

Coordinating SNAP and Nutrition Supports (CSNS) Cohort 3: Scoring Rubric

CATEGORY	CRITERIA	IMPORTANCE
MISSION & VISION	Proposal clearly aligns with goals and priorities of the CSNS initiative.	Critical
PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION	Proposal demonstrates a strong, balanced partnership between the SNAP agency and community-based organization.	Critical
MISSION & VISION	Proposal demonstrates a clear understanding of customer experiences, community priorities, and the barriers or opportunities the project seeks to address.	High
MISSION & VISION	Proposal demonstrates how the proposed approach will generate practical implementation lessons, tools, or practices that can inform future efforts across agencies and communities.	Medium
PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION	Proposal demonstrates how partners are well-positioned to reach intended populations, including the strength of their partnerships, community relationships, and reach.	Medium
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CUSTOMER-CENTERED DESIGN	Proposal includes meaningful engagement of customers, people with lived expertise (PWLE), and communities throughout project design, implementation, and evaluation. Proposal demonstrates how the project will be co-designed with PWLE, build trust, and improve the customer experience.	Medium
APPLICANT CAPACITY	Partners demonstrate the staffing, organizational, technical, and financial capacity to implement the project successfully, including a realistic implementation timeline, the ability to spend down grant funds, and meaningful representation of PWLE on project teams.	High

IMPACT, EVALUATION, & SUSTAINABILITY	Proposal outlines meaningful short-, medium-, and long-term outcomes and identifies clear, relevant metrics for measuring progress.	Medium
IMPACT, EVALUATION, & SUSTAINABILITY	Proposal demonstrates how project activities, partnerships, or systems improvements will continue beyond the grant period.	Medium
IMPACT, EVALUATION, & SUSTAINABILITY	Proposal identifies potential risks and barriers and includes a realistic and proactive plan to mitigate them.	Medium
COHORT PARTICIPATION	Applicants demonstrate commitment to participating in peer learning, sharing lessons learned, and contributing to the broader CSNS community.	Medium
MISSION & VISION	Proposal demonstrates that the proposed project activities address current challenges and policy changes surrounding SNAP and will improve program access, efficiency, and/or client experience in this current environment.	Medium-High



Applicant Self-Assessment Coordinating SNAP and Nutrition Supports (CSNS) Cohort 3

Before applying, we encourage all prospective applicants to complete this self assessment to determine whether their proposed project aligns with the goals and priorities of the CSNS initiative. The questions below are intended to help you assess your organization's readiness and the overall fit of your proposal. If, after completing the self assessment, you are unsure whether your project is a good fit, we encourage you to schedule a consultation with the CSNS team before submitting an application. Please reach out to Blake Turpin at bturpin@aphsa.org for state/local agency consultations, please reach out to Miranda Lauzon at mlauzon@strength.org for community partner consultations. Project consultations will be held August 5, 2026 - September 15, 2026.

How to interpret your results:

- Mostly Yes: Your proposal is likely well aligned with the goals of CSNS, and we encourage you to apply.
- A mix of Yes and Partially: Your proposal may still be a good fit. We encourage you to apply and/or schedule a consultation to discuss your project.
- Mostly No: Your proposal may not be closely aligned with the current funding opportunity. We encourage you to review the RFP and consider scheduling a consultation before investing significant time in an application.

Category	Questions to Consider	Self-Assessment
Mission & Vision	Does your proposal clearly align with the goals of improving access to SNAP and nutrition supports through systems change, partnerships, and customer-centered approaches?	☐ Yes ☐ Partially ☐ No
Partnerships & Collaboration	Does your proposal include meaningful partnerships between the SNAP agency, community-based organizations, and other relevant partners? Are partner roles clearly defined? Are partners well-positioned to reach the intended community?	☐ Yes ☐ Partially ☐ No

Community Engagement & Customer-Centered Design	Does your proposal demonstrate a clear understanding of the community you are serving? Are your proposed activities responsive to their needs? Will customers / people with lived experience be meaningfully engaged throughout project design, implementation, and evaluation?	☐ Yes ☐ Partially ☐ No
Applicant Capacity	Does your proposal show that your project team has the staffing, organizational capacity, partnerships, and technical infrastructure to successfully carry out the project? Is your timeline realistic?	☐ Yes ☐ Partially ☐ No
Impact, Evaluation, & Sustainability	Does your proposal identify meaningful short-, medium-, and long-term outcomes? Are there clear measures you will use to evaluate progress and success? Does your proposal explain how activities, partnerships, and improvements will continue after the grant period ends? Does your proposal demonstrate an approach that could be adapted, scaled, or replicated by other agencies or communities?	☐ Yes ☐ Partially ☐ No
Cohort Participation	Does your proposal demonstrate a commitment to participating in peer learning, sharing lessons learned, and contributing to the broader CSNS learning community?	☐ Yes ☐ Partially ☐ No