

2025–2026 INTERIM
NORTHEAST FLORIDA
CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC)
PLAN | FL-510

November 2025

2025–2026 Interim Northeast Florida Continuum of Care (CoC) Plan | FL-510

Purpose and Strategic Frame

The intention of this plan is to maximize Federal investments/resources in Northeast Florida to address homelessness.

As such, this two-year plan aligns Northeast Florida’s Continuum of Care with HUD’s most recent guidance, which focuses on **reducing unsheltered homelessness**, improving **street-to-housing outcomes**, and strengthening **system accountability, safety, and recovery-oriented services** across Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau counties.

The plan is structured to directly support project review, ranking, and funding competitiveness while advancing humane, data-driven, and coordinated responses to unsheltered homelessness.

The secondary intent is to increase the number of new projects and project types for any future funding opportunities.

I. CoC Vision & Guiding Principles

- **Housing as the platform for stability** with rapid pathways from street outreach to permanent housing
- **Public safety + public health alignment**, emphasizing co-response and service connection
- **Recovery-oriented systems of care**, including substance use treatment and behavioral health
- **Data-driven decision-making** using PIT, HDX, and System Performance Measures
- **Lived-experience leadership** embedded in governance and planning

II. Governance, Coordination & Engagement

Objective: Maximize CoC Coordination & Engagement while improving operational effectiveness.

Governance Board Composition

- Maintain required representation:
 - At least **1 person with lived experience of homelessness**
 - **Elected officials** (minimum of 3)
 - **Business community representative**
 - **Law enforcement leadership** (Sheriff/Police representation)

Engagement Actions (2025–2026)

- Quarterly Governance Board training on HUD priorities and unsheltered homelessness
- Annual governance self-assessment and gap analysis
- Formal documentation of attendance, votes, and conflict-of-interest compliance

III. System Performance & Data Strategy

Objective: Improve system performance measures tied to unsheltered homelessness.

Data Sources

- Point-in-Time (PIT) Count
- Homeless Data Exchange (HDX)
- HMIS System Performance Measures

Priority Metrics

- Reduction in unsheltered homelessness
- Length of time homeless
- Exits to permanent housing from street outreach
- Returns to homelessness
- Shelter utilization

2025–2026 Actions

- Monthly unsheltered data dashboard for CoC leadership
- PIT methodology improvements for unsheltered enumeration
- Targeted analysis of encampment locations and inflow/outflow trends

IV. Street Outreach & Encampment Resolution

Objective: Demonstrate measurable reductions in encampments and improved exits to housing.

Street Outreach Enhancements

- Strengthen partnerships with:
 - Law enforcement and first responders
 - Fire rescue and EMS
 - Hospitals and emergency departments
- Standardize warm-handoff protocols from outreach to housing providers

Encampment Reduction Target

- **20% reduction** in either:

- Number of encampments, or
- Number of people residing within encampments

Key Strategies

- By-name list integration with outreach teams
- Coordinated encampment resolution plans with housing placement timelines
- Documentation of outcomes and displacement-avoidance practices

As part of our growing strategies towards ending homelessness, the CES and Outreach Team has incorporated resources that explore partnerships in street outreach and problem-solving activities.

Learning Objectives:

- CoC providers will understand the basic system and practice strategies associated with effective Housing Problem (HPS) interventions.
- CoC providers will understand how various CoC stakeholders and other community partners should be engaged in the design and implementation of Housing Problem Solving strategies
- FL-501 will help to develop a system-wide approach for people experiencing a housing crisis.
 - A practice that involves strength-based conversations to empower households and help them to remain in current housing or to identify alternative housing options either to avoid homelessness or to exit homelessness as quickly as possible.

V. Treatment, Recovery & Supportive Services

Objective: Align housing projects with recovery-oriented service requirements.

Substance Use Treatment Capacity

- Ensure **at least 30%** of CoC-funded beds have **on-site substance use treatment** or formal access
- Maintain documentation of:
 - Letters of commitment
 - Occupancy agreements
 - Bed lists and utilization data (target: ~250 beds CoC-wide)

Required Supportive Services

- Projects must require participation in supportive services through formal agreements:
 - Case management

- Employment or income supports
- Substance use disorder treatment

Recovery Housing

- Expand or formalize **sober housing options** compliant with 24 CFR 578.93(b)(5)
- Establish partnerships with Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) or CMHCs

VI. Leveraging Housing & Healthcare Resources

Objective: Strengthen non-CoC resource investment.

Leveraging Threshold

- Secure leveraged resources equaling **at least 25% of units** in new projects

Priority Leverage Areas

- Healthcare services not funded by CoC or ESG
- Behavioral health treatment
- Medicaid-billable services

Documentation

- Letters of commitment
- Contracts or MOUs
- Valuation tied to project units

VII. Public Safety & Legal Compliance

Objective: Demonstrate compliance with HUD public safety expectations.

Required Elements

- Cite applicable **state and local laws** related to:
 - Public camping
 - Public drug use
- Document enforcement practices
- Confirm state compliance with **SORNA**
- Support homeless-status verification for sex-offender registry checks

Co-Response Model

- CoC cooperation with law enforcement to:
 - Avoid criminalization
 - Connect individuals to housing and services
 - Support diversion and outreach-led engagement

VIII. Project Review, Ranking & Evaluation

Objective: Ensure objective, defensible project ranking aligned with HUD priorities.

Evaluation Framework

- Standardized scoring tool
- Emphasis on:
 - Unsheltered homelessness impact
 - Housing outcomes
 - Service participation requirements
 - Leveraging and partnerships

Process Improvements

- Provide ongoing technical assistance and training to local agencies
- Transparent scoring methodology and easy to understand
- Clear appeals and conflict-resolution process

IX. CoC Merger Readiness (If Applicable)

- Maintain documentation for potential merger bonus points
- Assess alignment with neighboring CoCs annually

X. 2026 Outcomes & Success Indicators

By the end of 2026, the Northeast Florida CoC will: - Demonstrate measurable reductions in unsheltered homelessness - Increase exits from street outreach to permanent housing - Improve system performance measures tied to HUD scoring - Strengthen public safety coordination without criminalization - Submit highly competitive CoC applications aligned with federal priorities

This plan is intended to be a living document, reviewed annually and updated in response to HUD guidance, system performance data, and community needs.