

**Local Notice of Funding Opportunity
2025 Knoxville-Knox County Continuum of Care
With Timeline and Deadlines
(TN-502)**

November 21, 2025

(Updated December 4, 2025, changes in red)

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released its 2025 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity (CoC NOFO), which is a nation-wide competition for funding to support certain homelessness-related housing, services and other related resources. Cities and localized regions across the country form collaborative “Continuum of Care” bodies to facilitate coordinated applications for this funding. Knoxville and Knox County Tennessee have one such CoC body, in the form of the Knoxville-Knox County Continuum of Care Board. The Knoxville-Knox County Office of Housing Stability has been designated as this CoC’s Lead Agency and “Collaborative Applicant” for the purposes of directly coordinating the application submission process. **There are many major changes from last year’s NOFO: the largest is that only 30% of any CoC’s allocation may be spent on permanent housing (permanent supportive housing and/or rapid rehousing). There are also significant changes in HUD’s priorities and language around homeless services, so it’s important to read the NOFO and integrate those changes into your application.**

HUD’s 2025 CoC NOFO includes deadlines for submitting a collaborative application package as well as other procedural deadlines required to carry out the collaborative process prior to the final submission deadline. The Knoxville-Knox County CoC (TN-502) will seek to meet or exceed HUD’s required deadlines in order to carry out an open and fair application process. The Knoxville-Knox County CoC’s 2025 timeline will therefore include local deadlines that may occur *before* HUD’s required deadlines. Applicants seeking inclusion in the 2025 Knoxville-Knox County CoC Collaborative Application will be required to meet the local process timelines and deadlines. Those dates, along with information and requirements for participating in the CoC application process will be published on the Knoxville-Knox County Office of Housing Stability webpage (www.knoxtnhousing.org - click on “Continuum of Care”), and will also be shared via email and other means of notice.

Anyone considering applying for these funds should first read HUD’s NOFO and accompanying rules and regulations for the CoC program and application. All potential applicants must refer to HUD’s CoC NOFO and related information to understand the programs, process, and to access the online application. These rules and regulations are very specific and fairly complicated. Do not wait until the last minute to review and understand these rules. Although the local Collaborative Applicant (listed below) is available to help with this process, ***it is the responsibility of each project applicant to review and fully understand these program rules and regulations.*** HUD’s info is available at <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/360861>.

The 2025 CoC application for Knoxville-Knox County will consist of a number of applications to renew funding to continue existing activities, and may also include new applications to fund eligible activities as described below and in the HUD NOFO. Any funding awarded to those agency and program-specific applications as a result of this process will be awarded and contracted directly between HUD and the

recipient agency. Those funds do not flow through the Office of Housing Stability's budget. All applications potentially included in the Knoxville-Knox County collaborative application will be subject to a local review and ranking process as required in the HUD NOFO. **A draft scoresheet for this review and ranking process is attached to this NOFO.**

Knoxville/Knox County's anticipated "Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN)": \$2,353,839

This is the total funding amount that HUD anticipates could be sought for funding in Knoxville-Knox County, Tennessee. Of that, **\$594,848** is anticipated to be sought for renewal of current, existing CoC projects in Knoxville-Knox County, Tennessee.

This year's CoC competition opens up significant opportunities to win funding for new programs. The details of how these opportunities are awarded can be found in HUD's [CoC regulations](#) and in the 2025 HUD CoC [funding announcement](#) available at the link above. We have attempted to summarize those opportunities as they impact our local process here, with the understanding that HUD's information is where the rules are set.

Opportunities for potential new CoC funding for Knoxville-Knox County Tennessee in 2025:

a. CoC Bonus. Anticipated available funding amount: \$470,768

Applicants may seek funding for a new, eligible program. The funding amount is generated based on our local potential amount for renewal funding. CoC Bonus funding is highly competitive nation-wide, and is contingent on a number of factors, including our CoC's overall application score, the new program application's locally-ranked priority, and the eligibility and quality of the individual program application. Details on the eligible program categories are available in HUD's 2025 CoC NOFO and CoC regulations. These eligible categories are summarized here.

- SSO projects (Supportive Services Only)
- TH projects (Transitional Housing)
- PH-PSH projects (Permanent Supportive Housing)
- PH-RRH projects (Rapid Rehousing)
- Dedicated HMIS project for the costs at 24 CFR 578.37(a)(4) that may only be carried out by the HMIS Lead, which is the recipient or subrecipient of an HMIS grant and is listed on the HMIS Lead form in the CoC Applicant Profile in e-snaps. Additionally, if the CoC has organizations within its geographic area that are victim service providers, the HMIS Lead, or subrecipient, may request HMIS funds for a comparable database. Victim service providers may also request HMIS funds in their project application budgets to enter data into a comparable database. (See HUD NOFO for details)
- SSO-CE projects: Social Services Only-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) – to develop or operate a Coordinated Entry system

b. Domestic Violence Bonus. Anticipated available funding amount: \$235,384

Funding is specifically available to create new programs to address the needs of individuals and families who are victims of domestic violence. The funding amount is generated based on our local potential amount for renewal funding. CoC Domestic Violence Bonus funding is highly competitive nation-wide, and is contingent on a number of factors, including our CoC's overall application score, the new program application's locally-ranked priority, and the eligibility and

quality of the individual program application. Details on the eligible program categories are available in HUD's 2025 CoC NOFO and CoC regulations. These eligible categories are summarized here.

Eligible categories:

- PH-RRH projects (Rapid Rehousing)
- TH projects (Transitional Housing)
- Social Services Only-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) – to address complications and challenges of serving the DV victim population.

Solo Applicants

Eligible project applicants that attempted to participate in the CoC planning process in the geographic area in which they operate that believe they were denied the right to participate in a reasonable manner, may submit a solo project application to HUD by following the procedure found in 24 CFR 578.35. If HUD finds in favor of the solo applicant, HUD may award grant funds. Solo applicants requesting FY 2025 funding must submit their solo project application in e-snaps to HUD by 8:00 PM EST, on January 14, 2026.

If interested in new opportunities, please contact the CoC's Collaborative Applicant (Arielle Benson – arielle.benson@knoxtnhousing.org and Erin Read erin.read@knoxtnhousing.org) as soon as possible.

New funding is competitive and is not guaranteed. New applicants to CoC funding are encouraged to seek this funding, along with current partners experienced in the CoC process. While this process is competitive, it is also a collaboration at the local level. Inclusion of individual agencies' applications in the Knoxville-Knox County CoC application package will be decided during the ranking process at the end of the local process. It is always possible that some applicants seeking funding ultimately may not be selected for inclusion in the final package, or will be ranked at the bottom of those that are included. We will work to carry out a fair process within the guidelines established by HUD, but inclusion and ranking position in the package submitted to HUD is not guaranteed, nor is funding from HUD guaranteed at the end of the process.

Important Dates and Deadlines

Although the intent is to adhere to the initially-announced timeline and deadlines, ***this CoC reserves the right to add to or make changes or corrections to this local NOFO, including those dates and times*** as may be needed to meet HUD requirements or to otherwise carry out a fair and open process. Such changes will be posted online and notices sent out as appropriate. ***It is the individual agency applicants' responsibility to watch for notices and to check the website regularly to keep up with all deadlines and application process requirements.*** All project applicants are expected to meet all local deadlines for the CoC application process. Although the Collaborative Applicant does not seek to be capricious and arbitrary in conducting this process, a Project Applicant's failure to meet a deadline in this process could result in a lower ranking or elimination from the application package altogether.

November 26, 2025: Any agency interested in seeking funding for CoC Bonus funding or the Domestic Violence Bonus funding must submit a written expression of intent to apply to Arielle Benson and Erin Read at arielle.benson@knoxtnhousing.org and erin.read@knoxtnhousing.org no later than 5 p.m. EDT on Wednesday, November 26, 2025.

This requirement is to assure that the CoC is aware of all potential applicants, so that such applications can be considered as part of a fair and open ranking and review process for inclusion in the Collaborative Application as required by HUD.

Date currently unknown (likely on or before Jan 14, 2026): Agency applications are due in e-snaps.

December 12, 2025: Applicant review questionnaires and local application forms are due to the Collaborative Applicant (Office of Housing Stability).

TBD: Ranking and Review panel will convene to review agency applications and create a rank-order list of all accepted applications.

On or before December 29, 2025: Any applicants not accepted for inclusion in the Collaborative Application package will be notified in writing.

On or before January 9, 2026: CoC Board will meet to approve the CoC application and project ranking.

On or before January 9, 2026: Draft CoC application will be publicly posted online at <https://www.knoxtnhousing.org>

January 12, 2026: Knoxville-Knox County CoC intends to submit the final CoC application in e-snaps on or about this target date, ahead of HUD's January 14 deadline.

Questions and Contact

Any questions about this opportunity may be directed to the Collaborative Applicant, specifically Arielle Benson and Erin Read. They can be reached at arielle.benson@knoxtnhousing.org and (865) 318-2603, or erin.read@knoxtnhousing.org and (865) 599-7475.

**TN-502 Knoxville Knox County Continuum of Care
2025 CoC Application Scoring and Rating Criteria**

The Knoxville Knox County Continuum of Care seeks to provide a coordinated, inclusive and outcome-oriented community process for the solicitation, objective review, ranking and selection of project applications for inclusion with our CoC Collaborative Application package we submit to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

To score and then rank Continuum of Care project applications, the CoC Ranking and Review panel will use information from the Project Applicant Questionnaire, as well as relevant information from other sources, including but not limited to KnoxHMIS, the Coordinated Entry System, HUD LOCCS, CoC Project Applications, SAGE, and Agency Annual Performance Reviews. **Maximum points for each project is 100.** The Ranking and Review panel will use these scoring factors as well as HUD's CoC rules, regulations and objectives as well as local objectives to make a final determination of the acceptance and rank-order of applications we submit in our Collaborative Application. (Note: Because HMIS is a central CoC activity and is functionally different than direct housing or service projects, its scoring rubric must be somewhat altered from the others to capture its information, and is available in a separate document.)

Scoring Summary

Project Type	Threshold Review	Objective Criteria	Supportive Service Engagement	System /Program Performance	Community Collaboration	Total Points Available
Renewals		0-50 points	0-15 points	0-25 points	0-10 points	100 (scored by Rank & Review)
New Projects	0-10 points & 0 - 6 points for Project Administration)	0-50 points	0-15 points	0-15 points	0-10 points	100 (scored by Rank and Review)
HMIS		0-50 points		0-40 points	0-10 points	100 (scored by Rank and Review)

Agency:

Project Name:

Name, phone, email of contact:

Threshold Questions for Renewal & New Projects

Renewal projects are considered as having met the majority of the threshold requirements through previously approved grant applications, except for programs that have operated as indicated in section V.A.4.b.5 of the NOFO, which HUD reserves the right to evaluate eligibility based upon.

	Yes/No
Is the applicant seeking funding for an eligible project category?	
Does the project meet the threshold requirements in sections V.A.3.4.a.1-V.A.3.4.a.6 & V.A.4.b.1-V.A.4.b.4 of the 2025 HUD CoC NOFO?	

New Project Threshold (0-10 points)

For HUD to consider new projects as meeting project quality threshold, each new project must meet the following criteria as applicable. If awarded, **a recipient must meet all** the criteria listed in the criteria column for its component.

Transitional Housing: New Transitional Housing projects must receive at least 7 out of 10 points available for this project type. New TH projects that do not receive at least 7 points will be rejected.

	Criteria	Points Available (10)	Score
A	Demonstrate that the project will provide and/or partner with other organizations to provide eligible supportive services that are necessary to assist program participants to obtain and maintain housing.	2	
B	The applicant has prior experience operating transitional housing or other projects that have successfully helped homeless individuals and families exit homelessness within 24 months.	1	
C	The applicant has previously operated or currently operates transitional housing or another homelessness project, or has a plan in place to ensure, that at least 50 percent of participants exit to permanent housing within 24 months and at least 50 percent of participants exit with employment income as reflected in HMIS or another data system used by the applicant.	1	
D	The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream	1	

	health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.		
E	Demonstrate that the proposed project will require program participants to take part in supportive services (e.g. case management, employment training, substance use treatment, etc) in line with 24 CFR 578.75(h) by attaching a supportive service agreement (contract, occupancy agreement, lease, or equivalent).	2	
F	Demonstrate that the proposed project will provide 40 hours per week of customized services for each participant (e.g. case management, employment training, substance use treatment, etc.). The 40 hours per week may be reduced proportionately for participants who are employed. The 40 hours per week does not apply to participants over age 62 or who have a physical disability/impairment or a developmental disability (24 CFR 582.5) not including substance use disorder.	2	
G	Demonstrate the average cost per household served for the project is reasonable, consistent with 2 CFR 200.404.	1	

Supportive Services Only (SSO) Standalone: New SSO – Standalone project applications must receive at least 4 out of the 5 points available for this project type. New SSO standalone projects that do not receive at least 4 points will be rejected.

	Criteria	Points Available (5)	Score
A	The Supportive Services project is necessary to assist people in exiting homelessness and increasing self-sufficiency and the Recipient will conduct an annual assessment of the service needs of the program participants.	1	
B	The proposed project has a strategy for providing supportive services to eligible program participants including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services.	2	
C	The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.	1	
D	The services provided are cost-effective consistent with 2 CFR 200.404.	1	

Supportive Services Only (SSO) Street Outreach: New SSO project applications that focus on street outreach and indicate so in their project application must receive at least 5 out of the 6 points available for this project type. Projects that do not receive at least 5 points will be rejected.

	Criteria	Points Available (6)	Score
A	The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.	1	
B	The proposed project has a strategy for providing supportive services to eligible program participants including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services.	2	
C	Demonstrate that the applicant has a history of partnering with first responders and law enforcement to engage people living in places not meant for human habitation to access emergency shelter, treatment programs, reunification with family, transitional housing or independent living. The applicant must cooperate, assist, and not interfere or impede with law enforcement to enforce local laws such as public camping and public drug use laws.	1	
D	The applicant has experience providing outreach services consistent with the activity description at 24 CFR 578.53(e)(13) and has demonstrated effectiveness at helping people successfully exit from places not meant for human habitation to emergency shelter, treatment programs, transitional housing or permanent housing programs.	1	
E	The services provided are cost-effective consistent with 2 CFR 200.404.	1	

Supportive Services Only-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE): New SSO-CE project applications (also known as centralized or coordinated assessment) must receive at least 3 out of the 4 points available for this project type. New SSO-CE projects that do not receive at least 3 points will be rejected.

	Criteria	Points Available (4)	Score
A	The Coordinated Entry system is easily available and reachable for all persons within the CoC's geographic area who are seeking homelessness assistance. The system must also be accessible for persons with disabilities within the CoC's geographic area.	1	

B	There is a strategy for advertising that is designed specifically to reach households experiencing homelessness with the highest needs.	1	
C	There is a standardized assessment process.	1	
D	The project will ensure program participants are directed to appropriate housing and services that fit their needs.	1	

Permanent Housing: Permanent Supportive Housing (PH-PSH): New Permanent Housing projects must receive at least 4 out of the 6 points available for this project type. New Permanent Housing projects that do not receive at least 4 points will be rejected.			
	Criteria	Points Available (6)	Score
A	The type of housing proposed, including the number and configuration of units, will fit the needs of the program participants.	1	
B	The type of supportive services and assistance that will be offered to program participants will ensure that the participant is able to successfully obtain and retain permanent housing and in a manner that fits their needs (e.g. transportation, safety planning, enhanced case management). If the applicant is proposing to expand an existing PH project, it must demonstrate how they are expanding supportive services to program participants, including where appropriate, on-site supportive services.	1	
C	The project will be designed to serve elderly individuals and/or individuals with a physical disability/impairment or a developmental disability (24 CFR 582.5) not including substance use disorder. The units will prioritize these populations.	1	
D	Demonstrate that the proposed project will require program participants to take part in supportive services (e.g. case management, life skills, substance use treatment) in line with 24 CFR 578.75(h) by attaching a supportive service agreement (contract, occupancy agreement, lease, or equivalent).	1	
E	The average cost per household served is reasonable, consistent with 2 CFR 200.404, meaning that the costs for housing and services provided by the project are consistent with the population the project plans to serve.	1	
F	The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.	1	

Permanent Housing: Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH): New Permanent Housing projects must receive at least 6 out of the 8 points available for this project type. New Permanent Housing projects that do not receive at least 4 points will be rejected.			
	Criteria	Points Available (8)	Score
A	The provision of tenant-based rental assistance will help individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency within 3 months or up to 24 months.	1	
B	The type of supportive services and assistance that will be offered to program participants (e.g., case management, substance use treatment, mental health treatment, and employment assistance) will ensure that the participant is able to successfully obtain self-sufficiency and exit homelessness.	2	
C	The applicant has previously operated homelessness projects where outcomes for employment income were improved compared to the average project in the CoC.	2	
D	Demonstrate that the proposed project will require program participants to take part in supportive services (e.g. case management, employment training, substance use treatment) in line with 24 CFR 578.75(h) by attaching a supportive service agreement (contract, occupancy agreement, lease, or equivalent).	1	
E	The average cost per household served is reasonable, consistent with 2 CFR 200.404, meaning that the costs for housing and services provided by the project are consistent with the population the project plans to serve.	1	
F	The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.	1	

Project Administration (0-6 points)		
New Project Timelines. Will the proposed project be able to quickly start serving clients, and/or is there a clear implementation plan in place?	Points Available 0-6 points (Transitional Housing applications are exempt from this scoring element). This score, in addition to the threshold score above, should equal no greater than 10 points.	Score (<i>Maximum of 10 points when combined with the New Project Threshold total</i>)

Section 1 points (NEW PROJECTS ONLY): _____/10

Objective Criteria (0-50 points)		
Applicant Experience (15 points)		
Rating Factor	Points Available	Score
Applicant demonstrates experience with population to be served	0-7	
Applicant demonstrates experience with proposed programming type	0-5	
Applicant demonstrates experience with operating and managing a federal grant	0-3	

Cost Effectiveness and Match Funding (15 points)		
Rating Factor	Points Available	Score
Project is cost effective as compared to similar programs	0-5	
Match is appropriate for project type and supports eligible activities	0-5	
Application budget is reasonable, allocable, and allowable	0-5	

Availability of Treatment and Recovery Services (20 points)		
Rating Factor	Points Available	Score
Substance Use Treatment is available on-site	0-5	
Substance Use Treatment is required to take part in services	0-5	
24/7 referral and transportation to inpatient or detox facilities	0-4	
Connection with sober housing	0-3	
Demonstrated partnership with Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) or Community Mental Health Center (CMHC)	0-3	

Section 2 points: _____/50

Supportive Service Engagement (15 points)		
Rating Factor	Points Available	Score
Demonstrated Coordination with workforce development programs	0-5	
Demonstrated Ability to promote self-sufficiency and economic independence	0-5	
Demonstrated history of providing intensive wrap-around case coordination and care management	0-5	

Section 3 points: _____/15

System/Program Performance
New Projects (15)

Rating Factor	Points Available	Score
Project tracks system level performance measures and impacts	0-3	
Project has information and data on client outcomes provided on website	0-3	
Organization has a dedicated data specialist or similar role	0-3	
Project describes how they intend to monitor program performance, and how any negative system impacts would be addressed	0-6	

KnoxHMIS will provide each renewal applicant their project-level data points listed below. The reporting period used will be 7/1/24 – 6/30/25.

Renewal RRH & TH/RRH (25)		
Rating Factor	Points Available	Score
Return to Homelessness 1 & 2 year	0-3	
Employment Income	0-2	
Average time to housing	0-2	
Exit to PH	0-4	
Of those housed, rate housed with no ongoing rental assistance funded through HUD CoC	0-5	
Of those housed, rate housed with no ongoing subsidy, regardless of funding (includes housing through PHA)	0-5	
Rate Households entered from unsheltered situations	0-2	
HMIS Data completeness	0-2	

Renewal PH & PSH (25)		
Rating Factor	Points Available	Score
Return to Homelessness 1 & 2 year	0-8	
Entries directly from unsheltered situations	0-8	
Exit to PH	0-2	
Exit to PSH	0-2	
HMIS Data completeness	0-5	

Renewal SSO (25)		
Rating Factor	Points Available	Score
Employment Income	0-4	
Rate of positive housing outcomes	0-8	
Average time to housing	0-3	
Rate of contacts (Current Living Situation) per month per client	0-5	
Two-year rate of return to homelessness	0-3	
HMIS Data completeness	0-2	

Section 4 points: _____ /
15 (new) or 25 (renewal)

Community Collaboration		
Rating Factor	Points Available	Score
Participation in HMIS	0-3	
Participation in the Coordinated Entry System	0-4	
Participation in the Homeless Coalition/CoC Organizational Body	0-3	

Section 5 points: _____ /10

Total points: _____ /100