

TX-503 ECHO Continuum of Care

FY 2025 NOFO Applicants'
Conference (NEW PROJECTS)

Monday December 1, 2025 09:00 – 10:30 AM



Who We Are

Helen Eisert

Director of Planning

Kawther Al-Rubaye

Grants and Planning Manager

The Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) is the **backbone of our community's Homelessness Response System**. As the lead agency for the Austin/Travis County Continuum of Care, **we lead and align a coalition responsible for planning and implementing community-wide strategies to end homelessness**. We work alongside people with firsthand experience of homelessness and nonprofit, government, and philanthropic partners to **build a future in which everyone in our community has housing of their choice that provides a foundation for optimal health, success, and stability**. Learn more: austinecho.org

New Policy Priorities

Federal Guidance for FY2025

Ending the crisis of homelessness on our streets	CoCs expected to direct resources towards outreach, intervention, and assistance consistent with Executive Order on “Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets.”
Prioritizing treatment and recovery	CoCs expected to prioritize projects that provide treatment and services needed to recover and regain self-sufficiency, including on-site treatment and participation requirements in services.
Advancing public safety	CoCs expected to cooperate with law enforcement to advance public safety. HUD cited the Supreme Court decision in <i>Grants Pass v. Johnson</i> as upholding the authority of local governments to prohibit public camping.
Promoting self-sufficiency	CoCs expected to prioritize projects that help lead to long-term economic independence for individuals and families. This would allow them to exit homelessness and prevent future returns to homelessness.
Improving outcomes	CoCs should prioritize projects that promote self-sufficiency, increase employment income over government assistance, and promote treatment and recovery.
Minimizing trauma	CoCs should encourage the use of trauma informed care, ensure safety of program participants, and access to ‘safe, single-sex spaces’ for women.

Roles

Austin/Travis County CoC Competition

HUD

- Provides Parameters of CoC Competition Requirements in NOFO
- Scores the collaborative application and reviews the project applications.
- Awards project applications based on a compilation of those reviews. Historically, highest ranked projects are more likely to get awarded

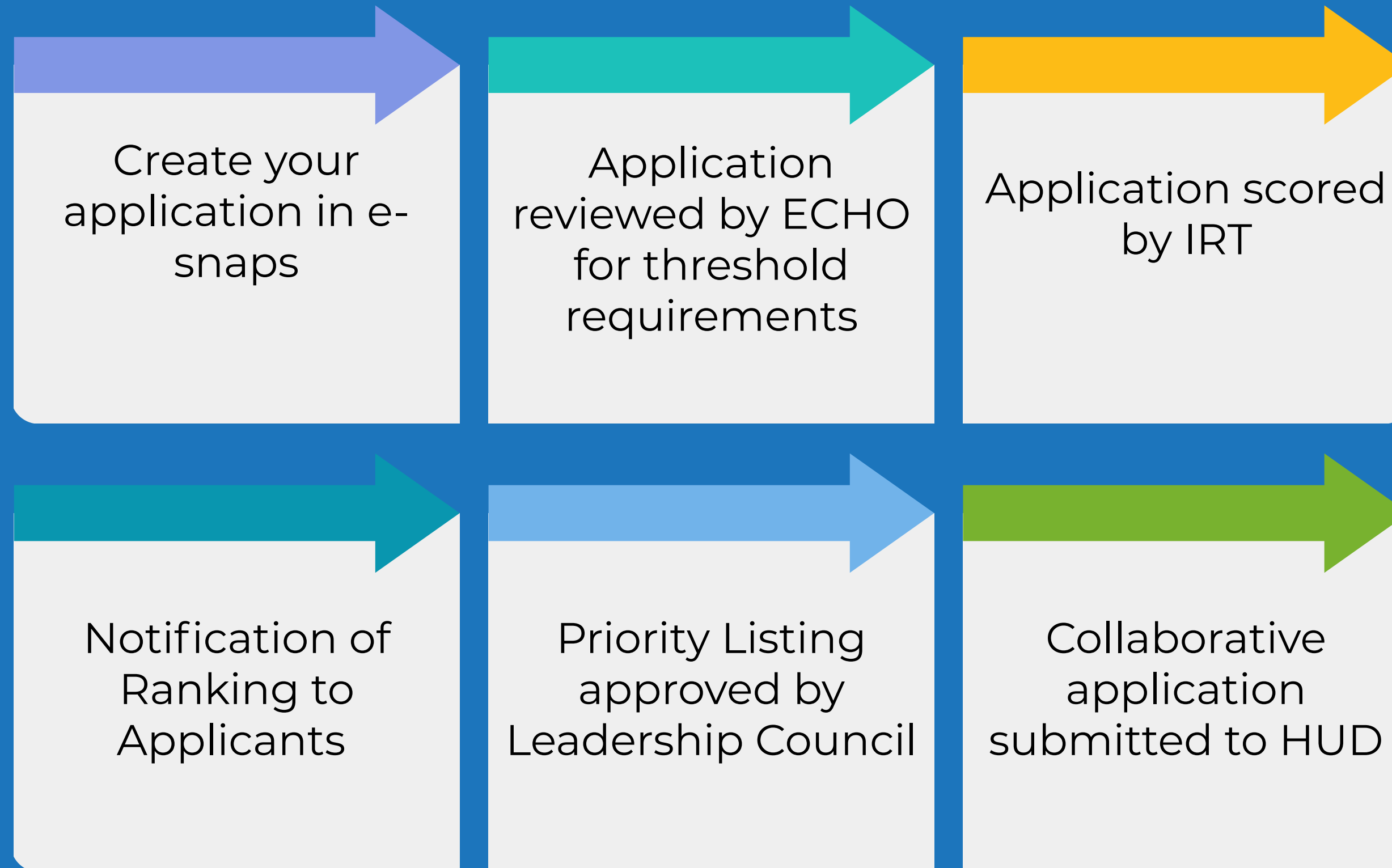
Leadership Council (local CoC Board)

- Creates local funding policies within the HUD NOFO parameters
- Decides who is submitted to HUD by ranking in order of priority for funding

ECHO

- Provides technical assistance to providers and Leadership Council, as well as administrative support for the competition
- Submits on behalf of the CoC the project applications and a collaborative application with narrative and data elements

Local Competition Basics



Understanding the Priority Listing

Tier 1

- Now 30% of ARD (was 90%)
- Not impacted by CoC Merit Review Score

Tier 2

- 70% of ARD
- Competed nationally

HUD's 30% Cap on PH - What to Know



HUD will remove or reduce PH projects if the 30% cap is exceeded



Our CoC must reallocate a portion of existing PH renewal grants into new project types (TH, SSO-SO, SSO, SSO-SS)



Some renewal projects will need to reapply as New/Transition Projects with a different intervention type to stay in the collaborative application.

PH Cap Impact

Total RRH	\$3,419,832
Total PSH (Site-Based & Scattered site)	\$8,063,215
Total Allowed for PH	\$4,028,310

\$7,454,737 must be reallocated from PH

New Requirements

Historically 90% of our grant was safe and renewed by HUD.
This year, only 30% is safe in Tier 1.

- 30% cap on Permanent Housing including Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), and joint Transitional Housing-RRH (TH-RRH)
- CoCs will be forced to reallocate any permanent housing in excess of this limit to any other type of project
- New PH projects created through reallocation must still be within the 30% limit and meet new project quality and threshold criteria

Shift in federal priorities

- Permanent Housing (PSH and RRH) to serve ages 62+, individuals with a physical disability/impairment or a developmental disability (not including substance use disability or mental health diagnosis)

New Requirements (slide 2 of 2)

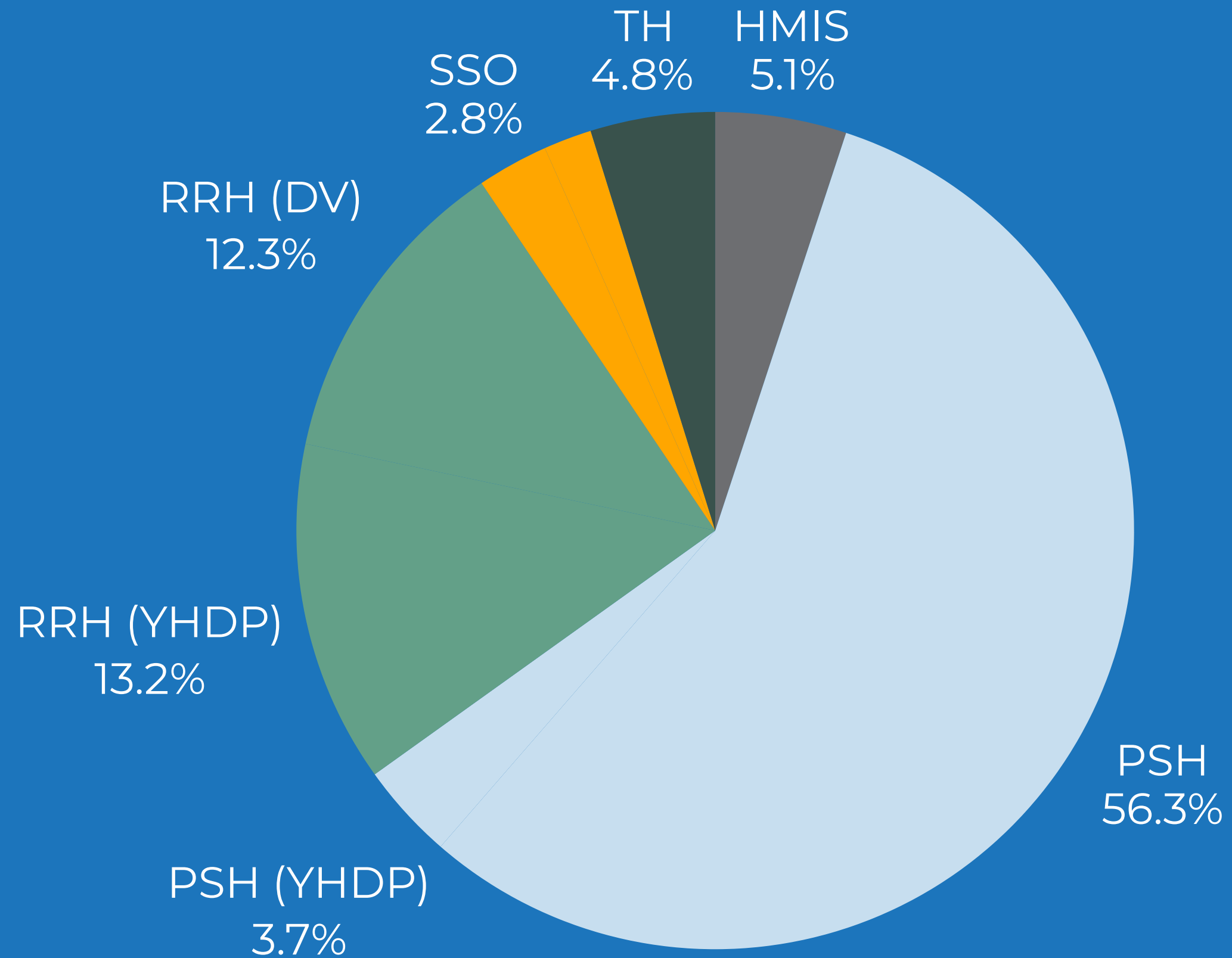


New Transitional Housing Projects will be required to provide 40 hours of customized supportive services to participants (except for participants over age 62 or with a physical/developmental disability.)



New Supportive Services Street Outreach Projects will have to demonstrate a history of working with first responders and law enforcement.

Current Funding



Funding Available

Estimated Annual Renewal Demand (ARD)	\$13,427,701
CoC Planning Grant	\$671,385
CoC Bonus Amount	\$2,685,540
DV Bonus Amount	\$1,219,961
Tier 1	\$4,028,310
Tier 2 - (ARD + CoC Bonus and DV Bonus) minus Tier 1	\$13,304,892

Approved Policy Changes by Leadership Council



RRH Projects must transition to TH



HMIS will not be placed in Tier 1



Renewal PSH projects must be aligned with the FY 2025 new PSH project requirements including the target population served



Site-based PSH renewal projects will be prioritized in Tier 1



No new PSH projects will be accepted in this competition

New Opportunities

New funding is available if we get awarded and can create projects in line with NOFO priorities.

- *\$2.7 million in new “Bonus” funds*
- *\$1.2 million in new “DV Bonus” funds*

We must create:

- *Transitional Housing*
- *Supportive Services Only (SSO)*
 - *Street Outreach*
 - *Coordinated Entry*
 - *SSO Stand Alone (can provide services for non-housing clients)*

Eligible New Project Types

Transitional Housing	SSO-Street Outreach	SSO-Supportive Services
HMIS Projects	DV Bonus: new TH and SSO-CE/SSO-SO projects that meet DV Bonus criteria	PH renewals converting to one of these eligible new project types

Project Threshold Requirements (slide 1 of 2)

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- Eligible applicants
 - Required certifications
 - Coordinated Entry participation
 - Eligible component type
 - Match requirement
 - NOFO alignment
-

Project Threshold Requirements (slide 2 of 2)

HUD Disqualifiers (New in FY25)

From Section V.A.4.b(5):

- No drug consumption sites
 - No distribution of drug paraphernalia
 - No racial preferences
 - No non-binary definitions of sex
 - No illicit drug use permitted on site
-

Local Competition Ranking Process

1

All project applications submitted through e-snaps and reviewed by an Independent Review Team (IRT) except for the CoC Planning grant.

2

IRT reviews all project application submissions and scores projects based on Scoring Criteria.

3

ECHO provides project priority ranking (Tier 1 and Tier 2) according to NOFO policies, including the FY25 Review, Ranking, and Scoring Policy and FY25 NOFO requirements.

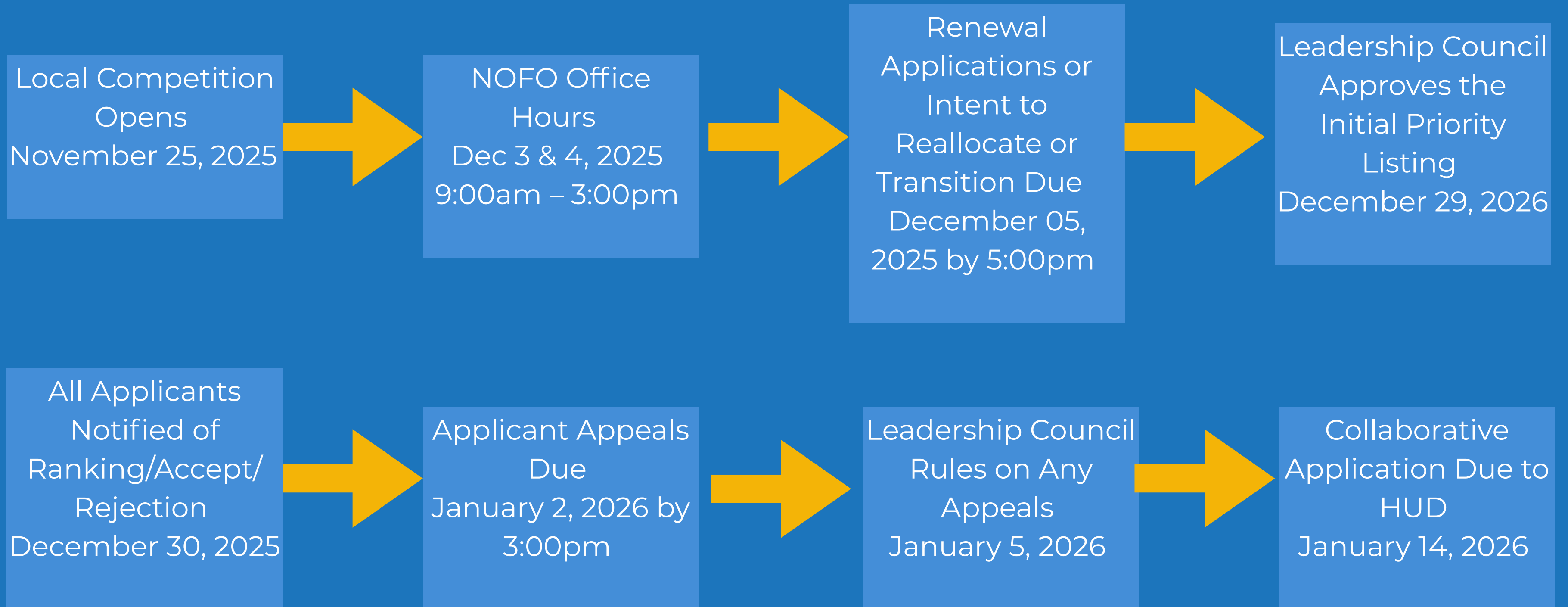
4

ECHO presents ranking recommendations to Leadership Council.

5

Leadership Council approves final ranking decision.

FY25 NOFO CoC Timeline



Appeals

1. When Applicants May Appeal

Renewal applicants may file an appeal if they believe the CoC's local scoring or ranking decision:

- Contained a scoring error.
- Misapplied the CoC's published scoring criteria.
- Did not follow the CoC's publicly posted local competition process.
- Violated HUD requirements for transparency or fairness.

2. What Appeals Cannot Challenge

- HUD threshold failures (e.g., missing APRs, unresolved monitoring findings, ineligible costs).
- HUD's own scoring decisions.
- CoC policy decisions that were properly adopted and publicly posted.

Appeals Due on January 02, 2026

**All Applicants will be
notified of the results
on December 30, 2025**

Leadership Council Rules
on Any Appeals
January 5, 2026

Important Resources



Visit ECHO's website for current competition materials.



Schedule time during ECHO's Office Hours for more detailed questions.

The Goal

Our CoC's goal is to remain competitive for CoC funding while partnering in solidarity to fill gaps created by these fundamental shifts to permanent housing opportunities for our community members experiencing homelessness

Q&A

CoCNOFO Office Hours:

December 3, 2025 / 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

December 4, 2025 / 9:00 AM– 3:00 PM

Questions of Support:

Email the ECHO CoC NOFO team: nofo@austinecho.org