



FY2026 CoC Competition Guide

Table of Contents

FY2026 CoC NOFO Review.....	3
Executive Summary	3
National and Local Funding Context	3
Policy Priorities	3
Key Changes in FY2026	4
Allowable Project Types	4
Review and Selection Criteria.....	4
Final Submission of the Salt Lake County CoC Application	4
Rank and Review Policies and Procedures	6
Policy for Appeals of Rating/Ranking	7

FY2026 CoC NOFO Review

Executive Summary

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released its FY2026 Continuum of Care (CoC) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), announcing a total of **\$4.040 billion** in national funding. This year's competition introduces significant changes that reshape priorities, eligibility, and scoring. For the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness, the opportunity is both substantial and highly competitive, with a potential **\$16.75 million** in funding available.

The NOFO emphasizes treatment, recovery, and public safety as central priorities, while reducing Tier 1 protections limiting permanent housing allocations. These shifts require applicants to demonstrate strong service partnerships, compliance with new certifications, and alignment with law enforcement and public safety initiatives.

National and Local Funding Context

Nationally, HUD has allocated nearly \$4 billion to address homelessness, drawing from multiple federal sources. Locally, the Salt Lake Valley CoC's **Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)** totals **\$12,757,142**, forming the baseline for renewal and reallocation. At the time of this posting these numbers are approximate. Salt Lake County is waiting for HUD confirmation.

- **Tier 1 Funding** is limited to **60% of ARD (\$7.6M)**
- **Tier 2 Funding** accounts for the balance, totaling **\$9.1M**, and includes CoC and DV Bonus opportunities.
- With **CoC Bonus Funding (\$1.9M)** and **DV Bonus Funding (\$2.086M)**, the maximum potential award reaches **\$16.75M**, excluding planning funds.

This structure underscores the competitive nature of the process, as nearly half of the funding now falls within Tier 2 and must compete locally AND nationally.

Policy Priorities

HUD has articulated five key goals for FY2026:

1. Optimize self-sufficiency and economic independence.
2. Reduce homelessness and unsheltered homelessness.
3. Restore balance among Permanent Housing, Transitional Housing, and Supportive Service Only projects.
4. Prioritize treatment, recovery, and public safety.
5. Expand access based on merit, not ideology, and ensure equal opportunity for faith-based and other organizations.

Key Changes in FY2026

The FY2026 NOFO introduces several critical changes:

- **Tier 1 protection reduced** from 90% to 60%.
- **Permanent Housing is not literally capped, but will be limited to what can fit into Tier 1**, requiring reallocation to other project types.
- **All projects must compete**, including DV Bonus and YHDP.
- **New prohibitions** may disqualify projects.
- **Merit Review replaces prior scoring**, with expanded Tier 2 criteria.
- **Risk Review broadened**, incorporating external audits, media reports, and Inspector General findings.

These changes signal HUD's intent to prioritize accountability, service integration, and measurable outcomes.

Allowable Project Types

Eligible project categories include:

- Supportive Services Only
- Transitional Housing
- Permanent Supportive Housing
- Rapid Re-Housing
- HMIS and Coordinated Entry

Review and Selection Criteria

Projects will be evaluated on:

- Compliance with prohibitions (no racial preferences, illicit drug facilitation, or harm-reduction activities).
- Cost reasonableness and leveraging of mainstream resources.
- Service intensity (e.g., TH requires 20 hours/week of services).
- Partnerships with law enforcement for outreach.
- Targeted populations (PSH must serve elderly or physically disabled).
- Employment outcomes for RRH.

Final Submission of the Salt Lake County CoC Application

The Salt Lake County Collaborative Applicant will prepare the full CoC application package which includes the CoC application, ranked list of approved renewal and new project applications, and required attachments, and submit on behalf of the Salt Lake County CoC by August 26, 2026. The Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness (SLVCEH) Steering Committee will approve the package before submission and all parts of the

application package will be publicly posted on SLVCEH's website prior to submission here - <https://endutahhomelessness.org/salt-lake-valley/salt-lake-continuum-of-care-competition/>

Any questions about the submission may be directed to the CoC Team

Tarra McFadden, TMcFadden@saltlakecounty.gov

Nicole Calvert, NCalvert@saltlakecounty.gov

Tony Pizza, TPizza@saltlakecounty.gov

Rank and Review Policies and Procedures

Eligible proposals will be prioritized for inclusion in the CoC's coordinated application by the Ranking Committee acting as the rank and review group. Applications not scoring high enough will not be placed on the project funding request as part of the Consolidated Application (Formerly Exhibit 1).

Salt Lake County, as the designated Collaborative Applicant, recruits Ranking Committee members, prioritizing members who have served as members in the past or who have other relevant experience. The Ranking Committee will be composed of representatives from a cross-section of groups which might include: Faith-based and non-profit providers of homeless services and housing; city representatives; county employees; mental health; substance abuse; veteran's services; and consumers.

- Ranking Committee members must declare that they have no conflict of interest.
- Members must be appointed every year and their eligibility verified.
- Members must be able to dedicate time for application review and committee meetings.
- Ranking Committee members are given an orientation which includes:
 - Information regarding homeless activities, needs, services, definitions and other issues that are pertinent to the SLVCEH
 - A background of McKinney Vento and the local process
 - The role of the Ranking Committee
 - Review of the scoring tools, applications, and resources

Ranking Committee members receive eligible application proposals and scoring matrix.

Prior to the Ranking meeting, all Ranking Committee members review all applications over an appointed period. Members read projects, preliminarily score them, and note any questions/comments to follow-up with applicants.

If the SLVCEH support agency staff have any knowledge that could lead HUD to deny granting funds to a project, they will share that information with the Ranking Committee. SLVCEH support agency staff will discuss this information with applicants as part of technical assistance provided to assist project development.

The Ranking Committee meets to review and discuss each application together and to individually score them. SLVCEH support agency staff is present at the Committee meeting to record decisions of the Committee and any comments/recommendations they have for applicants.

The Ranking Committee discusses the merits of each proposal, scores the applications, and turns in score sheets to staff.

- Overall raw scores are calculated by SLVCEH support agency staff.
- The Committee considers adjustments for such issues HUD incentives or requirements.
- The Committee considers proposal changes or project budget adjustments that may be required to meet community needs.
- The Committee determines the rank and funding levels of all projects considering all available information.
- During deliberation, SLVCEH support agency staff will provide technical assistance by responding to questions of the Committee members, correcting technical inaccuracies if they arise in conversation, and reminding the Committee members of their responsibilities if they step outside their purview.

- Scoring results are delivered to applicants with a reminder about the appellate process.
- Each applicant receives copies of their proposals with technical edits made by SLVCEH support agency staff. Applicants are asked to correct their applications and send them back to SLVCEH support agency staff before final submission to HUD.
- Applications which do not meet the threshold requirements will not be included in the Priority Listing as part of the Consolidated Application, and therefore will not be forwarded to HUD for consideration.
- If more applications are submitted than the SLVCEH has money to fund, the lowest-ranked applications will not be included in the Priority List as part of the Consolidated Application, and therefore will not be forwarded to HUD for consideration.

Penalties

Applicants may correct a curable deficiency with timely action. To be curable the deficiency must: not be an applicant eligibility requirement and be remedied within the time frame specified in the notice of deficiency.

If the corrections are remedied within the time frame specified, no loss of points will result.

If the Committee finds that an applicant has intentionally misrepresented information, the application may be rejected, or a penalty may be assessed.

Where there is a staff (SLCO or HUD) documented issue that impacts the ability of applicants to access electronic application systems (esnaps, Smartsheets), the Committee reserves the right to adjust the penalty submission deadline accordingly.

Policy for Appeals of Rating/Ranking

Eligible Appeals:

- The application of any applicant agency which a) is unranked, or b) receives decreased funding may appeal.
- Applicants that have been found not to meet the threshold requirements are not eligible for an appeal.
- Appeals cannot be based upon the judgment of the Ranking Committee.
- Applicants may appeal if they can:
 - prove their score is not reflective of the application information provided; or
 - describe bias or unfairness in the process, which warrants the appeal.

All notices of appeal must be based on the information submitted by the application due date. No new or additional information will be considered. Omissions to the application cannot be appealed.

Per 24 CFR 578.35(b), project applicants that believe they were not allowed to participate in a fair and open process and that were rejected by the CoC may appeal the rejection directly to HUD by submitting as a Solo Application prior to the application deadline. Additional appeal information may be found in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).