirect cost rate.

Q: Can a new SSO project be submitted to support a Transitional Housing project?

A: No, SSO projects can only support shelters or outreach. Supportive services for transitional housing and other projects are allowable and should be included in that project's application. Those services can be provided by contractors/subrecipients and that detail should be included in the application and budget.

Q: For Question 7b on demonstrating 25% of units are matched by other subsidies, we intend to request the match exemption for YHDP as we have received previously. Should we just leave that section blank or add clarifying text underneath indicating that we are not providing other subsidy?

A: Just clarify that you are requesting the exemption for the match and provide the required detail for the exemption.

Q: For Question 8b on demonstrating availability of healthcare and SUD treatment partnerships, we know there has been some discussion about signing a system-wide MOA with partner organizations (such as ADAMH) for these services. Are there such agreements available for us to include with the submission? If not, would it be sufficient for us to indicate that we will pursue signed agreements following confirmation of funding?

A: MOUs are not needed with your application, however you will need to answer the question in detail to ensure the requirements are met.