# Greater Richmond Continuum of Care

**2025-26 Community Priorities for Coordinated Funding & Investment Strategy**

**Background**: Each year, the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC) establishes local priorities for competitively allocating federal and state funds programs working to solve homelessness in the region. The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development make this funding available to communities annually, through a data-driven, coordinated network known as the Continuum of Care. GRCoC funding priorities for these coordinated funding processes reflect local needs and are based on:

* input from people experiencing/with lived experience of homelessness in our community
* [performance measures](https://www.endhomelessnessrva.org/performance-measurement) and [gaps analysis](https://irp.cdn-website.com/5f4255d0/files/uploaded/Homeward%202022%20Gaps%20Analysis.pdf) based on data from the Homeward Community Information System
* priorities established in the federal [HEARTH Act](https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/hearth-act/) and the [Virginia Homeless Solutions Program guidelines.](https://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/vhsp)

The GRCoC Board recognizes that many programs contribute significantly to the work of addressing homelessness in our community and that the federal and state funding resources allocated through the GRCoC are not sufficient to meet the needs in the community. The GRCoC coordinated funding process provides limited funding for specific types of programs and sets up expectations for strategic resource allocation, system coordination, and system- level performance.

# Community-identified Priorities

The community-identified needs listed below are based on data and input from providers, people with lived experience of homelessness, and community stakeholders. These priorities are aligned with the [Greater Richmond Continuum of Care: Local Public Sector Investment](https://irp.cdn-website.com/b42b4d18/files/uploaded/GRCoC%20Investment%20Strategy.pdf) [Strategy Approach](https://irp.cdn-website.com/b42b4d18/files/uploaded/GRCoC%20Investment%20Strategy.pdf) and reflect the needs of people experiencing homelessness in the region.

These priorities also inform the GRCoC’s funding recommendations to Emergency Solutions Grant entitlement communities.

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| GRCoC Investment Strategy |
| * Expand the capacity of existing homeless service providers through leveraging system resources, * increasing the number of exits to stable housing. * Maximizing resources available for housing-focused case management across shelter and permanent housing programs * Supporting the addition of housing navigation staff at GRCoC partner agencies including outreach, shelter, and housing programs |

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| Additional funding strategies to support the needs of people served by coordinated homeless.  service providers |
| * Maximize all resources to increase the availability supportive housing serving people with serve service needs (as-defined in the [GGRCoC’s Plan to Serve Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness with Severe Service Needs](https://irp.cdn-website.com/b42b4d18/files/uploaded/Plan%20to%20Serve%20Individuals%20and%20Families%20Experiencing%20Homelessness%20with%20Severe%20Service%20Needs%20(002).pdf))   + Increase the availability of Permanent Supportive Housing. Our region has as Permanent Supportive Housing shortage of approximately 350 units. * Focus coordinated funding resources on the development of new permanent housing projects.   + Increase the total number of Rapid Re-housing beds * Target community partnerships and funding opportunities to address the needs of older adults, and people with complex care needs who are experiencing homelessness. * Supporting coordinated outreach services to serve individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness. * Support system-level programs and staffing to facilitate coordinated services including prioritization, referrals, and case conferencing. * Facilitate high data quality in HMIS or the comparable database used by domestic violence/ sexual assault providers |

# Funding Program-specific Priorities

The following section develops priorities for anticipated coordinated funding opportunities. The GRCoC annually submits applications for two coordinated funding programs: The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Program ([View HUD CoC Funding Process](https://www.endhomelessnessrva.org/hud-continuum-of-care-program)) and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Virginia Homeless Solutions Program ([View VHSP](https://www.endhomelessnessrva.org/virginia-homeless-solutions-program) [Funding Process](https://www.endhomelessnessrva.org/virginia-homeless-solutions-program)) .

Both of these grant processes include the need for a collaborative application with supporting materials that are reviewed by our [GRCoC Ranking Committee](https://irp.cdn-website.com/b42b4d18/files/uploaded/Greater-Richmond-Continuum-of-Care-Ranking-Committee-Description-rev.pdf). The Ranking Committee uses the GRCoC Funding Priorities to guide its decisions.

In addition to community input and data, this section considers eligible activities under each coordinated funding program, and the program guidelines established by HUD and Virginia

Department of Housing and Community Development.

*Re-Allocation Priorities:*

The GRCoC regularly reviews project performance to evaluate the efficiency and efficacy of public funds in the community. For all available public funding opportunities, the GRCoC prioritizes re-allocating available funds from lower-performing projects to higher performing projects, following community priorities for program components and project types.

**HUD Continuum of Care and Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program**

HUD announces the beginning of the annual grant competition by publishing a Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO). The NOFO provides detailed information about the application process including deadlines, eligible applicants, activities and costs. The HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) program aims to provide funding to quickly rehouse individuals and families who are currently experiencing homelessness. Emergency Shelter is not an eligible activity for the HUD CoC program.

During the local CoC funding competition, the GRCoC Ranking Committee is responsible for reviewing and ranking project applications. The Ranking Committee follows the competition policies and procedures to guide project scoring and ranking.

HUD CoC/YHDP Funding Priorities:

* Support the expansion of permanent housing resources.
  + Review low-performing renewal projects for [reallocation](https://irp.cdn-website.com/b42b4d18/files/uploaded/GRCoC-Grant-Reallocation-Policy-and-Procedures.pdf) to expand high-performing permanent housing resources.
  + Support bonus project applications, especially expansion projects for high-performing renewal projects.
* Support the addition of new partners, including faith-based providers.
* Ensure funding for federally required system components (Homeless Management Information System, Coordinated Entry, Emergency Transfer Plan)
* Ensure funding for all renewal YHDP projects.
  + Review low-performing renewal projects for re-allocation to high-performing renewal projects and new projects

# Virginia Homeless Solutions Program

The Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) is a program funded through both state and federal funds to support CoC strategies and homeless services. This program aims to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness and shorten the length of time individuals and families spend experiencing homelessness. outreach, emergency shelter operations, coordinated entry, HMIS, CoC Planning and rapid rehousing are eligible activities under this program.

VHSP Funding Priorities:

* Prioritize funding for high performing renewal projects
  + Prioritizing continuity of service and consistency in outcomes
* State-wide re-captured funds should be prioritized for high-performing renewal projects
  + Prioritizing continuity of service and consistency in outcomes

If additional funds are available, they should be allocated to Emergency Shelter Operations and Rapid Rehousing in alignment with the GRCoC’s commitment to reducing homelessness and increasing access for affordable housing.