



PA-511 Bucks County CoC Review and Ranking Criteria and Process

FY 2026 Program Competition

Introduction

The Bucks County Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD) is the Collaborative Applicant, CoC Lead Agency, and HMIS Lead for the PA-511 Bristol, Bensalem/Bucks County CoC. HCD oversees and facilitates the local application process in the CoC for U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care funds consistent with the requirements in 24 CFR 578.9. To maintain a clear and transparent process during the annual competition, the CoC has created the following process for the review, rating and ranking of all new, renewal and bonus project applications received in the FY2026 CoC Program Competition.

Project Application Reviews

Project applications are reviewed for the following:

1) Eligibility Threshold Review

New and Renewal Project Applications will be reviewed to determine whether they meet eligibility thresholds. Projects that do not meet the threshold criteria will not be scored. Applications will be rejected and not considered for review for any of the following reasons. Applicants will be provided the opportunity to modify their application if submitted by the deadline and confirm error(s) to be corrected in the application.

- Renewal project applications must meet one of the following project components:
 - PH-PSH
 - PH-RRH
 - SSO-CE
 - HMIS
- New project applications must meet one of the following project components:
 - Supportive Service Only (SSO) Street Outreach or Standalone
 - Supportive Service Only Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE)
 - Transitional Housing (TH)
 - Rapid Rehousing Expansion (PH-RRH)
 - CoC Planning (Collaborative Applicants Only)
- Project applicants and potential subrecipients must meet the eligibility requirements of the CoC Program as described in the Act and the Rule and provide evidence of eligibility required in the application (e.g., nonprofit documentation).
- Project applicants and subrecipients must demonstrate the financial and management capacity and experience to carry out the project as detailed in the project application and the capacity to administer federal funds. Demonstrating capacity may include a description of the applicant and subrecipient experience with similar projects and with successful administration of SHP, S+C, or CoC Program funds or other federal, state, local, or private resources.
- Project applicants must submit the required certifications specified in the NOFO.

- The population to be served must meet program eligibility requirements as described in the Act, the Rule, and Section III.G.11 of this NOFO.
- Project applicants, except Collaborative Applicants that only receive awards for CoC planning costs, must agree to participate in the Bucks County HMIS system. However, in accordance with Section 407 of the Act, any victim service provider that is a recipient or subrecipient must not disclose, for purposes of HMIS, any personally identifying information about any client. Victim service providers must use a comparable database that meets the needs of the local HMIS.
- Project applicants must certify affirmatively to the following:
 - The project applicant will not engage in illegal racial discrimination as consistent with the requirements of 2 CFR 200.300(a).
 - The project applicant will not operate drug injection sites or “safe consumption sites,” in violation of 21 U.S.C 856(a)(1), knowingly permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control in violation of U.S.C. 856(a)(2), or knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia in violation of 21 U.S.C. 863. This certification is not a requirement that program participants must be sober in order to receive assistance, participate in treatment in order to receive assistance, or be evicted or exited from assistance for a first-time violation of a drug-related program policy or lease requirement.

2) Quality Review

New Project Applications that pass the eligibility threshold review as outlined above will then undergo a quality review by HCD staff to ensure that the project meets HUD’s quality threshold requirements as outlined in the NOFO. Each new project must meet the following quality threshold in order to be scored and ranked in the project priority listing. Projects that do not meet the quality threshold will be rejected.

Transitional Housing Projects must receive at least 6 out of 8 points available for this project type. New TH projects that do not receive at least 6 points will be rejected.

- 2 Points - Demonstrate that the project will provide and/or partner with other organizations to provide eligible supportive services that are necessary to assist program participants to obtain and maintain housing
- 1 Point - The applicant has prior experience operating transitional housing or other projects that have successfully helped homeless individuals and families exit homelessness within 24 months
- 1 Point - The applicant has previously operated or currently operates transitional housing or another homelessness project, or has a plan in place to ensure, that at least 50 percent of participants exit to permanent housing within 24 months and at least 50 percent of participants exit with employment income as reflected in HMIS or another data system used by the applicant
- 1 Point - The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP
- 2 Points – Demonstrate the proposed project will assess the service needs of program participants, and provide individualized services for program participants during their time in TH that will result in at least 20 hours per week of engagement in services, activities, or employment for all program participants, except for a program participant over age 62 or who is an individual with a disability as defined in 24 CFR 8.3 or with a developmental disability as defined under 24 CFR 578.3, and create service plans that include the services to be provided and how often, as well as program participant goals and strategies with target dates.
- 1 Point - Demonstrate the average cost per household served for the project is reasonable, consistent with 2 CFR 200.404.

Support Service Only (SSO) Standalone Projects must receive at least 4 out of 5 points available for this project type. New SSO standalone projects that do not receive at least 4 points will be rejected.

- 1 Point - The Supportive Services project is necessary to assist people in exiting homelessness and increasing self-sufficiency and the Recipient will conduct an annual assessment of the service needs of the program participants.
- 2 Points - The proposed project has a strategy for providing supportive services to eligible program participants including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services.
- 1 Point - The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.
- 1 Point – Demonstrate the average cost per household served for the project is reasonable, consistent with 2 CFR 200.404.

Support Services Only (SSO) Street Outreach Projects that focus on street outreach and indicate so in their project application must receive at least 5 out of 6 points available for this project type. Projects that do not receive at least 5 points will be rejected.

- 1 Point - The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.
- 2 Points - The proposed project has a strategy for providing supportive services to eligible program participants including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services.
- 1 Point - Demonstrate that the applicant has a history of partnering with first responders and law enforcement to engage people living in places not meant for human habitation to access emergency shelter, treatment programs, reunification with family, transitional housing or independent living. The applicant must cooperate, assist, and not interfere or impede with law enforcement to enforce local laws such as public camping and public drug use laws.
- 1 Point - The applicant has experience providing outreach services consistent with the activity description at 24 CFR 578.53(e)(13) and has demonstrated effectiveness at helping people successfully exit from places not meant for human habitation to emergency shelter, treatment programs, transitional housing or permanent housing programs.
- 1 Point – Demonstrate the average cost per household served for the project is reasonable, consistent with 2 CFR 200.404.

Supportive Services Only (SSO) Coordinated Entry Projects must receive at least 3 out of the 4 points available for this project type. New SSO-CE projects that do not receive at least 3 points will be rejected.

- 1 Point – The Coordinated Entry system is easily available and reachable for all persons within the CoC's geographic area who are seeking homelessness assistance. The system must also be accessible for people with disabilities within the CoC's geographic area.
- 1 Point – There is a strategy for advertising that is designed specifically to reach households experiencing homelessness with the highest needs.
- 1 Point – There is a standardized assessment process.
- 1 Point – The project will ensure program participants are directed to appropriate housing and services that fit their needs.

Rapid Rehousing (PH-RRH) projects must receive at least 4 out of the 6 points available for this project type. New permanent housing projects that do not receive at least 4 points will be rejected.

- 1 Point - The provision of tenant-based rental assistance will help individuals and families achieve self-sufficiency within 24 months.
- 2 Points - The type of supportive services and assistance that will be offered to program participants (e.g., case management, substance use treatment, mental health treatment, and employment assistance) will ensure that the participant is able to successfully obtain self-sufficiency and exit homelessness.

- 1 Point - The applicant has previously operated or currently operates a homelessness project where, or has a plan in place to have, at least 50 percent of participants exit to permanent housing within 24 months and at least 50 percent of participants exit with employment income as reflected in HMIS or another data system used by the applicant, or has a plan in place to ensure this.
- 1 Point - Demonstrate the average cost per household served for the project is reasonable. 2 CFR 200.404.
- 1 Point - The project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.

CoC Planning (Collaborative Applicants Only) Projects must receive at least 3 out of 5 points available for this project type. CoC Planning projects that do not receive at least 3 points will be rejected.

- 1 Point - Governance and Operations-The CoC conducts meetings of the entire CoC membership that are inclusive and open to members and demonstrates the CoC has a written governance charter in place that includes CoC policies.
- 1 Point - CoC Committees-The CoC has CoC-wide planning committees, subcommittees, or workgroups to address homeless needs in the CoC's geographic area that recommends and sets policy priorities for the CoC.
- 2 Points - The proposed planning project that will be carried out by the CoC with Planning grant funds are compliant with the provisions of 24 CFR 578.7.
- 1 Point - The funds requested will improve the CoC's ability to evaluate the outcome of both CoC Program-funded and ESG-funded projects.

Project Application Scoring

The CoC will utilize a customized Rating and Ranking Tool with local criteria as well as a CoC-developed sliding scale for renewal applications to complete the scoring for new and renewal applications. A CoC New Project Review Committee will review and score all new project applications. The CoC Executive Committee, as the governing board, will review and approve the scoring, ranking, rejection, reallocations, and reduction of all new and renewal project applications on the Project Priority Listing prior to submission to HUD.

Renewal Projects Scoring

Renewal projects will be scored using system performance measures and other objective based criteria. Data used for this includes the project applicant's most recently submitted APR for the renewal project as well as HMIS data for recidivism. Project application narrative responses will also be utilized to determine scores. Domestic Violence projects utilizing a comparable database will use their comparable database generated APR, recidivism data from the comparable database and project application.

Renewal projects that have been in operation for less than a year and have not yet submitted an APR will be automatically awarded points for any APR related scoring criteria. Non-APR criteria will be scored in accordance with other renewals such as narrative and supportive service requirements. The following criteria and maximum point values will be used for scoring. Refer to the included sliding scale in scoring rubric for partial point values.

Criteria: Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Renewal**Returns to Homelessness**

4% or less over 12 months	10
7% or less over 12 months	5
11% or less over 12 months	2

Category Total	10
----------------	----

Increase in employment income at annual assessment

50% of participants increase employment income at annual assessment	5
Any increase employment income at annual assessment	2

Category Total	5
----------------	---

Increase in employment income at exit

50% had an increase of employment income at exit	5
Any increase of employment income at exit	2

Category Total	5
----------------	---

Increase in non-employment income at exit

25% of participants increase non-employment income at exit	5
Any increase non-employment income	2

Category Total	5
----------------	---

Exits to permanent housing

70% of exits are to permanent housing	10
50% of exits are to permanent housing	5

Category Total	10
----------------	----

Exits to unsubsidized housing

20% of exits to permanent housing are to unsubsidized housing	5
10% of exits to permanent housing are to unsubsidized housing	2

Category Total	5
----------------	---

Data quality

Missing data at 0%	5
Missing data at 5%	2

Category Total	5
----------------	---

Services required for participation in project

Yes - Participation agreement or equivalent document submitted as evidence and is in line with 24 CFR 578.75(h). Attachment of agreement is required.	15
---	----

Yes - Narrative outlines the type of supportive services and assistance that will be offered to program participants that will ensure the participant is able to successfully obtain self-sufficiency and exit homelessness.	12
--	----

Category Total	27
----------------	----

Number of households served in accordance with application

Number of households served meets or exceeds the number indicated in the application	5
--	---

Category Total	5
----------------	---

Financial

Project demonstrates sufficient and eligible match of at least 25% (Yes/No)	3
---	---

Project is supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, SNAP, childcare, and/or workforce development (Narrative)	5
---	---

Project fully expended APR

Yes	10
-----	----

Per unit cost is at or below FMR

Average cost per household is reasonable and consistent with CFR 200.404 (Yes/No)	5
---	---

Category Total	23
----------------	----

Total Points	100
---------------------	------------

Criteria: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Renewal

Returns to Homelessness

4% or less over 12 months	10
7% or less over 12 months	5
11% or less over 12 months	2
Category Total	10

Increase in employment income at annual assessment

25% of participants increase employment income at annual assessment	5
Any increase of employment income at annual assessment	2
Category Total	5

Increase in employment income at exit

25% had an increase of employment income at exit	5
Any increase of employment income at exit	2
Category Total	5

Increase in non-employment income at annual assessment

25% of participants increase non-employment income	5
Any increase in non-employment income	2
Category Total	5

Increase in non-employment income at exit

25% of participants increase non-employment income at exit	5
Any increase in non-employment income	2
Category Total	5

Exits to permanent housing

70% of exits are to permanent housing	5
50% of exits are to permanent housing	2
Category Total	5

Data quality

Missing data at 0%	3
Missing data at 5%	1
Category Total	3

Number of households served in accordance with application

Number of households served meets or exceeds the number indicated in the application	5
Category Total	5

Populations Served

Project is 100% Dedicated to Chronic Homelessness	10
Category Total	10

Project offers on-site substance use treatment

Yes - Name of treatment provider must be included for points	5
Category Total	5

Services required for participation in project

Participation agreement or equivalent document attached as evidence in line with 24 CFR 578.75(h).	10
--	----

Services focused on PH

Narrative outlines how the types of supportive services and assistance that will be offered to the program participants to ensure they are able to successfully obtain and retain permanent housing and in a manner that fits their needs (e.g. transportation, safety planning, enhanced case management)	7
Category Total	17

Financial

Project demonstrates sufficient and eligible match of at least 25%	3
Project is supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, SNAP, childcare, and/or workforce development (Narrative)	7

Project fully expended APR

Yes	10
-----	----

Per unit cost is at or below FMR

Average cost per household is reasonable and consistent with CFR 200.404 (Yes/No)	5
Category Total	25

Total Points

100

Criteria: Coordinated Entry (CE) Renewal

Data quality

Missing data at 0%	7
Missing data at 5%	5
Improvement over previous APR	1
Category Total	8

Populations Served

Project is dedicated to DV (Yes/No)	2
Category Total	2

Project Capacity

Project fully expended grant funds per most recently submitted APR (Yes/No)	25
Most recently due APR was submitted on or before the deadline (Yes/No)	15
Category Total	40

COC Support

Project describes how coordinated entry is easily available and reachable for all persons within the CoC's geographic area (Narrative)	10
Project describes how coordinated entry is accessible for persons with disabilities in the CoC (Narrative)	10
Project outlines strategy for advertising coordinated entry that is designed to reach households experiencing homelessness with the highest needs (Narrative)	10
Project uses and describes a standardized assessment process approved by the CoC (Narrative)	10
Project describes how it ensures that program participants are directed to appropriate housing services that fit their needs (Narrative)	10
Category Total	50

Total Points 100

Criteria: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS Renewal)

Project fully expended APR

Yes	20
Category Total	20

COC Support

How the HMIS funds will be expended in a way that furthers the CoC's HMIS implementation and ability to use HMIS as a proactive case management tool to promote treatment and recovery.	20
The HMIS collects all Universal Data Elements as set forth in the HMIS Data Standards. (Yes/No)	20
The ability of the HMIS to un- duplicate client records. (Yes/No)	20
The HMIS produces all HUD- required reports and provides data as needed for HUD reporting (e.g., APR, quarterly reports, data for CAPER/ESG reporting) and other reports required by other federal partners. (Yes/No)	20
Category Total	80

Total Points 100

New Projects

New projects that met the eligibility and quality thresholds will be scored using the following criteria and maximum point values. Due to limited availability of CoC and DV bonus funds, new projects will be scored against each other to determine the order in which new project(s) will be included in the ranking based on funding availability.

Maximum point values will only be awarded if applicant fully responds to all parts of each rating criteria. Partial point values will be awarded if applicant effectively responds to parts of each rating criteria. Project information for scoring will be obtained through the project's application information and narrative responses.

Criteria: Transitional Housing (TH) New

Project Type (Bonus Points)

Project is changing component type to TH either through transition or reallocation (Yes/No)	8
---	---

Category Total	8
----------------	---

Project Description

Demonstrates need for the project and how it will assist in reducing homelessness within the CoC	8
--	---

Project demonstrates a plan to exit at least 50% of households to permanent housing in 24 months (Narrative)	5
--	---

Project demonstrates a plan to exit at least 50% of participants with employment income in 24 months (Narrative)	5
--	---

Category Total	18
----------------	----

Supportive Services

Project will require supportive services participation agreement that is in alignment with 24 CFR 578.75(h) (Yes/No) Attachment of agreement is required.	20
---	----

Describes how the project will provide or partner to provide eligible supportive services to program participants to obtain and maintain housing (Narrative)	10
--	----

Project has outlined how it will provide 20 hours per week of individualized services with a tiered approach for those employed, and excludes for participants with a qualifying developmental disability (24 CFR 578.3), physical disability (24 CFR 8.3), or age 62+ (Narrative)	15
--	----

Project will have substance use treatment available on-site. Name of treatment provider must be included for points (Yes/No)	12
--	----

Category Total	57
----------------	----

Financial

Project application lists sufficient and eligible match of at least 25% (Yes/No)	5
--	---

Average cost per household is reasonable and consistent with CFR 200.404 (Yes/No)	5
---	---

Category Total	10
----------------	----

Prior Experience/Capacity

Applicant has prior experience operating a transitional housing or similar housing project type for individuals experiencing homelessness (Yes/No)	10
--	----

Applicant demonstrates capacity in application to operate the proposed project such as sufficient staffing, organizational procedures, and financial management (Narrative)	5
---	---

Category Total	15
----------------	----

Total Points	100
---------------------	------------

Criteria: Supportive Services Only - Street Outreach (SSO-SO) New

Project Description

Project has a plan to provide services to those with histories of unsheltered homelessness (Narrative)	8
Project has a plan to provide services to those that do not traditionally engage (Narrative)	8
Project outlines a plan to help people successfully exit from places not meant for human habitation to emergency shelter, treatment programs, transitional housing, or permanent housing programs (Narrative)	8
Project demonstrates that it has a history of partnering with first responders and law enforcement to engage people living in places not meant for human habitation and has a plan in place to continue partnership through this project (Narrative)	10

Category Total	34
----------------	----

Financial

Project application lists sufficient and eligible match of at least 25% (Yes/No)	5
Application describes how the project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP (Narrative)	6
Average cost per household served for the project is reasonable based on 2 CFR 200.404 based on submitted budget/anticipated households served in application (Yes/No)	9

Category Total	20
----------------	----

Populations Served (Yes/No)

Project will have trained staff to serve households with medical frailty	4
Project will have trained staff to serve households with behavioral health concerns	4
Project will have trained staff to serve households with substance use	4
Project will prioritize seniors (age 55+)	4

Category Total	16
----------------	----

Prior Experience/Capacity

Applicant has prior experience providing outreach services (Yes/No)	20
Applicant demonstrates capacity in application to operate the proposed project such as sufficient staffing, organizational procedures, and financial management (Narrative)	10

Category Total	30
----------------	----

Total Points	100
---------------------	------------

Criteria: Supportive Services Only (SSO) Standalone New

Project Description

Project describes how it is necessary to assist people in exiting homelessness (Narrative)	10
Project describes how it will address barriers to stable housing (ex. Substance use disorder, unemployment, childcare, etc.) and increase self-sufficiency (Narrative)	9
Project describes its strategy for providing supportive services to eligible program participants including those with histories of unsheltered homelessness and those who do not traditionally engage with supportive services (Narrative)	9
Project will conduct annual assessment of service needs (Yes/No)	6

Category Total	34
----------------	----

Financial

Project application lists sufficient and eligible match of at least 25% (Yes/No)	5
Project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare/Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP (Narrative)	6
The average cost per household served for the project is reasonable based on 2 CFR 200.404 based on budget/proposed households served in application (Yes/No)	9
Category Total	20
Populations Served (Yes/No)	
Project will have staff trained to serve households with medical frailty	4
Project will have staff trained to serve households with behavioral health concerns	4
Project will have staff trained to serve households with substance use	4
Project will prioritize seniors (age 55+)	4
Category Total	16
Prior Experience/Capacity	
Applicant has prior experience providing supportive services as requested in this application to households experiencing homelessness (Yes/No)	20
Applicant demonstrates capacity in application to operate the proposed project such as sufficient staffing, organizational procedures, and financial management (Narrative)	10
Category Total	30
Total Points	100

Criteria: Supportive Services Only Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE) New

Project Description

Describes the need for the project and how it will expand or enhance CE services for households experiencing unsheltered homelessness for the CoC's geographic area (Narrative)	16
Describes how the CE system will be easily accessible and reachable for all persons within the CoC's geographic area, including persons with disabilities, who are seeking homelessness assistance (Narrative)	8
Describes the project's strategy for advertising that is designed specifically to reach households experiencing homelessness with the highest needs (Narrative)	8
The project has a standardized assessment process (Yes/No)	10
Describes how the project will ensure program participants are directed to appropriate housing and services that fit their needs (Narrative)	8
Category Total	50

Financial

Project application lists sufficient and eligible match of at least 25% (Yes/No)	10
Category Total	10
Prior Experience/Capacity	
Applicant has prior experience providing coordinated entry services (Yes/No)	30
Applicant demonstrates capacity in application to operate the proposed project such as sufficient staffing, organizational procedures, and financial management (Narrative)	10
Category Total	40
Total Points	100

Criteria: Rapid Rehousing (RRH) New Expansion

Project Description

Describes the need for the project and how it will expand or enhance the RRH project (Narrative)	15
Proposed Population - Expansion Project is dedicated to DV or families with children (Yes/No)	10
Category Total	25

Project Performance

At least 50% of program participants have exited to permanent housing within 24 months based on most recent APR (Yes/No)	10
At least 50% of program participants have exited with employment income based on most recent APR (Yes/No)	8
Data quality - Missing data at or below 5% based on most recent APR (Yes/No)	7
Category Total	25

Services required for participation in project

Participation agreement or equivalent document attached as evidence and is in line with 24 CFR 578.75(h) (Yes/No)	15
Narrative outlines the type of supportive services and assistance that will be offered to program participants that will ensure the participant is able to successfully obtain self-sufficiency and exit homelessness. (Narrative)	12
Category Total	27

Financial

Project demonstrates sufficient and eligible match of at least 25% (Yes/No)	3
Project is supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, SNAP, childcare, and/or workforce development (Narrative)	5
The average cost per household served for the project is reasonable and consistent with 2 CFR 200.404 (Yes/No)	5

Project fully expended most recent grant per APR

Yes	10
Category Total	23

Total Points

100

Project Applicant Ranking

Once each new and renewal project is scored, the CoC Collaborative Applicant as well as the CoC Executive Committee will review the scores and rank each application for the CoC Priority Listing. The CoC Executive Committee membership includes an individual with lived experience within the CoC Competition process.

At this meeting, the Executive Committee will review renewal scores and determine whether any renewal projects should be reallocated to new projects based on performance and system needs based on the CoC's approved Process for Reallocation Guidance. If no renewal projects are determined to be reallocated through either involuntary or voluntary reallocation, the renewal projects will be ranked based on scores in Tier 1 and Tier 2. New projects will be ranked in Tier 2 based on scores and bonus type until no bonus fund amounts remain. Any new projects that are not ranked due to funding availability will be rejected.

Once this review and scoring is completed, the CoC Executive Committee will vote to approve the proposed project ranking. Once the vote is complete, the CoC Collaborative Applicant will notify via email all applicants 15 days before the competition deadline of whether their project was accepted, rejected, or reduced as well as be provided a copy of their final project score and the reasoning for rejection or reduction. The final Priority Listing and CoC Consolidated Application, including the CoC Application with attachments and a list of all project applications the CoC accepted and ranked or rejected will be posted to the CoC's website at least 2 days before the application deadline.