



Coalition for the Homeless- Request for Proposals:

Supportive Services Only (SSO) Interventions under the Way Home CoC

Issued By: Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County (CFTH)

Release Date: September 19, 2025

Deadline for Submissions: October 3, 2025

Submit Proposals to: contracts@cfthhouston.org

1. Introduction

The Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County (CFTH), as the Lead Agency for The Way Home Continuum of Care (CoC), invites qualified nonprofit and community-based organizations to submit proposals for **Supportive Services Only (SSO) interventions**.

Since 2012, The Way Home has built a nationally recognized model of collaboration, significantly reducing homelessness across our region. Yet urgent gaps remain:

1. Individuals waiting unsheltered on the street while housing resources are secured.
2. Limited flexible funding to craft interventions responsive to real community needs.
3. Insufficient solutions for individuals experiencing severe mental illness or co-occurring challenges.

This RFP directly supports the End Street Homelessness Action Plan by funding four strategic SSO interventions that expand services, reduce unsheltered homelessness, prevent future inflow, and strengthen long-term housing stability.

All funded projects must:

- Align with HUD CoC Program requirements (24 CFR Part 578, 2 CFR Part 200)
- Comply with The Way Home Written Standards
- Fully participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Demonstrate measurable outcomes

2. RFP Description and Key Dates

CFTH is seeking proposals from qualified nonprofit and community-based organizations to provide **Supportive Services Only (SSO) interventions** beginning **November 1, 2025**.

All funded projects must:

- Align with HUD CoC Program regulations (24 CFR Part 578; 2 CFR Part 200).
- Comply with The Way Home Written Standards.
- Fully participate in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), meeting all data quality and reporting requirements.
- Operate using a person-centered approach, ensuring low-barrier access and fair service delivery.
- Demonstrate measurable outcomes that support both program-level and systemwide performance goals.

- Participate in CFTH-led monitoring, evaluation, and performance improvement activities.
- Maintain compliance with all federal requirements (e.g., Drug-Free Workplace, FFATA reporting, conflict of interest standards, and SAM.gov registration with a valid UEI).

Key Dates & Funding Information

- **RFP Release Date:** September 19, 2025
- **Deadline to Submit Questions (FAQ):** September 26, 2025, 5:00 p.m. CST
- **Final FAQ Responses Posted:** September 29, 2025
- **Application Due Date:** October 3, 2025, 5:00 p.m. CST
- **Anticipated Award Notification:** October 17, 2025
- **Project Start Date:** November 1, 2025
- **Award Period:** 12 months (November 1, 2025 – October 31, 2026)

Anticipated Award Amounts (by intervention):

- Domestic Violence (DV) Mobile Support – up to **\$500,000**
- Income & Employment Supports – up to **\$1,000,000**
- SMART Team (Mobile Behavioral Health & Outreach) – up to **\$1,000,000**
- Homelessness Prevention Supports – up to **\$1,000,000**

Notes for Applicants:

- Organizations may apply for more than one intervention. If applying for multiple interventions, please submit separate budgets for each. A single narrative may be submitted if it clearly addresses all interventions proposed.
- Continuation of funding beyond the initial 12-month award period is not guaranteed. Renewal will be dependent on the availability of additional funds dedicated to this work.

3. Communications

All communication regarding this RFP must be submitted **in writing** to: **contracts@homelesshouston.org**

- Questions accepted until **September 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. CST**
- Responses posted by **September 29, 2025**, as a consolidated FAQ
- No phone calls or in-person inquiries will be accepted

4. Funding Information

Funding for this procurement is administered by CFTH and may include federal HUD CoC dollars as well as private and local funds. Regardless of funding source, all subrecipients will be required to comply with:

- HUD CoC Program regulations (24 CFR Part 578)
- OMB Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200)
- The Way Home Written Standards
- HMIS participation and data quality standards

Applicants should note:

- Funding is time-limited and contingent on availability; continuation is not guaranteed.
- Awards are subject to execution of a Subrecipient Agreement with CFTH.
- CFTH may award full, partial, or no funding depending on project quality and system needs.

5. Interventions Sought

CFTH seeks proposals to deliver one or more of the following **four SSO interventions**. Each intervention addresses a critical gap identified in the **End Street Homelessness Action Plan**.

A. Income & Employment Supports

Homelessness is not only a housing crisis but also an income stability crisis. Many households become homeless due to income loss, unstable work, or barriers to benefits. This intervention focuses on strengthening financial stability as a pathway to sustaining housing.

Funded projects should:

- Provide job readiness training, skills development, and placement support designed for individuals with lived experience of homelessness.
- Offer financial literacy education to help households manage income, debt, and housing stability.
- Facilitate employment partnerships with industries and employers engaged with The Way Home system.
- Support enrollment benefits, including SSI/SSDI through SOAR, as well as SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid.
- Deliver mobile income and employment supports at partner agency sites throughout the community, ensuring participants can access workforce and benefits services alongside case management and housing navigation.

- Track outcomes such as increased household income, employment retention, and reduced returns to homelessness.

Applicants should demonstrate how they will integrate with workforce boards, community colleges, and employer networks, creating multiple accessible pathways out of poverty and into housing stability.

B. Domestic Violence (DV) Mobile Support

Survivors of domestic violence face unique risks of homelessness, often cycling between unsafe housing and shelter. This intervention provides specialized mobile services that meet survivors where they are and offer immediate, trauma-informed supports.

Funded projects should:

- Deploy mobile advocates who can provide safety planning, crisis counseling, and system navigation.
- Partner with DV shelters and homeless providers to ensure seamless service connections.
- Rapidly connect survivors to housing, relocation assistance, and rental supports where possible with flexible funds.
- Integrate access to legal, healthcare, and supportive counseling services.
- Demonstrate collaboration across DV and homeless response systems to ensure no survivor falls through service gaps.
- Receive referrals for DV mobile advocates for clients who are unsheltered and/or currently housed in a CoC program.
- Develop a 24/7 emergency response protocol for individuals or families that need a place to stay for the night if shelters are full.
- Coordinate with identified divisions of law enforcement and the criminal justice system to ensure referred survivors have a safe plan in place.

Applicants should articulate how they will prioritize confidentiality, survivor choice, and rapid stabilization while ensuring compliance with HUD and CoC data requirements.

C. Homeless Prevention Supports

Preventing homelessness before it occurs is the most cost-effective and least disruptive solution. This intervention targets households at imminent risk of homelessness, providing flexible support to stabilize housing and prevent entry into shelter or unsheltered homelessness.

Funded projects should:

- Offer short-term financial assistance (rent, utilities, deposits, moving costs) where allowable.
- Coordinate referrals from identified partners with the Justice of the Peace Courts, Independent School Districts, and medical field.
- Provide landlord mediation and housing problem-solving to prevent evictions.
- Implement diversion strategies to help households find safe, immediate alternatives to shelter.
- Partner with legal aid, mediation, and benefits programs to address systemic eviction drivers.
- Track outcomes such as housing retention at 3, 6, and 12 months post-intervention.

Applicants should describe how their prevention model will be targeted, scalable, and data-driven, consistent with HUD guidance and the Action Plan's emphasis on reducing inflow.

D. SMART Team – Mobile Behavioral Health & Outreach

A smaller cohort of individuals who are unsheltered experience serious mental illness, substance use disorders, or co-occurring conditions that make it difficult to communicate, engage with services, or stabilize in traditional programs. The SMART (Street Multi-Access Response and Treatment) Team provides a multi-disciplinary, mobile response to meet these needs across the CoC.

Funded projects should:

- Lead and deploy teams with mental health clinicians, medical providers, and substance use specialists.
- Provide immediate crisis stabilization, mental health evaluation, medical treatment, and recovery services in the field.
- Coordinate with CFTH, law enforcement, hospitals, sobering centers, and The Harris Center to ensure appropriate alternatives to jail or ER use.
- Coordinate with The Harris Center on cases that may require an individual to be compelled into care.
- Target unsheltered individuals in high-need areas, encampments, and transit hubs.
- Develop a referral system for potential clients that might be eligible to work with the SMART Team.

- Facilitate reoccurring case consultations to identify next steps for clients that the SMART Team is attempting to engage with.
- Track outcomes such as reduced crisis episodes, successful housing placements, and increased connections to treatment.

Applicants should detail how they will staff, equip, and sustain mobile teams, ensuring full HMIS participation and integration into The Way Home system. Applicants do not have to include all of the multidisciplinary components in their budget. However, if all disciplines are not included, the applicant must articulate how they plan to incorporate the other disciplines into the team.

6. Proposal and Competition Requirements

Applicants must:

- Be in good standing with HUD, CFTH, and all current/past contracts.
- Maintain active registration in SAM.gov with a valid UEI.
- Comply with federal requirements: Drug-Free Workplace, FFATA, OMB cost principles.
- Uphold a Code of Conduct preventing conflicts of interest.
- Demonstrate organizational capacity, staffing, and infrastructure to meet all CoC standards.
- Be a member in good standing of The Way Home CoC with HMIS experience.

Applications must include:

1. **Cover Letter** – Agency introduction, mission, and proposed intervention(s).
2. **Organizational Capacity** – Staffing, fiscal systems, compliance history, and past HUD/private grant performance.
3. **Work Plan** – Services, staffing model, outcomes, and partnerships.
4. **Implementation Plan** – Readiness to launch by October 15, 2025.
5. **Budget** – Detailed budget using CFTH template, showing allowable, reasonable costs.
6. **Compliance Commitment** – Affirmation of ability to comply with HUD, CoC, and HMIS requirements.
7. **References** – At least two references verifying past performance.

7. Evaluation & Award

Proposals will be reviewed by an evaluation panel consisting of CFTH staff and community stakeholders.

- **Scoring:** Proposals will be evaluated using the published scoring tool (Appendix 1), which includes criteria such as organizational capacity, quality of the intervention work plan, implementation readiness, HMIS participation, budget alignment, community engagement, and past performance.
- **Threshold Requirements:** Only proposals meeting all eligibility and submission requirements will be considered. Incomplete or late applications will not be reviewed.
- **Funding Decisions:** CFTH reserves the right to award full, partial, or no funding based on:
 - Proposal quality and alignment with system needs
 - Availability of funds
 - Balance across the four SSO interventions to ensure system impact
- **Notification:** Applicants will be notified of award status by October 17, 2025. Awardees must execute a Subrecipient Agreement with CFTH prior to the project start date.
- **Continuation:** Funding is for an initial 12-month period. Continuation beyond the award period is contingent on performance and the availability of additional funding.

Appendix 1 – Scoring Tool

Category	Max Points	Criteria
Organizational Capacity	20	Staffing, fiscal systems, compliance history, experience delivering similar services.
Intervention Work Plan	25	Clear, detailed plan aligned with one of the four interventions. Includes integration of mobile services (for hubs/partners where applicable). Outcomes are specific, measurable, and realistic.
Implementation Readiness	15	Ability to launch by October 15, 2025. Includes staffing plan, partnerships, and training readiness.
Use of HMIS & Data Quality	10	Demonstrates capacity to fully participate in HMIS, maintain accuracy, and meet data quality/reporting requirements.
Budget & Cost Effectiveness	10	Budget uses CFTH template, aligns with HUD cost principles, shows efficient use of resources.
Alignment with End Street Homelessness Action Plan	10	Proposal clearly advances Action Plan goals: reducing unsheltered homelessness, preventing inflow, supporting behavioral health/DV needs.
Community Engagement & Partnerships	5	Evidence of collaboration with workforce systems, DV providers, legal aid, healthcare, or outreach partners.
Innovation & Responsiveness	5	Proposes creative strategies that respond to systemic gaps or high-need populations.