



NY-510 Ithaca/Tompkins County CoC

Ranking and Review Process for FY2026 Program Competition

Ithaca/Tompkins CoC Ranking and Review Process

The Human Services Coalition of Tompkins County, the lead agency for the Ithaca/Tompkins Continuum of Care (CoC), serves as the collaborative applicant for the annual Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) competitive grant process for homeless funding. The CoC submits the application requesting funding to support the homeless service providers in the geographic area. As part of this grant process, the CoC calls for project applicants to submit proposals for housing and services dedicated to homeless individuals and families.

For the FY2026 funding round, the CoC is requiring all project applicants to submit the local application available ****soon**** on the HSCTC website (RENEWAL PROJECT APPLICATION) (NEW PROJECT APPLICATION) to the CoC Coordinator at lbargar@hsctc.org **on or before 12:00 PM on Monday July 20th to be considered for funding**. The CoC's Ranking Committee will review new and renewal project applications, and use objective scoring criteria to determine appropriate funding.

HUD requires that the CoC prioritize programs which most effectively serve the community at the local level. To reach this goal, a Rank and Review Process has been implemented for applicants who wish to renew their project/s and for new and/or bonus projects, if bonus funding is available. The process of ranking and reviewing projects is designed to help the CoC learn about each project's performance and effectiveness.

The NOFO Work Group is charged with overseeing the Rank and Review process

New and renewal projects will be reviewed and ranked according to the local CoC, and HUD priorities, as well as the overall impact on the CoC system performance. Lower performing renewal projects can be reallocated to higher performing renewals or new projects that advance CoC priorities and have a positive impact on overall system performance. After eligible projects are reviewed and ranked, the Ranking committee submits funding recommendations to the CoC governance committee. The full CoC membership then votes to submit the Collaborative Application and Project Ranking.

Project applicants serving survivors of domestic violence must use a comparable Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database which will allow submission of project performance data to the Ranking committee.

As part of this competitive grant process, project applicants will be reviewed and ranked using the local application rubrics available on the HSCTC website (RENEWAL PROJECT RUBRIC) (NEW PROJECT RUBRIC) which is aligned with the CoC's Written Standards, and HUD's priorities

Projects applying for CoC Bonus and Renewal Funding will compete for rankings in Tier I (high

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priority for receiving funding) or Tier II (lower priority for receiving funding). Projects receiving the highest scores during the objective review and ranking process will be placed in Tier I. Lower performing projects will be placed lower in Tier I or in Tier II. Lower performing projects may be reallocated to support higher performing new or renewal projects.

Renewal Projects

Each Renewal project completes a local project application and should begin to work on completing the renewal application in e-snaps as soon as it becomes available. Renewal applications should be answering narrative questions and using Annual Performance Report data from HMIS for the period of performance between 10/01/2024-09/30/2025

New/Bonus Project Proposals

New projects are created through bonus funds or reallocated funds. A separate application is required for New/Bonus and Reallocated project proposals. The CoC will create this application for new/bonus projects proposals. New/Bonus proposals will be scored and ranked against others. The Review Team reviews and scores all New/Bonus project applications submitted. The community's goal is to apply for the maximum amount of available funds. The same appeals process that applies to Renewal applications applies to New/Bonus project applications.

In the event project applications initially receive the same score, it is the responsibility of the Review Team to reconsider scoring to break the tie.

Reallocated Projects

Reallocation is the process by which the CoC shifts funds, in whole or in part, from existing eligible renewal grant(s) to create new projects which will meet unmet local need/s, such as balancing the types of projects available throughout the continuum. Reallocation is one of the most important tools by which communities can make strategic improvements to their homeless services system. Project types that can be developed through reallocation are decided annually by HUD.

The CoC determines candidates for reallocation due to low performance or less needed projects as a tool to make strategic improvements to the homeless system. The reallocation process is

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outlined in the Rank & Review Written Process, which is reviewed, updated, posted for public comment, and approved by the NOFO Committee and CoC Board on an annual basis. The project review team flags projects that demonstrate inadequate financial management, a history of expending funds on ineligible activities, a history of returning funds that could have been utilized, ongoing poor project performance outcomes, and consistently low scores on the Rank & Review tool.

Project proposals developed with reallocated funds must fill an unmet need and submit a New/Bonus application. Applications for New/Bonus projects will be ranked separately from Renewal projects, and the final ranking will be approved by the Board and presented to CoC membership.

Project Ranking and Tiering

HUD requires that the CoC conduct a transparent and objective process to review and rank all Renewal and New/Bonus projects. Tiering prioritizes projects for funding. Tier 1 is considered “safer” for continued funding. HUD specifies the percentage of the ARD amount that will make up Tier 1. Tier 2 is the percentage of CoC funding that is at risk each year, per HUD’s announcement in the NOFO.

Being in Tier 2 does not guarantee that funding will be lost, but it does place projects at risk if the CoC is low performing in the national competition. Using the CoC-approved Rank and Review Tool, all Renewal and New projects seeking funding are scored and placed in numerical order by scores.

Reallocation

New and renewal projects will compete for Tier I rankings. Renewal projects that are not performing up to the CoC standards can be reduced or entirely eliminated through reallocation and the funds utilized for one or more new projects, or to higher performing renewal projects.

Reallocation can occur under the following circumstances:

- Current funded project declines to renew their project
- Current funded project adjusts their budget to a lower amount
- Current funded project voluntarily reallocates funding to a new project
- Ranking Committee made decision to partially or fully reallocate current funded projects based on performance or HUD priorities

Underperforming projects can be defined as follows:

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- Low utilization rate
- Has not participated in Coordinated Assessment
- Not serving the target population
- Has a program that does not align with HUD priorities anymore (i.e., Housing First approach)
- Misuse of federal funds
- Program design has a negative impact on systems performance and overall CoC score

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All applicants will be notified in writing of their project application outcomes on or before August 11th 2026. **Successful applicants will be required to submit an additional application via [E-SNAPS](#) by *update date* to be included as a part of the project priority listing.**

All projects must meet the CoC and HUD threshold requirements as outlined in the Project Application Rubrics and CoC Request for Proposals. Applicants should thoroughly read the Notice of Funding Opportunity, COC RFP, and Project Application Rubrics.

Renewal Projects will be scored based on FY26 local applications and last year's Annual Performance Report (APR). The CoC will consider project impact on overall CoC system performance, including the following general categories:

- Elevating Lived Experience
- Person-Centered Supportive Services
- Connection to Healthcare Services
- and Trauma-Informed Care
- Utilization Rate
- Vulnerable Populations
- Data Quality
- Coordinated Entry Participation
- Employment Growth
- Income Growth
- Health Insurance
- Non-Cash Benefits
- Time to Move-in
- Fund Expenditure
- Cost Effectiveness
- Self sufficiency
- Prioritizing treatment and recovery
- Monitoring

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New Projects will not have APRs to consider, but will be ranked based on the project impact on overall CoC system performance and the following general criteria:

- Community Need
- Capacity
- Project Implementation
- Person-Centered Planning
- Elevating Lived Experience
- and Trauma-Informed Care
- Connection to Healthcare Services
- Employment & Income Growth
- Housing Placement & Retention
- Returns to Homelessness
- Cost Effectiveness
- Special Project Questions
- Self sufficiency
- Prioritizing treatment and recovery

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Tiering:

- Tier 1 is equal to **60%** of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)
- Tier 2 is the remaining 40% of funding and will compete nationally
- Bonus funding is available to apply for in the amount of **15%** of the CoC Final Pro Rata Need (FPRN).
- DV Bonus funding is available to apply for in the amount of **20%** of the Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN) (max \$5M).

**FY2026 HUD Funding Availability for NY-510 CoC:*

Estimated Annual Renewal Demand (ARD): TBD

Preliminary Pro Rata Need (PPRN): TBD

CoC Bonus: TBD

Bonus for projects serving survivors of DV: TBD

Total amount of funding available in Tier I: TBD

Total amount of funding available in Tier II: TBD

**Does not include DV bonus. Based on ranking of DV projects, the DV bonus can be ranked in Tier I or Tier II*

Funding

Funding is at the discretion of HUD. The CoC is not fully responsible for HUD's decision to eliminate funding based on ARD or Pro Rata Need. The overall CoC performance measure contributes to the amount received, which means higher performing projects are vital to ensuring continued funding through this competition.

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Appeals

Who may appeal?

An agency may appeal a decision concerning a project application submitted by that agency. The agency, project, and project application must meet the CoC and HUD threshold requirements as outlined in the Project Application Rubrics and CoC Request for Proposals.

What may be appealed?

The appeals process applies only to project scoring and ranking. There is no appeal for project tiering. An appeal may not be submitted if: all questions on the application were not completed, all required attachments were not submitted with the application, and/or the application was not submitted by the required deadline

What is the timing of the appeal process?

Formal appeals may only be submitted by a project within three (3) business days of a project receiving their ranking. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Collaborative Applicant, who will then forward to the Ranking Committee. The written appeal must consist of a brief statement no longer than one page, and can be in the form of a letter, memo or email. Any appeal via email must be sent to the Human Services Coalition, the Collaborative Applicant and Lead Agency.

How are appeals decisions made?

The ranking committee and the CoC Governance committee will review all appeals. Appeals are decided by majority vote and may not be overturned by the full CoC.

Please reach out to lbargar@hsctc.org for any questions or clarifications

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