



Tri-County Continuum of Care for Hunterdon, Sussex, & Warren Counties

FY 2026 HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Homeless Assistance Funding

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The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issues an annual Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to launch a nationwide competitive process to provide communities with funds to assist those experiencing homelessness with services and housing. The HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) FY2026 NOFO was released on June 1, 2026. Family Promise of Sussex County serves as the collaborative applicant for the Tri-County CoC of Warren, Sussex, and Hunterdon Counties and will be responsible for completing and submitting the application on behalf of the CoC.

Background

The CoC will accept Letters of Intent for renewal and new projects, with the understanding that new projects may be funded if current renewal project funds are reallocated by the Executive Committee and/or through additional funds made available by HUD for bonus projects. HUD has indicated that the FY2026 CoC NOFO will continue HUD's Tier 1 and Tier 2 funding strategy in the FY2026 competition. All projects will be scored by a standardized Ranking & Review process; the tool for this process will be published with this RLI on the websites of Family Promise of Sussex County, and Warren, Sussex, and Hunterdon Counties. Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations and units of local government. Eligible agencies who have not previously received HUD CoC funding are encouraged to apply. **Additionally, all applicants must adhere to the following requirements:**

- Be able to provide services in, or accept referrals from, all three counties, in accordance with the Tri-County CoC Coordinated Assessment process.
- Have a firm match commitment of cash or in-kind support with a total value of 25% of the proposed project budget request, minus leasing costs.

Applicants are responsible for reading the FY 2026 HUD Notice of Funding Opportunity released June 1, 2026:

<https://simpler.grants.gov/opportunity/18c6dc79-e5dd-42e9-aca5-b35c5d26eded>

Submission Instructions

Agencies interested in applying for CoC funding must participate in a mandatory Zoom technical assistance webinar on **June 25, 2026, at 10AM:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84737289620?pwd=Q3MvLdxTsX6IoNowZ5Q2alsVb85wPh.1>

Providers must submit applications to the CoC no later than July 15, 2026, via survey monkey apply. Late submissions are not eligible for funding.

https://njcoemha.smapply.io/prog/tri-county_coc_funding/

Agencies will receive confirmation directly from the system that their application has been submitted.

Once HUD releases navigational guides for this process, the CoC will make them available.

Scope of Services

Purpose

To provide funding to quickly re-house homeless individuals and families, promote access to and effective use of mainstream programs and optimize self-sufficiency by those experiencing homelessness (the HUD homeless definition can be found at :

<https://www.hudexchange.info/coc/coc-program-law-regulations-and-notices/>

New Project Funding:

For FY2026, the CoC is estimating approximately \$800,000 dollars in funding for new projects. Eligible projects that will be accepted for Tri County CoC include:

- Transitional Housing Projects
- Supportive Services Only – Standalone
- Supportive Services Only – Street Outreach
- Supportive Services Only- Coordinated Entry

New Domestic Violence Bonus Project Funding:

In FY2026, the CoC anticipates up to approximately \$250,000 through this Domestic Violence Bonus Project category.

All projects funded through this category must be dedicated to serving survivors of domestic violence as defined by HUD in 24 CFR 578.3 which includes any individual or family who:

- Is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;
- Has no other residence; and
- Lacks the resources or support networks, e.g. family, friends, and faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing

Eligible project types that will be accepted for Tri County CoC through the DV Bonus Project funding include:

- Transitional Housing
- Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry
- Rapid Rehousing

As a note, if your agency is interested in applying for domestic violence bonus funding, there will be a requirement to include specific data detailing the need for the project, which will be included in the CoC's application to HUD. In addition, all projects funded through the DV Bonus must ensure the program will utilize trauma-informed, victim-centered approaches for services.

Transition Grants and Expansion Grants

- If an agency with an existing Tri County CoC project is interested in submitting for a program expansion, or a transition grant, those must be submitted as a new project application.
- Agencies may submit **both** a renewal project application and a transition grant application. The transition grant application will only be considered for funding if the renewal project application is not approved for funding. If the agency only submits a transition grant application, but not a renewal grant application, only the transition grant application will be considered for funding.
- **Match & Leverage**
- **All applicants should start to plan for and secure commitments of match and leveraging sources.**
- **Match** – a 25% cash or in-kind match is required for all program components except leasing. Match is required for both new and renewal projects.
- **Leverage** – an effort to leverage local resources is required by HUD for all projects.
- If selected for funding Letters and/or MOUs documentation match & leveraging are due with the draft application prior to submission in E-snaps. Further guidance is available from HUD at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/3113/importance-of-documenting-match-under-the-coc-program/>
- **Project Rating Process for Renewal Projects**
- Upon submission of applications, the Tri-County Funding Review Committee will evaluate programs using the approved scoring criteria (attached) and data generated from HMIS based on the CoC System Performance Measures:
- <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/System-Performance-Measures-Introductory-Guide.pdf>
- Projects are required to participate in Coordinated Assessment and the use of the Chronically Homeless definition.
- **Continuum of Care Membership**
- The Tri-County Continuum of Care annually welcomes new members and member agencies who seek to join in the mission of ending homelessness for persons in Warren, Hunterdon, and Sussex Counties. The CoC considers opinions pertaining to planning and strategic resource allocation from any individuals and organizations with knowledge of homelessness in the geographic area or an interest in preventing or ending homelessness in the Tri-County region.
- **Definitions**
- *Disabling Condition* - A disabling condition is defined as: (1) a disability as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act; (2) a physical, mental, or emotional impairment which is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration, substantially impedes an individual's ability to live independently, and of such a nature that the disability could be improved by more suitable conditions; (3) a developmental disability as defined in Section 102 of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act; (4) the disease of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome or any conditions arising from the etiological agent for acquired immune deficiency syndrome; or (5) a diagnosable substance abuse disorder. A disabling condition limits an individual's ability to work or perform one or more activities of daily living.
- *Chronically Homeless* – the new definition for Chronically Homeless went into effect on January 4, 2017 and is as follows: An unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling

condition, or an adult member of a homeless family who has a disabling condition, who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four (4) occasions of homelessness in the past 3 years, where all combined occasions has to total a length of time of at least 12 months. Each period separating the occasions must include at least 7 nights of living in a situation other than a place not meant for human habitation in an emergency shelter, or in a safe haven. The term “homeless,” in this case, means a person sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (e.g., living on the streets), in an emergency homeless shelter, or in a Safe Haven as defined by HUD.

Scoring

The Tri-County Continuum of Care has established a transparent framework for the decision-making process guiding the annual CoC application for HUD funding for homelessness assistance projects. Performance measures and scoring criteria are adjusted annually to maintain alignment with HUD priorities and local objectives.

The Selection Committee consists of non-biased persons; i.e. members of the CoC who do not represent or have any formal association with an agency submitting an application to the CoC. The Selection Committee will receive copies of all project proposals prior to meeting and be prepared to:

- Conduct a review of each application
- Evaluate each application against defined criteria
- Rank each proposal in order
- Provide recommendations to the CoC Executive Committee regarding whether a proposal should be submitted for funding and how it should be ranked against other proposals.

Each individual who participates in the review process agrees to hold all information related to the proposals in confidence before, during and after the review proceedings. Rankings and scores will be shared with applicants prior to presentation to the CoC. Findings of the committee will be presented to the Executive Committee of the Tri-County CoC for final approval.

New Projects

The application scoring criteria are outlined in the Scoring Rubric for New Projects. Additional requirements include:

- Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) not for profit or a local unit of government.
- Projects must meet all HUD eligibility criteria.
- Applicants must have the organizational capacity to implement a project in alignment with all HUD standards and cannot have a history of findings or unresolved issues with HUD or the State of NJ or counties of Warren, Sussex or Hunterdon.

Renewal Projects

The application scoring criteria are outlined in the Scoring Rubric for Renewal Projects. The Selection Committee members are asked to assign a score based on information in the application, performance review, and local and HUD priorities.

All projects are scored together and then ranked from highest to lowest score.

A new or renewal project application must meet the priority threshold, or it will be automatically rejected by the Selection Committee. Applications agree to participate in the Coordinated Entry System, commit to a policy of non-discrimination, and comply with all other provisions of the Policies & Procedures of the Coordinated Entry System.

Upon a project application submission, the Selection Committee will first closely review the information in order to ensure that:

- All proposed program participants will be eligible for the program component type selected;
- The organization is eligible to submit a project application;
- The proposed activities are eligible under the 24 CFR part 578;
- Each project narrative is fully responsive to the question being asked and that it meets all criteria for that question as required by the NOFO's detailed instructions provided in E-Snaps;
- The data provided in various parts of the project application are consistent; and
- All required attachments, such as letters of commitment, correspond to the attachments list in e-snaps and the attachments contain accurate and complete information.

Projects within each priority will then be scored by the Selection Committee.

Appeals Process

If an applicant organization feels it was denied the right to reasonably participate in the local application process or has been unfairly eliminated from either the local or the federal competition, that a decision made by the CoC Selection Committee regarding the ranking, rejection, or funding of their project was prejudicial, unsubstantiated by project performance, or in violation of the 2020 Continuum of Care Guidelines, the applying agency and sponsor, if any, may file an appeal to be re-considered for inclusion in either the local competition or federal competition.

A written appeal request must be submitted to the CoC up to 7 business days of the notice of the decision by email to Nick Kapetanakis, Chair, Tri-County CoC Executive Committee, (nkapetanakis@sussex.nj.us). The Tri-County Selection Committee will hear and respond to all appeals within 7-10 business days. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to address each area(s) identified as a factor(s) of the funding decision in a manner that could result in a more favorable decision.