

**ROLLING REQUEST FOR
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REI)**

***Competitive Award for
Services/Operations Addressing
Houston's Homeless Response
System***

**CITY OF HOUSTON, HARRIS COUNTY
AND THE COALITION FOR THE
HOMELESS**



PART I: OVERVIEW

The City of Houston, in partnership with Harris County and the Coalition for the Homeless, lead agency to The Way Home Homeless Response System (also known as the Continuum of Care, or CoC), invites organizations to submit proposals under this Rolling Request for Expressions of Interest (REI).

This REI is a proactive and adaptive initiative to address homelessness and housing instability across the region. By accepting proposals on a rolling basis, it allows the Homeless Response System to respond flexibly to emerging needs, ensuring timely support for the community's most vulnerable populations while maintaining alignment with HUD requirements and local priorities

Applicants are encouraged to propose innovative, effective, and scalable solutions that address critical needs within the Homeless Response System. These needs include permanent supportive housing, other permanent housing, prevention and diversion, navigation services, outreach, and comprehensive supportive services for individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Proposals should prioritize low barrier approaches, accessibility to services, and measurable outcomes to contribute to the overarching goal of reducing homelessness and promoting housing stability.

All activities must adhere to HUD standards and comply with local and federal funding requirements. Proposals will be evaluated using clear scoring criteria (outlined in **Appendix A**) to ensure fairness, accountability, and alignment with system-wide goals.

If programmatic or funding requirements change, **Letters of Clarification** will be issued to provide timely updates, ensuring transparency and consistency throughout the process.

PART II: SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

This REI seeks to fund a range of programs and services that align with HUD guidelines and the goals of The Way Home. Proposals may focus on one or more of the following activities:

1. PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING (PSH):

- **Purpose:** Provide long-term, lease-based housing combined with intensive case management for individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness.
- **Scope:** Proposals must include a clear plan to provide long-term housing stability for individuals and families experiencing chronic homelessness by offering tenancy support, independent living skills development, and connections to medical and behavioral health services. Services should align with the Housing First approach, be trauma-informed, and include eviction prevention strategies to ensure ongoing stability and compliance with HUD guidelines.

2. OTHER PERMANENT HOUSING (OPH):

- **Purpose:** Offer deeply affordable housing and support services for individuals who face significant housing barriers but may not meet the HUD definition of chronic homelessness.

- **Scope:** OPH programs should include voluntary services to support housing stability, such as tenancy education and resource navigation.

3. RAPID REHOUSING (RRH):

- **Purpose:** Quickly move people experiencing homelessness into housing and provide short-term rental assistance and support.
- **Scope:** Programs must prioritize fast placement into housing (target: within 30 days). Support should include rent assistance, case management, and help securing income to promote stability after assistance ends.

4. CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES:

- **Purpose:** Provide personalized and holistic support to help individuals and families navigate housing processes, address barriers, and achieve long-term stability through tailored interventions and connections to critical resources.
- **Scope:** Proposals must detail how case management services will address a range of needs to promote housing stability and overall well-being. Responsibilities include:
 - **Housing Stability:**
 - Assist clients with housing applications, landlord engagement, and lease negotiations.
 - Educate clients on tenant rights, responsibilities, and eviction prevention strategies.
 - Support transitions to permanent housing, ensuring coordination with the Coordinated Entry (CE) system.
 - **Financial Planning and Income Generation:**
 - Develop individualized budgets and financial plans to ensure long-term housing affordability.
 - Connect clients to employment services, job readiness programs, and benefits enrollment (e.g., SNAP, SSI/SSDI).
 - Facilitate referrals to income supports and workforce development programs that align with HUD goals, including second-chance employment initiatives.
 - **Health and Wellness Support:**
 - Facilitate access to physical and behavioral healthcare, including mental health services, substance use treatment, and street medicine options where available.
 - Coordinate with healthcare providers to address immediate and ongoing needs.
 - **Crisis Intervention and Resource Linkage:**
 - Provide problem-solving assistance to address urgent needs such as emergency financial aid, legal support, and utility assistance.
 - Link clients to community resources for childcare, transportation, and other support services.
 - **Ongoing Case Management and Follow-Up:**
 - Conduct regular follow-ups to monitor progress, provide ongoing support, and adjust service plans as necessary.

- Track and report outcomes to ensure compliance with data collection and reporting requirements.
- **Alignment with CoC System Standards:**
 - Adhere to The Way Home’s CoC System Standards, including Housing First principles, trauma-informed care, and low barrier approaches.
 - Ensure consistent participation in systemwide initiatives, such as Coordinated Entry, HMIS, and performance improvement efforts.

5. MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

- **Purpose:** Address mental health needs through trauma-informed care and clinical or peer-supported interventions.
- **Scope:** Services may include therapy, crisis intervention, mobile mental health support, and connections to psychiatric care, ensuring accessibility and responsiveness to the needs of individuals in both housing and community settings.

6. PREVENTION AND DIVERSION SERVICES:

- **Purpose:** Prevent homelessness by offering problem-solving interventions, financial assistance, and mediation to individuals and families at imminent risk of losing their housing.
- **Scope:** Programs should prioritize stabilizing households to avoid shelter entry or engagement with the homeless response system. Strategies may include connecting clients with community resources, landlord mediation to prevent evictions, housing search and placement services, and providing flexible financial assistance for rent, utilities, or deposits. Programs must be client-centered, emphasizing creative solutions to resolve crises quickly and effectively while ensuring accessibility for underserved populations.

7. OUTREACH AND NAVIGATION SERVICES:

- **Purpose:** Connect individuals and families experiencing unsheltered homelessness with housing and critical services, providing support throughout the housing process from initial contact to move-in.
- **Scope:** Outreach and/or Navigation teams should engage unsheltered individuals, offering on-the-ground support to connect them with immediate services and housing options. Navigation services must provide personalized assistance, including:
 - Helping clients obtain vital documents, such as IDs, birth certificates, or Social Security cards.
 - Securing application fees and deposits, as well as arranging transportation for housing-related appointments.
 - Addressing barriers to housing placement, such as financial challenges or lack of necessary documentation.
 - Offering mobile or community-based navigation to make services more accessible.
 - Performing Coordinated Entry assessments and activities.

Proposals may also include street medicine services as an optional enhancement, such as mobile health clinics or on-site care, to address physical or mental health needs directly in the field during outreach efforts. Program should prioritize quick placements into housing, with a goal of 30 days or less, and align with the Coordinated Entry system to ensure streamlined access to resources. Proposals can also include a focus on engaging/providing services to people who may decline housing options due to their mental health symptoms and/or substance use disorder. A client-centered, trauma-informed approach is strongly encouraged. Applicants are encouraged to include details about plans to perform outreach activities on a semi-regular basis before 8am and/or after 5pm.

8. EXPANDED EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS:

- **Purpose:** Increase shelter capacity with low-barrier beds, including specialized options for mental health and substance use needs.
- **Scope:** Shelters must adhere to 24/7 admission policies, coordinate placements through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), and provide pathways to permanent housing.

9. ESSENTIAL CLIENT SUPPORT SERVICES:

- **Purpose:** Enhance housing outcomes by addressing barriers such as lack of documentation, transportation, or access to advocacy.
- **Scope:** Programs may include mobile advocacy teams, support for domestic violence survivors, and assistance with obtaining vital documents.

10. INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS:

- **Purpose:** Help individuals increase their income and achieve employment goals to stay housed.
- **Scope:** Programs should offer job readiness training, connections to employers, resume support, financial counseling, and services tailored to people with barriers like criminal records or limited work experience.

11. HUBS OR CLIENT RESOURCE CENTERS

- **Purpose:** Serve as centralized access points for individuals and families seeking housing, resources, and support services within the homeless response system. HUBS are designed to streamline access to assistance by integrating Coordinated Entry (CE) leads, resource navigation, and direct client support, ensuring that clients receive timely and effective interventions.
- **Scope:** HUBS will act as multi-functional resource centers where trained staff and partner agencies provide:
 - **Coordinated Entry (CE) Services:** Conduct CE assessments, prioritize clients for housing and resources based on vulnerability and need, and ensure alignment with The Way Home's system goals and HUD guidelines.

- **Resource Navigation:** Offer guidance and connections to a wide range of services, including housing programs, financial assistance, employment supports, and health or behavioral healthcare.
- **Walk-Up Assistance:** Support clients who approach agencies directly by conducting needs assessments, resolving immediate crises, and connecting them to the appropriate programs or services.
- **Shelter Integration:** For HUBS connected to shelters, provide on-site support to shelter guests, assist with exit planning, and ensure pathways to permanent housing or other necessary services.
- **Community Collaboration:** Coordinate with local partners, including shelters, service providers, and government agencies, to ensure clients receive comprehensive and seamless support.

12. WEATHER PREPAREDNESS/DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

Purpose:

Establish a multi-partner team dedicated to coordinating and responding to systemwide needs during disasters, ensuring seamless collaboration to support individuals and families affected by emergencies. This team will act on behalf of the Homeless Response System to mitigate the impact of disasters on vulnerable populations.

Scope:

The Weather Preparedness/Disaster Response Team will consist of 15–20 members from 2–3 partner agencies, providing a coordinated response to disaster-related needs. Team responsibilities include:

1. Warming Center and Emergency Shelter Support:

- Collaborate with warming centers and emergency shelters to ensure they meet operational needs during disasters.
- Provide on-the-ground or virtual support for intake, coordination, and other operational needs.

2. Client Assessment and Coordination:

- Deploy assessors to assist with intake line operations and conduct in-person client assessments to ensure alignment with system priorities.
- Facilitate rapid referrals to resources based on client needs.

3. Monthly Meetings and Training:

- Hold regular monthly meetings to discuss preparedness plans, roles, and responsibilities.

4. Disaster Planning and System Coordination:

- Work with The Way Home (TWH) partners to establish disaster preparedness protocols, focusing on rapid response and system stabilization during emergencies.
- Develop strategies to support clients transitioning from temporary disaster accommodations to permanent housing solutions.

Key Features:

- The team will prioritize low-barrier, trauma-informed approaches to service delivery.
- Activities will align with Coordinated Entry (CE) processes, emphasizing seamless integration into the broader Homeless Response System.
- Agencies involved must ensure flexibility and readiness to respond to disasters, including preparedness for emergencies occurring outside of standard operating hours.

PART III: HUD COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING

All activities funded under this REI must comply with HUD guidelines, including:

1. **Housing First Principles:**

- Projects must eliminate preconditions for housing entry, such as sobriety or participation in specific programs.
- Leases must align with fair housing standards and cannot include restrictive requirements beyond standard market conditions.

2. **Use of Coordinated Entry (CE):**

- All programs must accept referrals exclusively through the Coordinated Entry system to prioritize those most in need.

3. **HMIS or Comparable Database Participation:**

- Data must be entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) or a Victim Service Provider (VSP) comparable database within 48 hours of client interaction.

4. **Performance Metrics:**

- Programs must include clear, measurable outcomes such as housing retention rates, reduced shelter stays, and successful diversion efforts.

PART IV: MONITORING AND COMPLIANCE

The City of Houston, Harris County and the Coalition for the Homeless will jointly monitor funded projects to ensure compliance with performance standards and contractual obligations.

MONITORING PROCESSES:

- **Monthly Reporting:** Agencies must submit reports detailing progress toward outcomes, financial expenditures, and system compliance.
- **On-Site Reviews:** Monitoring visits will assess program implementation, client services, and compliance with HUD regulations.
- **Corrective Action Plans:** If deficiencies are identified, agencies will have an opportunity to address issues through an approved action plan.

CONTRACT TERMINATION:

Contracts may be terminated under the following conditions:

1. Failure to meet performance benchmarks.
2. Non-compliance with HUD, state, or local requirements.
3. Misuse of funds or inability to provide contracted services. Termination will follow due process, including written notice, an opportunity for corrective action, and formal review by the Office of Compliance.
4. As indicated in the executed agreement with the funder.

PART V: FUNDING OVERVIEW

A variety of funding streams supports this initiative, each designed to address specific needs within the Homeless Response System. Current funding sources include, but are not limited to the following list.

1. **Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG):** Federal funds for emergency shelters, outreach, and homelessness prevention.
2. **Rapid Unsheltered Survivor Housing (RUSH):** RUSH grants, awarded under the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program, are made to states or local governments to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness who have been residing in a “declared disaster area” and have needs that are not otherwise served or fully met by existing federal disaster relief programs.
3. **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** Flexible funding for community development, including housing and services for low-income individuals.
4. **Housing and Homeless Services Program (HHSP):** State-administered funds allocated to municipalities with populations of 285,500 or more to support homeless services, including shelter operations, street outreach, case management, and other supportive services. The specific funding amount will be determined at a future date.
5. **HOME-ARP:** Federal funds from the American Rescue Plan for affordable housing and supportive services.
6. **Private Contributions:** Donations from philanthropic partners to enhance system capacity. These funds may be used to fill in funding gaps to start projects sooner or enhance service delivery.

Please note that additional funding streams, not currently listed above, may be awarded through this REI.

BUDGET OVERVIEW FOR CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FUNDS AND ACTIVITIES

Activity				
	City of Houston	City of Houston	City of Houston	Private
	HOME-ARP	RUSH	CDBG	
Other Permanent Housing	\$4,141,296	\$925,000		\$885,648.00
Outreach/ Navigation	\$1,411,378			
Homeless Prevention or Diversion	\$776,290			
Expanded Shelter Beds			\$2,700,000.00	
Allowable Admin	\$596,897	Not Allowable	\$300,000.00	\$88,564.00

Important Notice on Funding Availability: Funding allocations are subject to change based on availability, funder priorities, and evolving community needs. The City of Houston, Harris County, and the Coalition for the Homeless reserve the right to adjust funding levels, reallocate funds, or modify priorities to align with local goals, emerging needs, and HUD guidelines. Any updates regarding funding availability or changes will be communicated transparently through Letters of Clarification.

Additionally, only select activities from the approved list may be included in this funding round. We anticipate opening additional activities as more funding becomes available. The REI process will continue to roll out throughout the year.

PART VI: DETAILED APPLICATION TIMELINE

This REI is designed to ensure a seamless and transparent application process for all prospective applicants. The timeline outlined below provides a structured framework for organizations to prepare and submit proposals. Key milestones include the release of the REI, opportunities for applicants to engage in Q&A sessions, deadlines for submission, and the announcement of funding decisions.

By maintaining a clear timeline, the City of Houston, Harris County, and the Coalition for the Homeless aim to ensure fairness, accountability, and adequate preparation time for all applicants. Programs selected for funding are expected to adhere to the implementation schedule to meet the community's urgent needs and align with Local and HUD guidelines.

1. **REI Release Date:** January 31, 2025
2. **Virtual Q&A Session:** February 14, 2025, at 10:00 AM
 - Registration required; submit questions in writing by February 20, 2025, at 3:00 PM.
3. **Application Deadline:** This is a rolling solicitation. Proposals are due Saturday, March 14, 2025, at 5:00 PM CST and thereafter every third Friday of the following months: June, September, December by 5pm CST until the discontinuation of this solicitation or as noted via letter of clarification.
4. **Preliminary Funding Recommendations:** 30-day after the application deadline
5. **Contract Execution:** 60-days after funding recommendation or when funding is available
6. **Program Start Date:** May 15, 2025

PART VII: SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

To ensure a fair and transparent review process, all submitted proposals must adhere to the following guidelines.

GENERAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Proposals must align with the scoring tool outlined in Appendix A and focus on the activities supported under this REI.
- Submissions should provide a clear and comprehensive response to the REI scope, demonstrating how the proposed activities will address homelessness and align with HUD and local priorities.
- The proposal must be complete and include all required components to be considered for funding.

FORMAT & PAGE LIMIT

- **Page Limit:** Submissions must not exceed **15 pages** (excluding required attachments).
- **Font & Spacing:** Use **12-point font**, single-spaced, with **1-inch margins**.
- **File Format:** Submit as a **PDF or Word document**.

REQUIRED PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

1. **Cover Page:**
 - Organization name, primary contact information, and project title.
 - A brief summary of the proposed activities.
2. **Proposal Narrative:** (*Use the scoring tool in Appendix A as your guide when developing this section.*)
 - **Program Description:** Clearly describe the proposed program(s), target population, and service model.
 - **Alignment with REI & System Goals:** Explain how the proposal aligns with the **activities supported in this REI** and contributes to reducing homelessness, housing stability, and HUD/local priorities.

- **Implementation Plan:** Provide a **detailed staffing plan**, expected timelines, and specific performance metrics.
 - **Accessibility:** Describe how the program ensures **access to services**, removes barriers, and incorporates **Housing First principles**.
 - **Collaboration & Partnerships:** Identify key partners and how services will integrate with the **Coordinated Entry system**.
3. **Budget & Financial Documentation:**
 - Completed **budget form** detailing program costs and **justification of expenses**.
 - Documentation of **90-day working capital**, financial audits, or statements showing fiscal health.
 - Identification of **other funding sources** supporting the program.
 4. **Key Staff & Organizational Capacity:**
 - Brief bios of key personnel managing the program.
 - Evidence of past success in providing **similar services**.
 - Organizational capacity to implement the program within the required timeline.
 5. **Letters of Support or MOUs (if applicable):**
 - Letters from partner organizations demonstrating collaboration and coordination.

SUBMISSION PROCESS & DEADLINE

- **How to Submit:** Applications must be emailed to **all three** partners:
 - **City of Houston:** HCDPublicServices@houstontx.gov
 - **Harris County:** HCDrfp@harriscountytexas.gov
 - **Coalition for the Homeless:** contracts@homelesshouston.org
- **Rolling Deadline:** Proposals are due **March 14, 2025, at 5:00 PM CST**, and then every **third Friday** of the following months (June, September, December) until further notice.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- **Proposals must align with the activities supported in this REI.** However, since this is a **rolling REI**, not all activities may be funded in this round. Please refer to the **budget breakdown** for details on currently available funding and guidance on eligible activities for this cycle.
- Funding decisions will be based on **scoring criteria in Appendix A**, program alignment, and funding availability.
- Selected programs must comply with **HUD/local guidelines, Coordinated Entry (CE) participation, and performance tracking requirements**.

PART XIII: GRIEVANCES

Grievance Process:

Applicants who wish to contest the outcome of the application review or scoring process may file a formal grievance. Grievances must be submitted in writing within **10 business days** of the notification of funding decisions.

Grievance Submission Requirements:

To ensure proper review and response, grievances must include:

1. The name of the applicant organization.
2. A clear and concise explanation of the grievance, including specific details about the perceived issue (e.g., scoring discrepancies, procedural concerns, or other relevant matters).
3. Supporting documentation or evidence, if applicable.
4. Contact information for the individual submitting the grievance on behalf of the organization.

Grievances should be submitted to:

- **City of Houston:** HCDPublicServices@houstontx.gov
- **Harris County:** HCDrfp@harriscountytx.gov
- **Coalition for the Homeless:** contracts@homelesshouston.org

Review and Response:

Grievances will be reviewed by a neutral party or designated committee not involved in the original scoring process. The review panel reserves the right to request additional documentation or clarification as needed.

A written response will be provided to the applicant within **15 business days** of receipt of the grievance. The decision of the review panel is final and cannot be further contested.

Exclusions:

Grievances related to funding allocations that result from available budget limitations or established scoring thresholds will not be considered unless procedural errors are identified.

PART VIII: DEFINITIONS

Definitions of key terms, such as "Permanent Supportive Housing," "Housing First," and "Coordinated Entry," are included in **Appendix B** to ensure public understanding.

PART XII: APPLICATION SELECTION CRITERIA (REFERENCED AS APPENDIX A)

Applications that meet threshold requirements will be reviewed and scored by a designated panel. The review panel reserves the right to recommend adjustments to budgets based on available funds and scoring outcomes. Funders may also refuse funding to organizations with unfavorable prior performance or non-compliance in previous phases. HMIS reports will be reviewed to verify service delivery, frequency, and data accuracy.

Scoring Tool:

Applications will be evaluated using a scoring tool with a maximum total score of **145 points**. Full details of the scoring elements and their respective point values can be found in **Appendix A**.

REFERENCE TO APPLICATION SELECTION CRITERIA IN THE REI

1. **Part III: Funding Overview:**
2. Funding awards will be determined based on the scoring criteria outlined in Appendix A, with priority given to proposals that align with the system's goals and meet HUD compliance standards. Along with the scores, the review panel will also consider the system's service needs and existing contracts providing similar services to ensure continuity of care for clients.
3. **Part V: Detailed Application Timeline:**
 - After the submission deadline, applications will be reviewed and scored per the criteria detailed in **Appendix A** . Preliminary funding recommendations should be announced by April 15, 2025.
4. **Part IV: Monitoring and Compliance:**
 - All selected applications must adhere to the standards outlined in the scoring criteria (see **Appendix A**) and maintain compliance with performance benchmarks to ensure funding continuity. Additional compliance will be outlined in the executed agreements.
5. **Submission Guidelines (Part VII):**
 - Proposals must include elements described in **Appendix A** to maximize scoring potential, including a detailed staffing plan, a completed budget form, and a timeline for implementation.

CONCLUSION

This Rolling REI reflects a commitment to addressing homelessness and housing instability through evidence-based strategies, compliance with HUD standards, and a collaborative approach with our partners. For questions or assistance, please contact:

- **City of Houston Compliance Office:** HCDPublicServices@houstontx.gov
- **Harris County:** HCDrfp@harriscountytexas.gov
- **Coalition for the Homeless:** contracts@homelesshouston.org

APPENDIX A: SCORING CARD

Category	Maximum Points
Organizational Expertise	
Agencies have experience providing similar services within the past two years	5
Demonstrated ability to mobilize and implement operations quickly	5
Comprehensive staffing plan aligned with program goals	5
Evidence of partnerships, collaboration, and coordination within the Homeless Response System	5
Use of innovative and scalable solutions to address homelessness	5
Capacity for data collection, HMIS participation, and compliance with HUD requirements	5
Section Total	30
Supportive Services	
Clearly defined target population aligned with HUD and or local priorities/definitions	5
Provision of Services	10
Agencies demonstrated experience with the target population	5
Engagement with private landlords to increase housing options	5
Identification of barriers to housing stability and strategies to address them	5
Section Total	30
Project Information	
Comprehensive project scope, including household targets, services, and financial supports	5
Use of evidence-based or promising practices for service delivery	5
Clearly stated annual outcomes and measurable impact metrics	5
Plan to reduce barriers and maintain long-term housing stability	5
Realistic implementation timeline, including staffing and operational readiness	5
Agency is currently contracted with the City of Houston, Harris County, or CFTH to provide services with COVID relief funds and could use/pivot currently funded staff	10
Section Total	35
Financial Analysis	
Completed budget form with detailed financial projections	5
Most recent audit or financial statement demonstrating fiscal health	5
Clearly stated budget assumptions	5
Cost-effectiveness plan for achieving program outcomes	5
Identification of other funding sources to support the project	5
Threshold: Demonstration of 90-day working capital	Threshold
Section Total	25
Access Reflections	
Commitment to low barrier access to services	15
Inclusion of voices from people with lived experience	10
Section Total	25
Total Possible Points	145

APPENDIX B: KEY DEFINITIONS

Area Median Income (AMI): The midpoint of a region's income distribution, used by HUD to determine eligibility for housing assistance. AMI is updated annually and varies by household size.

Case Manager (CM): A staff member responsible for assisting clients in maintaining housing stability. Duties include coordinating supportive services, addressing client needs, and providing guidance during the housing process.

Chronically Homeless: An individual or family with a disabling condition who has been homeless for at least 12 months consecutively or for four separate occasions over three years, totaling at least 12 months.

Coordinated Entry (CE): A centralized process designed to assess and prioritize individuals experiencing homelessness for housing and services. CE ensures access for everyone within the CoC to resources and prioritizes those with the greatest need.

Continuum of Care (CoC): A regional or local planning body responsible for coordinating homelessness services. The CoC for Houston, Harris County, Fort Bend County, and Montgomery County is **The Way Home**.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG): A federal program that provides funds to support emergency shelters, homelessness prevention, street outreach, and rapid rehousing.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): A federal program that funds activities to provide housing and economic opportunities for low- and moderate-income individuals.

Housing and Homeless Services Program (HHSP): State funds provided to cities to address homelessness through services such as shelter operations, case management, and outreach.

Housing First: An approach that prioritizes providing individuals with stable housing without requiring preconditions like sobriety or participation in treatment programs. Supportive services are offered to help maintain housing stability.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS): A software application used to collect and manage data on individuals experiencing homelessness and the services they receive. HMIS participation is required for all CoC-funded programs.

Other Permanent Housing (OPH): Housing that combines rental assistance with voluntary supportive services for individuals facing significant housing barriers who may not meet the definition of chronic homelessness.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH): Long-term housing combined with wraparound services for individuals with disabilities or chronic homelessness to ensure housing stability.

Prevention and Diversion:

Interventions aimed at keeping individuals from entering homelessness by providing financial assistance, mediation, or problem-solving support.

Fair Market Rent (FMR): The estimated amount, including rent and utilities, that a rental property in a given area typically costs. HUD determines FMR annually.

Navigation Services: Personalized support to guide individuals from the housing referral process to move-in, ensuring timely placement into appropriate housing.

Expanded Emergency Shelter Beds: Additional low-barrier beds added to shelters to increase capacity, particularly for individuals with urgent needs related to mental health or substance use.

Essential Client Support Services: Services that help clients secure and maintain housing, such as document preparation, transportation, and access to advocacy.

Street Outreach: Engaging individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness to connect them with housing and services. Outreach teams may also provide pre-navigation support.

Subrecipient: An organization that receives funding through a larger grant recipient to deliver services. Subrecipients are required to comply with the same programmatic and financial requirements as the lead agency.

Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA): A subsidy provided to low-income individuals to help cover housing costs such as rent, utilities, and security deposits.

Domestic Violence Mobile Advocacy: A service model where advocates provide mobile and home-based support to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and trafficking, ensuring safety and stability while respecting survivor confidentiality.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD): The federal agency responsible for programs related to housing and urban development, including funding and guidelines for homeless response systems.

The Way Home (TWH): The name for the TX-700 CoC, which includes more than 100 partners working to end homelessness in Houston, Harris County, and surrounding areas.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH): A short-term housing intervention that helps individuals and families quickly exit homelessness by providing financial assistance and case management to secure permanent housing.

Verification of Disability (VOD): A formal document signed by a licensed professional confirming that an individual has a disabling condition impacting their ability to work or live independently.

Verification of Homelessness (VOH): Documents confirming an individual's homeless history, often required to access housing programs.

Scattered-Site Housing Unit:

Rental units located in multiple locations throughout the community, used as part of housing programs like PSH or RRH.

Site-Based Housing Unit: Rental units concentrated in a single location, often with on-site services for tenants.

Emergency Housing Voucher (EHV): A program funded through the American Rescue Plan Act to provide rental assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness, distributed through Coordinated Entry.

Move-In Date (Lease-Up Date): The date when an individual or family officially moves into a housing unit under a program such as RRH or OPH.

Parent Lease: A lease held by a housing provider for multiple units that can be used to place hard-to-house individuals.