



The Way Home

Steering Committee

February 2026



Meeting Agenda

Meeting Introduction:

- Call to order
- Housekeeping
- Roll call of Steering Committee members

Meeting Business:

- January 2026 Meeting Minutes
- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Updates

CoC Updates:

- Case Conferencing Review Committee (CCRC)
- Public Affairs Updates
- System Performance Measures (SPMs)
- 2026 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Reminders

Meeting Wrap-Up:

- Public Comment
- Meeting Adjourn



Housekeeping



Partners will not be called during attendance. Partner participation is being monitored through the Zoom webinar platform.



Participants will be muted throughout the meeting. Those wishing to provide a verbal comment may do so once the Chair has opened public comment.



Participants can ask their questions through the Q&A tab found in the menu toolbar.



Participants are encouraged to use Reactions (found in the menu toolbar) throughout the meeting.

Thank you, Melissa Quijano!

- Thank you for nine (9) years amazing of service!
- Representing the Pasadena Community Development Department before her role with the Harris County Housing Authority.
- Supporting the Steering Committee and CoC in critical roles to help lead our work in ending and preventing homelessness.

Thank you, Danielle Stephen!

- Thank you for two (2) years amazing of service!
- Representing the voice of youth & young adults with lived experience through the Youth Action Board.
- Supporting the Steering Committee and CoC through various workgroups, subcommittees, conferences, as well as community engagement opportunities.



Meeting Business

Items Requiring Vote of the
CoC Steering Committee



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DETAILS

Time/Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026, at 3 PM

Meeting Type: Open public meeting – Virtual

Meeting Packet: [Click here](#) to view.

Meeting Recording: [Click here](#) to view

MEETING INTRODUCTION

- **Barbie Brashear:** Call to order
- **Caybryn & Barbie:** About the Steering Committee & Thank you to our members! (00:00:26) / pg. 2-3
- **Caybryn Southern:** Housekeeping & Roll call of Steering Committee members (00:03:38) / pg. 4
- **Barbie Brashear:** Thank you, Dr. Theresa Tran! (00:04:35) / pg. 6

MEETING BUSINESS

No business currently.

COC UPDATES:

- **Renee Cavazos:** NOFO (00:06:48) / pg. 8-12
- **Jamey Caruthers:** Advocacy Update (00:15:07) / pg. 13-16
- **Caybryn Southern:** PIT Count (00:23:04) / pg. 17-22
- **Caybryn Southern:** Upcoming Engagement Requests/Opportunities (00:29:50) / pg. 22-24
- **Renee Cavazos:** Winter Weather Preparedness (00:31:55) / pg. 25-27

MEETING WRAP-UP:

- **Public** (00:35:55) / pg. 28
- **Meeting Adjourn**

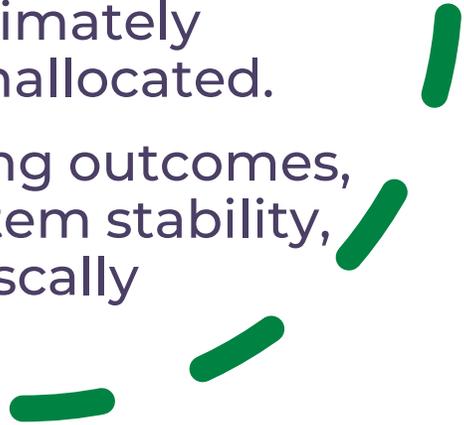
ATTENDANCE

	Name	Representation	Category	Term
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Barbie Brashear, Chair	Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council	Fixed Position	Oct. 2019 – in perpetuity Chair: Mar. 2022
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Melody Barr	City of Houston Housing & Community Development	Fixed Position	Nov. 2024 – in perpetuity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kristine Singleton	City of Pasadena Community Development	Fixed Position	June 2023 – in perpetuity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Melissa Quijano	Harris County Housing Authority	Fixed Position	Aug. 2022 – in perpetuity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tory Gunsolley, Vice Chair	Harris County Housing & Community Development	Fixed Position	June 2024 – in perpetuity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca Ansley	Montgomery County Community Development	Fixed Position	June 2021 – in perpetuity
<input type="checkbox"/>	VACANT	Fort Bend County Community Development	Fixed Position	
<input type="checkbox"/>	VACANT	Houston Housing Authority	Fixed Position	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carlie Brown	Healthcare for the Homeless - Houston	At Large Position	Term 1: July 2025 – June 2027
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Birdow Jr.	Michael E. DeBakey Medical Center (VA)	At Large Position	Term 2: May 2024 – April 2026
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amber Honsinger	The Harris Center	At Large Position	Term 1: July 2025 – June 2027
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alexis Loving	SEARCH	Provider Representative	Term 1: Mar. 2024 – Feb. 2026
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shun Johnson	TLC Health and Wellness	Provider Representative	Term 1: Mar. 2024 – Feb. 2026
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gregory Dread, Secretary	Lived Experience & Advocacy	Consumer Representative	Term 3: Feb. 2025-Jan. 2027
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Danielle Stephen	Lived Experience & Advocacy	Youth & Young Adult Consumer Representative	Term 1: Mar. 2024 – Feb. 2026

FY24/25 NOFO



FY 2024/25 CoC NOFO – TX-700 Submission Summary

- Application Submitted: February 9, 2026
 - Renewals: Full Renewal Portfolio, with limited voluntary reallocations (4 projects)
 - Reallocations & New Projects: Reallocated funding was invested in housing expansion, rapid rehousing, and Coordinated Entry system capacity:
 - HAAM – Housing Expansion Project
 - Family Endeavors – Rapid Rehousing (RRH)
 - Beacon of Downtown – Coordinated Entry (SSO)
 - HTX H.O.P.E. Haven – Coordinated Entry (SSO)
 - CFTH – Coordinated Entry (SSO)
 - Youth Homelessness (YHDP): Approximately \$112,000 in YHDP funding was left unallocated.
 - The FY 24/25 NOFO prioritizes housing outcomes, Coordinated Entry capacity, and system stability, while remaining HUD-aligned and fiscally responsible
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FY 26 NOFO Next Steps

NOFO Policy Workgroup

- We will form a FY26 NOFO Policy Workgroup to review and update local competition policies.
- Steering Committee members and community partners will be invited to participate.
- The workgroup will begin meeting in March.

What the Workgroup Will Review

- All local CoC competition policies and processes
- Reallocation and reduction rules
- New project eligibility guidance, including:
 - Whether agencies reallocated during a competition year may apply for new projects
- Alignment with HUD requirements and lessons learned from the FY25 competition

FY26 Competition Timeline (Anticipated)

- Local competition begins: June 2026
- HUD awards announced: By December 2026 (subject to HUD timelines)

Key HUD Requirement

- At least 60% of Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) must be placed in Tier 1



CoC Updates

General Updates for the CoC
Steering Committee and
Partners of The Way Home



**Case
Conferencing
Review
Committee (CCRC)**

Purpose of the CCRC



The Case Conferencing Review Committee (CCRC) is convened in rare, exceptional situations when an individual's or household's vulnerability is not fully captured by the standard Coordinated Entry (CE) assessment or service history.



Provides additional context and professional insight beyond available system data.



Ensures The Way Home's CE system remains responsive to complex needs while upholding fairness, accountability, and consistency.



The CCRC does not override or circumvent The Way Home's CE prioritization policy and procedures.

Review Criteria

- Cases may be referred to the CCRC when CE assessments or HMIS documentation do not fully reflect the severity of needs, and any of the following apply:
 - Urgent health or safety risks (e.g., terminal illness, late-term pregnancy without shelter, high risk of violence/exploitation)
 - Significant barriers to engagement (due to cognitive impairments, severe trauma, or behavioral health conditions impacting service navigation)
 - Intensive emergency service use (frequent ER visits, arrests, psychiatric hospitalizations) not adequately reflected in CE scoring
 - Credible, time-sensitive risks (recent victimization, rapidly deteriorating physical/mental health) missing from assessment data
- *The committee may request insight from low-barrier medical or behavioral health professionals (e.g., Harris Center, Healthcare for the Homeless Houston) when functional or behavioral concerns are present.*

CCRC Composition

- Comprised of seven (7) representatives from The Way Home partner agencies, reflecting diverse service types and populations.
- Members:
 - Amber Honsinger, Harris Center
 - Aia Miller, Hope D. Miller Foundation
 - John Basel, Hope Center
 - Carrie Rai, Tony's Place
 - Alyssa Novoa, Career and Recovery
 - Stephanie Troung, The Beacon
 - Kathy Phipps, Back to Eden

Learn more about CCRC:

Virtual Information Sessions:

Friday, February 13th at 10 AM – [Click here](#) to register.

Thursday, March 19th at 1 PM – [Click here](#) to register





Public Affairs Updates

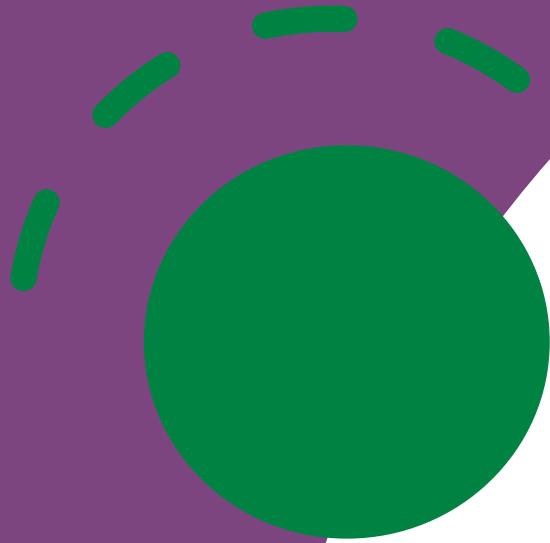


The Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 HUD appropriations bill has passed!

- Passed the House on Tuesday and signed into law by the President
 - A 217 to 214 vote after DHS funding was carved out in the Senate
 - This averts a government shutdown and provides stability moving forward
 - Overall, the HUD funding package is well-balanced with respect to the concessions and improvements made, and it provides a framework under which we can continue to succeed
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What's in the bill?

- \$77.3 billion for HUD in FY26
- HUD must provide 12-month non-competitive renewals for all CoC grants (including YHDP) expiring in Q1 2026 (January–March). It then establishes a quarterly timeline: if no new awards are issued under a new NoFO, HUD must continue automatic renewals for grants expiring in subsequent quarters.
 - This will help prevent service disruptions while litigation over prior HUD changes continues.
- HUD must issue the FY 2026 CoC NOFO no later than June 1, 2026, and make awards no later than December 1, 2026.
- HUD has to allocate at least 60% of CoC funding to Tier 1 projects in the FY 2026 NOFO.

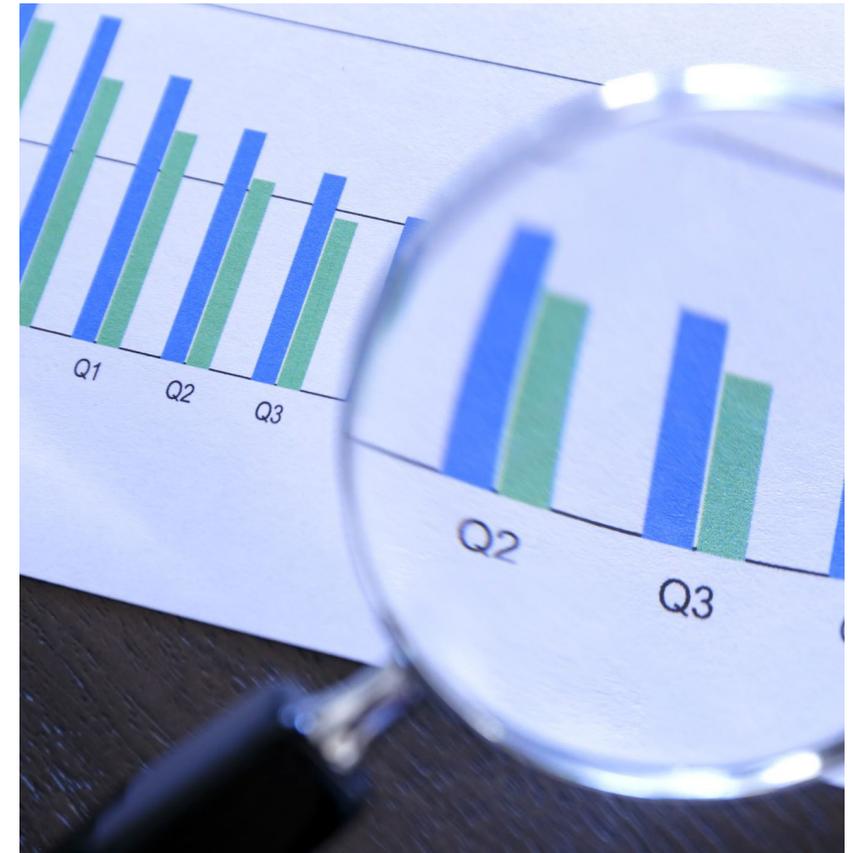


System Performance Measures (SPMs)

What our data tells us!

About the SPMs

- The System Performance Measures (SPM) is an annual report submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), generated using data from the local Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). It is a key component of the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to the U.S. Congress and is used by HUD to assess system-wide performance and inform the annual Continuum of Care (CoC) funding calculation.
- This report reflects data from Federal Fiscal Year 2025 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025).
- The data included in this report comes from the following project types:
 - Emergency Shelter (ES), Safe Haven (SH), and Transitional Housing (TH)
 - Street Outreach (SO)
 - Permanent Housing – including Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Other Permanent Housing (OPH), and Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)
- To support accurate and complete data, CoC partner agencies are encouraged to respond to any data quality-related requests from the HMIS Lead agency, Coalition for the Homeless of Houston/Harris County (CFTH), and to regularly monitor and improve their projects' data quality.
- The following data provides insight into how our community is addressing homelessness, based on key performance measures tracked across the system.



Measure 1: Length of Time (LOT) Persons Remain Homeless

Based on the sheltered entry/exit dates	Universe (Persons)		Average LOT Homeless (bed nights)			Median LOT (bed nights)		
	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25	Difference	FY24	FY25	Difference
1a.1 Persons in ES-EE, ES-NbN, and SH	7690	7067	73	74	1	36	35	-1
1a.2 Persons in ES-EE, ES-NbN, SH, and TH	8613	7936	97	96	-1	47	44	-3

Based on the "approximate date homelessness started"	Universe (Persons)		Average LOT Homeless (bed nights)			Median LOT (bed nights)		
	FY24	FY25	FY24	FY25	Difference	FY24	FY25	Difference
1b.1 Persons in ES-EE, ES-NbN, SH and PH	9521	8587	390	364	-26	136	132	-4
1b.2 Persons in ES-EE, ES-NbN, SH, TH, and PH	10388	9397	405	389	-16	154	149	-5

Measure 2: Returns to Homelessness for Persons Who Exit Homelessness to Permanent Housing Destinations

	FY24 Total Number of Persons who Exited to a Permanent Housing Destination (2 Years Prior)	Number of Returns in 2 Years		FY25 Total Number of Persons who Exited to a Permanent Housing Destination (2 Years Prior)	Number of Returns in 2 Years		% Difference
		FY24 Returns	% of Returns		FY25 Returns	% of Returns	
Exit was from SO	465	195	42%	504	143	28%	-14%
Exit was from ES	1198	226	19%	2379	321	13%	-6%
Exit was from TH	255	64	25%	478	65	14%	-11%
Exit was from SH	12	3	25%	16	2	13%	-12%
Exit was from PH	2956	546	18%	2623	363	14%	-4%
TOTAL Returns to Homelessness	4886	1034	21%	6000	894	15%	-6%

Measure 3: Number of Homeless Persons

Metric 3.1: Change in PIT Counts

	January 2024 PIT Count	January 2025 PIT Count	Difference
Universe: Total PIT Count of sheltered and unsheltered persons	3280	3325	45
Emergency Shelter Total	1615	1594	-21
Safe Haven Total	13	11	-2
Transitional Housing Total	545	438	-107
Total Sheltered Count	2173	2043	-130
Unsheltered Count	1107	1282	175

Measure 3.2: Change in annual counts of sheltered homeless persons in HMIS

	FY24 Annual Counts	FY25 Annual Counts	Difference
Universe: Unduplicated Total sheltered homeless persons	8810	7990	-820
Emergency Shelter Total	7819	7075	-744
Safe Haven Total	53	46	-7
Transitional Housing Total	1374	1288	-86

Measure 4: Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in a CoC Program-Funded Projects - Stayers

Metric 4.1: Change in earned income for adult system stayers during the reporting period

	FY24	FY25	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	1620	1663	43
Number of adults with increased earned income	155	174	19
Percentage of adults who increased earned income	10%	10%	0%

Metric 4.2: Change in non-employment cash income for adult system stayers during the reporting period

	FY24	FY25	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	1620	1663	43
Number of adults with increased non-employment cash income	539	566	27
Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income	33%	34%	1%

Metric 4.3: Change in total income for adult system stayers during the reporting period

	FY24	FY25	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system stayers)	1620	1663	43
Number of adults with increased non-employment cash income	652	703	51
Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income	40%	42%	2%

Measure 4: Employment and Income Growth for Homeless Persons in a CoC Program-Funded Projects - Stayers

Metric 4.4: Change in earned income for adult system leavers

	FY24	FY25	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system leavers)	743	759	16
Number of adults with increased earned income	121	141	20
Percentage of adults who increased earned income	16%	19%	3%

Metric 4.5: Change in non-employment cash income for adult system leavers

	FY24	FY25	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system leavers)	743	759	16
Number of adults with increased non-employment cash income	198	201	3
Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income	27%	26%	-1%

Metric 4.6: Change in total income for adult system leavers

	FY24	FY25	Difference
Universe: Number of adults (system leavers)	743	759	16
Number of adults with increased non-employment cash income	301	319	18
Percentage of adults who increased non-employment cash income	41%	42%	1%

Measure 5: Number of Persons Who Became Homeless for the First Time

Metric 5.1: Change in the number of persons entering ES, SH, and TH projects with no prior enrollments in HMIS

	FY24	FY25	Difference
Universe: Person with entries into ES, SH or TH during the reporting period	7354	6901	-453
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH or TH or any PH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	1446	1523	77
Of persons above, count those who did not have entries in ES, SH or TH or PH in the previous 24 months. (i.e. Number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time)	5908	5378	-530

Metric 5.2: Change in the number of persons entering ES, SH, TH, and PH projects with no prior enrollments in HMIS

	FY24	FY25	Difference
Universe: Person with entries into ES, SH, TH or PH during the reporting period.	9713	9812	99
Of persons above, count those who were in ES, SH, TH or any PH within 24 months prior to their entry during the reporting year.	2420	2702	282
Of persons above, count those who did not have entries in ES, SH, TH or PH in the previous 24 months. (i.e. Number of persons experiencing homelessness for the first time.)	7293	7110	-183

Measure 7: Successful Placement from Street Outreach and Permanent Housing

Metric 7a.1 Change in exits to permanent housing destinations			
	FY24	FY25	Difference
Universe: Persons who exit Street Outreach	5475	5316	-159
Of the persons above, those who exited to permanent housing destinations	995	1046	51
Of persons above, those who exited to temporary & some institutional destinations	219	594	375
% Successful exits	22%	31%	9%
Metric 7b.1 - Change in exits to permanent housing destinations			
	FY24	FY25	Difference
Universe: Persons in ES-EE, ES-NbN, SH, TH and PH-RRH who exited, plus persons in other PH projects who exited without moving into housing	8536	7060	-1476
Of the persons above, those who exited to permanent housing destinations	4060	2932	-1128
% Successful exits	48%	42%	-6%
Metric 7b.2: Change in PH exits to permanent housing destinations or retention of permanent housing			
	FY24	FY25	Difference
Universe: Persons in all PH projects except PH-RRH who exited after moving into housing, or who moved into housing and remained in the PH project	7779	7317	-462
Of persons above, those who remained in applicable PH projects and those who exited to permanent housing destinations	7385	6982	-403
% Successful exits	95%	95%	0%

SPM Data Quality

Project Type	All ES, SH		All TH		All PSH, OPH		All RRH		All SO	
Fiscal Year Submitted	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025	2024	2025
Number of non-DV Beds in HIC	1786	1500	764	533	7338	6662	2048	756		
Number of HMIS Beds	1786	1500	764	533	7338	6662	2048	756		
HMIS Participation Rate from HIC	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%		
Unduplicated Persons Served (HMIS)	6598	7227	987	1310	7776	7843	3066	3175	5597	5755
Total Leavers (HMIS)	5514	6180	625	902	1573	1658	2001	1655	3854	4186
Destination of Don't Know, Refused, or Missing (HMIS)	2011	1984	230	250	262	141	78	23	726	548
Destination Error Rate	36%	32%	37%	28%	17%	9%	4%	1%	19%	13%



2026

HOMELESS

COUNT & SURVEY

**Point-in-
Time
(PIT)
Count**

What is the Point-in-Time Count?



The annual Point-in-Time Count (“PIT Count”) is a survey of those experiencing homelessness within our CoC.



Our unsheltered homeless count takes place during the daytime over a three-day period at the end of January. (Note: Dates changed due to NOFO)



The PIT Count covers those living unsheltered (i.e., sleeping in places not meant for human habitation) and those experiencing homelessness but in sheltered conditions (e.g., emergency shelters, transitional housing, and safe havens).



2026 PIT Count Overview

Where:

- Throughout the entire CoC geographic area (i.e., Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery county)

When:

- Official Day of Count: Monday, February 23, 2026
- Day 1: Tuesday, February 24, 2026, from 7 AM – 4 PM
- Day 2: Wednesday, February 25, 2026, from 7 AM – 4 PM
- Day 3: Thursday, February 26, 2026, from 7 AM – 4 PM
- (HOLD) Bad Weather Day: Friday, February 27, 2026, from 7 AM – 4 PM

How:

- Walk & drive throughout the assigned region to conduct surveys
- Survey with the Counting Us mobile app



More Information

- Training: Concluded
- Volunteer Registration: <https://thewayhome2026.pointintime.info/>
- T-Shirts:
 - Availability: Only volunteers that complete all requirements are eligible to receive a new PIT Count t-shirt as a symbol of support.
 - Coordination: We ask that each agency identify one staff member to collect t-shirts on behalf of their assigned volunteers.
 - Distribution: February 17 - 18, from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 - Location: CFTH Office | 2000 Crawford Street, 15th Floor, Houston, TX 77002
- More Information: <https://www.cfthhouston.org/take-action#HomelessCount>

Public Comment



Speakers will be called upon in the order in which they signed up. Others will be offered an opportunity to speak following.

Please use the “Raise Hand” function and wait to be called upon if you did not sign up to speak prior to the meeting.

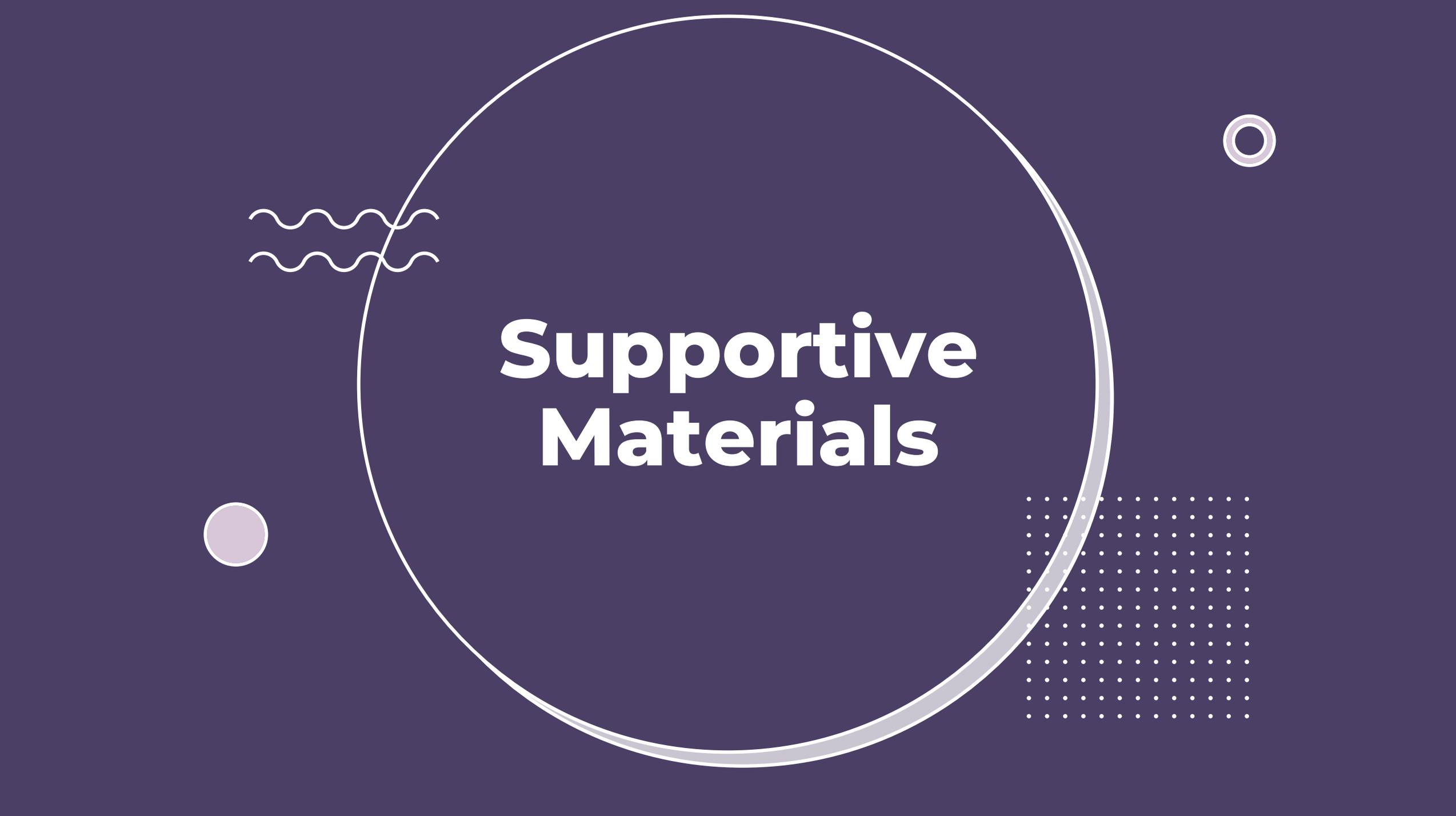
When called upon, please introduce yourself and your organization (if applicable).

Duration of comment: 1 minute. This time limit will be identified with a visible timer shared on the screen, followed by the speaker being muted when the time is complete.





Thank you!



Supportive Materials

THE WAY HOME STEERING COMMITTEE

The Way Home Steering Committee serves as the decision-making body of The Way Home Continuum of Care (CoC), the coordinated Homeless Response System throughout the Greater Houston region, including Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties of Texas.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

Resolution No.: 1: FY24-25 CoC NOFO Submission

Date Proposed: Friday, February 6, 2026 (via email)

Category: FY24/25 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Competition

BACKGROUND

WHEREAS, HUD's FY 2024–25 CoC NOFO establishes that this active funding cycle is not a traditional CoC competition, and HUD has significantly limited required local competition activities pursuant to the federal court order;

WHEREAS, under HUD guidance, projects awarded two-year funding in FY 2024 do not submit new renewal applications in FY 2025, and only projects expiring in CY 2026 that were not funded in FY 2024—as well as new reallocation projects—require CoC review and inclusion on the FY 2025 Priority Listing;

WHEREAS, all new reallocation projects have completed threshold review and meet baseline eligibility, HUD CoC requirements, and local standards, and because the total amount requested aligns with available reallocation funding, formal scoring and ranking are not determinative in this cycle;

WHEREAS, the Steering Committee has been asked to concur with moving forward the slate of FY 2025 project applications listed below and authorize CFTH, as Collaborative Applicant, to submit the FY 2025 Priority Listing and HUD-2991 consistent with this slate:

Projects Proposed to Move Forward

- HAWC – HAWC Renewal (DV Bonus) | TH/RRH | \$2,686,996
- HAAM – Expansion Project | Expansion (Housing) | \$205,935
- Family Endeavors – RRH Reallocation | RRH | \$2,443,287
- Beacon of Downtown – CE Reallocation | SSO–CE | \$2,102,822
- HTX H.O.P.E. Haven – CE Reallocation | SSO–CE | \$246,728
- CFTH – CE Reallocation | SSO–CE | \$1,213,432

Total Reallocation: \$6,212,204

Funds Not Reallocated: \$112,638 (restricted YHDP funds to be returned to HUD)

WHEREAS, the timely submission of the FY 2025 Priority Listing and HUD-2991 is required under HUD deadlines, and materials associated with this process must remain confidential until HUD announces awards;

RESOLVED:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Steering Committee of The Way Home Continuum of Care concurs with the FY 2024–25 project slate listed above and authorizes the Coalition for the Homeless (CFTH), as the Collaborative Applicant, to submit the FY 2025 Priority Listing and HUD-2991 consistent with this slate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this concurrence reflects approval to move forward with the listed projects in alignment with HUD guidance for the FY 2024–25 NOFO cycle and acknowledges that no full competitive ranking is required for this funding year.



Adopted by the Steering Committee on: Friday, February 6, 2026 (via email)

SIGNATURES:

Tory Guasolley

Feb 06 2026

Vice Chair, The Way Home Steering Committee

Date

[Handwritten Signature]

Feb 08 2026

Secretary, The Way Home Steering Committee

Date