

**RHODE ISLAND EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HOUSING FUNDING OPPORTUNITY**  
**2025-2026 WINTER RESPONSE GRANT**

The Rhode Island Executive Office of Housing (EOH) is administering a program using State Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide grant funding for **new or expanded Seasonal Emergency Shelter** and other **Flexible Winter Response Projects** to help strengthen Rhode Island's homelessness response system during the colder months and help more households transition into permanent housing. Municipalities, faith leaders, and service providers are strongly encouraged to apply.

**Seasonal Emergency Shelter:**

Funding will be awarded to support new or expanded Seasonal Emergency Shelters that will operate from November 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026. To qualify, shelters must be open at least overnight during this entire period. Applicants may choose to also operate during the daytime, but this is optional.

The purpose of Seasonal Emergency Shelter is to protect individuals experiencing homelessness from the dangers of inclement weather, especially during the winter months when exposure to the elements can be life-threatening.

Seasonal Emergency Shelters should also serve as a gateway to longer-term housing solutions, when possible, by providing other services like case management, connections to behavioral health services and substance use disorder services, meals, and other services offered at Year-Round Emergency Shelters.

**Flexible Winter Response Projects:**

This category is for projects that will not operate every night from November 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026, but still provide essential support and emergency shelter to people experiencing homelessness during the coldest months.

Projects should seek to protect individuals during inclement weather, meet people where they are, reduce the risks and harms associated with extreme cold, and connect individuals to ongoing services and supports to permanent housing.

Flexible Winter Response Projects can complement full-time shelters and play a critical role in reducing winter-related deaths, preserving dignity, and supporting survival until more stable housing is secured.

Common examples include, but are not limited to:

- Transportation services to bring individuals to safe locations during severe weather
- Emergency Pop-up Sites that operate during periods of inclement weather.
  - These sites provide immediate protection for unsheltered individuals, do not follow a fixed schedule, and can open for short periods as needed based on local conditions.

While these activities are eligible for funding through this solicitation, EOH does not want to limit proposals to projects funded in prior years. Creative, community-driven proposals that address local needs in practical and impactful ways are strongly encouraged.

**Note:** Programs currently funded by the Consolidated Homeless Fund (CHF) are not eligible for increased funding for services already funded. However, if the already funded project is seeking to expand their scope of work for the winter months only, that expansion will be considered for this solicitation.

**Application Process:**

All applications for funds under this solicitation must be submitted to Theresa McDevitt, Executive Office of Housing, ([theresa.mcdevitt@housing.ri.gov](mailto:theresa.mcdevitt@housing.ri.gov)). Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning on August 15, 2025, and until funds are fully obligated or until March 1, 2026, whichever is earlier.

EOH may require the submission of additional information from applicants in connection with any application or the revision of an application, may consider additional information about the shelter project for projects funded through the Consolidated Homelessness Fund, and may permit the resubmission of an application rejected as being incomplete or deficient.

Applications shall contain the following information:

1. **Identification:** The name, title, and contact information for the non-profit employee, municipal employee, or faith leader that will serve as the point person for the 2025-2026 Winter Response Grant.
2. **Scope:** Location of the proposed project, capacity of the project, scope of the project, and proposed deliverables of the project.
3. **Implementation Plan:** Identify all entities who will be involved in opening the seasonal project and the role for each; a schedule for starting operations of the seasonal project; and, if applicable, a letter from each such entity acknowledging their respective responsibilities and the schedule.
4. **Budget:** Line-item budget detailing expenses required to operate the seasonal project.
5. **Impact:** Brief description of the significance and need of the project. Outline what goals the seasonal project aims to attain.

**Evaluation Criteria:** EOH will issue awards to eligible grantee applicants according to the following criteria and subject to the continued availability of funds.

**Winter Response Grants:** Applications that are complete will be scored based on the following criteria:

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| <b>1. Project Design</b>   | <b>35 Pts</b> |
| a. Demonstrated need for project   | 15 Pts        |
| b. Scope of work   | 10 Pts        |
| c. Proposed deliverables and project impact  | 10 Pts        |
| <br>   |               |
| <b>2. Implementation Plan</b>  | <b>30 Pts</b> |
| a. Applicants capacity to carry out proposed project   | 20 Pts        |
| b. The specific services offered to clients are high quality, consistent with best practices regarding homeless response service delivery, and directly relate to the needs of the clients being served. | 10 Pts        |

### **3. Project Cost**

**35 Pts**

This will evaluate the reasonableness of the amount of funding requested to accomplish the implementation plan and if the budget is reasonable compared to similar projects.