Substance Use and Recovery Housing Policy

Adopted July 2026

Purpose

The Connecticut Balance of State Continuum of Care (CT BOS CoC) is committed to ensuring that CoC-funded housing projects operate in compliance with federal law, HUD requirements, the FY 2026 CoC Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and future CoC Program NOFOs. The CoC also recognizes that substance use disorders are treatable medical conditions and supports access to evidence-based treatment, recovery services, and recovery-oriented housing opportunities.

Prohibited Activities in CoC-funded housing projects

All CT BOS CoC-funded **housing projects** must comply with the following requirements:

1. Shall not operate drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites."
2. Shall not knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia on or off property under their control.
3. Shall not knowingly permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control.
4. Shall not conduct, permit, encourage, facilitate, or allow any of the activities described above under the pretext of "harm reduction."

All project applicants and recipients must comply with all certifications and assurances required by HUD in the applicable CoC Program Competition.

Recovery and Treatment Services

The CT BOS CoC urges all CoC-funded projects to:

- Assist participants in accessing substance use disorder (SUD) treatment when requested or clinically appropriate;
- Establish referral relationships with licensed treatment providers within or outside of the CoC;
- Connect participants to medication-assisted treatment, outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment, peer recovery supports, recovery coaching, and other evidence-based services within or outside of the CoC;
- Coordinate with recovery housing providers and recovery-oriented systems of care within or outside of the CoC;
- Support participants pursuing recovery goals consistent with their individual needs and preferences.

Recovery Housing and Treatment-Based Programs

Nothing in this policy restricts or prohibits CoC-funded housing projects that require program participants, as a condition of assistance, to maintain sobriety or participate in SUD treatment or recovery programming. Nothing in this policy restricts or prohibits projects from partnering with treatment providers, recovery programs, or recovery housing operators.

Participant Rights

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted as requiring:

- Program participants to be sober to receive assistance;
- Program participants to participate in treatment to receive assistance; or
- Automatic eviction, termination, or program exit for a violation of a drug-related lease or program requirement.

Though individual CoC projects may implement the requirements above, the CoC does not require that they do so. Applicants may opt to decline an offer for assistance if the project does not meet their needs. Doing so will not impact their position on the By Name List.

Projects may establish and enforce program rules and lease requirements consistent with 24 CFR Part 578, fair housing laws, disability rights requirements, and applicable due process protections.

Compliance Monitoring and Remedies

The CT BOS CoC will monitor compliance with this policy through its established monitoring and compliance oversight processes.

If the CoC determines that a project has violated this policy, the CoC may take one or more of the following actions:

1. Require corrective action and submission of a corrective action plan;
2. Require staff training or technical assistance;
3. Place the project on a performance improvement plan;
4. Consider the violation during local competition scoring, project review, or ranking processes;
5. Pursue any additional remedies available under CoC governance documents, grant agreements, or federal regulations.

Serious, repeated, or unresolved violations may be considered in future funding decisions and may be referred to the CoC Board (i.e., Steering Committee) for review.

Applicability

This policy applies:

- To all housing projects submitted by the CT BOS CoC for funding
- To all recipients and subrecipients operating CoC-funded projects within the CT BOS CoC geographic area.
- Beginning with projects funded through 2026 Continuum of Care Program competition (i.e., with operating start dates in CY2027)