



# The Way Home

## Steering Committee

May 2026





# Meeting Agenda

## Meeting Introduction:

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

## Meeting Business:

- April 2026 Meeting Minutes

## CoC Updates:

- FY26 NOFO Competition
- System Outreach Overview
- Dr. Ben King and Community Planning

## Meeting Wrap-Up:

- Public Comment
- Meeting Adjourn

# About The Way Home Steering Committee

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Serves as the leadership body for the Continuum of Care (CoC), similar to a board of directors

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Provides oversight of planning, coordination, and federal funding distribution to prevent and end homelessness

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Composed of diverse stakeholders across the region, including system partners and individuals with lived experience

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Strengthens the homeless response system by securing resources, building partnerships, and leveraging influence and expertise

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Made up of committed, community-focused leaders dedicated to improving outcomes for those experiencing homelessness

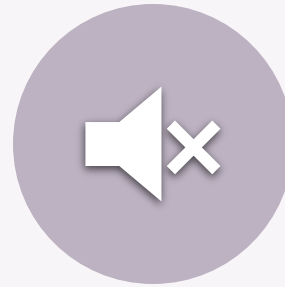
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We currently have 11 members, and aim to begin filling vacancies over the next couple of months

# 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 Business

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Items Requiring Vote of the  
CoC Steering Committee



# MEETING MINUTES

## MEETING DETAILS

Time/Date: Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 3 PM

Meeting Type: Open public meeting – Virtual

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

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

## MEETING INTRODUCTION | 3:00 – 3:10 PM

- **Chair:** Call to order
- **Caybryn & Chair:** About the Steering Committee
- **Caybryn Southern:** Housekeeping & Roll call of Steering Committee members

## MEETING BUSINESS | 3:10 – 3:20 PM

- **Chair:** February Steering Committee Minutes (00:05:58) / pg. 6-7
  - Motion moved by Barbie Brashear and Gregory Dread
  - No committee discussion, comment, or questions
  - No objections / abstentions
  - Motion passed unanimously

## COC UPDATES | 3:20 – 3:55 PM

- **Jamey Caruthers:** Legislative Interim Charges Impacting Homelessness (00:06:43) / pg. 8-11
  - **Committee Discussion:** Begins at 00:15:38 of the meeting recording
- **Caybryn Southern:** 2026 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Recap (00:16:44) / pg. 12 – 21
  - **Committee Discussion:** No committee discussion was held.
- **Caybryn Southern:** Upcoming System Workgroups (00:28:12) / pg. 22 – 27
  - **Committee Discussion:** No committee discussion was held.
- **Caybryn Southern:** Upcoming System Governance Requirements (00:36:00) / pg. 28 – 29
  - **Committee Discussion:** Begins at 00:03:44 of the meeting recording.

## MEETING WRAP-UP | 3:55 – 4:00 PM

- **Caybryn:** Public Comment (00:47:30) / pg. 30
- **Chair:** Meeting Adjourn by Barbie Brashear

**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 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"/>	Tory Gunsolley, Vice Chair	Harris County Housing & Community Development	Fixed Position	June 2024 – in perpetuity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rebecca Ansley	Montgomery County Community Development	Fixed Position	June 2021 – in perpetuity
<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 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 type="checkbox"/>	VACANT	Lived Experience & Advocacy	Youth & Young Adult Consumer Representative	



# CoC Updates

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





# FY26 NOFO Competition

# FY24/FY25 Awards: Where Things Stand



## Q1 Awards Announced

Released end of March.



## Q2 Awards Announced

Announced earlier this week.



## Alignment with Litigation Process

Award process aligns with current litigation and court-directed renewal process. This alignment is anticipated to continue.



## Plan for Delays

Agencies should plan for delays between award announcement and contract execution (estimated at least 60 days).

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# FY26 CoC Program NOFO: What We Know Today

Based on HUD's current projected timing:



**FY26 NOFO  
expected  
release**

End of May



**Federal  
Collaborative  
Application  
deadline**

Late August



**Local  
competition  
timeline**

Compressed across  
May, June, and July



**Anticipated  
local project  
application  
deadlines**

First round: Likely by  
late June (or sooner)  
Final round: Likely by  
mid-July

These are assumptions and may change once HUD releases the official NOFO.

# FY26 Local Competition: Early Planning Steps for Partners

## Review FY26 CoC Competition Information

Access the latest details on the CFTH website.

## Submit Letters of Interest (LOIs)

LOIs submission window opens May 1.

## Confirm e-snaps Access

Ensure your agency user roles are correctly set up.

## Review eLOCCS Access and Internal Controls

Verify access and confirm internal control procedures.

## Prepare Match and Leverage Documentation

Gather all necessary documentation for match and leverage.

## Review Project Performance, Spenddown, and Threshold Readiness

Assess current project status against requirements.

## Plan for Intervention-Type Changes

Anticipate potential changes based on the final NOFO.

Reminder: LOIs are active as of May 1. More information is on the CFTH website.

# FY26 NOFO: What We Are Watching Closely

Anticipated changes and key areas of focus for the upcoming Notice of Funding Opportunity.



## Accountability and Performance

Continued emphasis on accountability and project performance.



## Project Type Shifts

Possible required shifts for certain project types.



## Transitional Housing Focus

Increased focus on Transitional Housing.



## HUD's Approach

HUD's approach to renewal protections, bonus funding, and local ranking.



## Permanent Housing Caps

Potential Permanent Housing cap or restrictions.



## Threshold and Eligibility

Changes to threshold requirements, eligible activities, or project design.

**Planning Assumption: All RRH projects should prepare for a potential shift to Transitional Housing unless HUD provides different guidance.**

# PH Cap Scenario Planning Update

CFTH Modeling for FY26 CoC Competition and HUD Limits



## Scenarios Reviewed

CFTH has modeled multiple PH cap scenarios including 30%, 40%, 50%, and 60% caps in preparation for the FY26 CoC competition and potential HUD limits on Permanent Housing.



## Current Planning Assumption

The 60% PH cap is the most likely working assumption, aligning with the current Tier 1 protection framework. CFTH has begun planning and agency outreach based on this assumption.

This remains a planning assumption until HUD releases the official FY26 NOFO. The 60% PH cap is the most likely working assumption at this time.

# Agency Outreach and Projected System Impact



## CFTH's Proactive Engagement

CFTH is contacting agencies about potential FY26 Permanent Housing (PH) cap impacts using current data and scenario planning.



## Purpose of Outreach

To provide an early planning signal, support project design review, reduce last-minute reactions, and initiate discussions on transition planning and operational impact.



## Projected System Impacts & Strategic Shift

A PH cap could lead to reduced PH inventory, a shift to other housing models, and require adjusted project designs and increased inter-agency partnerships.



## Strategic Implication

This indicates a system design shift from a PSH-centered model to a broader stability-centered continuum approach.

More broadly, this NOFO may affect inventory, partnerships, and how interventions are framed across the CoC.

# Impact of Congressional Auto Renewals on FY24/FY25 Awards and FY26 Planning

Shifting Local Award Landscape

- **What Changed**  
Five projects voluntarily reallocated are now expected to auto-renew under congressional action.
- **Why This Matters**  
Creates a disconnect between local decisions and federal outcomes, impacting agency planning, startup expectations, and raising fairness concerns for unfunded projects.
- **Current Status**  
Lists of impacted projects are being shared, agencies are being contacted for their FY26 intent, and final responses are expected by next week.
- **Recommended FY26 Planning Response**  
CFTH recommends that projects awarded locally through FY24/FY25 reallocation, but not funded due to congressional auto renewals, receive priority consideration in FY26 reallocation review and ranking.

CFTH will share the list of FY24/FY25 reallocated projects and those expected to auto-renew. Impacted agencies have been contacted regarding FY26 renewal or reallocation, with final responses due by the end of next week.

# **SAVE System: What Partners Should Know**

- **SAVE System Overview**  
A federal system for verifying certain immigration/citizenship eligibility.
- **Not a Direct Requirement for Nonprofits**  
Currently not a direct requirement for nonprofits solely due to their nonprofit status.
- **Potential Subrecipient Requirements**  
Requirements may arise if an agency is a subrecipient of a state/local funder for specific funding streams.
- **Varying Requirements**  
Requirements vary by funding source, contract, and funder.

Review new contract language carefully and ensure internal alignment across leadership, program, compliance, data, finance, and legal.

# **System Outreach Overview**

# System Outreach

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- **Purpose:** Coordinating housing and a system response – navigation into housing, coordinated support for encampments and weather events
- **Provider(s):** Avenue 360, SEARCH Homeless Services, CFTH
- **How often:** Monday-Friday
  - Houston Recovery Center operates 24/7
- **Where:** Harris County and limited Fort Bend and Montgomery County
- **Opportunities:** Expanded capacity (ex. services, resources, and staffing)





# System Outreach



Assigned regions are covered monthly



Encampments are tracked and receive ongoing support



Connect clients to Coordinated Entry

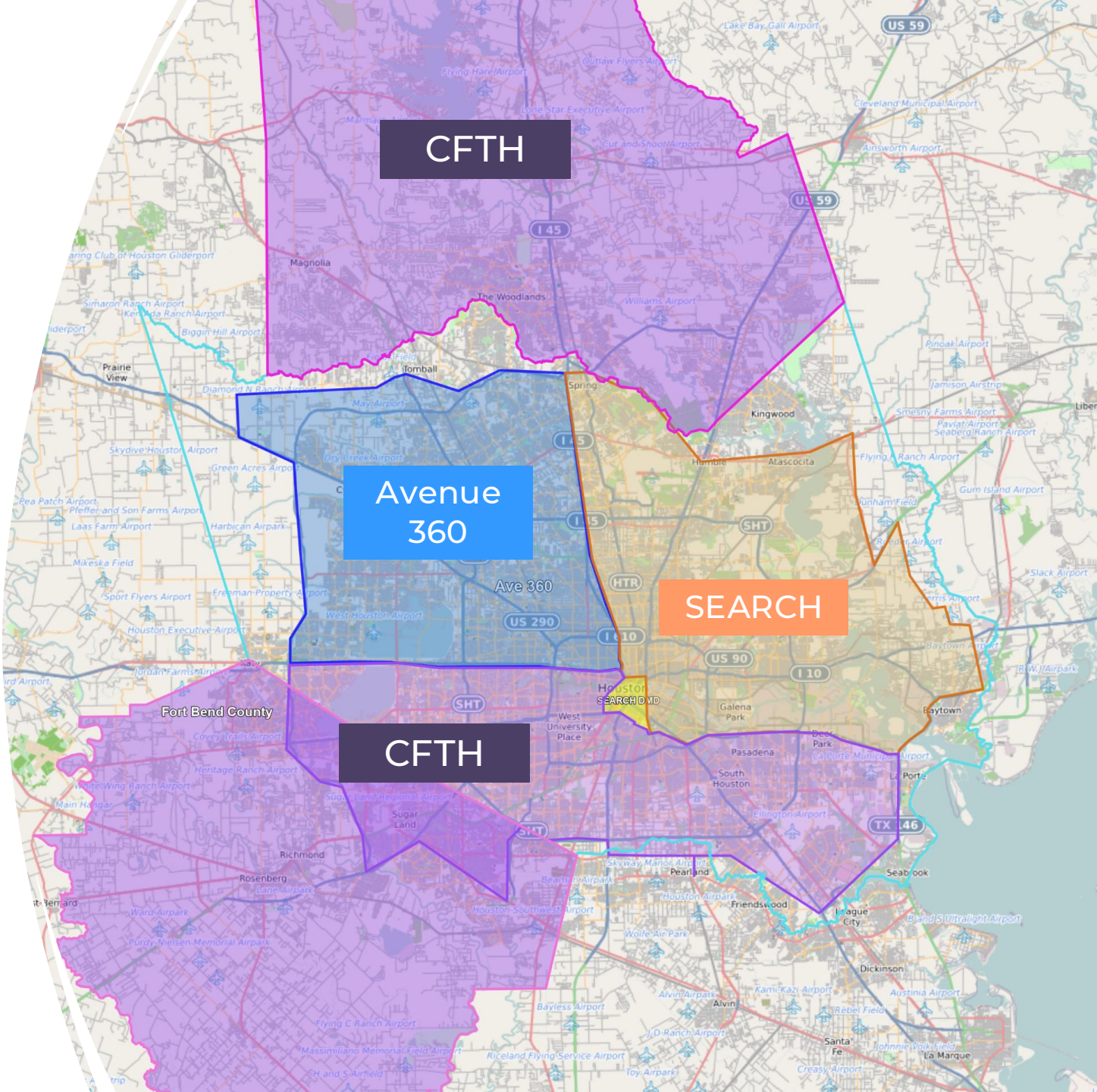


Communication:

Quarterly Open Meetings  
Regular System Meetings

# System Outreach Assignments

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# Focused Outreach and Engagement

**Purpose:** Experts in a Subpopulation (e.g., Veterans, Human Trafficking, etc.)

**Provider(s):** VA Outreach, Harris Center mental health and substance use teams, HHH SMART Team, HOT Team

**How Often:** Monday-Friday

**Where:** Varies

**Opportunities:** Enhanced coordination and reporting



# Community Outreach

- **Purpose:** Focus on Basic Needs and Resources (e.g., Water, Food, Blankets, etc.)
- **Provider(s):** Star of Hope, Hope Haven
- **How Often:** Monday - Friday
- **Where:** Not Reported to CoC
- **Opportunities:**
  - Enhanced coordination and reporting
  - Technical Assistance focused on building skills that will improve the organization, program, and/or the services they provide.

# Funding Sources for Outreach

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CoC NOFO, City,  
County, State,  
Philanthropy

Outreach providers  
awarded under the  
CoC NOFO must  
participate as a  
System Outreach  
team

# Outreach's Vision

Increased CoC-funded outreach

Clearer understanding of outreach's role, purpose, and capacity

Evolution of services connected to outreach

Prioritizing of the systemic shift toward enhanced outreach

Designated outreach provider connected to CE/HMIS in Fort Bend and Montgomery counties

Comprehensive CoC-wide tracking and coverage map

Improved utilization of the Show the Way App

Greater public awareness of the transient nature of homelessness and the ability to follow up with services



**Dr. Ben King and  
Community  
Planning**

# Launching a CoC-Wide Needs Assessment and New Community Plan for 2027-2029

Phase 1: Testing ideas, identifying gaps, and refining the assessment approach

## Purpose of Today's Discussion

- Introduce the idea of a CoC-wide needs assessment for The Way Home
- Begin defining the scope, questions, and domains that should guide the process
- Gather early Steering Committee input before broader community engagement begins
- Launch Phase 1: testing ideas, identifying gaps, and refining the assessment approach

## Stakeholders

**100+ partners** across Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties

- Homeless service agencies
- Local government and funders
- Public housing authorities
- Partner staff and clients



### **This is not the final community plan.**

This is the beginning of a structured process to understand the system before drafting the plan.



The assessment is a bridge between data, community voice, and implementation.

**35K+**

People housed since 2012

**95%**

Housing success rate

**Phase 1 Launch**

# The Way Home: A Shared Regional System

✓ 100+ Partners

Understanding the system we are assessing


## **The System We Are Assessing**

The Greater Houston region's collective effort to prevent and end homelessness through permanent housing with supportive services.

The system includes more than 100 partners across **Harris, Fort Bend, and Montgomery counties**. Partners include homeless service agencies, local governments, public housing authorities, DV survivorship and VA partners, nonprofits, funders, and community stakeholders.

 Homeless service agencies

 Local governments

 Public housing authorities

 Funders

 External Community Partners

 Community stakeholders

★ **CFTH** serves as the lead agency for The Way Home

## **Why This Matters**

A community plan should reflect the full system, not only one organization, funding stream, or program type.

The needs assessment should capture both the formal CoC system and the broader ecosystem around the homelessness response system(s).

A community plan should reflect the community's values, goals, and priorities.

 **Regional scope**



## Why a Needs Assessment, Why Now?

Core rationale and planning opportunity for the community plan

🕒 3-Year Alignment

### 🎯 Core Rationale

The community needs a shared understanding of:

- What is working.
- Where people get stuck.
- Which needs are changing.
- Which populations are least well served.
- What would make a new plan useful and actionable.

📌 The assessment is a bridge between data, community voice, and implementation.

### 📅 Planning Opportunity

A refreshed community plan should be grounded in:

- 📄 HUD-required system performance data
- 📄 HMIS and Coordinated Entry data
- 📍 Community indicators and geography
- 👥 Frontline and lived experience
- 🚩 Leadership and funder priorities

💡 **Key Point:** The assessment connects data, community voice, and implementation.



# Baseline Assessment Tools: System Performance Measures + Data Maturity

Establishing baseline landscape assessment of system performance

Assessment Tools

## HUD System Performance Measures (SPMs)

**Why required:** McKinney-Vento Act (Section 427) requires CoCs to measure/report system-level performance; informs CoC Competition and local Consolidated Plans.

- 1 Length of time persons remain homeless
- 2 Returns to homelessness (within 2 years)
- 3 Number of people experiencing homelessness
- 4 Employment and income growth for participants
- 5 First-time homelessness
- 6 Successful placements from street outreach
- 7 Successful placement in/retention of permanent housing

**Use in this assessment:**

Establish baselines, identify bottlenecks, and compare outcomes by population and geography.

## HUD CoC Data Maturity Assessment Tool

**Purpose:** Self-assessment to reflect on local data practices and enable data-informed decision-making.

- ✓ Data Quality
- Analytics Capacity
- 👥 Data Leadership
- 🔄 System Improvement

**Assessment Process:**



**Who completes:** CoC leadership with key decision makers, stakeholders, and data leaders



# Assessment Domains: Baseline Landscape at a Glance

6 Domains

Six domains for system performance and readiness assessment



## 1. System Performance and Flow

Focus: Entries, time homeless, exits to PH, returns, and bottlenecks across the crisis response.

- Entries
- Exits
- Returns
- Bottlenecks

SPMs: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7



## 2. Coordinated Entry & Access

Focus: Access points, assessment consistency, prioritization, referral timeliness.

- Access
- Assessment
- Prioritization
- Referrals

SPMs: 1, 2, 3



## 3. Housing Inventory & Search

Focus: Right intervention mix, utilization, document readiness, landlord engagement.

- Inventory
- Utilization
- Landlords
- Units

SPMs: 7 (PH placement)



## 4. Community Conditions

Focus: Housing costs, demographics, HUD investments, transportation, employment.

- CART
- Demographics
- Costs
- Transport

Tools: CART, Local indicators



## 5. Health & Cross-System

Focus: Healthcare, behavioral health, SUD treatment, reentry, DV, benefits.

- Healthcare
- SUD
- DV
- Reentry

Alignment: DMAT Data Leadership



## 6. Lived Experience & Equity

Focus: Client/provider experience, invisible barriers, underserved populations.

- Experience
- Barriers
- Equity
- Engagement

Alignment: DMAT System Improvement



# Community Planning Timeline

Phase 1 Launch

To gather feedback, identify gaps, and refine the community's approach to ending homelessness.

## Public Engagement Activities

Community Planning Kick-off: **May 2026**

Community Survey: **May 2026**

Stakeholder Engagement Sessions: **June & July 2026**

Public Comment: **August/September 2026**

Final Review & Approval: **November 2026**

**Message to Steering Committee**  
Today's role is to help shape the questions, not finalize the answers.

**5**  
Key Activities

**100+**  
Partners



## Big-Picture Vision for the Community Plan

Defining what the plan should be, questions it should answer, and desired outcome

Vision Framework

### The Plan Should Be

Practical enough to guide decisions

Flexible enough to adapt

Measurable enough to track progress

Grounded in data and lived experience

Clear enough for partners and funders

Useful to frontline staff, not just leadership

### Desired Outcome

A plan that helps make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring in the region, consistent with The Way Home's stated system goal.



## How We Will Learn: Multiple Forms of Evidence

Quantitative system data, community indicators, and qualitative insights

Evidence-Based

### Quantitative System Data

- HMIS data
- Coordinated Entry data
- PIT Count
- Housing Inventory Count
- System Performance Measures
- Program utilization and housing outcomes

No single data source can fully describe the system

### Community & Geographic Data

- HUD Community Assessment Reporting Tool
- Housing cost and demographic indicators
- Rental assistance and HUD investment data
- Neighborhood-level health, transportation, employment
- Environmental indicators

Geographic variation reveals system gaps

### Qualitative & Experiential Data

- Community engagement meetings
- Frontline worker survey
- Listening sessions with lived experience
- Input from HMIS-linked services
- People outside formal service pathways
- Leadership and stakeholder reviews


Lived experience provides crucial context



# Community Engagement Plan After Today

Structured approach to gathering input from diverse stakeholders and community members





## Planned Engagement Components

-  Multiple community engagement meetings organized with CFTH support
-  Listening sessions with subject matter experts and adjacent system partners
-  Dedicated survey of frontline workers
-  Engagement with people with lived experience
-  Outreach to people connected to HMIS-linked services
-  Outreach to people not connected to formal services
-  Targeted conversations with funders, public systems, providers

## Purpose of Engagement Meetings

- Validate the assessment domains.
- Identify missing issues and populations.
- Understand system strengths and gaps.
- Surface practical recommendations.
- Gather examples of what works.
- Identify what would make a new plan useful.

## Design Considerations

-  Use plain-language materials
-  Offer different formats
-  Provide open-ended response options
-  Close the loop by summarizing input



## Today's Ask: Help Shape Phase 1

Gathering input from Steering Committee to refine assessment approach

### ? What We Need From Steering Committee Today



**Are these the right domains?**

Validate assessment areas



**What risks should we avoid?**

Risk mitigation



**Which data sources are essential?**

Data priorities



**Which stakeholders must be included?**

Key partners



**What is missing?**

Identify gaps in assessment



**What would make the final plan useful?**

Success criteria



### 🎯 Closing Message

**The goal is not to produce a plan quickly.** The goal is to build a plan that reflects the system, the community, and the people most affected by homelessness. We need your input to ensure this assessment captures the full picture.



# 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!**



# 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.:** 2. FY26 Reduction and Reallocation Policy

**Date Proposed:** Thursday, April 16, 2026 (via email)

**Category:** FY26 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Competition

### BACKGROUND

**WHEREAS, there is added flexibility for federal requirements**

The Steering Committee recognizes updates to Permanent Housing (PH) cap and tiering language clarifying that final requirements are subject to HUD NOFO guidance, ensuring compliance with evolving federal direction.

**WHEREAS, there is an added PH cap compliance trigger**

The policy now clearly establishes that PH funding exceeding HUD-imposed limits must be addressed through reallocation, replacement, or transition, providing a defined compliance trigger and response framework.

**WHEREAS, there is a new limitation on New Project prioritization**

To promote system stability, agencies that voluntarily reallocated or reduced projects in FY25 will not be prioritized for new project funding in FY26, while remaining eligible to apply.

**WHEREAS, there is a new Governing Body Exception clause**

The policy authorizes limited, documented exceptions, approved by the Steering Committee, to ensure flexibility while maintaining consistency, transparency, and fairness.

**WHEREAS, priority use of funds has been strengthened**

The policy reinforces prioritization of Transitional Housing (TH), Supportive Services Only (SSO), and expansion projects, with an explicit emphasis on service capacity, system performance, and stability outcomes.

**WHEREAS, there is a new Lead Agency recusal requirement**

Clear conflict-of-interest procedures are established requiring the Collaborative Applicant (Lead Agency) to recuse itself from decision-making when directly impacted by funding decisions, ensuring integrity of governance.

**RESOLVED:**
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,**

1. The Steering Committee of The Way Home Continuum of Care approves and adopts the updated FY26 Reduction and Reallocation Policy incorporating the changes outlined above.
2. The Steering Committee is authorized to implement the policy in accordance with HUD NOFO guidance and CoC governance standards.
3. All exceptions, reallocations, and recusal actions shall be documented and included in the official competition record.
4. This Resolution takes effect immediately upon adoption and applies to the FY26 CoC Program Competition.
5. The Steering Committee authorizes the Coalition for the Homeless (CFTH), as the Collaborative Applicant, to implement the FY 2026 Reduction and Reallocation Policy.

Approved by the Steering Committee on: Thursday, April 23, 2026 (via email)

**SIGNATURES:**

*Tory Guasolley*

May 08 2026

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 Vice Chair, The Way Home Steering Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

*Gregory Dread*

May 08 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Secretary, The Way Home Steering Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date