

## Summit County Continuum of Care (OH-506)

# **FY 2026 HUD CoC NOFO – Provider Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Is my renewal project going to lose funding?**

At this time, there is no automatic loss of funding for existing renewal projects.

However, all renewal projects must participate in the Summit County CoC's local competition and be reviewed through the Rank & Review process. HUD funding remains competitive, and projects will be evaluated based on the requirements of the FY 2026 CoC NOFO and the CoC's locally approved ranking criteria.

The FY 2026 NOFO includes a Tier 1 funding level of at least 60% of the CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD), providing a level of protection for existing renewal projects. However, the CoC must strategically rank all projects to maximize the community's competitiveness.

### **2. What does the 60% Tier 1 funding level mean?**

Tier 1 represents the portion of a CoC's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) that receives the greatest level of funding protection.

The increase to a minimum of 60% of ARD means a larger portion of renewal funding receives protection compared to the earlier proposed framework. However, Tier 1 is not a guarantee of funding for any individual project, and the CoC must still determine how to rank projects within the available tiers.

### **3. Will the Summit County CoC reallocate or reduce existing projects?**

Possibly.

The CoC has a responsibility to evaluate whether existing resources are being used effectively to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Summit County.

Factors that may be considered include:

- Project performance and outcomes
- Grant expenditure and utilization rates
- HMIS data quality and timeliness
- Compliance with HUD requirements
- Fiscal and administrative capacity
- Participation in Coordinated Entry and CoC activities
- Alignment with FY 2026 NOFO priorities and community needs

No decisions regarding reallocation or project reductions will be made outside of the established local competition process.

### **4. Can my agency submit a new project application?**

Potentially.

The CoC will review opportunities for new projects based on HUD eligibility, available funding, and the strategic needs of the Summit County homeless response system.

Organizations interested in proposing a new project should communicate with the CoC early in the process so that eligibility, feasibility, and alignment with community priorities can be discussed.

## **5. What types of projects may be competitive under the FY 2026 NOFO?**

The FY 2026 NOFO reflects changes in federal priorities, including increased opportunities for certain project types. Providers should review the NOFO carefully and discuss proposed projects with the CoC.

The CoC will consider:

- Demonstrated community need
- Ability to rapidly implement the project
- Provider capacity and experience
- Expected outcomes and impact
- Alignment with HUD's FY 2026 NOFO priorities

## **6. How will projects be ranked locally?**

The Summit County CoC's Rank & Review Committee will conduct an objective review of all submitted project applications using the locally approved competition process.

The process will include:

- A review of project applications and supporting documentation
- Scoring based on approved criteria
- Consideration of HUD requirements and available funding
- A transparent process for notification and appeals

The goal is to submit the strongest possible CoC Consolidated Application to HUD while ensuring fairness and accountability.

## **7. What should agencies be doing right now?**

Providers should begin preparing immediately by reviewing:

### **Program Performance**

- Housing outcomes
- Length of time participants remain homeless before housing
- Returns to homelessness
- Service utilization and participant engagement

## HMIS Data Quality

- Missing data

- Data accuracy
- Timeliness of entry
- Data quality reports

## Financial Management

- Spending rates and drawdowns
- Match documentation
- Budget management
- Ability to fully expend funds

## Compliance

- Participant files and eligibility documentation
- Record retention
- Monitoring findings or corrective actions

## 8. What are the biggest risks to a project's competitiveness?

Common concerns that may impact a project's competitiveness include:

- Poor or declining performance outcomes
- Low expenditure rates or significant unspent funds
- HMIS data quality concerns
- Failure to comply with HUD requirements
- Unresolved monitoring findings
- Lack of participation in the CoC's coordinated homeless response system

## 9. What information will the CoC request from providers?

The local competition package may require agencies to submit information related to:

- Project narratives
- Performance outcomes
- HMIS data
- Financial performance
- Compliance history
- Grant utilization
- Agency capacity and staffing

The CoC will provide all application materials, instructions, and deadlines through

the official local competition process.

## 10. What are the local timelines?

The Summit County CoC will publish the local competition schedule, including:

- Release of local application materials
- Provider information sessions
- Submission deadlines
- Rank & Review meetings
- Appeals period
- Final Board approval of project rankings

Providers are strongly encouraged to meet all deadlines, as the CoC has a limited timeframe to prepare and submit the HUD Consolidated Application.

## 11. What is the CoC's message to providers?

The FY 2026 HUD CoC NOFO represents one of the most significant shifts in recent years. While changes at the federal level create uncertainty, our collective mission remains unchanged: ensuring that people experiencing homelessness in Summit County have access to safe housing, effective services, and opportunities for long-term stability.

The Summit County CoC is committed to a fair, transparent, and data-informed local competition. We will continue to communicate openly with providers, offer technical assistance, and work collaboratively to submit the strongest possible application to HUD.