



CT BOS Steering Committee Meeting Minutes 2/20/26 - 11:00 am – 12:30pm

For more detail on the agenda items below, please see the slides, which start on page 4.

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Guidelines for BOS Meetings

3. Adopt January Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – minutes approved by consensus

4. Announcements

- Debrief post-Steering Committee meeting
- Introduction to BOS Webinar – will be held on 3/18 from 10-11:30
- New HMIS Homelessness Verification Tool
 - The goal is to eventually replace the paper form for PSH. More information will be provided at the DMHAS Rental Assistance provider meeting.
- 2026 Renewal Evaluation - Webinar will be held on 3/16 from 10-11:30

5. CoC Competition Business

- Report on 24/25 NOFO submission to HUD
- Updates on FY26 Federal Budget & Implications for FY25 Renewals
 - Per the appropriations law that was recently passed, HUD is required to execute 2025 grants on a rolling basis depending on start dates. Following is the breakdown of grant expiration dates and funding amounts in CT BOS:
 - Quarter (Q)1 and Q2: 42% of Grants (n=43), 61% of money (total money: \$45M)
 - Q3 and Q4: 59% of grants (n=61), 39% of money (total money: (\$28M)
 - There was a reminder that state funding has been allocated to help fill any gaps in FY2025 CoC funding.
- Updates on Lawsuits
- FY25 CoC NOFO:
 - Overview of NOFO
 - Discussion of Tracks 1 & 2 Strategy
 - Guiding Principles for Track Application Amounts & Determining which Renewal Projects Are Reallocated to Enable Track Two Application at Target Amount
 - Math on exact amounts of funding that will be subject to competition is a moving target depending on HUD's ability to hit deadlines established by Congress and which grants are non-competitively awarded. HUD could put out a NOFO that is due very quickly, and the Steering Committee is initiating strategy discussions to enable rapid action if needed.
 - Policy on Illicit Drug Use (10 Bonus Points)
 - The Steering Committee requested more information in January on the

impact of the proposed policy change. CT BOS conducted a survey, and key findings showed the vast majority of agencies were not engaged in activities that would be prohibited, and one agency had needle exchange, which would be prohibited by HUD regardless of whether or not the proposed motion passes.

- It was noted that:
 - CT BOS should use person-centered, non-stigmatizing language.
 - CT BOS must continue to ensure that the most vulnerable people can receive the assistance they need.
 - There are currently no safe consumption sites in CT.
- A question was raised around using state money to support any agencies impacted by this HUD policy.
- A motion passed requiring CoC funded housing projects to comply with the following terms. CoC Housing projects will not: operate drug injection or safe consumption sites, knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia on or off property under their control, permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conduct any of these activities under the pretext of harm reduction. Only non-conflicted Steering Committee members voted.

6. Verifying Immigration Status for DMHAS PSH

- There was a question regarding eligibility of mixed status households for PSH. The CT BOS team will look into it.

7. CT BOS Governance/Elections

- The following proposals were discussed and will be voted on in March
 - YAB Representation on the Steering Committee
 - Addition of a new Education seat on the Steering Committee
 - Enabling certain types of organizations with a designated Steering Committee seat to name an alternative in addition to a primary representative
- A motion passed to add two elected officials (Arunan Arulampalam and Laurie Sweet), one law enforcement representative (Jasmine Sanders), and one business community representative (Russ Cormier) to the Steering Committee.
- There is still one seat for an elected official and one seat for law enforcement that remain unfilled. Nominations have been received and the CT BOS team is confirming details with the candidates. The Steering Committee will vote at a future meeting.

8. Data Deep Dive - tabled

9. Break Out Groups - tabled

10. CT CAN End Homelessness Updates/Advocacy

- There is an appropriations hearing this afternoon (2/20) at the Capitol on DOH funding and one on Monday, 2/23 on DMHAS funding. CCEH encourages people to submit written testimony.

- Lawmakers are debating HB 5260, a bill that would protect unhoused people from being ticketed or arrested. There will be a press conference on 2/23 on this matter.

11. Data Strategy Board (DSB) Updates

- ACT released an HMIS Software Request for Proposals (RFP) that is due on 3/25.
- DSB has been working on updating HMIS Policies and Procedures. Updated versions are available on the [CT HMIS website](#).
- There is now a Key Performance Indicators (KPI) subcommittee.
- There is a new data dashboard that captures [contributing factors](#) to homelessness collected during emergency shelter enrollment.

12. Partner Announcements & Other Business - none

13. Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

- March 20, 2026; 11-12:30
- April 17, 2026; 11-12:30
- May 15, 2026; 11-1 – Semi-annual Meeting
- June 12, 2026; 11-12:30
- July 17, 2026; 11-12:30
- Aug 21, 2026; 11-12:30
- Sept 18, 2026; 11-12:30
- Oct 16, 2026; 11-12:30
- Nov 20, 2026; 11-12:30
- Dec 18, 2026; 11-12:30

CT Balance of State (CT BOS) Continuum of Care (CoC) Steering Committee Meeting



February 20, 2026

1

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Announcements
- CoC Competition
- ACT Data Deep Dive
- Break-Outs
- BOS Governance
- CT CAN End Homelessness Updates/Advocacy
- Data Strategy Board Updates
- Partner Announcements & Other Business
- Steering Committee Meeting Schedule



2

CT BOS Group Agreements for Meetings

Developed by Consumer Leadership Involvement Project (CLIP)

- Be present and listen actively
- Choose courage over comfort
- Participate to the fullest of your ability
- Take space, make space
- Assume good intent, but also acknowledge impact
- Challenge ideas, not people
- Use "I" statements
- Recognize emotional tax, extra labor, and burden that Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Latino/a/x, LGBTQ+, persons with Behavioral Health issues, DV survivors, Veterans and people with lived expertise/experience of homelessness face in some conversations
- Honor the Conflicts of Interest Policy



3

Approve January Steering Committee Meeting Minutes



DRAFT CT BOS SC Minutes Jan 2026


4



5

Reminder: Post Steering Committee Debrief

- Anyone who has questions or comments about Steering Committee business can stay on at the end of the monthly zoom meeting.
- As always, questions/comments can also be sent CTBOSCoC@gmail.com or call a team member any time!


 A colorful graphic with the words "JOIN US!" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a background of overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of blue, green, yellow, and orange, resembling a cluster of speech bubbles or a group of people.

6


 A photograph showing several hands of different skin tones shaking hands in a group, symbolizing agreement, partnership, or a team effort. The hands are in the foreground, with the rest of the people blurred in the background.


Introduction to BOS
3/18: 10-11:30

For new Steering Committee members or anyone who wants a refresher on:

- CoC Responsibilities
- Overview of the Homeless Response System
- Key Partners
- CT BOS Governance

[Zoom Link](#)
Meeting ID: 871 1255 5670
Passcode: 902466
646-876-9923

7


 A graphic illustration on a teal background. It features a red calendar with a white page showing a grid of dates. In the foreground, there is a silver alarm clock with a red face and hands. To the right of the calendar is a red speech bubble containing a white exclamation mark. Yellow lightning bolts are scattered around the calendar.


2026 CT BOS
Renewal Evaluation

2/27/26:

- Deadline for providers to make data changes and refresh data in RED
- Final day to submit late BOS Participant Surveys (lateness penalty applies)

3/16/26 10-11:30am RED launch webinar

8



HMIS Verification of Homelessness

- [Homeless Verification \(Simplified & Detail\) Training 01/15/26](#) (Slides)
- [CTHMIS - Homeless Verification \(Detail/Simplified View\)](#) (Documentation)
- [CT HMIS Homeless Verification Form Overview 1/15/26](#) - Webinar (Recording)

(Also available on cthmis.com – see PSH/Street Outreach pages)

For questions or assistance create a ticket by emailing hmis@nutmegit.com

Note for PSH providers: Time spent in Transitional Housing does not count towards Chronic or Dedicated plus homelessness except in limited circumstances.

9




CoC Competition


10

24/25 NOFO Project Applications/Priority Listing – SUBMITTED!

- Yes, another NOFO.
 - Required by court in case HUD ordered to non-competitively renew projects.
- Submission of Project Applications was required for:
 - Renewal Projects not awarded in 2024
 - New Projects created thru Reallocation
 - BOS had 9 projects in these categories.
- Ranking Motion was passed by the SC
 - Ultimately no ranking required by HUD - no instructions issued.
- Project Applications and Priority Listing submitted on 2/6/26!



11




Updates on FY26 Federal Budget

On 2/3/26, the fiscal year (FY) 2026 appropriation for Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) programs was signed into law.

- \$4.417B for HUD’s Homeless Assistance Grants (HAG), including CoC program
 - More than \$300 million increase from the FY2025 Full-Year Continuing Resolution.
 - Likely be a gap between amount available and amount needed to cover renewals
- Requires HUD set Tier 1 funding in **FY2026 CoC Competition** at not less than 60% of Annual Renewal Demand
 - At a minimum 60% of the funding CoCs need to renew existing projects ending in 2027 will be protected
- Requires HUD to publish the **FY2026 NOFO** by June and make awards by December 1, 2026.

12



FY26 Budget Implications for FY25 Renewals

HUD has not conducted the FY2025 CoC Competition. FY2026 appropriations law renews CoC grants expiring in Calendar Year 2025 on a rolling basis*:

- HUD must immediately renew all grants that expire in quarter 1 of calendar year 2026 (1/1-3/31)
- If HUD does not conclude the FY2025 CoC Competition and announce awards:
 - prior to April 1, 2026, must renew grants that expire in quarter 2 of Calendar Year 2026 (4/1 – 6/30)
 - prior to July 1, 2026, must renew grants that expire in Quarters 3 and 4 of Calendar Year 2026 (7/1 -12/31)


*All renewals are 12-month terms

13



FY 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

14



Updates on FY25 CoC Competition Lawsuits

- Two lawsuits in progress regarding rescission of 2-year NOFO and replacement with FY 2025 NOFO
- HUD filed an emergency motion allowing them to proceed with FY25 NOFO
 - ✓ for grants with CY Quarter 3 & 4 end dates
 - ✓ Asking court to decide by March 4th.
- Will change funding available and deadlines from 12/19/25 NOFO are moot.
- HUD will need to release an updated NOFO if allowed to proceed.

15


Overview - Revised 2025 NOFO

(Issued 12/19/2025)

Aggressive timeline likely due to Congressional deadlines.

Change: Permanent Housing (PH) **renewals** capped at 30% of Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)

- PH includes PSH, RRH and Joint TH RRH
- Revised NOFO applies PH cap to renewals only (**not new projects**)
- Steering Committee decided already: retain as many PSH units as possible
- NOFO revision doesn't change total amount CoC can retain in PH renewals.
- But it makes funds available for new PH projects (?!?)



16

Revised 2025 NOFO (2)

Significant change in the competition:

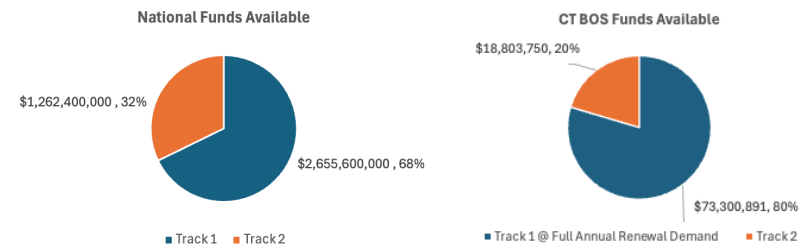
- ✓ Two application tracks:
 1. Track 1 (*Normal Track*)
 - \$2.66B nationally = approx. 2/3 of total
 - All project applications except new PH
 2. Track 2 (*Extended Track*)
 - \$1.26B nationally = approx. 1/3 of total
 - New PH applications only – can only serve households with a disability (no restrictions on disability type)
- ✓ Tracks ranked separately



17

17

Amount of funding available nationally vs. Amount CT BOS would be required to apply for if all renewals were either retained as their current component type or transitioned to TH:



18

18

Discussion: Possible Guiding Principles for CoC Competition Track Decisions — Discuss Today –Vote to Follow

General Principle: Align CT BOS Track 1 and Track 2 application amounts with national percentages set aside for each track

Track 1 Ordering

1. Previously determined renewal PSH units retained as PSH
 - (adjusted as necessary and in accordance with CT BOS PH retention Guiding Principles to reflect any changes in the NOFO and/or CT BOS projects non-competitively renewed)
2. SSO with Services/Admin/HMIS funding for retained PSH units
 - (previously decided: services will use a model where services follow eligible CoC participants across projects – H2H model)



[DRAFT Guiding Principles for FY2025 CoC Competition Track Decisions](#)

19

19

Possible Guiding Principles for FY2025 CoC Competition Track Decisions (2)

Track 1 Ordering (continued)

3. Renewal system infrastructure projects (Planning, HMIS, CAN and DV SSO Grants)
4. Renewal SSO Street Outreach
5. YHDP grants (YHDP Youth Navigators, Crisis Housing, RRH transitioning to TH)
6. RRH projects with 30% or more of units designated for families transitioned to TH (both CoC and DV) families are less likely to include a person with a disability.
7. Prioritize for remainder: PSH renewals transitioning to TH in order based on original renewal score



20

20

Possible Guiding Principles for FY2025 CoC Competition Track Decisions (3)

Track 2 Ordering

1. All reallocation funding resulting from renewal projects that will not fit in Track One
(i.e., renewal RRH with less than 30% of units designated for families, and lower scoring PSH renewals)
 2. All DV & CoC Bonus funds for new PH for people with disabilities
- ✓ DMHAS will be the applicant for new PSH project(s)
 - ✓ DOH will be the applicant for a new RRH project(s)
 - ✓ Funds to be competitively awarded to subrecipients after HUD announces awards
 - ✓ Adopting these principles means no new money is available new TH, HMIS, SSO-CE, or Street Outreach)



21

21

Policy on Prohibiting “Drug Enablement”

10 CoC Application Bonus Points for responding “yes”:

- All **CoC housing projects** will not:
 - operate drug injection sites or “safe consumption sites,”
 - knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia on or off property under their control,
 - permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control or
 - conduct any of these activities under the pretext of “harm reduction.”

Proposal: Adopt a motion requiring CoC funded housing projects to comply with these terms

Discussed at January Steering Committee Meeting.

Survey Conducted

Vote needed



22

22

Results from Provider “Drug Enablement” Survey



- 36 responses
 - Overwhelmingly, no issues reported at agency or project level
 - Coming Soon: FAQ responding to provider questions
- 12/19/26 NOFO excerpts:
- *“Awards made under this NOFO will not be used to fund, promote, encourage, subsidize or facilitate the use of illicit drugs.”*
 - *“This NOFO...prohibits recipients from distributing drug paraphernalia or permitting the use and distribution of fatal, illicit drugs on their properties.”*
 - Project applicant must certify: *“The project applicant will not operate illegal drug injection sites or “safe consumption sites” in violation of 21 u.s.c. 856.”*

23

23




Vote today?

24

24

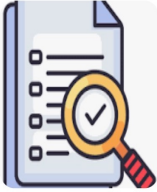
Who Can Vote?



- Community Reps: Melissa Dzierlatka, Theresa Miles, Cami Hawkins, Ernest Saunders, Aleena Durant, Tracy Samuel, Ramon Garcia, Kelvin McCullough
- CT Department of Labor: Robert Bongiolatti or Heriberto Cajigas
- CT Department of Social Services: Cassandra Norfleet-Johnson or Theresa Rivera
- CT Department of Correction: Joy Zavarella
- CT Department of Children and Families: Kim Somaroo-Rodriguez or William Seals
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Maureen Pasko or Jen Moriarty
- Partnership for Strong Communities: Danielle Hubley or Carline Charmelus
- Public Health Representative: Maria Lorenzo

25

Verifying Immigration Status for DMHAS/DOH Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)




DMHAS/DOH are required to verify immigration status for **their** PSH projects.

- Verification is required through Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) – a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) data system.
- DMHAS/DOH staff input information into SAVE.
- SAVE confirms whether self-attested eligible immigration status matches DHS records.

26


Verifying Immigration Status Non-profit responsibilities



- Non-profits are not required to verify immigration status for any CoC-funded service.
- If DMHAS or DOH informs a non-profit of an ineligibility finding, the non-profit must deny or terminate PSH housing/services.
 - ✓ DMHAS/DOH/non-profit collaborate to identify any available alternative assistance.
- **For DMHAS/DOH PSH**, non-profit subrecipients and service providers gather documents for government submission into SAVE.
- Inform applicants/participants of how information will be/could be used.
- Help to assess the potential risks and benefits of providing documentation.

27

Verifying Immigration Status – Next Steps



- Updates to PSH Requirements and Operations Guide
- Declaration and Consent to Verification of Legal Status and Identity Form (PSH)
- Awaiting guidance from Field Office (PSH)
- Awaiting outcome of NY v. DOJ
 - Currently DMHAS/DOH not required to verify immigration status for CoC projects other than PSH

28



CT BOS Governance Charter Proposals

DISCUSS TODAY AND VOTE AT
THE MARCH STEERING
COMMITTEE MEETING

29

29

Governance Proposal: Youth Action Board(YAB) Representation on the Steering Committee

Proposal:

- Add one temporary seat to the Steering Committee to enable YAB representation until a new CLIP slate is approved (estimated timeline: Jan 2027)
- Moving forward from then the CLIP slate will include a YAB representative as one of the two CT BOS Steering Committee Youth Reps



30

30



Governance Proposal: Education Sector Representative to the Steering Committee

Proposal:

- Add one Educational Sector Rep to the Steering Committee in addition to CT State Department of Education

(Louis Tallerita, CT State Department of Education, has stepped down)

31

31

Governance Proposal: Alternates

Proposal: The following types of organizations with seats designated on the Steering Committee may opt to name an alternative representative in addition to a primary representative:

- Government agencies
- Nonprofit intermediaries/advocates
- Public health
- Elected officials
- Law enforcement
- Business community.



32

32



VOTE

Vote Today on Steering Committee Nominations

Elected Officials:

- Arunan Arulampalam, Mayor of Hartford
- Laurie Sweet, CT State Representative

Law Enforcement:

- Jasmine Sanders, Sergeant, New Haven Police Department

Business Community:

- Russ Cormier, Nutmeg

33

33



CT CAN End Homelessness Updates/Advocacy

34

34

Data Strategy Board Updates

35

35



Partner Announcements

36

36

Other Business?



37

37

Upcoming CT BOS SC Meetings



Meetings are from 11:00-12:30 unless otherwise noted

- March 20, 2026
- April 17, 2026
- May 15, 2026-
Semi-annual (11-1)
- June 12, 2026
- July 17, 2026; 11-12:30
- Aug 21, 2026; 11-12:30
- Sept 18, 2026; 11-12:30
- Oct 16, 2026; 11-12:30
- Nov 20, 2026; 11-12:30
- Dec 18, 2026; 11-12:30

Zoom Info for all SC meetings:

- [Meeting link](#)
- Meeting ID: 956 4487 8479
- Password: 414595
- Call-in number: 646-876-9923

38

38

CT BOS Team (Housing Innovations)



CT BOS CoC

ctboscoc@gmail.com

Shannon Quinn-Sheeran

shannon@housinginnovations.us

Suzanne Wagner

swagner@housinginnovations.us

Myles Wensek

mylesw@housinginnovations.us

Lauren Pareti

lpareti@housinginnovations.us

Liz Isaacs

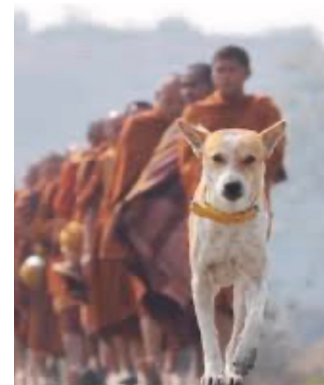
lisaacs@housinginnovations.us

Sara Zuiderveen

saraz@housinginnovations.us

39

39



Walk in peace

40

40