



2026 Homeless Response Peer Network

Call for Expressions of Interest

[Click here to apply by July 17, 2026](#)

Overview

The Housing Solutions Lab invites expressions of interest for the Homeless Response Peer Network, a six-month opportunity for local housing agencies and continuums of care (CoCs) to strengthen their local homeless response systems.

The Network is designed to help cities assess how their systems function in practice—including governance, partnerships, and service coordination—in order to improve service delivery and long-term system resilience.

Through virtual peer learning and facilitated strategy sessions, city teams will work with peers facing similar challenges to complete structured assessments of their local homeless response systems and develop plans to strengthen local coordination and partnerships. Participating cities will receive real-time decision-making support, access to subject matter expertise and technical assistance (TA), and a neutral space to workshop challenges and test new ideas and policy options.

Network sessions will focus on core elements of effective homeless response systems, while remaining flexible to address participants' priorities. Topics include:

- System-level assessment of local homeless response systems
- Incorporating homeless response into local housing policy and planning
- Strengthening cross-sector partnerships
- Coordinating access to subsidized housing, including alignment with public housing authorities (PHAs)
- Long-term funding strategies and resource development

Application Process and Timeline

June 16, 2026	Expression of interest opens
July 17, 2026	Expression of interest due
Late July-August 2026	Interviews held with finalists
August 14, 2026	Selected cities notified
September 2026	Peer network kickoff
February 2027	Final Peer Network session

About the Housing Solutions Lab

The Housing Solutions Lab at the NYU Furman Center works with cities across the country to design, monitor, and evaluate promising local housing policies. With funding support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Lab seeks to help cities advance evidence-based local housing policies that promote racial equity; increase access to opportunity; and support resident health and well-being. The Lab serves cities of all sizes, with a focus on small and midsize cities (those with populations of 50,000 to 500,000).

[Learn more about the Housing Solutions Lab's focus on small and midsize cities here.](#)

Network Format

Network cities will attend onboarding calls with Lab staff in August, and a Network kickoff meeting in September. They will also attend 60-90 minute virtual monthly sessions over the course of the six-month program. Participating cities will have access to:

- Tailored technical assistance and expert guidance through group and individual sessions
- A structured process to assess challenges and gaps in how local homeless response systems function and develop practical strategies that address them
- Practical strategies to strengthen coordination and partnerships among CoCs, local governments, public housing authorities, service providers, and other partners
- Opportunities to learn from peer communities and share promising practices
- An option to join a longer-term community of practice

Team members must participate in monthly virtual discussions with the full group of Network participants. They will also have the opportunity to join TA calls with Lab staff or external providers on a monthly basis.

Eligibility

The Lab will select six to eight city teams, each consisting of three to four members. Teams must include:

- A representative from the lead agency for the local Continuum of Care (CoC) or similarly situated lead contact or agency for homeless response, if led outside the CoC
- A municipal government leader (Mayor's Office representative, housing or community development agency representative, or similar) with decision-making authority and a strong commitment to strengthening housing and/or homeless response systems

Teams may also include:

- Public housing authorities
- Nonprofit and private-sector housing partners
- Philanthropy and funders
- Community or economic development organizations

Benefits of Participation

By joining the Network, each city will gain:

- A clear assessment of strengths, gaps, and priorities of their homeless response system
- A practical action plan to strengthen partnerships, improve service coordination, and better align resources
- A stronger cross-sector network to support implementation

Questions?

We welcome questions about the Network opportunity and expression of interest process.

Contact Sean Quitzau (sean.quitzau@nyu.edu), City Engagement Manager, with questions.

[View the Application.](#)