

Notice of Funding Opportunity
Application due Monday, August 24, 2026



Office of Community Services

Division of Community Discretionary and Demonstration Programs

Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration

Opportunity number: HHS-2026-ACF-OCS-EAH-0027



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Before you begin

If you believe you are a good candidate for this funding opportunity, secure your [SAM.gov](#) and [Grants.gov](#) registrations now. If you are already registered, make sure your registrations are active and up to date.

SAM.gov registration (this can take several weeks)

You must have an active account with SAM.gov. This includes having a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Grants.gov registration (this can take several days)

You must have an active Grants.gov registration. Doing so requires a Login.gov registration as well.

[See Step 2: Get Ready to Apply](#)

Apply by the application due date

Applications are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, August 24, 2026.



To help you find what you need, this NOFO uses internal links. In Adobe Reader, you can go back to where you were by pressing Alt + Left Arrow (Windows) or Command + Left Arrow (Mac) on your keyboard.



Step 1:

Review the Opportunity

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Basic information

Administration for Children and Families (ACF)

Office of Community Services

Division of Community Discretionary and Demonstration Programs

Improving the housing stability, economic mobility, and well-being of eligible residents of affordable housing by expanding residential enrollment in support services.

Summary

In fiscal year (FY) 2026, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS) will award approximately \$2 million in Affordable Housing and Support Services Demonstration (AHSSD). This award is designated for Community Action Agencies (CAAs) and tribes that were funded directly by the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) in FY2025. These agencies must specifically own affordable housing units and provide additional social services to Americans and eligible residents who live in affordable housing units.

The purpose of the AHSSD is to test and evaluate how boosting support services for eligible residents of affordable housing units may improve housing stability, economic mobility, and well-being. AHSSD does this by coordinating public and private assistance programs aimed at preventing and reducing dependency among this specific population. The range of services is broad, including educational opportunities for adults and teens, early childhood education, older adult care, mental health and substance abuse, and other services that support self-sufficiency.

Recipients will use funding to:

- Help directly provide specific support services.
- Make internal referrals to assistance programs.
- Make external referrals to programming offered through other agencies, including employment and training services.
- Provide either case management or human-services coordination.



Have questions?

See [Contacts and Support](#).

Key facts

Opportunity name:
Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration

Opportunity number:
HHS-2026-ACF-OCS-EAH-0027

Federal assistance listing:
93.647

NOFO version:
Original

Key dates

Application submission deadline:
August 24, 2026

Expected project start date:
September 30, 2026

See [intergovernmental review](#) for other submission processes that may apply to this NOFO.

Funding details

Type: Cooperative agreement

Expected total program funding: \$2,100,000

Total expected awards: 7

Minimum award amount (award floor): \$150,000

Maximum award amount (award ceiling): \$300,000

This is full funding. We plan to fund a two-year project and budget period.

Awards made under this funding opportunity are subject to federal funds availability.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are CAAs and tribes that were funded directly by the CSBG in FY 2025 (see [Appendix A](#)). These are agencies that own affordable housing units and provide support services to affordable housing residents. CAAs and tribes funded directly by CSBG, by nature of this funding support, work to provide health and social services to their communities.

Other eligibility criteria

Individuals (including sole proprietorships), federal entities, and foreign entities are not eligible to apply.

Faith-based and community organizations that meet the eligibility requirements are eligible to receive awards under this funding opportunity.

Disqualifying factors

We will review your application to make sure it meets these responsiveness requirements.

We won't consider an application that:

- Requests funding above the [award ceiling](#).
- Is submitted after the [deadline](#).
- Is from an individual (including a sole proprietorship), a federal entity, or a foreign entity.
- Is received in paper format that didn't have a previously approved exemption from ACF.
- Is submitted from an organization other than a CAA or tribe that was funded directly from CSBG in FY 2025 (see list in [Appendix A](#)).
- Does not include Evidence of Property Ownership and Evidence of Affordable Housing Units, referenced in the Additional eligibility documentation section.

Application limits

If you submit the same application more than once under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO), we will only acknowledge the last on-time submission.

Cost sharing

This program requires you to contribute 10% of the project's total cost.

You can calculate this cost-sharing requirement in two ways:

Method 1: Start with the federal share.

Calculation: Divide the federal share by 9.

For example: $\$300,000 / 9 = \$33,333$.

Method 2: Start with the total project cost.

Calculation: Multiply the total project cost by 10%.

For example: $\$333,333 \times 10\% = \$33,333$.

Types of cost sharing

You can meet your match requirement through any combination of:

- Cash contributed by your organization, partners, or other third parties.
- In-kind (non-cash) contributions from partners or other third parties.

Cost-sharing commitments

If awarded, you must provide the amount of cost-sharing funds you promised, even if you promised more than the required minimum. We put these commitments in the Notice of Award.

If you don't provide your promised amount, we may decrease the amount of funding we give you or use other enforcement actions.

You'll have to include your cost-sharing funds when you fill out your [federal financial reports](#).

Cost-sharing waiver

We waive cost sharing up to \$199,999 for awards to the governments of American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands (except for the consolidated awards under [45 CFR part 97](#)). You must meet any amount of cost sharing over \$199,999. See [48 U.S.C. 1469a\(d\) Congressional declaration of policy respecting "Insular Areas."](#)

Post-award requirements

Before you apply, make sure you understand the requirements that come with an award.

See [Step 6: Learn What Happens After Award](#) for information on regulations that apply, reporting, and more.

Statutory authority

This program is funded under the authority of section 1110 of the Social Security Act, [42 U.S.C. 1310](#).

Agency priorities

Required alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, and strategic priorities

The recipient of this award must implement any funds awarded under this NOFO to effectuate program goals or agency priorities in accordance with [ACF's vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles](#) when authorized. Funded activities must advance ACF's vision of resilient, safe, healthy, and economically secure children, youth, families, and communities, and support ACF's mission to foster health and well-being through effective, accountable, and compassionate human services when awarded in any programs that authorize these priorities.

Consistent with ACF's values, in carrying out any project that is funded under this NOFO, the recipient is required to adhere to the following principle:

1. **Program Integrity and Fiscal Stewardship:** Administer funds in accordance with all applicable federal statutes, regulations, and award conditions; maintain strong internal controls; and prevent waste, fraud, and abuse.

The recipient is also required to adhere to the following principles when consistent with the authority and scope of the award and its activities:

2. **Evidence-Based and Outcome-Focused Practices:** Design and deliver services using evidence-based or evidence-informed approaches, establish measurable performance goals, and use data to monitor outcomes and drive continuous improvement.
3. **Partnership and Local Leadership:** Coordinate with state, tribal, territorial, local, and community partners, as appropriate, and tailor services to meet community-identified needs while respecting local decision-making authority.

In addition, in keeping with ACF's priorities, the recipient must administer any project that is awarded under this NOFO in accordance with the following objectives when consistent with the scope of the award and its activities in programs that are authorized to advance them:

4. **Family Stability and Child Well-Being:** Strengthen families, promote safe and stable home environments, and improve outcomes for children and youth through prevention-focused and developmentally appropriate services.
5. **Work, Self-Sufficiency, and Economic Mobility:** Support pathways to employment, job retention, and economic independence for individuals and

families, including through workforce development, education, and supportive services.

6. **High-Quality Early Care and Learning:** Where applicable, invest in high-quality early childhood programs that support school readiness, healthy development, and long-term success.

The recipient must demonstrate ongoing compliance with these values and priorities, in all programs that are authorized to advance them, through program design, implementation, reporting, and evaluation. Failure to meaningfully align funded activities with the applicable requirements may result in corrective action, additional reporting requirements, or other enforcement actions consistent with federal grant regulations found at 2 CFR Part 200 and the terms and conditions of this award.

Program description

Purpose

The purpose of the AHSSD is to test the outcomes of providing additional support services to eligible residents of affordable housing in improving housing stability, economic mobility, and well-being.

As housing instability relates to poor health, economic hardship, and family stress, the services supported through AHSSD aim to address these risks. Residents who receive support services through this program may find it easier to maintain stable housing, achieve greater financial security, and benefit from physical and behavioral health care. Children in these households may enjoy improved developmental outcomes and greater school stability. Parents may report stronger parenting skills and reduced chronic stress. The affordable housing properties themselves may become more stable, better-managed communities — contributing to home environments that may improve the wellbeing of individuals and families.

AHSSD does this by enrolling eligible residents of affordable housing in support services that address homelessness, housing instability, and poverty.

Recipients use AHSSD funds to carry out three areas of activity:

1. Expanding supportive support services for eligible residents of affordable housing.
2. Identifying gaps in services.
3. Participating in a program model federal evaluation.

Through these activities, recipients coordinate and deliver a range of support services to eligible residents of affordable housing. This includes educational opportunities for children and adults, child care and pre-school services, older adult care, mental health and addiction services, and other community supports.

Recipients will partner with OCS to collect data that evaluates program execution and outcomes.

Program goals: Outcomes and performance measures

In addition to providing services, the goal of AHSSD includes assessing the outcomes among previously mentioned affordable housing residents. Recipients will identify and narrow support service gaps, and collect data and report outcomes based on the needs of affordable housing residents.

Through this effort, the AHSSD provides an opportunity to learn more about how recipients use funds to:

- **Leverage Services:** How award recipients use increased funding to leverage currently established service infrastructure within affordable housing units.
- **Increase Accessibility:** How boosting services for eligible affordable housing residents may improve housing stability, economic mobility, and their well-being.
- **Streamline Processes:** How a single organization that administers both affordable housing and services can streamline processes.

Services may either be provided directly, or beneficiaries may enroll in services through case management and coordination. Support services may include:

- Employment and training services.
- Educational opportunities for youths and adults.
- Either afterschool or summer programs for children and teens.
- Providing early child care education programs.
- Providing referrals to Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
- Older adult care services.
- Mental health.
- Alcohol and addiction services.
- Services for individuals with disabilities.
- Self-sufficiency resources.
- Housing counseling.
- Financial literacy training.
- Transportation services for residents.
- Referrals and connections to resources to help meet concrete needs.
- Health care services.

Award recipients will identify the intended outcomes of their project based on the needs of affordable housing residents. ACF is also interested in projects that address

the needs of households with extremely low incomes or households that were formerly homeless before moving into the property served, because these households may face significant barriers to housing stability, economic mobility, and well-being. These short-term individual and family outcomes can include, but are not limited to, those listed below.

Individual and family outcomes

Stability outcomes

- **Residents are better able to afford and maintain housing**, including paying rent consistently and reducing the share of household income spent on housing. These outcomes can be achieved by increasing household incomes, receiving temporary assistance for rent payments, and improving household budgeting strategies.
- **Residents experience more stable housing** with fewer housing crises, evictions, and involuntary moves, and are less likely to need emergency homelessness services. Residents can succeed by working closely with case managers and property managers to manage household budgets, gain rental assistance, and resolve conflicts before they escalate.
- **Residents feel more settled in their homes**, with improved knowledge of their rights and responsibilities, improved landlord relationships, and greater satisfaction with their home and neighborhood. This can be achieved through tenant education workshops, mediation support, and case managers who help residents understand and advocate for themselves.

Economic mobility outcomes

- **Residents build the skills and credentials needed to enter or advance in the workforce**. This includes completing education and training programs, developing job readiness skills, and gaining knowledge of career pathways and labor market opportunities. These outcomes can be achieved by boosting enrollment of residents in adult education, vocational training, GED programs, and job readiness workshops available through community partners.
- **Residents achieve greater financial stability**, with increased household income through employment that offers good benefits, improved financial management skills, reduced debt, and less reliance on emergency financial assistance and Federal public benefit programs. Residents can succeed by participating in financial literacy coaching, and employment support services that help them increase income while managing expenses more effectively.
- **Residents have greater access to services that support self-sufficiency and economic opportunities**, including improved transportation and child care services, and lower chronic economic stress—helping these citizens become more

self-sufficient. These outcomes may be achieved by providing transportation assistance, subsidized child care, and case management supports.

Well-being outcomes

- **More residents enrolled in physical and mental health care plans**, including preventive and specialty care, mental health services, and substance use treatment. These outcomes can be achieved by helping residents apply for health insurance, gain behavioral health services, and receive care coordination that helps them follow through on treatment.
- **Residents experience improved quality of life**, including older adults aging in place with greater independence, individuals with disabilities more fully integrated into their communities, and families with improved food and transportation options. This can be achieved by enrolling more residents in-home support services, disability and aging services, nutrition programs, and transportation resources.
- **Children and families are healthier and stronger**, with enhanced parenting skills and parent-child relationships, improved child development outcomes, including school readiness. These outcomes can be achieved through parenting education, early childhood screenings and referrals, and family support services that strengthen caregiver capacity and connect young children to pre-school opportunities.

Desired housing community outcomes

Additionally, award recipients may consider how their short-term outcomes and any later program activities may support these outcomes:

- **Affordable housing properties operating more effectively and sustainably**, with lower vacancy and turnover rates, more consistent rent collection, reduced crisis intervention demands on staff, and better-maintained physical conditions. This strengthens the financial case for investment in service-enriched housing. These outcomes can be achieved as residents stabilize financially and emotionally, reducing future demands on property management and demonstrating to lenders and investors the operational advantages of properties with on-site or coordinated supportive services.
- **Properties contributing to stronger communities**, with greater resident participation in governance, stronger partnerships between property managers and support service providers, and reduced calls for emergency police and medical services. This can be achieved by fostering resident leadership through tenant associations, building formal coordination between property management and social service providers, and creating environments where residents become invested in their neighbors' well-being.

- **The surrounding community benefits** from lower emergency shelter use, hospital emergency rooms, transitional housing, greater school stability for children, more civic engagement, and (over time) reduced neighborhood poverty concentration.

AHSSD implementation of ACF priorities

Promoting work and self-sufficiency

AHSSD supports [ACF's priority of promoting work and self-sufficiency](#) by helping residents of affordable housing access services that support employment, job retention, and economic independence. By connecting eligible residents to practical services that address barriers to employment and economic mobility, AHSSD can help families move toward greater self-sufficiency, reduce reliance on emergency assistance, and strengthen their ability to maintain stable housing.

Promoting quality early learning environments and improved child outcomes

AHSSD supports ACF's priority of [promoting quality early learning environments and improved child outcomes](#) by helping families in affordable housing access the support services that strengthen children's stability, health, and development. Through AHSSD, recipients may expand or coordinate services such as early childhood education opportunities for children ages 0 to 5, referrals to Head Start and Early Head Start, afterschool and summer programs, health care, behavioral health supports, transportation, and other concrete resources that help families maintain stable homes.

A Home for Every Child

OCS' work supports the ACF objective of making sure there's a home for every child by relieving the factors that contribute to family breakdown and child-welfare interventions. A Home for Every Child is a national ACF initiative aimed at bringing the ratio of the number of foster homes to the number of children in the foster care system to greater than 1:1. By boosting enrollment in support service programs for residents of affordable housing, AHSSD may reduce the need for child welfare and foster-care interventions.

- AHSSD supports this objective by supporting housing stability and maintaining residency in safe homes. This reduces the need for foster care through prevention and faster paths to more permanent housing.
- AHSSD supports stable, nurturing home environments that reduce risks most likely to bring families into the child welfare system.
- By helping families in affordable housing, AHSSD addresses housing instability, economic stress, untreated mental health and substance use conditions, and weakened parenting capacity that most commonly precede child welfare

interventions. Families who enjoy stable housing may achieve greater financial security and develop stronger parenting skills. Because of this, they may be less likely to experience the crises that lead to child removal, keeping children in safe homes and out of foster care.

Major activities

AHSSD recipients must implement projects that address each of the following three areas of activity:

1. Expanding support services for low-income residents of affordable housing who are eligible residents.

Award recipients must provide either A or B or a combination of A and B below:

- A. Provide comprehensive case management services that enroll residents with community providers of any support service listed in section B.
- B. Broaden delivery of two or more of the following support services:
 - Employment and training services.
 - Educational opportunities for youths and adults.
 - Afterschool and/or summer programs for children and teens.
 - Direct provision of early childhood education programs/opportunities for young children ages 0 to 5 or connections to Head Start and Early Head Start programs.
 - Older adult care services.
 - Mental health.
 - Alcohol and addiction services.
 - Services for individuals with disabilities.
 - Self-sufficiency resources.
 - Housing counseling.
 - Financial literacy training.
 - Transportation services for residents.
 - Referrals and connections to resources to help meet concrete needs.
 - Health care services.

ACF defines low income, for purposes of this award, as either of the following definitions:

1. An eligible resident whose household income level does not exceed 200% of the official poverty guidelines, as found in the most recent revision of the [HHS Poverty Guidelines published by HHS](#).

OR

2. An eligible resident whose household income does not exceed 60% of the area median income (AMI), as calculated annually by the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#).

ACF defines extremely low income for the purpose of determining bonus points as:

- Very low-income families whose incomes are the greater of the [Poverty Guidelines](#) as published and periodically updated by the Department of Health and Human Services or the [30 percent income limits calculated by HUD](#).

2. Identifying gaps in service provision and improving access to services

Award recipients must address any existing gaps in providing support services among low-income eligible residents, and boost enrollment in these programs. To increase the caseload, the award recipient must intentionally include or identify a plan that gives a voice to eligible residents and community members, while developing, implementing, and evaluating AHSSD.

3. Actively supporting the federal evaluation

Award recipients must work closely with ACF to guide an evaluation of this federal demonstration program. The federal evaluation will include gathering data from all relevant parties through methods such as surveys, small focus groups, site visits, and qualitative interviews. Award recipients are expected to provide incentives to participants in the form of gift cards (including activation fees, if applicable) for participating in surveys, focus groups, and other data gathering activities in support of the evaluation.

Recipients will fully and actively support the federal evaluation and work with, and encourage, their partner organizations to do the same. Award recipients must have experience collecting, organizing, and managing data, which includes evidence of data and information management software/practices and best practices around data integrity.

NOTE: Consistent with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, (44 U.S.C. 3501-3521), under this NOFO, OCS will not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information covered by such Act, unless it displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. ACF

will obtain OMB approval under PRA prior to collecting or requesting the collection of any information from more than nine individuals or entities.

Cooperative agreement—description of ACF's involvement

Through this cooperative agreement, OCS will maintain substantial involvement, working alongside recipients as an active partner throughout project implementation.

OCS program involvement will include the following:

- Providing program guidance and input as needed.
- Approving all work plans and schedules.
- Reviewing and providing feedback on the activities, documentation, procedures, measures, and tools established and carried out to reach the cooperative agreement's goals throughout the time of the initiative.
- Reviewing and providing feedback on activities, procedures, tools, measures, products, and written materials before they are shared externally.
- Providing support for the federal evaluation contractor and recipients in meeting federal evaluation requirements.
- Participating in results presentation in publications.

Funding policies and limitations

Changes in HHS regulations

As of October 1, 2025, HHS adopted [2 CFR 200](#), with some exceptions included in [2 CFR 300](#). These regulations replace those in 45 CFR 75.

General policies

- We will only make awards if this program receives funding. If Congress appropriates funds for this purpose, we will move forward with the review and award process.
- Support beyond the first budget period will depend on:
 - Appropriation of funds.
 - Satisfactory progress in meeting your project's objectives.
 - A decision that continued funding is in the government's best interest.
- If we receive more funding for this program, we will consider:
 - Funding more applicants.

- Extending the period of performance.
 - Awarding supplemental funding.
- To the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders, you may not use funds from this NOFO for any diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEI and DEIA) activities. This includes:
 - DEI- or DEIA-related research.
 - Activities that discriminate or show preference based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or other protected traits.
 - Any efforts that promote a “discriminatory equity ideology.”
- To the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders, ACF will also not allow funds awarded under this NOFO to support any services or activities that inculcate or promote gender ideology.

For guidance on other types of costs that we restrict or do not allow, see General Provisions for Selected Items of Costs of the Uniform Guidance, [2 CFR part 200](#).

Eligible Residents: For purposes of this NOFO, eligible residents must be lawfully present in the United States. Individuals lawfully present in the United States include:

- U.S. Citizens.
- Lawful Permanent Resident (Green Card holder).
- Asylee.
- Refugee.
- Paroled into the United States.
- Granted an employment authorization document, also called a work permit or I-766.
- Individual with Non-immigrant Status including workers visas (such as H1, H-2A, H-2B), student visas, U-visa, T-visa, and other visas.
- Deferred Action Status.
- Cuban/Haitian entrant.
- Conditional entrant granted before 1980.
- Battered spouse, child, or parent.
- Victim of trafficking and their spouse, child, sibling, or parent.
- Special Immigrant Visa holders from Iraq or Afghanistan.
- Granted Withholding of Deportation or Withholding of Removal, under the immigration laws or under the Convention against Torture.
- Violence Against Women Act Self-Petitioners.
- Member of a federally recognized Indian tribe or American Indian born in Canada.

- Citizens of the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau who are living in one of the U.S. states or territories (referred to as Compact of Free Association, or COFA migrants).
- Lawful Temporary Resident.
- Temporary Protected Status.
- Deferred Enforced Departure.
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Classification.
- Family Unity beneficiary, including those who are under section 1504 of the Legal Immigration and Family Equity Act Amendments.

If there are other immigration statuses or classifications that an applicant believes should be considered lawfully present, please list them in your application or if after award, to your ACF program officer.

Program-specific limitations and policies

We do not allow the following costs under this notice of funding opportunity (NOFO):

- Construction.
- Purchase of real property.
- Major renovation.
- Pre-award.
- Funds awarded under this NOFO may not be used to fund abortion-on-demand or abortion-related services, including referral to other agencies for abortion-on-demand or abortion-related services.
- Costs for any services provided for those who do not meet the definition of eligible resident.

Indirect costs

Indirect costs are those shared across multiple projects and not easily separated.

To charge indirect costs you can select one of two methods:

Method 1 — Approved rate. If you currently have an indirect cost rate approved by your cognizant federal agency, you may use that rate.

Method 2 — *De minimis* rate. If you do not have a negotiated indirect cost rate, you may elect to charge a *de minimis* rate (see [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#)). This rate may be up to 15% of modified total direct costs (MTDC). See the definition of MTDC ([2 CFR 200.1](#)). You can use this rate indefinitely.

You may not charge costs included in your indirect cost pool as direct costs.

Subawards

As the prime recipient, you must maintain a substantive role in the project. This means that you conduct funded activities and provide services necessary and integral to completing the project.

Monitoring your subrecipient's activities alone as described in [2 CFR 200.332](#) is not a substantive role.

We do not fund awards where your role is primarily a conduit for passing funds to other organizations unless that arrangement is authorized by statute.

All subrecipients must have a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) through the System for Award Management (SAM.gov).

Subrecipients must meet the [eligibility requirements](#) of this NOFO.

Salary rate limitation

The salary rate limitation in the current appropriations act applies to this program. You may not use awarded funds to pay a salary at a higher rate than the rate for Executive Level II.

For the Executive Level II salary, please see [the Office of Personnel Management information on executive and senior level employee pay](#).

The salary limitation reflects a person's base salary (including any portion of the salary that is paid with indirect costs). It does not include fringe benefits or any income the person is allowed to earn outside of the duties of the applicant organization.

This salary limitation also applies to subawards, contracts, and subcontracts under an ACF grant or cooperative agreement.

Program income

If you earn any money from your award-supported project activities (known as program income), you must use it for the purposes and under the conditions of the award. Find more about program income at [2 CFR 200.307](#).



Step 2:

Get Ready to Apply

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Find the application package

The application package has all the forms you need to apply. You can find it at this NOFO's Grants.gov opportunity page. Then select the Package tab.

We recommend that you select the **Subscribe** button from the View Grant Opportunity page for this NOFO to get updates.

If you can't use Grants.gov to download application materials or have other technical difficulties, including issues with application submission, [contact Grants.gov](#) for assistance.

Get registered

SAM.gov

You must have an active account with SAM.gov to apply. SAM.gov registration can take several weeks. Begin that process today.

To register:

- Go to [SAM.gov Entity Registration](#) and select Get Started. From the same page, you can also select the Entity Registration Checklist for the information you will need to register.
- You must agree to the [financial assistance general certifications and representations \[PDF\]](#) specifically. Those for contracts are different.

When you register, you will also receive your required Unique Entity Identifier (UEI).

Once you register:

- You will have to maintain your registration throughout the life of any award.
- If your organization has multiple UEIs, use the one associated with your physical location.

Grants.gov

You must also have an active account with [Grants.gov](#). You can see step-by-step instructions at the Grants.gov [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Need help? See [Contacts and Support](#).

Learn more

Visit [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#) on the ACF Grants page.



Step 3:

Build Your Application

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Application checklist

Make sure that you have everything you need to apply. You will find the forms in Grants.gov.

File one: Narratives

Use the Project Narrative Attachment form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Table of contents	Yes
☐ Project summary	Yes
☐ Project narrative	Yes
☐ Line-item budget and budget narrative	Yes

File two: Attachments

Insert each in a single Other Attachments form.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ ACF priorities alignment attestation	No
☐ Indirect cost agreement	Yes
☐ Legal proof of nonprofit status	Yes
☐ Additional eligibility documentation	No
☐ Organizational capacity supporting information (including organization chart)	Yes
☐ Third-party agreements	Yes
☐ Letters of support	Yes

Standard forms

Use each required form in Grants.gov.

Component	Included in page limit?
☐ Project Abstract Summary	No
☐ Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	No
☐ Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	No
☐ Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	No
☐ Key Contacts	No
☐ Grants.gov Lobbying form	No
☐ Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	No
☐ Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	No

Application contents and format

You will submit two files plus the [standard forms](#) in the application package.

Your organization's authorized official must certify your application.

See [intergovernmental review](#) to find out if you need to make any other submissions.

Required format

Page limit for file one and file two combined: 75 pages.

File format: Portable Document Format (PDF) is recommended, but not required. ACF supports the following file formats when you attach files to the Project Narrative Attachment form and the Other Attachments form:

Accepted file formats

- Adobe PDF (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Image formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Document formats

Paper size: 8 ½ inches x 11 inches

Margins: 1 inch all around

Language: English

If possible, include page numbers.

Do not include external links to information you want reviewers to assess because reviewers will score the application solely on information provided in the application.

Fonts

Font: Times New Roman

Color: Black

Size: 12-point font

Footnotes and text in tables and graphics may be 10-point.

Spacing

Table of contents: Must be single-spaced

Project summary: Must be single-spaced

Project narrative: Must be double-spaced

Line-item budget and budget narrative: Can be single-spaced

Attachments: Can be single-spaced

Tables and footnotes throughout: Can be single-spaced

See [disqualifying factors](#) to understand what may disqualify your application from consideration.

File one: Narratives

To submit file one, you will use the Project Narrative Attachment form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes:

- Table of contents.
- Project summary, one page.
- Project narrative.
- Line-item budget and budget narrative.

Table of contents

At the beginning of file one, insert a table of contents that guides a reader through the contents of both files in your application. If possible, include links to the relevant content in file one.

Project summary

Provide a one-page summary of the project description. Do not cross-reference to other parts of your application. The summary must include:

- At the top, the project title, applicant name, address, phone numbers, email addresses, and any website URL.
- A brief description of the project, including the needs and population you will address, your proposed services or research questions.

Project narrative

The project narrative is where you address all your proposed activities. It is a critical section of your application, which we evaluate using [merit review criteria](#) and rank based on application scores.

Remember that substance and measurable outcomes are more important than length. We are particularly interested in project narratives that convey strategies for achieving intended performance.

In it, you must:

- Explain how the project will meet the purpose of the NOFO, as described in [the program description section](#).
- Make sure your narrative is clear, concise, and complete.
- Use cross-referencing rather than repetition.
- Be sure to include any required supporting documents noted. You generally provide these in your [attachments](#).
- Use the headings and order of the sections that follow.

Purpose and need

Geographic location

Provide the precise physical location of your project and boundaries of the area you will serve. If you will include any subrecipients in your project that will serve specific geographic areas include their locations as well.

Provide the precise physical location(s) of the affordable housing communities to be served by the program, not the location of the recipient organization.

Need for assistance

Identify the problems you plan to solve. These problems could be physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, etc. To do so:

- Demonstrate the need, including the nature and scope of the problem.
- Provide, as appropriate, supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials, in your attachments.
- Include any relevant data based on planning studies or needs assessments. You may refer to them in the endnotes or footnotes of your application.
- Use demographic data and participant or beneficiary information where you can.

Objectives

State your main objectives and any sub-objectives. Address how the objectives stated relate to the overall purpose of this program and describe how you will achieve the objectives.

Response

Approach

Outline your action plan. Describe the scope of your proposed project and describe in detail how you will accomplish it. Account for all functions or activities you identify in your application.

Explain potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing your project goals. Explain the strategies you will use to address them.

Applicants must demonstrate a thorough plan for value-added activities for the following:

Strengthening and expanding case management and support services.

Applicants must describe the service delivery plan for strengthening and expanding case management and support services. Provide details on how the plan will incorporate the following approaches, as described in the [Major activities](#) section:

- A. Comprehensive case management services.
- B. Strengthening and expanding at least two support services.
- C. A combination of approach A and B.

Include information related to conducting baseline assessments of individual residents and planning processes to identify specific outcome measures for tracking client progress.

Identify specific outcome measures for tracking client progress, program effectiveness, and service quality.

Identifying gaps and increasing access to services.

Applicants must describe their plan to identify gaps in services and provide details about how their approach to service delivery addresses these gaps. Include information to describe program sustainability and community capacity building components.

Describe how the proposed project will include participant voices throughout the implementation of the program.

Supporting housing stability, economic mobility and well-being.

Applicants must identify which services will be strengthened and expanded from the service areas listed in the [Major activities](#) section of the Program description.

Describe how the project's approach to strengthening or expanding these services will promote housing stability, economic mobility, and well-being for the affordable housing residents.

Include details to demonstrate services will be provided at a duration, and level of quality necessary to meet the needs of the residents and achieve the outcomes identified in the application.

Project Implementation

The plan to implement the project must address all activities needed for successful completion and describe how their plans will work to achieve the program outcomes listed in [Program Goals: Outcomes and Performance Measures of the Program description](#).

Supporting AHSSD Priorities

Under this funding opportunity announcement, AHSSD will award bonus points for projects that demonstrate serving extremely low-income or formerly homeless households. Applications must describe how they will identify and serve a majority of households that have extremely low incomes or were formerly homeless before moving into the property and include specific approaches to address their housing stability, economic mobility, and well-being needs.

Project timeline and milestones

Provide a timeline for your project that includes milestones. To do so:

- Organize the information by task and subtask, showing related milestones.
- Provide monthly or quarterly quantitative projections for tasks you plan to complete and by when. For example, provide the number of people you plan to serve or the number of a certain activity you plan to complete by a specific date.
- Provide target dates for activities you can't quantify.
- Cover the full period of performance in your timeline.

Logic model

You must submit a logic model for designing, managing, and evaluating the project. A logic model is a diagram that:

- Presents how inputs drive activities to produce outputs, outcomes, and the ultimate goals of the proposed project.
- Explains the links among project elements.
- Targets the identified objectives and goals of the project.

While there are many versions of logic models, for the purposes of this funding opportunity, the logic model may include the connections between:

- Inputs such as additional resources, organizational profile, collaborative partners, key staff, and budget.
- Target population, such as the individuals to be served or identified needs.

- Activities, mechanisms, and processes such as evidence-based practices, best practices, approach, key intervention and evaluation components, and continuous quality improvement efforts.
- Outputs, which include the immediate and direct results of program activities.
- Outcomes, which include the short- and long-term results you expect the project to achieve. These are typically described as changes in people or systems.
- Project goals, such as overarching objectives and reasons for proposing the project.

Impact

Project performance evaluation plan

Describe how you will evaluate your project's performance and how it will contribute to continuous quality improvement. This plan must describe:

- How you will monitor ongoing activities and progress toward the project's goals and objectives.
- The inputs, key activities, and expected outcomes of the funded activities. Inputs might include your collaborative partners, key staff, budget, service processes, or other resources.
- How you will measure the inputs, activities, and outcomes.
- How you will use the resulting information to improve your funded activities.
- Any processes that support overall data quality.
- The organizational systems and processes you will use to track performance outcomes.
- How your organization will collect and manage data in a way that allows for accurate and timely reporting of performance outcomes. This might include assigned skilled staff, data management software, and data integrity.
- Any potential obstacles to implementing the project performance evaluation and how you will address them.
- A timeline for how you will review information from the performance evaluation and apply it to your ongoing project.
- Describe your organization's capabilities to track service delivery and report unduplicated data at the participant level for eligible residents receiving AHSSD services, including:
 - Services provided by the organization, broken out by funding source.
 - Referrals to external services and resident use of those services.
 - Participant and household demographic characteristics. Include the types of services participants receive, the funding source for those services, referrals

to outside providers, whether participants use those outside services, and participant and household demographic information.

- Describe your organization's capacity to support the Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration Program Evaluation, including your ability to work with an outside, non-recipient evaluation team on data collection related to project processes, implementation, progress indicators, and quality improvement.
- Describe your capability to gather data from recipients, partners, and program beneficiaries through longitudinal or cross-sectional surveys, small focus groups, or qualitative interviews. Please include a description of how you will work with partner organizations to actively support the federal evaluation.

Expected outcomes

Identify the outcomes you plan to achieve from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall program as described in the [program description section](#). If research is part of the proposed work, outcomes must include hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

Resources and capabilities

Organizational capacity

Provide the following information for your full project team, including the applicant organization and any cooperating partners, contractors, and subrecipients:

- Provide evidence that your team has the relevant experience and expertise needed to carry out your project.
- Describe your team's experience (including any partnering organizations) with administering, developing, implementing, managing, and evaluating similar projects.
- Provide evidence that your team, including partnering organizations, has the organizational capability to fulfill their roles and functions effectively.
- You must disclose your plan to enter into subaward agreements. If planning subawards, describe the work each subrecipient will complete.
- Provide some supporting information in the organizational capacity supporting information section of your [attachments](#).

Plan for oversight of federal award funds and activities

You must ensure proper award oversight. The regulation that governs this oversight is [2 CFR part 200](#). It includes standards for:

- Financial and program management.
- Property management.
- Procurement.
- Performance and financial monitoring and reporting.
- Subrecipient monitoring and management.
- Record retention and access.
- Remedies for noncompliance.
- Prior written approval.

Describe your framework to make sure that your federal funds and activities have proper oversight. Include:

- A description of the governance, policies and procedures, and systems you use for record-keeping and financial management.
- A description of the procedures you use to identify and mitigate risks and issues. These might include audit findings, continuous performance assessment findings, and monitoring.
- The key staff who will be responsible for maintaining oversight of program staff and any partners or subrecipients.

Project sustainability plan

You must propose a plan for project sustainability after the period of federal funding ends. We expect you to sustain key elements of your project. These elements can include strategies or services and interventions that have improved practices and outcomes.

Provide an approach to project sustainability that is effective and feasible. Describe:

- The key people and organizations whose support you will require.
- The types of alternative support you will require to maintain the project.
- If the proposed project involves key project partners, describe how you will maintain their cooperation or collaboration after the federal funding ends.

Protection of sensitive or confidential information

Describe how you will collect and safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information that is considered sensitive. Make sure your approach is consistent with applicable federal, state, local, and tribal laws regarding privacy and obligations of confidentiality. Provide:

- The methods and systems you will use to make sure that you properly handle confidential and sensitive information, including information from any subrecipients or contractors.
- A plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the period of performance.

For more information, see [2 CFR 200.303\(e\)](#).

Line-item budget and budget narrative

The line-item budget and budget justification support the information you provide in the Budget Information Standard Form SF-424A.

HHS now uses the definitions for [equipment](#) and [supplies](#) in [2 CFR 200.1](#). The new definitions change the threshold for equipment to the lesser of the recipient's capitalization level or \$10,000 and the threshold for supplies to below that amount.

Justify the costs you ask for and provide detail, including calculations for the “object class categories” in the Budget Information Standard Form. You will provide this information for the full period of performance. See information on [funding periods](#).

As you develop your budget, consider:

- If the costs are necessary, reasonable, allocable, and consistent with your project's purpose and activities.
- How you calculate your costs in ways that are clear and repeatable.
- The restrictions on spending funds. See the [funding policies and limitations](#).
- The cost of providing incentives for participants to participate in data gathering activities to support the evaluation. For planning purposes, consider:
 - One-time interviews.
 - Four administrations of questionnaires for each resident you plan to enroll in case management, including baseline, 6-month follow up, 12-month follow up, and 18-month follow up.
- Please also review the Standard Form instructions.

To create your line-item budget and justification, see [detailed budget instructions on our website](#).

In general, you must:

- Indicate the method you will use for your indirect cost rate. See the [indirect costs](#) section for further information.
- Include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail necessary for the calculation to be duplicated.

- For any cost sharing, include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance.
- For applicants planning to use subawards, if your subaward budget is more than 50% of total direct costs, justify why you are subawarding that portion of the project. Explain:
 - How you plan to maintain a substantive role in the project.
 - Why you cannot achieve your goals without the subrecipients' participation.
- Include detailed line items for expenses categorized under each object class category you report on the SF-424A. Please show expenses that are supported by federal funds and matching funds in separate columns.

Please note that any cost-sharing funds included on the SF-424 and SF-424A must be provided, even if it is more than the required minimum of 9%.

Proprietary or personally identifiable information

Clearly identify any salary or other proprietary information or personally identifiable information within your application. Identification will ensure this information is not shared with reviewers. Note on page 1 of the attachments file (file two) where the information to be redacted is located.

If you have an [exemption for a paper submission](#), you can protect salary information and any proprietary information by placing that information only in the original application. You can remove the information from the copies, keeping summary information.

File two: Attachments

To submit file two, you will use the Other Attachments form found in the Grants.gov application package for this NOFO.

This file includes all attachments.

ACF priorities alignment attestation

Note: Not included in the page limit. This should be submitted with the application or before award.

You must self-certify that you will align with the ACF priorities that are relevant to this funding opportunity, as identified in both the Program description and Step 4, under Merit review process, Scoring criteria, Alignment with ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles, elements 2 and 3. You must provide the following on your organization's letterhead.

I hereby attest and certify that:

_____ (Applicant Name) affirms its commitment to supporting and advancing ACF's published Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), consistent with applicable federal statutes, regulations, and Administration priorities.

Date of Signature:

Print Name and Title of the Authorized Organization Representative (AOR):

Signature of AOR Indirect cost agreement:

Indirect cost agreement

If you include indirect costs in your budget using an approved rate, include a copy of your current agreement approved by your [cognizant agency for indirect costs](#). If you use the *de minimis* rate, you do not need to submit this attachment.

See the [indirect costs](#) section for more information.

Legal proof of nonprofit status

If your organization is a nonprofit, you need to attach proof. We will accept any of the following:

- A reference to your listing in the IRS's most recent list of tax-exempt organizations.
- A copy of a current tax exemption certificate from the IRS.

- A letter from your state's tax department, attorney general, or another appropriate state official saying that your group is a nonprofit and that none of your net earnings go to private shareholders or others.
- A certified copy of your certificate of incorporation or similar document. This document must show that your group is a nonprofit.
- Any of these documents for a parent organization. Also include a statement signed by an official of the parent group that your organization is a nonprofit affiliate.

Additional eligibility documentation

Applicants must submit documentation for (1) affordable housing units and (2) property ownership.

Affordable housing units: Evidence that your units are affordable under either category A or B below:

A. A property unit assisted under one of the following programs:

- The low-income housing tax credit under section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.
- The project-based rental assistance programs under section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937, including units assisted by project-based vouchers under section 8(o)(13) of such Act.
- The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher, under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, specifically Section 8(b)(1) which amends the United States Housing Act of 1937.
- The rural rental housing program under section 515 of the Housing Act of 1949;* Permanent supportive housing projects subsidized under a program under title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11361 et seq.).
- The supportive housing for the elderly program under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959.
- The supportive housing program for persons with disabilities under section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act.
- The Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS under subtitle D of title VIII of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12901 et seq.).
- Units owned by public housing agencies that are not assisted under the Housing Act of 1937.

B. Housing for which the occupant is paying no more than 30% of the household's gross monthly income for housing costs, including utilities. This is the definition used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Documentation should demonstrate that residents are responsible for 30% or less of the total monthly cost of

the unit. Please note any documentation with resident personal identifiable information should be de-identified.

Property ownership: Evidence of ownership over the affordable housing units in the form of either a property deed or title. In lieu of either a deed or title, property owners must submit two recent water bills (May and June 2026).

Organizational capacity supporting information

You must attach the following information to support the information in your [organizational capacity](#) section:

- Organizational charts, including all partners.
- Resumes, biographical sketches, or curricula vitae for all key personnel.
- Job descriptions for each vacant key position.
- List of your board of directors.
- Copy or description of your organization's fiscal control and accountability procedures.
- Child-care licenses and other documentation of professional accreditation.
- Information on compliance with federal, state, and local government standards.

Third-party agreements

You must submit agreements with all third parties involved in the project. Third parties include subrecipients, contractors, and other cooperating entities. Third-party agreements include letters of commitment, memoranda of understanding, and memoranda of agreement. We do not consider general letters of support to be third-party agreements.

Any such agreement must:

- Describe each party's roles and responsibilities for project activities.
- Describe the support and resources that the third party is committing to the proposed project.
- Be signed by the person in the third-party organization with the authority to make such commitments.
- Detail work schedules and estimated compensation with an understanding that the parties will negotiate a final agreement after award.

Standard forms

You will need to complete some other required standard forms other than those in files one and two. You can find them in the NOFO [application package](#) or review them and their instructions at [Grants.gov Forms](#).

Forms	Submission requirement
Project Abstract Summary	With the application.
Application for Federal Assistance (SF-424)	With the application.
Budget Information for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424A)	With the application.
Assurances for Non-Construction Programs (SF-424B)	With the application.
Key Contacts	With the application.
Grants.gov Lobbying form	With the application or before award.
Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (SF-LLL)	If applicable based on instructions, with the application or before award.
Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	With the application. Cite your primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites.

Important: public information

When filling out your SF-424 form, pay attention to Box 15: Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project.

We share what you put there with [USAspending](#). This is where the public goes to learn how the federal government spends taxpayer money.

Instead of just a title, insert a short description of your project and what it will do.

[See instructions and examples \[PDF\]](#).



Step 4:

Learn About Review and Award

In this step

Application review	<u>44</u>
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Application review

Initial review

We will review your application to make sure that it meets the responsiveness requirements listed in the [disqualifying factors section](#). If your application does not meet these criteria, we will disqualify it and we will not move it to the merit review (scoring) phase.

We will let you know if your application is disqualified within 30 days of the application deadline. You won't receive any notice from ACF if your application failed Grants.gov validation checks.

If you submit more than two files in addition to your forms, we will remove the extra files. We will let you know if this happens.

We will also remove blurred or illegible pages and any file formats that are not supported.

We will not review any pages that exceed the page limit.

If your application fails to adhere to ACF's NOFO formatting, font, and page limitation requirements, we will adjust your application by removing page(s) from the application. We will remove the pages before the merit review and will not send them to reviewers.

If we do so, we will send you a letter after we make awards to notify you that we amended your application.

Merit review process

A panel reviews all applications that pass the initial review. The panel members use the criteria shown in each section of the project narrative and in the line-item budget and budget narrative section.

Our reviewers typically are not federal employees. See the section on [proprietary and personally identifiable information](#).

Criteria summary

Criterion	Total number of points = 115
1. Purpose and need	10 points
2. Response	50 points
3. Impact	15 points
4. Resources and capabilities	15 points
5. Line-item budget and budget narrative	10 points
6. ACF Priority Alignment	10 points
7. Bonus Points: Projects serving extremely low-income or formerly homeless households	5 points

Scoring criteria

1. Purpose and need

Maximum points: 10

This section of the review criteria includes essential components from the [Purpose and need](#) section of the Program description. The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the nature and scope of the issues surrounding support service needs for eligible residents who are children and families living in the affordable housing units owned by the applicant. Successful applications must show a comprehensive understanding of these low-income communities within the geographic service area, document service gaps, and include evidence of a direct community engagement needs assessment. **(0 to 3 points)**
- Describe the characteristics of the proposed service area, including the scope, size, demographics, geography, etc., and present justifiable arguments for why this specific service area would make a good candidate to test this demonstration project. **(0 to 3 points)**
- Include any relevant data to describe the characteristics for this particular group of low-income affordable housing residents and identify the need for additional support services for these families. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Outline, in a clear and concise manner, the project's objectives and subobjectives and how they relate to the overall purpose of the program and how you will achieve them. **(0 to 1 point)**

- Proposed objectives are clear, respond to the need identified for residents of affordable housing, quantifiable and measurable. **(0 to 1 point)**

2. Response

Maximum points: 50

This section of the review criteria includes essential components from the [Response](#) section under the Project narrative. The reviewer will assess how well the application:

- Strengthening and Expanding Case Management and Support Services **(0 to 15 points)**
 - Describes a clear plan to provide comprehensive case management, direct services, and referrals to connect eligible residents to community services. The plan must include one or both approaches described below.
 - Case management for providing referrals to support services: Applicants provide comprehensive, client-centered case management that incorporates evidence-based practices, coordinates services across multiple providers and sectors, and includes data collection and outcome tracking to support continuous quality improvement.
 - Providing direct support services: Applicants select the types of supportive services using evidence-based or evidence-informed practices and incorporates best practices for specific service domains. The approach demonstrates an appropriate service delivery structure, staffing, timeline, and protocols; establishes clear and measurable outcomes; promotes program sustainability; and leads to innovation and adaptation to changing needs and emerging best practices.
 - Includes pre-service assessments and individualized planning processes that actively engage clients in goal setting and decision making.
 - Establishes specific outcome measures for tracking client progress, program effectiveness, and service quality.
 - Demonstrates innovative approaches to achieving client outcomes, leveraging formal and informal support networks, and addressing social determinants of health and well-being.
- Identifying gaps in service and access improvements **(0 to 9 points)**
 - Describes how the program will identify gaps in service and proposes a reasonable and achievable approach.
 - Explains how eligible residents representative of the affordable housing population will be meaningfully included in program leadership, decision-making, and advisory roles.

- Outlines a plan for program sustainability, including community capacity building.
- Describe processes for confirming services will only be provided to eligible residents.
- **Supporting Housing Stability, Economic Mobility and Well-Being (0 to 13 points)**
 - Describes how the project's approach to strengthening or expanding supportive services will promote housing stability, economic mobility, and well-being for the affordable housing residents. The approach must describe which services from the service areas in [Major activities](#) of the Program description will be strengthened and expanded.
 - Describes a service delivery plan that demonstrates the project will provide the selected services at a duration, and level of quality sufficient to meet resident needs and achieve the applicant's stated outcomes.
- **Project Implementation, Timeline, Milestones (0 to 8 points)**
 - Provides a comprehensive implementation plan covering key activities such as: outreach, enrollment of eligible residents, securing staffing and resources, and delivering strengthened and expanded services consistent with project objectives and outcomes.
 - Demonstrates a feasible path to achieving the process and outcome objectives that align with the [Outcomes and performance goals](#) in the *Program description*.
 - Includes reasonable timelines and milestones to monitor project progress.
- **Logic Model (0 to 5 points)**
 - Provides a logic model that identifies the inputs, outputs, and outcomes and depicts the connections between the inputs, outputs, expected outcomes, and the achievement of the project's goal(s).

3. Impact

Maximum points: 15

This section of the review criteria includes essential components from the [Impact](#) section. The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Demonstrate that you have sufficient data collection experience and data infrastructure to support the federal evaluation. **(0 to 8 points)**

This includes:

- Tracking service delivery in a way that allows for unduplicated counts of residents receiving AHSSD-funded services, support services provided to residents by the organization through other funding streams, as well as

connections to external providers for supportive services and resident uptake of services.

- Reporting individual and household demographic data for participants receiving these support services.
- Describe how you will fulfill the activities described in the [Impact](#) section of the project narrative. (0 to 7 points)

4. Resources and capabilities

Maximum points: 15

This section of the review criteria includes essential components from the [Resources and capabilities](#) section found of the Project Narrative. The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Demonstrate that you have the experience and expertise to carry out the activities proposed and that the proposed project director(s), key staff, and/or consultants have the background, experience, and other qualifications required to carry out their designated roles. (0 to 5 points)
- Demonstrate a plan to build your capacity to effectively deliver the services. Describe how you will use the funding to secure staffing, partnerships, and other resources necessary to strengthen and expand services. (0 to 5 points)
- Demonstrate organizational capacity to carry out the proposed program, including dedicated staff and systems to support data collection, appropriate infrastructure, and a track record of successfully working with distressed communities. (0 to 5 points)

5. Line-item budget and budget narrative

Maximum points: 10

This section of the review criteria includes essential components from the section found under the [Project Narrative](#) . The reviewer will assess how well you:

- Provide a budget and a budget narrative or justification that are aligned and consistent with the project proposal; provide detailed justifications for the amounts requested; are reasonable and feasible with respect to the resources requested for each activity. (0 to 2 points)
- Outline reasonable time commitments for the proposed Project Director and other key personnel that are sufficient to assure proper direction, management, and timely completion of the project; propose salaries for the Project Director and other key project personnel that are reasonable and justified. (0 to 2 points)
- Outline costs that are program-related and commensurate with the types and range of activities and services to be conducted and the expected goals and objectives. (0 to 2 points)

- Provide a budget that clearly shows the breakdown of federal and non-federal funds allocated to each object class category. **(0 to 2 points)**
- Provide a budget and a budget narrative or justification that shows a commitment and a description of the required cost sharing equal to a minimum of 10% of the total cost of the project. **(0 to 2 points)**

We do not consider voluntary cost sharing during merit review.

6. Alignment with ACF vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles (up to 10 points)

ACF's published vision, mission, values, priorities, and guiding principles inform programmatic and administrative expectations under this funding opportunity.

Applicants must demonstrate alignment by describing how the proposed project advances relevant ACF priorities through program design and evaluation. Applicants should clearly identify which ACF priorities are relevant and explain how those priorities are reflected in the proposed approach. Applicants are encouraged to provide examples of prior experiences that can show alignment efforts that have already been achieved. Examples should describe strategies used, measurable results (if available), and lessons learned.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to organize their response using the three criteria below.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application demonstrates clear, specific, and measurable connections between ACF priorities and the proposed project. Scores will reflect the strength, clarity, and specificity of those connections.

Scoring considerations for the next three criteria:

- **High-scoring applications** will demonstrate clear understanding, intentional integration, and measurable alignment with ACF priorities across all three criteria.
- **Moderate-scoring applications** may reference ACF priorities but provide limited specificity, uneven integration, or minimal connection to measurable outcomes.
- **Low-scoring applications** will show minimal or unclear understanding of ACF priorities and lack meaningful connection to program design or performance.

1. Demonstrated review and understanding (up to 2 points)

The extent to which the applicant demonstrates that it has reviewed ACF's Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles and explains their relevance to the proposed project.

Reviewers will look for:

- Identification of specific ACF priorities (not general or vague references).
- A clear explanation of how those priorities relate to the proposed project.

2. Operationalization in Program Design and Implementation (Up to 3 Points)

The degree to which the following one or more ACF priorities are translated into specific elements of the proposed project.

Reviewers will look for the extent to which the application promotes:

- Work and self-sufficiency.
- Quality early learning environments and improved child outcomes.

Reviewers will assess if the applicant:

- Connects identified ACF priorities to program design, service delivery, and implementation.
- Demonstrates how priorities influence partnerships, staffing, or key program decisions.
- Provides clear, actionable examples of how alignment will be carried out in practice.

3. Integration into performance and continuous improvement (up to 5 points)

The extent to which the following one or more ACF priorities are reflected in measurable outcomes and ongoing program improvement:

- Promoting work and self-sufficiency.
- Promoting quality early learning environments and improved child outcomes.

Reviewers will assess the extent to which the application:

- Aligns performance measures and expected outcomes with identified priorities.
- Includes evaluation methods or performance indicators that reflect those priorities.
- Describes how data will be used for continuous quality improvement.

7. Bonus points: Project serving extremely low-income or formerly homeless households (Up to 5 points)

Reviewers will consider whether the majority (over 50%) of households served by the project have extremely low incomes or were homeless before moving into the property served. Submit documentation of household income, size of household, and 30% AMI level for corresponding household size to document at least 50% of households served have extremely low incomes OR certify that at least 50% of households are formerly homeless.

Risk review

Before making an award, we review the risk that you will mismanage federal funds or fail to complete the project objectives. We need to make sure you've handled any past federal awards well and demonstrated sound business practices.

We use [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov) Responsibility/Qualification and Exclusions to check this history for all awards likely to be over \$250,000.

If we find a significant risk, we may choose not to fund your application or to place specific conditions on the award.

For more details, see [2 CFR 200.206](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-200/subpart-206).

Selection process

When making funding decisions, we consider:

- Merit review and scoring results, including the points for Alignment with ACF Vision, Mission, Values, Priorities, and Guiding Principles to the extent permitted by law. These are key in making decisions but are not the only factor.
- Organizations that are focused on serving U.S. citizens with low incomes.
- The larger portfolio of agency-funded projects by considering geographic distribution.
- The past performance of the applicant.
- The application's compliance with this NOFO's prohibition on using funds awarded under this NOFO to support [DEI and DEIA activities](#), to the extent permitted by law, including any relevant court orders.
- Funding preference for alignment with agency priorities. Before final funding decisions are made, division leadership will review awards for consistency with applicable laws and alignment with agency priorities.
- The application's compliance with this NOFO's prohibition on using funds awarded under this NOFO to deliver supportive services for those unlawfully present in the United States.

We may:

- Fund applications in whole or in part.
- Fund applications at a lower amount than requested.
- Decide not to allow a prime recipient to subaward if they may not be able to monitor and manage subrecipients properly.
- Decide not to fund a project with high start-up costs or unreasonably high operating costs.

- Choose not to fund applicants with management or financial problems.
- Designate your application as “approved but unfunded” if it was successful but there was not sufficient funding to make an award. You may receive funding if additional funds become available within the FY.
- Choose to fund no applications under this NOFO.

We will not fund:

- A [disqualified application](#).
- An incomplete application.

Award notices

If you are successful, we will email or transmit through our grant systems a Notice of Award (NoA) to your authorized official. We will email you if your application is disqualified or unsuccessful.

The NoA is the only official award document. The NoA tells you about the amount of the award, important dates, and the terms and conditions you need to follow. Until you receive the NoA, you have not received an award. Project costs that you incur before you receive a NoA are at your risk.

By drawing down funds, you accept the terms and conditions of the award. The award incorporates the requirements of the program and funding authorities, the grant regulations, the GPS, and the NOFO.

If you want to know more about NoA contents, go to [Notice of Award at ACF's website](#).



Step 5:

Submit Your Application

In this step

Application submission and deadlines

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Application submission and deadlines

Application

Deadline

Due on Monday, August 24, 2026.

- For electronic submissions, the due time is 11:59 p.m. ET.
- If you receive an exemption from electronic submission, the due time is 4:30 p.m. ET. See the section on [exemptions for paper submissions](#).

Grants.gov creates a date and time record when it receives the application. If you submit the same application more than once, we will accept only the last on-time submission.

The grants management officer may extend an application due date based on emergency situations such as documented natural disasters or a verifiable widespread disruption of electric or mail service.

Grants.gov submission

You must submit your application through Grants.gov unless we give you an exemption for a paper submission. See information on [getting registered](#).

For instructions on how to submit in Grants.gov, see the [Quick Start Guide for Applicants](#).

Make sure your application passes the Grants.gov validation checks. Do not encrypt, zip, or password protect any files. We encourage you to leave yourself plenty of time to upload documents.

See [Contacts and Support](#) if you need help.

Issues with federal systems

If you experience a systems issue with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to [ACF's policy for applicants experiencing federal systems issues \[PDF\]](#).

Exemptions for paper submissions

We need to give you an exemption before you can apply on paper. See the [ACF policy for requesting an exemption from required electronic application submission \[PDF\]](#).

Once we have approved your exemption, download your forms package under the Package tab in Grants.gov.

To submit your application, mail it to:

Janice Realeza

Department of Health and Human Services

Administration for Children and Families

Office of Grants Management

HHS-2026-ACF-OCS-EAH-0120

1401 Mercantile Lane, Suite 401

Largo, MD 20774

Follow these requirements when you submit your paper application:

- Print your application and all copies one-sided.
- Submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all required forms.
- Submit both the original and additional copies in a single package. If you plan to submit more than one application under this NOFO or others, you must submit them separately. Clearly label each package with the NOFO title and funding opportunity number.
- Your authorized organization official must sign the application. The original application must include an original signature.

Intergovernmental review

[Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs](#) does not apply to this NOFO. You do not need to take any action.



Step 6:

Learn What Happens After Award

In this step

Post-award requirements and administration [57](#)

Post-award requirements and administration

Administrative and national policy requirements

There are important rules you'll need to follow if you get an award. You must follow:

- All terms and conditions in the Notice of Award, including the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions](#) and, if applicable, any program-specific terms and conditions. We incorporate this NOFO by reference.
- The rules listed in [2 CFR 200](#), Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements, effective October 1, 2025. These replace those in 45 CFR 75, with some exceptions in [2 CFR 300](#).
- The HHS [Grants Policy Statement \(GPS\)](#). This document has terms and conditions tied to your award. If there are any exceptions to the GPS, they'll be listed in your Notice of Award.
- All federal statutes and regulations relevant to federal financial assistance, including those highlighted in the [HHS Grants Policy Statement](#), Appendix D: HHS Administrative and National Policy Requirements and the [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#).
- [45 CFR Part 87 Appendix B, Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations](#). This appendix explains the obligations of and protections for faith-based organizations applying for grants.

Use of E-Verify

All funded grantees and subgrantees are encouraged to use the national E-Verify system operated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with the Social Security Administration, to ensure their employees are American citizens or are eligible to work in the United States.

Reporting

As a recipient, you will have to submit performance and financial reports. To learn more about reporting, see [Reporting at the ACF website](#).

- Performance report form: **ACF-OGM-PPR**
 - Performance report frequency: Quarterly
- Financial report form: **SF-425 FFR**
 - Financial report frequency: Semiannually
- **AHSSD Semi-Annual Quantitative Report** (OMB Control# 0970-0628; expiration October 31, 2027)
 - Report frequency: Semiannually
- **AHSSD PPR Form** (OMB Control# 0970-0628; expiration October 31, 2027)
 - Report frequency: Quarterly



Contacts and Support

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Agency contacts

Program

Jessica Hale

ocstech@reviewops.org

1 (855) 792-6551

Grants management

Janice Realeza

ocstech@reviewops.org

1 (855) 792-6551

Help with systems

Grants.gov

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support. Hold on to your ticket number.

- Phone: 1-800-518-4726
- Email: support@grants.gov

SAM.gov

If you need help, you can:

- Call 866-606-8220.
- Live chat with the [Federal Service Desk](#).

Reference websites

- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#)
- [Administration for Children and Families \(ACF\)](#)
- [Grants.gov](#)
- [Applying for an ACF Grant Award](#)
- [Grants.gov Accessibility Information](#)
- [Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\)](#)
- [United States Code \(U.S.C.\)](#)
- [Award Terms and Conditions](#) (see also the [ACF Standard Terms and Conditions \[PDF\]](#))
- [ACF Administrative and National Policy Requirements](#)
- [Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Demonstration \(AHSSD\)](#)

Paperwork Reduction Act disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the project description (project narrative, line-item budget, and justification) is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering, and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information.

The project description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires April 30, 2029. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Appendix A

CAAs and tribes that were funded directly by the CSBG in FY 2025:

- [CSBG State Associations](#)
- [CSBG-funded Territories](#)
- [Tribes that were funded directly by CSBG in FY 2025](#)