Selection Priorities

Will County Continuum of Care (CoC) FY2026 Funding Guidance and Project Priorities

Introduction to the Will County CoC

The Will County Continuum of Care (CoC) is dedicated to ending homelessness in Will, Kendall, and Grundy Counties through a robust, communitywide collaborative. This collective is responsible for building, implementing, and continually improving a system that responds to the crisis of homelessness in our region. This is our region's Homeless Response System.

Overview of CoC Program Funding

The CoC Program funding is a competitive federal resource designed to support a Homeless Response System to enable an end to homelessness and prevent homelessness. The CoC seeks eligible renewal and new project proposals that collectively serve the homeless crisis in the region. Applicants must review the FY2026 CoC Program NOFO released by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development to determine eligibility.

This funding allocation helps improve the region's progress on ending homelessness. Projects should identify their internal strategies that help improve the system performance metrics. Fidelity to system strategies will help the whole system's effectiveness and efficiency. The projects funded through these resources help the system move- meaning people are getting connected to housing and services they need to resolve the housing crisis and connect to permanent housing.

Our System Philosophy

- Homelessness is solvable. Together, we will end homelessness
- We intend to end homelessness- one household at a time until homelessness is functionally zero.
- Our system is a moving system.
- People experiencing homelessness are the focus of system design.
- Data and outcomes should shape strategy.
- Collective impact requires a coordinated response, shared accountability, and mission alignment across providers and partners.

Alignment with HUD Policy Priorities

The FY2026 CoC NOFO emphasizes a balanced investment approach that responds to the varied needs of people and communities experiencing homelessness. As HUD advances reforms to accelerate progress in reducing homelessness nationally, the Will County CoC will use this opportunity to strengthen and transform the regional response system. The priorities below reflect local goals aligned with HUD's FY2026 CoC NOFO policy priorities.

Will County CoC's Local Project Priorities

1. **Maximizing Permanent Housing Resources**
2. **Maintain and Improve System Movement**
3. **Stabilizing the System and Reducing Trauma**
4. **Expanding CoC Project Types**
5. **New Programs Reflecting Community Needs**
6. **Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness**
7. **Person-Centered Person-Led Service Provision That Focuses on Obtaining and Maintaining Permanent Housing and Promotes Self-Sufficiency.**
8. **End Unsheltered Homelessness**

System Project Expectations

- Projects that are committed to working as a system to end homelessness.
- Projects that reduce homelessness in our communities, support minimal returns to homelessness, and increase exits from homelessness to housing.
- Projects that can meet the needs of people referred to them, helping them obtain and maintain housing, and promoting their path to their self-sufficiency.
- Projects use evidence-based, person-centered services provisions.
- Projects that utilize mainstream and community-based resources to serve persons experiencing homelessness
- Projects that perform strongly, improve our systematic performance, and are consistently reevaluating themselves and striving to meet the needs of persons experiencing homelessness in our communities

CoC Program Criteria

Projects will be assessed on:

- **Project Capacity:** Ability to deliver services effectively and meet community needs. New projects (including transition projects) must meet the threshold established in the FY2026 CoC NOFO to be accepted.
- **System Impact:** Contribution to overall Homeless Response System performance, including reduced returns to homelessness and increased employment income. Project's performance will be reviewed.
- **Alignment with and Advancement of System Strategies:** How well the project advances CoC strategic goals and supports collaborative system functioning.

Available Funds

Approximately $4.040 billion in funding is available- including $104 million available in DV bonus projects is available in the FY 2026 CoC Program Competition NOFO. HUD continues to require all CoCs to rank all projects, except Planning, into two tiers. These tiers represent financial thresholds and allow the CoC to clearly indicate its funding priorities.

The Will County Continuum of Care estimates it is eligible to apply for $8,025,306 in the FY 2026 CoC Competition, which includes a $1,000,448 bonus amount.

Within these funds, the following project types will be considered competitive locally:

- Permanent Housing (PSH or RRH)
- Transitional Housing (TH)
- Supportive Services Only (either standalone or Street Outreach)

CoC Infrastructure grants will also be available to the lead agency for SSO-CES and HMIS. The Planning Grant is separate and not included in these totals.

The CoC's Tier 1 amount estimate is $4,214,915 7 and the Tier 2 amount estimate is $3,810,391 Under this NOFO, the Will County CoC is additionally eligible for an estimated $2,000,896 in DV Bonus funding. With this DV Bonus included, the total competitive funding the CoC may apply for is an estimate of $10,026,202. The CoC will not allocate more than an estimate of $3,512,429 for Permanent Housing. These are estimated amounts. Final amounts should be publicly announced by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Project Types and Eligibility

CoC Infrastructure Projects

CoC Infrastructure Projects are applied for by the CoC Lead Agency. These include planning (unranked), HMIS, and CES. CoC Infrastructure Projects are developed to benefit the entirety of the CoC's geographic region and are ranked first. These projects will be directed and reviewed by the CoC Board, influenced by CoC committees, stakeholders, and persons with lived experience.

System Projects

- Permanent Housing (Permanent Supportive or Rapid Rehousing), Transitional Housing, or Supportive Service Only (Supportive Services Only and Street Outreach) are eligible project types in these competitions.
- All projects' required eligibility is literally homeless households at entry.
- Supportive service participation requirements are now evaluated as part of the local ranking and review process.
- All projects must participate in coordinated entry and the selection of program participants must be consistent with the CoC's coordinated entry process.

Renewal Projects: Projects eligible for renewal in the FY2026 competition must have been represented on the Grant Inventory Worksheet. Renewal projects will report performance of the FY2025 through current outcome (10/01/2024-9/30/2025 through 5/31/2026) period based on data recorded in the CoC's HMIS systems. Performance will be determined by reports generated in HMIS based on HUD Annual Performance Reports. The reports will be pulled by the HMIS system administrator, and the results will be provided to Ranking and Project Applications. Reports will be generated for each project from October 1, 2024, to May 31,2026.

Renewal Street Outreach programs must provide a comprehensive annual report on encampments since 2023, including location and number of people in the elements. They must also demonstrate a partnership with law enforcement in all three counties.

Renewal projects will also complete a Compliance and Reevaluation review. This requires submission of documents prior to an application.

New Projects: The CoC will be accepting new applicants for transitional housing or supportive services grants in 2026. New projects (including transition projects) must meet the threshold established in the FY2026 CoC NOFO to be accepted. Project should demonstrate how they will meet the needs of the system and serve households identified in this notice. New PH may be considered within the set PH threshold. DV Bonus projects may be applied for. DV Bonus Projects are funding opportunities which restrict project eligibility to people who are homeless and survivors of domestic violence. DV Bonus Projects applicants must demonstrate an ability to provide services to that help DV survivors obtain and maintain housing and promote self- sufficiency.

Over the last five years, the average person in our Homeless Response System will experience 429 days of literal homelessness. Transitional Housing and Supportive Services programs can help people during this time and aim to shorten this experience. Homelessness is traumatic and with these inventions, people in this crisis will have support that can encourage healing and hope. Program designs will focus on supportive services that are person-centered, person-lead and a foundation of trauma informed care. Programs may consider specialty services that are focused on removing barriers to self-sufficiency, accessing permanent sustainable employment, removing barriers to self-sufficiency, and substance use and mental health recovery programs.

All new projects (PH, TH, or SSO) must be informed by local data, including Point-in-Time counts, to demonstrate need.

Projects should be able to serve their first household by 10/01/2027. Initial terms of projects should strive to be 1-year. This is critical for system performance.

These new projects should expand our system capacity.

Transitional Housing (TH) Projects:
TH is not RRH or PSH, it is a unique blend of intensive supportive services and a maximum 24-month timeline. This is the maximum time, and competitive projects should plan for projects that meet the needs of people, not for the maximum timelines. The transitional housing projects should plan to serve people entering from a literal homelessness condition. TH is a leasing project for non-profit parters. This means that occupancy charges are set by the CoC's written standards following the federal regulation. Leasing projects should plan the entire costs of the units each month for their budgets.

Supportive Services Only (SSO) Projects:
Supportive Service Projects should establish a new program or significantly expand system capacity. Providers must demonstrate experience serving households experiencing literal homelessness, with preference given to providers that actively partner with the CoC Coordinated Entry System. Services must be needs-based and designed to connect households to resources that resolve housing instability and support long-term stability. Street outreach projects must demonstrate partnership and coordination with law enforcement agencies across all geographic areas proposed for service delivery.

Local Priority Supportive Service Projects as a System Navigator: Supportive Service Projects serve as System Navigators within the regional homeless response system by engaging people experiencing homelessness and helping them access the coordinated resources necessary to resolve their housing crisis and achieve long-term stability. Stakeholder engagement consistently emphasized the importance of having trusted partners who can remain engaged with individuals throughout periods of instability and help "walk with" people as they navigate complex systems and difficult decisions. System Navigators provide person-centered, relationship-based support by connecting households to services that may include street outreach, emergency shelter, Coordinated Entry, housing opportunities, treatment and recovery services, employment pathways, and other community resources that are braided together to meet individual needs. Rather than operating as isolated service providers, these projects strengthen coordination across systems and support movement from crisis to housing stability and long-term independence. Partners serving in this role are expected to work closely and regularly with the CoC Infrastructure Team and the Continuum Task Force to End Homelessness to advance regional initiatives, strengthen system performance, and improve outcomes across the three-county region.

All Projects: In applying for these resources, partners acknowledge that they will work to improve the system of response to homelessness in our three-county region. Funded partners are expected to participate in CoC planning and coordination activities and implement projects in alignment with local CoC policies and procedures. Partners must support achievement of CoC objectives as outlined in the CoC Interim Rule and participate in regular performance and monitoring reviews to assess project outcomes, system impact, and continuous improvement. All projects must demonstrate cost reasonableness and effective use of resources.

Strategic Resource Allocation

Funding Recommendations: Funding levels are set within the CoC Project Review and Selection Process. This process will look at what's best for the region through local data, including HMIS, system reports, and stakeholder input. All projects will be provided with an award recommendation, and this is the amount they will apply for in the CoC applications to HUD. This will be the final amount allowed to for the application. Projects will be rejected if they do not make ethe recommend adjustment.

Permanent Housing: The CoC is reducing the permanent housing renewals to align with the strategies in this NOFO. Renewal PH projects partners must anticipate a reduction that is based on performance and community need. The CoC's total Renewal PH will not exceed 50% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD). Meeting this benchmark will ensure our community has a robust and balanced portfolio of strong preforming projects to meet the complex needs of our homelessness crisis.

New PH projects may be considered, but total funding recommendations cannot exceed the overall established threshold, with expectation of New DV Bonus Grants who can apply for PH within the DV Bonus Amount. Any unallocated resources in this threshold may be allocated among the approved PH projects (renewal grants cannot exceed their Annual Renewal Award).

Volunteer Reallocation: The CoC is encouraging all renewal applications to reallocate funds strategically and cost effectively. All permanent housing projects, except for New DV Bonuses, will be no greater than 50% of CoC's ARD. Partners may consider reallocation of their Annual Renewal Award in a transition grant (shifting their current projects to a new project) or a new grant (either a TH or SSO grant).

Mandatory Reallocation: The project review process may suggest reallocation of low performing projects in order to create a strong portfolio of projects for the CoC. Reallocation could include a portion or the whole project. That recommendation is made to non-conflicted CoC Board. All funding recommendations are finalized by the non-conflicted members of the CoC Board vote on Project Priority Listing and then, the project applicant is notified of the approved funding amount.
Shared responsibility and leadership

Initiative Leadership: Initiatives must be led by members of the CoC. Applicants will be scored on their potential to lead critical initiatives within the three-county region. Partners identified as an initiative leads will work with the CoC infrastructure team to advance initiatives. They will be given priority in competition.

Community Needs

2026 Point In Time Findings

Point in Time is a critical snapshot of people experiencing homelessness in our community on a single night and it remains the best available reflection on conditions of any given point in time. These are foundational data elements used to help plan for community needs and align housing and services to improve our system's capacity to reduce and end homelessness.

On any given night, 390 people are experiencing homelessness in Will, Kendall, and Grundy counties. This means they are sleeping in a literal homeless situation, like an emergency shelter, transitional housing, or in an unsheltered situation in a place not meant for human habitation.

- 29 people, or over 7%, are sleeping unsheltered.
- Adults without children are the overwhelming majority of people experiencing literal homelessness, representing 90% of households.
- Unaccompanied youth (ages 18–24) and children (under 18 years old) make up 13% of the population served in emergency shelter or transitional housing.
- People experiencing homelessness as survivors of domestic violence make up almost 10% of the total homeless population.
- Veterans represent 5% of the population experiencing homelessness. No veterans were unsheltered.
- Overall, severe service conditions represent a smaller share of the population experiencing literal homelessness: 12% are experiencing serious mental illness, 10% are experiencing substance use disorder, and 13% are experiencing chronic homelessness (defined as individuals with a disabling condition experiencing long-term homelessness).
- Unsheltered homelessness continues to decrease; however, this smaller population experiences higher rates of need, including chronic homelessness (21%), serious mental illness (34%), and substance use disorders (34%).

Homeless Response System Performance Overview (2021-2026)

This five-year lookback (6/1/2021–5/31/2026) provides an overall assessment of system performance across the Homeless Response System rather than a year-to-year progress analysis. During this period, the system shows improvement in key outcomes, including increased exits from homelessness into permanent housing and a reduction in returns to homelessness, indicating stronger housing stability for many households served.

At the same time, the data highlights ongoing challenges, particularly in reducing the overall experience of homelessness, shortening the length of time people remain homeless, and improving employment income outcomes. This five-year snapshot underscores both areas of progress and the continued need for system-level strategies to strengthen housing stability and economic mobility across the community.

- 3,538 people experienced literal homelessness within the HRS (6/1/2021–5/31/2026)
- Average length of literal homelessness: 429 days
- 5,415 unduplicated individuals served across all homeless response programs
    - Service distribution: ES 62%, SO 6%, TH 9%, PSH 11.5%, RRH 12%
    - Exits by program type (all exits over 5 years): ES 93%, SO 76%, TH 88%, PSH 40%, RRH 84%
- 12.27% of people exited and returned to homelessness
- 34% of exits resulted in permanent housing
- Employment outcomes: 8.06% of adults currently enrolled in our housing projects increased employment; 13.35% of adults who exited increased employment income.

Regional Initiative Leadership Opportunities

Applicants identified as initiative leads will partner with the CoC Infrastructure Team to advance regional priorities for the CoC Program and will receive priority consideration in competition.

1. Housing Stability & Population-Specific Housing Pathways

Purpose: Strengthen or develop coordinated housing strategies that improve access and outcomes for specific populations.

Must include strategies for the following populations:	Community coordination focus:
Children and Youth Families Veterans Survivors of Domestic Violence Aging and Elderly households Chronically Homeless Individuals and Families	ESG recipients and emergency shelter coordination Investment in supportive services Participation expectations following housing placement Faith Based Partnerships

2. Behavioral Health, Treatment & Recovery Integration

Purpose: Strengthen connections between housing, healthcare, behavioral health, and recovery systems to improve housing stability.

Must include strategies for the following populations:	Community coordination focus:
Individuals with behavioral health Individuals with substance use needs High Utilizers of Healthcare Systems Permanent Supportive Housing households	Treatment and recovery services Investment in supportive services Data sharing for improved outcomes and transparency

3. Outreach, Crisis Response & Law Enforcement Coordination

Purpose: Create coordinated approaches to engagement, crisis response, and system navigation for individuals disconnected from services.

Must include strategies for the following populations:	Community coordination focus:
Justice System Re-entry populations Unsheltered households Survivors of violence and households experiencing crisis	Street outreach Law enforcement and first responders Emergency response coordination Data sharing and coordinated engagement

4. Economic Mobility & Long-Term Independence

Purpose: Advance strategies that support long-term housing stability through income growth, employment access, and reduced structural barriers.

Must include strategies for the following populations:	Community coordination focus:
Individuals Families Youth and young adults Aging households	Employment and workforce development Supportive service coordination Cross-system partnerships that improve long-term outcomes

Scoring Sheet: Renewal

Criterion	Project Capacity: Objective Criteria	Maximum Points
Required	**Compliance and Reevaluation Review.** **Renewal project must have a satisfactory outcome for the CoC's Compliance and Reevaluation Review. This review will consider Compliance, Financial Stability, Performance History , Capacity , Audit Findings and Public Complaints .** **Projects will not be selected for rank if they don't have a satisfactory outcome.**	**Required**
1	Cost Effectiveness Projects will be compared by the same project type. The cost effectiveness will be determined for each renewal project with the total households served and the total budget requested. The average cost effectiveness will be determined (removing extremities because of leverage). Projects within a $5000 range of average will be determined cost effective and will receive 10 points. The most cost-effective project type will receive full points and a bonus point. Projects not within in the cost effectiveness range will lose 1 point for each $5000 it is higher than the range (until zero points are available).	10
2	Utilization Rates (PH Only) If the project's 2026 HIC Utilization rate is between 90% or higher, they will receive 9 points. If the project's 2026 HIC Utilization rate is between 80%-89%, they will receive 6 points. If the project's 2026 HIC Utilization rate is between 70%-79%, they will receive 3 points.	9
3	Data Quality: Universal Data Elements An average of % of error rate will be calculated among these elements for 10/1/2024-09/30/2025 If the project's average is 0%, they will receive 7 points. If the project's average is between 1-5%, they will receive 6 points. If the project's average is between 5-10%, they will receive 3 points. If the project's average is higher than 10%, they will receive 0 points. *Bonus Point Available*	6
4	Serving the Identified Community Need	5

	Project that demonstrates they are able to serve the identified community needs and help achieve regional equity, including ensuring those least likely to access services, and these with the most severe services needs are meet, may receive up to 5 points.	
5	Supportive Services Projects may earn points by demonstrating either: (1) at least 30% of the request dedicated to supportive services, or (2) documented leveraging or matching supportive services equal to at least 50% of the project request.	5
6	Supportive Services Participation Projects that clearly and comprehensively demonstrate how supportive services will be provided, including individualized plans, connection to non-subsidized housing, strategies to ensure long-term housing stability, and a clear process for transitioning households from CoC-funded projects to other housing option, may receive up to 13 points.	13
7	Outcomes for Preventing Returns to Homelessness and Increasing Income of Participant Projects clearly and comprehensively demonstrate how they will contribute to ending homelessness, including detailed strategies to prevent returns to homelessness, methods to increase participants' employment income, and alignment with CoC system goals, may receive up to 12 points. Past outcomes, partnerships, or data-driven approaches should be included.	12
8	Local Priority: Maximizing PH If selected, Renewal PH Projects will receive 5 bonus points.	0
Criterion	**System Impact: Performance Data and System Performance Criteria.**	**Maximum Points**
9	Increasing Exits to Housing Measure: Leavers exiting to positive housing destinations (Determined by APR) A portion of the total available points will be allocated to this measure, and the project will receive points based on the degree to which it meets the criteria for this measure. *Example: 80% of leavers are exiting to a positive exit. 80% of the points will be awarded. 5.6 points will be awarded.* *2 Bonus Points are Available*	0
10	Increasing Self-Sufficiency (PH Only) Measure: Leavers exiting positive, unsubsidized housing destinations System Performance Measure (Determined by APR)	7

	A portion of the total available points will be allocated to this measure, and the project will receive points based on the degree to which it meets the criteria for this measure.	
11	Reducing Returns to Homelessness (PH Only) Measure: Persons who exit to homeless situation (Determined by APR) A portion of the total available points will be allocated to this measure, and the project will receive points based on the degree to which it meets the criteria for this measure. *Example: 10% of leavers are exiting to homelessness. Therefore 90% of the points will be awarded because 90% are successful. 6.3 points will be awarded.*	7
12	Reducing Time Experiencing Homelessness (PH Only) Measure: Length of Time between Project Start Date and Housing Move-in Date (Determined by APR) 3 points will be received If the average is lower than 30 days, 1 point will be received If the average is between 31-180 days, no points will be received if average is higher than 180 days.	3
13	Length of time in Project (PH Only) Measure: The portion of participants who are in CoC Project for 2 years or less. A portion of the total available points will be allocated to this measure, and the project will receive points based on the degree to which it meets the criteria for this measure.	3
14	Increasing Employment Income (SO and PH) Measure: Increase in Change in Employment Income (Determined by APR) The higher of the two measures will be selected. A portion of the total available points will be allocated to this measure, and the project will receive points based on the degree to which it meets the criteria for this measure.	3
15	System Impact Measure: (PH Only) Portion of People Housed: Projects will receive points for the system impact based on the percentage of people they housed (newly) between 10/1/2024-5/31/2026. The total number of people a project placed will be divided by 507 to determine this percentage. More than 10% of this measure will receive 1 point.	1
16	System Impact Measure: (PH Only) % of Unsheltered: Projects will receive points for the % of people unsheltered at entry into their program. More than 10% of this measure will receive 1 point.	1
17	System Performance Measure (SO only) Street Outreach Increase Engagement	9

	A portion of the total available points will be allocated to this measure, and the project will receive points based on the degree to which it meets the criteria for this measure.	
18	System Performance Measure (SO only) Encampments Reduction A portion of the total available points will be allocated to this measure, and the project will receive points based on the degree to which it meets the criteria for this measure.	9
19	System Performance Measure (SO only) Letters of support from law enforcement one for each regional jurisdiction to receive all points.	4
Criterion	**Alignment with System Strategies**	**Maximum Points**
19	Projects have met the following system requirements: • Point In Time: Project that had dedicated staff participate in 2026 Point • In Time Unsheltered Outreach will receive 1 points. • Coordinated Entry System at a housing assessor will receive 0.5 point. • Coordinated Entry System at a housing navigator will receive 1 point. • HMIS: Project has dedicated staff for HMIS Local Administration (or comparable DV database) will receive 1 point. • HMIS: Project has dedicated staff for HMIS Data Quality (or comparable DV database) will receive 0.5 point. • CoC Committee Member: Project has dedicated staff that participate in CoC Committee will receive 1 points.	5
20	Expansion of CoC The application clearly and comprehensively demonstrates how the agency will expand the CoC coalition, including specific strategies to engage elected officials, people with lived experience, business leaders, and law enforcement partners. The response demonstrates how these partnerships will result in meaningful participation and concrete steps to advance the goal of ending homelessness. Evidence of prior success or detailed outreach plans is included. Applicants may receive 10 points.	10

Scoring Sheet: New Projects

Criterion	Project Capacity and System Impact: Objective Criteria	Maximum Points
Required	**HUD Threshold Requirement** **Projects that do not meet the thresholds expressed for its project type in the 2026 NOFO will not be considered.**	**Required**
1	Cost Effectiveness Projects will be compared by the same project type. The cost effectiveness will be determined for each renewal project with the total households served and the total budget requested. The average cost effectiveness will be determined (removing extremities because of leverage). Projects within a $5000 range of average will be determined cost effective and will receive 10 points. The most cost-effective project type will receive full points and a bonus point. Projects not within in the cost effectiveness range will lose 1 point for each $5000 it is higher than the range (until zero points are available).	10
2	Supportive Services Projects may earn points by demonstrating either: (1) at least 30% of the request dedicated to supportive services, or (2) documented leveraging or matching supportive services equal to at least 50% of the project request.	5
3	Project Performance Goals Projects that include clearly defined, measurable quantitative performance goals demonstrating meaningful improvement in CoC system performance will receive up to 5 points.	5
4	Serving the Identified Community Need Project that demonstrates that they are able to serve the identified community needs and help achieve regional equity, including ensuring those least likely to access services, and these with the most severe services needs are meet, may receive up to 5 points.	5
5	Serving Participants by 10/1/2027 Projects that will begin serving participants by 10/1/2027 will receive 5 points.	5
6	Project Term	5

	Projects that will have a 1-year grants term will receive 5 points.	
7	CES Experience Projects with Will County CoC's CES experience will receive 5 points.	5
8	Supportive Services Participation Projects that clearly and comprehensively demonstrate how supportive services will be provided, including individualized plans, connection to non-subsidized housing, strategies to ensure long-term housing stability, and a clear process for transitioning households from CoC-funded projects to other housing options, may receive up to 13 points.	13
9	Outcomes for Preventing Returns to Homelessness and Increasing Income of Participant Projects clearly and comprehensively demonstrate how they will contribute to ending homelessness, including detailed strategies to prevent returns to homelessness, methods to increase participants' employment income, and alignment with CoC system goals, may receive up to 12 points. Past outcomes, partnerships, or data-driven approaches should be included.	**12**
Criterion	**Alignment with System Strategies**	**Maximum Points**
10	System Participation Projects receive points for participation in CoC system activities: 5 points for staff participation in the Point-in-Time Unsheltered Outreach, and 5 points for active participation in CoC committees.	10
11	Experience working with people who have experienced homelessness The agency demonstrates extensive, relevant experience working with people who have experienced homelessness, including multiple years of service, diverse program types, and evidence of measurable positive outcomes. This measure may receive up to 5 points.	5
12	Expansion of CoC The application clearly and comprehensively demonstrates how the agency will expand the CoC coalition, including specific strategies to engage elected officials, people with lived experience, business leaders, and law enforcement partners. The response demonstrates how these partnerships will result in meaningful participation and concrete steps to advance the goal of ending homelessness. Evidence of prior success or detailed outreach plans is included. Applicants may receive 10 points.	10
Criterion	**Strategic Resource Allocation**	**Maximum Points**

13	Current System Parters, who have been selected for renewal projects, will receive up to 5 bonus point based on their average renewal project score. This is because merit haas been demonstrated objectively. A portion of the total available points will be allocated to this measure, and the project will receive points based on the degree to which it meets the criteria for this measure.	0
14	Initiative Leadership 5 bonus points may be awarded to applicants selected to lead identified regional initiatives. Selection will be based on an objective review of demonstrated experience, regional reach, implementation capacity, existing partnerships, prior performance, and ability to advance system-level outcomes. Selected initiative leads will receive full bonus points and will coordinate closely with the CoC Infrastructure Team to support implementation across the three-county region.	0
Criterion	**Overall Merit Score**	**Maximum Points**
15	A score is assigned based on the order of ranking, which is determined by points earned from cost effectiveness, community need, and project quality, and the capacity of the project to improve the system's performance in ending homelessness. The merit of the project, the project application, demonstrated community needs', the anticipated capacity of the organization relative to other applicant organizations, and severity of needs and vulnerabilities of those served is then taken into account when allocating project presentation points. Projects applicants should demonstrate capacity in the following areas: • Financial Capacity • Staffing Capacity • Innovation • Capacity to implement best practices	10