

HEARTLAND COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS, INC.

FY 2026 HUD CONTINUUM OF CARE (CoC) PROGRAM COMPETITION (NOFO)

LOCAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

RELEASE DATE

June 26, 2026

APPLICATION DUE DATE

July 27, 2026 at 4:00 PM EST

ISSUED BY

Heartland Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. Continuum of Care (FL-517)

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

Heartland Coalition for the Homeless, Inc. (HCH), the Collaborative Applicant for Continuum of Care (CoC) FL-517, is soliciting project applications for inclusion in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Fiscal Year 2026 Continuum of Care Competition (NOFO).

The purpose of this local competition is to identify, rank, and prioritize projects that best advance the goals of preventing and ending homelessness throughout Highlands, Glades, Okeechobee, Hardee, Hendry and DeSoto Counties.

Projects selected through the local competition will be included in the FY 2026 CoC Consolidated Application submitted to HUD.

SECTION 2. CONTINUUM OF CARE PRIORITIES

The FL-517 Continuum of Care prioritizes projects that:

1. Increase access to permanent housing.

2. Reduce the length of time persons experience homelessness.
 3. Improve housing retention and stability.
 4. Increase earned income and benefits.
 5. Improve access to healthcare and behavioral health services.
 6. Support survivors of domestic violence.
 7. Address racial and ethnic disparities.
 8. Strengthen coordinated entry participation.
 9. Improve HMIS participation and data quality.
 10. Demonstrate strong project performance outcomes.
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SECTION 3. AVAILABLE FUNDING

Funding categories may include:

Renewal Projects

Existing CoC-funded projects seeking renewal funding.

CoC Bonus Projects

New projects eligible under HUD's CoC Bonus funding category.

Domestic Violence Bonus Projects

Projects specifically serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

If applicable and available through HUD.

Funding availability is contingent upon HUD's FY 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

SECTION 4. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants include:

- Nonprofit organizations
- Local governments
- Public housing authorities
- Tribally designated housing entities

- Existing CoC recipients and subrecipients

Applicants must demonstrate:

- Experience serving homeless populations
 - Fiscal capacity
 - Programmatic capacity
 - Compliance with federal grant requirements
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SECTION 5. THRESHOLD REQUIREMENTS

Applications must meet all threshold requirements.

Organizational Requirements

- Current SAM.gov registration
- UEI number
- Active nonprofit status or governmental authority
- No unresolved audit findings
- No outstanding HUD monitoring concerns

Program Requirements

- Participation in Coordinated Entry
- Participation in HMIS (or comparable database for DV providers)
- Compliance with Equal Access Rule
- Housing First implementation
- Non-discrimination policies

Failure to meet threshold requirements may result in disqualification.

SECTION 6. PROJECT TYPES

Eligible project types include:

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

Provides permanent housing and supportive services for persons experiencing chronic homelessness.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)

Provides housing assistance and services designed to rapidly move households into permanent housing.

Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing (TH-RRH)

Combines transitional housing with rapid rehousing assistance.

Coordinated Entry

Projects supporting coordinated entry operations.

SECTION 7. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications must include:

Narrative Responses

1. Project Description
2. Target Population
3. Housing First Implementation
4. Service Delivery Model
5. Equity and Inclusion Strategy
6. Community Partnerships
7. Performance Outcomes
8. Financial Management Capacity

Required Attachments

- Project Budget
- Match Documentation
- Board of Directors List
- Organizational Chart
- Most Recent Audit
- Monitoring Reports (if applicable)
- HMIS Participation Agreement
- Letters of Commitment

Applications must be submitted electronically to:

Brenda.gray@heartlandcoalitionforthehomeless.org or mailed to P.O. Box 1023 Avon Park, FL 33826 or can be hand delivered to 752 US Highway 27 Avon Park, FL 33826. No later than July 27, 2026 @ 4:00 p.m. EST.

No late applications will be accepted.

SECTION 8. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Applicants will be evaluated on:

Housing Placement Rate

Percentage of participants entering permanent housing.

Housing Retention

Percentage of participants maintaining permanent housing.

Income Growth

Increase in earned income and benefits.

Returns to Homelessness

Reduction in exits returning to homelessness.

Data Quality

HMIS data completeness and accuracy if applicable.

SECTION 9. LOCAL SCORING MATRIX

Total Possible Points: 100

Category	Points
Project Performance	30
Program Design	20
Financial Management	15
Housing First Implementation	10
Community Collaboration	10
Equity & Accessibility	10
Budget Efficiency	5
Total	100

SECTION 10. DETAILED SCORING TOOL

A. PROJECT PERFORMANCE (30 Points)

Housing Outcomes (15)

0-5 Poor outcomes

6-10 Meets expectations

11-15 Exceeds expectations

Income Outcomes (5)

0-1 Poor

2-3 Average

4-5 Strong

Data Quality (5)

0-1 Poor

2-3 Average

4-5 Excellent

Returns to Homelessness (5)

0-1 Poor

2-3 Average

4-5 Excellent

Subtotal: _____ /30

B. PROGRAM DESIGN (20 Points)

Housing Model Effectiveness (10)

0-3 Weak

4-7 Adequate

8-10 Strong

Service Integration (10)

0-3 Weak

4-7 Adequate

8-10 Strong

Subtotal: ____ /20

C. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (15 Points)

Fiscal Capacity (10)

0-3 Weak

4-7 Adequate

8-10 Strong

Grant Management History (5)

0-1 Weak

2-3 Adequate

4-5 Strong

Subtotal: ____ /15

D. HOUSING FIRST IMPLEMENTATION (10 Points)

Evidence of:

- Low barriers to entry
- Client choice
- Harm reduction
- Rapid housing placement

Score: ____ /10

E. COMMUNITY COLLABORATION (10 Points)

Participation in:

- CoC Committees
- Coordinated Entry
- Mainstream resource partnerships
- Community planning activities

Score: ____ /10

F. EQUITY & ACCESSIBILITY (10 Points)

Evidence of:

- Reducing disparities
- Cultural competency
- Accessibility
- Outreach to underserved populations

Score: ____ /10

G. BUDGET EFFICIENCY (5 Points)

Reasonableness and cost effectiveness.

Score: ____ /5

FINAL REVIEW SCORE SHEET

Applicant Name: _____

Project Name: _____

Reviewer Name: _____

Category	Points
Project Performance	____ /30
Program Design	____ /20
Financial Management	____ /15
Housing First	____ /10
Collaboration	____ /10
Equity	____ /10

Category	Points
Budget	___ /5
TOTAL	___ /100

Reviewer Signature: _____

Date: _____

SECTION 11. RANKING PROCEDURES

The Review Committee shall:

1. Independently score applications.
2. Average reviewer scores.
3. Establish preliminary rankings.
4. Consider HUD threshold requirements.
5. Recommend final rankings to the CoC Board.

The CoC Board will approve the final Priority Listing submitted to HUD.

SECTION 12. APPEALS PROCESS

Applicants may appeal:

- Mathematical scoring errors
- Procedural violations

Appeals must:

- Be submitted in writing
- Be received within two business days of ranking notification
- Clearly identify the issue being appealed

The CoC Board's decision is final.

SECTION 13. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Reviewers and Board members must disclose any conflict of interest.

Individuals with conflicts shall recuse themselves from scoring, discussion, and voting.

SECTION 14. TIMELINE

Activity	Date
Local RFP Release	June 26, 2026
Technical Assistance Session	June 30, 2026
Questions Due	July 6, 2026
Applications Due	July 27, 2026
Review Committee Scoring	July 29, 2026
Preliminary Rankings Released	August 1, 2026
Appeals Due	August 4, 2026
CoC Board Approval	August 21, 2026
HUD Submission Deadline	August 26, 2026

SECTION 15. CONTACT INFORMATION

Heartland Coalition for the Homeless, Inc.

Continuum of Care FL-517

Phone: 863-453-8901 or 863-464-6282

Email: Brenda.gray@heartlandcoalitionforthehomeless.org

Website: www.heartlandcoalitioonforthehomeless.org

Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing by the published deadline.

Heartland Coalition for the Homeless reserves the right to reject any application, request additional information, and modify procedures as necessary to comply with HUD requirements.

RFP Updates: This RFP is subject to change based on updates, guidance, or requirements received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Any revisions will be issued through an official addendum to all prospective proposers.

Full NOFO: The full Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) can be found at: <https://www.hud.gov/hud-partners/community-coc>. Proposers are responsible for reviewing the NOFO and all applicable HUD requirements. In the event HUD issues updates, amendments, or additional guidance, those changes may result in revisions to this RFP, which will be communicated through an official addendum.

HUD CoC Program Page:

<https://www.hud.gov/hud-partners/community-coc>

Direct FY 2026 NOFO PDF:

<https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/CoC/FY2026-CoC-Program-NOFO.pdf>

Heartland Coalition for the Homeless website:

info@heartlandcoalitionforthehomeless.org

www@heartlandcoalitionforthehomeless.org