



## CT BOS Steering Committee Meeting Minutes 1/16/26 - 11:00 am – 12:30pm

For more detail on the agenda items below, please see the slides, which start on page 3.

### 1. Welcome and Chairs Introductions

### 2. Guidelines for BOS Meetings

### 3. Adopt December Steering Committee Meeting Minutes – approved by consensus

### 4. Announcements

- Debrief post-Steering Committee mtg
- Deadline Extension - BOS Participant Surveys due 2/2/26
- Monitoring and TA Updates
- Welcome Abbie Kelly who starts 1/20/26
- Link in the slides to register
- HIC/PIT Reminders
- Emergency shelters (ES) should be sure to do bed night check-ins and housing programs should make sure move-in dates are updated. Outreach staff should make sure that the Current Living Assessment (CLA) is completed for the night of the count. It is possible to do batch CLA such as at an encampment.
- Program types that can use the Engage Mobile application include, ES, Outreach and Warming Shelters.
- SPM Action Steps
- Federal Budget Updates & Advocacy

### 5. CT BOS Governance/Elections

- BOS is accepting nominations for new Steering Committee Seats: Law Enforcement (2), Elected Officials (3), Business Community Members (1) Education Sector (1)
- Send nominations to: [ctboscoc@gmail.com](mailto:ctboscoc@gmail.com) by 1/29/26

### 6. LISC Financial Opportunity Centers (FOC) Presentation

- Jim Horan & RaQuasia Smith, LISC, presented on the FOCs.

### 7. Break Out Groups

- Introduce yourself, your role, and how long you have been attending Steering Committee meetings
- How might CoC projects partner with Financial Opportunity Centers (FOCs) to help CoC program participants to increase income?
  - There was a discussion of how to ensure coordination between CT Department of Labor American Job Centers (AJC) and strategies to strengthen AJC services for people experiencing homelessness and living in CoC housing.
- Do you have other employment resources and/or best practices to share?
  - DMHAS has supported employment programs specifically for folks with behavioral health challenges. [Link to Supported Employment](#)

## 8. CoC Competition Business

- Updates on CoC NOFO & Lawsuits
- Next Steps: CoC 2024/2025 NOFO
- Proposed 24/25 NOFO Ranking Motion
  - **f/u: HI to send vote to non-conflicted voters via Survey Monkey**
- Overview - Revised 2025 NOFO
  - In the 2025 NOFO, there are 10 CoC Application Bonus Points for compliance with certain terms related to illicit substances as detailed in attached slides. The proposal is for BOS to adopt a motion requiring CoC funded housing projects to comply with these terms.
    - Providers noted that they have concerns about voting for this until they can better understand the impact.
    - It was suggested that HI do a survey to evaluate the impact.
    - **f/u: HI to send out a survey.**
- Strategy Considerations – Revised NOFO
  - BOS will likely hold a Special NOFO Steering Committee meeting to discuss and make decisions around funding.
- VOTE -- [Engagement Principles](#) – formerly Housing First Principles
  - Motion passes by consensus
- 2025 Renewal Rescore
- Reminder – DV Bonus RFP
- Supports/Guidance Available and Needed

## 9. CT CAN End Homelessness Updates/Advocacy

- There has been a lot of community input into legislative priorities, and those will be shared shortly. There will also be a virtual rally to get people ready for the start of the legislative session on 2/4/26.
- The CCEH Annual Training Institute (ATI) will be held on 5/20/26. They are accepting Requests for Proposals: [CCEH ATI RFP](#)

## 10. Data Strategy Board Updates

- The DSB has not met this month so they will report next month.

## 11. Partner Announcements & Other Business

- There was an HMIS Homeless Verification training conducted by DMHAS and Nutmeg.
- **f/u: HI to send out links to slides and recording of this training.**

## 12. Steering Committee Meeting Schedule

- February 20, 2026; 11-12:30
- March 20, 2026; 11-12:30
- April 17, 2026; 11-12:30
- May 15, 2026; 11-12:30 – 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



January 16, 2026

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## Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Announcements
- New BOS Steering Committee Members/Elections
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Community Economic Development Presentation
- Break Out Groups
- CoC Competition
- CT CAN End Homelessness Updates/Advocacy
- Data Strategy Board Updates
- Partner Announcements & Other Business
- Steering Committee Meeting Schedule



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## 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



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## Approve December Steering Committee Meeting Minutes



[Draft December 2025 Steering Committee Minutes](#)

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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](mailto:CTBOSCoC@gmail.com) or call a team member any time!

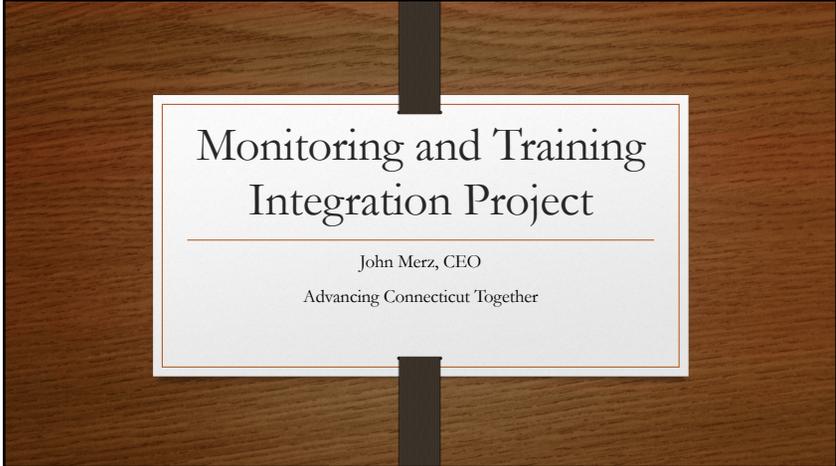
A colorful graphic with the words "JOIN US!" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The letters are set against a background of overlapping, semi-transparent speech bubbles in shades of blue, green, yellow, and orange.

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A graphic illustration on a light blue background. It features a red calendar with a white page, a silver alarm clock with a red bell, and a red speech bubble containing a white exclamation mark. Yellow lightning bolts are scattered around the calendar.

Deadline Extension!  
BOS Participant Surveys due  
2/2/26

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A dark brown wooden background with a white rectangular sign in the center. The sign has a thin orange border and is held in place by two black vertical bars. The text on the sign is centered and reads:

Monitoring and Training  
Integration Project

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John Merz, CEO  
Advancing Connecticut Together

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## Monitoring

- Monitoring visits scheduled to begin in January utilizing an interim monitoring tool
  - Interim tool → shortened version of DMHAS PSH Tool
- AIDS Housing programs and DMHAS PSH programs have received notice that they will be monitored
  - January, February, and March
- Shelter, CAN Backbone, HUB/Diversion Centers TBD
  - Tentative → March, April, May visits

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## Training

- Learning Management System
  - DMHAS PSH programs have begun to utilize the system
  - Full launch to all housing providers in January
- Communications will be streamlined for all training announcements from ACT
- In-Person Trainings – dates will be announced in the new year
- [Link to Register](#)

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New Staff Member slated to start in January!

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For any questions on this project

Contact

Erika Mott – [emott@act-ct.org](mailto:emott@act-ct.org)

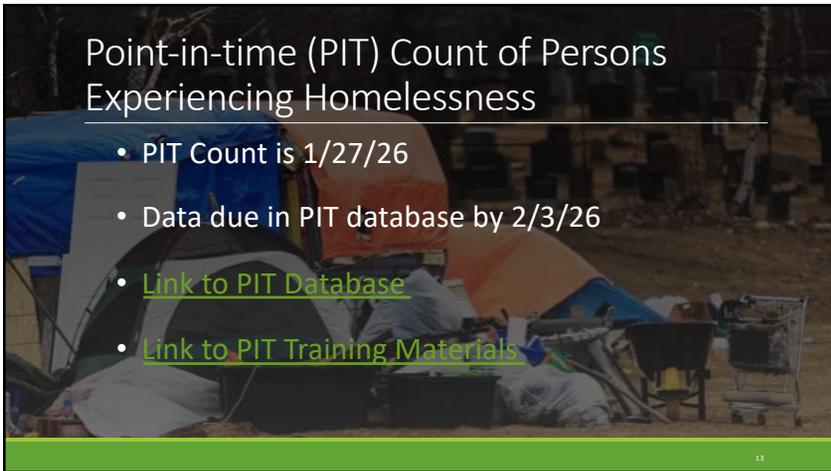
Megan Aurretta – [mjurretta@act-ct.org](mailto:mjurretta@act-ct.org)



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## Point-in-time (PIT) Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

- PIT Count is 1/27/26
- Data due in PIT database by 2/3/26
- [Link to PIT Database](#)
- [Link to PIT Training Materials](#)



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## System Performance Measures (SPMs) Updates

**What can providers do?**

- **Move in Date**
  - All RRH and PSH enrollments should have a move in date at some point within 45 days of the enrollment start date
  - There is an HMIS alert that flags this for every head of household record. See [Guide](#)
- **Exit Destination**
  - All RRH and PSH enrollments should have a valid exit destination
  - There should be close to zero circumstances where exit destination is unknown, data not collected etc.
  - Using your APR Detail Export you can see which head of household records have non-substantive exit destination responses



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## Federal Budget Updates & Advocacy



**Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Budget Transportation HUD (THUD)**

- Continuing resolution expires 1/30/26 - Funds 2026 CoC Competition
- Opportunity for Congress to act to renew CoC projects for one year instead of 2025 competition
- Reed Amendment: require HUD to renew all existing CoC grants expiring during calendar year 2026 for 12 months
- Advocacy Opportunities:  
[NAEH Advocacy Alert – CoC NOFO](#)

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## New BOS Steering Committee Members



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Nominations for new Steering Committee Seats

*Law Enforcement (2),  
Elected Officials (3),  
Business Community Members (1)  
Education Sector (1)*

Send nominations to:  
[ctboscoc@gmail.com](mailto:ctboscoc@gmail.com)  
by 1/29/26

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## HUD Priorities – Context for LISC Presentation

HUD FY2025 NOFO priorities include:

- Improve outcomes
- Promote economic self-sufficiency
- Increase employment income over government assistance
- Competition, innovation, and accountability

HUD FY2025 NOFO CoC Application scoring factors (7 points):

- 20% of participants increased employment income
- 25% of leavers increased employment income
- 25% of total renewal evaluation points based on increases in employment income

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# LISC CONNECTICUT

## Financial Opportunity Center®



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## LISC

### Our Financial Opportunity Center® Approach

3 Core Services



- Employment Services**
  - Work Readiness & Placement
  - Digital Skilling
  - Tailored Career Training & Credentials
  - Strong Employer Partnerships
  - Career Retention & Advancement
- Financial Health**
  - Financial Skills & Know How
  - Household Budgeting
  - Individual Goal Setting
  - Credit Building
  - Savings & Asset Building
- Income Supports**
  - Stabilize Household Needs
  - Food Access
  - Rent & Utility Support
  - Health Insurance
  - Childcare Support

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# LISC CONNECTICUT



## Bridges to Career Opportunity Centers (BCOs)

BCOs build upon the successful FOC model by helping chronically unemployed and underemployed adults train for, land, and advance jobs in local growth industries.

Bridges provides effective adult basic education contextualized for strong local industries like healthcare and advanced manufacturing. Participants learn foundational skills such as math, literacy or English as a Second Language in the context of their intended occupation. As important, Bridges to Career Opportunities helps participants manage the financial and logistical challenges that can interfere with job training.

There are no BCOs in the CT Network currently.

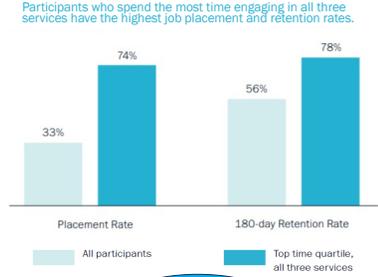
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# LISC CONNECTICUT

## WHY THE FOC MODEL?

Nationally, LISC oversees a network of more than 120 FOCs, embedded in respected community-based organizations. The FOC model has been independently evaluated to demonstrate efficacy.

When FOC clients take advantage of combined services, they are **50% more likely to land a well-paying job** than people receiving employment services alone. A study by the Economic Mobility Corporation found FOC clients are more likely to be employed year-round, reduce non-asset-related debt, and build positive credit histories. **Long-term job retention—holding a job for a year or more—almost doubles when financial coaching reinforces the work of employment counseling.**



Participants who spend the most time engaging in all three services have the highest job placement and retention rates.

Metric	All participants	Top time quartile, all three services
Placement Rate	33%	74%
180-day Retention Rate	56%	78%

**BECAUSE IT WORKS!**

LISC study: Employment and financial services help low-income people make progress

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# LISC CONNECTICUT



During the Fall of 2020, partially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, LISC launched its Connecticut FOC Network consisting of ten FOCs, including three full sites and seven supporting sites serving Norwalk, Bridgeport, New Britain, Waterbury, New Haven, and Hartford.

Currently, the network includes four FOC partners:

- Community Action Agency of New Haven
- Human Resources Agency of New Britain
- Person to Person (Darlen/Stamford)
- The Village for Families & Children (Hartford)

And two FOC affiliates:

- New London Homeless Hospitality Center
- Urban League of Greater Hartford

The Connecticut FOC Network is on track to serve 450 individuals with at least 80% receiving two or more core services in 2026. Additionally, LISC is continuing its 2:1 Savings Match Program in partnership with Liberty Bank and sponsored by CT Department of Banking.

Served <b>6,486</b> clients	Placed <b>906</b> clients in jobs	Average hourly wage of <b>\$20.35</b>	<b>4,002</b> clients screened for benefits
<b>292</b> increasing credit score	<b>1,271</b> increasing net income	<b>233</b> increasing net worth	<b>84%</b> receiving 2 or more services

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# LISC CONNECTICUT

## Savings Match Initiative



- In 2024, LISC Connecticut was awarded \$250,000 to implement a savings match program for 100 clients across the FOC Network.
- Clients will be able to save \$500 over the course of a year at Liberty Bank through their FOC.
- Once clients save \$500, they will receive a 2:1 match, totaling \$1,500 to use towards homeownership, vehicle purchase, secondary education or related expenses.



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# LISC CONNECTICUT

**RaQuasia Smith**  
Program Officer  
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**Karah Green**  
Assistant Program Officer  
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Check out our website for more information:  
<https://www.lisc.org/connecticut-statewide/>  
 For more information about FOCs:  
<https://www.foc-network.org/>

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## Discussions



- Introduce yourself, your role, and how long you have been attending Steering Committee meetings
- Discussion for today:
  - How might programs partner with Financial Opportunity Centers to help participants increase income?
  - Do you have other employment resources and/or best practices to share?
- Please share suggestions in the chat or email to [ctboscoc@gmail.com](mailto:ctboscoc@gmail.com)

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## CoC Competition

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## Update: CoC 2024/2025 NOFO & Lawsuits



Court ordered HUD to get ready to process renewals under the two-year 2024-2025 NOFO



Court has not ordered HUD to actually renew grants – HUD intends to proceed with revised 2025 NOFO



NAEH seeking speedy resolution by the court (in January or February)

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## Next Steps: CoC 2024/2025 NOFO

- Vast majority of renewal projects need **not** take action.
- CT BOS has identified 9 projects that need to submit a renewal project application in Esnap
  - Projects have been notified
- CT BOS must rank some projects
  - Ranking means little
- Even if all projects are renewed, HUD very likely to make changes in 2026.

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## Proposed 24/25 NOFO Ranking Motion

Ranking required for:

- Renewal Projects Not Awarded in 2024 and New Projects created thru Reallocation:
  - BOS has 9 Projects in this category
- Proposal:
  1. Rank in order of evaluation score
  2. For projects not evaluated, rank largest budgets to smallest



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## 24/25 NOFO Ranking Motion: 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

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## Overview - Revised 2025 NOFO

(Issued 12/19/2025)

In announcement for 2024/2025 process, HUD stated that they will implement the NOFO issued on 12/19/2025 as soon as they can

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 (?!?)

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## 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



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## Revised 2025 NOFO (3)

### 10 CoC Application Bonus Points:

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



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## Revised 2025 NOFO (4)

Previous issues now resolved:

- “Will not penalize a renewal applicant who sufficiently complied with the terms and conditions FY2024 NOFO that are in direct conflict with those contained herein.” [sic]
- DV Bonus projects no longer restricted from using a transition grant application
- New language acknowledging that NOFO does not supercede VAWA requirements prohibiting service participation requirements



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## Strategy Considerations – Revised NOFO

New NOFO raises some very different questions and options from the last one.

We will convene a special Steering Committee meeting to discuss these further

### Some of the questions:

- Apply in both tracks 1 & 2? Track 2 is for new PH only
- Should the CoC submit new PH application(s) in Track 2?
- Should the CoC commit all CoC Bonus funds to new PH?



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## Strategy Considerations – Revised NOFO - 2

### Questions (cont.)

- If going with 2 tracks, how much to apply for in each track?
  - Total of Track 1 + Track 2 cannot exceed what CoC is eligible for
    - 1/3 of total funds in the NOFO are set aside by HUD for Track 2 – new PH
    - 2/3 and 1/3? Other proportions?
- If going with 2 tracks, how to free up funds from Track 1?
  - What and how to reallocate?
  - Is this the opportunity to create CAN-Based PH?
- Pause for Questions/Comments from the group



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### Vote - Engagement Principles

#### Engagement Principles formerly Housing First Principles

- Discussed at the 12/16/25 Steering Committee Meeting
- All Steering Committee Members can vote

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## 2025 Renewal Rescore

Steering Committee adjusted renewal evaluation criteria to use in 2025 ranking:

- Scored **employment income increases** and set associated points at 25% of total points
- Scored **returns to homelessness** and set associated points at 25% of total points
- Projects to be notified individually of results – CT BOS will release scores publicly if required by HUD
- Notify [ctboscoc@gmail.com](mailto:ctboscoc@gmail.com) by 2/3/26 if you believe there was an error.



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## Summary - Updated Renewal Evaluation Scores



- § Median score dropped from 88 to 63
- § 10 projects maintained same score
- § 13 projects increased score
  - Average increase 8 points
- § 105 projects decreased score
  - Average decrease 13 points

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### REMINDER: Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Request For Proposals (RFP) – Due 1/16/26



- BOS seeking new projects to provide Transitional Housing/Interim Housing (TH) or Supportive Services Only - Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) Projects
- Funds totaling over \$2.6 million anticipated to be available
- Projects must serve individuals and families:
  - Fleeing or attempting to flee DV, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking
  - Qualify as homeless under HUD homelessness definition [category 4](#)
- Eligible Applicants: Qualified nonprofit organizations, State and local governments, instrumentalities of state or local government, Public Housing Authorities, Native American Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities
- [DV RFP Instructions](#) & [Budget form](#)
- Applications must be submitted to [ctboscoc@gmail.com](mailto:ctboscoc@gmail.com) by **Friday, 1/16/26**.

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### Supports/Guidance Available and Needed



- [Updated FAQ](#) – Please continue to submit questions to [ctboscoc@gmail.com](mailto:ctboscoc@gmail.com)!
- [Talking Points for Communicating with Clients](#)
- [NAEH - Communicating with Tenants](#)
- [Talking Points for Landlord Communication](#)
- [Sample Service Agreement](#)
- [CT HERO Program Service Agreement](#)
- [Sample Service Schedule](#)
- January LISC presentation on [LISC Financial Opportunity Centers](#)
- Other Needs?

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CT CAN End Homelessness Updates/Advocacy

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## Data Strategy Board Updates

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Partner  
Announcements

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Other Business?



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Upcoming CT BOS SC Meetings



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

• February 20, 2026	• July 17, 2026; 11-12:30	<b>Zoom Info for all SC meetings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Meeting link</a></li> <li>• Meeting ID: 956 4487 8479</li> <li>• Password: 414595</li> <li>• Call-in number: 646-876-9923</li> </ul>
• March 20, 2026	• Aug 21, 2026; 11-12:30	
• April 17, 2026	• Sept 18, 2026; 11-12:30	
• May 15, 2026- Semi-annual (11-1)	• Oct 16, 2026; 11-12:30	
• June 12, 2026	• Nov 20, 2026; 11-12:30	
	• Dec 18, 2026; 11-12:30	

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CT BOS Team (Housing Innovations)



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