



# COC COMPETITION SCORING TOOL – NEW PROJECTS

## NEW PROJECT SCORING TOOL OVERVIEW

This scoring tool is used by the Review & Rank Panel to evaluate new project applications, that is applications for projects that did not receive CoC funding in the previous competition year. The tool includes threshold criteria that project applicants must meet in order to be eligible for consideration; these criteria are required but not scored. Applications that do not meet the minimum threshold requirements will not advance in the competition process. The tool also includes scoring criteria which will be used to determine each project's final application score and ranking.

## SCORING CRITERIA

This scoring tool will be used for the following new project types per the 2026 CoC NOFO and Contra Costa CoC approved priorities:

1. New Transitional Housing Projects – 100 points
2. New Supportive Services Only Projects – 100 points
3. New Street Outreach Projects – 100 points



## THRESHOLD CRITERIA

Threshold criteria are required but not scored. Projects that receive a “No” on any of threshold criteria will be deemed ineligible for the competition process.

### THRESHOLD CRITERIA

1. **Project Eligibility:** The applicant is eligible to receive CoC funding (i.e., valid applicant type, SAM registered, has a Unique Entity Identifier number). The project type is eligible for funding under the CoC NOFO and local CoC’s competition rules for this competition year. The project proposes to start by HUD’s statutory deadlines.
2. **Coordinated Entry Participation:** Project will participate in coordinated entry to the extent possible for this project type.
3. **HMIS Participation:** Project will enter data for all CoC-funded beds into the Contra Costa CoC Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), unless it is serving survivors of domestic violence, in which case it will enter data into a comparable database.
4. **Participant Eligibility:** The project will only accept participants that can be documented as eligible for this project’s program type based on their housing and disability status.
5. **Budget:** The program’s budget is sufficiently detailed, includes eligible costs, shows CoC and non-CoC funding sources for the project, and will have match funding that adds up to at least 25% of the federal funding requested.
6. **Compliance with 2026 HUD CoC NOFO requirements:**
  - a. Project applicant complies with the Fair Housing Act and all relevant state and/or local fair housing laws.
  - b. Project application complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Violence Against Women Act or substantially equivalent state or local laws.
  - c. Project will affirmatively certify that project applicants will not engage in illegal racial discrimination. This is consistent the requirements of 2 CFR 200.300(a).
  - d. Project will affirmatively certify that project applicants will not operate drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites" in violation of 21 U.S.C. 856(a)(1), knowingly permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control in violation of 21 U.S.C. 856(a)(2), or knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia in violation of 21 U.S.C. 863. This is consistent the requirements of 2 CFR 200.300(a).
    - i. This certification is not a requirement that program participants must be sober in order to receive assistance, participate in treatment in order to receive assistance, or be evicted or exited from assistance for a first-time violation of a drug-related program policy or lease requirement.



## SCORING CRITERIA

All the scoring factors in this tool measure projects' contribution to improving Contra Costa CoC's System Performance by strengthening the overall system of care. Please note that each of the eligible new project types in the 2026 CoC NOFO have their own scoring criteria below:

1. **Transitional Housing**
2. **Supportive Services Only**
3. **Street Outreach**

### 1. TRANSITIONAL HOUSING (100 POINTS TOTAL)

#### FACTOR 1.A. AGENCY EXPERIENCE – 26 POINTS

Applicant can receive up to 26 points total for the following:

- **5 points** - Applicant has prior experience operating transitional housing or other projects that have successfully helped **at least 50% of participants exit homelessness within 24 months and at least 50% of participants exit with employment income as reflected in HMIS or another data system used by the applicant.**
- **5 points** - Applicant has prior experience operating transitional housing or other projects that have **limited returns to homelessness to less than 7% of participants over 12 months.**
- **4 points** - The applicant, members or the applicant's Board, or members of the applicant's leadership team successful handled at least one other federal grant or other major grant of this size and complexity, either in or out of the CoC. At least 90% of the funds were spent from such grants.
- **4 points** - Applicant can receive 4 points if they currently participate in HMIS or an alternative database for domestic violence projects, within this CoC or another CoC, **and can describe the software used and the Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs) for managing data.** If the applicant does not actively participate in HMIS or an alternative database for domestic violence projects, the applicant can receive 2 points by demonstrating the capacity to collect and manage data, **including any software used and the Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs) for managing data.**
- **4 points** - Applicant receives 4 points if they do not have any outstanding HUD findings and/or financial audit findings. **If the applicant does not have experience with HUD or financial audits then the applicant will receive 2 points.**
- **4 points** – Applicant receives 4 points if HUD or any other federal, state, or local agency has not deobligated any of the applicant's grant funds in the past three operating years. **If the applicant does not have any experience with HUD, federal, state, or local agency funding then the applicant will receive 2 points.**



### FACTOR 1.B. SUPPORTIVE SERVICES – 24 POINTS

Applicant can receive up to 24 points total for the following:

- **3 points** - Applicant adequately describes how the project will provide and/or partner with other agencies to provide eligible supportive services that are necessary to assist program participants to obtain and maintain housing (i.e., case management, behavioral healthcare, employment training, etc.). Applicant will name any partner agencies and state whether Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed with these partner agencies for the purpose of this proposed project at the time of application submission.
- **3 points** - Applicant can receive 3 points for indicating that at least 30% of supportive services will be provided by partner agencies.
- **3 points** - Applicant adequately describes the supportive services (e.g. case management, employment training, substance use treatment, etc.) in line with 24 CFR 578.75(h) that will be offered to program participants and how the service needs of program participants will be assessed. Service plans for program participants should include the services to be provided, when and how often services will be provided, by whom all services will be provided, program participant goals, strategies for achieving those goals, and target dates for achievements focused on improved health and wellness, housing stability, and increased employment income.
- **5 points** – The project will receive 5 points for operating as a sober living environment.
- **5 points** – The project will receive up to 5 points for providing substance use treatment on-site and listing the treatment provider(s).
- **5 points** – Project will require participation in supportive services tailored to participant needs and provide direct language from a supportive service agreement (contract, occupancy agreement, lease, or equivalent).

### FACTOR 1.C. EMPLOYMENT INCOME – 15 POINTS

- Applicant can receive up to 15 points for demonstrating they have previously operated or currently operates a transitional housing project or another homelessness project where at least 25% of participants exit with increased employment income as reflected in HMIS or another data system used by the applicant.
- If the applicant does not have this track record, the applicant can receive up to 7.5 points for describing a plan for at least 25% of participants to exit with increased employment income.

### FACTOR 1.D. MAINSTREAM RESOURCES – 10 POINTS



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- Applicant can receive up to 10 points if the project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.

### FACTOR 1.E. 20 HOURS OF CUSTOMIZED SERVICES – 7 POINTS

Applicant can receive up to 5 points for adequately describing how the project will provide individualized services for participants that will result in at least 20 hours per week. Applicant can receive an additional 2 points for requiring substance use treatment.

- The 20 hours per week of engagement in services, activities, or employment is for all program participants, except for participants over age 62 or who is an individual with handicaps as defined in 24 CFR 8.3 or with a developmental disability as defined under 24 CFR 578.3.
- Examples of services or activities include case management, counseling, treatment, volunteering, work therapy, education, job training, community-building activities, etc.
- Employment may contribute to the 20 hours per week of engagement.

### FACTOR 1.F. COST PER HOUSEHOLD – 10 POINTS

- The average cost per household served for the project is reasonable and consistent with 2 CFR 200.404. The proposed budget includes only eligible CoC costs and includes methodology for supportive services costs. The Review and Rank Panel will consider Fair Market Rents (FMRs) for the proposed project area and reasonable staffing costs per the proposed services.

### FACTOR 1.G. ALIGNMENT WITH HUD AND COC NOFO – 8 POINTS

Applicant can receive up to 5 points for aligning with current HUD and NOFO priorities:

- **4 points** - At least 50% of the project's activities will be located [Opportunity Zone](#). To receive points for this, projects must submit a signed HUD form 2996 certifying the project is in an Opportunity Zone by the local competition deadline.
- **4 points** – The project primarily or exclusively serves families with children. The applicant must describe how the project combines housing assistance with childcare, parenting support, pregnancy-related and child healthcare, and education.

## 2. SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ONLY (SSO) STANDALONE (100 POINTS TOTAL)

### FACTOR 2.A. AGENCY EXPERIENCE – 26 POINTS

Applicant can receive up to 26 points total for the following:

- **6 points** - Applicant has prior experience operating supportive services or other similar projects.



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- **5 points** - The applicant, members or the applicant's Board, or members of the applicant's leadership team successful handled at least one other federal grant or other major grant of this size and complexity, either in or out of the CoC. At least 90% of the funds were spent from such grants.
- **5 points** - Applicant can receive 5 points if they currently participate in HMIS or an alternative database for domestic violence projects, within this CoC or another CoC, **and can describe the software used and the Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) for managing data.** If the applicant does not actively participate in HMIS or an alternative database for domestic violence projects, the applicant can receive 2.5 points by demonstrating the capacity to collect and manage data, **including any software used and the Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) for managing data.**
- **5 points** - Applicant receives 5 points if they do not have any outstanding HUD findings and/or financial audit findings. **If the applicant does not have experience with HUD or financial audits then the applicant will receive 2.5 points.**
- **5 points** – Applicant receives 5 points if HUD or any other federal, state, or local agency has not deobligated any of the applicant's grant funds in the past three operating years. **If the applicant does not have any experience with HUD, federal, state, or local agency funding then the applicant will receive 2.5 points.**

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### FACTOR 2.B. NECESSITY OF PROJECT – 10 POINTS

- The applicant has adequately described why the project is necessary to assist people in exiting homelessness and increasing self-sufficiency and indicated that an annual assessment of the service needs of the program participant will be conducted annually.

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### FACTOR 2.C. SUPPORTIVE SERVICES – 30 POINTS

- **10 points** - Applicant adequately describes each supportive service (e.g. case management, employment training, substance use treatment, etc.) in line with 24 CFR 578.75(h) that will be offered to program participants.
- **10 points** - Applicant adequately describes how the project will partner with other agencies to provide eligible supportive services. Applicant will name any partner agencies and state whether Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed with these partner agencies for this proposed project at the time of application submission.
- **10 points** - Project has described a reasonable strategy for providing supportive services to eligible program participants including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage in services.

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### FACTOR 2.D. MAINSTREAM RESOURCES – 20 POINTS



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- Applicant adequately describes how the project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.

### FACTOR 2.E. COST PER HOUSEHOLD – 10 POINTS

- The average cost per household served for the project is reasonable and consistent with 2 CFR 200.404. **The proposed budget includes only eligible CoC costs and includes methodology for supportive services costs. The Review and Rank Panel will consider reasonable staffing costs per the proposed services.**

### FACTOR 2.F. ALIGNMENT WITH HUD AND COC NOFO – 4 POINTS

Applicant can receive up to 4 points for aligning with current HUD and NOFO priorities:

- At least 50% of the project's activities will be located [Opportunity Zone](#). To receive points for this, projects must submit a signed HUD form 2996 certifying the project is in an Opportunity Zone by the local competition deadline.

## 3. SUPPORTIVE SERVICES ONLY (SSO) STREET OUTREACH (100 POINTS TOTAL)

### FACTOR 3.A. AGENCY EXPERIENCE – 26 POINTS

Applicant can receive up to 26 points total for the following:

- **6 points** - Applicant has prior experience providing street outreach or other similar projects **that have successfully helped participants exit unsheltered homelessness or encampments as reflected in HMIS or another data system used by the applicant.**
- **5 points** - The applicant, members or the applicant's Board, or members of the applicant's leadership team successful handled at least one other federal grant or other major grant of this size and complexity, either in or out of the CoC. At least 90% of the funds were spent from such grants.
- **5 points** - Applicant can receive 5 points if they currently participate in HMIS or an alternative database for domestic violence projects, within this CoC or another CoC, **and can describe the software used and the Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) for managing data.** If the applicant does not actively participate in HMIS or an alternative database for domestic violence projects, the applicant can receive 2.5 points by demonstrating the capacity to collect and manage data, **including any software used and the Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) for managing data.**



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- **5 points** - Applicant receives 5 points if they do not have any outstanding HUD findings and/or financial audit findings. **If the applicant does not have experience with HUD or financial audits then the applicant will receive 2.5 points.**
- **5 points** – Applicant receives 5 points if HUD or any other federal, state, or local agency has not deobligated any of the applicant’s grant funds in the past three operating years. **If the applicant does not have any experience with HUD, federal, state, or local agency funding then the applicant will receive 2.5 points.**

### FACTOR 3.B. OUTREACH PLAN – 10 POINTS

- Applicant has described a reasonable plan for providing outreach services, consistent with the activity description at 24 CFR 578.53(e)(13) and has a plan for or has demonstrated effectiveness at helping people successfully exit from places not meant for human habitation to emergency shelter, treatment programs, transitional housing or permanent housing programs.

### FACTOR 3.C. SUPPORTIVE SERVICES – 20 POINTS

- **10 points** – Applicant has described a reasonable strategy for providing supportive services to eligible program participants including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage in services.
- **10 points** - Applicant adequately describes how the project will partner with other agencies to provide eligible supportive services (e.g., education, employment, treatment, care court, etc.). Applicant will name any partner agencies and state whether Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed with these partner agencies for the purpose of this proposed project at the time of application submission.

### FACTOR 3.D. MAINSTREAM RESOURCES – 20 POINTS

- 20 points - Applicant adequately describes how the project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.

### FACTOR 3.E. PARTNERING WITH **FIRST RESPONDERS** AND LAW ENFORCEMENT – 10 POINTS

- Applicant can receive **up to 10 points** for describing how they have previously partnered with first responders and law enforcement to engage people living in places not meant for human habitation to access emergency shelter, treatment programs, reunification with family, transitional housing or independent living.
- If the applicant does not have this track record, the applicant can receive up to **5 points** for describing a plan for partnering with first responders and law enforcement for this project.



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- Applicant must cooperate and not interfere or impede with the enforcement of local laws such as public camping and public drug use laws and assist/be willing to assist first responders in their efforts to engage homeless individuals.

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### FACTOR 3.F. COST PER HOUSEHOLD – 10 POINTS

- The average cost per household served for the project is reasonable and consistent with 2 CFR 200.404. **The proposed budget includes only eligible CoC costs and includes methodology for supportive services costs. The Review and Rank Panel will consider reasonable staffing costs per the proposed services.**

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### FACTOR 3.G. ALIGNMENT WITH HUD AND COC NOFO – 4 POINTS

Applicant can receive up to 4 points for aligning with current HUD and NOFO priorities:

- At least 50% of the project's activities will be located [Opportunity Zone](#). To receive points for this, projects must submit a signed HUD form 2996 certifying the project is in an Opportunity Zone by the local competition deadline.