



Community Priorities for FY2026

The Partners Ending Homelessness team facilitated the FY2026 Community Priorities conversation during the Homeless Services Network meeting on Wednesday, 5/20/26. (The list of participants will be at the end of this summary.)

We shared with attendees the funding priorities identified by HUD, and the HUD definitions for each category. Attendees broke into small groups to discuss each priority and identify challenges Monroe County and the City of Rochester face related to homeless services and brainstorm ways we can improve services and mitigate potential funding cuts.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) & Rapid Rehousing (RRH)

- **Systemic Focus:** Prioritize the most vulnerable, streamline communication regarding housing maintenance requirements, and merge resources to create new opportunities.
- **Housing Stability:** Emphasize prevention services to keep individuals in their current homes and avoid losing PSH. Transitioning clients between programs (e.g., from RRH or Section 8 to PSH) is recommended to minimize disruption.
- **Models & Innovation:** Explore Co-Housing models, increase diverse rental options, and consider bridge housing subsidies for those with income too high for rental assistance but too low for market rates.
- **Prioritization:** If funding is reduced, prioritize programs offering longer-term financial support. There is a proactive focus on evaluating current recipients to transition them to other programs or regular housing before they lose their PSH status.

Street Outreach (SO)

- **Engagement & Coordination:** Standardize communication chains and implement real-time case manager matching. Improve coordination between teams, potentially via an umbrella organization or dedicated coordinator.
- **Service Needs:** Expand wrap-around services to manage an anticipated influx of clients. Simplify complex paperwork at Department of Social Services (DSS) locations, which currently causes high stress and delays.
- **Barriers:** Significant hurdles include the "revolving door" of transient individuals, mental health/disability challenges, and inability to accept shelter due to pet/partner separation policies or paraphernalia bans.

- **Unmet Needs:** Identify gaps for individuals ineligible for current shelters and explore alternative options for those unwilling to enter shelters, including potential navigation of civil commitments.

Support Services Only (SSO)

- **Coordination Tools:** Develop a "Community Integration" or mapping spreadsheet to track existing support services, identify gaps, and coordinate with organizations like Rochester Works or ACCESS-VR.
- **Service Gaps:** Key needs include transportation (especially for those with disabilities or in outlying areas), mental health and substance use treatment, life skills training, and assistance navigating technology/WIFI for online resources.
- **Operational Support:** Shelters require staff to assist with daily needs (doctor's appointments, shopping, program responsibilities) and navigating DHS requirements. A "roving housing advocate" is suggested to improve daily living conditions.

Transitional Housing (TH)

- **Strategic Role:** Viewed as a significant gap in the continuum of care. It should serve as a developmental bridge for populations needing additional stabilization, such as youth, those in recovery, or individuals aging out of foster care.
- **Design Preferences:** Favor individual apartments or scattered-site models over congregate living.
- **Management:** Implement a systematic process for determining readiness and consider a central hub to manage all housing and funding resources.
- **Integration:** Integrate PSH and RRH models into TH structures to ensure consistent support and push for increased self-sufficiency without replacing or reducing investment in permanent housing.

FY26 Community Priorities Attendees

Name	Employer / Organization
Braden Johnson	Restore
Jennifer Keys	Partners Ending Homelessness
Josiah Lyon	Partners Ending Homelessness
Sarah Greive	CCSI - Front Door NY
Liz Doll	Eagle Star Housing
Cheri Reed-Watt	MCOMH
Denise Read	Monroe County DHS
Paige Casey	Helio Health

Lisa Nichols	Liberty Resources SOS Team
Sarah Marletta	LawNY Eviction Prevention Unit
Sarah Fletcher	City of Rochester
Mark Cuminale	Center for Youth Services
Shannon Stachowski	Soldier On
Abby Brown	East House
Lauren Wiener	Providence Housing
Bailey Steinhauer	Empire Justice Center
Phyllis Lukenbill	SCPO
Abigail Preston	Center for Youth
Carolyn Keyser	Partners Ending Homelessness
Stephen Rosa	PCHO
Clarice Ryan	RAWNY
Laura Crawford	Soldier On
Jennifer Martinez	Monroe County DSS
Mackenzie Pfeffer	PCHO
Sara Volz-Rogers	TogetherNow
Penny Milsted	Partners Ending Homelessness
Janelle Duda	Family Promise of Greater Rochester
Sara Martone	Volunteers of America
Chuck Albanese	PCHO
Becky Efigenio	Family Promise of Greater Rochester
Janice Steimer	Partners Ending Homelessness
Raechel McUmber	RESTORE Sexual Assault Services
Becky Miglioratti	DSS
Valerie Douglas	The Center for Youth Services
Nicholas Coulter	PCHO
Amaris Elliott-Engel	OAG
Josh Ramos	CCSI
Sam Moskowitz	Volunteers of America UPNY
Monica Thomas	CFY
Tree Clemonds	Partners Ending Homelessness
Liz Ringhoff	CCSI
Heidi Markham	Partners Ending Homelessness
Jon Olsen	Nielsen House SCPO
Inauris Hernandez	Father Tracy Advocacy Center
Bill Schubmehl	H.O.T. and First Universalist Church
Joshua Sankowski	PathStone
Latanya Booker	The Center for Youth
Josephine Vasquez	Mental Health Association

Chanh Quach	Monroe County Planning & Development
Walida Monroe-Sims	City of Rochester Housing
Carrie Michel-Wynne	Jewish Family Services
Chrisandra Mareus	RCSD Families in Transition
Aisha Howard	Monroe County Dept. of Public Health
Peter Peters	Retired
Michael Ford	House of Mercy
Mike Rood	Nazareth University/HSN
Karl Weekes	Rochester Housing Coalition
Margaret Courtney	TogetherNow
Hannah Summerfield-Gonchar	Monroe County Research Strategy and Development
Karlene Joyner	WCP
Kelly Towns	LawNY Housing Unit
Amy D'Amico	Roch Grants Pass Resistance
Denisha Wilson	Wilson Commencement Park
Andre Clark	Street Outreach PCHO
Pam Smith	House of Mercy
Tracy Epps	Present