



Funding Analysis

# HUD Youth Homelessness NOFO for FY2024 and FY2025

June 2026

# Analysis: HUD Youth Homelessness NOFO for FY2024 and FY2025

**Funding Announcement:** [Youth Homelessness NOFO for FY2024 and FY2025](#)

- **Deadline for Modified Youth Homelessness Registration for Geographic Area in e-snaps:** Before July 8, 2026 (within four weeks of the publication of this NOFO on June 10, 2026, see NOFO pg. 23-24)
- **Application Deadline:** August 10, 2026 by 11:59pm ET

## Analysis Overview

This document contains an overview and analysis of HUD's Youth Homelessness funding announcement. It was prepared by Youth Collaboratory, who has expertise in federal funding and program implementation. The goal of this document is to provide a comparison of this funding opportunity to past versions, as well as highlight new program requirements for applicants to be aware of as they develop their applications.

Disclaimer: We have developed this analysis based on our professional opinions and experience with federal funding. How you use this analysis and interpret this funding announcement's implications on your applications is ultimately up to you. Youth Collaboratory does not have decision-making authority in the final award process.

## Application Considerations

*Below are items to clarify early in your proposal development process to confirm you can fully meet the requirements, if applicable.*

- **Eligibility:** Applications for YHSI and YHDP funds can come from communities that consist of CoC or non-CoC entities and can cover part or all the geographic area covered by a CoC, span multiple CoCs, or be a state-wide community. A community can include Tribal formula areas, as defined in the Indian Housing Block Grant program at 24 CFR 1000.302, which includes trust lands and reservations, as part of or the entirety of the community. (NOFO, pg. 10) See full list of Eligible Entity Types on NOFO pg. 9.
- **Youth Involvement with Application Development:** Applicants can receive up to 8 points if they describe how and can certify that at least two youth with lived experience were consulted and meaningfully participated in the development of this application. (NOFO, pg. 27)
- **4-Week Timeline to Submit Geographic Area:** Applicants must select a geographic area the YHSI or the YHDP (or the YHSI and the YHDP if applying for both) will cover. Applicants applying for both YHSI and YHDP may choose different geographic areas for each application; however, the YHSI application must cover at least the entire geographic area requested for the YHDP. (NOFO, pg. 17) Applicants must submit a modified Youth Homelessness registration for your community in e-snaps. The registration must be completed and submitted within four weeks of the publication of the NOFO (on or about July 8, 2026) (NOFO, pgs. 23-24).
- **YHSI Community Selection:** If an application requests both YHDP and YHSI funds, the YHSI portion may cover the same or a larger geographic area than applied for in the YHDP portion of the application. HUD will consider applications covering geography included in a current YHSI

community provided that the recipient can demonstrate that the additional funds will be for new YHSI activities. The applicant must submit a description of how the proposed YHSI activities are different than the activities under the previous YHSI award. (NOFO, pg. 11)

- **Inconsistencies with YHDP Geographic/Community Selection:** HUD will not award more than one YHDP community designation to any geographic area except for applications that cover the entire geography of a state, in which case HUD may select the state as a YHDP community and... (NOFO, pg. 11):
  - ...up to one other YHDP community within the state. (NOFO, pg. 11)
  - ...up to two other YHDP communities within the state, provided that those two communities do not have overlapping geography. (NOFO, pg. 39)
- **YHDP Rural Communities Bonus Mentions Only Collaborative Applicants:** Community Applicants (or Non-CoC Collaborative Applicants) are eligible to apply for funding under this NOFO. (NOFO, pg. 9-10) Despite this, the Bonus section (NOFO, pgs. 35-36), refers only to Collaborative Applicants receiving points.
- **No Listed Narrative Formatting and Page Length:** The funding announcement does not include a page length maximum or formatting requirements (font style or size, spacing, or margins) for the required narrative. Below are the requirements from previous YHDP and YHSI NOFOs:
  - **2024 YHDP NOFO:** 25 pages maximum length of narrative (responding to thresholds, rating factors, and other criteria); double-spaced, 8.5 x 11-inch paper; 1-inch margins; 12-point Times New Roman font. (2024 YHDP NOFO, pgs. 30-31)
  - **2024 YHSI NOFO:** 25 pages maximum length of narrative (Rating Factor Narrative, not including required attachments); double-spaced, 8.5 x 11-inch paper; 1-inch margins; 12-point Times New Roman font. (2024 YHSI NOFO, pg. 20)
- **Cost Sharing or Matching:** YHSI has no cost sharing or matching requirement. YHDP applicants must detail their anticipated cost sharing, matching or leveraging according to 24 CFR 578.73, except otherwise mentioned in Appendix II of the funding announcement. (NOFO, pg. 12).
  - The recipient or subrecipient must match all grant funds, except for leasing funds, with no less than 25 percent of funds or in-kind contributions from other sources. For Continuum of Care geographic areas in which there is more than one grant agreement, the 25 percent match must be provided on a grant-by-grant basis. Recipients that are UFAs or are the sole recipient for their Continuum, may provide match on a Continuum-wide basis. ([24 CFR 578.73](#))

## **NOFO Noted Changes Between this NOFO and Previous Versions**

See NOFO pgs. 16-17.

### **Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI)**

- HUD will award approximately \$1 million for each funded YHSI application rather than awarding different amounts based on community requests.
- HUD updated the funding categories and eligible activities to reflect promising practices from current YHSI Recipients and Administration priorities, including data sharing between youth

providers and creating partnerships with education and employment services to increase self-sufficiency.

### Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

- In order to expand the applicant pool, HUD is broadening eligible applicants for YHDP community selection to include any jurisdiction within a State, including Continuums of Care (CoCs); State, county or city governments; state-wide organizations; multi-jurisdictional entities, provided they are eligible organizations; and metropolitan planning organizations, provided they are eligible applicants.
- In order to advance self-sufficiency, the eligible YHDP project components awarded under this NOFO are Transitional Housing (including crisis residential housing and shared housing), Supportive Services Only, Supportive Services Only- Coordinated Entry, HMIS, and Planning Grants. See Appendix II for further information.
- In order to streamline requirements on communities and expedite the process for communities to utilize the YHDP funding, HUD is removing the requirement for communities to create a Coordinated Community Plan and to have a Youth Action Board.
- Recipients of YHDP community designations in the FY2016-FY2021 YHDP competitions are eligible to apply for an additional YHDP community designation under this NOFO.
- This NOFO includes an additional Appendix that lists relevant definitions; as a result, the YHDP appendix that outlines YHDP project requirements that was formerly labeled Appendix A is now labeled Appendix II.
- Subject to HUD approval, YHDP designated communities may select project recipients to administer multiple YHDP projects under one grant agreement. These selected project recipients are known as Consolidated YHDP Project Recipients. See Section II.2 of Appendix I and Appendix II for further information.

## **Other Changes Between this NOFO and Previous Versions**

See [FY2023 YHDP NOFO](#) & [FY2023 YHSI NOFO](#)

- Community Applicants (non-Continuum of Care Applicants) are eligible to apply directly for YHDP (NOFO, pgs. 9-11)
- Goals and objectives for YHDP and YHSI are different (NOFO pgs. 6, 14-15)
- YHDP de-emphasizes Housing First as a best practice and gives preference to transitional housing efforts (NOFO, pg. 14)
- Changes to YHSI and YHDP eligible activities and project types (NOFO, pg. 18-19)
- Emphasis on transitional housing over permanent supportive housing (PSH) and rapid re-housing (RRH) (neither are eligible activities) (NOFO, pgs. 19)
- Requirements to participate in services such as case management and job training as a condition of housing assistance (NOFO, pgs. 19, 64)
- No requirements for collaborating with Youth Action Boards (YABs) or compensating youth in YHSI and YHDP (NOFO, pgs. 17, 27-28)
- No requirement for the development of a Coordinated Community Plan in YHDP (NOFO, pg. 17)

- New Administrative, National and Departmental Policy Requirements, and General Terms and Conditions. Among other things, this includes Presidential Executive Orders and statements indicating that awards cannot be used to:
  - engage in racial discrimination, including racial preferences;
  - violate or interfere with protections for speech and religious beliefs and the exercise of religion; and,
  - operate “safe consumption sites”
  - It also indicates that agreements and contracts with subrecipients must contain the same terms and conditions of those in the grant agreement issued by HUD (NOFO, pgs. 47-19)
- New requirements around cooperation with first responders (NOFO, pg. 29)
- Must identify local laws, policies, or other practices that help or hinder the community applicant's ability to advance the objectives:
  - clearing tent and encampments on public property;
  - decreasing use of illicit drugs in public spaces;
  - involuntary commitment; and
  - sharing information in accordance with the Sex Offender Registry and Notification Act (SORNA). (NOFO, pgs. 29-30)
- Through a Consolidated YHDP Project Recipient, eligible applicants may apply for two or more projects as long as the total amount of funding does not exceed the total YHDP award for the YHDP community. YHDP communities may have multiple Consolidated YHDP Project Recipients. Because the single grant agreement will cover multiple YHDP projects, shifts of funding may be made across the multiple projects covered under the consolidated YHDP project grant agreement. (NOFO, pg. 59)
- YHDP planning grants may only be awarded to Collaborative Applicants or their designee. Non-CoC YHDP community applicants are ineligible to receive planning grants. (NOFO, pg. 70)
- New YHDP application requirement to include a Priority Listing (NOFO, pgs. 15, 33, 34, 43-44, 62, 64-65)
- Project applicants are encouraged to consider the following project designs when applying for YHDP projects if the housing addresses a need identified by the YHDP Community Recipient:
  1. Housing Projects with Service Participation Agreements. Housing-related projects are encouraged to require program participants to take part in supportive services that are not disability-related services.
  2. Projects that Serve Specific Subpopulations. Project Applicants may submit projects that exclusively serve a particular homeless subpopulation in transitional housing if the housing meets one of the following:
    - a. Projects may limit admission to or provide a preference for the housing to subpopulations of homeless persons and families who need the specialized supportive services that are provided in the housing (e.g., substance abuse addiction treatment, domestic violence services, or a high intensity package designed to meet the needs of hard-to-reach homeless

persons) so long as admission does not discriminate against any protected class under federal nondiscrimination laws in 24 CFR 5.105.

- b. Projects may limit housing to families with children.
  - c. Projects that promote recovery through sober living are encouraged. Sober housing may exclude youth who refuse to sign an occupancy agreement or lease that prohibits program participants from possessing, using, or being under the influence of illegal substances and/or alcohol on the premises.
  - d. Housing-related projects are encouraged to limit housing to one sex when it consists of a single structure with shared bedrooms or bathing facilities such that it is appropriate to do so for safety and privacy considerations. (NOFO, pg. 64)
- Faith-based organizations may also hire, fire, and make other employment decisions on the basis of their sincerely held religious beliefs, including requiring employees to adhere to religious tenets, practices, and standards of conduct, without jeopardizing their eligibility to receive HUD funds, consistent with applicable law (NOFO, pg. 9)

## Programs' Goals and Objectives

See NOFO pgs. 6, 14-15.

The NOFO provides competitive awards to eligible applicants under two different programs:

- Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI)
- Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)

The goal of YHSI is to support communities in establishing and implementing a response system for youth homelessness, or for improving their existing system.

The goal of YHDP is to implement projects to how a comprehensive approach to serving homeless youth can dramatically reduce youth homelessness.

To promote the purposes of YHSI and YHDP, the goals and objectives specific to this NOFO include:

- Prevent and end youth homelessness. YHSI and YHDP provide funding, regulatory flexibility, and technical assistance to help communities develop effective youth homeless response systems and make youth homelessness rare and, if it occurs, brief and non-recurring.
- Facilitate self-sufficiency. YHSI and YHDP emphasize the importance of creating interventions that help youth establish independent, sustainable lives for themselves and, if applicable, their children. According to a 2025 report from the National Runaway Safeline, homeless youth were more likely to be facing economic challenges, substance use, and human trafficking than those at imminent risk of homelessness (August 2025, Youth Homelessness Prevention Report.) HUD expects communities funded under this NOFO to design systems or create projects that prioritize youth self-sufficiency through education, employment, and behavioral health supports
- Innovate and expand capacity. YHSI and YHDP funds along with technical assistance will expand community capacity to serve homeless youth, pilot new models of assistance, and determine effective interventions.

- Reduce trauma and provide safety. According to the report from the National Runaway Safeline, youth experiencing or at-risk of homelessness face high rates of human trafficking, and report crisis intervention needs related to emotional abuse, physical abuse, substance use, juvenile crime, and sexual abuse. It is critical that community efforts to reduce youth homelessness are equipped to address these needs through partnerships with domestic violence and trafficking agencies, local law enforcement, and substance abuse treatment organizations; coordinating or creating safe housing and service environments; and reducing unsafe public camping and drug use conditions.

## Funding & Award Overview

See NOFO pgs. 5-7, 12, 16

Total funding available through the Youth Homelessness NOFO is \$193,000,000, for an estimated 73 awards, this includes:

- \$24,051,467 of FY2024 YHSI funds
- \$25,000,000 of FY2025 YHSI funds
- \$72,000,000 of FY2024 YHDP funds
- \$72,000,000 of FY2025 YHDP funds

### YHSI Grants

HUD will make awards to selected communities to support them in establishing and implementing a response system for youth homelessness or for improving their existing response system. HUD will select approximately 49 communities for YHSI grants. YHSI grants will be approximately \$1,000,000 per grant for a non-renewable term of 30 months.

YHSI funds do not require cost sharing or matching.

### YHDP Grants

HUD will provide funding to communities to implement housing and supportive services projects. HUD anticipates selecting between 24 and 50 communities, with a priority for communities with substantial rural populations in up to 16 locations. YHDP awards will be between \$500,000 to \$15,000,000 for an initial term of 24-30 months.

YHDP project recipients must meet cost sharing or matching requirements as described in the regulation at 24 CFR 578.73, except as otherwise provided in Appendix II, I.C.1.b.4 and I.C.1.b.5.

- 578.73 Matching Requirements: The recipient or subrecipient must match all grant funds, except for leasing funds, with no less than 25 percent of funds or in-kind contributions from other sources. For Continuum of Care geographic areas in which there is more than one grant agreement, the 25 percent match must be provided on a grant-by-grant basis. Recipients that are UFAs or are the sole recipient for their Continuum, may provide match on a Continuum-wide basis. [Learn more.](#)

### Unallowable Costs

Applicants for YHSI and YHDP community selection must certify that they will not operate drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites," knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia on or off of property under their control, permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conduct any of these activities under the pretext of "harm reduction." YHSI funds may not be used to provide housing or

direct services to youth. HUD will reject applications that list housing and/or housing services as proposed activities.

## Eligibility

See NOFO pgs. 9-11.

Applications for YHSI and YHDP funds can come from communities that consist of CoC or non-CoC entities and can cover part or all the geographic area covered by a CoC, span multiple CoCs, or be a state-wide community. A community can include Tribal formula areas, as defined in the Indian Housing Block Grant program at 24 CFR 1000.302, which includes trust lands and reservations, as part of or the entirety of the community.

If an application requests both YHDP and YHSI funds, the YHSI portion may cover the same or a larger geographic area than applied for in the YHDP portion of the application.

### Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Community Selection

HUD will consider applications covering geography included in a current YHSI community provided that the recipient can demonstrate that the additional funds will be for new YHSI activities. YHSI applications that include requests for funding related to Coordinated Entry or HMIS must include letters of commitment from the Collaborative Applicant or other managing entity of the Coordinated Entry system, or Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) lead of any CoC included in the geographic area included in the application, respectively.

YHSI applications are not restricted to Collaborative Applicants.

### Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Community Selection

HUD will not award more than one YHDP community designation to any geographic area except for applications that cover the entire geography of a state, in which case HUD may select the state as a YHDP community and up to one other YHDP community within the state.

Applications for YHDP community designation from non-CoC entities, including Tribes or groups of Tribes, State-wide entities, or multijurisdictional organizations, do not need to be submitted by a Collaborative Applicant. HUD encourages non-CoC entities applying for YHDP Community designation to coordinate with the Collaborative Applicant in their geographic area, as YHDP projects funded under this NOFO may be eligible to renew under the CoC in future CoC competitions.

Applications from CoCs must be from the Collaborative Applicants designated by their local CoC and registered through the most recent CoC Program Registration process. Additionally, multiple CoCs may collaborate to submit a single application for YHDP community designation provided that one Collaborative Applicant is designated as the lead applicant. Applications covering geography in multiple CoCs must include a letter of commitment from each CoC in the application's geography and the lead applicant must commit to integrating youth leadership with representation from each CoC in YHDP project implementation.

HUD will consider YHDP applications from communities that received a YHDP community designation under the Fiscal Years (FY) 2016-2021 YHDP competitions.

All applicants for YHDP community designation, while not required to be a CoC or a member of a CoC, must indicate the geographic area served by each project submitted on the priority list. This information will be used by HUD to determine which CoC the project may be eligible to renew under in future CoC competitions. A Tribe or group of Tribes may indicate their intention to form a CoC and be registered in the CoC competition the year the YHDP projects are eligible for renewal.

## Other Grant Requirements

See *NOFO* pgs. 17-19.

Applicants must select a geographic area the YHSI or the YHDP (or the YHSI and the YHDP if applying for both) will cover. Applicants applying for both YHSI and YHDP may choose different geographic areas for each application; however, the YHSI application must cover at least the entire geographic area requested for the YHDP. HUD requires applicants to select the geography included in the application through the e-snaps registration; see Section VI for additional information. Eligibility as a YHDP Rural Community will be determined based on the geographic areas designated by the community in the e-snaps registration; number of youth experiencing poverty will be verified using Federal census data.

### Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) grant requirements

1. YHSI community applicants must propose projects that establish and implement or improve an existing response system for youth homelessness. Eligible activities include:
  - Improving the capacity and increasing collaboration with youth in the community: Developing peer support models, including training, project design, and implementation; creating Youth Action Board training, including government rules, leadership, and other skills; community training and outreach on how to work with youth and integrate youth leadership into existing organizational structures.
  - Establishing partnerships: Bringing together youth-serving systems to develop identification and referral processes to prevent at-risk youth from falling into homelessness and quickly resolve homelessness episodes. This could include partnerships with Tribes, K-12 schools, higher education, juvenile justice, child welfare, and employment services.
  - Connecting housing and homelessness services providers to education, job training, and employment skills organizations.
  - Improving the centralized or coordinated assessment system also known as the Coordinated Entry Systems (CES).
  - Improving data collection and use between systems that work with at-risk and homeless youth, including program management, utilization, and evaluation.
2. YHSI grant recipients must complete each project funded under the grant by the end of the 30-month grant period. HUD may extend the grant term of a YHSI grant consistent with 2 CFR 200.308 and 2 CFR 200.309.
3. YHSI grant recipients must agree to submit biannual updates to the project plan submitted in Section V.B to ensure the grant is progressing at an acceptable rate. If a recipient fails to submit a biannual project plan update, funding obligated but not yet spent by the community may be rescinded. HUD reserves the right to review and require changes to the proposed updates to the

project plan, including proposed dates and deliverables. The project plan must include the following required elements:

- Activities undertaken in the project, including dates and critical organizations/partners in the work.
- A list and description of deliverables that will be produced, including the estimated completion date.

#### Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) requirements

Through this NOFO, HUD will select YHDP designated communities and determine award amounts available to each community consistent with the Selection Process found in Section V.D. YHDP community applicants that are also Collaborative Applicants are eligible to apply for YHDP Planning Grants. YHDP community applicants must include as part of their community application a priority listing of project applications.

HUD will only fund the following project types under YHDP:

- a. Transitional Housing (TH), including Crisis Residential Housing and Shared Housing
- b. Supportive Services Only (SSO), including, but not limited to, projects dedicated to coordinated entry; Host Homes and Kinship Care; housing search and placement services; case management; supportive services connected with Foster Youth to Independence vouchers; or street outreach
- c. SSO-Coordinated Entry (SSO-CE)
- d. HMIS
- e. Planning

Applicants awarded under this NOFO must protect youth safety by not allowing registered sex offenders or individuals with violent criminal records to live in site-based housing projects with youth under 18, except in justice system re-entry programs.

Planning costs are non-renewable in future CoC competitions, but all other costs may be renewable after the initial grant term. Selected YHDP Communities that are not Collaborative Applicants are not eligible to apply for planning grants; however, they may apply for YHSI funds under the Youth NOFO to fund activities associated with establishing and implementing or improving a youth homelessness response system.

## **Threshold Review**

*NOFO, pg. 26*

When you apply: Your application is reviewed to make sure it meets the threshold requirements of this NOFO. If your application has a technical error, HUD will allow you to correct it. If you fail to meet any of the threshold requirements, your application is not eligible for HUD funding. If you do meet the threshold requirements, your application moves to Merit Review (the next step).

1. **Timely Application Submission:** Late applications are not evaluated and not eligible for funding. See deadlines in Section VI.
2. **Complete Application:** If your application is timely, HUD will confirm completeness. Your application is considered for funding if it is complete and responsive to the requirements in this NOFO. If your application is incomplete, HUD will ask you to fix any technical errors. Otherwise, incomplete and nonresponsive applications are not considered for funding.

3. Eligible Applicant: Upon receipt, HUD will confirm whether you are an eligible applicant. Applications from ineligible applicants do not proceed to merit review and are not eligible for HUD funding.
4. Applicants applying for YHSI funds in a geography that has already received YHSI must submit a description of how the proposed YHSI activities are different than the activities under the previous YHSI award. A list of previous YHSI awards is available at <https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/FY22-23-YHSI-awards.pdf>.
5. Applicants for YHSI and YHDP community selection must certify that they will not operate drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites," knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia on or off of property under their control, permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conduct any of these activities under the pretext of "harm reduction."

## Merit Review

NOFO, pgs. 26-36

If your application meets the threshold requirements, a panel will review and score its merits. The panel may include HUD employees and non-employees. They will evaluate your application based on the following criteria. The results of the evaluation are shared with senior HUD officials who make the final decisions about funding consistent with this NOFO.

### Merit Review Summary

The Rating factors for the Youth Homelessness NOFO are divided into three parts: General, YHSI, and YHDP. Applicants requesting only YHSI funds must respond to all questions in the General and YHSI rating factors but do not need to respond to the YHDP rating factors. Similarly, applicants requesting only YHDP funds must respond to all questions in the General and YHDP rating factors but do not need to respond to the YHSI rating factors. Applicants requesting both YHSI and YHDP funds must respond to all rating factor questions.

General Rating Factors Criteria	50 Points Possible
Youth Leadership	15 points
Community Connections	20 points
Building Safe Communities	15 Points

Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI)	50 Points Possible
Project Proposal	50 points

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP)	50 Points Possible
Community Coordination	40 points
System Planning and Data	10 points
Bonus: Rural Communities	10 points

## Rating Factors

Your application must include a response to the following criteria.

### General Rating Factors Criteria (50 Points)

Criteria for all applicants.

#### Youth Leadership (15 points)

1. Describe how the youth with lived experience were involved with the development of this application. To receive full points on this rating factor, applicants must certify that at least two youth with lived experience were consulted and meaningfully participated in the development of this application. (8 points)
2. Describe how young people with lived experience will be involved in the implementation and operation of the funded project. If applying for YHSI funds, describe the anticipated roles for youth in the proposed YHSI project. If applying for YHDP funds, describe the anticipated role in YHDP project design and implementation. If applying for both YHSI and YHDP funds, please describe the anticipated role for youth in both project types. To receive full points, applicants must demonstrate that youth have a leadership and decision-making role in the YHSI project and/or YHDP project design and implementation process. (7 points)

#### Community Connections (20 points)

1. Describe how your community will use funds awarded through this NOFO to address the social and emotional well-being of youth, incorporating approaches such as the positive youth development and trauma-informed care models. To receive full points for this rating factor, applicants must include at least one strategy that both acknowledges the impact of difficult life experiences on youth development while emphasizing the development of self-sufficiency, personal responsibility, resilience-building, and character development. (7 points)
2. Describe at least two strategies your community will implement with YHDP and/or YHSI funds to promote economic independence and prevent long-term dependency on social services. (7 points)
3. Describe how you will use YHSI and/or YHDP funds to help build connections between at-risk youth and school, life skills training, job attainment skills, or employment opportunities. (6 points)

#### Building Safe Communities (15 points)

1. Demonstrate, by providing evidence, that the community applicant cooperates and does not interfere with or impede local efforts to advance the objectives below, and assists first responders in providing services to homeless youth. (3 points)
2. Identify local laws, policies, or other practices that help or hinder the community applicant's ability to advance the objectives below. To receive full points, community applicants must provide a plan explaining how they will leverage beneficial policies while overcoming the harmful effects of restrictive ones. If you cannot provide any mitigating steps, please explain why. Include qualitative and quantitative details in your response.
  - a. Quickly clears tents and encampments on public property and connects youth who are camping in public with appropriate services. In your response, describe the current status of tents and encampments in the geographic area.

- b. Decrease the public use of illicit drugs and quickly connect homeless youth who are using illicit drugs in public with appropriate services and/or law enforcement. In your responses, describe the current status of overdoses and illicit drug use in public spaces in the geographic area.
- c. Utilize standards that address homeless youth who are a danger to themselves or others (e.g., involuntary commitment).
- d. Comprehensively share information, including location information, in accordance with the Sex Offender Registry and Notification Act (SORNA). (12 points)

The community applicant should maintain records reflecting the analysis performed in response to these rating criteria.

### **YHSI Criteria (50 points)**

*Criteria for YHSI applicants only.*

1. A YHSI project plan which includes a description of the proposed project, including a description of all proposed YHSI activities that are consistent with the eligible activities found in Section III.G of this NOFO, what persons or group are involved in implementing these activities, an estimated timeframe for the implementation of YHSI activities, and what deliverables will result from the YHSI activity. Responses should include a general goal statement for the YHSI project as well as specific YHSI activities. Deliverables must be concrete changes, products, or other tangible things that will come out of the proposed YHSI activities. (20 points)
2. The identified need(s) in the community that the proposed YHSI activities are seeking to address and how the proposed YHSI activities will address these needs. Identified need should be related to current system deficiencies, inefficiencies, or missed opportunities in the youth homeless response system. Maximum points will be awarded to responses that describe these systemic needs and how they will be addressed by the proposed project activities. (15 points)
3. Submit a project budget on form SF-424 CBW that outlines the anticipated costs of the YHSI project plan. In order to receive full points, the budget must comply with guidance outlined in Section III.G, reflect the YHSI activities outlined in the project plan, and have a reasonable justification for the need. (10 points)
4. If one or more project partners have received YHSI or YHDP funds in the past, how will this project build on the progress that was made to the youth homeless response system? If no partners have received YHSI or YHDP funds, please write n/a. (5 points- responses that indicate n/a will receive the full 5 points).

### **YHDP Criteria (50 points)**

*Criteria for YHDP applicants only.*

#### Community Coordination (40 points)

HUD will award up to 40 points to YHDP community applicants that can demonstrate how YHDP will be used as a comprehensive approach to serving homeless youth in their community.

1. Describe how the YHDP community applicant or partner organizations work with Public Housing Agencies (PHAs) or other affordable housing providers in the community. To receive full points, applicants must describe at least one initiative that targets PHA housing resources to youth (e.g. developing a Foster Youth to Independence program, being a party to a Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) with a PHA and public child welfare agency for the Family Unification Program (FUP)). (3 points)

2. Describe how the YHDP community applicant or partner organizations will work with long-term residential care facilities or permanent supportive housing providers to coordinate assistance for homeless youth with a disability that is expected to indefinitely prevent independent living or self-sufficiency. (3 points)
3. Describe how the YHDP community applicant or partner organizations work with education providers in the community. To receive full points, this response should include a specific initiative or effort that the community and at least one educational partner (K-12 schools, local community college or university) has collaborated on regarding youth and young adult homelessness. (4 points)
4. Describe what strategies your community implements to identify and assist youth experiencing or at risk of experiencing any form of trafficking, sexual exploitation or similar traumatic experiences. (4 points)
5. Describe what resources in your community, either currently operating or being planned under this or the CoC NOFO, are available to assist youth with substance use disorders. To receive full points, the response must include a description of sober living options for young people in the community. (3 points)
6. Describe how your community provides services and connects youth to appropriate crisis resources for substance use and mental health conditions, including crisis response services and mental health providers with expertise in treating youth. (3 points)
7. Describe a plan to promote participation in supportive services within housing projects. To receive full points on this rating factor, applicants must indicate that all transitional housing projects (excluding crisis residential transitional housing) have supportive service participation agreements with residents (e.g. case management, life skills, education services job training). Indicate that there is at least one project that requires participation in substance abuse treatment services as a condition of continued participation in the program because the purpose of the project is to provide treatment. Supportive service participation agreements must not be disability-related (i.e., mental health treatment, outpatient health services, provision of medication). (3 points)
8. Supportive services are critical to optimizing self-sufficiency and ensuring long-term housing stability and positive outcomes for youth. HUD expects YHDP communities to prioritize resources for the provision of supportive services. HUD will award points to communities that show that at least 20% of the total YHDP funds awarded, as indicated by the YHDP project budgets and excluding funds from planning and HMIS grants, are allocated to supportive services costs. (2 points)
9. Describe how projects on the YHDP priority listing serve specific youth subpopulations (i.e., pregnant or parenting youth, domestic violence survivors, youth with substance use disorder). To receive full points, demonstrate that at least three projects provide a preference for housing or services to subpopulations who need the specialized supportive services that are provided in the project (e.g., substance abuse treatment, domestic violence services). (4 points)
10. Describe your community's system for identifying eligible youth participants and referring them to the appropriate services. To receive full points on this rating factor, applicants must discuss how their screening and assessment tools identify:

- Pregnant or parenting youth
  - Youth exiting the foster care or justice systems
  - Labor or sexually exploited or trafficked youth
  - Youth in need of substance abuse or mental health services. (5 points)
11. Demonstrate how your community prioritizes family reunification and preservation. To receive full points on this rating factor, applicants must describe at least one strategy the community uses to encourage reunification whenever it is safe and possible, including family counseling and mediation services. (3 points)
12. Describe how projects included on the YHDP priority listing were selected for this application. To receive full points, applications must demonstrate that the recruitment and selection of project applications was a fair and open process. (3 points)

#### System Planning & Data (10 points)

**Please note that this section has two different sets of rating factors depending on whether the applicant is a previously awarded YHDP community recipient.** If the geography selected by the YHDP Community Applicant has not been included in a previous YHDP community or if the geography has been included in a previous YHDP award but the YHDP Community Applicant was not involved in the previous YHDP process, please respond to the first set of questions. If the YHDP Community Applicant is a previously awarded YHDP community recipient for the same geographic area included in the previous award, please respond to the second set of questions. HUD will award up to 10 points to applicants that can demonstrate the community is effectively using data for system planning.

#### *Criteria for Not Previously Awarded YHDP Community Recipients*

1. Describe at least one youth-focused intervention that is not currently operating in the community that the community wishes to pursue OR one intervention that could be improved and capacity increased. Include in your response the data (quantitative and/or qualitative) you used to identify this intervention and the barriers that currently prevent you from implementing or improving the intervention. (3 points)
2. Demonstrate how the community has used data to develop a strategy to prevent and end youth homelessness. These data can be related to the composition of the local population of homeless youth or the effectiveness of various interventions for serving homeless youth. (4 points)
3. Describe what strategies and data sources your community will use to measure self-sufficiency and stability outcomes including:
  - a. Long-term stability/no recidivism and safe and stable housing (may include longer-term residential treatment centers or facilities);
  - b. Education, employment, and income and career growth;
  - c. Permanent social connections; and
  - d. Social and emotional well-being. (3 points)

#### *Criteria for Previously Awarded YHDP Community Recipients*

1. Describe what strategies and data sources your community uses to measure self-sufficiency and stability outcomes including:

- a. Long-term stability/no recidivism and safe and stable housing (may include longer-term residential treatment centers or facilities);
  - b. Education, employment, and income and career growth;
  - c. Permanent social connections; and
  - d. Social and emotional well-being. (4 points)
2. Based on the most recent year of operation, what percentage of clients that exited YHDP projects:
    - a. Had a positive exit destination
    - b. Increased income
    - c. Had a positive school status (3 points)
  3. How will the community build on the progress that was made to the youth homeless response system through the original YHDP? What interventions are still needed? To receive full points, eligible previously awarded YHDP recipients must describe why additional YHDP funds are needed, why they were not implemented in the original YHDP, and how they will be connected to the original YHDP projects. (3 points)

**Bonus: Rural Communities (Bonus 10 points)**

*Criteria for YHDP applicants only.*

HUD will award 10 points to the sixteen highest ranking applications (using the General Criteria score and the score from the previous three rating factor categories in the YHDP criteria) where the Collaborative Applicant indicates in the application that it is requesting participation as a rural community and the geographic area covered by the application meets the rural definition found in Appendix 1 of this NOFO.

**Policy Initiative Preference Points**

*NOFO, pgs. 36-37*

Preference points are added to your overall application score. You do not need to address the policy initiatives in this section to receive an award. If you choose to address a policy initiative in your application, you must adhere to the information with any award. This NOFO supports the following policy initiatives, for which a maximum of fourteen (14) preference points may be awarded.

Opportunity Zones

You may receive up to four (4) points if your proposed activities are within an Opportunity Zone. To receive points, you must complete and submit form HUD-2996, Certification for Opportunity Zone Preference Points. If you expect to use less than 50% of the award in Opportunity Zones, you won't receive preference points.

Advancing Recovery by Prohibiting Illicit Drug Enablement

Apart from the required selection criteria, you may receive up to ten (10) points if you can provide the policy or statement the community applicant has in place to ensure that all housing projects submitted by the YHDP Community Applicant will not operate drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites," knowingly distribute drug paraphernalia on or off of property under their control, knowingly permit the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conduct, permit, encourage, or allow any of these activities under the pretext of "harm reduction."

None of the above constitute 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, although those practices may be allowable under 24 CFR 578. Full points will be awarded for a description of a clear policy or statement in addition to affirmative certifications in Section V.A for all housing projects submitted by the community applicant.

To receive full points, the policy or statement must:

1. Prohibit YHDP-funded housing projects from operating drug injection sites or "safe consumption sites," knowingly distributing drug paraphernalia on or off of property under their control, knowingly permitting the use or distribution of illicit drugs on property under their control, or conducting any of these activities under the pretext of "harm reduction;"
2. Describe what remedies will be taken for YHDP-funded housing projects determined to be in violation of the above;
3. Encourage the provision of substance-use disorder treatment and recovery housing; and
4. Not restrict or prohibit YHDP-funded housing projects that require program participants to be sober or to participate in treatment as a condition of assistance in accordance with 24 CFR 578.

### Budget

The panel will evaluate but not approve the budget. The panel will assess whether the budget aligns with planned program activities and objectives. Panel members will consider whether the budget and the requested performance period are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed project.

## **Risk Review**

*NOFO pg. 37-38*

Before making any awards, HUD will evaluate each applicant's likelihood of successfully carrying out the project. Here's what HUD looks at:

### Past Performance

- Government-wide performance data, as noted in 2 CFR 200.206(a)
- Public sources like news reports, Inspector General findings, Government Accountability Office reports, and complaints proven to have merit
- History of performance. The applicant's record in managing Federal awards, if it is a prior recipient of Federal awards, including timeliness of compliance with applicable reporting requirements, failing to make significant progress in a timely manner, failing to meet planned activities in a timely manner, conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards, and, if applicable, the extent to which any previously awarded amounts will be expended prior to future awards. HUD will not penalize a renewal applicant who sufficiently complied with the terms and conditions in prior NOFOs that are in direct conflict with those contained herein.
- Reports from past audits, including those performed under 2 CFR part 200, subpart F– Audit Requirements

- History of finishing activities on time and using any promised matching or leveraged funds
- Debarments or suspensions
- Misuse of federal funds for purposes outside of the program

### Organizational Health

- Financial stability and capacity, including compliance with cost principles in 2 CFR Part 200 Subpart E (200.400 et seq.), and where applicable, 200 Part 170
- Quality of management systems and ability to meet the management standards in 2 CFR part 200
- Ability to follow all required laws and rules
- The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities
- Capacity, including staffing structures and capabilities

### Results

- Ability to promote self-sufficiency and economic independence
- Number of people served or targeted for assistance
- History of illegal discrimination, including illegal racial discrimination.
- History of subsidizing or facilitating illicit drug use or other illicit activities that conflict with the purposes of this NOFO.

HUD in its discretion may use the results of the risk review as a sufficient and independent basis to make adverse funding decisions, including rejecting an award, applying special conditions on an award, or reducing the amount of an award.

## **Selection Process**

*NOFO pgs. 38-41*

When making award funding decisions, HUD will consider:

- Threshold review results, including eligibility requirements.
- Merit review results.
- Risk review results.

To the extent allowed by law, HUD may also consider:

- The scope of the overall projected impact on the program and administrative goals and priorities in this NOFO.
- Reasonableness of the estimated costs to the government.
- The applicant's readiness to conduct the proposed work.
- Likelihood that the proposed project will result in the benefits expected.
- Broad range of recipients beyond recurrent recipients.
- Geographic dispersion.

- All else being equal, preference for applicants with lower indirect cost rates.
- Applicants with demonstrated success in implementing Gold Standard Science (applicable to research awards).
- Applicants with potential to produce immediate results and potential for longer-term, breakthrough results, based on the goals of this NOFO (applicable to research awards).

To the extent allowed by law, HUD may exercise its discretion in deciding whether and how to issue an award based on the above criteria, including decisions to:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Impose special conditions on an award.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.
- Withdraw an award offer and make an offer of funding to another eligible application, if terms and conditions are not finalized or met timely.
- Use additional funds made available after NOFO publication to either fully fund an application or fund additional applications.
- Correct HUD review and selection errors. If HUD commits an error that causes an applicant not to be selected, HUD may make an award to that applicant when and if funding is available.
- Release another NOFO, if funding is available and if HUD does not receive applications of merit.

#### Community Selection and Funding Determination Process

After the application submission deadline, HUD will assess the applications and select communities. HUD will use the following process to select communities and determine the total funding to be made available in each community under this NOFO.

#### Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) Community Selection

HUD will rank applications in order of responses to the General and YHSI Rating Factors outlined in Section V.B of this NOFO and award approximately \$1 million in funding to the 49 highest ranking applications. If two or more applicants receive the same score, HUD will rank the applications in order of the lowest Indirect Cost rate.

#### Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) Community Selection

HUD will rank community applications in order of responses to the rating factors outlined in Section V.B of this NOFO, including awarding 10 bonus points to the sixteen highest ranking applications from communities with a substantial rural population and policy preference points outlined in Section V.B. If two or more communities receive the same score, HUD will rank the applications according to the score on Community Coordination Rating Factor. HUD will not award more than one YHDP community designation to any geographic area except for applications that cover the entire geography of a state, in which case HUD may select the state as a YHDP community and up to two other YHDP communities within the state, provided that those two communities do not have overlapping geography.

For each community selected under this competition, HUD will make a minimum of \$500,000 and a maximum of \$15 million available per project period for projects in the community. HUD will use a formula,

outlined below, to determine each selected community's maximum total funding in order to scale awards to estimated community need. The formula uses the following factors:

- Youth in Poverty: Number of people age 12-24 who are in poverty in the geographic area (# of youth in poverty, using data from the American Community Survey);
- FMR: The 2-bedroom Fair Market Rent (FMR) in the geographic area, and if there is more than one FMR for the geographic area, HUD will calculate a population weighted average (FMR).

HUD will use the following process to select communities and determine the total YHDP funding to be made available in each community under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (FY 2024 YHDP Funds) and the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025 (FY 2025 YHDP Funds).

#### FY 2024 YHDP Funds

HUD will initially select the 12 highest scoring community applications, including Rural Bonus points and Policy Preference points. HUD will then apply the formula described below with these first 12 communities and select further communities and rerun the formula for all selected communities, as explained below.

1. For each selected community HUD will establish a formula factor:
  - a. For counties that were included in a previously awarded YHDP community, the formula factor is the number of Youth in Poverty multiplied by the FMR for the geographic area listed in the community application and divided by two.
  - b. For counties that have not been included in a previously awarded YHDP community, the formula factor is the number of Youth in Poverty multiplied by the FMR for the geographic area listed in the community application.
2. For each selected community, HUD will divide the community's formula factor by the sum of the formula factors for all communities selected. This is called the community ratio.
3. HUD will allocate an initial formula amount of \$500,000 to each selected community.
4. For each selected community, HUD will multiply its community ratio by the total YHDP funding remaining after step 3, then add the resulting amount to the community's initial formula amount in step 3 to come up with the community's new formula amount.
5. HUD will calculate the ratio of the formula amount for each selected community to its formula factor (see step 1) for all selected communities, excluding the formula factor for any community that has reached the \$15 million funding cap.

If, after HUD applies the formula to the initial community applications, no ratio calculated in step 5 is less than 0.14, then HUD will select the next highest-scoring community from the eligible applicant pool and repeat steps 1 through 5 for all selected communities. HUD will repeat this process (selecting the next highest-scoring community, and redoing steps 1 through 5 for all selected communities), until any ratio calculated in step 5 is less than 0.14 or 25 communities are selected. Once a selected community falls below a ratio of 0.14 or 25 communities are selected and receive formula amounts, HUD will stop selecting communities. The purpose of this step is to ensure that each selected community receives enough funding to have a substantial impact on youth homelessness. It does this by setting a minimum level of funding, adjusted for the level of need and cost of housing in the community. Additionally, to this end, HUD will limit the total amount of funding a community may receive to \$15 million through this competition and, for eligible previously awarded YHDP communities, no more than \$25 million across the previous YHDP award amount and the amount awarded under this YHDP selection process.

## FY 2025 YHDP Funds

HUD will remove communities awarded funding under the FY 2024 YHDP funding from the ranked application list, select the next 12 highest scoring applications, including Rural Bonus points and Policy Preference points, and apply the formula described above. If no ratio calculated in step 5 is less than 0.12, then HUD will select the next highest-scoring community from the applicant pool and redo steps 1 through 5 for all selected communities. HUD will repeat this process (selecting the next highest scoring community and redoing steps 1 through 5 for all selected communities), until any ratio calculated in step 5 is less than 0.12 or 25 communities are selected and receive formula amounts. This step applies the same process for determining how many communities are selected with FY 2025 funds as for FY 2024 but uses a ratio of .12 rather than .14. As described above, the purpose of this step is to ensure that each selected community receives enough funding to have a substantial impact. It does this by setting a minimum level of funding, adjusted for the size of selected communities and level of need. The minimum ratio calculated in step 5 for selected communities for FY 2024 funding is higher than the minimum ratio calculated in step 5 for selected communities for FY 2025 funding to provide higher levels of funding for communities that scored higher and are selected with FY 2024 funding.

HUD has determined that geographic diversity is an appropriate consideration in selecting communities for the YHDP. To this end, HUD reserves the right to select lower scoring YHDP community designation applications in order to fund eligible communities with the highest total score in each of the 10 HUD regions.

## Funding Diversity

HUD reserves the right to reduce the amount of a grant, if necessary, to ensure that no more than 10 percent of assistance made available under this NOFO will be awarded for projects located within any one unit of general local government or within the geographic area covered by any one CoC.

HUD reserves the right to use the earliest available fiscal year funds for projects that are able to meet the FY 2024 YHDP Funds obligation deadline (September 30, 2026), so long as the total amount awarded to each YHDP Selected Community is consistent with the funding process outlined above.

## **False Statements**

By submitting an application, you acknowledge your understanding that providing false or misleading information on your application, or during any part of the performance phase of an award, can lead to serious consequences. Those consequences include but are not limited to: fines, repayment, restitution, prison time, termination of any HUD award, and being banned from receiving any future HUD award and doing business with the federal government (18 USC 1001, 18 USC 1012, 18 USC 1010, 18 USC 1014, 18 USC 287, 31 USC 3729 et seq., 31 USC 3801-3812, FAR Part 9.4, 2 CFR Part 180, other remedies in your HUD award). (NOFO, pg. 45)

## **Other Requirements and Definitions**

- Electronic Submission (NOFO, pgs. 43-44)
- Reporting (NOFO, pgs. 51-53, 85-86)
- Appendix I. Definitions (NOFO, pgs. 58-63)
- Appendix II: YHDP Project Section Process (NOFO, pgs. 63-86)



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