

FY25 COC NOFO – QUICK TIPS FOR NEW & RENEWAL PROJECTS

TX-700 / THE WAY HOME

1. KNOW THE FY25 RULES (MAJOR CHANGES THIS YEAR)

- Tier 1 = 30% of ARD (NOT 90% like prior years).
- PH (PSH + RRH + Joint TH/RRH) is capped at 30% of ARD—once HUD hits that cap, remaining PH projects will not be selected.
- All projects must be ranked (including YHDP and DV renewals).
- RRH renewals must reapply as TH per Steering Committee direction.
- DV Bonus projects follow special ranking/removal rules.
- Only CoC Planning is not ranked.

Before drafting anything, read the FY25 NOFO + the TX-700 FY25 local policies.

2. UNDERSTAND HOW PROJECTS WILL BE RANKED

- TX-700 will rank using the **FY25 Performance Scorecard** (renewals) and **New Project Scoring Sheet** (new projects).
- System-critical projects will be **protected in Tier 1**:
 - CFTH CE-1
 - CFTH CE-2
 - CFTH HMIS
 - HCDVCC CE
 - SEARCH Mobile Outreach (SSO-Outreach)
 - CFTH YHDP CE
 - CFTH YHDP Outreach
 - Any FY24 award not yet operational

Everything else competes based on score, PH cap, and NOFO requirements.

3. ALIGN YOUR PROJECT TYPE WITH WHAT IS FUNDABLE IN FY25

Renewals

- PSH within Tier 1 and under PH cap stays PH.
- PH projects that fall outside Tier 1 or above the PH cap must convert or face reallocation.
- RRH renewals = TH applications locally.
- YHDP renewals must follow FY25 ranking + component rules.

New Projects

- Focus on models HUD is rewarding this year:
 - **Transitional Housing (TH)**
 - **Supportive Services Only (SSO), including Outreach**

- **HMIS**
 - Limited PH* (only if CoC has space within the 30% PH cap)
- *Most CoCs will not have PH capacity due to the cap.

4. BUILD YOUR APPLICATION AROUND THE FY25 NOFO PRIORITIES

The FY25 NOFO emphasizes Housing + Services + Accountability, not “housing first only.”
Your narrative should clearly show:

- Strong, service-rich supports (24 CFR 578.53 compliant)
- Clear accountability measures for participant engagement and progress
- Support for treatment, recovery, stability, employment, and economic mobility
- Safety, trauma-minimizing practices, and appropriate population targeting
- Coordination with Coordinated Entry (or alternative CE process for DV)
- Operational readiness, staffing capacity, and a realistic implementation plan

5. STRENGTHEN YOUR COMPETITIVENESS

Renewal Projects

- Know every metric in the **FY25 Performance Scorecard**.
- Address any prior issues (utilization, spend-down, data quality, monitoring findings).
- If you returned **10%+ in funds**, be prepared to provide a clear justification.
- Ensure match documentation is complete.

New Projects

- Mirror the **New Project Scoring Sheet** when writing your application.
- Show real partnerships—especially **healthcare or non-CoC housing resources**.
- Provide a clear, detailed project design.
- Show staffing, services, and implementation plans are feasible.

6. BUDGET, MATCH, AND SPEND-DOWN

- Prepare a clean, accurate budget that aligns with the component type.
- Ensure you have the 25% match (cash or in-kind).
- Explain any history of low spend-down and demonstrate improvements.
- Avoid over-budgeting or unrealistic staffing levels.

7. DOCUMENTATION & DEADLINES

- Follow all TX-700 Important Dates (intent to apply, drafts, final submission).
- Gather required documents early:
 - Match letters
 - MOUs

- Letters of support (if applicable)
- Partner commitments (especially healthcare/housing leverage)
- Submit everything on time—late submissions cannot be accepted.

8. NARRATIVE WRITING TIPS

- Answer the question directly.
- Be concise, concrete, and clear—avoid jargon.
- Use data where appropriate (utilization, outcomes, improvements).
- Have someone review solely for scoring alignment and completeness.

9. SPECIAL NOTES FOR DV, DV BONUS, AND YHDP

DV & DV Renewals

- Must be ranked like all other projects.
- Use compliant CE alternatives.
- Ensure safety, confidentiality, and survivor-centered practices are clear.

DV Bonus

- If selected by HUD → removed from Tier 1/Tier 2 → projects shift up.
- If not selected → stays in its ranked position.

YHDP Projects

- All YHDP renewals and replacements must now be **ranked**.
- Must retain youth-appropriate design, population specificity, and component rules.

10. GET SUPPORT EARLY

- Reach out to CFTH CoC staff early if you need:
 - Clarifications
 - Sample documents
 - TA on project design
 - Budget or match guidance
- Do not wait until the last week—technical questions spike at the end.