



**NORTHWEST MINNESOTA**  
*Continuum of Care*

FY2026 HUD Notice of  
Funding Opportunity

**Local Program  
Competition  
Orientation – Q & A**

June 19, 2026 – 2:30 pm

- **WHAT CHANGED?** How FY26 differs from FY24 and why it matters
- **6 Structural Scoring Changes.** Tier split, PSH cap, self-sufficiency, required services, TH/SSO priority, law enforcement.
- **What to Focus on.** Narrative strategy, HMIS data, performance documentation.
- **What to Avoid.** Language, framing, and assumptions that will cost you points.
- **Local Competition Timeline / Key Dates.**
- **Next Steps & Questions.**

# AGENDA

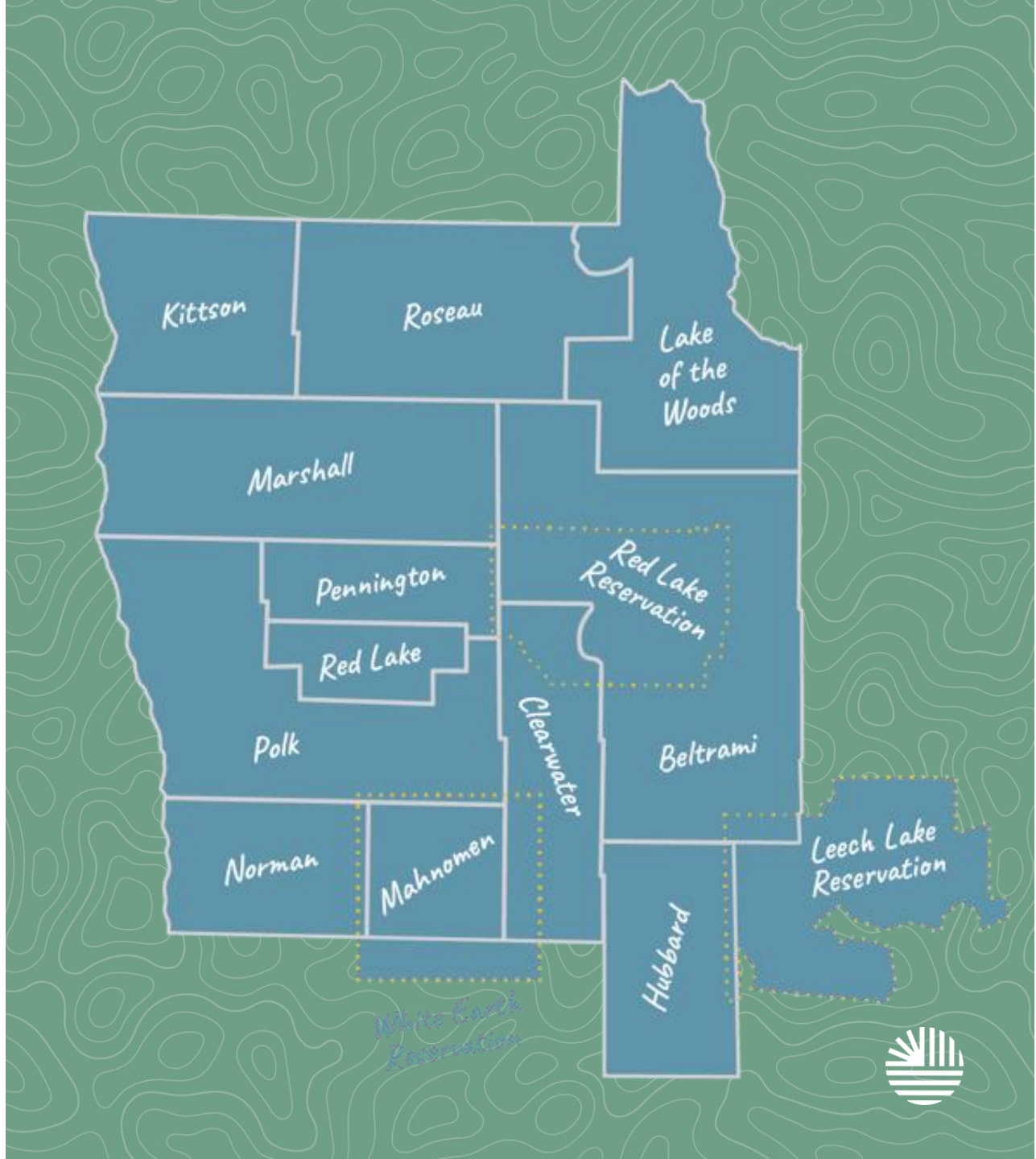
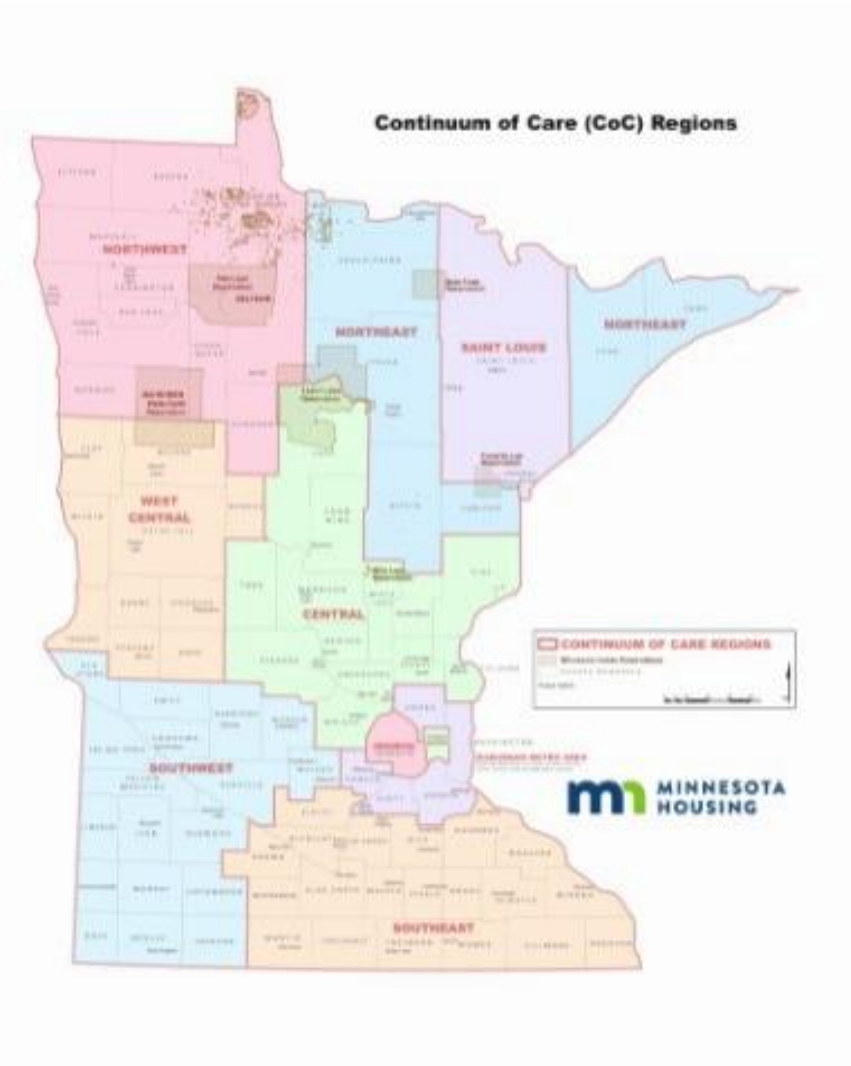


# Housekeeping items

- **We will be recording the presentation.** This recording and a PDF of the slides will be posted on our website.
- **Chat feature:** if you have questions during the presentation, please type it in the chat box. Any questions we cannot answer at this time will be posted as an FAQ.
- **Please mute your microphone** during the presentation unless you are asking a question.



# Our region



**\$4.04B**

Available Nationally

**60 / 40**

Tier 1 / Tier 2 Split

**Aug 26**

Final HUD Hard Deadline

**Dec 1**

Anticipated Awards

**Northwest  
Continuum of Care**

• **Northwest  
Minnesota  
Foundation**



# The Big Picture

The most competitive CoC Program Competition in history.



## Away from Housing First

HUD has explicitly moved away from Housing First and harm reduction. These terms are liabilities in FY 2026.



## Toward Self-Sufficiency

The new priority: treatment, recovery, employment, and the ability to meet basic needs without public assistance.



## Performance = Funding

This NOFO ends automatic renewals. Projects with weak outcomes face real risk of losing funding nationally.

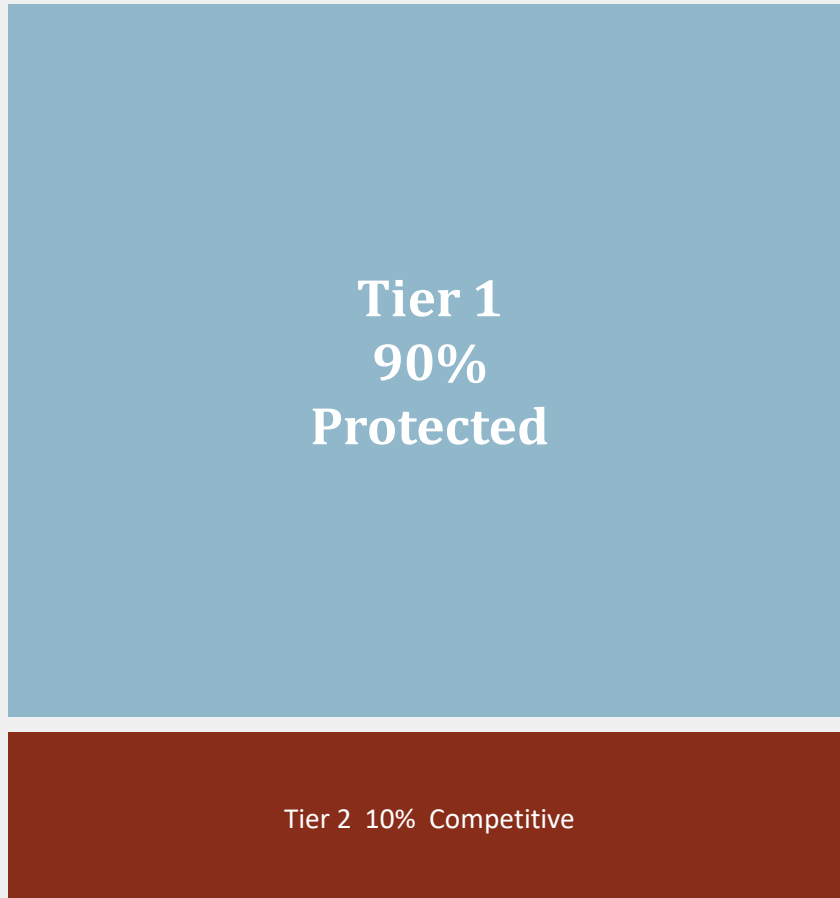


# 6 Changes



# #1 Tier 1 / Tier 2 Split

**FY 2024**



**FY 2026**



# #2 Permanent Housing Cap + Self-Sufficiency



## Permanent Housing Cap

Permanent housing funding is now limited  
**"to the extent permitted by law."**

Transitional Housing and SSO projects are now the priority  
for new dollars.

PSH/RRH projects that were previously 'safe' renewals are no  
longer guaranteed.

*\$1.3 billion in new project funding — prioritized for  
Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only (SSO)  
projects.*



## Self-Sufficiency — Now Defined

*"The ability to meet basic needs, including a  
place to live, without public or private  
assistance."*

— HUD FY 2026 NOFO (citing Oxford English Dictionary & Merriam-Webster)

This is new. Prior NOFOs used 'self-sufficiency' loosely. It is now  
a specific, measurable standard HUD will score against.

Every narrative must demonstrate measurable progress toward  
this standard: employment, income, benefits enrollment,  
reduced dependence on assistance.



# #4-6 Services, Priorities & Partnership



## Required Services = Points

Tier 2 projects earn up to 10 bonus points for requiring participant services. Projects mandating structured, intensive services score better.

Transitional Housing: 40 hours/week of customized services is incentivized in scoring.



## TH & SSO — New Project Priority

New project dollars strongly favor Transitional Housing and Supportive Services Only (SSO) projects.

For bonus/reallocation: demonstrate employment pathways, service intensity, cost-effectiveness, and exits to permanent housing.



## Law Enforcement Partnership

Scoring now includes expanded partnership with law enforcement — co-response programs, diversion, and outreach partnerships.

This is a new FY 2026 scoring element not present in FY 2024.



# NWCoC Program Focus



## Write to the Self-Sufficiency Definition Explicitly

Use HUD's exact language in every narrative. Describe specific outcomes: employment gained, income increased, benefits enrolled, mainstream resources connected.



## Reframe Service Language Across All Renewals

Replace 'low barrier' and 'voluntary' with 'structured,' 'intensive,' and 'linked to outcomes.' Your program design doesn't need to change — your narrative must.



## Prioritize Employment & Income Data in HMIS

HUD scores on earned income and exits to self-sufficiency. Incomplete HMIS data on employment and income will directly hurt your CoC merit score.



## Protect Tier 1 by Strengthening Performance Documentation

40% of the portfolio is competitive. Identify borderline performers now and work with applicants to improve the data picture before submission.



## Lean into TH and SSO for Bonus / Reallocation

New dollars favor these project types. Demonstrate strong services, employment pathways, cost-effectiveness, and clear exits to permanent housing.



## Document Law Enforcement Partnerships

Any co-response, diversion, or outreach partnerships with local law enforcement should be formally documented and included in relevant narratives.

\*\* Be attentive to the Threshold Criteria from the NOFO & the eventual application \*\*



# NWCoC Cautions



## **Avoid Housing First Language**

HUD has explicitly stated "the status quo of housing first and harm reduction has failed." Using these terms or describing low-barrier, unconditional housing is a scoring liability.



## **Avoid Harm Reduction Framing**

HUD will prohibit funding for the widespread use of illicit drugs and distribution of paraphernalia. Remove or substantially reframe any harm reduction philosophy language.



## **Avoid Assuming PSH Renewals Are Safe**

With Tier 1 protection reduced from 90% to 60%, no project should be assumed secure. PSH projects are especially exposed in an environment actively de-emphasizing permanent housing as a first response.



## **Avoid Weak Performance Data**

This NOFO explicitly ends automatic renewals for 'failed providers.' Projects with low exit-to-permanent-housing rates, low income outcomes, or poor HMIS data quality are genuinely at risk.

**\*\* NOTE about Transitional Housing and Rental Assistance**



# 2026 Timeline

**NOFO Released:**

June 1

\*\* waiting on detailed instructions & GIW

**Info Webinar:**

June 19, 2:30 pm

**Intent to Apply:**

June 23 \*soft deadline, rolling

submissions to follow

**Draft Project Apps Due:**

July 29, 12 noon

**Final Project Apps Due:**

July 31 – in e-SNAPS



# *2026 Timeline - continued*

**Preliminary Ranking Complete & Notice given:**

August 7

**Factual Corrections Due:**

August 10, 12 noon

**Board Meeting & Final Priority List Posted:**

August 11

**Final CoC Application due to HUD (hard deadline):**

August 26

**Award Notifications Anticipated:** December 1



# *Next Steps*



# What's Next?

**Read the current HUD NOFO.**

**Detailed Instructions & GIW:**

- Unsure when this will come from HUD – needed to develop our applications
- Will follow similar process in applications – review your last application to start collecting data

**Watch the NMF website:**

All updates will be posted to the website. Any projects that submit an **Intent to Apply** will get a notice when updates are posted.



## If you're interested:

- When posted....watch the HUD NOFO webinar
- Watch the NAEH webinar on the NOFO process
  - Specific call out at the 45 minute mark on the Transitional Housing / rental assistance concerns

## OPEN OFFICE HOURS:

- **Thursdays at 4 pm** – 1 hour of dedicated time to answering questions....getting clarification and updates – link to join is on our website & will come out as a calendar hold for those that complete an **Intent to Apply**



*Questions?*



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*Thank  
you!*

