



Request for Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus Proposals – Connecticut Balance of State CoC 2025 Competition

Application Submission Deadline: 1/16/26

Purpose of the RFP

The [Connecticut Balance of State Continuum of Care](#) (CT BOS)¹ is soliciting proposals for Domestic Violence (DV) Bonus projects that will provide Transitional Housing/Interim Housing (TH/IH) for individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness in the CT BOS region or social services only projects for Coordinated Entry (SSO-CES). DV Bonus projects must be exclusively dedicated to serve survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking who meet HUD's [Category 4](#) definition of homelessness. Projects may not exclusively serve people fleeing or attempting to flee human trafficking. CT BOS invites qualified nonprofit organizations, States, local governments, instrumentalities of State and local governments, Public Housing Authorities, and Native American Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE) to submit proposals.

Under TH/IH, these beds will provide people experiencing homelessness with up to 24 months of safe accommodation and intensive services to assist them to stabilize and transition to permanent housing. The priority target population for TH/IH is people experiencing unsheltered homelessness and people aged 62 and older. Supportive Services Only – Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) projects are funded to design, operate, and enhance a community's Coordinated Entry (CE) system for DV survivors. SSO-CE funds cannot be used for housing or case management unrelated to CE; they must be tied directly to the functions, staffing, and infrastructure of the coordinated entry process. SSO-CE projects must implement policies and practices that equip the CoC's existing Coordinated Entry system to better meet the needs of survivors experiencing homelessness.

The programs must align with all federal requirements applicable to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC Program)². Higher-scoring projects have a better chance of being included in CT BOS's application to HUD and of getting funded. CT BOS will inform applicants whether their proposals will be part of the CT BOS 2025 CoC Application to HUD. The final decisions on awards will be made and announced by HUD through the national CoC program competition. CT BOS welcomes applications from both newcomers who have not received CoC funds before and those

¹ For more information about CT BOS please see "An Introduction to the CT BOS Continuum of Care": [Presentation Slides](#); [Recording](#)

² See, for example: [CoC Program Interim Rule](#); [Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, & Audit Requirements for Federal Awards](#); [HUD CoC Program Notices](#)



who have received them in the past. CT BOS provides support to make the application process accessible to all.

Overview of TH/Interim Housing

TH/Interim housing provides short to medium-term, service-intensive accommodation designed specifically to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness, emphasizing immediate safety, medical and behavioral health treatment, housing navigation, employment and services to build self-sufficiency. Projects offer rapid access for individuals and households who are most at risk, including survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and stalking.

Interim Housing helps participants to stabilize physically and emotionally, re-establish connections to treatment and services, and resolve urgent barriers to housing such as obtaining identification, addressing untreated health and behavioral health conditions, obtaining/increasing income and/or reconnecting with family and other supports. Staffing models generally include 24/7 coverage for single site projects, case managers, and on-site or partnered clinicians, creating an environment that functions as a bridge between homelessness and permanent housing. Interim Housing is a critical system component providing people experiencing homelessness with a dignified, safe space as they work with a case manager to rapidly develop and execute individualized housing and safety plans.

Interim Housing programs for survivors operate using a survivor-centered, trauma-informed approach that prioritizes safety, choice, dignity, and autonomy. Survivors are actively engaged in shaping program policies, service design, and implementation through structured opportunities for lived experience input, including advisory roles, feedback mechanisms, and compensated participation where feasible. This approach ensures that program rules, service delivery, and housing models are responsive to the real-world experiences, strengths, and needs of survivors.

In alignment with HUD's updated requirements, participants under the age of 62 who do not have a physical or developmental disability will receive a minimum of 40 hours per week of customized, participant-driven services. Services are individualized based on participant goals and needs and may include housing search and stabilization, safety planning, behavioral health treatment, employment and income supports, life skills development, and connection to mainstream and community-based resources.

HUD's Continuum of Care Program permits transitional housing programs to cover the costs of up to 24 months of interim housing with accompanying supportive services. Participants must have a lease, sublease or occupancy agreement for the duration of their stay, and programs must ensure that the interim housing meets local health and safety codes and is accessible to persons with disabilities.



Site-based interim housing houses clients in a facility (or facilities) owned, leased, operated or sponsored by the program. Site-based programs can typically more easily provide on-site services such as case management, life-skills, employment and self-sufficiency training and behavioral-health treatment. Interim Housing can also be scattered-site and place participants in individual units throughout the community rather than in a single project facility. Scattered-site models often rely on master-leasing or less commonly short/medium term rental assistance to secure units and typically require mobile case management and strong relationships with private landlords. Either model (site-based or scattered-site) can use units located within a hotel/motel; however, renting hotel rooms on a night-by-night basis is not an allowable cost for TH programs. If an agency has a master lease for a portion of hotel space or for an entire hotel structure, that is allowable under the leasing budget line item provided rent is reasonable in relation to rents being charged in the area for comparable space and rent is within Fair Market Rent limits. Hotel units that do not have both a private kitchen and bathroom use the SRO FMR. Though shared units are permissible, private sleeping accommodations are preferred, particularly in scattered site models without 24/7 on-site staff.

Overview of SSO-CES

Coordinated Entry serves as the statewide standardized process for access, assessment, prioritization, and referral across all housing programs for DV survivors. SSO-CES projects must be designed to implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the [CoC's existing Coordinated Entry system](#) to better meet the needs of survivors experiencing homelessness. This includes implementation of policies, procedures, and/or practices that are trauma-informed and client-centered and/or strengthening service and housing referral and placement coordination for survivors. Projects must demonstrate a plan to involve survivors in policy and program development throughout the project's operation.

Eligible SSO-CE activities include staffing and operating CE access points; conducting uniform assessment and eligibility screening; administering diversion and problem-solving conversations; facilitating prioritization based on community-approved criteria; and maintaining prioritized lists of survivor households in need of housing. SSO-CE funding may also support CE system infrastructure, including coordination of case conferencing or "housing match" meetings, development and maintenance of CE written standards, management of referral workflows, and CE-related training for participating providers. All SSO-CE activities must directly support the functions of the coordinated entry process rather than program-level case management or ongoing participant services.

In addition, SSO-CE funds may be used for data collection and HMIS/comparable database activities that are specific to coordinated entry, such as assessment data entry, managing the community queue, monitoring data quality, and generating CE reports used for system performance evaluation. Costs may include staff time, licenses, and system configuration tied directly to CE operations. SSO-CE resources cannot be used to provide



rental assistance, financial assistance, shelter operations, ongoing housing navigation, treatment services, or long-term case management, and may not be used for HMIS activities unrelated to CE.

All SSO-CE projects must adhere to HUD's requirements for accessibility, nondiscrimination, participant choice, written standards, and systemwide consistency across all access points. CE processes must be transparent, low-barrier, trauma-informed, and designed to ensure fair and equitable access for all populations experiencing a housing crisis under the Category 4 definition of homelessness, including adults, families, and young adults.

Key Objectives & Core Services

Key overall program objectives and associated core services include:

TH/IH

- 1. Rapid stabilization and safe accommodations:** Provide individuals and/or families with safe, interim housing and basic amenities, such as meals, hygiene supplies and transportation assistance in a supportive setting. The program must offer up to 24 months of accommodation, services to resolve housing and treatment barriers and to promote self-sufficiency and assistance to transition households to permanent housing.
- 2. Comprehensive supportive services:** Deliver comprehensive case management, mental-health and substance-use treatment, housing location and navigation, benefits enrollment and employment support, financial education, housing problem solving, conflict resolution & legal assistance. Projects must connect participants to primary and dental care. Services may be provided directly or through partnerships. Each participant must be assisted to develop a housing plan that identifies barriers, sets goals and connects them to permanent housing options.
 - Demonstrated partnerships with FQHCs and/or equivalent will be scored favorably.
- 3. Permanent housing outcomes:** Facilitate rapid exits to permanent housing. Programs should transition participants to permanent housing as quickly as possible, and length of stay may not exceed 24 months.
- 4. Enhanced self-sufficiency:** Deliver services that help participants to build tenancy skills, increase income, connect to needed services and increase self-sufficiency.

SSO-CES

Coordinated Entry System Enhancements: fund or expand the staffing, operations, assessment, prioritization, referral, and/or data functions needed to



equip the CoC's existing Coordinated Entry system to better meet the needs of survivors who meet the Category 4 definition of homelessness.

Eligible Applicants and Threshold Requirements

- **Eligible applicants:** Nonprofit organizations, States, local governments, instrumentalities of State and local governments, Public Housing Authorities, Native American Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHE). For-profit entities and individuals are not eligible.
- **Experience:** Applicants must demonstrate a history of providing housing and/or services to people experiencing homelessness. A history of working with people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, older adults, employment, behavioral-health services and law enforcement will be scored favorably.
- **Geography:** Projects must operate exclusively within the CT BOS Region of the state. This includes all cities and towns in the following counties: Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Windham, and Tolland.
- **Eligible Participants:** Projects must serve exclusively participants who meet the HUD definition of homelessness under Category 4.
 - While all participants under category 4 are eligible, projects proposing to prioritize those experiencing unsheltered homelessness and those 62 and older will be scored favorably.
- **Coordinated Entry:** Projects must participate in and accept only referrals through the applicable local [Coordinated Access Network\(s\)](#) and adhere to [CAN policies](#).
- **Match:** Applications must meet HUD's 25% [match requirement](#) (i.e., match must equal a minimum of 25 percent of the total grant request including administrative costs but excluding leasing costs.)
- **Compliance with federal and CoC policies:** Projects must operate in line with HUD's CoC program rules ([24 CFR 578](#)), the FY 2025-2026 CoC Program NOFO (pending release by HUD), [CT BOS Requirements](#) and all existing and subsequent guidance from HUD and CT BOS. Applicants must agree to participate in the annual [Point-in-Time Count](#), submit Annual Performance Reports (APRs) and other required data on time.
- Domestic violence (DV) programs receiving CoC-related funding—whether operated by nonprofits or public agencies—must comply with additional federal requirements that go beyond standard CoC regulations, including the [Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#) mandates for strict confidentiality, survivor choice, nondiscrimination, and emergency transfer protections;



- **Data collection and coordination:** Projects must participate in [Connecticut's Homelessness Management Information System](#) (HMIS) or, for Domestic Violence Service providers, a [comparable database](#).³

Grant Term & Eligible Expenses

- **Term:** Projects may apply only for a one-year term. Projects are anticipated to be renewable on an annual basis through the CoC Competition.
- **Eligible Expenses:** Projects can request funds for the following [CoC Program eligible expenses](#) only:
 - TH/IH: leasing of a structure and units and/or operating costs; short- or medium-term tenant-based rental assistance (Rental Assistance cannot be combined with operating costs); supportive services; HMIS; project administration; and/or VAWA.
 - SSO-CES: supportive services; HMIS; project administration; and/or VAWA.
- Project administration costs are capped at 10% of the total budget request.

Proposal Components

Cover Sheet: The Cover Sheet must include the following information:

- Applicant's Legal Name
- Type of applicant organization (Nonprofit organizations, States, local governments, instrumentalities of State and local governments, Public Housing Authorities, Native American Tribes or Tribally Designated Housing Entities)
- Applicant EIN
- Applicant Address
- Contact Person Name, Title, Phone Number, and Email

Section 1 – Organizational Experience and Capacity

- a. Describe your organization's history and experience providing services to people fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, and human trafficking who qualify as under HUD's Category 4 definition of homelessness.
- b. Describe your organization's experience with providing housing services, including programs like emergency shelter, stabilization beds, transitional housing, rapid rehousing, street outreach, and medical respite. Be sure to focus the description on your organization's experience designing and delivering the types of housing and

³ For more information about the DV Comparable Database contact Joanne Vitarelli jvitarelli@ctcadv.org



services proposed in your application. Include a description of your experience working with CT's existing Coordinated Entry System.

- c. Provide examples of your organization's experience managing federal, state, or local grants of similar size and scope. Experience managing federal grants will be scored favorably.
- d. Outline your staffing structure, including key staff positions, qualifications, and supervision.
- e. Describe your governance and financial management systems that ensure accountability and compliance.

Section 2

Program Design, Transitional Housing

- a. Provide a concise overview of your proposed project, including the number of units and households to be served at a point-in-time, the target population (identify any special populations proposing beyond Category 4 as a percentage of total population proposing to serve) and the primary goals of the program.
- b. Describe the facility or housing setting where units will be located (include size, layout, and accessibility features).
- c. Explain your plan to ensure the briefest possible length of stay and rapidly connect participants to permanent housing options.
- d. Detail the supportive services to be provided, including case management, assessment and housing planning, behavioral health services, substance-use treatment, medical care, income supports, and life-skills training. Be sure the services described are well suited to your proposed target population(s).
- e. Describe your plan to ensure that at least 50 percent of participants exit with employment income.
- f. Describe your plan to supplement CoC resources with other public and/or private sources, including mainstream health, behavioral health, social, and employment programs.
- g. Demonstrate that the proposed project will provide 40 hours per week of customized services for each participant as required by HUD. This may include off-site and leveraged services and may be reduced proportionately for participants who are employed. The 40 hours per week does not apply to participants over age 62 or who have a physical or developmental disability not including a substance use disorder.
- h. Explain your approach to working with participants who have high service needs, including older adults, people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, and/or those with long-term homeless histories, serious mental illness, substance-use disorders, and/or histories of justice system involvement.



- i. Describe your strategy for working with law enforcement, employment providers, health care providers, treatment providers and other community partners as warranted based on your proposed target population(s).

Program Design, SSO-CES

- Describe your overall approach to operating a HUD-compliant Coordinated Entry System (CES), including how you will design and implement policies, procedures, and practices that equip the [CoC's existing Coordinated Entry system](#) to better meet the needs of survivors experiencing homelessness. This includes ensuring standardized access, assessment, prioritization, client engagement and referral processes that are trauma-informed and client-centered
- Describe how your organization work with the existing CES to:
 - Staff and operate access points (physical, virtual, or mobile) and ensure equitable access for all populations served, including adults, families, youth
 - Ensure an assessment and prioritization approach that is administered consistently, honors client choice, and implements prioritization criteria accurately and fairly.
 - Ensure a referral and case conferencing process that is well coordinated with housing and service providers to ensure timely, transparent, and accurate referrals and warm hand-offs.
- Describe your plan to involve survivors in policy and program development throughout the project's operation.
- Explain your approach to CE data management—covering HMIS/comparable database entry, data quality monitoring, confidentiality protections, and how performance data will be used to guide continuous system improvement.

Section 3 – Performance and Outcomes for the Proposed Project

- a. State your projected point in time capacity, annual utilization/occupancy rate and average length of stay/service.
- b. Provide your target outcomes for exits to permanent housing, increases in income, and reduced returns to homelessness.
- c. Describe how you will collect and report data in HMIS or a comparable database and use data for continuous program improvement.
- d. Explain how you will evaluate participant satisfaction and incorporate feedback into program operations.

Section 4 – Implementation Timeline

- a. Provide a detailed implementation timeline, including site/unit acquisition (TH/IH only), hiring, program start-up, and anticipated full utilization/occupancy date.



Section 5 – Budget and Match

- a. Using this [excel spreadsheet](#), provide a detailed annual budget delineating leasing, operating, rental assistance, supportive services, VAWA, and administrative costs.
- b. Identify sources and amounts for the required 25% match (cash or in-kind)

Proposal Submission

All questions regarding this RFP must be directed, in writing via email, to ctboscoc@gmail.com before the deadline specified below. Responses to questions will be posted to the CT BOS [CoC Application](#) page. The early submission of questions is encouraged.

RFP Schedule:

RFP Released	December 16, 2025
Deadline for Questions	January 6, 2025
Proposals Due	January 16, 2025
Notification of Invitation to Submit Application to HUD	TBD dependent on CoC NOFO release and Consolidated Application due date
Notification of Award By HUD	TBD by HUD - Anticipated Spring to Summer 2026
HUD Grant Start	TBD by HUD - Anticipated Late 2026

Proposal Instructions

Submission Requirements:

- Send proposals and attachments via email to ctboscoc@gmail.com with subject line 2025 DV Bonus by January 16, 2026.

Format:

- Proposal must not exceed six (6) pages (not including cover sheet and budget), use a 12pt font or larger, be submitted in PDF format, except the Budget which must be submitted in excel using the template provided.
- Display applicant name in header and page number in footer

Evaluation of Applications

CT BOS will designate a Committee to evaluate responses submitted. Only submissions found to be responsive (that is, complying with all instructions and requirements described herein) will be reviewed and scored. To be eligible for evaluation, responses must (1) be from an eligible applicant; (2) be received on or before **January 16, 2026** (2) meet the format



requirements; (3) follow the required section outline; (4) be complete; and (5) meet threshold criteria. Responses that fail to comply with all instructions and minimum requirements will be rejected without further consideration.

Scoring - Responses meeting the minimum submission requirements will be evaluated according to the scoring details below. The criteria in this RFP will be used to evaluate proposals for a total of 100 points:

- Organizational Experience and Capacity (30 points)
- Program and Service Expectations (40 points)
- Performance and Outcomes (10 points)
- Budget and Budget Narrative (10 points)
- Implementation Timeline (10 points)

Applicant Selection - Any applicant selected will be notified by email and provided with instructions on next steps.