



Skagit County Public Health

Monica Negrila, Director
Howard Leibrand, M.D., Health Officer

2026-2028 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEM

Grant Funding for July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028.

Grant funding is anticipated for a two-year period. Contracts will be executed as one-year agreements, with second-year agreements subject to funding availability and satisfactory performance during year one of the contract term.

Changes to Funding Process

In 2026, funding for the Skagit Homeless Crisis Response System is being released through a Request for Proposals (RFP). This process differs in important ways from Skagit County's previous annual Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

1. Letter of Interest Requirement

Only organizations that submitted a [Letter of Interest \(LOI\)](#) by January 26, 2026, at 4:30pm are eligible to complete a full proposal. Skagit County will communicate with RFP-eligible organizations directly and will review proposals only from organizations that submitted an LOI.

2. Pre-Proposal Conference: Friday, February 13, 2026, at 11:00am

County staff will host a Pre-Proposal Conference to provide an overview of this RFP and answer questions on Friday, February 13, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., via Microsoft Teams. Skagit County will issue invitations to all eligible RFP organizations. Attendance is strongly encouraged.

3. Questions:

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 RFP period. Questions should be submitted via email to staff with "Homeless Crisis RFP Question" as the subject line.

Proposals Due: Tuesday, March 3, at 4:30pm

Proposals must be emailed to designated staff at the email addresses below by no later than 4:30pm on March 3, 2026, in order to be considered.

STAFF CONTACTS:

Peter Miterko
Skagit County Public Health
Community Health Coordinator
peterm@co.skagit.wa.us
(360) 416-1504

Megan Starr
Skagit County Public Health
Housing Resource Coordinator
mstarr@co.skagit.wa.us
(360) 416-1506

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I. Introduction

Skagit County seeks to prevent and end homelessness for vulnerable households and individuals by providing funding, oversight, and support that enable its community-based providers to deliver proven programs and services.

Skagit County is accepting RFPs from eligible providers experienced in implementing projects to provide homeless crisis response services.

Grant funding is anticipated for a two-year period, consisting of an initial contract term from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, and a second contract term from July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2028.

Proposals are sought in the following program categories:

- Diversion
- Emergency Shelter
- Transitional Housing

Skagit County intends for these services to align with and complement the North Star public-private partnership, which seeks to ensure that no one is forced to live in their car or on the street and that individuals receive the services they need, when they need them. North Star's foundation is built on the recognition that pooling resources, coordinating action, and streamlining essential services are more humane and cost-effective in addressing the shared challenges of housing insecurity, homelessness, and untreated behavioral health disorders than expecting each community to tackle them on their own.

This RFP's priorities, evaluation criteria, and selection process have been informed by the essential principles of North Star and endorsed by the North Star Leadership Team.

Agencies selected under this solicitation will be awarded two-year grant agreements, with the funding for year two contingent on (a) available funding and (b) determination by the Skagit County Public Health Director that first-year performance under the agreement was satisfactory and warrants continuation.

II. Available Funding

Funding sources for this RFP include:

- Consolidated Homeless Grant (state)

The Consolidated Homeless Grant (CHG) combines state homeless resources into a single grant opportunity under the administration of the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce). CHG is designed to support an integrated system of housing assistance to quickly re-house households who are experiencing homelessness and prevent homelessness. [CHG Program Guidelines](#) are set by Commerce and HUD.

- Emergency Housing Fund (state)

The Emergency Housing Fund (EHF) is a state-funded program administered by Commerce. 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 guidelines.

- Document Recording Fees (local)

Document Recording Fees are local funds received by Skagit County under the authority of RCW 36.22.250 and must be used to support homeless and affordable housing projects. Skagit County intends to award funds for projects that align with strategies established by Skagit County's [5-year Homeless Housing Plan](#).

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Skagit County Reserves the right to utilize additional funding sources at its sole discretion.

Estimated funding available per funding category—which are expected to change before final awards are made – are shown in the following table.

Base CHG (state)	EHF (state)	Document Recording Fees (local)	Total
\$731,165	\$ 1,485,539	\$424,450	\$2,641,154

III. Skagit County Homeless Crisis Response System Priorities

Skagit County recognizes that the shortage of housing in the region is the primary cause of homelessness, and that numerous and complex health, economic, and social factors exacerbate the conditions under which individuals and families experience homelessness. It further recognizes that the resources offered under this RFP represent less than half of all available funding dedicated to homeless sheltering and services.

Recognizing its inability to fund all worthy programs, beds, and services, Skagit County has prioritized addressing the following unmet needs based on available data, research of best practices, and knowledge gained through past investments.

Population Priorities

- Skagitonians who are experiencing chronic homelessness

Skagit County is prioritizing people who are chronically homeless and suffer from two or more disabling conditions (e.g. substance use disorder, serious mental illness, complex medical problems, severe trauma). This population represents a significant share of individuals experiencing homelessness, has the highest barriers to housing stability, and disproportionately relies on emergency and crisis-driven public systems.

Data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), HUD Annual Performance Reports (APR), the Skagit County Point-in-Time Count (PITC), and the Housing Interest Pool (HIP) consistently demonstrate that people who are chronically homeless with multiple disabling conditions make up a substantial and persistent segment of Skagit County's homeless population.

- Families with children

Skagit County is prioritizing families with children due to consistently high demand for housing and homeless services across nearly all intervention types, including emergency shelter, rental assistance, eviction prevention, transitional housing, and permanent housing. This gap exists even when accounting for both county-funded and non-county-funded programs.

Data and program experience indicate that families with children are often more responsive to early housing interventions than other populations. Short-term rental assistance, eviction prevention, and rapid rehousing are particularly effective in stabilizing families and preventing prolonged or repeated episodes of homelessness.

- Other populations

Skagit County will continue to support services for other vulnerable populations, recognizing that a smaller number of programs are specifically targeted to DV survivors, veterans, youth, and non-

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chronically homeless adults. Relatively fewer dollars may be allocated to these interventions over the two-year period as compared with the two key populations identified above.

System-level Priorities

- Maintain current balance of services across the Homeless Crisis Response System.
- Programs must participate in Coordinated Entry (CE) or be able to refer clients to the CE system.
- Low-barrier access. The Consolidated Homeless Grant low barrier requirement states no less than 80% of a county's CHG-funded 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, and temporary shelters) are not eligible for low-barrier designation.
- Grantees are expected to coordinate with other organizations serving the same or similar populations to the greatest extent possible to ensure continuity of service and “warm hand-offs” of households to other providers.
- Grantees must use the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to enter accurate and complete client data in a timely manner. Programs must use HMIS data to demonstrate organizational capacity, performance outcomes, and responsible use of funds.
- Geographic reach. Skagit County seeks to ensure that residents across all cities, towns, and unincorporated areas have access to housing stabilization and health-related services.
- Health integration. Skagit County will prioritize programs that integrate physical and behavioral health care for improved outcomes. Such systems' integration may require new partnerships and other changes in service delivery methods.
- Financial leverage. Proposers are encouraged to pursue multiple funding sources to support services whenever possible. While Skagit County funds may be the sole funding source in some cases, efforts to secure complementary funding should be clearly described in the proposal.

IV. Proposal Evaluation Process and Timeline

Eligibility

1. 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.
2. Organization must be able to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws.
3. Organizations must have qualified management and staffing, including required licensing and insurance, as well as sound financial systems and sufficient capacity to operate programs on a reimbursement basis.
4. Organization must have the experience, knowledge, and capacity to operate the proposed project or program and be able to comply with all contract requirements of Skagit County and the Washington State Department of Commerce.

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Evaluation Criteria

1. Demonstrated organizational capacity
 - a. Past performance, considering numbers of households served, cost effectiveness of interventions compared to state and local peer organizations, and successful outcomes.
 - b. Professional expertise and track record of executive leadership and key program managers.
 - c. Record of compliance with federal, state, and local rules associated with public funding.
2. Credibility and appropriateness of proposed budget, approach, partnerships, and outcomes.
3. Demonstrated willingness and ability to coordinate services with other relevant organizations essential to the health and well-being of the individuals and households.

Evaluation and Selection Process

After proposals are received, Skagit County will follow the following process for evaluation and selection:

1. Skagit County Public Health staff will conduct the first level of review.
 - a. Determination of eligibility.
 - b. Evaluation of the degree to which the proposal—including supporting financial statements, budgets, and performance data meet the Evaluation Criteria outlined above, using a High-Medium-Low scale.
2. A panel of subject matter experts comprised of individuals with relevant professional experience not currently affiliated with any Proposer will be convened by Skagit County.
 - a. Members of the panel will independently review and evaluate all proposals plus the results of the staff evaluations.
 - b. The panel and Public Health staff will meet to discuss results and develop a consensus set of recommendations for funding.
 - c. The recommendations will be forwarded to the Public Health director.
3. Public Health director may accept the recommendations in whole or in part. The director will then provide final recommendations to the Skagit Board of County Commissioners.
4. The Commissioners will receive the recommendations in a regular meeting, with standard notice given to members of the public.

Skagit County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part; to negotiate contract terms with selected proposers; and to require funded projects to operate as specified in the contract, including coordination with designated programs, services, or resources. All awards are contingent upon the availability of funds.

All proposals are public information and subject to public disclosure.

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Timeline

In administering this RFP, Skagit County will seek to adhere to the following timeline:

RFP Release	Tuesday, February 10, 2026
Pre-Proposal Conference (Microsoft Teams) <u>Click here to join the meeting</u> Meeting ID: 273 808 009 339 73 Passcode: f4uV3U75	Friday, February 13, 2026 11:00am-12:00pm
Proposals Due	Tuesday, March 3, 2026
Tentative Awards Announcement	End of May 2026
Contracts Begin	Wednesday, July 1, 2026

V. Proposal Submission Requirements

Proposers requesting funding for multiple program categories need only submit one proposal. However, the proposal **must include a completed set of Proposal Narrative Questions (Attachment B), Budget and Performance Data (Attachment C), and Low Barrier Monitoring Tool (Attachment D) for each program category requested.**

Proposals, including all required attachments, must be emailed to Skagit County staff contacts Peter Miterko (peterm@co.skagit.wa.us) and Megan Starr (mstarr@co.skagit.wa.us) no later than Tuesday, March 3rd at 4:30pm.

1. Attachment A: Cover Sheet
2. Attachment B: Proposal Narrative (required for each program category request)
3. Attachment C: Budget & Performance Data (required for each program category request)
4. Attachment D: Low Barrier Monitoring Tool (required for each program category request)
5. Existing Policies or Procedures that address the following:
 - a. Equity and inclusion
 - b. Intake and screening criteria
 - c. Language access
 - d. Termination, complaint procedure, and denial of services policies
4. Most recent financial audit
5. Most recent Federal Single Audit, if applicable (for proposers that receive \$750,000 or more of federal funds in a single fiscal year)
6. Written agreements, if any, with other social or health services organizations indicating intent to coordinate service delivery

Proposals may not include supplemental materials; supplemental materials will not be reviewed. Proposers may be asked to additional questions as part of the evaluation process.

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DIVERSION GUIDELINES

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.

Proposals must clearly outline anticipated direct client spending, and programs must allocate at least 60% of funds to direct financial assistance.

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.
- Street outreach

Eligible One-Time Financial Assistance

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

Grant Requirements

- Abide by [CHG guidelines](#) as set by Commerce.
- 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.

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EMERGENCY SHELTER GUIDELINES

The purpose of Emergency Shelter is to provide short-term temporary shelter for those experiencing homelessness. Emergency shelters may be facility-based or use hotel/motel vouchers and may operate as drop-in or continuous-stay programs. Households are considered homeless while enrolled in temporary shelter 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
- Housing-focused case management
- Flexible funding related to housing, not to exceed 10% of total award
- Hotel/motel voucher program
- Street outreach

Grant Requirements

- To qualify for CHG or EHF funding, must abide by [CHG guidelines](#) as set by Commerce.
- Participate in CE. Shelter programs must serve as an access point to CE if accepting walk-ins.
- Enter all client information into HMIS following CHG and HUD data standards applicable to the program.

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TRANSITIONAL HOUSING GUIDELINES

The purpose of Transitional Housing is to provide temporary housing interventions for Skagitians experiencing homelessness. Transitional Housing is subsidized, facility-based housing that is designed to provide long-term temporary housing, for up to two years, 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 transitional housing.

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

Eligible Activities

- Transitional Housing
- Housing-focused case management
- Flexible funding related to housing, not to exceed 10% of total award
- Street outreach

Grant Requirements

- To qualify for CHG or EHF funding, must abide by [CHG guidelines](#) as set by Commerce.
- Participate in CE. Shelter programs must serve as an access point to CE if accepting walk-ins. Transitional Housing must accept referrals from CE.
- Enter all client information into HMIS following CHG and HUD data standards applicable to the program.