



# The Way Home

## Steering Committee

January 2026



# About The Way Home Steering Committee

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The Way Home Steering Committee serves as the leadership body—similar to a board of directors—for the local Continuum of Care (CoC). It is responsible for overseeing the planning, coordination, and distribution of federal funds aimed at preventing and ending homelessness across our region.

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Members represent a diverse array of stakeholders from across the CoC's geographic region. We seek representation from those who support, work within, and impact our system, as well as those we serve.

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In addition to their oversight responsibilities, Steering Committee members play a critical role in strengthening our homeless response system. They help us secure additional funding, open doors to new resources and partnerships, and leverage their (organizations') influence, expertise, and connections to enhance our collective impact.

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This group is made up of passionate and compassionate leaders who are deeply committed to improving our community.

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We currently have 13 members and will seek to fill vacancies later this year.

# The Way Home Steering Committee

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## Steering Committee Meeting Information

- Steering Committee meetings are open to the public and are typically held on the second Thursday of each month at 3 PM, typically virtually, unless otherwise noted on [The Way Home Partner Portal](#).
- Meeting packets—including the agenda and supporting materials—will be posted one week in advance and linked on [The Way Home Partner Portal](#).
- Please note: While every effort is made to follow the posted agenda, adjustments may occur during disaster response efforts or periods of high workload.

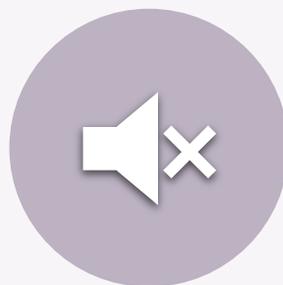
## Who Should Attend?

- All staff from The Way Home partner agencies are encouraged to participate. Attendance is required for CoC-funded agencies and agencies intending to apply in upcoming CoC funding competitions. CoC NOFO-funded agencies must have at least one representative attend 75% of Steering Committee meetings annually.

# 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.

# Meeting Agenda

## Meeting Introduction:

- Call to order
- Roll call of Steering Committee members

## CoC Updates:

- NOFO
  - Reallocations
  - Timeline
- Advocacy
- PIT Count
- Upcoming Engagement Requests/Opportunities
- Winter Weather Preparedness

## Meeting Wrap-Up:

- Public Comment
- Meeting Adjourn



# Thank you, Dr. Tran!

- We congratulate Dr. Theresa Tran Carapucci on her appointment as Director of the Houston Health Department.
- Thank you for 4 years amazing of service!





# CoC Updates

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



**FY24/25 NOFO**



# FY 24/25 CoC NOFO

## Current Status

- We are in active competition under the re-released FY24–25 CoC NOFO (FR-6800-N-25).
- This is the third NOFO release in the past three months, due to ongoing court proceedings.
- HUD has reverted to the FY24–25 NOFO while litigation continues.
- We will use the 2024 priority listing as directed by HUD.

## Funding Overview

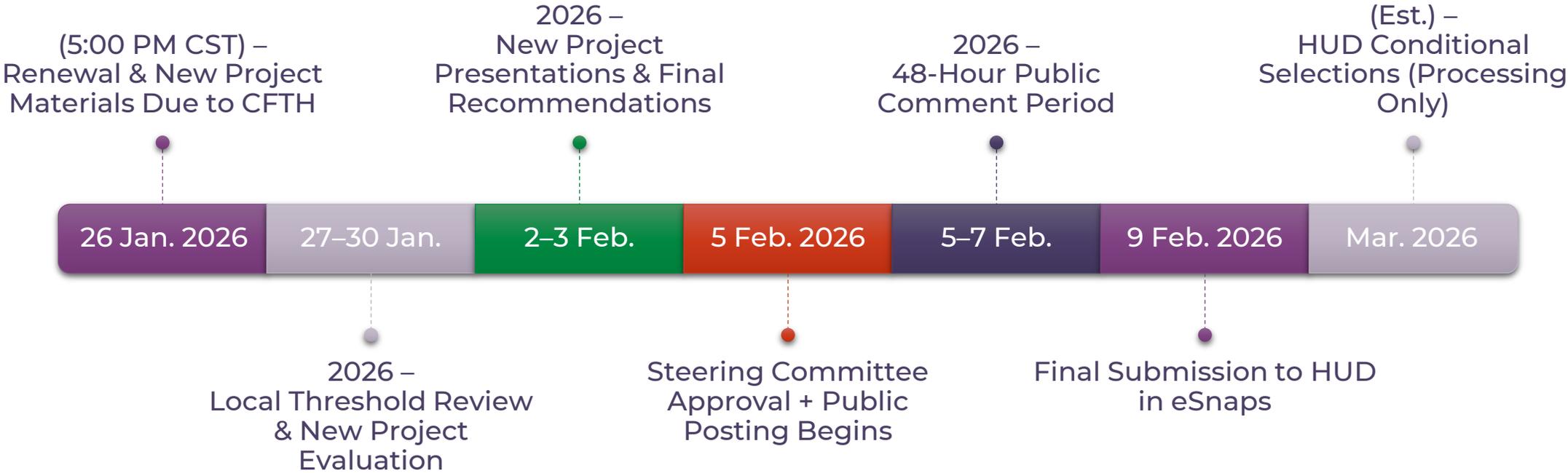
- Approximately \$6.5 million in reallocated funds are available for new project applications.
- No bonus funds are available; new projects must be funded through reallocation.

## Important Reminders for Agencies

- Renewal projects:
  - Unless you are proposing an expansion or reallocation, you do not need to submit anything in eSnaps.
  - CFTH will complete the eSnaps submission on your behalf.
- New projects:
  - All new project applications and attachments are due Monday, January 26, 2026, at 5:00 PM CST
  - New projects must submit in eSnaps for the application piece.
- All renewal and new project materials must be sent to: [NOFO@cfthouston.org](mailto:NOFO@cfthouston.org)

# Key FY 24-25 CoC NOFO Timeline

\*\*Full Version on the website



# FY24–25 CoC Voluntary Reallocations

## What are Reallocations?

- Reallocations allow the CoC to shift funding from existing projects back into the competition to better align resources with current system needs and HUD priorities. This is a standard and encouraged practice under the CoC Program.

## 4 voluntary reallocations received

- 3 Permanent Housing (PH) projects
- 1 HMIS project

## CFTH is coordinating directly with each impacted provider to ensure:

- Continuity of care
- Coordinated Entry and HMIS compliance

## Why This Matters

- Demonstrates strong system stewardship
- Creates funding capacity for new projects
- Allows the CoC to respond to emerging priorities and system gaps

# System Impact – Inventory & Future NOFO Opportunities



## Housing Inventory Impact

- Total PH projects reallocated: 3
- Total units: 290
- Total beds: 380
- HMIS reallocation: System infrastructure support only (no units/beds)

## Short-Term System Considerations

- There may be a decrease in available housing capacity while new projects are awarded and brought online.

## Impact on Future NOFO Competitions- Demonstrates to HUD that the CoC:

- Actively manages inventory quality
- Uses data to guide funding decisions



# Advocacy Updates

Your voice matters!

## Expected soon at Houston City Council: Civility ordinance

The current ordinance dictates that no one is allowed to sit or sleep on sidewalks from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. (i.e., during the day) within certain zones.

The new ordinance would make the ban 24/7 in in Downtown and the East End.





# Up for Vote in the House: HR 7148

- FY2026 Funding: \$4.417 billion (\$290m for ESG and \$4.010b for CoC)
  - Lowest HUD can take Tier 1 is 60%
  - Requires NOFO to be published by June and awards made by December FY2025
  - HUD must immediately renew grants that expire in Q1 for 12 months (non-competitively)
  - If awards not made prior to April 1, HUD must non-competitively renew grants that expire in Q2 for 12 months
  - If awards not made prior to July 1, HUD must non-competitively renew grants that expire in Q3 and Q4 for 12 months
  - Grants awarded in this way cannot be penalized under any 2025 or 2026 NOFO
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# Up for Vote in the House: HR 7148

- Our funding bill is H.R. 7148 (mini-bus) is scheduled for House vote today
  - Homeland Security (HS) has been carved out of the mini-bus (is now H.R. 7147)
  - If H.R. 7148 passes: bundled with already-passed bills and sent to Senate
  - Issues may arise if H.R. 7147 does not pass, including potential veto concerns
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**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).



# Why do we count?

To capture information that will help us understand:

Key trends and factors contributing to homelessness and housing instability;

Where people go to try and stay safe while experiencing homelessness;

The number of people needing housing assistance (and the type and extent of that need); and

Data to support advocacy for increased funding, resources, and support.

The data is reported to the HUD to:

Monitor progress/success (are the numbers decreasing?)

Determine the amount of federal, state, & local funding that will come into our community

Identify areas with a dense homeless presence (e.g., encampments, etc.)

Improve services & housing

Determine what additional services are needed



# 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



# Agency Requirements

## CoC/YHDP NOFO- funded Agencies:

- Required to assign two (2) volunteers for at least two (2) days of the count.

## System Outreach Agencies:

- Required to assign at least two (2) volunteers each day of the count (3 days).

## Agencies not funded by the CoC/YHDP NOFO:

- Required to allocate at least two (2) volunteers for at least one (1) day of the count.

# More Information

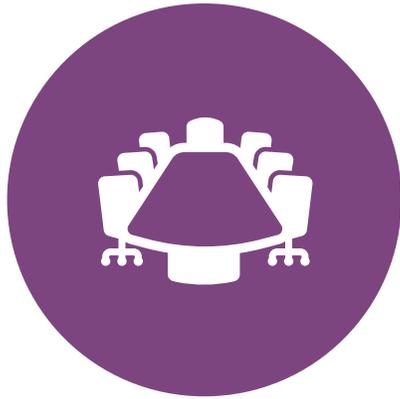
- Volunteer Registration: Forthcoming
- More Information: <https://www.cfthhouston.org/take-action#HomelessCount>
- T-Shirts:
  - Availability: Only volunteers that complete all requirements are eligible to receive a new PIT Count t-shirt as a symbol of support. Sizes are available on a first-come first-serve basis
  - 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



# Upcoming Engagement Requests/Opportunities

# Upcoming Engagement Requests & Opportunities

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STEERING  
COMMITTEE



FIVE-YEAR PLAN  
WORKGROUPS



SPECIAL TASKFORCE  
INITIATIVES

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# Winter Weather Preparedness



# Winter Weather Preparedness – Key Guidance

- Systemwide Coordination – For real-time updates, visit:
    - CFTH Winter Storm Updates: [cfthhouston.org/winter-storm-jan-2026](https://cfthhouston.org/winter-storm-jan-2026)
    - City of Houston OEM: [houstonoem.org/winterweather](https://houstonoem.org/winterweather)
    - Fort Bend County OEM: [fortbendcountytexas.gov/.../homeland-security-emergency-management](https://fortbendcountytexas.gov/.../homeland-security-emergency-management)
    - Montgomery County OEM: [mctxoem.org](https://mctxoem.org)
    - Warming center information and updates will be shared as confirmed.
  - Our Shared Priorities
    - Staff Safety:
      - Ensure teams are informed and supported
      - Activate internal weather preparedness plans
    - Operations & Facilities:
      - Review emergency and communication plans
      - Confirm generators, supplies, and staffing readiness
    - Client Support:
      - Provide clear info on warming options and safety
      - Maintain calm, consistent communication
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# Key Reminders by Program Area

## Housing Providers

- Encourage residents to protect pipes (drip faucets, open cabinets, insulate)
- Make maintenance emergency contacts clear
- Promote basic preparedness items (blankets, flashlights, chargers)

## Shelters & Day Centers

- Prepare for increased demand
- Communicate hour/capacity changes promptly
- Ensure staff know escalation procedures
- Notify CFTH if extending hours or providing emergency services

## Street Outreach Teams

- Prioritize clients in highly exposed areas
- Offer blankets, warm clothing, and warming center information
- Encourage movement to warm locations when possible
- Conduct wellness checks; work in pairs
- Call emergency services for any urgent safety issues

# Public Comment



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

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

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

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**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!**