

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

RFQ #26-01

June 2026

Statewide Shelter Program (SSP)

Introduction

Crossroads Communities (CRC) is seeking qualified organizations to serve as Subrecipients for the Statewide Shelter Program (SSP). The purpose of this RFQ is to identify agencies with the experience, capacity, and organizational infrastructure necessary to deliver low-barrier emergency shelter, recovery-based shelter, STEPS (Safe Temporary Emergency Placement Sites), outreach, and housing-focused activities for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

This RFQ is focused on qualifications, not program design. Respondents must demonstrate their ability to meet program standards, comply with CRC & OHCS requirements, and operate within a participant-centered, equity-driven framework.

Program Overview

The Statewide Shelter Program (SSP) is a statewide effort funded by Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to maintain the operations, services, administration, and bed capacity of Oregon's statewide shelter system. SSP prioritizes Low-Barrier Shelters and supports Recovery-Based Shelters. The program is designed to reduce unsheltered homelessness and assists people experiencing homelessness in transitioning into housing stability in Linn County, OR.

SSP includes a range of interventions, such as:

- Emergency Shelter operations (Low-Barrier & Recovery-based)
- Safe Temporary Emergency Placement Sites (STEPS) operations
- Outreach and engagement with unsheltered individuals & households to connect them with Shelter, housing, or critical services, and provide care or service connections that address the needs of those served.
- Basic needs services (e.g., hygiene, meals, safety)
- Housing-focused case management and service coordination
- Connections to community resources
- Documentation, reporting, and compliance with OHCS standards

Eligible Respondents

CRC invites responses from potential providers that can demonstrate:

- Experience serving people experiencing homelessness
- Proven compliance and commitment for those who have received prior SSP funding, or the capacity to meet such compliance and commitment for new applicants.
- The capacity to administer one or more of the above components presented in the program overview
- Strong fiscal management and internal controls
- Commitment to equity, accessibility, and trauma-informed service delivery
- If applicable, experience in the operations of Shelters and STEPS according to SSP definitions:
 - Shelters means a Congregate or Non-congregate facility designed to provide temporary living arrangements for individuals and families experiencing Homelessness.
 - Safe Temporary Emergency Placement Sites (STEPS) refers to Vehicular Camping and Basic-Free Standing Structure Programs that do not meet all Shelter standards but provide Participants with a place to stay either in their vehicle or in a Basic Free-Standing Structure provided when available, that is secure and free from ticketing.
 - Low-Barrier Shelters and STEPS allow individuals and households to access services without preconditions such as sobriety, documentation, any type of 'payment', including volunteering or labor, or participation in treatment. These programs focus on safety, basic needs, and must focus on assessment and triage and intentionally link to permanent housing resources.
 - Recovery-based shelters meet the same standards but add a requirement for sobriety or treatment participation to support individuals in recovery.

Scope of Responsibilities

Qualified Subrecipients may be selected to perform one or more of the following functions:

A. Shelter Operations

- Operating low-barrier and/or recovery-based emergency shelter programs
- Ensuring participant safety, dignity, and accessibility
- Providing basic services such as meals, hygiene, and storage
- Maintaining appropriate staffing and facility standards
- Managing day-to-day shelter operations

B. Safe Temporary Emergency Placement Sites (STEPS) Operations

- Operating STEPS programs
- Ensuring participant safety, dignity, and accessibility
- Providing basic services such as meals, hygiene, and storage
- Maintaining appropriate staffing, adequate site supplies, and site standards
- Manage day-to-day site operations

C. Street Outreach

- Identifying and engaging unsheltered individuals and families
- Supporting enrollment into shelter and services
- Coordinating with community partners and referral system
- Building trust with participants through consistent engagement

D. Housing-Focused Activities

- Conducting housing assessments and goal planning
- Providing housing navigation and placement support
- Assisting with documentation and application processes
- Coordinating with housing providers and system partners
- Supporting transitions from shelter to permanent housing

Submission Requirements

Respondents must submit a qualifications packet that includes the following:

A. Organizational Profile

- Mission, history, and service area
- Description of populations served
- Organizational structure and staffing

B. Relevant Experience

- Experience operating emergency shelter or similar programs
- Experience serving people experiencing homelessness
- Proven track-record of funds utilization and compliance *if* the organization has previously been funded through SSP funds. (new applicants may apply)

C. Staffing & Capacity

- Key staff qualifications
- Staffing plan and caseload capacity

D. Fiscal & Administrative Capacity

- Description of financial management systems
- Internal controls and audit history
- Ability to manage state funds

E. Equity & Accessibility

- Organizational commitment to equity and inclusion
- Culturally responsive service practices
- Language access and ADA accommodations

F. Data & Reporting Capacity

- HMIS experience (if applicable)
- Data quality procedures
- Reporting systems and compliance history

Evaluation Criteria

Responses will be evaluated based on:

- Demonstrated experience with shelter operations, outreach, or supportive services
- Organizational capacity and staffing qualifications
- Prior performance in utilization of funds for this program (if applicable)
- Prior performance in operations utilizing funds from this program (if applicable)
- Fiscal stability and administrative infrastructure
- Commitment to equity, accessibility, and culturally responsive practices
- Ability to meet CRC & OHCS compliance and reporting requirements
- Strength and clarity of the qualifications packet

CRC may request interviews, additional documentation, or clarification during the evaluation process.

Submission Instructions

Qualifications packets must be submitted electronically to the Single Point of Contact:

Jack Rusch

Chief Operations Officer

Crossroads Communities

jack.rusch@crossroadsc.org

Deadline for submission: Monday, June 22, 2026 by 11:59pm

Late submissions will not be considered.

Questions & Technical Assistance

Due to the short availability window for applications, questions submitted via email to jack.rusch@crossroadsc.org will be responded to and shared publicly at www.crossroadsc.org/ssp to ensure transparency and fairness. This site will be updated as needed through June 9, 2026 at 5pm, at which point public questions will be closed. Potential partners are encouraged to regularly check back for updates through this date.

Selection & Next Steps

CRC will notify selected Subrecipients by 5pm on Friday, June 26, 2026. Selected organizations will proceed to contract negotiation, onboarding, and training. Final awards are contingent upon completion of required documentation, and awardees are expected to be ready to provide/continue operational services as of July 1, 2026.