

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 8, 2026
To: Finance and Personnel Committee
From: Owen Carter, Deputy Director of Program Operations for Health & Human Services *OC*
Re: Acceptance of Homeless System Capacity Expansion Pilot Program

Community Services is seeking City Council approval to accept Homeless System Capacity Expansion Pilot Program grant from Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), Family & Community Services provided to approved local Continuums of Care (CoCs) for \$85,522. The grant does NOT require a cost match. The grant term is from July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027.

The Grant Purpose

This grant will provide funds for expanding capacity to local Continuums of Care (CoCs) to improve homeless crisis response systems to implement quality data systems, increase coordination and improve systems of care for people experiencing homelessness. Through this pilot, systems coordinators and/or Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) administrators will be added to the CoC staff to support coordination across service providers to house literally homeless households.

How Grant Funds Will Be Used

The CoCs will improve data quality to understand how to track and quickly house people experiencing homelessness. The goal of the project is to support communities in building their administrative and technical capacity to reach functional zero, a key component of the Governor's Executive Order to End Homelessness.

RESOLUTION
of the
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
SUBMITTED BY: FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION APPROVING ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT AWARD

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford has been selected by the Illinois Department of Human Services to receive a Homeless System Capacity Expansion Pilot grant award; and

WHEREAS, the grant has been awarded for the purpose of providing funds for expanding capacity to local Continuums of Care to improve homeless crisis response systems; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford intends to use the funds to support coordination across service providers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Rockford will receive \$85,522.00 to provide such services.

BE IT RESOLVED, THEREFORE, by the City Council of the City of Rockford that the City of Rockford accept the grant award and that the Mayor execute a Grant Agreement and any necessary documents in furtherance of acceptance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be in full force and effective immediately upon its adoption.

The above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Rockford, Illinois, this _____ day of June 2026.

Mayor Thomas P. McNamara
City of Rockford, Illinois

ATTEST:

ANGELA HAMMER, Legal Director
Ex Officio Keeper of the Records and
Seal of the City of Rockford, Illinois

ROCKFORD, IL.

Committee Action Taken Date: June 8, 2026

RECOMMENDATION FOR RESOLUTION

TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROCKFORD:

Council Members:

The Committee on Finance & Personnel, to whom was referred the matter of approving acceptance of the Illinois Department of Human Services Homeless System Capacity Expansion Pilot grant award, hereby begs leave to report recommending approval of said award. The Legal Director shall prepare the appropriate resolution.

Kevin Frost (Chair)

Chad Tuneberg (Vice chair)

Frank Beach

Dawn Granath

Jaime Salgado

Frost:	Ayes:___	Nays:___	Absent:___
Tuneberg:	Ayes:___	Nays:___	Absent:___
Beach:	Ayes:___	Nays:___	Absent:___
Granath:	Ayes:___	Nays:___	Absent:___
Salgado:	Ayes:___	Nays:___	Absent:___

Funding Plan

FY: FY27

Legal Name of Agency: City of Rockford Health & Human Services (IL-501)

FEIN #: 36-6125747

Requested Amount: \$88,522

Focus Areas: Data analysis & reporting, collaboration & networking, Center equity & lived experience

I. Organization Overview:

Provide a detailed overall description your program.

Currently the City of Rockford Health & Human Services department acts as the Collaborative Applicant and lead agency for the Northern Illinois Homeless Coalition. With this duty we oversee most of the work of the CoC including system development and capacity building needed to continue to be successful. We operate the CES system (Single point of entry for Winnebago & Boone Counties), oversee many of the committees/sub-committees of the CoC, manage the By-Name list, and work with Built for Zero on our homelessness efforts. Currently we do not plan to use these funds for a new system coordinator as we had already recently hired someone in a similar position to work with the CoC lead (Homeless Program Manager). This position has been paid for using CoC Planning funds so this grant will act as a match. Additionally, these funds will help fund 3 other partial positions—a person who will be working with data and reporting, someone else assisting with getting a PLE advisory board up and running, and someone working on more collaboration with private businesses and networking to bring in more “unusual” partners.

Include, but not limited to:

- **Description of how your CoC plans to engage in the required focus area, as well as the chosen additional focus area**

Key functions that our CoC plan to focus on:

1. Data analysis & reporting
2. Collaboration & networking
3. Center equity & lived expertise

- **How your organization plans to increase capacity of local homeless crisis response systems**

By using the 3 key functions above, we intend to continue to build our CoC capacity. By networking to bring in new partners and providing education. Recently as we have been participating in the 100 Day Shelter Diversion Challenge, we have brought in some new agency partners. We would like to continue to work with these partners, when appropriate, in our

homelessness work also. Continuing to build these relationships in order to have appropriate wrap around services set up with allow our system to thrive.

- **How your organization plans to expand local capacity for leading systems**

These funds are helping to pay for a data lead person, who can be more of a system leader since she will have more capacity to do this work. Additionally, we hope that by providing training to people with live experience and other new partners, we hope that we can cultivate new leaders to help oversee some of the work of the CoC.

- **How your organization plans to promote continuous quality improvement best practices to reshape the community processes**

Quality improvement has been something that our CoC has always been big at looking at. With our work through Built for Zero, we have done many “PDSA Cycles” to try new things and see how they work. When we have identified things that do not work well, we are very good about trying new things that may be better. We have conducted many “pilots” over the years to see how we can improve our overall system.

In June 2026, we will have the first meeting of our newly formed PLE advisory board. We see this board as a body that can help us continue doing quality improvement by sharing their ideas and those of others with lived experience. We have always had surveys conducted at various times throughout the year to solicit feedback, but we are excited to see what other ideas the PLE's will have, as we move forward.

II. Statutory Alignment: Home Illinois Plan and Illinois Homelessness Prevention Act

Provide a detailed description of how your organization aligns with the Home Illinois Plan and Illinois Homelessness Prevention Act.

The Northern IL Homeless Coalition began working with Community Solutions, Built for Zero, in 2015 reaching Functional Zero for veterans in 2015 and chronic homelessness in 2017. We are the only community in the country to reach functional zero for a third population (youth) but unfortunately have not been able to sustain that sub-population at this time. However, we are working to get the number back to that threshold of 6. Due to the work we have put in for all of these years and currently, we feel as though our CoC goals align with those of the Home Illinois Plan to end homelessness.

Some of the goals mentioned in the plan include:

- Address homelessness and reach functional zero of homelessness
- Address unnecessary institutionalization
- Improve health and human services outcomes for people experiencing homelessness
- Strengthen the safety nets that contribute to housing stability

Our CoC has worked very hard to address homelessness and work toward the goal of functional zero for all populations. We have worked with other partners and agencies to address institutionalization—especially around the criminalization of the homeless. We work extensively with our local Healthcare for the Homeless program, local hospital (UW Health), and our Mobile Integrated Healthcare program (through Rockford Fire Dept & UW Health) and in the last year started a Medical Respite program. Additionally, we have participated in the 100 Day Shelter Diversion Challenge to better streamline our system to stop people from entering the homelessness system and intend to try to work on a plan to get an advocate back into the courts. Our system is constantly changing and growing in order to better serve our homeless population and ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

III. Funding Allocation

Provide a detailed narrative description and use table below to show how funds will be allocated.

Category	FY27 Allocation	Description
Personnel Fringe benefits	41,918.68 22,288.48	Salary & benefits for 4 PT staff.
Travel	1384.00	state conferences (4 staff)
Line Items: PLE Stipends Collaboration & Networking Center equity Supplies	1,800.00 360.00 960.00 1036.00	Gift cards to pay PLE Marketing materials Food for PLE meetings General supplies-paper, flip charts, etc.

Direct administration	10,543.49	Supervision, fiscal staff, et c.
Contractual services Telecommunications Misc.	3,942.54 637.72 650.17	Computer/IT & audit services Phones Risk management

IV. Implementation Plan

Provide a detailed description of your organizations plans for implementation to include service goals

Most of the goals that we have were “started” in the FY2026 grant. However, because we got a slow start they are not necessarily completed yet. Some of the tasks took some time or preparation to get going. They are all in progress now. Therefore, implementation should be easy upon receiving the new funds. The staff are all in place in the different positions and they all know what tasks they need to complete.

FY27 Services Goals:

1. We will use data and reporting as a means to inform our decision making.
2. Staff will make contact with new partners and engage them to becoming new members of the CoC.
3. Get PLE board up and running with the first meeting being by June of this year, with ongoing meetings.

V. Reporting and Accountability

Provide a detailed description of your reporting and accountability methods.

Include, but not limited to:

- **Electronic management system used**

This agency has an extensive history of using electronic management systems. Currently we use the HMIS system to track our homeless data, we use the STARS systems to track outcomes for our CSBG and other funds, and many staff also entered into LIHEAP.net for clients accessing those services. In addition to those formal systems, staff also has extensive experience working in google docs and other data “sharing’ type systems. Fiscal staff provide all reporting in regards to the budgets and s

- Organizations history of tracking and reporting progress

Our agency has been around since 1965 and has always been funded through state and federal grants. Therefore, we have always had to track and report our outcomes. We are currently the recipients of CSBG, LIHEAP, Weatherization, HUD CoC & ESG, and IDHS (HP, SD, and RRH) grants that require a variety of tracking and reporting. We are willing to track and report on whatever is needed.

- Organizations effectiveness in evaluating progress and impact

Our agency is able to review our data as needed to evaluate our progress in the various programs. We can use that data to effectively make changes that will improve the programs impact and effectiveness. We have actually become very adept at looking at our homelessness program, in particular, to see what is working and what is not and then making the necessary changes to improve the program. We have several different meetings internally and with CoC partners where we get input into the effectiveness of the programs and ideas for improvements. Moving forward, we will also be getting more feedback from people with lived expertise which will allow us to take those suggestions into account also.

VI. Projected FY27 Outcomes

Provide a detailed description of your organizations projected FY27 outcomes

1. We will complete monthly dashboard which we will present at our CoC meetings and will post online for more community transparency
2. We will engage with and add 25 businesses to our CoC membership in the next year.
3. We will work to engage members to join committees. Currently we have multiple committees that only have a few members on each. Through this work, we would like to make sure each committee has at least 10 members who are engage and participating.

4. We will network (and provide some education to) at least 6 groups who are not CoC members in the next year. These may include civic groups, law enforcement, healthcare/hospitals, or educational facilities.

5. Staff will reach out to a minimum of 10 PLE's to join the advisory board. At least 6 PLE's will attend each scheduled meeting.

Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency Notice of State Award

STATE OF ILLINOIS GRANT INFORMATION	
State Award Identification	Name of State Agency (Grantor): Human Services Department/Organziation Unit: FCS/OHS
State Award ID Number (SAIN)	3520-66077
State Program Description	The program will support expanded capacity to local Continuums of Care (CoCs) to improve homeless crisis response systems to implement quality data systems, increase coordination and improve systems of care for people experiencing homelessness. Through this pilot, systems coordinators and/or Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) administrators will be added to the CoC staff to support coordination across service providers to house literally homeless households. The CoCs will improve data quality to understand how to track and quickly house people experiencing homelessness. The goal of the project is to support communities in building their administrative and technical capacity to reach functional zero, a key component of the Governor's Executive Order to End Homelessness.
Annoucnment Type	Initial
Agency (Grantor) Contact Information	Name: Shawna Sepich Phone: 217-299-7347 Email: shawna.sepich2@illinois.gov

GRANTEE INFORMATION	
Grantee / Subrecipient Information	Name: City of Rockford Health & Human Services Department Address: 612 N Church Street, Rockford, IL 61103 Phone: Email: angie.walker@rockfordil.gov
Grantee Identification	GATA: 671698 UEI: L8CRGBLX2DA3 FEIN: 366125747
Period of Performance	Start Date: 7/1/2026 End Date: 6/30/2027

FUNDING INFORMATION			
FUND	CSFA	CFDA	AMOUNT
Home Illinois	444-80-3520		\$85,522.00
TOTAL			\$85,522.00

(M) Currently used by State of Illinois for "Match" or "Maintenance of Effort" (MOE) requirements on Federal Funding. Funding is subject to Federal Requirements and may not be used by Grantee for other match requirements on other awards.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS	
Grantee Indirect Cost Rate Information	<p>Rate: 0%</p> <p>Base: Waive</p> <p>Period: 1/1/2026-12/31/2026</p>
Research & Development	No
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements	No
Uniform Term(s)	<p>CODE of FEDERAL REGULATIONS Title 2: Grants and Agreements PART 200 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200)</p> <p>Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), 30 ILCS 708/1</p> <p>Illinois Administrative Code</p>
Grantor-Specific Term(s)	<p>This Notice of State Award (NOSA) is not an agreement. This NOSA is not a guarantee of an agreement. IDHS will publish its agreements in the CSA Tracking System after you return a signed copy of this NOSA to IDHS.</p> <p>Please note the items identified for Section 3. Please contact your DHS program representative within 30 days to implement a plan to address the identified issues within the next 90 days. Should you have any questions please speak with the DHS contact for your award.</p>
Program-Specific Term(s)	<p>N/A</p> <p>THE FOLLOW ARE GATA EXCEPTIONS AND ARE NOT REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM:</p> <p>MERIT BASED REVIEW The following was approved by OMB.GATA.Exceptions on 01/10/25:DHS plans to fund a pilot program titled "Homeless System Capacity Expansion Pilot." The program will support expanded capacity to local Continuums of Care (CoCs) to improve homeless crisis response systems to implement quality data systems, increase coordination and improve systems of care for people experiencing homelessness. Through this pilot, systems coordinators and/or Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) administrators will be added to the CoC staff to support coordination across service providers to house literally homeless households. The CoCs will improve data quality to understand how to track and quickly house people experiencing homelessness. The goal of the project is to support communities in building their administrative and technical capacity to reach functional zero, a key component of the Governor's Executive Order to End Homelessness.</p> <p>In September of 2021, Governor Pritzker signed EO 2021-21 (attached). This EO addresses the need to make homelessness brief and one-time, which is a key metric in reaching functional zero of homelessness. In July 2023, Governor Pritzker signed Public Act 103-0269, which codifies the work of the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness, Community Advisory Council on Homelessness and State Homelessness Chief. (attached) The Home Illinois Program implements the work of the Task Force and the state plan to prevent and end homelessness.</p> <p>The the FY25 budget appropriation bill, Public Act 103-0589, page 504 states: "Section 155. The sum of \$290,300,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Human Services for grants and administrative expenses of the Home Illinois Program, including pilot programs, to prevent and end homelessness in Illinois, including, but not limited to homelessness prevention, emergency and transitional housing, rapid rehousing, outreach, and related services and supports for individuals at risk or experiencing homelessness..." https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/103/PDF/103-0589.pdf</p> <p>The purpose of this pilot is to increase efficiency and build capacity of local CoCs to be able to utilize existing and new housing resources, with the goal of reaching functional zero of homelessness for veterans. Once functional zero for veterans is reached, other populations would benefit from this data-driven approach.</p> <p>NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY The following was approved by OMB.GATA.Exceptions on 01/10/25:DHS plans to fund a pilot program titled "Homeless System Capacity Expansion Pilot." The program will support expanded capacity to local Continuums of Care (CoCs) to improve homeless crisis response systems to implement quality data systems, increase coordination and improve systems of care for people</p>

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The the FY25 budget appropriation bill, Public Act 103-0589, page 504 states:
"Section 155. The sum of \$290,300,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Human Services for grants and administrative expenses of the Home Illinois Program, including pilot programs, to prevent and end homelessness in Illinois, including, but not limited to homelessness prevention, emergency and transitional housing, rapid rehousing, outreach, and related services and supports for individuals at risk or experiencing homelessness..."
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/103/PDF/103-0589.pdf>

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**Illinois Grant Accountability and Transparency
Notice of State Award****SPECIFIC CONDITIONS ASSIGNED TO GRANTEE - FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE****The nature of the additional requirements****GATA Conditions:**

None

Agency Adjustments / Explanation:

None

The reason why the additional requirements are being imposed**GATA Conditions:**

None

Agency Adjustments / Explanation:

None

The nature of the action needed to remove the additional requirement, if applicable**GATA Conditions:**

None

Agency Adjustments / Explanation:

None

The time allowed for completing the actions, if applicable**GATA Conditions:**

None

Agency Adjustments / Explanation:

None

The method for requesting reconsideration of the additional requirements imposed**GATA Conditions:**

None

Agency Explanation:

None

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SIGNATURE PAGE

Circle one: Accept NOSA / Reject NOSA

Institution / Organization

Signature

Name of Official

Title (Chief Financial Officer or equivalent)

Date of Execution