

CT BOS Glossary

Terms related to the Continuum of Care Program and the Annual CoC Competition

About this glossary

This glossary was created for the CT Balance of State (CT BOS) Continuum of Care (CoC) stakeholders, and is intended for anyone who wants a plain-language reference for terms used in CT BOS meetings.

Terms are grouped by category (CoC basics, the CoC competition application process, types of CoC projects, money and funding, participant eligibility, and data and data systems). An alphabetical index at the end of this document points to the right page and category for each term.

A note on timing: In August 2026, a federal court set aside the FY 2026 CoC NOFO, and HUD paused the FY 2026 competition. The terms in this glossary describe how the CoC Program and NOFO process generally work, and remain useful regardless of the status of any specific year's competition.

CoC Basics

CoC (Continuum of Care)

A regional network of housing programs, service providers, and community members working together on homelessness in an area. The CoC Program is also what HUD calls the specific type of funding CoCs compete for each year.

CT BOS Steering Committee

The CT BOS Steering Committee is the primary decision-making body responsible for overseeing the CoC and guiding its policies, priorities, and activities. It includes representatives from key sectors and stakeholders and makes decisions related to how the CoC operates, funding, system planning, and performance.

- **Co-Chairs:** Provide leadership to the CT BOS Steering Committee and help guide the CoC's work, priorities, and decision-making. They facilitate Steering Committee meetings, support effective operations, and work with the CT BOS team and grantees to advance the CoC's responsibilities and goals.

CT BOS Team

Staff from Housing Innovations support the day-to-day work of the CoC and implementation of Steering Committee priorities. The team coordinates CoC planning, governance, funding competitions, project monitoring and evaluation, training and technical assistance, and other activities needed to meet HUD requirements and strengthen the homelessness response system.

The CoC Competition Application Process

CoC Competition

The CoC Competition is HUD's funding process for awarding new funds and renewing grants through the Continuum of Care Program. Each CoC coordinates a local competition to review, select, and prioritize projects for inclusion in its application to HUD.

CoC Coordination & Engagement

The largest single scoring category on the CoC Application (61% of points 2026), covering how well the CoC coordinates across partners — treatment providers, law enforcement, and others — rather than how any one project performs.

- **System Performance:** The second largest scoring category on the CoC Application (32% of points in 2026) assesses how effectively the CoC's homelessness response system is achieving key outcomes. It considers outcomes such as reducing the number of people who experience homelessness, shortening the time people remain homeless, increasing exits to permanent housing, increasing participants' income and reducing returns to homelessness.
- **Project Capacity Review and Ranking:** This merit category assesses the CoC's processes for evaluating project performance and capacity and for reviewing, selecting, and ranking projects submitted in the competition (7% of points in 2026). It considers whether these processes are objective, transparent, data-informed, and designed to support effective use of CoC resources.

- **Bonus Points:** Bonus points provide additional points for meeting specific HUD priorities or criteria identified in the NOFO. These points are awarded in addition to the points available under the primary merit categories.

Collaborative Applicant

The organization that officially submits the application to HUD on behalf of the whole CoC and receives the CoC's planning grant — the funding that supports the coordination work of running the CoC itself. For CT BOS, that's DMHAS (the CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services).

Consolidated Application

The full application package the CoC submits to HUD. It includes: the CoC Application (see below), the Priority Listing (see below) and all of the applications for individual new and renewal projects (see below).

- **CoC Application:** Part of the Consolidated Application submitted each year to HUD. It describes how the CoC itself works, how the housing and services system works and the CoC's plan to improve.

e-snaps

The online system used to submit CoC funding applications to HUD. It's used both by CoCs to submit information about the entire system and by provider agencies to submit applications for new and renewal projects.

Local Competition

CT BOS's own internal process, run before anything is submitted to HUD, where the CoC reviews and scores all project applications. It consists primarily of two parts:

- **Renewal Evaluation:** The annual review of CoC-funded renewal projects to assess project performance, compliance, and effectiveness using data. Projects are scored, and results are used to identify areas for improvement and inform ranking, and reallocation decisions.
- **Local Request for Proposals (RFP):** The competitive process used to solicit and select eligible new projects for inclusion in the CoC funding application to HUD. The RFP describes the types of new projects the Steering Committee has prioritized for funding and provides instructions on how to apply. A Committee reviews and scores the applications, and results inform which projects get submitted to HUD and how they are ranked.

Merit Review

The process HUD uses to score the CoC Applications submitted by every CoC. This score plays a large role in determining how much funding a CoC gets.

New Project Application

A program applying for CoC funding for the first time, must also submit a project application. New projects are usually created through a special bonus HUD makes available that year, or through reallocation.

NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity)

The yearly document HUD publishes laying out the rules for applying for CoC Program funding.

Priority Listing

The ranked list, submitted with the application, of every individual project the CoC wants HUD to fund — new projects, renewal projects, and any projects being reallocated (see below under Money and Funding). Each project on the list gets its own rank; higher-ranked projects are more likely to get funded.

Quality Threshold Review

A separate assessment of whether an otherwise eligible new or renewal project meets HUD's minimum standards for project quality and design. It is the minimum set of requirements that renewal and new project applications must meet to be considered for CoC funding. Projects that do not meet the applicable quality threshold will not be funded by HUD.

Ranking

The order projects are placed in on the Priority Listing — higher-ranked projects are more likely to get funded.

Registration

An early, required step where the CoC confirms with HUD that it plans to apply for funding that year and updates its basic information before the full application opens. It is how CoCs tell HUD which geographic areas are in their CoCs and how HUD makes sure no area is claimed by more than one CoC.

Renewal Project Application

An existing, already-funded program must submit a project application to continue receiving CoC funding for another year. Renewal projects still have to go through review and ranking; funding isn't automatic.

Service Participation Requirements

In keeping with new HUD priorities, CT BOS housing projects require participant engagement in supportive services. HUD began scoring this in the 2026 Competition.

Threshold Review

HUD's first pass at an individual project application — checking it was submitted on time, is complete, and comes from an eligible organization, for example. CT BOS also does threshold review for all new project applications submitted in its local competition. An application that fails threshold review is out of the running before scoring even starts.

Types of CoC Projects

The project types listed below are eligible for CoC funding.

Coordinated Access Network (CAN) or Coordinated Entry

The standardized, “front door” process a CoC uses so that people seeking help are assessed the same way and connected to the most appropriate housing or services, rather than having to navigate each program separately. Since CoCs usually do not have enough housing for everyone who needs it CANs prioritize households for available housing and services based on their needs, vulnerabilities, and

applicable CoC and HUD requirements. There are 7 CANs across CT, 6 are in CT BOS, and each covers a specific geographic area.

HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)

This type of project provides funding for a CoC's HMIS system (see below).

Joint TH/RRH

These projects combine temporary housing with rapid re-housing assistance in a single CoC project. Participants can receive transitional housing when needed while also receiving help to move as quickly as possible into permanent housing.

PH (Permanent Housing)

The broad category of housing with no required move-out date. Permanent Supportive Housing is one type of PH; Rapid Rehousing is also considered by HUD to be PH.

Planning Grant

The CoC Planning Grant is awarded to the Collaborative Applicant (DMHAS) to support the planning and administration of the Continuum of Care. It can fund activities such as CoC governance, system planning, project evaluation and monitoring, preparing the CoC Consolidated application, and efforts to report data to HUD and improve system performance. DMHAS hires contractors to do these things.

PSH (Permanent Supportive Housing)

Housing with no time limit and with support services, for people with disabilities who've experienced long-term or repeated homelessness.

- **DedicatedPLUS PSH:** In CT BOS to be eligible for PSH, a household must meet HUD's DedicatedPLUS definition, which includes people with disabilities who have experienced long periods or repeated episodes of homelessness. It is somewhat less strict than the chronic homelessness definition (see Participant Eligibility).

RRH (Rapid Rehousing)

Short or medium-term (up to 24 months) financial help to pay rent combined with services to help find housing and case management services to help a household get back on its feet. Often the assistance decreases over time.

SSO (Supportive Services Only)

A project type that provides services — like case management or housing search help — without providing the housing itself. Coordinated Entry and Street Outreach are sub-categories of SSO grants.

Street Outreach

Engages and assists people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in places such as streets, parks, encampments, and other locations not meant for people to live. Outreach workers build relationships, assess needs, provide or connect people to services, and help them access shelter and permanent housing.

TH (Transitional Housing)

Temporary housing, paired with services, meant to bridge someone from homelessness to permanent housing. The goal is to get permanent housing as quickly as possible and the maximum length of stay is 24 months.

YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program)

A HUD program focused specifically on preventing and ending homelessness among youth ages 24 and younger, including pregnant or parenting youth. It is part of the CoC program, but has rules and requirements that are somewhat different. Projects funded through YHDP must continue to serve young people and follow HUD's YHDP rules.

Money & Funding

ARD (Annual Renewal Demand)

The total dollar amount of all the CoC's currently-funded projects that are eligible to be renewed in a given year — essentially how much it costs to keep everything we already have funded.

Bonus Funding

New funding HUD makes available on top of a CoC's regular renewal funding. There are two types and HUD determines how much of each type a CoC can apply for and how the funds can be used.

CoC Bonus

This is the larger pot of funds and the primary way CT BOS has created new projects over the years. It can be used to create projects serving anyone who meets HUD's definition of homelessness.

Consolidation

Consolidation allows two or more eligible CoC renewal projects of the same project type and operated by the same recipient agency to be combined into a single project through the CoC competition. This can simplify administration and project management.

DV Bonus

A specific, separate pool of bonus funding CoCs can request to create new projects serving survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Once awarded, the project must continue to serve survivors.

Expansion Project

A way to add funding to an existing renewal project to add more units, increase the number of people served, or add services. To expand applicants can use CoC Bonus, DV Bonus, or reallocation funds and must submit a separate new project application in e-snaps.

FMR (Fair Market Rent)

HUD's standard estimate of typical rent costs in a given area, used to calculate how much rental assistance or leasing funding a project can request. HUD updates FMR figures annually.

Reallocation

The process of moving funding out of an existing renewal project (in whole or part) to create one or more new projects instead. This can be done because a provider no longer wants to operate the project, because the project has a pattern of not meeting performance standards, or because the project model no longer meets the needs of the CoC. It is one way new projects get created, though in CT BOS, new projects more typically come from CoC Bonus or DV Bonus funds (new money HUD makes available) rather than reallocation.

Tier 1 / Tier 2

A way HUD splits up available funding: Tier 1 funding (in the 2026 NOFO — currently 60% of a CoC's ARD) is close to guaranteed if a project passes threshold and the CoC submits a Consolidated Application that meets HUD's minimum requirements. Tier 2 is the remaining, more competitive pot of funds. The better a CoC does on its CoC application, the more likely it is to get projects in Tier 2 funded. A project's rank on the Priority Listing determines whether it lands in the safer Tier 1 or the more competitive Tier 2.

Transition Grant

A one-year grant letting an existing renewal project switch to a different program type, created through reallocation, but with one key difference from ordinary reallocation: it must keep the same recipient, and its start date is locked to the day after the current grant ends — avoiding the funding gap that could happen if HUD set the start date instead.

VAWA (Violence Against Women Act)

Federal law that shapes specific protections and funding rules for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking within CoC programs. Projects can apply for funding to cover certain costs related to complying with VAWA requirements.

Participant Eligibility

HUD's definition of homelessness includes four categories that describe the different circumstances under which an individual or family may be considered homeless. To get help from a CoC-funded project an individual or family must qualify under one of these definitions:

Category 1 — Literally Homeless: Individuals and families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. This includes people living in shelters, transitional housing, or on the streets or in parks, encampments, and other locations not meant for people to live.

Category 2 — Imminent Risk of Homelessness: Individuals and families who will lose their primary nighttime residence within 14 days and have no other residence identified. They must also lack the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.

Category 3 — Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes: Unaccompanied youth under age 25 and families with children and youth who are considered homeless under certain other federal laws but do not meet Categories 1, 2, or 4. They must also meet additional HUD requirements related to their history of housing instability and barriers to obtaining permanent housing. HUD must approve use of this category and it does not currently apply in CT.

Category 4 — Fleeing or Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence: Individuals and families fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions related to violence against them or a family member. They must have no other residence and lack the resources or support networks needed to obtain other permanent housing.

Chronic Homelessness

A HUD definition for someone with a disability who has been literally homeless for at least one year continuously or on four separate occasions over the past three years. Everyone who meets this definition also qualifies for DedicatedPLUS PSH (see program types).

Data & Data Systems

AHAR (Annual Homelessness Assessment Report)

HUD's national report to Congress, in two parts: Part 1 uses PIT Count data (the one-night snapshot) of both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness; Part 2 uses LSA data collected across the full year to estimate sheltered homelessness over time — so AHAR combines a snapshot and a year-long estimate, not just one or the other. Each CoC submits an AHAR report annually.

APR (Annual Performance Report)

A report, generated by HMIS or a comparable database, that an individual funded project submits to HUD each year, showing who it served and how it performed. This is project-level (about one program), while System Performance Measures are CoC-level (about the whole network) — the two get used together, but they're not the same thing.

Data Strategy Board

Oversees a shared statewide strategy for collecting, analyzing, and using homelessness data, including CT HMIS, to support performance measurement, system improvement, and data-informed decision-making. The DSB oversees HMIS and establishes related policies and procedures to ensure compliance with HUD requirements.

eLOCCS

HUD's system for actually drawing down (getting paid) awarded grant funds — different from e-snaps (used to apply for CoC funds) and HDX (used to report data). These three different systems have three different jobs.

HDX (Homelessness Data Exchange)

The HUD online system where CoCs submit their PIT Count, HIC, and system performance data.

HIC (Housing Inventory Count)

A yearly, complete list of every housing and shelter unit dedicated to people experiencing homelessness in the CoC's area. It includes HUD-funded and non-HUD-funded projects and is organized by program type. It's submitted alongside the PIT Count.

HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)

A shared database that providers use to record information about the people they serve. It's used to coordinate services and to report data back to HUD about how well the CoC's individual programs and overall system are working.

- **Comparable Database:** A data system used by victim service providers instead of HMIS to protect the confidentiality and safety of survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It collects information comparable to HMIS while ensuring that personally identifying information is not entered into or shared through HMIS.

HMIS Lead

The organization designated by the CoC to operate and administer the HMIS. It ensures compliance with HUD requirements and CoC policies. It supports participating agencies, maintains data quality and security, and helps produce the data and reports used for system planning and performance measurement. Advancing Connecticut Together (ACT) currently serves as the HMIS Lead.

Longitudinal System Analysis (LSA)

The LSA is an annual report generated from HMIS data that provides HUD and CoCs with information about how people experiencing homelessness use their homelessness response systems over time. It helps CoCs understand patterns such as the number and characteristics of people served, how long they experience homelessness, and how they move through and exit the system.

PIT Count (Point-in-Time Count)

An annual, one-night count of everyone experiencing homelessness in the CoC's area — both sheltered and unsheltered — conducted in the last 10 days of January. It's a snapshot, not a full-year total, but it's the number most often cited in the news and used to compare CoCs to each other and to prior years.

SPMs (System Performance Measures)

A report generated by HMIS that CoCs submit annually on a standard set of HUD metrics (like how long people stay homeless, or how often people return to homelessness after being housed). HUD uses these data to evaluate how well a CoC's overall system is working — not just one program, but the whole network together. To get a high score on the CoC application, CoCs must demonstrate that systems performance is improving.

Alphabetical Index

Every term in this glossary, listed alphabetically with the page and category it appears under.

Term	Page	Category
AHAR (Annual Homelessness Assessment Report)	8	Data & Data Systems
APR (Annual Performance Report)	8	Data & Data Systems
ARD (Annual Renewal Demand)	6	Money & Funding
Bonus Funding	6	Money & Funding
Chronic Homelessness	8	Participant Eligibility
CoC (Continuum of Care)	2	CoC Basics
CoC Bonus	6	Money & Funding
CoC Competition	2	The CoC Competition Application Process
CoC Coordination & Engagement	2	The CoC Competition Application Process
Collaborative Applicant	3	The CoC Competition Application Process
Consolidated Application	3	The CoC Competition Application Process
Consolidation	6	Money & Funding
Coordinated Access Network (CAN) or Coordinated Entry	4	Types of CoC Projects
CT BOS Steering Committee	2	CoC Basics
CT BOS Team	2	CoC Basics
Data Strategy Board	8	Data & Data Systems
DV Bonus	6	Money & Funding
e-snaps	3	The CoC Competition Application Process
eLOCCS	8	Data & Data Systems
Expansion Project	6	Money & Funding
FMR (Fair Market Rent)	6	Money & Funding
HDX (Homelessness Data Exchange)	8	Data & Data Systems
HIC (Housing Inventory Count)	8	Data & Data Systems
HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)	5	Types of CoC Projects
HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)	9	Data & Data Systems
HMIS Lead	9	Data & Data Systems
Joint TH/RRH	5	Types of CoC Projects
Local Competition	3	The CoC Competition Application Process
Longitudinal System Analysis	9	Data & Data Systems

Term	Page	Category
(LSA)		
Merit Review	3	The CoC Competition Application Process
New Project Application	3	The CoC Competition Application Process
NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity)	3	The CoC Competition Application Process
PH (Permanent Housing)	5	Types of CoC Projects
PIT Count (Point-in-Time Count)	9	Data & Data Systems
Planning Grant	5	Types of CoC Projects
Priority Listing	4	The CoC Competition Application Process
PSH (Permanent Supportive Housing)	5	Types of CoC Projects
Quality Threshold Review	4	The CoC Competition Application Process
Ranking	4	The CoC Competition Application Process
Reallocation	7	Money & Funding
Registration	4	The CoC Competition Application Process
Renewal Project Application	4	The CoC Competition Application Process
RRH (Rapid Rehousing)	5	Types of CoC Projects
Service Participation Requirements	4	The CoC Competition Application Process
SPMs (System Performance Measures)	9	Data & Data Systems
SSO (Supportive Services Only)	5	Types of CoC Projects
Street Outreach	5	Types of CoC Projects
TH (Transitional Housing)	6	Types of CoC Projects
Threshold Review	4	The CoC Competition Application Process
Tier 1 / Tier 2	7	Money & Funding
Transition Grant	7	Money & Funding
VAWA (Violence Against Women Act)	7	Money & Funding
YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program)	6	Types of CoC Projects