

UNITY of Greater New Orleans
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS #26-1
 Transitional Housing to Support Housing and Recovery
 June 29, 2026

Purpose of RFP

UNITY of Greater New Orleans, the lead agency for the homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) for New Orleans, Jefferson Parish and Kenner, is seeking proposals from nonprofit and governmental agencies to provide temporary housing and supportive services through a Transitional Housing program model for vulnerable homeless persons in Orleans or Jefferson Parish, including those who may be experiencing unsheltered homelessness.

It is anticipated that up to **\$5-\$6 million** will be available for this project. If awarded by HUD, the project is expected to begin in Fall of 2027 with a one-year award that is eligible for renewal through the CoC funding competition based on project performance as well as program and financial compliance. Each project sponsor selected by the CoC Evaluation and Project Selection Committee will be included in the application submitted to HUD by the CoC.

The Transitional Housing Projects will provide temporary housing, case management services, and wrap-around services. These projects may provide short to medium-term (6 to 12 months) housing assistance through a congregate setting, tenant-based leasing or rental assistance, or hybrid model. Supportive services should include case management, on-site substance use and/or mental health treatment, employment, and other wrap-around services intended to increase self-sufficiency, employment income, and housing stability at exit from the program. Intended outcomes include exits to stable independent, unsubsidized housing, increased employment income, and access to mainstream benefits and services. Programs will also be evaluated on the ability to coordinate supportive services, provide recovery-oriented services, demonstrate strong participant engagement in services, reduce returns to homelessness, and increase cost-effectiveness.

A total of at least 150-250 unhoused people is expected to be served at any moment in time through this funding with project sponsors that must serve a minimum of 20 individuals each. Proposed projects may indicate specific models to meet community needs including: sober living communities, Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP), intentional living communities, and shared housing. Programs may focus on substance use treatment and recovery and/or recovery for people with severe mental illness. Program participants will be referred from the UNITY Coordinated Entry System based on a determination of homeless status for eligibility and assessment of needs to determine appropriate level of intervention.

Nonprofit, governmental, and faith-based agencies are eligible to apply. In order to increase community capacity to serve unhoused people, at least one project sponsor will be selected from an agency that is not currently receiving CoC funding.

-----**PROPOSALS ARE DUE BY 12:00 NOON ON TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026**-----

MEETINGS AND DEADLINES

- **RFP Information meeting:**
Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 1p.m
2475 Canal St, 1st Floor Annex Conference Room, New Orleans, LA 70119
- **Monday, July 6 at 11 a.m.**
Virtual meeting on Zoom. Please register on coc.unitygno.org website.
- **Deadline for submitting proposal to UNITY:**
Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 12:00 noon.
Proposal narrative and all attachments should be submitted through the local application portal:
<https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/UNITYNO/Participant>
- **CoC Evaluation and Project Selection Committee scores proposals and selects Project Sponsors:**
Thursday, July 30, 2026
- **Notification to applicants:**
Friday, July 31, 2026
- **Appeal Deadline:**
Noon, Wednesday, August 5, 2026.
- **Project Priority Rankings Posted** of Projects to be included in application to HUD:
Tuesday, August 11 2026.

-----BACKGROUND-----

Transitional Housing Projects are a way to provide a safe place for people experiencing homelessness to stay in crisis housing with wrap-around services, treatment, and employment supports to help build self-sufficiency as quickly as possible.

The agency selected as project sponsor must be willing to, at a minimum, do the following:

- Provide services and/or partner with other organizations to provide eligible supportive services that are necessary to assist program participant in obtaining and maintaining housing.
- Assist program participants with securing resources from other public or private sources that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP.
- Require program participants to take part in Supportive Services (e.g. case management, employment training, substance use treatment, etc.) in line with CFR578.75(h).
- Provide 20 hours of supportive services per week to each program participant (e.g. case management, employment training, substance use treatment, etc.) 20 hours per week may be reduced proportionally for program participants who are employed. The 20 hours per week requirement does not apply to individuals who are over age 62 or who have a disability/impairment or a developmental disability (24 CFR 58.5) not including substance use disorders.
- Prioritize people experiencing homelessness who have higher needs and vulnerabilities and have capacity to assist people with complex needs, including people who have severe mental illness and may have more challenges to engage with services.
- Participate in the CoC Coordinated Entry System by reporting all program openings to the CoC Coordinated Entry System (CES) and accepting referrals only from the CES.

- It is expected that participants will have a housing plan within 30 days of program entry and will obtain rental housing within 180 days of entry to independent housing without assistance or through short-term scattered-site assistance with the program.
- The Transitional Housing project is expected to conduct an assessment and develop an individualized service plan. Housing and services will use a progressive approach to tailor the length of assistance to the needs of each participant. It is expected that participants will be served for 6-12 months and no longer than 24 months.
- If providing tenant-based leasing or rental assistance, program staff will be expected to take participants to visit suitable housing units as part of the housing search process, provide tenant counseling, budget counseling, and life skills training as needed to improve housing stability.
- Identify housing units and conduct NSPIRE inspections for tenant-based programs.
- Program will play an important role in the CoC's policy and program priorities: to end homelessness for all persons; to reduce unsheltered homeless; to improve system performance; and, to partner with housing, health and service agencies.
- Once receiving funds through the Continuum of Care, Program will maintain dues-paying membership in the UNITY Service Providers and Professionals Association (SPPA).

Sample Funding Amounts				
Budget Category	Congregate Model	Tenant-Based Leasing Assistance Model	Tenant-Based Rental Assistance Model	Hybrid Model (Congregate and TBRA)
# Households at Any Moment	20	40	40	50
Supportive Services	\$280,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$580,000
Operating Costs	\$240,000	--	--	\$240,000
Leased Units (congregate)	\$160,000	--	--	\$160,000
Tenant Based Leasing (individual units)		\$540,000		
Tenant Based Rental Assistance	--		\$540,000	\$396,000
Administrative (no more than 7%)	\$47,600	\$65,800	\$65,800	\$96,320
TOTAL CoC Funding	\$727,600	\$1,005,800	\$1,005,800	\$1,472,320
Match (25% of funding excluding leasing)	\$141,900	\$116,450	\$251,450	\$328,080

Additional Information

Please consult HUD's CoC Program website for a description of the rules governing these program funds, how funds can be used, and the matching funds requirements for supportive services.

www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/.

HUD website for Continuum of Care Program: www.hud.gov/hud-partners/community-coc

UNITY Local CoC Competition Webpage: www.coc.unitygno.org

Local Competition FAQs: www.coc.unitygno.org/faq/

Local Application Process

Applications shall be submitted through the local application portal

<https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/UNITYNO/Participant>

Threshold Review

The threshold review for new project applications has two stages. First, an Eligibility and Administrative Threshold (pass/fail): staff verify applicant and subrecipient eligibility; nonprofit, faith-based or governmental documentation; submission of all required certifications and application required documents. Second, a New Project Quality Threshold reviews each new application against the project-quality point criteria for its component as published in the applicable HUD NOFO. Once an application has met the two phases of the threshold review, the CoC Evaluation and Project Selection Committee will score proposals and select Project Sponsors.

-----PROPOSAL FORMAT-----

Your proposal must be no more than 10 pages in length and must address the following:

#	Question	Points:
	Title of Project: <i>RFP #26-1 Transitional Housing to Support Housing and Recovery.</i> Name of Organization, Tax ID #, Unique Entity Identifier # (from SAM.gov), and contact information for any questions about the application. Attach evidence of non-profit tax-exempt status. Identify the proposed housing model being proposed: congregate, tenant-based leasing assistance, tenant-based rental assistance, or hybrid.	N/A
1	Organizational Experience: - Please state your organization's mission and explain how this project relates to the mission of your organization. - Number of years of experience operating programs for homeless people. Indicate the number of homeless people served last year and include those who were served from unsheltered location or emergency shelter. - Number of years of experience operating transitional housing and programs that provide time limited assistance.	20 Points
2	Service Delivery and Program Model: Describe your project plan for providing effective housing and wrap-around services to eligible participants to assist them in securing safe and appropriate housing and to remain permanently housed. Indicate any specific population focus and eligibility requirements. Describe how your program uses a recovery-oriented approach for people with severe mental illness or substance use disorders. Describe the program model with the expected length of participation for participants with different strengths and service needs and how the program will assist participants to exit to unsubsidized housing within 24 months of program entry.	25 Points

	b) Include your staffing plan and partnerships that will provide wrap around services; and include the location of services. c) Indicate whether substance use treatment and/or mental health treatment will be provided on-site and the number of beds that are dedicated for substance use treatment. Indicate if project will provide 24/7 access to detox or inpatient treatment or if those services are available through a project partner. Also describe methods to successfully enroll people in treatment services. d) Describe how you will develop an individualized service plan that will engage participants towards self-sufficiency. Indicate the anticipated hours/week service is provided for each participant, how the hours will be adjusted for those working/in training programs or people with physical disabilities unable to work. Indicate how the program will identify service needs and track the provision of services to participants. e) Describe how residents will be engaged to meet participation requirements, particularly people who have complex needs, those with severe mental illness, and those who are less likely to seek services. Describe how the program will work towards engagement to reduce discharges to homelessness. f) Describe how the project will connect people to valuable community resources such as mainstream benefits, education, health care, and employment. Indicate formal written partnerships. g) Experience with maintaining compliance with zoning, accreditation, licensing that may be required for your program model. Attachments: • Sample service plan that can demonstrate 20 hours/week customized services for each participant. • Service delivery grid demonstrating each type of service and whether the service will be provided by the agency, a partner agency (for which there is an MOU or other written agreement), mainstream resources in the community.	
2b.	Participation Agreement Submission of participant agreement that indicates required participation in services. Indicate if any beds require participation in substance use treatment.	5 Points
3	Staff Experience and Training: Explain the staffing structure for the project and the evidence-based practices that will be used to assist homeless individuals and/or families to become self-sufficient in less than 12 months. Indicate the expected caseload for each staff person. Please describe the job duties and qualifications of the employees you will hire to provide these services and include a resume of the person who will supervise this staff. Please describe the type(s) and frequency of trainings your staff receive on best practices (e.g., trauma-informed, victim-centered) on safety and planning protocols in serving survivors of domestic violence.	15 Points
4	Implementation Timeline: Describe your plan for rapid project implementation, specifically how the project will provide housing and services for the first program participants within 60 days of the award and full enrollment within 90 days of award. Include a timeline for hiring and training staff. Include whether the units that will be utilized are currently owned or leased by your organization, and provide the timeline the units will be available for this project. If the units are currently occupied, describe what will happen to the current residents.	5 Points
	Improving System Performance with Program Outcomes: Describe how the agency will evaluate success of the program, including success of partners involved in the provision of services.	20 points

	Describe how the program will be managed to meet project performance outcomes and improve CoC system performance measures. Include specific measure goals for the following outcomes: increasing housing stability through permanent housing, reducing returns to homelessness, and increasing participant employment income. Indicate experience with using HMIS or other database and the data quality control plan.	
6	Financial Capacity: a) Indicate your proposed budget for each component being requested, including the budget request for supportive services, operating costs, leasing and for rental assistance. Budget should indicate the basis for each cost to evaluate cost reasonableness; which costs will be provided through cash match or in-kind agreements; and application of indirect cost rate applied to eligible costs. Agencies with a federally approved indirect cost rate should send documentation with the application. Those choosing to charge the de minimus rate should submit the UNITY Indirect Cost Worksheet. Budgets of selected applicants may be revised in consultation with UNITY upon notification of proposal selection. d) Submit the organization's two most recent independent audits (and A-133 audit if applicable) or independent financial statements. e) Attach documentation of matching funds which includes the following information for each funding source: ▪ Source: Government or Private ▪ Method: Cash or In-kind ▪ Date of Commitment ▪ Specific Source of Match ▪ Project expenses that Match funding will be used for	15 Points
7	Cost Effectiveness a) Indicate cost effectiveness of the proposed project over two years by dividing the proposed CoC funding over two years divided by the number of positive outcomes expected over 24 months. b) Cost per household served: Calculate by dividing the proposed CoC funding amount for two years by the number of households expected to be served over 24 months.	10 Points
8	Partnerships and Leveraging Resources: a) Describe how this project will utilize other resources, programs, partnerships, and/or benefits to increase participant housing stability Identify the formal partnerships the applicant has in place to serve key subpopulations experiencing homelessness, and describe the services each partner provides. At a minimum, address partnerships to serve: (a) families with children (e.g., childcare, early childhood education, workforce/TANF, parenting and child healthcare); (b) veterans (e.g., the VA or Veteran-serving organizations); (c) aging and elderly individuals (e.g., residential care, assisted living, or medical respite); and (d) people transitioning from prisons, jails, or court-ordered programs (justice/re-entry). Indicate leveraged supportive services that are more than 50% of the CoC funding amount. b) Written commitment from a public or private health care provider indicating assistance to program participants of at least 50% of the funding request. Services must be tailored for participants in the project and health provider may not restrict eligibility of participants. c) Written commitment for recovery services from substance use treatment provider and/or Community Behavioral Health Center.	15 Points

	d) Applicants will not receive full points unless they attach documentation of each partnership (e.g., an MOU, written agreement, or partnership letter using the UNITY Partnership & Leverage template) summarizing the partnership, the services provided, and, where applicable, the value of the leveraged resources.	
9	Outcome Performance, Contract Compliance: No response required for current recipients of CoC and ESG funding. Each proposal is eligible for an additional 20 points to be determined by the Project Evaluation and Selection Committee which will consider additional factors in deciding which proposers would make a good project sponsor. These include: ▪ Contract compliance with previous CoC and ESG funded projects regarding spending, timely billing, data quality, submission of required reports, findings and concerns, etc. ▪ Performance results from CoC and ESG Annual Progress Reports and monitoring reports. ▪ Consumer Feedback and Collaboration with UNITY Coordinated Entry and Welcome Home Outreach Program. <i>*Respondents not currently funded by UNITY or local CoC funds must provide two letters of reference from funders regarding performance and compliance with projects of similar size and scope.</i>	20 Points
TOTAL:		150
Building Community Capacity – In order to build community capacity, the CoC Evaluation and Project Selection Committee may select a proposal from respondent that does not currently receive CoC funds.		

Mandatory Attachments: (not counted towards page limit)

- Attach a copy of your 2 most recent annual Financial Audits or independent financial statements.
- Attach proof of nonprofit tax-exempt status, if your agency is a non-profit organization.
- Participation Agreement or Occupancy Agreement
- Sample Service Plan
- Service Delivery Grid
- Budget
- Match Commitment Letter indicating source of matching funds and uses of those funds on project activities. Match of 25% of total sub-recipient budget is required.

**Respondents not currently funded by UNITY or local CoC funds must provide two letters of reference from funders regarding performance and compliance with projects of similar size and scope. Letters should indicate amount of funding, time period of performance, number of people served, key outcome measures.*

Optional Attachments:

- MOUs or formal agreements with housing or healthcare providers to document response for Partnerships and Leverage.
- Respondents not currently funded by UNITY or local CoC funds may also submit program reports submitted to other funders indicating outcome measures.
- Resume of Project Supervisor or Director
- Job Description(s) of proposed Key Project Staff
- Federally approved indirect cost rate or UNITY Indirect Costs Worksheet for de minimum rate.

Please limit your proposal to no more than 10 pages (not including attachments).

-----PROPOSALS ARE DUE BY 12:00 NOON ON TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2026-----

Proposals must be submitted through the UNITY Application Portal

<https://portal.neighborlysoftware.com/UNITYNO/Participant>

no later than 12:00 pm noon on Tuesday, July 21, 2026.

If you have questions about the RFP, please contact Valerie Coffin, Deputy Executive Director of CoC Programs vcoffin@unitygno.org or proposals@unitygno.org. Please visit the 2026 CoC Funding Competition page on UNITY's website at www.coc.unitygno.org periodically to see if answers to any questions submitted by you or others regarding the RFP have been posted.

For materials in alternate formats, please contact Valerie Coffin, Deputy Executive Director of CoC Programs at vcoffin@unitygno.org or proposals@unitygno.org or call 504-821-4496 x1012.