

FY26 Narrative Questions

Each possible narrative question is listed below along with applicable rubrics.

Rubrics are:

Renewal PH and TH projects

New PH and TH projects

New Reallocation PH and TH projects

New SSO Projects

New Reallocation SSO projects

Does this project have on-site substance abuse treatment services available to participants? (Scattered site programs could meet this requirement through groups available to all scattered site participants or Substance Use Treatment professionals that conduct home visits.) If yes, please describe. List any treatment providers you will partner with by name. You may be required to provide letters of commitment from these treatment providers prior to grant submission. 500 word limit.

Criteria: Applicant clearly states if this project has on-site substance abuse treatment services available to participants. If relevant, the applicant describes the nature of the activities.

Max points:	5						
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Rubrics: Renewal Projects(PH and TH), New Reallocation Projects (PH and TH), and New PH and TH Projects

Does this project have beds which are set aside exclusively for participants in substance abuse treatment? If yes, please describe. Clearly state the number of beds set aside for participants in substance abuse treatment. 500 word limit.

Criteria: Applicant clearly states if this project has beds which are set aside for participants in substance abuse treatment. If relevant, the applicant describes any relevant details and names specific service partners.

Max points:	5						
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Rubrics: Renewal Projects(PH and TH), New Reallocation Projects (PH and TH), and New PH and TH projects

Is CoC funding required to support active financing on a property? If yes, please describe. 500 word limit.

Criteria: Applicant clearly states if this project depends on CoC funding to support active financing on a property. If relevant, the applicant describes the nature of the active financing on the property.

Max points:	5						
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Rubrics: Renewal Projects(PH and TH), New Reallocation Projects (PH and TH)

Describe what supportive services (i.e., case management, behavioral healthcare, employment training, etc.) are offered by this project and how the project will assist program participants to obtain and maintain housing. If this project partners with other service partners to deliver services, please name partners. 500 word limit.

Criteria: Applicant demonstrates the type and scale of all supportive services available to participants (e.g. case management, substance abuse treatment, behavioral healthcare, job training, etc.). Applicant demonstrates that the project will provide and/or partner with other organizations to provide robust wraparound services. Applicant describes how the services offered will help clients obtain and maintain housing.

Max points:	5						
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Rubrics: All

Describe how this project provides, or partners with agencies that provide outpatient treatment for mental health and substance use disorders with a range of appropriate levels of care, psychosocial interventions, medication management, suicide prevention, and recovery supports. Describe how this project provides access to peer recovery specialists or other forms of peer support and recovery navigation. 500 word limit.

Criteria: Applicant describes treatment services available specific to mental health and substance abuse. Applicable partners are named if relevant to service delivery. Applicant provides peer support services or access to other recovery specialists.

Max points:	5						
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Rubrics: All

Describe the populations served by your project and how you will ensure that the supportive services provided are appropriate and accessible to all participants. Include any relevant details about how participant service plans are developed. 500 word limit.

Criteria: Applicant describes the populations served by this project which may include elderly individuals 55+, individuals with a disability/impairment, young adults, families, veterans, and survivors of domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Applicant describes how they will ensure all populations can access appropriate supportive services. Applicant provides details about the creation of participant service plans.

Max points:	5						
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Rubrics: All Renewal and Reallocation projects (excluding street outreach)

Describe the populations served by your project and how you will ensure that the supportive services provided are appropriate and accessible to all participants. Include any relevant details about how participant service plans are developed. In your response, be sure to include an estimate of the number of individuals and households to be served annually by the project. 500 word limit.

Criteria: Applicant describes the populations served by this project which may include elderly individuals 55+, individuals with a disability/impairment, young adults, families, veterans, and survivors of domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Applicant describes how they will ensure all populations can access appropriate supportive services. Applicant provides details about the creation of participant service plans.

Applicant estimates the number of individuals and households to be served annually by the project.							
Max points:	5						

Rubrics: New Projects (PH and TH)

What is your strategy for designing supportive services plans that will promote self-sufficiency and economic independence for participants. 500 word limit.							
Criteria: Applicant demonstrates how participants will be assisted in obtaining a customized supportive services plan which promotes sobriety, self-sufficiency, economic independence and stability. Applicant demonstrates understanding of the needs of the participants to be served.							
Max points:	5						

Rubrics: Renewal Projects (PH and TH), New Reallocation Projects (PH and TH), and New PH and TH Projects

Street Outreach projects only Describe how you work to engage people living in places not meant for human habitation to access emergency shelter, treatment programs, reunification with family, transitional housing or independent living. Discuss how you have partnered with law enforcement and certify that you do not interfere or impede with law enforcement to enforce local laws such as public camping and public drug use laws. 500 word limit.							
Criteria: Applicant describes strategy for engaging with unsheltered homeless and connecting individuals and families to shelter, treatment programs, transitional housing and independent living. Applicant attests that they do not impede or interfere with law enforcement and describes how they have partnered with law enforcement efforts.							
Max points:	10						

Rubrics: New Reallocation SSO - Street Outreach projects and New SSO - Street Outreach projects

SSO projects only Describe the populations served by your project and how you will ensure that the supportive services provided are appropriate and accessible to all participants. Include any relevant details about how participant service plans are developed. 500 word limit.							
Criteria: Applicant describes the populations served by this project which may include elderly individuals 55+, individuals with a disability/impairment, young adults, families, veterans, and survivors of domestic abuse, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Applicant describes how they will ensure all populations can access appropriate supportive services. Applicant provides details about the creation of participant service plans.							
Max points:	5						

Rubrics: New Reallocation SSO projects and New SSO projects

SSO projects only What is your strategy for designing supportive services plans that will promote self-sufficiency and economic independence for participants. 500 word limit.							
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Criteria: Applicant demonstrates how participants will be assisted in obtaining a customized supportive services plan which promotes sobriety, self-sufficiency, economic independence and stability. Applicant demonstrates understanding of the needs of the participants to be served.

Max points:	5						
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Rubrics: New Reallocation SSO projects and New SSO projects

New TH Only Describe how you provide individualized services for program participants during their time in Transitional Housing that will result in at least 20 hours per week of engagement in services, activities or employment for all program participants, except for a program participant over age 62 or who is an individual with handicaps as defined in 24 CFR 8.3 or a with a developmental disability as defined under 24 CFR 578.3 (examples of services or activities include case management, counseling, treatment, volunteering, work therapy, education, job training, community building activities, etc.) Employment may contribute to the 20 hours per week of engagement. 500 word limit.

Criteria: Applicant describes how service plans for participants will total to at least 20 hours a week of services. Applicant makes note acknowledging exceptions.

Max points:	5						
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Rubrics: New TH projects, New Reallocation TH projects.

Describe your organization's (and subrecipient(s) if applicable) financial management structure and experience in the following activities: 500 word limit.

- 1. effectively utilizing federal funds and performing the activities proposed in the application**
- 2. leveraging Federal, State, local and private sector funds**

Criteria: Applicant demonstrates a robust financial management structure. Applicant describes prior experience successfully utilizing federal funds and performing activities proposed in the application. Applicant demonstrates prior experience leveraging funds from a variety of sources including Federal, State, local and private sector. ***Note: new projects are required to submit a copy of organizational financial policies with scoring materials.**

Max points:	5						
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Rubrics: New PH and TH projects and New SSO projects

If your project is new or has not begun intake, describe the strategy for quickly moving participants into the project and reaching unit capacity. For FY24 projects that have not yet completed their first grant year, describe how close your project is to reaching unit capacity. 500 word limit.

Criteria: Applicant indicates if this project has begun participant intake. Applicant demonstrates a strategy for quickly moving participants into housing and reaching capacity.

Max points:	5						
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Rubrics: New PH and TH projects

Describe how the project will be supplemented with resources from other public or private sources, that may include mainstream health, social, and employment programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP. 500 word limit.

Criteria: Applicant describes how the project will be supplemented with resources outside CoC or ESG funds. Applicant describes these resources and their sources. ***Note: If yes, please submit a copy of all commitment letters with your scoring materials**

Max points:	5						
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Rubrics: New PH and TH projects and New SSO projects

***New TH or RRH only* Describe your experience operating transitional housing or other projects that have successfully helped at least 50% of participants exit homelessness within 24 months and provide a data source which supports this outcome. If you do not currently have experience in operating similar projects, please discuss your strategy for helping at least 50% of participants exit homelessness within 24 months? 500 word limit.**

Criteria: Applicant describes past experience exiting clients from homelessness within 24 months successfully. Applicant states that they do not currently have experience and alternatively provides their plan to successfully exit clients from homelessness within 24 months. ***For Applicants with experience, a data source is uploaded which supports successful exits within 24 months.**

Max points:	7						
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Rubrics: New RRH and TH projects

***New TH or RRH only* Describe your experience operating transitional housing or another homelessness project and your success helping participants increase their income from employment and provide a data source which supports this outcome. If you do not currently have experience in operating similar projects, please discuss your strategy for helping at least 50% of participants increase their income from employment sources? 500 word limit.**

Criteria: Applicant describes past experience helping clients increase their employment income successfully. Applicant states that they do not currently have experience and alternatively provides their plan to successfully help clients increase their employment income. ***For Applicants with experience, a data source is uploaded which supports successful gains in client employment income.**

Max points:	7						
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Rubrics: New RRH and TH projects

Please provide evidence of your success in connecting people to mainstream benefits as evidenced in an increase in non-employment cash income of program participants in other programs. You can define the parameters that best correspond to your agency's program history and data source. An example of this would be that over the past year program participants increased their non-employment cash income by 20% or over the past six months 10 participants out of 75 gained SSDI benefits. Please attach a data source that supports your narrative response.

Criteria: Applicant describes past experience in increasing non-employment cash income for participants. Applicant connects response to data source attached to application and states the parameters of this example.

Max points:	7 or 10						
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Rubrics: New PH and TH projects and New SSO projects

Please provide evidence of your success in connecting people to mainstream benefits as evidenced in an increase in employment cash income of program participants in other programs. You can define the parameters that best correspond to your agency’s program history and data source. An example of this would be that over the past year program participants increased their employment cash income by 20% or over the past six months 10 participants out of 75 gained employment income. Please attach a data source that supports your narrative response.

Criteria: Applicant describes past experience in increasing employment cash income for participants. Applicant connects response to data source attached to application and states the parameters of this example.

Max points:	7 or 10						
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Rubrics: New PH and TH projects and New SSO projects

Please provide evidence of your success in helping unhoused populations exit homelessness to more stable destinations. You can define the parameters that best correspond to your agency’s program history and data source. An example of this would be that over the past year of 50 people exiting your programming 10 went into recovery, 15 went to temporary destinations (such as staying with family temporarily), and 7 went to permanent housing. Please attach a data source that supports your narrative response.

Criteria: Applicant describes past experience in exiting participants to stable destinations. Applicant connects response to data source attached to application and states the parameters of this example.

Max points:	7 or 10						
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Rubrics: New PH and TH projects and New SSO projects