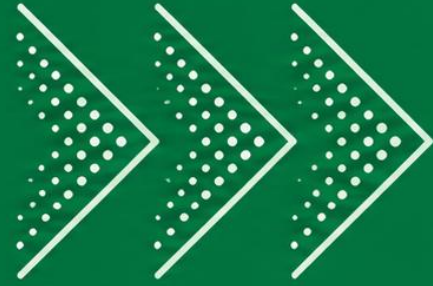




FY 2026

YHDP NOFO



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM COMPETITION

FY2026 YHDP Local Competition

Applicant Information Session - New YHDP Project Applications Only

The Way Home Continuum of Care

Housekeeping

Guidelines and Information for Today's Session

1 Audio Settings

All attendees are muted throughout the session.

2 Q&A Protocol

Please submit questions via the Q&A box. Questions will be addressed during the dedicated Q&A session at the end.

3 Formal Communications

Official answers will be provided through the applicant communication process.

4 Resource Access

Presentation materials will be made available on The Way Home website.

Support: Additional Technical Assistance (TA) times are available for further guidance.

Important Competition Clarification

Guidelines for project eligibility and application processes



Project Scope

This competition is strictly limited to new YHDP projects.



Exclusions

Existing YHDP renewals, CoC renewals, Bonus projects, and replacement projects must apply via the standard FY2026 CoC Competition process.

For further clarification or questions, please refer to the official applicant communication process.

What Is YHDP?

An overview of the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program



- **Program Overview**

The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program is a community-focused initiative led by HUD.

- **Core Mission**

Prevent and end youth homelessness for individuals aged 24 and under through comprehensive, community-wide strategies.

- **Funding Scope**

Provides essential financial support for direct housing solutions and targeted supportive services.

- **Strategic Focus**

Includes transitional housing, life skills, vocational/educational training, and behavioral health support.

Purpose of Today's Session

Overview of objectives and key requirements for the funding cycle



Understanding HUD Funding Goals

Clarifying the overarching objectives and mission set by HUD for this specific funding cycle.



CoC Competition Distinctions

Identifying the key differences between this unique opportunity and standard CoC competitions.



Strategic Alignment

Reviewing the intersection of HUD national priorities and local 'The Way Home' regional initiatives.



Project Eligibility

Defining the specific project types that qualify for financial support.



LOI & Timeline

Providing an overview of the Letter of Intent requirements and the critical path for submission.

FY2026 Competition Overview

Two competitive funding opportunities are currently open



FY2026 CoC Competition

Focuses on renewals, bonuses, and existing YHDP renewals.



FY2026 YHDP Local Competition

Dedicated exclusively to new YHDP project applications.

Action Required: Ensure project submissions align with the correct process to maintain compliance and funding eligibility.

HUD Youth Homelessness NOFO at a Glance

Overview of Funding Streams and Current Process



- **YHDP (Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program)**
Dedicated funding stream for direct youth housing and supportive services.
- **YHSI (Youth Homelessness System Improvement)**
Focused on system-level improvement and inter-agency coordination.

The current Letter of Intent (LOI) process is focused exclusively on YHDP applications.

Proposed HUD Award Timeline

Key dates for the 2026 HUD NOFO application and performance cycle



Final HUD Submission

Required Documentation and Deadlines



YHDP NOFO Application

The comprehensive grant proposal document for the final submission.



YHDP Project Priority Listing

The finalized and prioritized list of all community projects.



Approved Projects

Full documentation for all finalized community projects.

All projects must be finalized and submitted via the e-snaps portal by August 10, 2026.

Who Can Apply

Eligibility Requirements for The Way Home Initiative



Governmental Bodies

State, City, and Tribal government entities are eligible to apply.



Educational Institutions

Public higher education institutions are encouraged to participate.



Nonprofit Organizations

Registered 501(c)(3) and other qualified non-profit entities.



Faith-Based Organizations

Faith-based groups are explicitly recognized as eligible partners.

All applicants must adhere to the established local 'The Way Home' application and implementation process.

HUD's Current YHDP Goals and Objectives

Driving systemic change and sustainable outcomes for transition-age youth



Primary Mission

Committed to ending youth homelessness through systemic change and sustainable housing solutions.



Focus on Self-Sufficiency

Empowering transition-age youth to achieve long-term independence and stability.



Innovation in Practice

Implementing creative, community-led pilot programs that test new intervention models.



Trauma-Informed Care

Prioritizing psychological safety and reducing trauma throughout the service delivery process.



Integrated Support Systems

Ensuring seamless connections to education, vocational training, behavioral health, and workforce development.

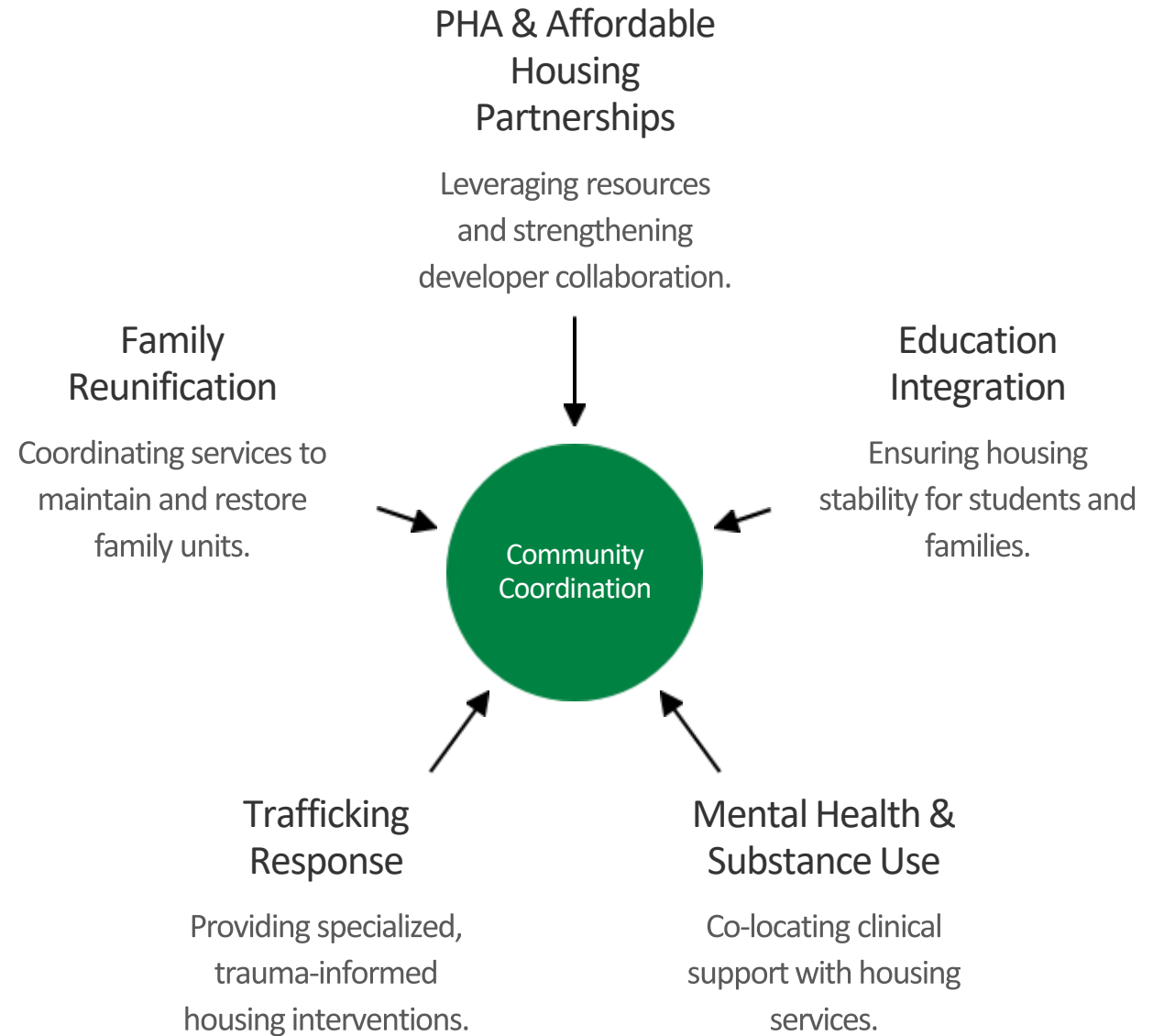
HUD Rating Factors

Evaluation criteria for project scoring

Category	Criteria	Points
General	Youth Leadership	15
General	Community Connections	20
General	Building Safe Communities	15
YHDP Specific	Community Coordination	40
YHDP Specific	System Planning/Data	10

HUD Community Coordination Priorities

Strategic focus areas for
integrated housing and support
services



Local Need: What We Are Trying to Build

Creating a comprehensive, supportive ecosystem for vulnerable youth



Housing-focused and service-rich

Prioritizing stable, long-term environments integrated with comprehensive support services.



Developmentally appropriate

Programming tailored to the specific cognitive, emotional, and social needs of youth.



Holistic connectivity

Integrated pathways that bridge the gap between housing, income, education, and behavioral health.



Safe for high-vulnerability populations

Specialized protection and care for youth navigating human trafficking, foster care transitions, and the justice system.

Local YHDP Priorities

Strategic focus areas for youth homelessness prevention and intervention

Core YHDP Investment Pillars



Transitional Housing (TH)

Specialized support for pregnant/parenting youth and dedicated housing solutions for young adults.



Economic Stability

Programs focused on employment, education, and achieving long-term self-sufficiency.



Holistic Wellness

Integrated support systems catering to mental health and substance use recovery.



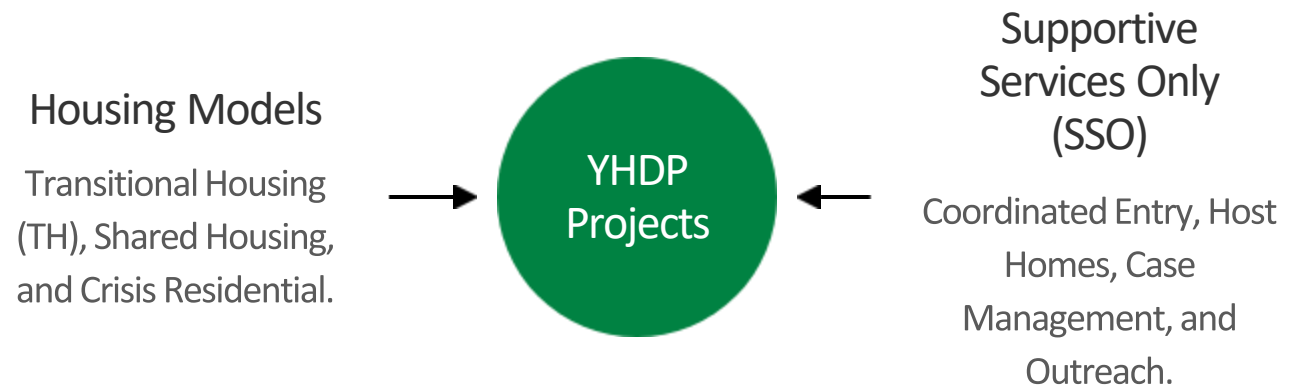
Access Infrastructure

Maintenance of day centers and navigation hubs for centralized service delivery.

BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT NETWORK FOR YOUTH STABILITY.

Eligible YHDP Project Types

Overview of funding-eligible models and services



Standalone Coordinated Entry (CE) or HMIS are not currently prioritized for funding.

Transitional Housing Under This NOFO

Moving Beyond Basic Shelter



- **Holistic Support Model**

Providing comprehensive care far beyond the basic provision of shelter.

- **Core Stability Pillars**

Focus on re-engaging participants in education and the workforce.

- **Integrated Health Focus**

Addressing underlying health and wellness needs to ensure long-term success.

- **Path to Permanence**

Prioritizing clear, measurable outcomes that ensure a successful exit to stable, long-term housing.

Local Priority: TH for Pregnant and Parenting Youth

Creating sustainable pathways to independence for young families



- **Varied Unit Sizes**

Flexible housing arrangements designed to accommodate the unique spatial needs of growing families.

- **Parenting & Childcare Support**

Dedicated resources including on-site care, parenting workshops, and access to essential supplies for infant and child welfare.

- **Long-Term Self-Sufficiency**

A strategic focus on income growth, educational advancement, and career stability to ensure sustainable independence after program graduation.

Local Priority: TH for Single Youth and Young Adults

Strategic focus areas for housing and support



Housing Models

Implementation of site-based, scattered-site, or shared living options tailored to individual needs.



Independent Living Skills

Provision of practical training focused on achieving long-term self-sufficiency.



Mental Health & Wellness

Integrated support systems designed to ensure continued emotional and psychological stability.

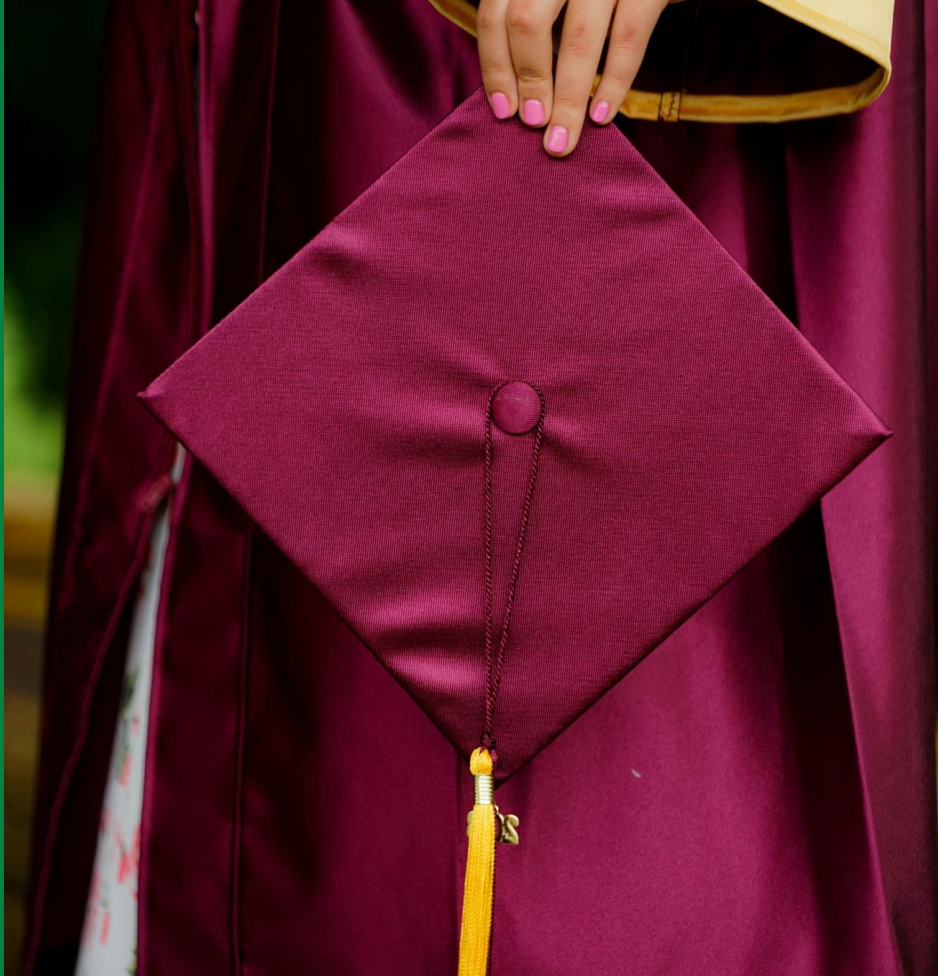


Permanent Connections

Dedicated efforts to foster lasting relationships with supportive adults and broader community networks.

Local Priority: SSO Employment, Income, and Education

Creating pathways for economic stability and lifelong growth



- **Job Placement**
Connecting community members directly with local hiring employment opportunities.
- **Life Skills Development**
Delivering comprehensive training to foster personal and professional growth.
- **Educational Advancement**
Providing clear pathways toward GED attainment and professional post-secondary certification.
- **Logistical Support**
Proactively addressing transportation and accessibility barriers to ensure program success.
- **Benefits Navigation**
Offering expert guidance on accessing and managing essential social support services.
- **Post-Placement Stabilization**
Providing ongoing mentorship and support to guarantee long-term workforce retention.

Local Priority: SSO Mental Health and Substance Use Supports

Strategic focus on integrated care and environmental stability



- Integrated Navigation

Streamlined access to outpatient services, timely crisis response, and trauma-informed recovery pathways.

- Housing Coordination

Strategic partnerships with housing providers to address social determinants of health and ensure stable environments for long-term recovery.

Local Priority: SSO Day Center & Navigation Supports

Creating accessible pathways for youth stability and long-term self-sufficiency.



Youth-Focused Navigation Hubs

Providing dedicated, low-barrier spaces tailored to meet the developmental and safety needs of transitional youth.



Essential Resource Access

Centralized distribution points for nutrition, hygiene essentials, and emergency supplies.



Identity & Documentation

Streamlined support for obtaining vital records like birth certificates and social security cards required for housing and employment.



Holistic Support Services

Integrated mediation and counseling to resolve personal, family, or peer-based conflicts.



Housing Navigation

Active case management and hands-on search assistance to secure stable, permanent housing solutions.

What We Are Not Prioritizing Locally

Strategic Shifts in Our Program Objectives



Standalone Systems

Moving away from siloed implementations of Coordinated Entry, HMIS, or Diversion programs.



Short-Term Rental Models

Deprioritizing isolated Rapid Rehousing (RRH) or standalone short-term rental assistance projects.



Staffing Structure

Moving away from fractional or part-time staffing models to prioritize continuity and long-term impact.

Dedicated Youth-Specific Capacity Requirement

Core operational mandates for youth program expansion



Additivity

Capacity must be created through new or expanded initiatives rather than repurposing existing resources.



Strategic Focus

Requires dedicated full-time staffing to ensure undivided attention to youth outcomes.



Operational Independence

Avoid reliance on limited part-time organizational capacity to prevent dilution of impact.



Program Requirements

Eligible Participants and Documentation

Target Demographics

- Youth aged 24 and under
- Includes unaccompanied, pregnant, and parenting youth

Documentation Policy

- No third-party documentation of homelessness required for program entry
- Policy designed to reduce barriers and expedite access to critical support services

Subpopulations Must Be Built Into the Design

Tailoring support systems for high-needs populations



Trafficked Youth

Implement specialized outreach and rehabilitative services tailored to recovery and safety.



DV Survivors

Incorporate confidential, trauma-informed housing and legal support structures.



Justice-Involved Individuals

Design reentry programs that focus on stability, employment, and reducing recidivism.



Foster Care Transition

Integrate support networks that address the unique challenges of aging out of the system.



Substance & Mental Health Needs

Prioritize accessible, integrated care pathways for high-acuity behavioral health requirements.

Youth Leadership, PYD, and Trauma-Informed Care

Foundational Principles for Youth-Centered Programming

Core Programmatic Pillars



Youth-Centered Governance

Elevating youth voice as a fundamental pillar to inform program development and strategic implementation.



Positive Youth Development (PYD)

Committing to a strength-based framework that fosters internal assets and agency in young people.



Trauma-Informed Care (TIC)

Integrating safety, trustworthiness, and empowerment to ensure services are responsive to the impacts of trauma.

HOLISTIC SUPPORT SYSTEMS



Program Requirements

Core Outcomes for Youth

- **Housing:** Ensuring stable, safe, and sustainable living environments.
- **Social/Emotional Well-being:** Promoting mental health, resilience, and positive identity development.
- **Education/Employment:** Facilitating pathways to academic success and vocational stability.
- **Permanent Connections:** Fostering long-term, supportive relationships with caring adults and peers.

All proposed projects must demonstrate a commitment to achieving measurable improvements within these four core domains.

Supportive Services Funding

Strategic Allocation for Program Success

HUD incentivizes projects by prioritizing those that commit 20% or more of their total funding to supportive service initiatives.



Case Management

Personalized support to navigate social services and maintain housing stability.



Childcare

Essential assistance to enable participation in employment and training programs.



Legal Services

Advocacy and assistance regarding tenant rights and legal barriers.



Job Training

Skill development and workforce readiness programs for long-term independence.



Outreach

Targeted efforts to engage and connect hard-to-reach individuals with necessary care.

Safety, Substance Use, and Compliance

Maintaining a secure, lawful, and compliant environment across all projects



- **Public Safety & Environment**

Proactive management of project-controlled spaces regarding encampments and substance use, with a priority on ensuring a safe environment for minors.

- **Operational Policy**

Strict enforcement of policies prohibiting the use or presence of illicit drugs within all project-controlled areas.

- **Compliance & Standards**

Commitment to upholding all safety certifications through regular audits and strict adherence to regulatory protocols.

YHDP Special Activities and Flexibilities

Key funding strategies to support youth housing stability



- **Youth Lived Experience**

Allocates administrative funds specifically for supporting and compensating youth consultants.

- **Host Homes**

Resources dedicated to non-traditional, community-based housing models for youth.

- **Flexible Funding**

Provides financial assistance for moving, start-up costs, and immediate essential needs.

- **Extended Support**

Delivers ongoing services post-exit to ensure long-term housing stability.

Built-In Exceptions and Match Exceptions

Guidelines for HUD program implementation and compliance

1

Requirement for Approval

Specific program activities may necessitate formal prior approval from HUD before implementation.

2

Proactive Identification

Flag any intent to utilize program exceptions during the initial Letter of Intent (LOI) and Technical Assistance (TA) phase.

3

Examples of Exceptions

Includes utilization of extended program durations (e.g., 36-month Transitional Housing) or deviations from standard match requirements and participant eligibility criteria.

Environmental Review and Development Concepts

Compliance Mandate

- Prohibition of Choice-Limiting Actions: No activities that restrict project alternatives or cause physical environmental change may proceed prior to formal environmental review clearance.

Restricted Activities Prior to Clearance

- Property Acquisition: Entering into binding agreements to purchase or control land.
- Physical Rehabilitation: Carrying out site improvements or structural repairs.
- Leasing: Committing to long-term occupancy or operational control.
- Construction: Commencing any ground-disturbing or site-development work.

Local LOI Process and Submission Instructions

Submission guidelines and deadline information



Submission Deadline

All materials must be submitted by Friday,
July 3, 2026, at 5:00 PM CST.



Submission Email

Please send all completed documents to
YHDPNOFO@cfthhouston.org.



Formatting Requirements

Follow all provided file naming conventions
exactly to ensure your submission is
processed successfully.

Review Process

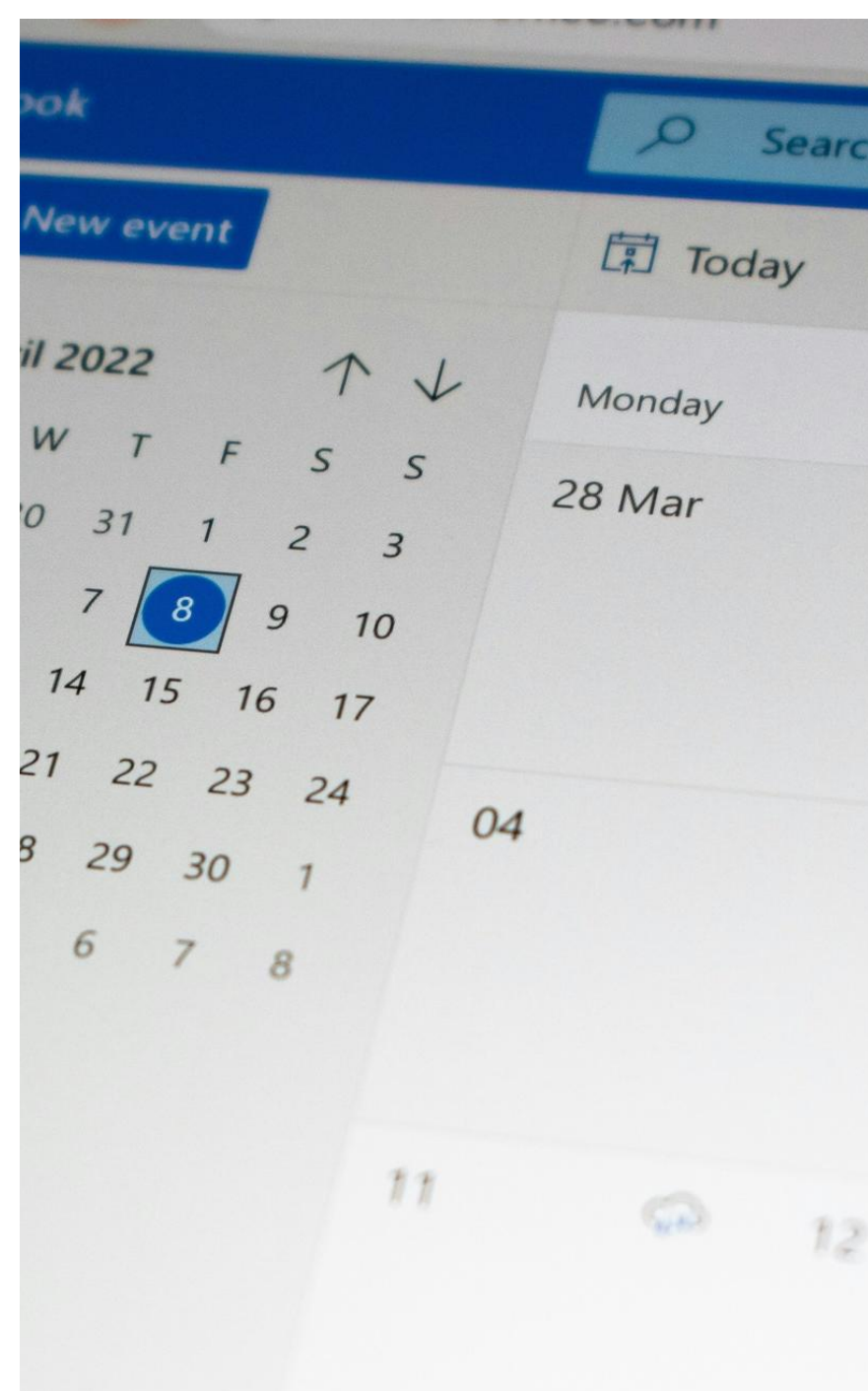
LOI Review and Timeline

Review Criteria

- Eligibility: Verification of mandatory requirements.
- Local Priority: Alignment with community or regional strategic goals.
- Readiness: Assessment of project maturity and implementation plans.
- Budget: Financial feasibility and cost-effectiveness.
- Capacity: Evaluation of organizational resources and past performance.

Key Dates

- Invitations to Apply: July 9, 2026
- Full Applications Due: July 22, 2026
- Presentations: July 29-30, 2026



Technical Assistance & Support

Key resources and important program milestones



- **Technical Assistance (TA) Support**

Expert guidance available for competition alignment, project type selection, and budget inquiries.

- **LOI Submission Deadline**

All Letters of Intent must be submitted by July 3.

The Q&A session will follow immediately after this presentation.