

**Springfield-Hampden County Continuum of Care
FY26 CoC Competition Request for Proposals
RFP Questions & Answers #1
July 13, 2026**

GENERAL QUESTIONS

- 1. Per page 3 of the RFR, it states “Grants that will be awarded as priority Tier 1 project renewals are listed in Appendix A. These grantees will be provided renewal information separate from this RFP.” When will the renewal information be provided or is it already available? If it is available, where can we find this information?**

Do we have to submit applications for Tier 1 Renewals if we don't make any changes for the July 24 deadline or just for the final application deadline in August?

The Tier 1 Project Renewal Information will be posted by July 15, 2026 on the CoC’s FY26 competition website at [CoC Competition – Springfield-Hampden County Continuum of Care](#).

- 2. If [an existing RRH project] wants to apply as a transition grant, would we apply as a new project? Or would this be a renewal?**

Any project seeking a transition grant must apply as a new grant.

With the exception of the single new RRH project listed in Appendix 1 as selected for Tier 1 renewal, the CoC will not select any RRH project to be included as a renewal grant in the FY26 application.

- 3. Please confirm that Tier 1 project grants are guaranteed funding even through the HUD competition. (We understand that the CoC guarantees them.)**

The CoC cannot make guarantees about what actions HUD will take in the FY26 competition. HUD has indicated that projects placed in Tier 1 will be selected for funding *provided they pass HUD’s threshold review*. A full description of threshold review for renewal projects is provided on pages 59-62 of the [HUD FY26 CoC NOFO](#). The NOFO language regarding threshold review includes the following:

When considering renewal projects for award; HUD will review information in eLOCCS, APRs, and information provided from the local HUD CPD field office, including monitoring reports and audit reports as applicable, and performance standards on prior grants, and will assess projects using the following criteria on a pass/fail basis:

(a) whether the project applicant's performance met the plans and goals established in the initial application or grant as amended;

(b) whether the project applicant demonstrated all timeliness standards for grants being renewed have been met, including those standards for the expenditure of grant funds;

(c) the project applicant's performance in assisting program participants to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency and independent living and records of success, except dedicated HMIS projects are not required to meet this standard; and

(d) evidence of unwillingness of project applicants to accept technical assistance, a history of inadequate financial accounting practices, indications of project mismanagement, a drastic reduction in the population served, program changes have been made without prior HUD approval, or the loss of project site control.

- 4. If Tier 1 projects are guaranteed through the HUD competition, does it make sense (or is it allowed) to change a Tier 1 program component (i.e. PSH) to transitional housing at this juncture? Or are you eligible to apply for an expansion, new, or replacement grant if you are in Tier 1?**

The CoC selected PSH projects to be included in Tier 1 because the CoC considers PSH to be a critical component of our community's response to homelessness. If a project that has been identified by the CoC as a Tier 1 project seeks to change from PSH to a different project type, it is very unlikely that the CoC Scoring and Ranking Committee would keep the project in Tier 1. If a provider with a project in Tier 1 sought to change the project type, the provider would submit an application for a new project; the new project could be submitted as a Replacement Project.

Providers with a project currently designated for Tier 1 may apply for a new project that would replace their existing project. In this case, the project must have the same total budget as the existing project. Reasons to substitute a project could include to change a focus of the project, or to correct existing problems with the grant—such as a budget that is insufficient to serve the number of people expected to be served in the existing grant. For the CoC to keep the project in Tier 1, the project would need to maintain the same project type as the original project (for example, a new PSH project replacing an existing PSH project). Be aware that a new project is subject to additional threshold review by HUD which does not apply to renewal projects (see [HUD FY26 CoC NOFO pages 62-69](#) for new project threshold review requirements). Note that the type of change is not called a Replacement Project; in this competition, a Replacement Project is a specific HUD term which describes a project that replaces a grant that is one project type (for example, rapid rehousing) with a different project type (for example, transitional housing).

Providers with projects in Tier 1 may apply for an Expansion grant. An Expansion grant is a separate, new application, and must increase the number of units, persons served, services provided to existing program participants, or add additional activities to a SSO-CE project. If the both the original grant and the Expansion grant are awarded, the projects are combined and funded under one grant agreement/contract.

- 5. If Tier 1 PSH project is allowed to apply for a new/replacement project grant, will we be competing against ourselves if we apply for a new/replacement housing component to**

change PSH to TH (or for additional TH) and also submitting a required new/replacement grant to transition YHDP RRH to YHDP TH?

All new grants are competing against each other, including replacement projects and YHDP projects. This is the first year that HUD is requiring YHDP projects to compete; they were previously renewed non-competitively. YHDP projects are competing against non-YHDP projects.

- 6. Can you explain the difference between PSH, RRH, TH? What is the length of stay for each of these?**

The project types are defined in the regulation [24 CFR 578.37](#).

- 7. Can you explain what is meant by the following statement, “The questions will be answered in writing, with the responses provided to all applicants who have created an application in *esnaps*” (p.9 of RFP). Is this based on existing applications in *esnaps* or do we have to go in and set up the applications in *esnaps* in order to get responses to your questions?**

Please disregard this statement, which was based on an expectation that HUD would make *esnaps* available early in the competition.

Questions will be answered in writing, and posted on the [CoC Competition page](#).

- 8. Can you clarify the submission process? It seems that we have to submit the application forms and all attachments by email to gmccafferty@springfieldcityhall.com by 5 pm on July 24, 2026. Do we also have to submit these in *esnaps* by July 24 or only after we’re notified on August 11 about whether the project will be accepted, rejected, or reduced? If the latter, by when do we have to upload applications in *esnaps*?**

The submission requirement is that applications and all attachments must be submitted by email to gmccafferty@springfieldcityhall.com by 5 pm on July 24, 2026.

For the local competition, there is no *esnaps* requirement.

Providers that submit projects which are selected to be included in the CoC’s application to HUD will need to coordinate with the CoC to enter information into *esnaps*.

- 9. Can you provide instructions for using *esnaps*?**

HUD has not yet created *esnaps* applications for the FY26 competition. Once the applications have been created and projects to be included in the CoC’s application have been selected, the CoC assist selected applicants to access and enter information into *esnaps*.

YHDP PROJECTS

- 10. Can you clarify whether a Tier 1 YHDP Coordinated Entry project grant can be expanded to provide more supportive services? If so, please clarify whether in that case we would need to submit a new or replacement project grant. Is this allowed given the special note on p. 4 of the RFP: *“Because of the tiering structure that will be used for the FY26 competition, as well as strategic decisions made by the CoC Board of Directors, the following existing grant types will ONLY be able to apply in this competition for New or Replacement Projects that will change grants with certain components to new TH projects: Rapid Rehousing, Joint Transitional Housing-Rapid Rehousing, and Transitional Housing.”***

A Tier 1 YHDP Coordinated Entry project may apply for a new Expansion grant. However, applicants should be aware that the CoC is only eligible to apply for a fixed amount of YHDP funds in the CoC competition. The CoC will only be able to apply for HUD to fund a YHDP Expansion project if it reduces funding for one or more of the other YHDP projects. YHDP projects are not eligible for funding from the pool of non-YHDP funds, including the CoC Bonus funds.

Providers that operate YHDP projects should be aware that there is an additional, separate competition taking place this summer for new YHDP projects. A separate [Request for Proposals](#) has been issued for that competition.

The sentence that is quoted indicates that RRH, Joint TH-RRH and TH projects may only apply as New or Replacement projects. This does not mean that other project applications are not permitted.

- 11. Please confirm that although we may not be able to submit a new or replacement project grant for YHDP CE, we can apply for an Expansion Grant “to expand existing projects to increase the number of units, persons served, services provided to existing program participants, or to add additional activities to HMIS and SSO-CE projects,” correct? (See p.4 of RFP.)**

A YHDP project may apply in the CoC competition for an Expansion grant. Please see the previous answer for more details.

- 12. The RFP indicates that information about Special YHDP activities will be posted at the following link: <https://springfieldhampdencoc.com/coc-competition/> but I do not see any information about this YHDP Special Activities at this link. Can you please provide information about these special activities? Also, where do we address these in the application?**

The information about [Special YHDP activities](#) has now been posted.

13. FYI Caseworker: Given that there has been some discussion about providing support for Fostering Youth Independence (FYI) case management, would it be acceptable to add a caseworker or partial caseworker to a new/replacement YHDP TH grant application?

As described in the response to Question 11, there is no new funds available for YHDP projects in the CoC competition. There is an additional, separate competition taking place this summer for new YHDP projects. A separate [Request for Proposals](#) has been issued for that competition.

A caseworker could be included in a replacement YHDP application, but the application must request the same amount of funds in the original YHDP project to be considered as a replacement project.

14. Additional TH Units: There has been some discussion about the availability of funding for additional TH units. Is that funding coming from the CoC bonus funds? Could we add additional units to an existing YHDP RRH grant soon-to-be a YHDP TH replacement grant?

There is an additional, separate competition taking place this summer for new YHDP projects. A separate [Request for Proposals](#) has been issued for that competition.

CoC Bonus funds may not be used to create or expand a YHDP project. CoC Bonus funds may be used for a TH project that will serve people 18-24 years old, but that project will not be a YHDP project, so special rules that apply to YHDP will not apply.

15. YHDP Replacement Project funding: The FY26 New Local Project Application indicates that there is “no more than \$1,052,171 available for YHDP Replacement Projects.” Does that mean that Tier 2 YHDP Project grants could request up to an additional \$97,966 (the difference between total available and existing grants) for additional activities without causing the other to shrink?

There is no additional YHDP funding available in the CoC Competition. The amount that may be used for YHDP projects is equal to the amount that HUD has calculated as the amount that would be needed to renew existing YHDP grants. At the time the CoC released the CoC competition RFP, HUD had not yet provided its final calculation of renewal amounts. Grant renewal amounts have now been released – please see the [Grant Inventory Worksheet](#) for grant renewal amounts.

There is an additional, separate competition taking place this summer for new YHDP projects. A separate [Request for Proposals](#) has been issued for that competition.