



FY27 Winter Warming Center Request for Proposals

Community Shelter Board (CSB) leads a coordinated, community effort to make sure everyone has a place to call home in Columbus and Franklin County, Ohio. CSB has established a transparent, competitive procurement process for FY27 Winter Warming Center Operations and Services.

1. Purpose

CSB seeks qualified organizations to operate Winter Warming Centers and/or provide housing-focused services that ensure individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness have access to safe, low-barrier shelter while being connected to housing, benefits, healthcare, and other critical resources. CSB's current implementation plan is to operate Winter Warming Centers throughout Columbus and Franklin County during the period of **December 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027**, providing emergency shelter during periods of severe winter weather.

2. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Awarded organizations will be expected to contribute to the success of the Extreme Weather Response System by meeting the following performance expectations. These Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will be monitored by Community Shelter Board throughout the contract period and may be used to assess program performance, identify technical assistance needs, and inform current and future funding decisions.

KPI	Expected Outcome	Responsible Component
Participant Safety	Provide safe, low-barrier shelter that protects participants from exposure to severe winter weather and reduces the risk of cold-related injury or death.	Operations
HMIS Participation	Ensure all eligible program participants are entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) in accordance with CSB policies, HMIS standards, and required reporting timelines.	Operations & Services
Documentation Assistance	Assist participants in obtaining essential identification and eligibility documents (e.g., state ID, birth certificate, Social Security card) and accurately document completed outcomes in HMIS, as applicable.	Services
Housing Planning	Complete an individualized housing plan for each participant receiving housing-focused services that identifies barriers, goals, and next steps toward permanent housing.	Services

3. Eligible Applicants

Applications are welcome from nonprofit, faith-based, public, and private organizations with the organizational capacity, staffing, and experience to successfully deliver one or both program components. Previous Winter Warming Center experience is valued but not required.

4. Program Components

Applicants may apply for:

- Operations
- Housing-Focused Services
- Both Operations and Services

Applicants must clearly demonstrate capacity for each component requested.

5. Guiding Principles

Programs should operate using housing-focused, person-centered services that emphasize participant choice, low-barrier access, trauma-informed practices, cultural responsiveness, de-escalation, safety, and equitable access to services.

6. Minimum Expectations

- Provide safe, low-barrier services.
- Coordinate with CSB and system partners.
- Participate in HMIS and required reporting.
- Participate in required meetings and trainings.
- Maintain appropriate staffing and supervision.
- Demonstrate fiscal stewardship and contract compliance.
- Support participant safety planning and housing planning.

7. Proposal Evaluation (100 Points)

Evaluation Category	Points
Organizational Capacity	20
Staffing & Program Management	20
Program Design & Service Delivery	20
Operational Readiness & Safety	15
Data Collection & Collaboration	10
Budget & Cost Effectiveness	15
Total	100

Applicants should organize responses to address each evaluation area. Responses should explain HOW activities will be implemented, include examples of past performance, and provide sufficient detail for reviewers to evaluate organizational readiness.

8. Required Submission Components

- Applicant Information
- General Organizational Capacity
- Staffing, Training, and Workforce Readiness

- Housing-Focused Services section completed, if applicable
- Operations section completed, if applicable
- Safety, HMIS, Data, and Confidentiality
- Implementation and Operational Readiness
- Budget and Cost Proposal
- Budget and budget narrative
- Staffing detail
- Implementation timeline
- Organizational chart
- Financial documentation
- W-9 and legal status documentation attached or available upon request
- Certifications signed by authorized representative

9. Selection Process

Complete applications will undergo an independent review using the Proposal Evaluation Tool. Reviewers will evaluate proposals based solely on the submitted materials. Following independent review, the evaluation committee will conduct a consensus meeting and develop funding recommendations. CSB may request clarifications, negotiate budgets or scopes of work, or make conditional awards prior to contract execution.

10. CSB System Leadership

CSB reserves the right to determine the final mix of providers, service locations, funding amounts, and program components needed to meet community needs. Award decisions will consider proposal quality, organizational capacity, geographic coverage, system needs, available funding, and overall alignment with the Homeless Crisis Response System.

11. Timeline

Dates	Activities
07/31/2026	Request for Proposal released
08/10/2026	Information Session
08/15/2026	Question submittal deadline, emailed to: grants@csb.org
08/28/2026	Completed proposals due to CSB by 5:00 pm, emailed to: grants@csb.org
08/31/2026 – 09/14/2026	Application review and selection process with applicants; community work on facilities selection

09/15/2026	Providers selection and announcement
10/15/2026	Contracts issuance, with a 12/1/26 effective date Staffing advertising and selection
11/01/2026 – 11/29/2026	Staff hiring
11/15/2026 – 11/29/2026	Staff training
12/01/2026	Program fully staffed and operational