



SKAGIT COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

2025-2026 NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA) HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

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Notice of Funding Availability
SKAGIT COUNTY HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

Skagit County seeks applications, no later than **3:00pm on Friday, February 28, 2025**, from qualified parties experienced in implementing projects to provide homeless crisis response services.

Skagit County receives various state grants and document recording fees for which funds must be used in accordance with funding guidelines, statutory requirements, and the strategies outlined in the [2019-2024 Skagit County 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan](#). For the third consecutive year, the NOFA will be in alignment with [North Star Guiding Principles](#) with consideration of [The Vital Conditions](#) framework.

Applications are sought in the following program categories:

- Diversion
- Eviction Prevention
- Rental Assistance
- Shelter and Transitional Housing

The funding period is for twelve months, July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026.

Please submit a separate application for each program funding request. Each application must be submitted to Skagit County Public Health, Attn: Peter Miterko, 301 Valley Mall Way, Suite 110, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, or emailed to peterm@co.skagit.wa.us, no later than **3:00pm on Friday, February 28, 2025**. Late proposals will not be accepted.

I. Funding Sources

Funding sources for this NOFA include:

- Consolidated Homeless Grant (state)
Skagit County is a “Lead Agency” for the Consolidated Homeless Grant Program (CHG). CHG combines state homeless resources into a single grant opportunity under the administration of the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce). [CHG Program Guidelines](#) are set by Commerce and HUD, and Skagit County must adhere to these guidelines in administering this grant. Please note that by July 1, 2025, no less than 80% of Skagit County’s CHG-funded projects (programs and facilities) must be low barrier.
- Emergency Housing Fund (state)
Skagit County is a “Lead Agency” for the Emergency Housing Fund Grant Program (EHF). EHF grant funds are intended to support current levels of homeless subsidies and emergency housing services in Skagit County. Allowable activities and expenses follow CHG and System Demonstration Grant (SDG) guidelines. [CHG Program Guidelines](#) are set by Commerce and HUD, and Skagit County must adhere to these guidelines in administering this grant.
- Document Recording Fees (local)
Skagit County receives fees authorized by 36.22 RCW. Fees must be used for funding homeless and affordable housing projects, and Skagit County intends to award funds for projects that employ strategies established in the [2019-2024 Skagit County 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan](#). Program guidelines are partially set by the Washington State Department of Commerce, and Skagit County must adhere to these guidelines in administering this grant.

Skagit County Reserves the right to utilize additional funding sources as needed.

II. Funding Availability

Estimated grant funds included in this NOFA total \$3,671,400.00 as outlined below:

Approximate Funding Available Per Funding Category

Base CHG	Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) (CHG)	HEN Foundational Community Supports (FCS) Bridge	Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for Chronically Homeless Families (CHF) (CHG)	EHF	Eviction Prevention	Local Doc Fees	Total
\$731,060	\$545,070	\$33,197	\$27,600	\$ 1,129,010	\$781,013	\$424,450	\$3,671,400

Preliminary estimates for local funding are based on recent revenue patterns and tentative state grant awards. Please note these allocation amounts are estimates and will not necessarily be fully awarded.

III. Minimum Qualifications

Organizations must meet the following minimum qualifications to be considered for funding:

- Organization must be a local government, Council of Governments, Housing Authority, Community Action Agency, Regional Support Network (under 71.24 RCW), nonprofit community or neighborhood-based organization, federally recognized Indian tribe in the state of Washington, or regional or statewide nonprofit housing-assistance organization that operates programs to end homelessness within a defined service area.
- Organization must be able to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws; Organization should review [“A Guide to Fair Housing for Nonprofit Housing & Shelter Providers”](#) prior to applying for funding. Contracts may be monitored for compliance with federal and state anti-discrimination laws, and any violation will result in a 30-day corrective action notice.
- Organization must be able to comply with all contract requirements of Skagit County, the Washington State Department of Commerce, and/or the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (depending on source of funds).
- Organization must participate in Coordinated Entry (CE) or be able to refer clients to the CE system, follow [Skagit County Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures](#), and fill openings exclusively through the CE system. Farmworker, legal aid, domestic violence (DV) and youth serving programs are excluded from this requirement.
- Organization must have policies, procedures, and services that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion. In addition, organizations have an approach to service delivery that is low barrier, trauma informed, culturally responsive, and Housing First oriented.
- Organization must have qualified and responsible management and staffing resources necessary to implement the project, including any applicable licensing and insurance requirements.
- Organization must have sound financial management systems and financial capacity to operate programs on a reimbursement basis.
- Organization must have experience in operating proposed project or program or demonstrated knowledge and training necessary to operate proposed project.

An applicant’s overall capacity, specialized experience, reputation, past performance for similar services, technical competence, financial stability, and ability to meet program goals will all be considered the evaluation and decision-making process.

IV. NOFA Timeline

In administering this NOFA, Skagit County will seek to adhere to the below timeline:

NOFA Release Application materials available on the Skagit County website. Public announcement of NOFA.	Friday, January 31, 2025
Applicant Workshop (Teams meeting) Click here to join the meeting Meeting ID: 262 912 604 214 Passcode: aB9Gp9TG	Friday, February 7, 2025 11:00am-12:00pm
Applications Due Applications must be received no later than 3:00p.m.	Friday, February 28, 2025
Tentative Awards Announced	Friday, May 16, 2025
Contracts Begin	Tuesday, July 1, 2025

Applicants are encouraged to submit questions to Skagit County for additional information. Responses will be added to Skagit County’s Housing [Webpage](#) weekly during the NOFA period. Questions should be submitted via email to peterm@co.skagit.wa.us with “2025-2026 Homeless Crisis NOFA Question” as the subject line.

An applicant workshop will be held on Friday, February 7, 11:00am-12:00pm via the Teams link noted above. The information session will cover proposal requirements, process, and questions.

Skagit County reserves the right to reject, in whole or in part, any and all applications received. Skagit County reserves the right to negotiate contract terms subsequent to the submission of applications from the selected qualified applicants. Skagit County reserves the right to require any projects selected for funding to undertake the project in a manner specified by Skagit County in the contract, which may include, but is not limited to, coordination with specific programs, services, or other resources. All awards are contingent on the availability of funding.

All proposals are public information and subject to public disclosure.

Skagit County is not liable for any costs incurred by applicants prior to entering into a contract. Costs associated with developing the application and any other expenses incurred by the applicant in responding to the NOFA are entirely the responsibility of the applicant and shall not be reimbursed in any manner by Skagit County.

Grantees should expect Skagit County to conduct in-person monitoring and client file review once during the grant cycle. Other contract monitoring will occur through review of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data reported monthly by the contractor. Skagit County reserves the right to conduct additional assessment and contract monitoring at any time during the grant cycle.

V. Funding Priorities

In order to reduce the prevalence of homelessness, the amount of time people spend in a state of homelessness, and homelessness recidivism in Skagit County, Skagit County will make funding available to support an integrated homeless crisis response system for homeless Skagitonians with the greatest need.

Skagit County will prioritize funding to align with North Star guiding principles and CHG guidelines, including:

Prioritize Populations

Diversion, eviction prevention, rental assistance, shelter and transitional housing programs will focus primarily on individuals most vulnerable to experiencing harm without housing and services.

Skagit County and the North Star initiative seek to invest in a suite of programs that are mutually reinforcing and show promise for ending homelessness. Services designed for Skagitians who are chronically homeless and suffer from a disabling condition (e.g. substance use disorder, serious mental illness, complex medical problems, severe trauma), will be prioritized for funding. Other populations will also be considered for funding, including youth, victims of DV, veterans, families with children, and people with disabilities.

Low Barrier

The new CHG low barrier requirement states that by July 1, 2025, no less than 80% of a county's CHG/SDG-funded projects (including rent assistance and facility-based projects) must be low barrier. Whether a program meets the low-barrier requirement will influence the allocation of these funds. Project types that can meet this requirement include Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Rapid Re-Housing, Homelessness Prevention, and Permanent Supportive Housing. Service only projects (outreach, day-centers, coordinated entry, and temporary shelters) are not eligible for low-barrier designation.

Integrated & Coordinated System

The North Star initiative is aimed at system change. This includes strengthening county-wide governance, developing strategically coherent initiatives, addressing root causes, and building long-term stability.

Vital Conditions

The Vital Conditions framework ensures proper balance is met between vital conditions and urgent services to advance a collaborative, cross-sector approach to improve community health and well-being. Clients' individual needs will be addressed, appropriate resources to support their needs will be used, and we will strive for stronger community collaboration when providing housing interventions.

Organizations interested in applying should:

1. Serve the priority population, employ the Housing First approach, be low barrier, and adhere to established best practices in homeless housing services. Programs that meet these four criteria will be prioritized for funding.
2. Demonstrate successful outcomes, including past successes with permanent housing placements.
3. Integrate with physical and behavioral health programs and systems.
4. Provide culturally competent and trauma-informed approaches to outreach and services.
5. Demonstrate cost effectiveness.

This is a competitive application process for limited funding; therefore, applications that meet all criteria are not guaranteed an award of funds, and successful applications may be funded for less than the amount requested. Existing projects (those that currently receive County-awarded funds) are not guaranteed funding from year to year.

VI. Application and Submission Requirements & Evaluation Process

Application Requirements:

Please include the following in your application:

1. Attachment A: Application Cover Sheet
2. Attachment B: Responses to the Narrative Application Questions
3. Attachment C: Budget and Narrative
4. Existing Policies or Procedures that address the following:
 - Equity and inclusion
 - Intake and screening criteria
 - Termination, grievance and denial of services policies

If your organization is seeking funding for more than one project, please submit one application per proposed project. Applications may not include supplemental materials; supplemental materials will not be reviewed by the Allocations Committee.

Applicants may be asked to lead site visits or respond to interview questions as part of the evaluation process.

VII. Evaluation and Decision-Making Process

Staff Review and Assessment

The submitted application must fully address the requirements listed in this solicitation and the applicant's degree of experience, knowledge, and ability to provide qualified services as proposed. Public Health staff will conduct an initial review to eliminate applications that do not meet minimum qualifications. Public Health staff may contact applicants for clarifying questions during this initial review.

Low-Income and Homeless Housing Allocations Committee Review & Recommendations

Following review and assessment, Public Health staff will provide all applications that meet minimum qualifications to the Low-Income Housing and Homeless Services Allocations Committee (LIHHSAC) for review. The LIHHSAC will evaluate and score applications based on the attached criteria and scoring rubric. Public Health staff will assist with this process and may provide guidance on funding recommendations based on community needs or other factors. The LIHHSAC will then submit its funding recommendations to the United Way Board of Directors. The United Way Board of Directors will vote and make a recommendation for funding to the Skagit County Board of County Commissioners.

Please note that existing providers' HMIS data may be reviewed for both data entry quality and performance benchmarks and will be considered in award decisions.

Final Decision by Board of County Commissioners

The Skagit County Board of County Commissioners make the final decision on all contracts executed by Skagit County.

Skagit County intends to select the projects that are most qualified to meet local needs. Skagit County reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, award grants at a lower amount than requested, reduce or increase funding, or negotiate separately with any source whatsoever in any manner deemed to be in the best interests of the County.

DIVERSION FUNDING NOTICE

The purpose of Diversion is to use problem-solving conversations and personal advocacy to help a household identify practical solutions for resolving their housing crisis quickly and safely.

The Diversion process is low barrier and can be initiated during a household's initial contact with the homeless response system. A Diversion-trained staff member initiates an exploratory conversation with the family to brainstorm practical solutions for preventing households from becoming homeless or moving from homelessness to housing. Diversion services can be a flexible combination of short-term services and one-time financial assistance. Organizations interested in providing Diversion services should clearly outline anticipated financial support expenses in their program applications. In most cases, organizations should plan to allocate at least 60% of the funds toward providing direct financial support.

Eligible Direct Service Activities

- Housing search
- Creative problem solving
- Housing-focused case management
- Mediation or conflict resolution with landlords, family members, or friends
- Assistance or referral for credit repair, job search, legal assistance, etc.

Eligible One-Time Financial Assistance

- Rent, deposit, moving expenses
- Utilities, background checks
- Transportation, work supplies, employment certifications, etc.

Grant Requirements

- Abide by all CHG rules as set by Commerce; billed activities must be eligible under CHG guidelines.
- Diversion-specific staff must be trained in the housing Diversion model before providing Diversion services.
- Households opting to receive Diversion services may not be pre-screened for perceived ability to be successful through this intervention.

EVICTION PREVENTION FUNDING NOTICE

The purpose of Eviction Prevention is to serve households at risk of homelessness with rental assistance and supportive services. Programs will use a targeted prevention tool to help serve those at highest risk of homelessness.

At least 10% of total awards in this category must be granted to organizations that serve and are substantially governed by marginalized populations (By and For organizations). Marginalized communities may include ethnic and racial minorities; immigrants and refugees; individuals who identify with LGBTQ+ communities, individuals with disabilities or who are deaf; and Native Americans

Eligible Activities

- Housing-focused case management
- Temporary rent subsidies
- Flexible funding

Grant Requirements

- Abide by all CHG rules as set by Commerce; billed activities must be eligible under CHG guidelines.
- Serve households that are at risk of homelessness as defined by the Washington State Department of Commerce AND at or below 80% Area Median Income (AMI).
- Utilize progressive engagement; all support services must be voluntary.
- Assess each household and create housing stability plans.
- Accept referrals exclusively from CE (domestic violence, farmworker, and legal aid organizations are excluded from this requirement).
- Must enter accurate client data into the HMIS system according to HUD and Commerce timeliness and data standards.
- Must have the financial processes in place to make rent payments to landlords in a timely fashion or contract with an agency able to do so (i.e., must have a memorandum of understanding or similar agreement in place).

RENTAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING NOTICE

The purpose of Rental Assistance is to support households that are at risk of homelessness to maintain stable housing and avoid homelessness, and to support Skagitonians who are experiencing homelessness to obtain and successfully maintain stable housing. Organizations interested in providing Rental Assistance must demonstrate that households are unable to pay rent independently and are at risk of becoming or returning to homelessness due to an inability to pay rent.

Set-asides for HEN and PSH funds will influence the allocation of these dollars.

Eligible Activities

- Targeted prevention
- Rapid re-housing
- PSH CHF
- Master leasing
- Housing-focused case management
- Flexible funding
- Landlord mitigation funds

Grant Requirements

- Abide by all CHG rules as set by Commerce; billed activities must be eligible under CHG guidelines.
- Serve households that are homeless or at imminent risk of homeless as defined by the Washington State Department of Commerce AND at or below 30% AMI, DSHS HEN Referral, or TANF Enrolled. Some exceptions may be made for literally homeless households that are over income. Households entering rapid re-housing programs are exempt from income eligibility and housing status requirements for the first 90 days of program participation.
- To be eligible for permanent supportive housing, a household must be homeless AND include at least one household member who has a disability that is expected to be long term or of indefinite duration and substantially impedes the household member's ability to live independently.
- Utilize progressive engagement; all support services must be voluntary.
- Assess each household and create housing stability plans.
- Accept referrals exclusively from CE (domestic violence, farmworker, and legal aid organizations serving programs are excluded from this requirement).
- Must enter accurate client data into the HMIS system according to HUD and Commerce timeliness and data standards.
- Must have the financial processes in place to make rent payments to landlords in a timely fashion or contract with an agency able to do so (i.e., must have a memorandum of understanding or similar agreement in place).

SHELTER AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING FUNDING NOTICE

The purpose of Shelter and Transitional Housing is to provide temporary housing interventions for Skagitonians experiencing homelessness. Emergency shelter provides short-term temporary shelter for those experiencing homelessness. Emergency shelters can be facility based or utilize hotel/motel vouchers. Transitional housing is subsidized, facility-based housing that is designed to provide long-term temporary housing and to move households experiencing homelessness into permanent housing. Lease or rental agreements are required between the transitional housing project and the household. Households are considered homeless while enrolled in temporary housing interventions.

Eligible expenses include administration, operations (including housing-focused case management), and facility support.

Eligible Activities

- Seasonal cold weather shelter
- Drop-in shelter
- Continuous-stay shelter
- Transitional housing
- Housing-focused case management
- Flexible funding related to housing, not to exceed 10% of total award
- Motel/hotel voucher program

Grant Requirements

- Abide by all CHG rules as set by Commerce; billed activities must be eligible under CHG guidelines.
- Participate in CE. Shelter programs must serve as an access point to CE if accepting walk-ins. Transitional housing must accept referrals exclusively from CE (domestic violence, farmworker and youth serving programs are excluded from this requirement).
- Enter all client information into HMIS following CHG and HUD data standards applicable to the program.

Project Narrative Scoring Rubric

1. Priority Population and Alignment with Best Practices, Evidence-Based Practices: 25 Points Possible

17-25	8-16	0-7
<p>Program clearly demonstrates ability to serve priority population. A majority of program participants have experienced chronic homelessness and suffer from a disabling condition, such as substance use disorder, serious mental illness, complex medical problems, and/or severe trauma. Program demonstrates low-barrier services, alignment with best practices, and is supported by patterns of adherence to evidence-based practice, research, or an established authority on homelessness.</p> <p>Applicants offer a compelling reasoning for prioritization.</p>	<p>Program partially demonstrates ability to serve priority population. A portion of program participants have experienced chronic homelessness and suffer from a disabling condition, such as substance use disorder, serious mental illness, complex medical problems, and/or severe trauma. Program partially demonstrates low-barrier services, alignment with best practices, and is supported by some evidence-based practice, research, or an established authority on homelessness.</p> <p>Applicant offers some justification for prioritization.</p>	<p>Program does not demonstrate ability to serve priority population. Program participants have not experienced chronic homelessness and do not suffer from a disabling condition, such as substance use disorder, serious mental illness, complex medical problems, and/or severe trauma. Program does not demonstrate low-barrier services, alignment with best practices, or offer a sound justification for prioritization.</p>

2. Outputs and Outcomes: 15 Points Possible

11-15	6-10	0-5
<p>Program narrative addresses strategies for achieving expected outcomes. Program demonstrates past success with permanent housing outcomes. Outcomes are reasonable for the services provided and the population served. Program outcomes justify requested funding level.</p>	<p>Program narrative addresses strategies for achieving expected outcomes to a limited extent. Program demonstrates limited past success with permanent housing outcomes. Outcomes are moderately appropriate for the services provided and the populations served. Program outcomes somewhat justify requested funding level.</p>	<p>Program narrative lacks an explanation of strategies for achieving expected outcomes. Program does not demonstrate past success with permanent housing outcomes. Outcomes are undefined for the services provided and the population served. Requested funding level is disproportionate to program outcomes.</p>

3. Program Integration with Programs and Systems: 25 Points Possible

17-25	8-16	0-7
<p>Program is comprehensively integrated with physical and behavioral health programs and systems. Care management is designed to meet to households' needs and identified goals and is explicitly tied to permanent housing.</p>	<p>Program is partially integrated with physical and behavioral health programs and systems. Care management is somewhat designed to meet to households' needs and identified goals and is somewhat tied to permanent housing.</p>	<p>Program lacks integration with physical and behavioral health programs and systems. Care management is inadequately designed to meet to households' needs and identified goals and is inadequately tied to permanent housing.</p>

4. Outreach and Program Access: 20 Points Possible

14-20	7-13	0-6
<p>Outreach strategy is well defined and ensures culturally competent and trauma-informed services. Efforts to serve historically underserved populations are prioritized. Program requirements and exclusions are clarified, rational, and supported by best practices.</p>	<p>Outreach strategy is somewhat defined and culturally competent, and trauma-informed services are partially established. Efforts to serve historically underserved populations are somewhat prioritized. Program requirements and exclusions are somewhat unclear.</p>	<p>Project demonstrates little effort in defining outreach, culturally competent, and trauma-informed services. Applicant does not address how program will reach underserved populations. Outreach strategy is not defined. Program requirements and exclusions are unclear or unreasonable.</p>

5. Budget and Budget Narrative: 15 Points Possible

11-15	6-10	0-5
<p>Program budget and intended use of funds are cost effective and comprehensive for the services provided. Program leverages funds from other sources. Approximate cost of intervention is clearly identified.</p>	<p>Budget and intended use of funds are disproportionate to program scope; some expenses are ineligible for County funding. Program may not leverage other funds. Approximate cost of intervention is somewhat unclear.</p>	<p>Project budget or intended use of funds is unclear. Program does not leverage funds from other sources.</p>