

Homeless Solutions Program SFY2026 COC/LHC Application Training

March 3rd, 2025



Content

- Organization Profile Review
- **Application Overview**
- **Project Performance Review Tool**
- **Project Portal Submission Refresher**
- Questions?



Organization Profile Review

Due: Friday March 21st, 2025



Overview

One of the new expectations for the SFY26 application process is obtaining the Organization Review prior to the application narrative. This will allow the HSP team to complete the threshold review in advance in order to streamline the scoring and award process.

In previous years, the threshold review was completed in conjunction with the application scoring, requiring more time for processing and leading to award delays if there are discrepancies on the W9 or if applicable charitable registration or certificates of good standing are out of date.

Advancing the threshold review will allow the HSP team to work on award preparation documentation while Grantees continue to work on the application narrative, budget and project performance tool.

Applicant Information

Organization Pr	file	
Name		
Federal ID#		
Unique Entity Id	entifier #	
Street Address:		
City:		
County:		
State:		
Zip Code:		
Phone:	· ·	
Web Address:	8	
Name		
n' 6 .		
Primary Contact		
Name Title		
Name Title Address		
Name Title Address City		
Name Title Address City State		
Name Title Address City State Zip Code		
Name Title Address City State Zip Code Phone		
Name Title Address City State Zip Code		
Name Title Address City State Zip Code Phone		
Name Title Address City State Zip Code Phone Email		
Name Title Address City State Zip Code Phone Email Secondary Cont		
Name Title Address City State Zip Code Phone Email		
Name Title Address City State Zip Code Phone Email Secondary Cont Name		
Name Title Address City State Zip Code Phone Email Secondary Cont Name Title Address		
Name Title Address City State Zip Code Phone Email Secondary Cont Name Title		

- Complete in entirety
- Ensure the Federal ID and Unique Entity ID are correct and match the W9
- The Organization address should match the W9, as well
- The primary and secondary contact should be the person authorized to complete the application and receive subsequent correspondence regarding the award
- Once all requested material has been updated in the portal, email the Organizational Profile Review to <u>LaToya.Arnold-Artis@Maryland.gov</u>



Requ	uired Organization Profile Information and Attachments:
□ nonp	W-9 with address and FEIN that matches your state vendor registration (both governments and rofits)
	Agency Organizational Chart (both governments and nonprofits)
	Most Recent Single Audit or Independent Financial Audit (both governments and nonprofits)
	Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws (nonprofits only)
	Federal Tax Exemption Determination Letter (nonprofits only)
	Certificate of Good Standing from Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (nonprofits only)
	Copy of Charity Registration Status from Maryland Secretary of State website (nonprofits only)
	List of Board of Directors (nonprofits only)

Please ensure that the most current versions of the material listed above is **uploaded to the Project Portal no later** than March 21st in order to avoid delays during award approval and execution. If for any reason you are having difficulty uploading the requested material to the portal, please submit them as an attachment via email and notify me at Latoya.arnod-artis@maryland.gov.

Application Overview

Due: Friday, April 25th, 2025



Homeless Solutions Program Overview

HSP prioritizes funding for projects that:

- Divert households who are at-risk of becoming homeless through creative problem-solving, safe family/friend reunification and mediation, and homeless prevention
- Rapidly and effectively connect people experiencing homelessness with mainstream benefits, income, and permanent housing opportunities
- Serve especially vulnerable groups, such as unsheltered individuals, unaccompanied youth, domestic violence survivors, and individuals with complex medical and behavioral health needs
- Implement evidence-based practices and demonstrate fidelity to best practice program models
- Deliver services in a safe, inclusive, equitable, and accessible manner

Eligible activities include street outreach, shelter, host homes, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing, homeless prevention/diversion, HMIS data entry and system administration, and administrative costs.

Eligible applicants include:

- A HUD-approved Collaborative Applicant/lead agency of a Maryland Continuum of Care (CoC), OR
- A DHCD-approved lead agency for a Balance of State CoC Local Homeless Coalition (LHC)



HSP Overview (contin.)

Expectations of Grantees

- Lead agencies may subgrant all or part of their HSP grant to government agencies or nonprofit organizations to provide eligible services.
- Grantees that are awarded HSP funding are required to perform due diligence in regards to organizational capacity of subgrantees before making awards.
- Lead agencies will be required to complete risk assessments to inform selection of subgrantees for financial and programmatic monitoring and ensure that programs are operating within the requirements and regulations of the program.

Expected Funding Availability for State Fiscal Year 2026

Name	Sources	Amount
Emergency Solutions Grant (FFY2025)	Federal- HUD	\$1,200,000
State HSP Funds (SFY 2026)	Maryland	\$14,000,000
Total Available Funds		\$15,200,000

- DHCD anticipates overall level funding for State HSP and HUD ESG funds in FY26. As of February 27, 2025, the proposed state budget for FY26 eliminates the \$5 million for emergency rental assistance that was included in DHCD's FY25 budget. Of that \$5 million, \$2.3 million was utilized to supplement HSP awards for FY25 to account for annual increases in fair market rents and reductions in permanent housing availability due to expiration of COVID-era funding. If the proposed cut is not restored in the final state budget approved by the Governor and Maryland General Assembly in early April, grantees should expect to have a total award that is closer to the award they received in FY24.
- Given the proposed budget cut at the time of this HSP application opening, we are asking HSP applicants to submit 2 budget spreadsheets:
 - One based on level funding of their HSP FY24 award
 - 2. One based on a 30% increase above the FY24 award (in the case that the proposed cut is reversed and/or DHCD is allocated additional funds in the final FY26 budget)

Expected Funding Availability (contin.)

- The final amount awarded will be based on the application review and the actual amount of funding allocated to DHCD by HUD and the State of Maryland for SFY2026.
- This strategy will allow HSP to plan for numerous budget scenarios, while also allowing applicants to prioritize project allocations given these scenarios (ie higher priority projects are included in the level funding budgets while new lower priority projects are included in the 30% increase budget).
- Budget parameters for each applicant is included in the application guidance.
- SFY2026 HSP grant agreements will have an 18-month performance period July 1, 2025 through December 30, 2026.

Eligible Activities and Costs

HSP provides funding for eight main activities:

- **Homeless Prevention/Shelter Diversion** programs that assist households to remain in their permanent housing or relocate to other permanent housing when they are considered at-risk of becoming homeless. Eligible costs include rental assistance, financial assistance, and housing stabilization services.
- **Emergency Shelter** activities that connect people with immediate access to overnight shelter in order to respond to a crisis. Funding provided for Emergency Shelter can be used both to pay for the operations of the shelter, such as rent and utilities, as well as services provided by the shelter, including case management. * Any shelter that accepts children is considered a "Family" shelter.
- **Street Outreach** services that are provided to currently unsheltered individuals and families, including engagement and case management.
- **Rapid Re-Housing-** assists homeless households who are unsheltered or staying in emergency shelter or motel with obtaining permanent housing in a regular rental unit in the community. Eligible costs include rental assistance, financial assistance, and housing stabilization services. Note: RRH programs targeted to unaccompanied homeless youth may also serve households or clients meeting HUD categories 2 or 3 in their programs.

Eligible Cost (contin.)

- 5) **Permanent Supportive Housing** provides households with non-time limited subsidized permanent housing and supportive services. Eligible costs include case management services such as linking residents to supportive services, as well as staff costs for those who assist clients in applying for food, medical, and other benefits. Additional eligible costs include project-based leasing, operating, and rental assistance costs.
- **Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)** covers the costs of data collection through an HMIS database. All providers must enter data into HMIS or, for victim services providers, a comparable database.
- **Special Events-** covers the Homeless Resource Day events that are intended to connect people with available services, as well as activities designed to support the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count.
- 8) Administration Support Cost. Administration Support Costs include funding used for staffing COC/LHC and Coordinated Entry personnel, Training and Technical Assistance, as well as conference and meeting costs. Funding in this category also supports initiatives to encourage development of Youth Action Boards and Lived **Experience Committees.**

A full list and description of eligible activities, costs, and policies is available in the HSP Grantee Policy Guide.

Application Scoring Process

Scored Category	Maximum Points
Prior HSP Grant Spending History	5
Prior HSP Grant Compliance History	5
HMIS Compliance & Data Quality	5
Renewal Project Performance	50
CoC Application	·
1. Strategy	10
2. Project Selection	20
3. System Performance	20
4. Coordinated Entry	10
5. Equity	10
6. Compliance and Quality	10
7. Youth Projects	5
8. RRH/PSH Projects	10
Total Points Possible	160

All applications will be subject to three reviews:

- Organization Profile Review
- CoC/LHC Application Narrative Review
- 3. Project-Level Performance Evaluation
- The Organization Profile Review ensures that the applicant is eligible and ready for award consideration
- Once an applicant passes the threshold review, the application can be scored by DHCD staff based on the CoC/LHC application narrative, proposed budget activities and project performance review
- Prior grant spending and compliance will also be considered during application scoring



Application Checklist (contin.)

Complete the Homeless Solutions SFY2026 Application and Budget Screen on the DHCD Project Portal

Note: The portal budget screen should include only one "activity": Operating. This amount should be your entire requested budget amount

- Upload the following supporting attachments with your application in the portal:
 - CoC/LHC Application Word
 - Detailed Budget and Project Listing Excel
 - Project Performance Tool- Excel
 - Performance Data
 - Stella P Report (see application template for more instructions)
 - 2024 System Performance Measures Report (see application template for more instructions)
 - HUD Annual Performance Report (APR) from HMIS for each renewal project (Performance Period: 1/1/2024-12/31/2024)
 - 2024 Housing Inventory Count and Point in Time Count Data



Application Components

8 Part Narrative Application (Word Document)

- Part 1: Strategy
- Part 2: Project Selection
- Part 3: System Performance
- Part 4:Coordinated Entry
- Part 5:Equity
- Part 6: Compliance and Quality
- Part 7: Youth Projects
- Part 8: RRH and PSH Projects

Detailed Budget Template (Excel spreadsheet)

- Program Budget Request; complete both level and 30% increase tabs
- Project List; new and renewal projects

Project Performance Review Tool (Excel Spreadsheet)

- Based on APR data from performance period January 1,2024 thru December 30, 2024
- Complete for each renewal project on their respective activity tab



Detailed Application Budget Template

Level and Level + 30% Increase Budget Tabs

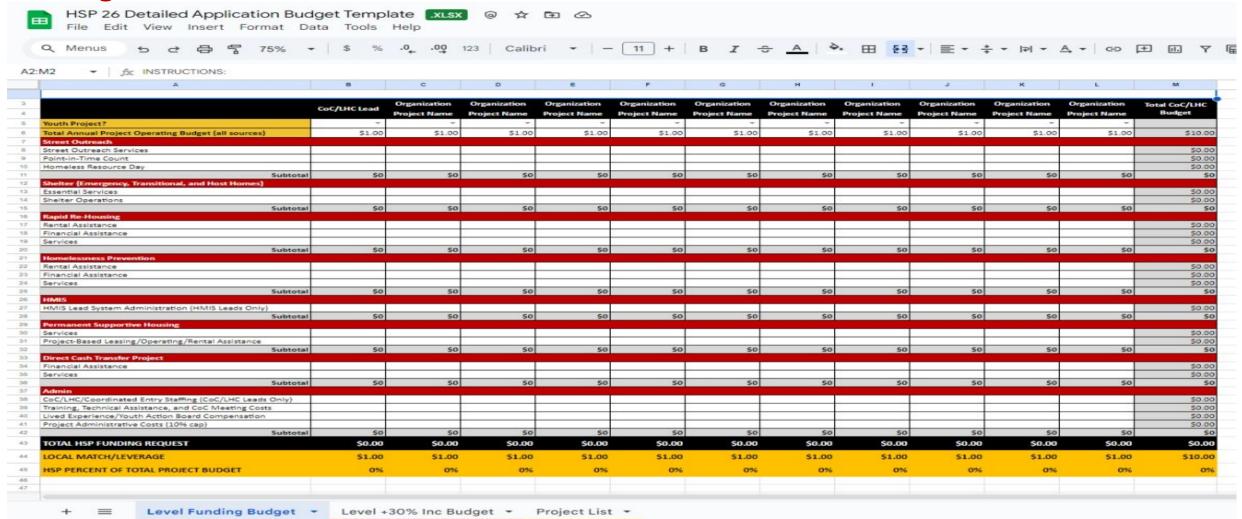
- Complete both tabs based on each budget scenario
- Insert the COC/LHC name at the top of the spreadsheet
- In the column header, replace "Organization" and "Project Name" with the project information.
- Note whether a project primarily serves unaccompanied homeless youth.
- Enter the total annual operating cost for each project (including costs from all funding sources). This will automatically calculate the leverage amount based on the requested HSP allocation.
- Enter the funding requests per activity for each project included in your CoC/LHC application.
- Do not replace the formulas in any of the subtotal/total cells or the match/percent of project budget rows. Only enter data and numbers in white cells. If your CoC/LHC has more than 10 projects, create a second copy of the respective budget template.

Project List Tab

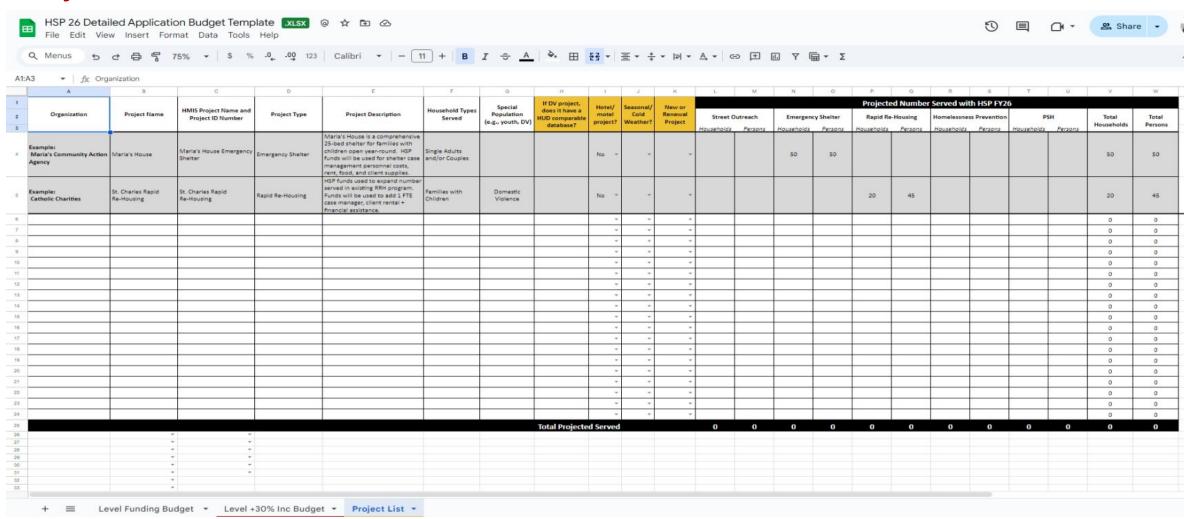
- Complete each column for new and renewal projects
- Be sure to include both the HMIS project name and ID
- Be sure to Indicate if the project is new or a renewal



Budget Tabs



Project List Tab



Project Performance Tool



Overview

New in the SFY2026 application is the Project Performance Tool. COC/LHCs are expected to provide data on renewal projects based on the APR. This will allow the HSP team to more efficiently assess project data.

The performance tool inquires about data points related to service, data quality and equity.

Project evaluation allows the HSP team to establish trends and monitor project outcomes and prioritizes

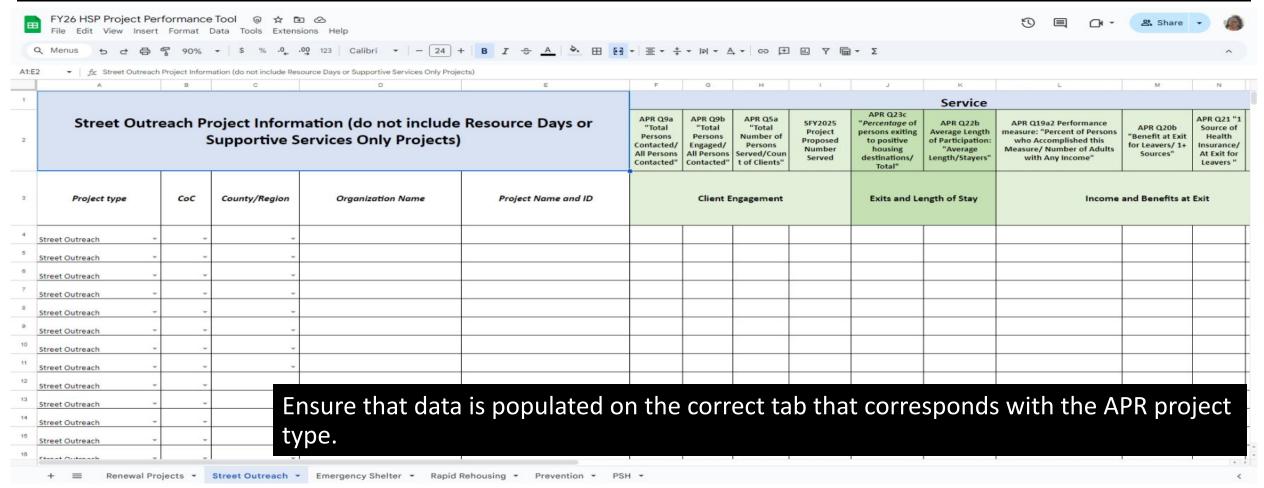
Copies of project APRs should still be uploaded with the application for reference. However, performance tools should be completed in their entirety.

The performance period of the APR is January 1st, 2024 to December 30th, 2024.

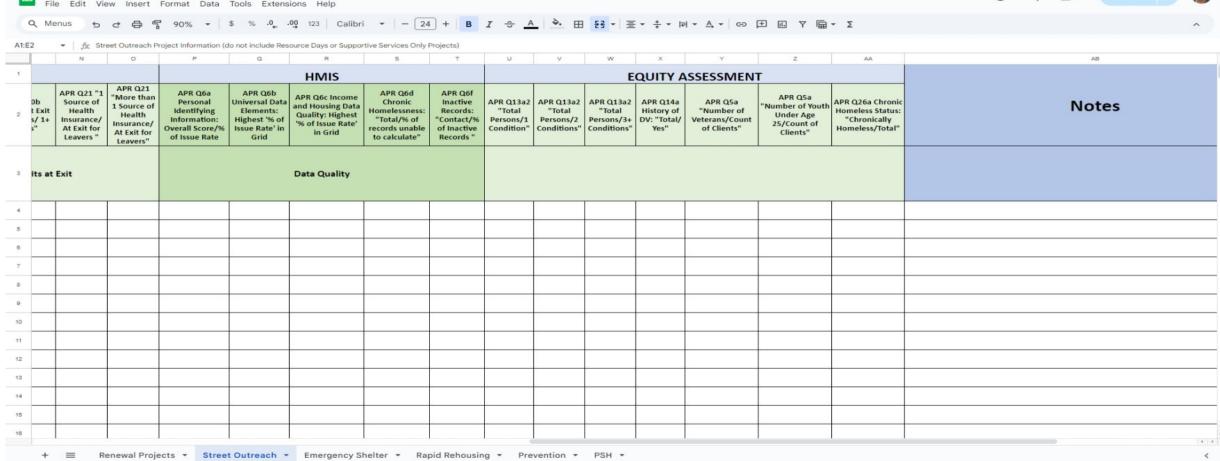
A sample APR has been marked up to correspond with the requested data points.



Complete each column and data point described. The APR number and question is provided. The Project Name and ID should correspond to the Name, ID and data from the APR being populated.

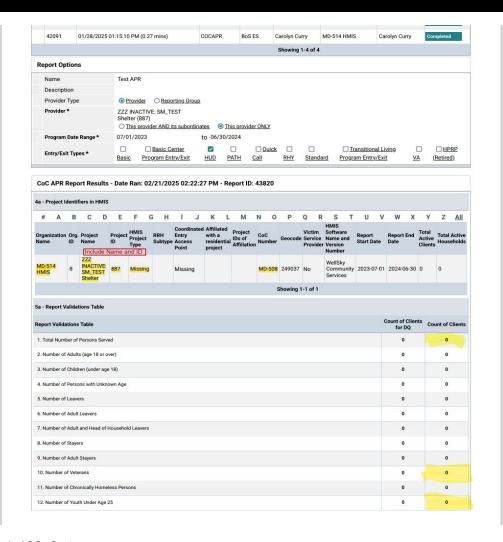


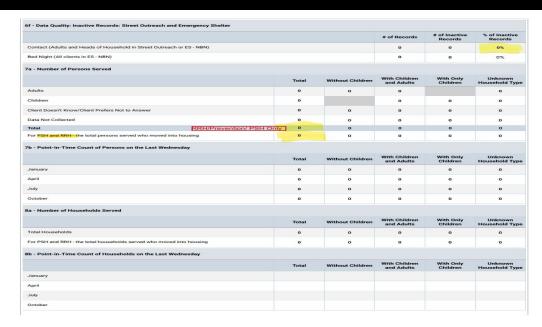
There is a Notes column included at the end of each section to report any relevant information related to the project the HSP team should know. For example, if the project was not set up in HMIS correctly or if there was a significant event that impacted capacity, such as a maintenance issue.





A sample APR has been provided that highlights the required data points for each section.





OC APR - Community Services	https://wsc	s.wellsky.co	m/mdbos/con	.bowmansyst	ems.sp5.co	
9a - Number of Persons Contacted	Number of Persons Contacted					
		All Persons Contacted	First Contact - NOT staying on the Streets, ES, or SH	First contact - WAS staying on Streets, ES, or SH	First contact Worker unable to determine	
Once		0	0	0	0	
2-5 Times		o	0	0	0	
6-9 Times		0	0	0	0	
10+ Times		0	0	0	0	
Total Persons Contacted	Outreach and Shelter Or	nly o	0	0	0	
9b - Number of Persons Engaged						
		All Persons Contacted	First Contact - NOT staying on the Streets, ES, or SH	First contact - WAS staying on Streets, ES, or SH	First contact Worker unab to determine	
Once		0	0	0	0	
2-5 Times		o	o	o	0	
6-9 Times		0	0	0	0	
10+ Times		0	0	0	0	
Total Persons Engaged	Outreach and Shelter O	nly 0	0	0	0	
Rate of Engagement		0%	0%	0%	0%	



Project Portal Submission Refresher

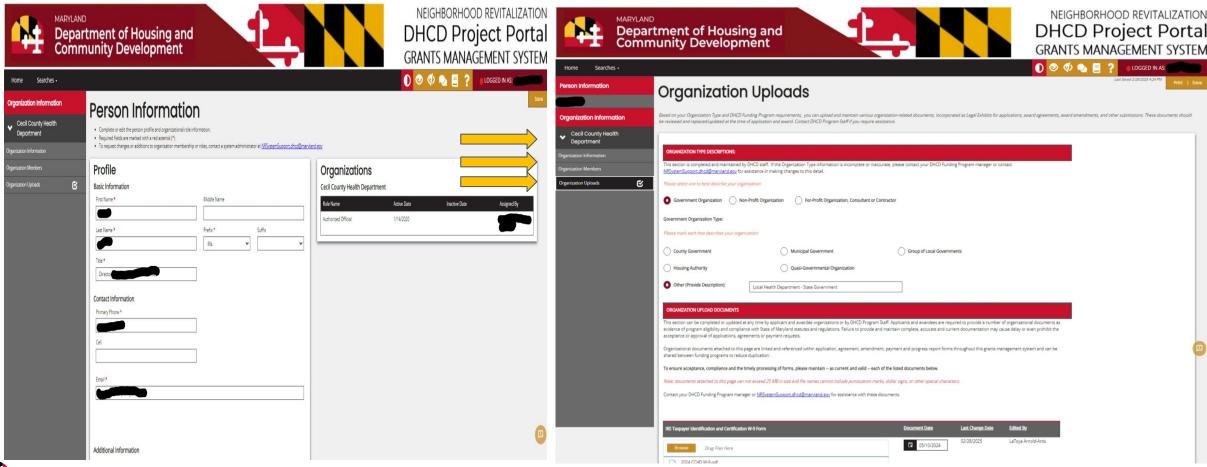


Organization Profile Update and Uploads



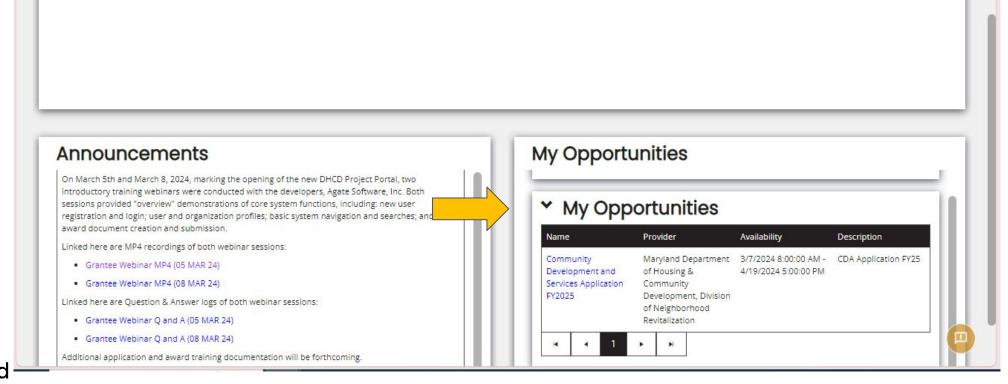


Confirm that the Profile information, Organization Information and Organization Uploads are current and accurate. Upload required supporting documents to Upload tab.

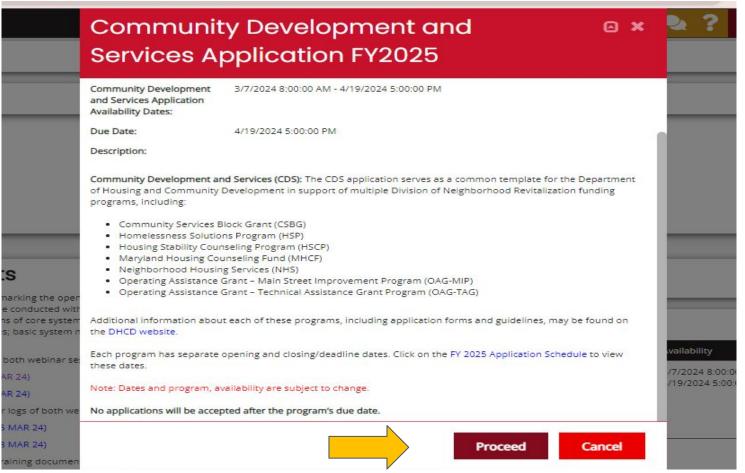


Application Submission

The HSP 26 application should be visible on your Project Portal Dashboard under "My Opportunities" by Friday, March 7th. This will not impact your ability to complete the Organizational Review due March 21st, 2025. The Application narrative, budget template and Project Performance Tool are due April 25th, 2025.

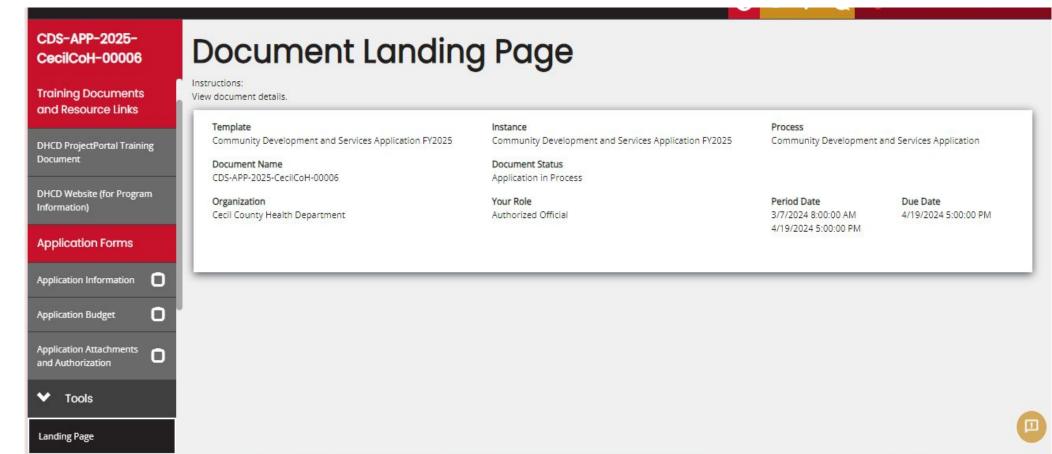


Click "Proceed" to initiate the application.





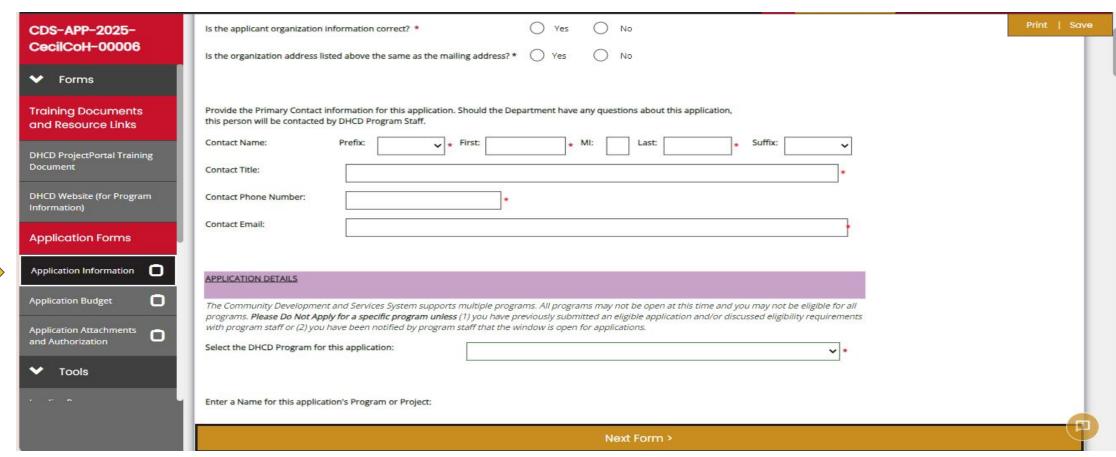
Begin the application from the first bullet under Application Forms. Select "Application Information".



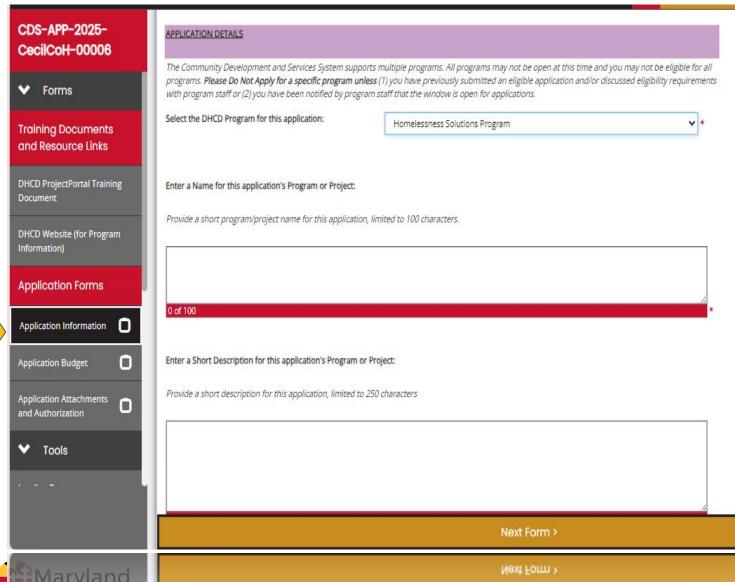




Complete the Application Information page. Be sure to complete/ update any missing information in the Organization information section.





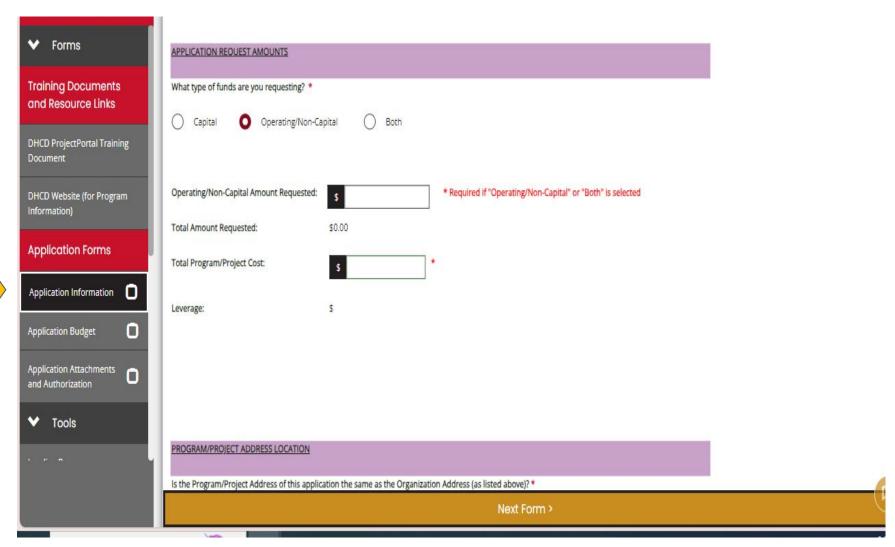


UNDER APPLICATION DETAILS:

For the DHCD Program.. select Homelessness Solutions Program.

For the Program Name use: {Agency Name} HSP SFY26 Program **Application**

For the short description use: "{Agency Name} is applying for Homelessness Solutions Program funding, which will provide services and housing stability to prevent and end homelessness for Maryland residents."

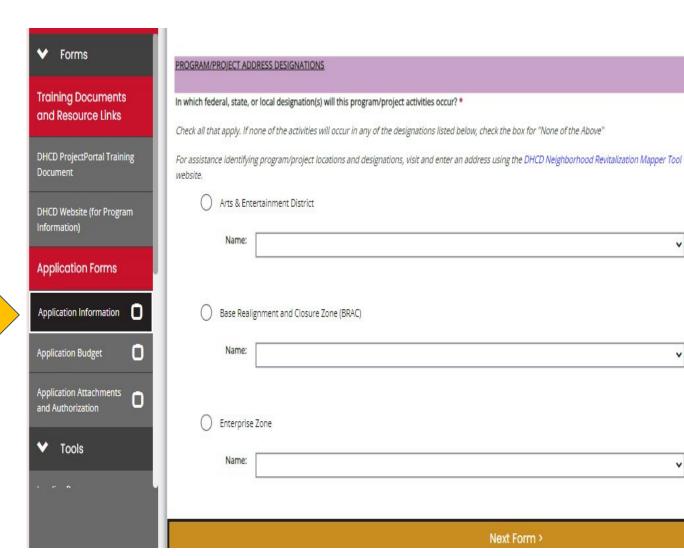


The funding type is "Operating/ Non-Capital.

Enter the Total HSP Amount Requested

Enter the Total Program Costs (all funding sources)



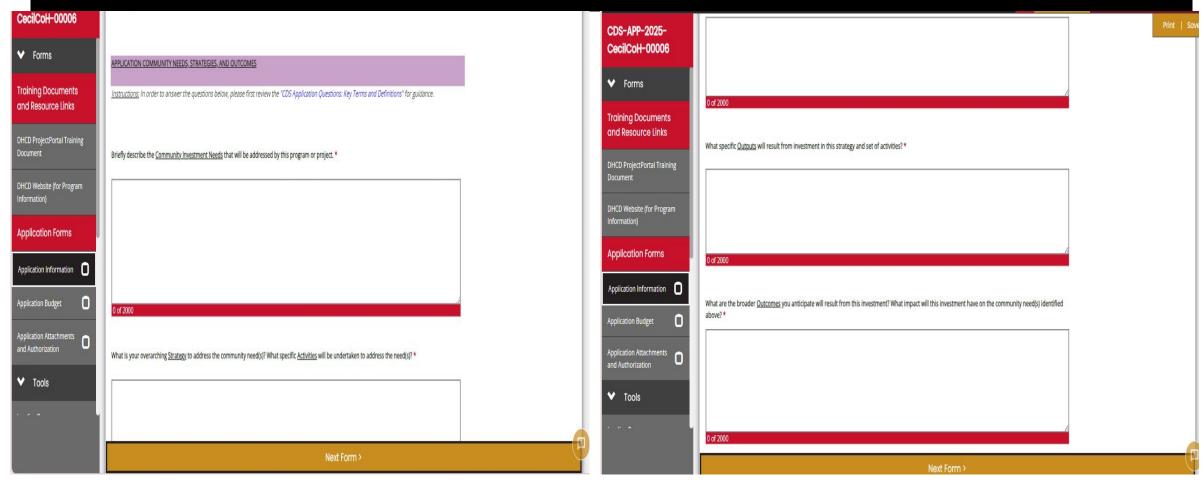


For Program/ Project Address Designation:

Scroll to the bottom of this section and select, "None of the Above"



Application Community Needs, Strategies and Outcomes: This questions will be addressed in the narrative of the application. Please just enter, "See Attached" in these fields.



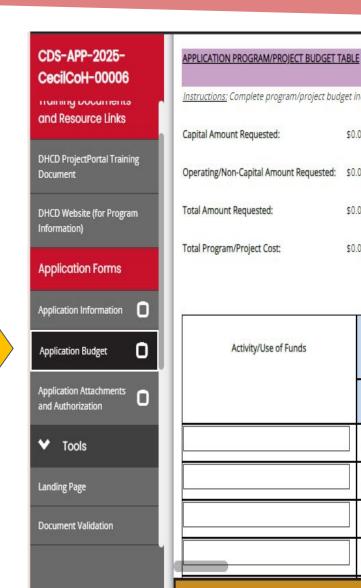


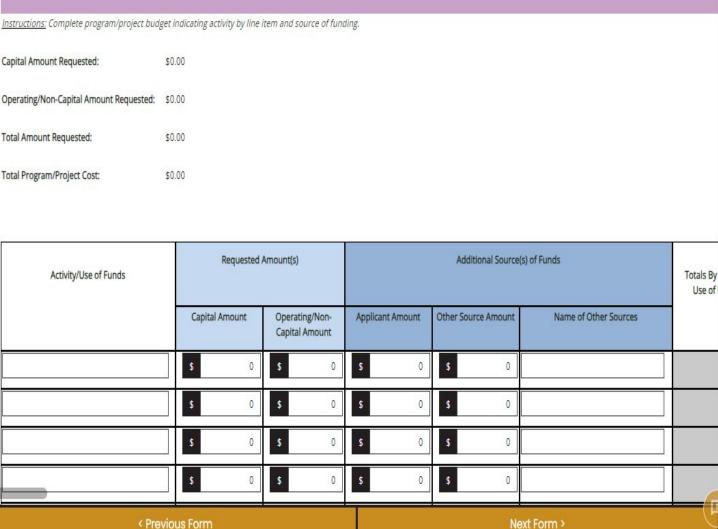
Application Budget:

Create ONE activity/use of funds called "Operating". Under Requested Amount, enter the total amount of your CoC/LHC request in the "operating/ non-capital amount" box of the activity line.

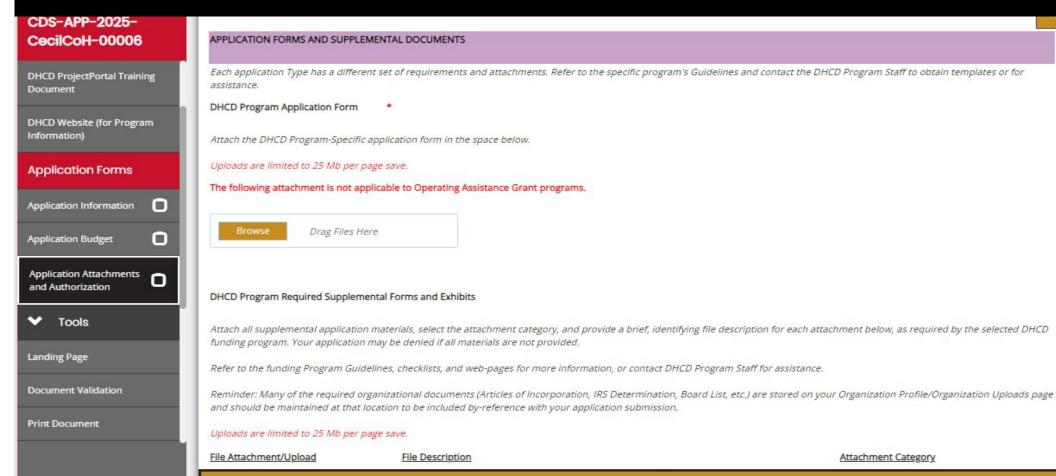
*Do not enter Additional **Funding Sources or any** other Use of Funds categories.





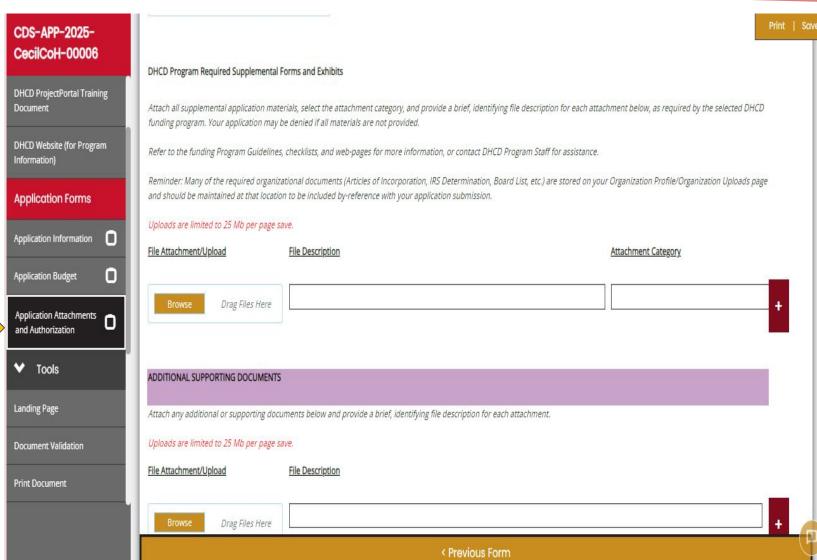


Application attachments: For DHCD Program Application Form attach the HSP Application Narrative





Previous Form

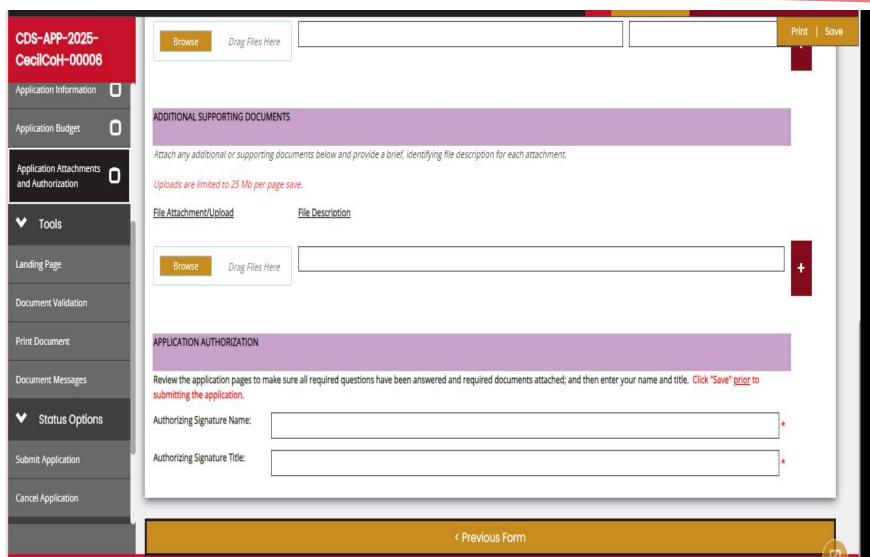


Required Supplemental Forms:

Attach...

- Detailed Budget Template
- Project Performance Tool
- **System Performance** Measures Report
- Stella P Report
- HIC and PIT Files
- APRs from HMIS for each renewal project





Submitting the application:

- 1. **SIGN** the form
- 2. Click **SAVE** (at the top right corner of the page) *if you skip this step, the information you entered will not be saved.
- 3. Under **Status Options** on the left panel (you may need to scroll down)...select "Submit Application"



Questions?

