

HOW TO PREPARE FOR THE COC COMPETITION

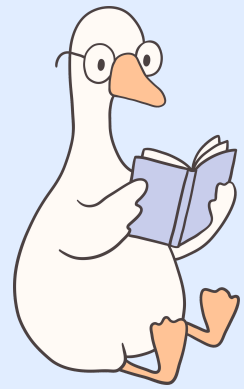
The following infographic was inspired by guidance created by the City of Durham, NC. As we wait for guidance on the CoC Competition, please consider the following:

North Carolina Balance of State CoC
August 21, 2025

STEP 1

UNDERSTAND THE NOFO GUIDELINES

Read the NOFO Carefully - When the NOFO is released, focus on its specific language and narrative, including topics identified as priorities, such as: treatment and recovery, reducing unsheltered homelessness, reducing returns to homelessness, and increasing earned income.



STEP 2

ENGAGE YOUR BOARD

Engage your CoC Board - Ensure that your board and CoC partners understand and support projects that are in alignment with the new HUD priorities.

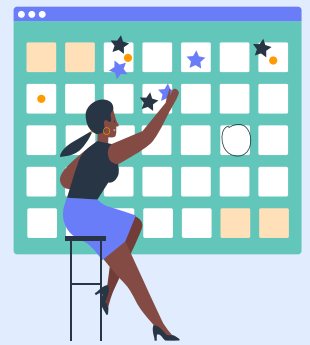
Deadline Discipline - Submit all application to NCCEH / HUD and CoC deadlines. Late applications can be penalized.



STEP 3 TARGET HUD'S FY25 PRIORITIES

Think through the ways in which your program aligns with HUD's FY25 priorities:

- Projects serving **unsheltered** populations, including new street outreach efforts
- **Treatment and recovery** integration, including behavioral and substance use services
- **Supportive housing and transitional housing**
- **Reducing returns** to homelessness
- Increasing **earned income** through employment-focused partnerships



STEP 4

CHECK ELIGIBILITY AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS



Confirm Eligibility - Use the FY25 NOFO and local CoC policy to ensure compliance with project types, populations served, and HMIS participation.

Prepare your Required Match - Be ready to document a 25% match (cash or in-kind) as per rules referenced in: [CFR 578.73](#).

System Contribution - Be clear on how your project will demonstrate reductions in homelessness and ensure strong system-wide performance (e.g., SPMs).

STEP 5

DETAIL YOUR BUDGET AND YOUR LEVERAGE

- **Ensure Budget Accuracy** - Ensure your budget aligns with CoC Program Competition rules.
- **Document Leverage** - HUD requires clear documentation of additional resources such as healthcare, workforce services or local government commitments.
- **Document resource commitments** formally on letterhead.



STEP 6

PREPARE FOR DATA REPORTING

- **Ensure your project is tracking key outcomes:**
 - Housing move-ins
 - Returns to homelessness
 - Employment status changes
- **Make sure HMIS data is accurate, reduce data error rates in APRs**

